Dreams Help Students Achieve Parkway Educator Advises Parents to Play Key Role in Supporting, Shaping Children's Dreams

Most parents know the importance of being active in their children's education. But along with school involvement, parents can play a key role in inspiring students to greatness. Advice on how to do this is offered by Charlotte Ijei, director of **Pupil Personnel and Diversity in** the Parkway school district.

A key factor in fueling students' success is their ability to dream of what they would like to become, according to ljei. She says that beginning when children are young, parents should guide them in creating a plan for themselves. This requires ongoing conversations about what they see themselves doing, plus communicating what you expect of them. "If we don't expect great things of our children, who will?" Ijei asks. "We need to let them know they can do anything they set their minds to."

She advises parents to support their children's dreams no matter how lofty or unrealistic they might seem. "If children talk about being a doctor or lawyer, allow them to dream that, regardless if you think they are academically capable or if you question whether your family can afford the level of education it requires," insists ljei. "It should be the student's

Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation 7425 Forsyth Blvd., Suite 110 St. Louis, MO 63105

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- Be follower #100 and win a \$25 gift card to Best Buy.
- Be follower #500 and win an I-Pod Shuffle.
- Be follower #1,000 and win an **I-Pod Shuffle** and an I-Tunes gift card.

VICC/Transpar employees and their families are not eligible for prizes (but please do follow along to see what's new with VICC.) Anyone found to use multiple accounts to enter will be ineligible.

dream, not the parents', she points out, adding that what they ultimately choose could be a career that falls within the medical or legal field.

If children have no idea of what they would like to become, help them formulate dreams that are in line with their interests or skill set, advises ljei. She suggests parents help research occupations that utilize the child's strengths by using books, videos, mentors and field trips to companies. "Some children need to find out what excites them; others discover that early on, but regardless, they can all benefit from knowing as much as possible about particular occupations and what is required for them."

No matter the child's age, "Speak to them as if they are grown-ups," says Ijei. "Talk to them about the dreams they have for themselves and also what you have in mind for their future. Be encouraging but also honest in terms of the preparation required. For example, let them know that professional football players have to do well in school, or that to be the best writer, they have to be the best reader."

Discussions about dreams should touch on the bigger picture of life itself, ljei believes. "Share with your children that everything surrounding them was once someone's idea which, through hard work and determination, evolved into a product people use. Let them know that life is hard, there will be bumps in the road, but that attitude and focus are paramount to success in life."

Finally, Ijei advises parents to talk to school staff about their students' strengths and challenges. "The educators have insight about your children that can be helpful to you in guiding them toward their dreams. When you partner with the school, your children will see that you are



Charlotte Ijei, Parkway's director of Pupil Personnel and Diversity conducts workshops for parents and teachers on how to inspire students to greatness. Students need to possess dreams about what they would like to become and parents should also make suggestions based on the child's interests and skill set, she believes. "If we don't expect great things of our

children, who will? Photo by Parkway School District

Student Success Depends On: (as noted by Charlotte ljei)

- Being inspired to dream (see articles).
- Sense of belonging. "must feel a connection with their schools"
- Caring relationship at school. "someone they can talk to and trust"
- **Proper balance.** "between exercise, homework, other activities"
- **The right attitude.** "toward school it's important!"
- A desire to succeed. "Self-determination and motivation are necessary."
- Boundaries. "Tell them: it's time for homework. Kids beg for boundaries."

serious about the high expectations you hold for them and the staff will see that you want your children to realize their

Most of all, parents should let their children know they believe in them. "Help them dream big and support them in their dreams," she stresses. By Peggy Magee

Parents' Strategies Model Educator's Advice:

Communication, High Expectations, Support/Encouragement of Dreams

Charlotte Ijei's presentation at a Parkway parent event, "How Can I Inspire My Student," validated to Kelsia and Alphonso lvy, parents of four Parkway students, that their parenting strategies are right on the mark. "When we heard Mrs. Ijei's recommendations, Alphonso and I commented to each other, 'That is what we do!'" reports Kelsia.

