

GERMANTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL

TRANSPORTATION 2018-19



GERMANTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL

Germantown Friends School, nationally recognized for its Quaker values, commitment to excellence, and unique location in historic Germantown, proudly serves families from a wide variety of neighborhoods within the city of Philadelphia and from the surrounding suburbs. In total, GFS draws families from more than 80 zip codes in the Delaware Valley region.

Transportation methods frequently utilized by GFS students:

- Philadelphia* and suburban township school district busing (free of charge)
- Private door-to-door busing (provided for a fee)
- Private shuttles to and from predetermined pick-up and drop-off locations (provided for a fee)
- Public transportation (SEPTA train and/or bus)
- Carpools with other GFS families
- Riders' Club Cooperative, a non-profit private transportation service

Our Transportation Department is here to assist you in determining the best transportation plan for your family. Families register for school district busing and private transportation options in the late spring for the following school year. If the deadline has passed, families may contact the GFS Transportation Department.



TRANSPORTATION

PHILADELPHIA RESIDENTS

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSING – GRADES 1-6

Philadelphia residents who live more than 1.5 miles from GFS qualify for free bus transportation for students in grades 1-6. Currently, there are five (5) Philadelphia School District (PSD) bus routes which transport GFS students. These routes bus GFS students exclusively and are determined by the PSD. The pick-up/drop-off location can be up to a half-mile from the student's home. These routes generally have the same driver from Philly Transportation ("Philly Trans", the yellow bus company contracted by the PSD) each day. The GFS Transportation Department, which acts as a liaison between the PSD, Philly Trans, and GFS families, will forward the names of all enrolled families to the district and they, in turn, will create the routes and schedules and notify you directly in late August, before school begins.

Note: The Philadelphia School District does not offer free public school busing to Early Childhood Program and Kindergarten students. Please contact the GFS Transportation Department to discuss options.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (SEPTA) – GRADES 7-12

Once a Philadelphia resident enters grade 7, free busing is no longer provided. Students in grades 7-12, who live more than 1.5 miles from GFS, qualify for a free SEPTA Transpass, distributed each week at the Front Desk in the Main Building. To ride the SEPTA Regional Rail, these Transpasses can be upgraded weekly for a modest fee. Visit www.septa.org/fares/discount/students.html for further information about upgrading a Transpass to a Railpass.

Several SEPTA bus routes serve the area surrounding GFS. The 23 bus stops at the corner of Germantown & Coulter. The H and XH routes stop at the corner of Greene & Coulter.

For students, faculty, and staff who travel via SEPTA Regional Rail, GFS contracts with Philly Trans to provide a free shuttle between campus and the Queen Lane Station each morning and afternoon.

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The Chestnut Hill West Regional Rail line stops at the Queen Lane Station, which is adjacent to the GFS playing fields at Midvale and Wissahickon Avenues. In addition, GFS Security patrols the 23, H, and XH bus stops and the Queen Lane Station. For additional SEPTA information, please visit www.septa.org.

Please keep in mind that during the fall and spring, when sports for grades 6-12 are in session at our Athletic Fields, students may ride the free GFS field shuttle back to Main Campus after practice and travel home from there.

SUBURBAN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSING – KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 12

Each township provides transportation differently. Some transport only GFS students door to door; some send students to a central location then re-route them to GFS; and some bus GFS students along with students from neighboring independent schools.

Suburban school districts do not generally transport students if the distance exceeds 10 miles. Please check with your local school district or the GFS Transportation Department for more details.

The GFS Transportation Department, which acts as a liaison with the suburban school districts, will forward the names of all enrolled families to the districts. The districts will create the routes and schedules and notify families directly in late August.

The following suburban school districts and/or townships currently provide transportation to GFS for grades Kindergarten-12:

- Abington School District
- Cheltenham School District
- Colonial School District
- Lower Merion School District
- Lower Moreland Township
- Haverford Township
- Springfield Township
- Upper Dublin School District
- Upper Darby School District
- Upper Merion Area School District
- Upper Moreland School District
- Wissahickon School District

TRANSPORTATION

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION

PAID OPTIONS – EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM-GRADE 12
GFS offers private transportation to and from school for a fee. There are two levels of service, utilizing the same vehicles. These options, serviced by Philly Trans, are available to students in the GFS Early Childhood Program through grade 12.

