

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent
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Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Superintendent of Schools

March 7, 2022

Dear NMPS Parents and Guardians:

As you are aware, All-Star Transportation continues to experience a shortage of drivers which has again become a challenge for parents and for our team. All-Star has shared with us that they have had drivers resign, and have a few on leave of absence, which has now created an even larger shortage of drivers. All-Star has also informed us that it does have at least six individuals who are training to become drivers, however, this training and the certification can take anywhere from six to eight weeks. The transportation provider has shared that they have tried to contact other bus depots and that there are no drivers available. All-Star was also open to the suggestion of possibly consolidating runs with other buses, however, this may not be possible. If this is possible, I will be back in touch.

As a district, we continue to evaluate how we can help families. We will continue to work with All-Star to provide the later bus arrival in the morning as well as the later pickup time for those buses that do not run on time in the afternoon. We are also offering bus passes when possible to accommodate students' arrival closer to their normal drop-off time whenever possible. Please speak to your child's school to see if this option is available if you are interested.

In addition to offering what we do currently, we will begin to offer supervised early morning drop-off **only for those buses that are not running on time each morning, for parents who would like to bring their child(ren) in earlier in the morning prior to leaving for work.** For SMS and NMHS, the earliest drop-off time with staff supervision will be 6:25 a.m.; at SNIS, NES, and HPS, the earliest drop-off time with staff supervision will be 7:30 a.m. **Please note that this is only for those buses that are not running the morning of.** This is not for the entire student body, as we will not have adequate staffing levels to accommodate additional students. **This will go into effect on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, to afford schools the opportunity to prepare in advance for staff coverage.**

We are truly doing our best to accommodate parents in every way possible, as a result of the issues the contracted provider is having.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alisha DiCorpo".

Alisha DiCorpo
Superintendent of Schools