What the couple from north St. Louis does is have regular conversations with their children about what they want to do when they grow up. "We talk to them about being on the lookout for skills or abilities they possess that they can channel into a profession," explains Kelsia, "We encourage them to find an interest and then we help them explore the ins and outs of it so they can determine if it is something they could build a future around."

She says their son Atajio, age 11, thinks he's an artist. Kelsia laughs and says she is not sure about that. None the less, she has enrolled him in an art class this summer. Because of Atajio's love of art, Kelsia and Alphonso talk to him about the possibility of becoming a graphic artist or an architect when he is older. He also likes math and science so the family makes visits to the St. Louis Science Center. "We want to keep him interested and curious," Kelsia notes, adding that they don't want to limit their children, but instead expose them to many different experiences.

The Ivy's oldest daughter, Akilah, age 15, dreams of owning her own dance studio, or maybe a center for voice instruction. At age 4 she showed an interest in movement and so her parents enrolled her in a dance class at COCA. "We allowed her to try it even though we didn't see much

talent in the beginning," Kelsia admits with a chuckle. Voice lessons followed a few years later and since then, Akilah has dedicated countless hours to both. Aware of her passion, the Ivys have begun looking into colleges where Akilah can specialize in dancing or singing. "Akilah heard about the Juilliard performing arts college and we have done some research on it," notes Kelsia. "We hope to make a college visit there this summer."

Neither the selectiveness of the prestigious arts college in New York City nor its cost has dissuaded the Ivys. "We stress to Akilah that she needs to practice hard, work on her competitive skills and keep her grades up so that she will be eligible for scholarships."

Akilah's dream has also prompted the Ivys to seek advice from the staff at her high school, Parkway West. "We have talked to her choir teacher and her counselor, in addition to her dance instructor at Charley's Body Shoppe and her private voice coach, about how Akilah can best prepare for gaining admission to a college such as Juilliard." Their advice is that she needs to branch out and find other opportunities to put herself in competitive situations, reports Kelsia, adding that Akilah has been with the same dance studio since she was five. "All of her instructors believe that she can achieve her goals, and they collectively say that if she could increase her exposure, she could go far in the arts. As a result, she tried out for the Muny Teens and she plans to audition for American Idol."

And while Akilah focuses on her plan, the Ivy's other children are trying to find their own interests and talents. "It helps that they see Akilah working toward her dream. It motivates them to find their own," reports Kelsia. By Peggy Magee



about what they see themselves doing as adults. They are supporting their oldest daughter, Akilah Roberts, in reaching her dream of owning a dance studio or center for voice instruction by researching performing arts colleges and finding out what she needs to gain admission. Here, Akilah gets help with a dance extension from her instructor Lisa Billings at Charley's Body

Photo by Marilyn Zimmerman

This issue of the Parent Link is dedicated to those transfer students who are members of the

Class of 2011 --

hardworking students who have left behind an enviable record of accomplishments. For each student who is mentioned, there are scores of others also deserving of recognition. Our congratulations go not only to the students, but their parents and teachers as well. You are at the heart of this program and an important part of the students' successes.



Matt Arnold Affton High School



Kameron Stewart Clayton High School

Angelo Jones

Mehlville High School



Lakesha Walker Hancock High School



Christyna Johnson Kirkwood High School



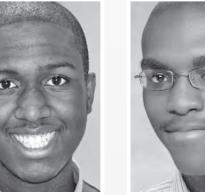
Clayton High School



Darice Swink Lindbergh High School



Kris Webb Oakville High School



Hebert Prospere Parkway South High School



Tamira Davis Parkway South High School



Candace Perkins Pattonville High School



D'Autrail Wafford Marquette High School



Indasha Faulkner Lafayette High School



Monique Williams Rockwood Summit High



Altia Paulette Eureka High School



Adam Mann-Ali NJROTC Academy



Darreon Tickle Valley Park High School



Jason Meehan Webster Groves High School

AFFTON

Affton High School

Successful in multiple arenas including academics, athletics, music and leadership, **Matt Arnold** earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.27 while challenging himself in honors classes. Ranked in the top 25 percent of his class, he plans to use his skills in math and science pursuing a career in mechanical engineering. He intends to attend St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, utilizing his A+ funds, and after earning his associate degree, he plans to enroll at the University of Missouri-Columbia to complete a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. At Affton, Matt was a four-year member of the wrestling team, placing second in districts for three years, and as a senior earned the title of district champion. He also competed at the state level and served as captain of the team for two years. A talented violinist, Matt participated in orchestra for four years and served as a mentor to a group of incoming freshmen.

