

# parentlink

A newsletter for parents published by the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation • Volume 28, Number 3, July 2014



## Ashleigh Taylor

### *Lindbergh Fulfills Student's Quest for Discovery*

by Peggy Magee

*Ashleigh Taylor loves learning, creating and exploring. Her interests and talents are wide and varied and she is passionate about each and every one of them. She's a gal on the go--curious, energetic, organized.*

The Lindbergh school district, with its abundance of classes, activities and caring, insightful faculty, satisfied Ashleigh's insatiable desire to expand her world and fulfill her sense of wonder. Feeling academically prepared and broadminded, the 2014 grad is confident and enthused about moving on to Southeast Missouri State University in the fall.

The numerous recognitions Ashleigh earned at Lindbergh are proof of her high achieving ways. As a culinary arts student, her days over the past two years were split between academic classes at Lindbergh and culinary classes held at South Tech High School. She won numerous local culinary competitions including first place in the district. She also received the Superintendent's award for her scholarship and community service, plus excelled in various quiz bowls testing professional development skills. She graduated in the top 30 percent of her senior class.

There is no disguising her self-satisfaction when Ashleigh talks about all her after school activities. "I was in seven clubs at Lindbergh and two at Tech," she reports, rattling off martial arts club, book club, Japanese club (president), environmental club, etc. She sampled all different classes too. In addition to general academics and her culinary focus, she took clothing design, art and design, several years of Spanish including honors, and is self-taught in multiple languages.

She says she appreciates "so many" of her teachers for their individual merits--one for being kind and accommodating, someone else for stressing positivity, another for encouraging students to think deeper about all things, and one teacher from way back in fourth grade who insisted, "There's no such thing as the word 'can't' because you can."

Ashleigh seems to have applied all of this advice in her own life. She is contemplating three college degrees or at least taking classes from each: global languages and culture, international studies and international business. She might take her culinary skills to the next level. She doesn't want to limit herself. She wants to travel and see the world. She knows she can. And she will.



## PJ Sims

### *Student Thrives from Challenging Parkway Education*

by Peggy Magee

*PJ Sims likes to be challenged and the Parkway district delivered for him. "I guess I've always wanted more than I've had and so I've gotten used to pushing myself," he notes, adding, "I've come to enjoy it. I thrive best when I'm challenged."*

That's a good thing since the 2013 graduate of Parkway South High School now attends St. Louis University where, as an accounting major, he studies hard to meet the high academic standards.

He remembers clearly the two classes at Parkway South High that really tested him. In his Advanced Placement Statistics class, the amount of writing involved had him perplexed. "Why would English be used in a math class," he wondered. He was equally challenged by the problem solving skills required in Physics.

With his teachers guiding and encouraging him, he passed both courses. The principal too believed in his abilities. She was so certain he could score well on the AP Statistics exam (a high enough score to earn college credit), she rebuked his objections of not being able to afford the exam fee and put up the money for him. "She said she would track me down and make me pay if I didn't pass, but I did." In fact, PJ was on the honor roll for most of his 13 years in Parkway.

With interests in dancing and singing, PJ was part of the hip hop dance club at South and sang in the choir. When the choir needed a first tenor, PJ, who had been singing second tenor, worked hard to make his voice hit the higher notes. He succeeded. "It was an achievement," he recalls with a smile.

PJ hesitates to name just a couple of his teachers who stretched his abilities. "There were so many who set the bar high for me and made me feel capable of reaching it."

PJ had enough credits to graduate early from Parkway South, but his principal persuaded him to take a couple more classes

and lend a hand in the learning lab to students needing academic help. "It felt good to be able to pass along knowledge to others and help them pass their courses." After school he did the same for youngsters in his neighborhood when he worked as a junior staffer at the Adams Park location of Herbert Hoover Boys' and Girls' Club. As a child, he was very involved with the club.

At St. Louis University, PJ is involved with the African-American Scholars group that brings in African-American guest speakers who share their stories of success. "It's inspirational," he says. "If they can do, so can I." The faculty and staff at Parkway South never doubted that for a second.

