



July 23, 2015

Dear Academy Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your continued patience as Fort Bend ISD develops its final bus routes for all of our GT Academy and High School Academy students for the 2015-2016 school year. Over the last few months, our District's transportation department has been carefully considering all of the District's busing needs. In addition, the District conducted an online survey regarding afternoon pickup times for our High School Academy students. After further consideration and discussions with District staff and Academy leadership, it has been determined that a change is necessary regarding afternoon High School Academy bus routes. This is due in part to the increased costs associated with the implementation of the revised feeder patterns and boundaries approved in January 2015.

Effective August 24, all High School Academy students will be picked up from their respective Academy campuses at 2:30 p.m., when school dismisses. This is a change from last year, when Academy students were picked up approximately 45 minutes after dismissal. The previous rationale for late buses was to allow time for after-school tutorials and/or club meetings. However, conversations between our Academy director and our Academy coordinators have confirmed that Academy students can meet their requirements without the late busing.

Please understand that our District makes every effort to accommodate the needs of our students when possible. In this instance, we apologize for this late change, as we realize this differs from what was originally communicated to our Academy students in May. However, it has been determined that the additional late bus route is not fiscally prudent or logistically feasible.

During mid-August, pickup and drop-off locations will be finalized for all of our Academy students. This information will be posted on the Transportation Department webpage, and also mailed to your home address.

As we prepare for another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeannette Spain, Fort Bend ISD Director of Gifted and Talented, for her years of service overseeing the Academy programs. After 19 years with FBISD and 39 years in education, Ms. Spain is retiring this month. Please join me in wishing her well, and welcoming the new Director of Advanced Academics, Georgette Bubar. Ms. Bubar has more than twenty years of experience in the educational field and first joined Fort Bend ISD in 2013. Most recently, she served as the Advanced Academic Coordinator, promoting the growth and delivery of all advanced academic programs in FBISD. I am confident that under Ms. Bubar's leadership, our Academy programs will continue to flourish and provide our students with specialized learning communities and rigorous coursework that prepares them for college and careers.

It is my hope that all of our Academy students are enjoying a safe and relaxing break. We are looking forward to another successful year, and appreciate your continued support as we work to inspire and equip all of our students to pursue futures beyond their imagination.

Sincerely,

Dr. Phillys Hill
Chief Academic Officer