BAYLESS

Bayless High School

Keegan Kelly plans to attend St. Louis Community College at Meramec and then move on to a four-year school to study speech and language pathology. A Special School District Foundation scholarship will help him with those plans. At Bayless, he was a member of the Diversity Club, and earned a Rosemary Zander Award, which recognizes Special School District students who show remarkable achievements and outstanding attitudes through their work and behavior.

BRENTWOOD

Brentwood High School

Her outstanding commitment to academics, her maturity and involvement in activities on and off campus has resulted in **Endia Thomas** being accepted to several colleges and universities in the Midwest. Her kind and giving nature lends itself to her career goal of becoming a social worker as she explains "to help kids with their problems and to help families live better." At Brentwood, Endia participated in cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, track, soccer and also attended South County Technical School for early childhood education training while balancing these efforts with a rigorous college preparatory course-load and a part-time job. She volunteered to help after school with cheerleading clinics for younger girls.

CLAYTON

Clayton High School

This fall **Alexis Atkinson** will attend Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. At Clayton, she served as a photojournalist for the student newspaper and was an important participant on the swimming team, which allowed her to showcase her individual talent and also blend her natural leadership abilities. Her experience as a participant in Focus St. Louis Youth Leadership was among the most meaningful of her high school career.

Kameron Stewart balanced both academics and athletics, playing football and participating in the track team. His dedication to his school is exemplified by his participation as a leader on the Principal's Advisory Committee. He also supported his school as a member of several school spirit organizations and the C-Club which raises funds to support athletics. Kameron plans to major in business at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas.

HANCOCK PLACE

Hancock Place High School

Recognized for her outstanding academic record, her talents, her leadership and dedication to service, **Lakesha Walker** will be attending the University of Missouri-Columbia this fall to major in the medical field. She hopes to continue her involvement in music and other areas of leadership. At Hancock she served as senior class president and was honored in Jefferson City as one of this year's Glory Award recipients. She also served on the first VICC advisory board, heading up the student segment and also led the fall parent meeting. Lakesha played basketball and softball for the last three years, but her participation in the high school band, playing the trumpet for four years, is a high point that she hopes to expand upon as a member of Marching Mizzou.

Kirkwood

Kirkwood High School

The recipient of a partial scholarship to the University of Arkansas, **Christyna Johnson** plans to major in dietetics. An accomplished musician, she traveled with the Kirkwood orchestra to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Christyna graduated with higher than a 3.5 grade point average and is the recipient of the "Gold K" academic award and was honored by the Sky's the Limit program.

LINDBERGH

Lindbergh High School

Darice Swink walked the halls at Lindbergh High School with impeccable hair and make-up, and that was no accident. This bright, hardworking student, who loved giving her friends make overs before high school dances, aspires to attend Paul Mitchell cosmetology school in St. Louis and someday own her own salon. In addition to maintaining a 3.3 grade point average, Darice participated in the Madrigal Swingers show choir and a capella choir, and is a Renaissance recipient for academic, attendance and character achievements. Away from school, she is involved in her church youth group and works part-time.

MEHLVILLE

Mehlville High School

The recipient of scholarships from every college he applied to attend,

Angelo Jones hopes to attend Southeast Missouri State

University to study political science and aspires to become a diplomat. At Mehlville, he demonstrated a commitment to both academic and extracurricular excellence, with a 3.2 grade point average with a rigorous course schedule. He was a member of both the junior and the senior executive council, DECA, the drama club, German club, student council and the student newspaper and broadcast journalism. Angelo volunteered with the Special Olympics, Top Teens of America and was a teen health consultant. He was also an

Louis Artworks.

