



Goulbourn Middle School

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

2022-2023



STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

We are asking that all GMS students, whenever possible, take the yellow school bus to and from school. All of our students are eligible for school bus transportation due to the uniqueness of our location. Huntley is a busy road without sidewalks and vehicles are often going 70 km/h near the school. With approximately 460 students registered this year and 27 school transportation vehicles (13 yellow school buses and 14 vans) scheduled to drop off and pick up both morning and night, traffic congestion is problematic even without individual cars. OSTA driver shortages will also impact students' transportation to and from school and result in a greater volume of parents/guardians driving students to and from school on days when buses are cancelled.

As you can imagine, in our small lot, this number of vehicles poses some significant concerns for the safety of our students. A significant amount of time has been spent over the years consulting with the transportation authority, OSTA, our OCDSB facilities team and our Superintendent of Instruction to come up with a plan to ensure a smooth start and end to the school day. This plan is multi-faceted and we ask that you read the information below carefully.

→ Morning Drop Off:

Priority access to the school lot will be given to the yellow school buses and vans. In the morning, buses will pull into the parking lot, directly into designated bus lanes of which they are already aware. Students will wait on the bus until a staff member indicates it is safe for them to get off. Once off the bus, students will be directed to their respective class lineups, following our expectation that they respect physical distancing, where they will wait until the bell rings.

If you must drop off your child, please do not arrive before 7:50 AM. Most of our buses have completed the runs here by then and once they have exited the lot, parent/guardian vehicles will then be given access to the drop-off area. Staff will be outside managing the flow of traffic in the parent drop-off lane; the drop-off lane is the marked yellow lane that loops through the lot. We are asking that everyone **ONLY USE THIS LANE** for morning drop-off. Do not drive to any other area of our parking lot to drop off your child and **DO NOT** drop your child off on Huntley Road.

- Once the first vehicle has driven to the front of the drop-off zone and the next 9 cars have also pulled in behind, a staff member will indicate that it is safe for your child to get out of the car. **DO NOT** let your child out of the vehicle before staff have indicated that it is safe for students to exit the vehicle.
- Please wait until a staff member signals that it is safe for you to pull out and drive away. We appreciate your strict compliance with this request and your understanding that our staff

managing the flow of traffic are also managing the movement of buses, vans and students within this timeframe.

We request that there be NO cars making left turns from the school lot back onto Huntley Road at drop off and/or pick up times as doing so significantly slows down the drop off/pick up process
Thank you for turning right out of the school lot.

→ Afternoon Pickup:

Students on the bus:

- Students on the vans will be released first. Buses will begin loading at 2:25 PM.
- Buses and vans will roll out of the schoolyard by 2:35 PM.

Students being picked up by parents/guardians:

For those parents/guardians who need to pick up students at the end of the day, please do not arrive before 2:30 PM as our lot will be full with vans and buses and you will not be able to enter the area. Again, priority loading will be given to the buses and vans so any vehicles arriving before the buses and vans leave will have to wait on the shoulder of Huntley Road. Once the vans and buses have left, staff will indicate when you may enter the parking lot.

- Once parent/guardian vehicles are given access to the lot, please follow the same curved lane they used at drop off. Students will be waiting at the southeast grassy area near the pick-up lane.
- Staff will indicate when it is safe for the student to walk to the car and get in.
- Parents will wait until staff signal it is safe to drive away. Our goal is to have all students picked up by 2:40 PM.

If you need to pick your child up for an appointment before the end of the school day, we ask that you do so before 1:50 PM so as to not block the bus and van access for dismissal. We encourage parents to pick up students during the breaks to minimize disruptions during instructional time.

There is **NO left turn** allowed back onto Huntley Road between 2 PM and 3 PM. All vehicles must turn right out of the school lot.

We thank you in advance for your patience and your help in ensuring the safety of all of our GMS students.