

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

parentlink

A newsletter for parents published by the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation • Volume 28, Number 3, July 2013

MOM WORKS FOR "GREATER GOOD" AT MERAMEC SCHOOL

Wants all Families to Feel Sense of Community

by Peggy Magee

Lawanda Hall wants her daughters to love learning, be inspired and challenged and proud of their heritage. Hall wants that for every student at Meramec Elementary School in Clayton. And she works hard to see that it happens.

Ever since Lailah and Zoey, who just completed fifth and second grade, respectively, stepped foot at Meramec, Hall has made a point of helping out with activities, becoming informed about issues and finding ways to contribute to the school's success.

"I saw some things I thought could be improved and I figured I shouldn't complain if I'm not willing to be part of the solution," she explains. That philosophy drives her to get involved in hands-on ways: attending principal/parent coffees, PTO meetings, as well as the district-wide meetings of PAAS (Parents of African-American Students). Often also present at daytime school events, she noticed few African-American parents in attendance and thought to herself, "Why aren't more of us here?"

So when she took on the sizeable job of heading up Black History Month, she recommended to school administrators that the performance event be held at

night. "They listened, they got it," she says about "the importance of being accommodating to the schedules of everyone in the school community."

The word "community" is near and dear to Hall's heart. With such diversity in Clayton, she believes "a sense of community should permeate all students and families because everyone has so much to offer." For that to occur, parents need to be visible -- no matter if they help out with the PTO, attend school programs or volunteer in the classroom. "When parents are a part of what the school is doing, it goes a long way toward building community," she notes. "They should be active any way they can."

Under her coordination, Meramec's Black History Program has become a fullout artistic celebration. Featuring student performances and art projects as well as a stage presentation by the Black Rep, the program last February drew 250 people. In addition, exhibits of famous African-Americans spanned the library.

In pulling all the elements together, Hall made suggestions to the teachers for visual and musical tie-ins. Music teacher Randi Shanker describes Hall as "the driving force behind Black History Month." Art teacher Beth Williams calls Hall "a visionary."

Hall's vision is an inclusive school environment where every family feels connected and well served. In her various volunteer capacities, she makes known the importance of this. As for her part,



Parent volunteer Lawanda Hall, middle, headed up Black History Month at Clayton's Meramec Elementary School, working closely with teachers and administrators. Here she stands with Principal Lisa Terry-Jackson, right, and art teacher Beth Williams. Hall believes that when kids see their parents collaborating with the school staff, "The message is: we all want you to succeed." Photo by Marilyn Zimmerman

she walks the halls of Meramec greeting students and teachers, outgoing as usual, and always emanating her caring spirit. Meramec instructional coordinator Cari Lowry notes that everything Hall does "is for the greater good."

Being hands-on with her daughters' education comes naturally to Hall. Yet the busy mom acknowledges that not all parents feel comfortable getting involved and being visible at school. "If the door is not open, open it yourself," she advises, adding, "Sure, you may get push back from some but, remember, you are making your entrance for the benefit of your children."

Students receive a silent message when their parents are engaged in the school and participatory, Hall believes. "The message is: look at me, now follow my example." And when kids see their parents collaborating with the teachers and principal, "The message is: we all want you to succeed."

Principal Lisa Terry-Jackson confirms that Hall's daughters Lailah and Zoey are motivated and involved. "When the girls see how much their parents care about their education, they want to work hard to make them proud. It's a recipe for success. And it's the kind of partnership we want with all our families."

BENEFITS OF SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Outweigh Effort Required

by Peggy Magee

High school band is a big commitment for any student musician what with football game performances, night time concerts, school competitions and practice time after school. That commitment is especially significant when you live in St. Louis City and attend school in the Rockwood district. However for Eureka High School students Vaughn Davis and Haile Wilson, who play the euphonium, being part of their school band has yielded opportunities that have made going the extra mile (literally) well worth it.

Vaughn and Haile both took a jump this year by participating in the evaluative music festivals sponsored by the MSHSAA. They, along with sophomore

Zach Seiler, formed a euphonium trio, dedicating time for intense practice plus spending long days at festival locations. At the district festival, they received a superior rating, advancing the trio to the state festival. At the state event, they didn't fair as well but nonetheless felt honored to have qualified.

The feeling of accomplishment is especially great for Vaughn and Haile as they recall all the hours devoted over the years commuting to and from school for band activities. "It's a big commitment but definitely a worthwhile experience," notes Vaughn, a 2013 graduate, citing the friendships formed, the recognition received and the prospects for college

scholarships that come with participating in band.

John Arata, director of Eureka's band program, concedes that after school activities such as band are a "significant" commitment for voluntary transfer students, "however the benefits of that participation are an essential part of the students' education." He believes being part of a small group activity, such as an ensemble, is especially valuable because the proficiency and accountability of each member is apparent to the others. "This pushes them to achieve and to develop a work ethic and teamwork skills."