### **PJ's Advice for Other Students:**

Sample all different types of classes and activities to narrow down which ones interest you. Then focus more in those areas. Take them to the next level and **stretch yourself.**

send  
sample  
to mail  
house  
to make  
sure the  
mailer  
area is  
correct

### **Ashleigh's Advice for Other Students:**

You have a choice in the friends you make. Whomever you choose will change you for better or worse. So choose wisely. Always follow the rules. **Be yourself.**

Check inside for  
**Outstanding Graduates!**  
*All county schools will start in August.*  
See page 4.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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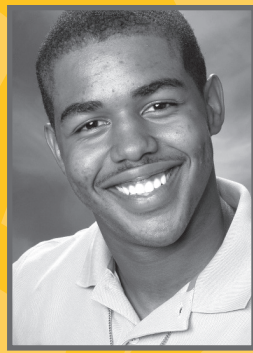
Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation  
7425 Forsyth Blvd., Suite 110  
St. Louis, MO 63105



Tatyana Petford  
Affton High School



Karen Nwosu  
Bayless High School



Chris Williams  
Brentwood High School



Monica Long-Davis  
Clayton High School



Tyree Wright  
Hancock Place High School



Artez Johnson  
Kirkwood High School



Raven Jackson  
Parkway North High School



Margarete Prospere  
Parkway South High School



Kahlia Ali  
Parkway West High School



Teniah Gary  
Pattonville High School



Aja' Jackson  
Eureka High School



Abdi Ismail  
Lafayette High School

# OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

This issue of the *Parent Link* is dedicated to those transfer students who are members of the Class of 2014 -- 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 success it has achieved.

## Affton

### Affton High School

**Tatyana Petford** is a wonderful example of hard work and dedication. Ranked 13th out of 213 graduates with a cumulative grade point average of 3.9038, Tatyana has participated in honor classes and the "Project Lead the Way" biomedical program all four years. She is also successful in athletics, participating on the cross country and track and field teams at Affton. A great role model and very mature beyond her years, Tatyana is still deciding on her future college plans.

## Bayless

### Bayless High School

Planning to major in chemical engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia, **Karen Nwosu** is her school's choice for outstanding senior. A member of the National Honor Society, she earned honor roll status all four years of her high school career, and earned a leadership award her senior year. Assisting others, she completed multiple hours of academic tutoring and served as a meal runner for senior citizens providing comfort and support when necessary. A vocalist in the Bayless Performance Choir and an actress in the Bayless Theater Company, Karen will graduate at the age of 16, all while building positive relationships with her peers and staff.

## Brentwood

### Brentwood High School

While at Brentwood High School, **Chris Williams** participated in several activities including football, wrestling and competitive speech and debate. Along with extracurricular activities, Chris took a challenging course load, taking several dual credit college courses. Over the years, Chris has demonstrated maturity, intelligence, respect, a great sense of humor and devotion to his future. After graduation, Chris will be participating in the Show Me Gold program through the National Guard at Southeast Missouri State University. This program offers the opportunity for professional development, leadership training and the ability to become an officer in the Missouri Army National Guard while attending college.

## Clayton

### Clayton High School

**Monica Long-Davis** is a self-starter who arrives at Clayton High School every day with a smile on her face, ready to put in her best effort. She is an all around wonderful student who has been involved in the Clayton community since kindergarten. Monica has garnered the respect of faculty and students alike, crossing all boundaries to represent the essence of the School District of Clayton. Monica is an excellent role model who will positively represent her school at the University of Missouri-Columbia this fall, where she will pursue a degree in physical therapy.

## Hancock Place

### Hancock Place High School

Ranking 10th in his class, **Tyree Wright** plans to attend Southeast Missouri State in the fall to major in exercise science. With that as a major, it is no surprise that Tyree was involved in several extra-curricular sports, participating in Hancock's baseball, basketball and wrestling teams for two years and was a dominate part of the cross country team for three years. He was selected as captain of the team his senior year. Tyree was chosen for the National Honor Society in his junior year and served as vice president the following year. Among his high school honors are selection to the honor roll all four years, perfect attendance for three years and he was selected by his teachers for the Virtue of Missouri awards, representing the virtue of Equality.

