



# Ancaster Meadow Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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October 2, 2018

Re: Courtesy Bus Requests

To: Parents/ Guardians

A number of families have applied for Courtesy Bussing over the past month. The school has to wait until October before considering any requests. During September, only students who qualify for bussing under HWDSB policy should be riding the school bus.

As the school starts to consider requests, several factors must be considered. The bus route must have space available according to the Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) records. This can sometimes differ from what a student or parent may observe on a bus route. Not all eligible students ride a bus everyday but a seat must be reserved for all qualified riders. Other factors considered are the age of students, sibling situations, medical concerns, and other family considerations.

Unfortunately, the ongoing driver shortage has created an uncertain situation with some of our routes. As these routes are being completed by temporary drivers, the bus capacity of these temporary buses varies. Until each route has a consistent driver, the school cannot consider courtesy requests.

We also have had a change of the bus routes in some neighbourhoods compared to last year. This has caused some confusion for both families and the school. While we are working with HWSTS to clarify these routes, it also limits our ability to approve courtesy requests.

The school will be working with HWSTS to review the courtesy requests for each route however this process will take longer than in past years. All courtesy requests will be considered and reviewed however not all courtesy requests can be granted. Individual families will receive confirmation about their courtesy request throughout October; families on some routes will hear earlier than other routes.

Families are encouraged to review the HWSTS website <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca> to review the policies around transportation. Specific questions regarding eligibility should be directed to HWSTS. If you have questions related to buses at the school level please contact me at [sgoodacr@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:sgoodacr@hwdsb.on.ca)

Thank you,

Simon Goodacre, Principal