BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus Information

We run buses going to each side of the mountain. The buses arrive at school between 8:45 and 8:50am at the bus loading zones (Elementary-next to the lake, M/H Campus-entrance circle). The buses depart from the Elementary Bus Stop at 3:25pm each day and the M/H campus at 3:33pm.

Mount Madonna School buses and drivers comply with all California State laws and regulations, including:

- Daily bus inspections
- Maintenance requirements
- Documentation requirements
- CHP inspections
- Bus driver certification and testing
- Bus driver continuing education
- Bus driver random drug testing

Bus Stops and Times

On the Ocean Side		AM	PM
Santa Cruz – AM/PM	Pacific Cultural Center Seabright/Broadway,	7:35 am	4:40 pm
Soquel – AM	Sunnyside Produce, 2520 Main St	7:46 am	
Soquel – PM	Michael's On Main, 2605 Main St		4:30 pm
Aptos – AM	Aptos Natural Foods, 7486 Soquel Dr.	7:56 am	
Aptos – PM	Aptos Library, 7695 Soquel Dr.		4:20 pm
Corralitos – AM	Alladin Nursery, 2905 Freedom Blvd.	8:10 am	
Corralitos – PM	5 Mile House, 2904 Freedom Blvd.		4:10 pm
Freedom – AM	Airport & Freedom Blvds	8:16 am	
Freedom – PM	VFW Hall, 1960 Freedom Blvd.		4:05 pm
Watsonville – AM	Fruit Stand, Holohan near E. Lake Ave.	8:20 am	
Watsonville – PM	Valley Catholic Church, 2401 E. Lake Ave.,		3:55 pm
On the Inland Side			
Morgan Hill – AM/PM	Church Parking Lot @ Dewitt & Dunne	8:05 am	4:05 pm
Gilroy – AM	Fortino's Winery Route # 152 & Watsonville Rd.	8:25 am	
Gilroy – PM	Watsonville Road @ Redwood Retreat Road		3:55 pm

Bus Stop Policies

Meet Student on Same Side of Road – In order to conform to CHP policy, parents must meet students on the same side of the road on which the bus is stopped. If parents need to cross the street, parent and student must use the crosswalk at the closest traffic signal.

Call Office to Switch to a Different Bus Stop – If parents want their child(ren) to get off at a different bus stop, they must call the school office before 1:00 PM.

No Unauthorized Stops – The bus driver is only authorized to stop at scheduled bus stops. Students will not be dropped off between stops in the afternoon, nor will the bus stop between stops for late students in the morning.

Arrive at Bus Stop 5 Minutes Early – Students should arrive at their bus stops approximately 5 minutes before scheduled pickup time. Parents should arrive at the bus stops approximately 5 minutes before scheduled drop off time.

After Driver has Closed Bus Doors – Mount Madonna School has a policy and a procedure to follow when parents are late in dropping off children at their bus stops. State law requires that once the driver closes the doors of the bus at a stop, they must drive on and the parent must take the student to the next stop to board the bus.

Bus Stop Monitors

Morning and afternoon Bus Stop Monitors are needed to ensure the safety of our children. It is especially important to educate Preschool and Kindergarten students regarding what to do if they get off at the wrong stop or if the person picking them up is late.

Elementary school parents (whose children ride the bus) need to sign up for at least one afternoon shift per week. Parents of middle and high school students may find that mornings work best for them, due to the after-school events in which their children may participate. A sign-up sheet will be emailed to bus rider families.

Morning Bus Stop Monitor's Responsibilities

If the bus is late or breaks down, the Bus Stop Monitor needs to stay with the children until all children are picked up and taken to school. An attempt should be made to contact the school office or an administrator listed on the Family Transportation Information sheet that is mailed to all Bus Rider Families. Monitors or another parent are encouraged to bring the children to school if the bus is not going to be available and other transportation has not yet been arranged.

Afternoon Bus Stop Monitor's Responsibilities

Connect with the bus driver each day so that the driver knows that a responsible adult is supervising the bus stop. If a parent does not show up to pick up a child, the Bus Stop Monitor will either stay with the child until their ride arrives or make other arrangements with the parent picking up. Call MMS to notify them that you are with the child.

Permission to be Left Unattended

Sixth through 12th grade students may be left at the bus stop unattended with parents' permission. Permission to be left unattended is included on student's emergency release form and listed on the bus rider list.

