To Our Springboro Families:

PLEASE READ - BUS ROUTE INFORMATION UPDATE

If your student rides a bus to school, please visit the Transportation Dept. webpage - www.springboro.org/Transportation.aspx, in order to recheck your student's bus route information. Given some students recently switched models (in-person or at-home learning), there is the potential for the bus route information to have changed for Quarter 2, which starts on Monday, Nov. 2. Please recheck this information for your student(s) on the Transportation Dept. webpage (Using the "Bus Route Information Available Here" Link).

The support of our parents and community members is essential to the success of Springboro Schools. As many in the community are aware, our district has been experiencing a shortage in the number of available bus drivers. This shortage is not only affecting Springboro Schools, but numerous other districts around the county, state, and tri-state area. Simply put, staff turnover for bus drivers is affecting this situation and there are not enough candidates applying to fill the necessary bus driver positions. Added to this is the difficult challenge of maintaining bus route schedules, in light of COVID-19. This could potentially impact our current bus routes as early as November, beginning in Quarter 2.

Transparency is important, and in an effort to communicate with you about our lack of available bus drivers at this time, our hope is to both inform you about the district's need for additional bus drivers, as well as to make you aware of possible route changes in the near future, due to this shortage.

What Happens If a Bus Driver or Route Can't be Covered - How Will My Student Get to School?

In the event the district is not able to cover a bus driver's shift or route on a particular day, the students' families involved with that specific bus number or route will be contacted via phone, as the parents/guardians will need to provide transportation for their student(s) that day. The Transportation Dept. will work to contact the family as soon as possible, once it is known about a bus driver shift or route that cannot be covered.

The district's Transportation Dept. has been working diligently on a variety of options to help compensate for a lack of bus drivers. While the Transportation office staff has stepped up to fill-in as district bus drivers already, several district mechanics have also worked to get their certifications, in order to drive buses, if necessary. However, this is not a permanent solution. While we greatly appreciate the efforts of our Transportation staff to serve as a bus driver, this ultimately takes time away from their daily responsibilities throughout the office and garage in running the district's Transportation Dept. If bus driving positions are not able to be filled, the reality of having to combine routes or routes not being able to be covered on a particular day could come to fruition at any time this school year. Of course, any specific changes would be further communicated to you.

Springboro Schools has promoted the hiring of bus drivers throughout this school year, and has placed Ads in several area publications. We would appreciate the support of our parents and community members who have continually shown their willingness to help.

I encourage you to keep the lines of communication open, especially with your child's Principal and main office staff. We welcome feedback as we work through this situation to determine how best to meet the transportation needs of our students moving forward. You, as a parent, always have the option of transporting your child to and from school – and before-and-after-school activities.

As a district, we are committed to providing high-quality, safe transportation services that accommodate the various academic and extracurricular needs of our students. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a bus driver, please visit our Transportation Dept. webpage - www.springboro.org/Transportation.aspx

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at 937-748-3960.

Sincerely,

Larry Hook, Superintendent