

Overview Of School Bus Expectations & Policies

For Newtown Bus Routes

The 2020-21 school bus routes for the Newtown Public/Private Schools are listed under the school that the students will be attending.

Residents are asked to share issues or concerns with their child's bus stop location by calling All-Star Transportation at 203-304-9778.

Parents of kindergarten students attending Newtown public elementary schools should check their school and district websites for information about early dismissal days (for example: conferences and early release days). The primary website is www.newtown.k12.ct.us

School Hours / Bell Times

Newtown High School 8:00 am–2:32 pm (Arrive 7:30 – 7:50)

Newtown Middle School 8:00 am–2:32 pm (Arrive 7:30 – 7:50)

Reed Intermediate School 9:05 am–3:32 pm (Arrive 8:50 – 9:00)

St Rose of Lima 7:50 am–2:50 pm (Arrive 7:35 – 7:45)

Fraser Woods Montessori School 8:15 am–3:00 pm (Arrive 8:05)

Housatonic 8:15 am–3:00 pm (Arrive 8:00)

Sandy Hook 9:05 am–3:37 pm (Arrive 8:40)

Head O' Meadow 9:05 am–3:37 pm (Arrive 8:40)

Middle Gate 9:05 am–3:37 pm (Arrive 8:40)

Hawley 9:05 am–3:37 pm (Arrive 8:40)

Kindergarten Hours

Kindergarten hours for Hawley Elementary School, Head O' Meadow Elementary School, Middle Gate Elementary School, and Sandy Hook Elementary School are 9:05 am to 3:37 pm, with arrival at 8:40 am.

Parents and students are asked to review this information in preparation for the first day of school, September 3rd, 2020.

Planned Early Dismissal (will all be 3-hour early release)

Newtown High School 11:32 pm

Newtown Middle School 11:32 pm

Reed Intermediate School 12:32 pm

Hawley, Head O' Meadow, Middle Gate, and Sandy Hook Elementary Schools 12:37 pm

St Rose of Lima 11:30 pm

Fraser Woods Montessori School 12:00 pm

Housatonic Valley Waldorf School 12:00 pm

2-Hour Delayed Opening Start Times (scheduled delayed openings)

Newtown High School 10:00 am

Newtown Middle School 10:00 am

Reed Intermediate School 11:05 am

Hawley, Head O' Meadow, Middle Gate, and Sandy Hook Elementary Schools 11:05 am
St Rose of Lima School 9:50 am
Fraser Woods Montessori School 10:15 am
Housatonic Valley Waldorf School 10:15 am
3-Hour Emergency Delay / Release (snow or other emergencies)
Newtown High School 11:00 am / 11:32 am
Newtown Middle School 11:00 am / 11:32 am
Reed Intermediate School 12:05 pm / 12:32 pm
Hawley, Head O' Meadow, Middle Gate, Sandy Hook Elementary Schools 12:05 pm / 12:37 pm
St. Rose of Lima 10:50 / 11:30
Fraser Woods Montessori School 11:15 am / 12:00 pm
Housatonic Valley Waldorf School 11:15 am / 12:00 pm

Please Note:

The bus schedules are subject to revision due to enrollment changes such as transfers, address changes, or additional registrations. Any changes or additions will be posted to the school district's website and residents are encouraged to check the website, www.newtown.k12.ct.us, often.

The time printed with each bus route is the approximate time the bus will make its first pickup in the morning. Adjustments will be made as necessary and as soon as possible. Please do not worry if a bus is late. It generally takes a few days for kindergarten children and new students to become accustomed to the bus routes and schedules.

Students should be at the appropriate stops **10 minutes** before the time listed on the bus route. The **stop times can vary 10 minutes** either way, depending on traffic, weather, and the number of students riding the bus.

Henry Abbott Technical School

In the morning, Henry Abbott Tech Students will ride shuttle routes to Newtown Middle School where they transfer onto Bus 34 to Henry Abbott Tech. Bus 34 will depart NMS approximately 6:40am. Please call All-Star at 203-304-9778 with questions. In the afternoon, Henry Abbott Tech Students ride home direct from HAT on Buses 34 & 39 to Newtown High and Middle Schools to ride buses home. Drop-offs at locations other than home require approval. Please call All-Star at 203-304-9778 with questions. For weather-related delayed openings, buses and times will follow Newtown's schedule, regardless if Abbott Tech opens on time. If Newtown closes due to inclement weather, **NO** bus service is available for this school.

Nonnewaug High School

In the morning, students will ride shuttle routes to Newtown Middle School where they transfer onto Bus 50 to Nonnewaug HS at 6:40 am. In the afternoons, students will be picked up at Nonnewaug by Bus 42 and returned to town. Parents may opt to pick up their child at a central location in town; however, prior arrangements must be made with All-Star Transportation (203-304-9778) We cannot drop students unless you make the appropriate arrangements. For weather-related delayed openings, buses and times will follow Newtown's schedule, regardless if Nonnewaug opens on time. If Newtown closes due to inclement weather, **NO** bus service is available.

Shepaug High School

In the morning, students will ride shuttle routes to Newtown Middle School where they transfer onto Bus 47 to Shepaug HS at 6:40 am. In the afternoons, Bus 47 will pick up students at Shepaug, return them to town and drop them home. For weather-related delayed openings, buses and times will follow Newtown's schedule, regardless if Shepaug opens on time. If Newtown closes due to inclement weather, **NO** bus service is available.