Haile, a senior this year, is testament to that because shortly after going to state, he was named drum major, the student conductor of the marching band. "Qualifying for state gave me the confidence to try out for drum major," he points out, adding that the recognition and experience will be a good addition to his resume when pursuing a music scholarship for college.

Though Vaughn says he possesses "a passion for music," this fall he will enter Webster University to study art, his greatest love. Still, he'd like to dust off his trumpet, putting it to use perhaps in a community band. "I started in band in sixth grade and continued through high school. It was a great experience that I'd like to continue."



The euphonium trio from Rockwood's Eureka High School who qualified for the state music festival include from left, Vaughn Davis, Haile Wilson and Zach Seiler. Voluntary transfer students Vaughn and Haile both acknowledge that while band is a big commitment, the gains of participating far outweigh the sacrifices. Photo by Marilyn Zimmerman

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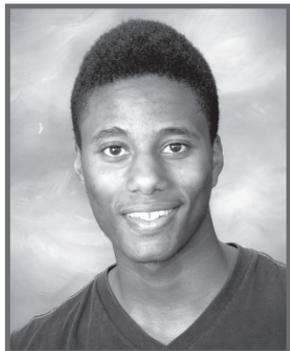
Follow VICC on Twitter
 and win great prizes.
twitter.com/VICC_StLouis

- 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.

Outstanding

GRADU



Halid Abera
Affton High School



Luella Loseille
Bayless High School



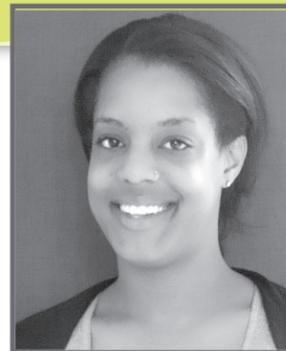
Erin Williams
Brentwood High School



Alayna Hutchinson
Clayton High School



Quintard Peoples
Hancock Place High School



Dasia Johnson
Kirkwood High School



Rico Beuford
Parkway North High School



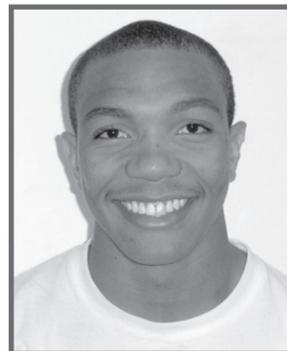
Quentin Key
Parkway West High School



Marshae Landers
Eureka High School



Jacquelyn Ingram
Lafayette High School



Joel K. McCombs
Marquette High School



Fowzia Osman
Rockwood Summit High School

Affton

Affton High School

The recipient of both academic and athletic scholarships to Central Methodist University, **Halid Abera** ranked in the top third of his graduating class at Affton High School. He showed great leadership skills in both the classroom and on the basketball court, where he played for four years, serving as a varsity captain and earning All-Conference honors for two years. In addition, he volunteered with younger students, serving as a junior counselor for middle school students.

Bayless

Bayless High School

Ranking in the top five percent of her class, **Luella Loseille** will attend Saint Louis University this fall, with plans to major in either education or international studies. She held multiple leadership roles as a member of the student council for four years and served as captain of her dance team and vice-president of the National Honor Society and was active in theatre and the performance choir. Among her honors are honor roll, perfect attendance and outstanding citizen, and Luella was selected to attend Missouri Girls State in 2012 and named as a 2013 Scholar Athlete.

Brentwood

Brentwood High School

Since her first days in kindergarten, **Erin Williams** has always been among the brightest of her peers and a leader both in the classroom and out. She participated in track, cheerleading and volleyball and took a rigorous college-prep course load that included four college credit classes. The recipient of many scholarship offers, Erin plans to attend Jackson State University in Mississippi to study forensic chemistry.

Clayton

Clayton High School

Alayna Hutchinson epitomizes school pride, and could be found planning, setting up for or attending nearly every school-sponsored event, excelling at track and cross country and warmly welcoming families, college representatives and visitors to her school as a member of the Clayton Student Ambassadors. Last summer, as a member of the Step-Up program, Alayna spent two months collecting lab results and then presenting her findings at the National Institutes of Health conference in Maryland. This fall she will be attending Indiana University-Perdue University-Indianapolis with plans to major in biology, with a goal of becoming a researcher or a doctor or nurse.

Hancock Place

Hancock Place High School

Graduating in the top 15 percent of his class, **Quintard Peoples** plans to attend Saint Louis University this fall to pursue a degree in psychology. As executive vice-president of the student government and county commissioner for the 2012 Missouri Boy's State, Quintard has demonstrated leadership qualities that others at Hancock Place have aspired to follow. A founding member of Hancock's VICC advisory board, he has helped increase participation in the district's VICC parent meetings through strong communication skills and organization of these events. He also spent three years on the basketball team and four years running cross country.

