



## CORTLAND ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1 Valley View Drive  
Cortland, New York 13045

Kimberly Vile  
Business Administrator  
kvile@cortlandschools.org

Business Office  
(607) 758-4100  
Fax: (607) 758-4109

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To: Virgil Parents  
From: Kimberly Vile, Business Administrator *KAV*  
Date: December 19, 2017  
Re: Bus Routing

The transportation department has been working diligently to ensure students are transported in the most efficient way possible. During the 2016-17 year, Cortland buses logged more than 379,000 miles! In addition to the daily trips to and from school, we also transport students to out-of-district programs, including at least two round trips to Syracuse and Ithaca each day. There are many sporting events that the buses transport students to as well.

As reported in School Bus Fleet Magazine, the country has a severe lack of school-bus drivers: "We're seeing some school districts having to cut school-bus routes or consolidate them, and having fewer stops" said Thomas McMahon, the magazine's executive editor. Like many districts nationwide, we are still struggling to have enough drivers to ensure our students get to designated locations on a daily basis for programs and activities.

Our transportation department continues to advertise and attend job fairs to recruit drivers. We have also implemented a process that allows us to "to pay to train" interested individuals who would like to become a bus driver.

We have been looking at all options and are being as efficient as possible by using our buses to capacity. Route consolidation is one way to get by with fewer bus drivers. We have determined that we can consolidate some routes where our buses were not transporting at maximum capacity. The buses that served the Virgil attendance area carried fewer students, so we are consolidating some of those routes.

Typically adjustments to bus routes are made during the summer. However, the severe scarcity of drivers is causing us to act immediately. We simply do not have enough drivers to maintain all of our routes. As a result, bus route 17 students will be redistributed to other routes beginning January 2, 2018. Students currently on route 15, 17, 18 and 1 will be getting updated letters from transportation regarding the revised bus schedule in the mail during the week of December 26th.

We will continue to recruit drivers -- the consolidation of this one route will not solve the problem. If you are interested in driving bus, full time or as a substitute, or know anyone who might be, please have them call (607) 758-4000 extension 2230. Bus drivers follow the school schedule which often works well for families. Additionally, you can drive a school bus to sporting events and get paid for it.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.