Oakville High School

The recipient of the Chancellor's scholarship, **Kristopher Webb** will be attending the

University of Missouri-Kansas City with plans
to major in political science, with a minor

intern for Eastern Illinois University at St.

in Spanish or economics. He is considering a career in the law. An academic achievement award winner and member of the honor roll, Kristopher graduated with magna cum laude honors. He was involved with the student executive council, served as editor-in-chief for the yearbook, was president of the Spanish club and a Tiger mentor.

PARKWAY

Parkway South High School

Graduating at the top tier of his class, with more than 16 college credit hours, **Hebert Prospere** earned a full ride scholarship to Saint Louis University, where he plans to study biomedical engineering with an emphasis in pre-medicine. He was involved in a range of extracurricular activities from the robotics team to the science honor society, and was recognized by the district for his academic achievements, including the prestigious South Star, Spirit of Excellence and departmental awards. Of Haitian ancestry, Hebert understands the struggles faced by people in poorer parts of the world and wants to be able to provide much needed healthcare to people in third world countries as a physician.

The recipient of an academic and achievement scholarship to the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, **Tamira Davis** plans to major in early childhood education and psychology. The recipient of numerous awards, including both the academic and citizenship honor rolls, the South Star award and the Spirit of Excellence award, Tamira served as an officer on the student council and for the diversity club. She also participated in sports and volunteered with 100 Black Men of St. Louis, Special Olympics and the blood drive.

PATTONVILLE

Pattonville High School

Having developed a love of learning in the Pattonville school district since kindergarten, **Candace Perkins** has chosen to major in elementary education to help children, including those not eager to learn, realize the value of a good education. She will enroll in Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville to reach this goal. While maintaining a 3.6 grade point average, Candace has been involved in the A+ program, the Steppin' with Style dance team, the minority achievement/diversity club, Key Club, the future educators' association and the University of Missouri-St. Louis Bridge Program.

Rockwood

Eureka High School

Honored by her fellow classmates by being selected to present the closing speech at the graduation ceremony, **Altia Paulette** has been accepted to the University of Missouri-Columbia's pre-law track. Her goal is to become a prosecuting attorney, judge and someday run for public office as a member of the House of Representatives or Senate. In addition to academics, Tia was part of Eureka Lacrosse and Winterguard, placing first in state championships.

Lafayette High School

Indasha Faulkner will attend the Chamberlain College of Nursing in St. Louis this fall. She plans to become an emergency room nurse. During high school, she focused her studies on higher-level science and math courses to prepare for college and her career. An active member of Outdoor Skills Education Program (OSEP), Indasha participated in a wilderness adventure program that challenged her and allowed her to apply specialized technical skills and facilitation techniques. Indasha proved her leadership skills as a member of SAGES where she mentored other students in academics and citizenship.

Marquette High School

D'Autrail Wafford has been a student leader, maintaining a high grade point average, earning recognition in the Winner's Circle and was selected to receive the Marquette Parent Organization Scholarship. As a student-athlete, D'Autrail participated in basketball, football and track and field teams, and he was an active member of the Marquette Academic and Cultural Club. His plans include attending Southeast Missouri State University where he will pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

Rockwood Summit High School

Recognized as the outstanding senior at Rockwood Summit High School, **Monique Williams** is considering scholarship offers from various local colleges. She plans to prepare for a career in the computer science field. At Rockwood, she filled her course schedule with advanced placement classes and challenge courses. Monique's extracurricular activities included instrumental music as part of the Rockwood Summit High School Marching Band.

St. Louis

Naval Junior ROTC Academy

Adam Mann-Ali was named valedictorian at the Naval Junior ROTC Academy, graduating with a 4.0 grade point average. He accepted a full four-year scholarship to the University of Missouri-St. Louis to prepare for a career in science. He was also accepted to, and received valuable scholarships to the University of Tennessee, Truman State University, the University of Illinois, Washington University, Missouri State University and the University of Minnesota. He was a member of his high school's Battalion Staff, a group of student leaders selected on the basis of demonstrated leadership, academics and character.

