

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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June 15, 2022

Parents and Guardians,

As we look ahead to the 2022-2023 school year, we are busy preparing for and making changes to the transportation system to allow for a more efficient and streamlined process. Throughout last school year, we were forced to adjust the regular and extra-curricular transportation routes based on the limited number of drivers. This problem is not unique to our school district or state, this is a nationwide crisis. To address the driver shortage, both the school district and McIlwain's have advertised to hire new drivers, but the number of new applicants has fallen short of the demand and therefore we need to make the following additional changes for the upcoming school year:

1. Students could be asked to walk to more efficient bus stops throughout the school district. This adjustment will assist with the efficiency of the routes to manage student ride times, fill buses closer to capacity, and provide substitute bus drivers with simpler routes to follow.
2. The District and McIlwain are working together this summer to eliminate at least one, possibly two, bus runs. This will require less bus drivers, but may create longer bus rides and more students per bus.
3. Parents and students should know that if routes cannot be staffed there may be additional steps taken which may impact transportation. These may consist of buses doing "double loops," field trip or athletic transportation being cancelled, or other measures taken as it becomes necessary.

Being a school bus driver is an extremely rewarding job. Please contact McIlwain's directly at (814) 288-1594 if you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a van or bus driver.

- McIlwain School Bus Lines provides all the training, clearances and is committed to helping you obtain a license.
- The work schedule follows the school calendar— no nights, no weekends and you have summers and holidays off. This is a very flexible job.
- Our students at CTASD are well-behaved and our camera systems on the school buses are helpful in terms of reducing disciplinary problems.
- A school bus route for the 2022-2023 school year will pay \$85 per day (morning and afternoon runs) for approximately four (4) hours of work.
- Extra-curricular trips such as field trips and athletic trips will pay \$16 per hour.
- McIlwain's will have a training class at the beginning of July 2022. If you are interested in helping our District and students, please contact them to sign up for class at (814) 288-1594.

The goal of these changes is to transport our students to and from school as efficiently and safely as possible and to minimize the impact of the driver shortage crisis. We believe these changes are necessary adjustments to continue providing the most reliable service to our students.

Sincerely,

McIlwain Bus Lines/Conemaugh Township District Administration

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

It is the policy of the Conemaugh Township Area School District not to discriminate in employment or program services on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, or handicap/disability.