



Dear Bus Rider Family:

On behalf of the transportation department, I would like to welcome you to the 2009/10 school year. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns relative to the buses any time this year.

Bus transportation is available from two Palmdale locations. *Families may register to ride the bus by logging into their family account on RenWeb and use the webform located in the School Information tab on the left. A flat monthly rate of \$30 is charged for each of the first two students in a family. Additional students in the same family are charged \$10 each per month. Family accounts are automatically billed each month, September through June, unless the business office is notified to cancel.*

One bus operates for our morning and afternoon routes. Please see the attached bus schedule for bus stops and pick-up times. **NOTE THAT IN THE MORNING THE BUS WILL LEAVE AT THE PUBLISHED TIME; ARRIVE FIVE MINUTES EARLY TO ALLOW AMPLE TIME TO BOARD THE BUS.**

The following are the locations of our Palmdale stops.

- ❖ Berean Fellowship – 30th St East, north of Ave 'R' in Palmdale (across from McAdams Park)
- ❖ YMCA, Palmdale (Y's Men) – 10th St West, south of Rancho Vista Blvd.

During the first week of school, children in kindergarten through second grade will be escorted to their classrooms in the morning. I advise pinning a note on them stating their name, room number, and teacher for the first week of school. If you bring your child on Friday, September 4 to meet their teacher, please take this opportunity to walk them from the bus stop (in front of the flagpole) to their classroom so they will be familiar with their route.

If you have children in DCES as well as DCMS and/or DCHS, you may send them on the same bus. You will need to enroll your elementary child in morning Peach Factory with no cost to you. (See the 2009/2010 Peach Factory enrollment form.)

If you want your child to walk home from, or remain at, the bus stop alone for a limited time, please provide a signed note with detailed instructions on what you wish your child to do if you are unable to meet them when the bus arrives. Include a time period that your letter is valid; for example, today's date only or the entire school year. This can be given to the main office or to the bus driver. If there is no written instruction and you are not there, your child will be returned to the main campus and you will either be called to pick them up or if you are unavailable they will be sent to Peach Factory. You will be charged for childcare at Peach Factory.

While waiting for the bus keep your children with you to insure their safety and to protect the property of those allowing us to use it. Review the Bus Rider Guidelines on the reverse side of this letter with your child as well as the Student and Parent Responsibilities found in the Handbook for Parents.

Sincerely,

Transportation Coordinator
kpounder@desertchristian.com

Desert Christian Schools ~ 2009/2010 Bus Schedule

AM Route

*These are departure times. **Please be at your pickup location five minutes early, THE BUS WILL LEAVE at the scheduled time to insure arriving at the next location on time.***

Berean Fellowship	6:40
YMCA, Palmdale	6:55
High School.....	7:10
Middle School/Main Campus	7:20
Berean Fellowship	7:50
YMCA, Palmdale	8:05
Elementary/Main Campus	8:20

PM Route

These are arrival times. The bus will leave the site five minutes after the arrival time (immediately if all students are picked up right away).

High School	2:45
Main Campus.....	3:10
YMCA	3:25
Berean Fellowship.....	3:50

Students not picked up after five minutes will be returned to the main campus and checked into Peach Factory. You will be charged for childcare at Peach Factory.

BUS RIDER GUIDELINES

In order to ensure the safety of all bus riders, the following bus rider guidelines are set forth by Desert Christian Schools. It is expected that all bus riders be familiar with and follow these rules.

REQUIRED:

- ◆ Stay seated after choosing a seat. *(The driver may assign seats as necessary.)*
- ◆ Face forward in seat.
- ◆ Keep voice at an acceptable level.
- ◆ Board and exit in a controlled manner.
- ◆ The riders in the front of the bus exit first. *(Unless the driver agrees to an alternate exit plan.)*
- ◆ Respect the bus driver's authority in every situation. *(The driver is in charge at all times.)*

NOT PERMITTED:

- ◆ Standing up, switching seats, or facing backwards
- ◆ Shouting, whistling, or other distracting noises
- ◆ Destruction of the bus in any way
- ◆ Throwing of any objects: e.g., rubber bands, paper wads
- ◆ Pushing or shoving while waiting for or boarding the bus
- ◆ Aerosol cans
- ◆ Eating food or drinking beverages
- ◆ Chewing gum
- ◆ Playing portable audio equipment or radios (CA state law)
- ◆ Pets and/or animals
- ◆ Using your cell phone for activities other than receiving and making calls (e.g., games, MP3, cameras)

REFERRAL PROCESS

In an effort to help students follow the guidelines, bus drivers will alert students when a guideline has been violated on the bus. If the behavior is not corrected, a referral will be issued.

- ◆ On the **first referral** the student will be referred to an administrator
- ◆ On the **second referral** an administrator will contact the parent
- ◆ On the **third & fourth referral** the student will be restricted from riding the bus for a specified period of time as determined by the administrator.
- ◆ On the **fifth referral** the student will no longer be allowed to ride the bus for the remainder of the year.