VALLEY PARK

Valley Park High School

Darreon Tickle was a member of the Valley Park cross country team for four years, helping the team to place second in district competition in 2010. His academic achievements go beyond his dedicated work in honors classes. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America and Teenage Health Consultants. Darreon plans to pursue a degree in business at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Among the awards he received are the Valley Park Mason Lodge #629 scholarship, the Anna Cuchetti Memorial scholarship, the Circle of Concern scholarship and the Ponder Minority scholarship from the College of Business at Mizzou.

Webster Groves

Webster Groves High School

Jason Meehan is both a scholar and an athlete, having graduated with honors. He received a full football scholarship to Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois, where he plans to major in business administration. During his four years at Webster Groves High School, Jason was a stand-out basketball and football athlete. He had the opportunity to play in three state championship games – once in basketball and twice in football. Jason received several prestigious football awards, including Defensive Player of the Year for Missouri, which he earned twice; St. Louis Post-Dispatch defensive player of the year, also twice; and a member of the Missouri All-State football team, also twice.

Message from the GEO



It is hard to believe that another school year has been completed and soon the new school year will begin. I hope that you and your families will be able to spend some time together this summer to rest and recharge. I have immensely enjoyed some extra time together this summer with our family. As I get older I realize that our time with our children is limited and much more rapidly than seems possible, they are graduating from high school just like the many outstanding graduates highlighted in this issue. It is important that we enjoy our time together and also make each moment count.

For the brief time that our children are with us, we have the tremendous opportunity to support and shape their dreams as is discussed in the articles in this issue. As Yogi Berra once said, "If you don't know where you are going, you will end up some place else." The same holds true for our children. If we do not guide and assist them to establish goals and dreams, who knows where they will end up?

I strongly believe in the importance of helping our children set lofty yet achievable goals. Not just our children, but other students, employees, and others usually rise up to meet or exceed our expectations. Michelangelo stated, "The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it." So be like the students, parents, and educators profiled in this issue. Set a challenging goal for yourself and your children and then expect to achieve it. Instill in them confidence and help them to not fear failure - but rather to strive for greatness knowing that they are surrounded by their family, their teachers, and their community, and with that collective support and a strong confidence in their own abilities, they can achieve success!

David S. Glaser CEO *dglaser@choicecorp.org* 314.721.8422, ext. 3014

VICC Staff Ready to Assist Transferring Families

The Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) staff includes five full-time counselors/social workers who can assist families with issues related to their school

Counselors are happy to respond to concerns and/or questions from parents or students regarding any issue that would interfere with the success of a child in the school setting, such as attendance, disciplinary issues, curriculum, achievement or other concerns. They can also provide counseling assistance for students and help parents understand their educational rights.

Counselors generally are assigned according to the first letter of the student's last name. They can be reached by calling 314.721.8422, and dialing the extension number below, or via email.



A-D Vickie Williams ext. 3011 vwilliams@choicecorp.org



E-H *Laverne Mitchom* ext. 3020 Imitchom@choicecorp.org



I-M Jennifer Christy ext. 3021 jchristy@choicecorp.org



N-R Mildred Scott ext. 3027 mscott@choicecorp.org



S-Z Mary Schafer Meehan ext. 3016 mmeehan@choicecorp.org

The counselors will begin a parent help column, "Ask the Counselor," which will be included in regular VICC parent publications. Please call or email any questions that you would like to have answered to any of the counselors. If you are emailing, please include "Ask the Counselor" as your subject line.

Contact Persons

for Voluntary Student Transfer Program Families

Each of the districts accepting voluntary transfer students has a designated contact person. Contact persons coordinate the district's administrative responsibilities for the transfer program, and serve as the liaison between the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) and the district.

Contact persons' responsibilities may include enrolling transfer students, conducting orientations for new students and parents, processing applications and submitting transportation requests.

