

## **Overview Of School Bus Expectations & Policies**

### **For Newtown Bus Routes**

The 2024-25 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](http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us)

### **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.

Parents and students are asked to review this information in preparation for the first day of school, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **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](http://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 40 to Henry Abbott Tech. Bus 40 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 40 & 39 to Newtown High (39) and Middle Schools (40) 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.

### **Shepaug High School**

In the morning, students will ride shuttle routes to Newtown Middle School where they transfer onto Bus 37 to Shepaug HS at 6:40 am. In the afternoons, Bus 37 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**

In the morning, Danbury Magnet Students should meet at either the front of Reed School or at the Exit 9 Commuter Lot. Bus 54 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 54 and returned to town, first at the Exit 9 Commuter lot (3:50 PM), then at the front of Reed school (4:05 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 and 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 (at least high school age) 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](mailto: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.

### **Bus Stops/Expectations**

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

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 a classroom setting. It helps the driver out tremendously if parents would go over these behavior expectations to promote a safe, hassle-free ride for all students.

Students should never cross in front of a bus without a visible signal from the driver that it is safe to do so. Likewise, no student should ever run towards/from the rear, alongside of a bus. A driver may not see a student in some danger zone blind spots. If a student drops something, never run up to the side of the bus to retrieve it. There is a danger zone around a bus where a driver may not see the student in a mirror. Always yell out to get the driver's attention if you need them to remain stopped for any reason.

## **BUS CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

**DON'T LOSE YOUR RIDING PRIVILEGE! FOLLOW THESE EXPECTATIONS:**

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. DO NOT SMOKE (THIS INCLUDES ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES/VAPING).
7. BE RESPECTFUL OF EQUIPMENT & OTHERS' BELONGINGS.
8. REMAIN SEATED UNTIL BUS IS STOPPED COMPLETELY AT STUDENT'S BUS STOP.
9. KEEP HEAD, HANDS, FEET INSIDE BUS.
10. BUS DRIVER IS AUTHORIZED TO ASSIGN SEATS.

For the Reed and Elementary buses, grade level seating is enforced with youngest grades at the front of the bus and Reed students at the rear of the bus.