



Holly Area Schools

Excellence in Action!

December 21, 2023

Dear Families of Holly Area Schools,

This is an update for parents/guardians of students riding school buses to and from school.

During the month of October, the district announced to our families the cancellation of bus routes on a rotating schedule as a result of the shortage of qualified school bus drivers impacting schools across our nation.

Since that time, we have been successful in reaching a new collective bargaining agreement with the unit representing transportation department employees. As a result, new wages are among the most competitive in the area for bus drivers and all drivers can be eligible for insurance benefits. In addition, the district is offering a very attractive signing bonus for successful candidates.

We currently have 2 new drivers hired who will be taking the required tests and completing the training. In addition, we have 2 others who have expressed interest and intend to complete the application process.

As we bring on new drivers and have them complete the required training, our temporary cancellation of bus routes will continue through the week of February 5th. **Between Monday, January 8th, and Friday, February 9th, we will temporarily cancel two bus routes. Each week, two different routes will be cancelled as part of a weekly rotation to reduce the inconvenience to one week for our families.**

Attached to this letter is the schedule of the cancelled bus routes through February 9th. A follow-up Skylert email will be sent the week prior to each cancelled route as a reminder.

We are communicating to you in advance so our families have time to plan for alternative transportation to and from school for their children.

I encourage our families to share the attached School Bus Driver Advertisement that includes a new salary schedule, benefits, and signing bonus with family, friends and anyone in your networks. This advertisement has been placed in the Tri-County Times, Genesee County View, and the Oakland Press. Our collective efforts will help fully staff our bus fleet.

We remain hopeful that our aggressive hiring strategy will result in a full roster of drivers once again. It continues to be our goal to avoid any further interruptions to transportation routes.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we do our best to fully staff our transportation department and support your child's route to and from school.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Roper, Superintendent

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