Kirkwood

Kirkwood High School

Dasia Johnson will major in kinesiology at Hampton University in Hampton, VA this fall with plans to become a physical therapist. A member of the National Honor Society and a recipient of the Gold K honor for maintaining a 3.5 or better grade point average throughout her high school career, Dasia served as president of the Black Achievement and Cultural Club and was a member of the video club.

Lindbergh

Lindbergh High School

Agricultural enthusiast **Sydney Gillespie** is looking forward to studying crop science at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana this fall, and hopefully playing her clarinet with The Marching Illini as well. Sydney's interest in corn and other crops took off last summer after she participated in a summer program at Purdue University. She completed several International Baccalaureate and advanced placement courses at Lindbergh, and was a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Thespian Society and the LHS Environmental Club. As a member of the Lindbergh High School Spirit of St. Louis Marching Band, she had the opportunity to play in the 2011 Tournament of Roses Parade.

Mehlville

Mehlville High School

With plans to attend St. Louis Community College at Meramec, **Sierra Gray** has been involved in basketball including being named as both the defensive and offensive player of the year. She was named to the second team Suburban West All Conference team and was also honored as the freshman Suburban West Basketball Player of the Year. Sierra graduated with a cumulative 2.75 grade point average.

Oakville High School

Morris LaGrand will attend the University of Notre Dame this fall, with plans to major in chemical engineering. The recipient of a 95 percent scholarship from the University, Morris was president of the Spanish honor society and served as president of the sophomore executive committee.

Parkway

Parkway Central High School

Amber Lloyd plans to attend Barry University in Miami this fall, to major in chemistry with an ultimate goal of becoming a pharmacist. She served as co-host for the Parkway School District's Spirit of Excellence program this year and participated for three years in track and field, peer teaching and high school heros.

Parkway North High School

With aspirations of becoming a physician, **Rico Beuford** will attend Howard University this fall to major in either biology or chemistry. At North, he was a member of the medical club, the catering club and played on both the football and wrestling teams. Academically, he took advantage of advanced placement courses.

Parkway South High School

Since being accepted to several colleges and universities, **Chaunceia Boyd** is trying to decide between Xavier University and Hampton University. She plans to pursue a degree in chemistry and hopes to become a pharmacist. At South she was a member of the Superintendent's Social Justice Leadership Advisory Council, DECA and the Parkway South Step Team.

Parkway West High School

His interaction with students from various backgrounds has influenced **Quentin Key** to pursue a bachelor's degree in international business at Millikin University. At West he was involved with the Student Leadership Advisory Council, the Drug Free Council, STARS, track, football and Peer Teaching.

Message from the CEO



I trust that many of you are relaxing now and enjoying what seems to me to be an increasingly short summer break. However, it will not be long before school begins. As highlighted by the article describing Lawanda Hall's involvement in the Clayton school district, parental involvement in your child's school is extremely important.

Your involvement helps to foster an inclusive environment where parents from the city as well as parents from the county can learn a great deal from one another. The expression that "all of us know better than any one of us" is certainly true and directly applicable to the integrated learning environment that VICC seeks to foster.

Furthermore, studies show that the students with the greatest academic achievement as well as long-term success in life come from families in which parents and other family members are involved in their learning in a significant way. I believe this is because when kids see their family involved in their education they respond in a positive manner, recognizing in a tangible fashion how truly important their education is.

I'm sure you have been involved over the summer with your children in a variety of ways – perhaps taking them to the library, going on a family vacation, visiting a museum or amusement park, or attending a sporting event. Now that school is about to begin, how will you continue to be involved with your children and contribute to their lifelong success?

David S. Glaser
CEO
dglaser@choicecorp.org
314.721.8422, ext. 3013

This issue of the Parent Link is dedicated to those transfer students who are members of the Class of 2013 – 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.

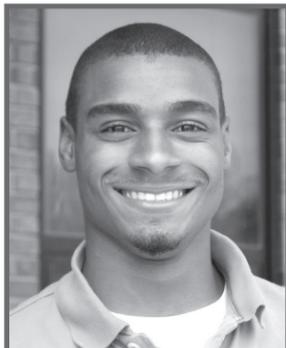
ATHLETES



Sydney Gillespie
Lindbergh High School



Sierra Gray
Mehlville High School



Morris LaGrand
Oakville High School



Amber Lloyd
Parkway Central High School



Jon Walter
Gateway STEM High School



Andrew Riggs
Metro Academic & Classical High School



Asjha Johnson
Valley Park High School



Nubari Kanee
Webster Groves High School

Rockwood

Eureka High School

Marshae Landers plans to attend Southern Illinois University to pursue studies in journalism and psychology. Her career aspirations include becoming a psychiatrist for young people. She joined the Eureka yearbook staff while in high school. Clubs and extracurricular activities include the National Leadership Academy, where she received the Gold Standard Award and Leadership Award.