## Kirkwood

### Kirkwood High School

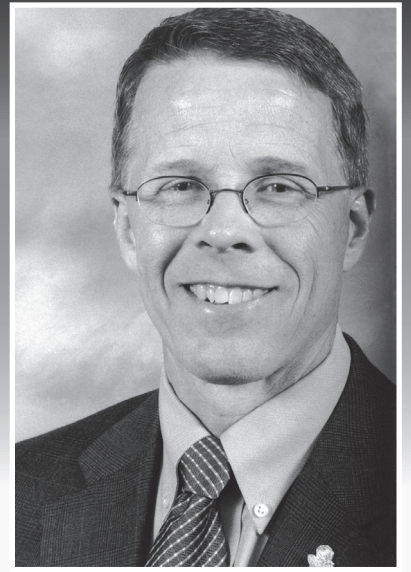
**Artez Johnson** has been a shining star in the Kirkwood District since second grade. Following graduation, he plans to attend the University of Missouri-Kansas City. While at Kirkwood, Artez was an honor student, participated in the Spanish club, plus was a Link Crew Leader and member of TRYPOD, both which work with transitioning freshman students. He was a sixth grade camp counselor and he volunteered with the Special Olympics.

## Lindbergh

### Lindbergh High School

**Alex Rucker** has been hard at work during her time in Lindbergh, through involvement in Character Council and Key Club. The recipient of numerous awards, including perfect attendance, LHS Renaissance Award, Durnell's All-Stars and Teacher's Choice Award, Alex was recently awarded the 2014 Youth of the Year Award from the Boys' and Girls' Club of Greater St. Louis, in recognition of her academic excellence and outstanding community service. In her spare time, Alex lends a helping hand at the St. Louis Dream Center, where she assists with children's activities. She plans to major in elementary education so she can continue working with children. She was accepted to Missouri State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and the University of Northern Iowa.

# Message from the CEO



Several years ago our counselors created a workshop entitled, "What You Learn Affects What You Earn." In this workshop our VICC counselors worked with our students to help them make the connection between current learning and future earning potential. As I was reviewing the information related to the outstanding graduates in this issue of the *Parent Link*, I was reminded of this workshop and the obvious connection these students have made between their learning and their long-term earning potential. Most, if not all, of these outstanding graduates are already making plans to attend college and then embark upon a successful career. Similarly, PJ Simms and Ashleigh Taylor, the two students highlighted in this issue, worked hard throughout their educational career and this has paved the way for both of them toward a successful future.

John Wooden, the extremely successful head basketball coach at UCLA who led the team to a record 10 national championships, has stated "There is a choice you have to make in everything you do. So keep in mind that in the end, the choice you make, makes you." Each of us are where we are today as a result of the decisions we made yesterday. These decisions powerfully shape our lives and the affects of them can last for many years or even a lifetime. As we wrap up the conclusion of another school year, celebrate the success of our students graduating from high school and college, and get ready to begin a new school year, it is important to remember the importance of the decisions we make today upon our future tomorrow.

**David S. Glaser**

CEO  
dglaser@choicecorp.org  
314.721.8422, ext. 3013



Alex Rucker  
Lindbergh High School



Blessing Oparaji  
Oakville High School



Paiten Hamilton  
Mehlville High School



Frederick Henry  
Parkway Central High School



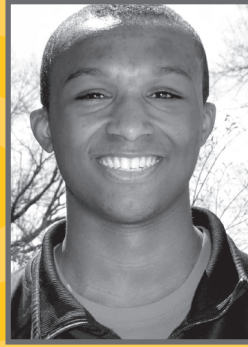
Alexis Brown  
Marquette High School



Aliyah Brown  
Summit High School



Jessica Hayes  
Valley Park High School



Jamal Hinton  
Webster Groves High School

## Mehlville

### Oakville High School

The recipient of a track and field scholarship and a Chancellor's Scholar Award, **Blessing Oparaji** will enroll in the University of Missouri-Kansas City. A reliable student athlete who communicates well with coaches and teachers, she has had success in the classroom and on the track. Blessing maintains a 4.0 grade point average while taking college credit courses and ranks 44 in a class of 452. Her peers and teammates view her as a leader and are constantly looking to her for guidance.

### Mehlville High School

Graduating with a 3.04 cumulative grade point average, **Paiten Hamilton** will major in physical therapy at Tennessee State University. She challenged herself with a college preparatory curriculum, and explored career options through the Fashion Design program at South Tech High School. She has received honor roll recognition for her grades both at Mehlville and as a member of the National Honor Society at South Tech. She has excellent attendance and enjoys singing.