Danbury Magnet School

***Note: This year, due to CoVid re-opening, Magnet will dismiss @ 2:30 PM every day.**

In the morning, Danbury Magnet Students should meet at either the front of Reed School or at the Exit 9 Commuter Lot. Bus 36 will depart Reed approximately 7:55 am and should arrive at Exit 9 Commuter Lot for 8:05 AM. In the afternoon they will be picked up by Bus 36 and returned to town, first at the Exit 9 Commuter lot (2:50 PM), then at the front of Reed school (3:05 PM). For weather-related delayed openings, buses and times will follow Newtown's schedule, regardless if Danbury opens on time. If Newtown closes due to inclement weather, **NO** bus service is available.

Frasier Woods and Housatonic Valley Schools

Parents must contact All-Star Transportation directly at 203-304-9778 to arrange transportation.

Important Information from All Star Transportation

In order to maintain the pickup times listed below, Newtown Public Schools requests that **students be at their bus stop 10 minutes prior to the scheduled pickup time.**

Students should stand back 10 to 15 feet from the road whenever possible.

Students should wait for the school bus to come to a complete stop and for the doors to open before approaching the bus.

Children should never run after the bus as it pulls away as the driver may not see them.

If your child has to cross in front of the bus they should be instructed to wait until the bus driver nods their head to signal it is safe to cross the street.

Students should also be instructed to cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus; so they can see the driver then the driver can see them.

If they should drop something in front of the bus, they should leave it until they get the driver's attention and permission to retrieve the item.

Bus Drop-Off Procedure/Waiver

Students in kindergarten through fourth grade must be met at the bus stop by a parent or known adult, or older sibling. If no parent or known adult, or older sibling is at the bus stop, children will be transported back to their home schools. If a student must be returned to a school, the following policy is in place: Reed students will be returned to Reed School. Elementary students will be returned to their elementary school. If siblings being returned are from both Reed and an elementary school, both students will be returned to the elementary school together.

If a family chooses, a waiver may be signed allowing its first through fourth grade children to disembark from the bus even if no adult is there to meet the children. No waivers for Kindergarten students will be accepted. Please check your child's school webpage for the complete procedure and download the waiver.

If you have any questions regarding the transportation schedule, please e-mail alan.colangelo@all-startransportation.com or call All-Star Transportation at 203-304-9778.

For Drop-Off Waivers, please see your child's school webpage for complete information regarding afternoon drop-off procedures.

Bus Waivers/Stop Change Forms

Each school had sent these to parents and requested that they be completed and returned to the schools. If any parent has not yet done so, please get them to the school their child will be attending as soon as possible (elementary schools only).

Bus Waivers: Applies only to students in grades 1st – 4th. No waiver to get off of a bus unattended will be accepted for any KG student. The waiver is intended to allow the bus to release a student if no adult is visibly present. We don't know based on if a car is parked in the driveway... the driver needs to base this on if they do not visibly see an adult present.

Stop Change Form: If any family has moved or a student will be getting on/off at a stop different from the home address on a daily basis, this form must be completed. A stop change form is not

intended to specify where someone wants a stop; it is solely for notification that their child will not get on/off the regularly scheduled stop, but rather at another regularly scheduled stop.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THIS YEAR

COVID Re-opening Guidelines for transportation

This year, students are required to wear a face mask while onboard buses. Masks may not be removed during the ride. Please stress this with your child so that they understand the policies in place for their and others' safety.

Due to COVID health and safety procedures, we cannot hold onto items left onboard buses. Items such as clothing and backpacks or face masks will be discarded. Items of value such as electronics and instruments will be bagged and stored in our office for a period of 24 hours before being discarded.

We cannot accept liability for items left on buses. For items of value, please make sure that a name and contact number is labeled on them. Please also stress to your child the safety reasons why we cannot hold onto these materials and to make sure they have collected all belongings before disembarking from the bus.

Bus Stops / Expectations

Students should be out at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Times change slightly based on a number of factors (road conditions, weather, traffic, students at previous stops not being there, etc). Students should not be inside of house at the top of the driveway waiting to put on coats when the bus arrives. When the bus stops, students should be ready to board.

Included below, is a list of bus expectations. The school bus is an extension of the classroom and students are expected to maintain behavior acceptable in the classroom setting. It helps the drivers out tremendously if parents would take the time to review these expectations with their child and explain that acting out, moving around, grabbing others, shouting are all serious distractions to the drivers who are trying to focus on the road and traffic for the safety of all passengers.

Please also review with your child the safety of bus stops. Students should never cross in front of a school bus without a visible signal from the driver that it is safe to do so. Likewise, at no time should a student run at or alongside of the bus. They may enter into a blind spot from which the driver may not see them before moving the vehicle. If a student should ever drop an item, they should never attempt to reach under the bus or run back into the road to retrieve it. First, they need to wave and shout at the driver to get their attention. The driver will gladly hold the bus and lights to allow the student to retrieve the item.

BUS CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

DON'T LOSE YOUR RIDING PRIVILEGE! FOLLOW THESE EXPECTATION:

1. DEMONSTRATE RESPECTFUL CONDUCT AS IN THE CLASSROOM.
2. BE COURTEOUS & KIND. DO NOT USE PROFANITY.
3. REFRAIN FROM EATING OR DRINKING ON THE BUS.
4. KEEP THE BUS CLEAN.
5. COOPERATE WITH THE DRIVER.
6. NO SMOKING (THIS INCLUDES VAPING / ELECTRONIC DEVICES)
7. BE RESPECTFUL OF EQUIPMENT & OTHERS' BELONGINGS.
8. REMAIN SEATED WHILE BUS IS MOVING. DO NOT STAND UNTIL BUS HAS STOPPED.
9. KEEP HEAD, HANDS & FEET INSIDE THE BUS AND FEET ON THE FLOOR.
10. BUS DRIVER IS AUTHORIZED TO ASSIGN SEATS.

For the elementary level routes (Reed and elementary schools), students will be seated by grade level with the youngest at the front of the bus, the oldest at the rear section.