Lafayette High School

Jacquelyn Ingram plans to attend Stephens College in Columbia where she will major in fashion design. She also plans to take classes in gender studies and African-American studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. While a student at Lafayette, Jacquelyn excelled in fashion courses at South County Tech, and also participated in Young Leader of St. Louis and held an internship with the YWCA of St. Louis. Among her many school and community activities were track, basketball, Cultural Student Union, Diversity Alliance, peer mediator, freshman mentor and the National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan St. Louis.

Marquette High School

Joel K. McCombs will attend St. Louis Community College in Wildwood for the next two years, and then plans to transfer to Southern Illinois University to complete his degree. His goals include a career in the music or entertainment industry. During high school, he enjoyed playing in the school band and his grades were recognized on the honor roll. On the field, Joel was a member of the football team, and ran track and field, wrestled and played water polo.

Rockwood Summit High School

One of the Top 10 finalists in the Academy of Science at the St. Louis Science Fair for her project: The Role of cis-Regulatory Elements in Immunoglobulin Kappa Transcription and Recombination, **Fowzia Osman** plans to study at Columbia University in New York City. A number of advanced placement courses helped to prepare her for college and career. Her extracurricular activities included Renaissance, National Honor Society, Biodiesel Club and the art club.

St. Louis

Gateway STEM High School

Jon Walter plans to attend St. Louis Community College at Forest Park to study paramedics. He earned a 3.94 cumulative grade point average at Gateway and completed over 50 hours of volunteer tutoring for the A+ Program. A nationally certified EMT, Jon passed the national registry test. He was the cyber officer for the Gateway Air Force Junior ROTC unit, and was active in drama, cross country, robotics and wrestling. He is the head men's gymnastics coach at the Mid-County YMCA.

Metro Academic and Classical High School

An exceptional scholar at Metro and a candidate for a full IB diploma, **Andrew Riggs** plans to study political science/pre-law at Vanderbilt University, ultimately pursuing law school. He enjoys films, playing tuba and is both All-District and All-State in his musicianship, playing numerous times with the prestigious St. Louis Low Brass Collective and earning top tuba recognition in the Midwest Honor Band and Orchestra Festival at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. A member of the Metro varsity baseball team since his freshman year, Andrew has also committed 300 hours to various service projects.

Valley Park

Valley Park High School

Asjha Johnson is headed to Southeast Missouri State University where she plans to pursue a degree in accounting. As a cheerleader for four years, she played a key role in building good school spirit. Respected by her peers and her teachers, Asjha excelled academically, maintaining a 3.328 grade point average, while combining work and a very rigorous academic schedule.

Webster Groves

Webster Groves High School

The recipient of several academic scholarships at Illinois Wesleyan, **Nubari Kanee** plans to attend nursing school there. She is also interested in environmental science and petroleum engineering and would like someday to return to Nigeria to work. Her family immigrated from there when she was a toddler. At Webster she participated in the National Honor Society, Students for Awareness and Action, student council, the choir and Hi Step. A sprinter, Nubari was captain of the girls track and field team which qualified for state last year. She received Renaissance awards the last four years for her high grade point average and has been a Scholar Athlete each year as well.

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



E-H Laverne Mitchom
ext. 3020
lmitchom@choicecorp.org



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



N-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

Mr. Michael Hawkins
314.256.8601

Brentwood

Dr. Joan Oakley
314.962.4507

Clayton

Dr. Greg Batenhorst
314.854.6023

Hancock Place

Mrs. Lisa Charles
314.544.1300, ext. 195

Kirkwood

Dr. Shirleas Washington
314.213.6105

Lindbergh

Mr. Eric Cochran
314.729.2400, ext. 1815

Mehlville

Dr. Brian Lane
314.467.5007

Parkway

Ms. Rakiyah "Rocky" Talavedra
314.415.7060

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
636.923.3614 or 3617

Webster Groves

Mr. John M. Thomas
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 15, 2013
Bayless	August 12, 2013
Brentwood	August 13, 2013
Clayton	August 14, 2013
Hancock Place	August 15, 2013
Kirkwood	August 20, 2013
Lindbergh	August 15, 2013
Mehlville	August 15, 2013
Parkway	August 13, 2013
Pattonville	August 12, 2013
Rockwood	August 13, 2013
Special/Tech	August 12, 2013
Valley Park	August 13, 2013
Webster Groves	August 13, 2013

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 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

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