## Parkway

### Parkway Central

Hungry is the most accurate description for **Frederick Henry**. When one meets him, they are immediately drawn to his insatiable appetite for knowledge. During his years at Central, Fred participated in football and crew, but ultimately shifted his focus entirely onto his academic pursuits. With the higher goal of attaining his doctorate degree in neuroscience, Fred will begin his collegiate career this fall at Truman State University with a major in biology, with a specialization in biofeedback research.

### Parkway North

**Raven Jackson** knows all about preconceived notions. During her time in Parkway, she strived to break down barriers and stereotypes. With a keen eye on how media plays an important role in how individuals see the world and themselves, Raven developed an interest in public relations and advertising. She will carry that interest with her to Chicago, where she will enroll in Depaul University. Raven credits her experiences with the VICC program as a secret to her success. She is adamant that she was exposed to diversity, social justice and had the opportunity to use state of the art educational materials giving her an academic advantage she might not have enjoyed at her neighborhood school.

## Parkway South

**Margarette Prospere** would be an accomplished student in any school district, but coming to Parkway gave her exposure to different cultures, and a chance to step outside of her comfort area. Earning the Spirit of Excellence awards for academics year after year, Margarette has proven that great things come in small packages and while she has been accepted to several schools, she will enroll at Saint Louis University this fall with a major in bio-chemistry.

### Parkway West

**Kahlia Ali** knows she is a force to be reckoned with, in fact she'll say if there is one thing she has learned from participating in the VICC program, it's perseverance. While at West, Kahlia has been pushed to take challenging classes and while they didn't always end with an A, she learned that grit and perseverance were essential to achievement. This tenacity has helped her map out her goals which include enrollment in Oregon State University.

## Pattonville

### Pattonville High School

With plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia, **Teniah Gary** intends to study law. She was involved in tennis, track and cheerleading. A member of the Key Club and Renaissance Club, she completed an internship for Congressman Lacy Clay and did community service for the national Baptist Convention. Teniah was featured in the school musical and is involved in the arts in Pattonville and was the recipient of an award for completing 100 hours of community service.

## Rockwood

### Eureka High School

With plans to pursue a career in healthcare, either in nursing or pharmacy, **Aja' Jackson** will enroll in Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. During her time at Eureka, she enjoyed taking part in ECrew leaders, the Principal's Advisory Council and Youth Leadership St. Louis. As an accomplished student, she was recognized as Student of the Month and awarded Character Cat for respect and renaissance. In her spare time, Aja' delights in reading and volunteering at church.

### Lafayette High School

With aspirations to become a cardiothoracic surgeon, **Abdi Ismail** will attend Saint Louis University to major in biology and follow a premed program. In high school, he took biology, chemistry, human anatomy and physiology in preparation for entering the medical field. Abdi was ROTC cadet of the month during his freshman year. He was a recipient of the Glory of Missouri Award for promoting equality among his peers.

## Marquette High School

With hopes of graduating in seven years and pursuing a career in hospital pharmacy, **Alexis Brown** plans to attend St. Louis College of Pharmacy. She graduated from Marquette with a 3.5 grade point average, and notes the following courses that prepared her to enter the pharmacy college: honors biology, honors chemistry, human anatomy and principles of biomedical sciences. She also participated in the Walgreens-STLCOP Career Explores Diversity Outreach Program last summer. During her high school tenure, Alexis participated on the track team, Senior Advisory Committee and as the NAACP Youth secretary. Academic recognitions include the honor roll, Winner's Circle and being named Senior Student of the Quarter.

### Summit High School

**Aliyah Brown** will be attending Neosho Community College in Chanute, Kansas, on a scholarship for track and field. She plans to become an athletic trainer and work with high school athletes. Aliyah was able to learn more about this field by assisting Summit's athletic trainer. Her accomplishments include participating in the A+ Program, Leadership Council, Link Crew and Cancer Busters, and competing on the varsity track and field team for all four years, placing fifth in MSHSAA for throwing and earning the Falcon Flight Award.

## Valley Park

### Valley Park High School

**Jessica Hayes** is heading off to Florissant Valley Community College on a two-year A+ Program scholarship. She plans to continue her degree work at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville to fulfill her career goal - becoming a dentist. At Valley Park, Jessica was a scholar athlete, maintaining a 3.5-plus grade point average, while taking honors classes and playing point guard on the Valley Park Varsity Girls' Basketball team. She also played in the school band. The highlight of her senior year was the Lady Hawks Basketball team clinching its first conference championship in 26 years. Also, Jessica's rigorous schedule takes her to afternoon classes at South Tech High School. She is a member of the National Technical Honor Society.

