



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Maintenance and Operations

September 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you are having a good start to the school year and, for those of you whose child rides a bus, a positive experience with our bus services. As we continue serving the school transportation needs of our students, I want to make all parents aware of a challenge we are currently experiencing.

Due to COVID-19, our third-party transportation service, GoldStar, has had several drivers and bus monitors choose to not return to work. This is a common trend we are seeing across other transportation companies and in surrounding districts, which also have also seen a significant decline in the number of applicants available. We currently offer 92 daily bus routes, not including shuttles or field trips. As of today, GoldStar is short 14 drivers and nine bus monitors, which stretches our ability to continue our current number of separate routes.

If you or someone you know would like to apply to be a driver or monitor, please contact Tawana Leach, GoldStar Safety Coordinator, at tleach@ridegst.com. We would love for you to become part of our team!

For those who rely on our bus services each day, please know we are working to address this challenge. To combat this shortage of staff, some routes are being combined when they are near each other geographically. We have worked to ensure that all current bus stops will remain the same, but you could see different bus numbers or a possible delay in the pick-up and drop-off schedule. We understand these changes may be frustrating at times, and we assure you that we and GoldStar are doing everything possible to mitigate the impact. The search area and methods to identify applicants for both driver and monitor positions have been expanded, and we continue actively working to recruit qualified candidates. We are hopeful that this statewide shortage ends soon. Meanwhile, be assured that all safety standards, as well as enhanced sanitization protocols, will remain a priority.

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work diligently to ensure safe and reliable transportation of all students. If interested in learning more about being a bus driver or monitor, please contact us today!

Sincerely,

Dwayne Jones
Director of Operations