

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST DIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOL



## PARENT GUIDE

### EASTERN LONG ISLAND BUS PROGRAM

September 2020

## Eastern Long Island Busing Guide

In order to support Catholic families on Long Island's East End, the Diocese of Rockville Centre offers students free bus transportation to and from St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School. This express service picks up as far east as Southampton, Riverhead and Wading River, and delivers students to St. John's in West Islip in approximately 90 minutes or less. The buses are air conditioned and Wi-Fi equipped to allow students to work during their trip, or to simply relax before and after school.

The unique challenges we face due to the COVID-19 pandemic are addressed in this guide. It outlines the special procedures in place to help to assure the safety of everyone in our community. St. John the Baptist and the service provider, Montauk Bus, follow CDC, State Education and NY State Department of Health guidelines in our efforts to assure the health and safety of all of our students.

This guide will detail the routes, schedules and procedures we will be implementing this year. This guide augments the Student Handbook which details the code of conduct and other school-specific rules. Those rules also apply to students riding the Eastern Long Island buses.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Service starts on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> for **Freshman only**. Buses will pick-up at their normal morning time and depart the school at the 12 noon dismissal.
- **FIRST DAY** for all students in Group A is Monday the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **FIRST DAY** for all students in Group B is Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Regular AM pick-up and afternoon dismissal begins on the 14<sup>th</sup>. School begins at 7:50 am and the school day ends at 2:36 pm. Morning pick-up buses are scheduled to arrive at St. John's by approximately 7:35. Dismissal buses depart St. John's at 2:50 pm.

### Basic Information

- **There are three lines, designated by a color.** The lines are:
  - o RED serving the north shore of Suffolk
  - o BLUE begins in Riverhead and runs down the center of the island
  - o GREEN begins on the South Fork and runs along the south shore
- **Each bus line is designed as express service** to St. John the Baptist. Specific stops are at Diocesan properties.
- **A St. John's ID is all your student needs as identification** to ride the bus.
- **Return service busses are positioned on the east side of St. John's** (by the tennis courts) to facilitate their speedy departure. They are operated by 'Montauk Bus' Company and have signs marking their specific route (RED, BLUE or GREEN).
- The staff managing the release of students at St. John's are familiar with the bus plan and can help assure that your student finds and boards the correct bus home.
- We request that your student ride their designated bus and get on/off at their designated stop. If you would like your student to deviate from this plan, we ask that you notify the Transportation Office at St. John's (631) 587-8000.
- The bus is provided as a service to **students and their families and subject to the rules of conduct** we expect of every student.

- **Site Coordinators will be staffing the pick-up and drop off locations** to help assure the safety and convenience of the bus riders. They will have access to the facilities in the event of inclement weather and to give students access to rest rooms before or after their trip.
- Notices of special times to support early dismissals, half-days and noon dismissals, and the expected drop-off times will be provided in advance of their occurrence.
- Parents are asked for their cooperation by making timely drop-offs and pick-ups to and from the bus stops.

The Diocese will evaluate and adjust pick-up and drop-off times to respond to unexpected elements and to improve service. Feedback is welcomed and will be considered. ([glayton@drvc.org](mailto:glayton@drvc.org))

### **COVID-related Changes**

- In order to **comply with social distancing guidelines**, the school has adopted a hybrid education schedule with 'A' and 'B' days determined by the first letter of the student's last name. The 'A' group are students with last names starting from A through K (inclusive) and the 'B' group are students with last names beginning with the letter L through Z (inclusive). An advantage of this alternating day schedule is that the current bus lines and routes can be maintained because it limits the number of students on each bus.
- New daily **cleaning and sanitizing protocols** have been established to keep the buses clean and to regularly disinfect all 'high touch' surfaces
- No food or drink on the bus to accommodate the student mask requirement.
- Student's **participation and cooperation is necessary** to make this work:
  - Students will be asked to comply with distancing guidelines on the bus
  - Students will be asked to wear masks when boarding, riding or disembarking
  - Hand wipes, sanitizer and masks will be available for students who forget theirs
- Parents are asked to be the first line of defense by keeping students who exhibit any signs of sickness home. Students will be temperature scanned before boarding. Students with a temperature of more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit will not be permitted to board the bus.
- Due to inclement weather, or possibly due to a return to distance-learning, which could happen at any point during the year, operational changes might be necessary. IF changes are required you will be notified by School Messenger. School messenger will call your home phone, your cell phone, and send you an email to notify you of a closure or delayed opening.
- The SJB Eastern LI Bus Program also attempts to keep Site Coordinators at each stop. Their role is to be an adult presence, and a watchful set of eyes and ears alert for any suspicious activity. Site Coordinators help to orchestrate the activity at each bus stop. Your stop's Site Coordinator will likely have additional information on the cause and duration of any disruptions.
- **Parents willing to help out by being a Site Coordinator** are urged to contact Gary Layton ([glayton@drvc.org](mailto:glayton@drvc.org) or (516) 280-2479 x817) There is a stipend of \$15/hr, paid monthly, to individuals willing to help assure the safety and comfort of our students.