## Webster Groves

### Webster Groves High School

**Jamal Hinton** played as a center for all four years on the WGHS Statesmen basketball team. In addition, he plays trumpet in the band. After high school, Jamal is planning to study physical therapy at Webster University, where he hopes to continue to play basketball. Another advantage to Webster U., he said, is its proximity to the high school. He'd like to watch a few Statesmen basketball games as an alumnus.

# VICC STAFF

## Ready to Assist Transferring Families

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

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-C Vickie Williams**  
ext. 3011  
vwilliams@choicecorp.org



**D-H Laverne Mitchom**  
ext. 3020  
lmitchom@choicecorp.org



**I-N Jennifer Christy**  
ext. 3021  
jchristy@choicecorp.org



**O-R Mildred Scott**  
ext. 3027  
msscott@choicecorp.org



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

## 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 necessary.

**Affton**  
Dr. Travis Bracht  
314.638.8770

**Bayless**  
Mrs. Dawn Thieman  
314.256.8612

**Brentwood**  
Dr. Joan Oakley  
314.962.4507

**Clayton**  
Dr. Greg Batenhorst  
314.854.6023

**Hancock Place**  
Dr. Timothy M. McInnis  
314.544.1300, ext. 199

**Kirkwood**  
Dr. Shirleas Washington  
314.213.6105

**Lindbergh**  
Ms. Sandi Riley  
314.729.2400, ext. 4621

**Mehlville**  
Dr. Brian Lane  
314.467.5007

**Parkway**  
Ms. Rakiyah "Rocky" Talavedra  
314.415.7060  
Dr. Charlotte Ijei  
314.415.5063

**Rockwood**  
Mr. Terry Harris  
636.733.2177

**Valley Park**  
Mrs. Vickie Pardeck  
636.923.3614 or 3617

**Webster Groves**  
Mr. John M. Thomas  
314.918.4378

**Special School District**  
Mrs. Mary Lee Bulemann  
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:

|                       |       |                        |
|-----------------------|-------|------------------------|
| <b>Affton</b>         | ..... | <b>August 13, 2014</b> |
| <b>Bayless</b>        | ..... | <b>August 11, 2014</b> |
| <b>Brentwood</b>      | ..... | <b>August 13, 2014</b> |
| <b>Clayton</b>        | ..... | <b>August 13, 2014</b> |
| <b>Hancock Place</b>  | ..... | <b>August 13, 2014</b> |
| <b>Kirkwood</b>       | ..... | <b>August 19, 2014</b> |
| <b>Lindbergh</b>      | ..... | <b>August 14, 2014</b> |
| <b>Mehlville</b>      | ..... | <b>August 14, 2014</b> |
| <b>Parkway</b>        | ..... | <b>August 12, 2014</b> |
| <b>Rockwood</b>       | ..... | <b>August 11, 2014</b> |
| <b>Special/Tech</b>   | ..... | <b>August 11, 2014</b> |
| <b>Valley Park</b>    | ..... | <b>August 12, 2014</b> |
| <b>Webster Groves</b> | ..... | <b>August 13, 2014</b> |

## 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](http://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 cell phone or alternate 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 cell or alternate/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, times and transporter 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 cell or alternate/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

- Obey the driver promptly.
- Smoking, eating or drinking are not permitted.
- Remain seated until the bus arrives at your stop.
- Refrain from using loud or obscene language.
- Do not damage the bus/cab in any way.
- Do not throw objects on the bus/cab or out of the windows.
- Do not extend head, arms, legs or hands out of the windows.
- Do not tamper with the emergency door except in the case of a real emergency and only under the instruction of the driver.
- Fighting, scuffling or creating loud disturbances are not permitted.
- Avoid the Danger Zones next to the bus where the driver can't see you. This distance is approximately 10 feet around all sides.
- If you must cross the street after you get off the bus, wait for the driver's signal to you and then cross in front of the bus.
- Don't try to pick up something dropped near the bus because the driver might not see you.
- Remember that other motorists don't always stop for a stopped school bus. Use extreme caution when getting on or off the bus.
- Never run back to the bus, even if you dropped or forgot something.

### 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](http://www.choicecorp.org)**