Contact persons are often the first individual from the district that a new transfer family meets, and they are a valuable resource for transfer families. They can answer specific questions about district policy and procedures and can refer parents to the proper school administrator if

Affton

Dr. Ken Weissflug 314.638.8770

Bayless

Ms. Jayne Jackson 314.256.8664

Brentwood

Ms. Colleen Lohbeck 314.962.4507

Clayton TBA

314.854.6471

Hancock Place

Mrs. Lisa Charles 314.544.1300, ext. 199

Kirkwood

Dr. Shirleas Washington 314.213.6105

Lindbergh

Mr. Chuck Triplett 314.729.2400, ext. 1815 Mehlville

Dr. Brian Lane 314.467.5220

Parkway

Ms. Michelle Wiley 314.415.8065 Dr. Charlotte Ijei 314.415.5063

Pattonville

Dr. Donette Green 314.213.8090 Ms. Helen Weissler

314.213.8075 Rockwood

Mr. Terry Harris

636.733.2177 **Valley Park**

Mrs. Vickie Pardeck

636.923.3617 **Webster Groves**

Mr. John M. Thomas (Interim) 314.918.4378

Special School District

Mrs. Mary Lee Burlemann 314.989.8125

Starting Dates for County Schools

Classes will begin soon in your county school. Make plans now to be at school every day, beginning on the very first day. Watch your mailbox for your bus card about one week prior to the beginning of classes. The first day of school for each county district is listed below:

Affton	August 17, 2011
Bayless	August 16, 2011
Brentwood	August 16, 2011
Clayton	August 17, 2011
Hancock Place	August 18, 2011
Kirkwood	August 17, 2011
Lindbergh	August 16, 2011
Mehlville	August 17, 2011
Parkway	August 16, 2011
Pattonville	August 15, 2011
Rockwood	August 17, 2011
Special/Tech	August 15, 2011
Valley Park	August 16, 2011
Webster Groves	August 16, 2011

Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) complies fully with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA is a law that affords parents and students 18 years of age and older with certain rights with respect to the student's educational records.

A copy of VICC's FERPA statement is included in VICC student handbooks, which can be requested by calling 314.721.8422, ext. 3012. The handbooks are also available on the VICC website at www. choicecorp.org. Click on the link for "City Residents Currently Enrolled in County Schools," and then click on "Voluntary Transfer Program Handbook."

The full policy will be published in the next issue of the Parent Link.

Emergency Communication System

To improve communication with parents regarding transportation and their child's participation in the St. Louis Student Transfer Program, the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation uses a telephone broadcast system, similar to ones used in many participating school districts.

This system, provided by School Reach, allows VICC to quickly send all households and parents a pre-recorded message by phone within minutes of a transportation emergency or unplanned event that could significantly delay a child's pick-up for or drop-off from school. These emergencies include traffic jams, bus breakdowns, inclement weather, accidents, etc. The service may also be used from time-to-time to communicate general program announcements or reminders.

This system will simultaneously call a home and one additional emergency number for each student's family who needs to be contacted and will deliver a message from Tami Webb, transportation operations manager, or another official with the transfer program. Calls will be delivered to both live (in person) responders and answering machines. Calls not answered and busy signals will be automatically retried by the system two additional times in 15 minute intervals after the initial call.

Your child's school will also continue to separately announce school closings due to snow or weather, via the media or their own phone system. However, in the event your child's district is open, but road conditions are such that VICC's transportation department feels it is not safe to transport students to school, VICC would use this separate system to notify families attending the affected districts in addition to making the standard media announcements.

For this notification system to best operate, it is imperative that you keep your school aware of any future changes in your home and/or emergency phone numbers. Your school then updates VICC's parent contact records so a separate notification to VICC is not necessary.

Transportation Information

Transportation to and from school is provided by the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation so long as your child goes to a school in the correct attendance area. The phone number for the transportation staff is **314.721.8657**.