## Annual Calendar

The Eastern Bus Service will be operational to support each school day on the 2020 – 2021 School Calendar, weather permitting. On days where inclement weather forces the cancellation of school, or delays the start of the school day, St. John the Baptist will inform you using School Messenger which will notify you by telephone. Because of the large geography served, school officials will make their best effort to provide timely notification, parents however are asked to consider travel safety in their specific area before taking their student to the bus stop. The safety of our students is our first responsibility.

**September** – 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> are Freshman Orientation Days – Only Freshman attend  
14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> are the start days for ALL STUDENTS based on your alphabetical grouping

**October** – SCHOOL CLOSED Monday October 12<sup>th</sup> – Columbus Day  
NOON DISMISSAL Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – PSAT Test (for 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> grade only)

**November** – SCHOOL CLOSED Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day  
NOON DISMISSAL Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Prayer Day  
SCHOOL CLOSED Thursday & Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Recess

**December** – NOON DISMISSAL Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> – Parent/Teacher Conferences  
SCHOOL CLOSED – Monday 12/21 – Friday 1/1 – Christmas Recess

**January** – School Reopens Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>  
SCHOOL CLOSED – Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King Day

**February** – SCHOOL CLOSED Monday February 15 through Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> – Winter Recess

**March** – SCHOOL CLOSED Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – Faculty Day  
SCHOOL CLOSED Monday, March 29 through Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Easter Recess

**April** – School Reopens Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

**May** – SCHOOL CLOSED Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – Faculty Day  
SCHOOL CLOSED Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> – Memorial Day

**June** – NOON DISMISSAL Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – Regents Examinations  
NOON DISMISSAL Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> – Graduation

\*June 14 – 24 are scheduled for final and Regents exams. Schedule to follow.

The unique challenges presented this school year require some additional precautions so we can assure the health and safety of our students. We ask that each student follow the guidelines below:



**TEMPERATURE CHECKS** – Site Coordinators will check your student(s) each day to see if they have a temperature. Students with a temperature of 100 degrees F or higher will not be allowed to board the bus.



**MASKS** – For the health and safety of each student, we ask that every student wear a facemask while boarding, riding, and disembarking the bus.



**BOARDING** – Buses will load from the back of the bus forward. Please move as far back in the bus as possible to take the rear-most vacant, socially distanced seat.



**HAND SANITIZER** – We recommend that each student utilize the hand sanitizer that will be available to them upon boarding and exiting the bus. It is suggested that students carry a small container of sanitizer or wipes with them.