Option 1: Door-to-Door Service

GFS door-to-door transportation is the most customized option, offering morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off at your front door. There are currently two departure times from Main Campus: one immediately following dismissal and another leaving at 4:30 p.m. Currently there are four (4) routes that provide door-to-door transportation for GFS students: Center City East; Center City West; Chestnut Hill/Mt. Airy; and Blue Bell. These routes may be combined or altered from year to year based on ridership. **The door-to-door routes utilize the same vehicles as the private shuttles. See next page for private shuttle details.**

YEARLY RATES	ONE-WAY	ROUND-TRIP
Standard Door-to-Door Service	\$3,300	\$5,500
Middle School Sports Option*	\$2,640 (\$880 per season)	

**Designed to transport Middle School athletes home after sports practices, which are held Mondays-Thursdays. When sports are in session, riders return to Main Campus via the free GFS field shuttle and board the appropriate private route. This service does not include transportation on Fridays or during intersessions (the 3-4 week periods of time between sports seasons).*

Please contact the GFS Transportation Office for more details.

Option 2: Private Shuttle Service

This service transports students to and from a handful of centrally located, predetermined stops. This is a flexible, more economical option, helpful for families whose pick-up and/or drop-off plans vary week-to-week or day-to-day.

Rides can be arranged for morning pick-up or home from school, departing campus immediately following dismissal or at 4:30 p.m.

The private shuttle stops are along the door-to-door routes, utilizing the same vehicles.

The fee is \$13 per ride. Families can purchase a pre-paid package and take advantage of discounted per-ride rates. Rides can be utilized by any child in the family and expire at the end of the academic year. Shuttle packages are non-refundable.

PACKAGES	COST	VALUE
25 Rides	\$300	\$12 per ride
50 Rides	\$575	\$11.50 per ride
100 Rides	\$1,100	\$11 per ride
Single Rides	Pay-as-you-go	\$13 per ride

Currently, we have shuttles running to and from the following locations:

- Boathouse Row (Lloyd Hall, Kelly Drive & Waterworks Drive)
- 25th & Pennsylvania Avenue (Northeast corner)
- Rittenhouse Square (18th & Walnut Streets)
- Queen Village (5th & Bainbridge Streets)
- Suburban Shuttle to Blue Bell (Wings Field, Narcissa Road)

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

CARPOOLING

Many families arrange to share the driving by setting up carpools once student schedules are available in September. The GFS Blue Book Directory has a listing of families by zip code and can be a helpful resource. The school division offices and the Parents Association may also be of assistance in connecting families.

RIDERS' CLUB COOPERATIVE

The non-profit Riders' Club Cooperative is dedicated to providing customized transportation services to members in the community. Drivers and riders are required to be members of the Cooperative. Those eligible for membership include people who live, work or go to school in the Club's home base of Montgomery County and the adjacent areas of Northwest Philadelphia. Several GFS families are members of the Riders' Club Cooperative and utilize its services. For additional information about the Riders' Club, please visit www.ridersclubcoop.org.

SIGN-UP INFORMATION

Online transportation request forms for the 2018-19 school year must be completed by **June 6, 2018**. The appropriate forms can be found in the **Parent Portal** of the GFS website. After the deadline, please contact the GFS Transportation Department. *Note: Email is preferred during the summer when school hours are abbreviated.*

BILLING INFORMATION

All GFS transportation costs will be billed through the FACTS Management Company. FACTS charges will be divided equally September through February. If you sign up after the billing cycle has started, your charges will be divided among the remaining months. Private transportation packages must be cancelled by September 15 or the family will be financially responsible for all charges. Individual rides will be billed periodically through FACTS.

TRANSPORTATION AT-A-GLANCE

OPTIONS	COST
Private Door-to-Door (Round-trip)	\$5,500 per child/year
Private Door-to-Door (One-way)	\$3,300 per child/year
Private Door-to-Door, Middle School Sports Option	\$2,640 per child/year or \$880 per season
Private Shuttles	\$13 per ride (pay-as-you-go rate) Packages 25 rides: \$300 (\$12 per ride) 50 rides: \$575 (\$11.50 per ride) 100 rides: \$1,100 (\$11 per ride)
School District Busing	no cost (see pages 2-3)
Public Transportation	see SEPTA website
Carpooling	n/a
Riders' Club Cooperative	see website

GERMANTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL
 31 West Coulter Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144
 (215) 951-2339 | germantownfriends.org