Transportation cards with the bus stop location and time are mailed to all transfer families about two weeks before school begins in the fall. If you do not receive your card by one week before the start of school, contact the principal at the school your child will be attending. Please do not call the transportation staff. After the regular school year begins, new cards will be mailed only if it is necessary to make a change to the bus/cab route. Please review each new card carefully, including the effective date, stop location and times and destroy all old cards.

Any day-to-day transportation problems or concerns you may have should be addressed by first calling the bus (or cab) contractor.

These include normal operating issues, such as the following:

- Looking for lost items left on the bus/cab
- Checking on activity bus location
- Questions or cancellations when VICC Transportation office is closed. Refer to your child's bus card for the appropriate bus/cab company.

If the contractor is unable to resolve a concern, or if you have one of the following issues, please call the VICC transportation staff at 314.721.8657:

- Overall routing issues or concerns
- · Pick-up or drop-off location concerns
- · Concerns with driver or contractor
- · Requesting cab or other alternative transportation service in the event your regular bus does not show.

Student Responsibilities

Students are to board their bus/cab only at their assigned stop. They must arrive at their designated pick-up location 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time, and remain at least 15 minutes after the pick-up time, before calling the transportation staff at 314.721.8657 for advice on alternative transportation. If your children are not at the bus stop a full 10 minutes before the scheduled arrival time and do not wait the full 15 minutes after the scheduled time and they miss the bus, it will be your responsibility to get them to school. The transportation staff does not send alternative transportation in such instances.

For the safety of all children, students must obey general safety rules as well as those established by the school district they are attending. You should obtain a copy of your district's bus regulations and review them with your child. Violations of bus rules can result in a student being removed from riding the bus either on a temporary or permanent basis. If a bus suspension occurs, it becomes the parents' responsibility to transport the child to and from school for the duration of the suspension.

Parent Responsibilities

Transportation may run late and/or routes may not be firmly in place during the first few weeks of school. Please make sure your child knows exactly what to do if his or her bus does not arrive. This includes knowing where to go and whom to call. Also make sure your child knows what is expected when he or she is dropped off at the end of the school day. If you normally meet your child at the bus stop, be sure your child understands what to do if you are not there.

If the transportation route to which your child is assigned does not operate in a timely manner, or other problems arise, please communicate with the VICC transportation office.

It is important for parents to keep the school as well as the district contact person informed of any changes in either the home phone **number or the emergency phone number** for your child. Also, be sure to request that this information be forwarded to the transportation staff.

If You Move

If you move during the summer, call the principal at the county school your child has been or will be attending, or that district's contact person immediately. All districts have central office personnel who work during the summer to handle such situations. Please remember, it takes up to 10 working days to make a transportation change. If you are going to move during the academic year, be sure to notify your building principal or district contact person at least two weeks before you move. If you move outside of your school's attendance area, you will need to request a transfer to a school in your new attendance area, or else provide your own transportation in order to remain at your original school.

General Safety Rules

Please review the general safety rules with your student. These can be found in your transfer program handbook. Please refer to the box below if you need a copy of the handbook.

Student Safety

Help us protect your children as they travel to and from school. Certain types of children's clothing can create a hazard as your child exits the bus. Especially dangerous are jacket and sweatshirt drawstrings, long backpack straps, long scarfs or any other loose clothing. Such clothing could become caught in the bus handrail, door or other bus equipment as the child exits the bus. Please take the time to check your children's clothing. Also talk with your child about the behavior and safety rules.

Trespass Policy

To bolster the safety of students riding buses to school, the VICC Board adopted the following trespass policy:

Trespass occurs when anyone boards a school bus without prior approval from VICC. Any VICC-designated person (including students), contractor or school staff whose job responsibilities require him/her to be on a school bus shall be authorized and not be considered trespassing. Only with prior approval from VICC or a contractor may any parent, guardian or member of the general public be allowed on a bus at any time."

Be sure to review the transportation section in the **Voluntary Transfer Program Handbook** (pages 9-21) with your child before the start of school.

If you need a handbook, please call 314.721.8422, ext. 3012, or visit our website: www.choicecorp.org