

2018-19 Transportation/Busing Instructions for Weather-Related Delays and Closings

CLOSINGS

If Pope John High School is closed for ANY reason (weather or non-weather), you will be notified automatically through Swift K12, an “instant alert” system run through PowerSchool.

Announcements will also be made on our website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages. The links and usernames to those pages are as follows:

- Website: www.popejohn.org
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/popejohnlions/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PopeJohnLions>
- Instagram: @popejohnlions

DELAYS

Because Pope John High School students are transported from multiple districts, we consider the school either **OPEN** or **CLOSED**. Pope John XXIII will not call a delayed opening but follows the delays as called by the local school districts.

The first thing parents should do is to listen to the radio station in your area for school districts’ delays and closings or consult the station’s website list of delayed/closed schools.

It is extremely important for parents to pay close attention to updates throughout the morning. If your district is on a delay and you drive your child to school and then your district subsequently closes, please be aware that the afternoon bus will not run.

General rule of thumb: follow the broadcast information for your school district. For instance, if you live in Sparta and Sparta schools are delayed by 90 minutes, the bus will pick up your child 90 minutes past the normally-scheduled pick up time; likewise, if you live in Hopatcong and Hopatcong is delayed by 60 minutes, the bus will pick up your child 60 minutes later than normal. (Please see District Exceptions/Special Directions contained in the list below, which are generally attached to your bus passes when sent in the summer.)

Exception: If a district is closed/delayed for non-weather related issues, i.e., such as building issues, bus, or utilities issues, Pope John's bus service will remain on time.

Drivers: Juniors and seniors who drive and underclassmen who are regularly driven to school must be in school by 9:00 a.m. if their district is delayed.

To ensure that the process runs smoothly,

- **We ask that you refrain from calling Pope John XXIII or the bus companies to inquire about delays/closings.** We cannot answer the high volume of calls, and we must keep the phone lines free for your children's and our staff's safety.
- **We also ask that you refrain from waiting outside of the school or entering the school to inquire about the possibility of an early dismissal.** The administration is in constant contact with the bus contractors and police departments, and, therefore, we are aware of roadway conditions. Our decisions are based on the information we receive from the professionals.
- **We strongly recommend each student who is assigned a bus pass take the bus at least ONCE prior to the arrival of bad weather so he/she can identify the correct bus when early dismissals by the sending districts are called.** *It is the students' responsibility to know the bus to which they are assigned. This will eliminate any confusion.*

PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS BY DISTRICT BELOW:

Allamuchy/Great Meadows/Hackettstown ([Hackettstown Hornets](#)) will follow the Allamuchy district delay/closing schedule regardless of other districts' schedules. If Allamuchy is closed, these routes will not run. If Hackettstown and/or Great Meadows are closed but Allamuchy is open, these routes will run.

Andover ([Andover Penguins – PP1](#), [Andover Pandas – PP3](#)) will follow the Andover District delay/closing schedule. Parents should tune into WSUS 102.3 and News Channel 12, as well as check the Andover Regional District website.

Byram/Lenape Valley ([Byram Suricats – R-54](#)) will follow the Byram delay/closing schedule regardless of Lenape Valley High School's schedule.

R-54 will also follow the Sparta District for delays: If Byram is delayed and Sparta is not delayed, this route will follow the Byram delay. If Sparta is delayed and Byram is not delayed, this route will follow the Sparta delay. If both schools are on a delay, this route will follow the LONGER of the two delays.

Dover/Denville/Morristown/Pine Brook/Rockaway/Wharton ([Blue Cross – Route 2 and Gold Lion – Route 3](#)) will follow the Morris Hills Regional District delay/closing

schedule regardless of other districts' schedules. (For example, if Dover is closed but Morris Hills is open, this route will run.)

For students who ride the train, please sign up for NJ Transit Alerts for train delays at: https://www.njtransit.com/mt/mt_servlet.srv?hdnPageAction+MtRegisterTo

Green (Green Lemurs – R-34) will follow the Green District delay/closing schedule.

R-34 will also follow the Sparta District for delays: If Green is delayed and Sparta is not delayed, this route will follow the Green delay. If Sparta is delayed and Green is not delayed, this route will follow the Sparta delay. If both schools are on a delay, this route will follow the LONGER of the two delays.