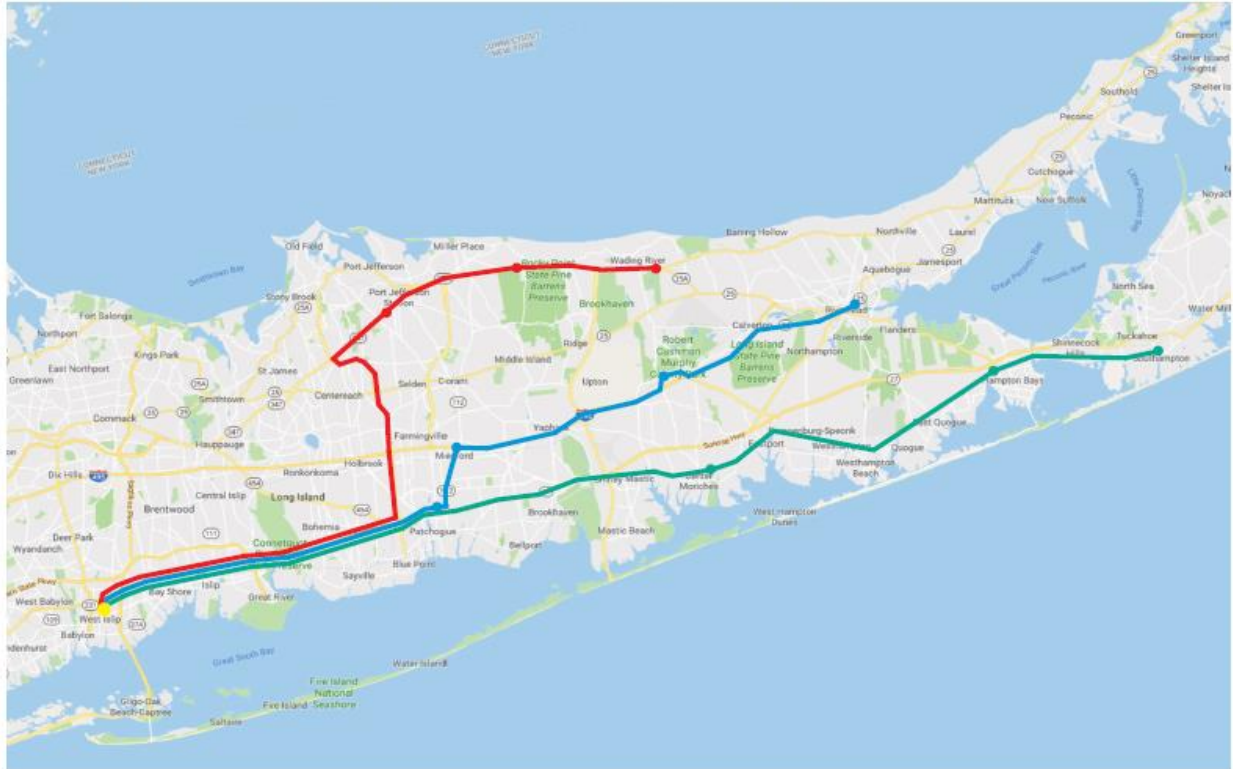


**CIRCULATION**– One of the mitigating factors in the spread of COVID-19 is air circulation. Students will be asked to cooperate with the driver to circulate the air aboard as conditions allow.



**DISINFECTING**– The buses will be disinfected daily with hydrostatic cleaning equipment and ‘high touch’ surfaces (like handrails) will be wiped down prior to each run.

# EASTERN LONG ISLAND BUS ROUTES TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL



**BLUE: Center Island Route**

- 1) 6:10am St. John Paul II Regional School  
515 Marcy Avenue, Riverhead
- 2) 6:30am Sts. Peter & Paul Church  
781 Wading River Rd, Manorville
- 3) 6:40am St. Sylvester Church  
68 Ohio Avenue, Medford
- 4) 7:00am Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
495 N. Ocean Avenue, Patchogue
- 5) 7:30am St. John the Baptist (WI)

**GREEN: South Fork Route**

- 1) 5:45am Our Lady of Poland  
35 Maple Street, Southampton
- 2) 6:05am Church of St. Rosalie  
31 E. Montauk Hwy, Hampton Bays
- 3) 6:40am St. John the Evangelist Church  
25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches
- 4) 7:30am St. John the Baptist (WI)

**RED: North Island Route**

- 1) 6:15am St. John the Baptist  
1488 N. Country Rd, Wading River
- 2) 6:25am St. Anthony's Church  
614 Route 25A, Rocky Point
- 3) 6:45am St. Gerard Majella  
300 Terryville Road, Pt Jefferson
- 4) 7:30am St. John the Baptist (WI)

**Return service will be provided from St. John the Baptist HS at dismissal (2:50pm).  
Until sports and activities resume there will be no late service. See reverse.**

**PARENTS:**

The bus service is run by the Diocese of Rockville Centre as a courtesy to the families on eastern Long Island. It is intended to keep Catholic secondary education accessible and affordable for every family on Long Island. The service is for currently enrolled students at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School and will be continued as long as student enrollment supports it. The Diocese reserves the right to change pick-up/drop-off locations, scheduled times, routes, or to discontinue the service based on fluctuations in student enrollment.

Parish and school locations are used as secure pick-up/drop-off locations and on-site security is provided by a team of parents and parishioners who function as Site Coordinators. We recommend that you exchange telephone numbers and information with your Site Coordinator in the event of an emergency.

**THIS SCHEDULE IS SPECIFIC TO OPERATION DURING THE 2020 GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND WILL BE MODIFIED ONCE NORMAL OPERATIONS RESUME. Students must adhere to special safety procedures as identified in the Parents Busing Guide and as identified by the Site Coordinator.**

# EASTERN LONG ISLAND BUS ROUTES FROM ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL



Until the school resumes normal operation there will be no late service. All scheduled arrival times are estimates and will fluctuate based on traffic and weather conditions.

**DISMISSAL BUSES: Depart from St. John the Baptist HS at 2:50 pm.**

**BLUE: Center Island Route**

- 1) 3:15pm Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
495 N. Ocean Avenue, Patchogue
- 2) 3:35pm St. Sylvester Church  
68 Ohio Avenue, Medford
- 3) 3:50pm Sts. Peter & Paul Church  
781 Wading River Rd, Manorville
- 4) 4:10pm St. John Paul II Regional School  
515 Marcy Avenue, Riverhead

**GREEN: South Fork Route**

- 1) 3:35pm St. John the Evangelist Church  
25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches
- 2) 3:55pm Church of St. Rosalie  
31 E. Montauk Hwy, Hampton Bays
- 3) 4:15pm Our Lady of Poland  
35 Maple Street, Southampton

**RED: North Island Route**

- 1) 3:35pm St. Gerard Majella  
300 Terryville Road, Pt Jefferson
- 2) 3:50pm St. Anthony's Church  
614 Route 25A, Rocky Point
- 3) 4:00pm St. John the Baptist  
1488 N. Country Rd, Wading River