Preschool through 5th grade students, and those older students without permission to be left unattended, will never be left at a stop without supervision. On our afternoon run, if there is no one to meet a student, the Bus Stop Monitor at that stop (or the next) will take responsibility for the child and contact the parent.

On the morning run, parents are to wait with their preschool - 5th graders (and those without permission to be left unattended) until the bus arrives. Permission to be left with a MS/HS sibling is included on student's emergency contact information.

Missed Connections

Parents who do not connect with a student at the bus stop, for whatever reason, should check their phone messages. The Bus Stop Monitor will leave a message for you there. If you do not hear from the monitor, call the MMS office at 408-847-2717 and leave a number where you can be reached.

If neither the parent nor a Bus Stop Monitor is at the bus stop, the bus driver will leave your child with the Bus Stop Monitor at the next stop. If it is the last stop, the bus driver will contact the Mount Madonna School office and decide what to do at that time. Check your home answering machine and then call the school office. If the office is closed, call a Transportation Administrator at the number listed on the Family Transportation Information Sheet.

Our drivers have been instructed to follow this procedure for the safety of the children and so that the bus can stay on schedule for the run.

Bus Fees

Mount Madonna School provides bus service to Santa Cruz, Soquel, Aptos, Watsonville, Gilroy and Morgan Hill. Bus fees are based on distance and number of passengers. Bus fees for students who ride the bus on a regular basis are added to the tuition agreement. Students who wish to ride the bus on an occasional basis (up to 10 rides per quarter) must make reservations with the MMS office by 1:00 pm.

Bus Rules

The following bus rules have been developed by the Mount Madonna School staff for the safety and well-being of all the students and passengers. The bus driver is responsible for the safety of all students and passengers and your cooperation is needed. Consistent misbehavior will result in the issuance of a citation and possible loss of riding privileges. The rules are as follows:

- Observe the same standards of conduct as in the classroom.
- Use an inside voice and refrain from yelling
- Be polite and no inappropriate language or behavior
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself. (tickling, pinching, etc.)
- Stay in your seated in your assigned seat and visible while the bus is in motion facing forward until your bus stop
- Always wear seat belts when available
- Students must sit in their assigned seats Do not sit sideways or backwards (it is illegal).
- Keep aisles clear (no legs, backpacks, etc).
- No throwing of any objects.
- Hands, arms or objects must be inside the bus at all times.
- Keep the bus clean and pick up your trash
- No eating on the bus (It can cause a choking hazard)
- No skateboards on the bus

- Do not poke holes in seats or write on the bus. Parents will be charged for any damages.
- No pretend or real weapons or animals on the bus
- When waiting for the bus, stay 6 feet from the curb.
- The driver is in charge of the bus and students and passengers must follow instructions promptly and cheerfully.
- No standing while the bus is in motion.
- No throwing of any objects in the bus or out of the window. Passengers must not at any time extend hands or arms out of the bus windows.
- Do not be disruptive.

Bus Citation Procedure

1st Citation
A copy of the citation is given to the parents and the Dean of Students. Student bus privileges may be suspended.

2nd Citation
A copy of the citation is given to the parents, the Dean of Students, and Guidance Team. Student bus privileges may be suspended.

3rd Citation
The student is suspended from using the bus for at least one ride. A copy of the citation is given to the parents, teacher and Head/Director.

Please note: A student can be suspended from riding the bus at any time if their behavior is deemed unsafe for themselves or others in the bus or nearby. Ex: standing or changing seats while the bus is moving.

Bus Schedule Variances
All bus drivers strive to be on time. Arrival times are subject to weather, road conditions and traffic. If the bus will be significantly later than usual, you will be notified through the automated calling system. Please be patient and work together to make the bus experience as safe, smooth and pleasant as possible.

Bus Emergency Transportation Procedures
All buses are inspected daily before operation. Should a defect be discovered that cannot be fixed before the bus run, the driver will notify the Transportation Coordinator, who will arrange alternate transportation for the bus riders.

Annual Bus Evacuation Drill
Near the beginning of each year we schedule a "Bus Evacuation Drill". The drill usually takes place in Mount Madonna Park in the morning on the way to school when most riders are present. The students practice evacuating from a side door and meeting/waiting together a distance from the bus until the driver signals the end of the drill.