High Point/Wallkill (HP1, HP2, and HP4):

- **Route HP-1/First Student – Lafayette:** If High Point Regional High School or Pope John is closed, this route will NOT run. If High Point is on a delay, this route will run 2 hours later than the scheduled time.
- **Route HP-2/First Student – Lafayette:** If High Point Regional High School or Pope John is closed, this route will NOT run. If High Point is on a delay, this route will run 2 hours later than the scheduled time.
- **Route HP-4/First Student – Lafayette:** If Wallkill Valley Regional High School or Pope John is closed, this route will NOT run. If Wallkill is on a delay, this route will run 2 hours later than the scheduled time.
- *NOTE: If a district is on a delayed opening, regardless of a district's delay, the route will run on a 2-hour delay.*

Hope/Blairstown/North Warren Cluster (Blairstown Bears – NP04) will follow the North Warren District delay/closing schedule.

Hopatcong (Hopatcong Wolves – R-31) will follow the Hopatcong District delay/closing schedule.

R-31 will also follow the Sparta District for delays: If Hopatcong is delayed and Sparta is not delayed, this route will follow the Hopatcong delay. If Sparta is delayed and Hopatcong is not delayed, this route will follow the Sparta delay. If both schools are on a delay, this route will follow the LONGER of the two delays.

Jefferson (Jefferson Frogs – JP02, Jefferson Tigers – JP01, and Jefferson Bulldogs – PJH-04) will follow the Jefferson Township delay/closing schedule as well as the Sparta delay schedule. If Jefferson is closed and Sparta is open, Jefferson students will not be picked up. If Jefferson is delayed and Sparta is not delayed, this route will follow the Jefferson delay. If Sparta is delayed and Jefferson is not delayed, this route will follow the Sparta delay. If both schools are on a delay, this route will follow the LONGER of the two delays.

Kittatinny District - Fredon, Hampton, Sandyston, Stillwater (Kittatinny Chimps – KNP-1) will follow the Kittatinny High School delay/closing schedule.

Mt. Olive students who ride the Mt. Olive bus ([Budd Lake Whales – P67](#)) will follow the Mt. Olive District for delay/closing schedule.

Mt. Olive students who ride the Roxbury bus ([Roxbury Robins – P177](#)) will follow the Roxbury District for delay/closing schedule.

Newton ([Newton Leopards – PJ3NWC](#)) will follow the Newton District delay/closing schedule. PJ3NWC will also follow Sparta: If Newton is on a delay and Sparta is not, this route will follow the Newton delay. If Sparta is on a delay and Newton is not, this route will follow the Sparta delay. If both districts are on a delay, this route will follow the LONGER of the two.

Paterson/Montclair ([Blue Lion – Route 1](#)) will follow the Pope John schedule only.

Roxbury students who ride the Roxbury bus ([Roxbury Robins – P177](#)) will follow the Roxbury District for delay/closing schedule.

Roxbury students who ride the Mt. Olive bus ([Budd Lake Wales – P67](#)) will follow the Mt. Olive District for delay/closing schedule.

Sparta ([Sparta Butterflies – PJH-02](#); [Sparta Rabbits – PJH-03](#); [Jefferson Bulldogs – PJH-04](#); [Sparta Snow Monkeys – PJH-05](#); [Sparta Bobcats – P-106](#); [Sparta Squirrels – PJH-07](#), [Sparta Lions – P-108](#); [Sparta Owls – PJH-09](#); [Sparta Elephants – PJH-11](#)) will follow the Sparta District delay/closing schedule.

No outside districts follow the Sparta District schedule except the following routes: JP01, JP02, R-31, R-34 and R-54. Students on these routes will follow their own district as well as the Sparta District delay schedule. If your district is on a delay and Sparta is not on a delay, your route will follow your district delay. If Sparta is on a delay and your district is not on a delay, your route will follow the Sparta delay. If both districts are on a delay, your route will follow the LONGER of the two delays.

Vernon ([Cats – PJ1](#), [Dogs – PJ2](#)) will follow the Vernon District for delay/closings.

Wallkill ([Wallkill Gators – CHP-7](#)) will follow Wallkill Valley delay/closings.

West Milford ([West Milford Peacocks – PJ214](#)) will follow the West Milford District for delays/closings.