

Dear West Parish Families,

This correspondence is to inform you of the bus routes for the 2014-2015 school year. You may have heard that the district has increased the number of bus routes for the next two years from five routes to seven. There are two primary reasons for this change; safety and efficiency.

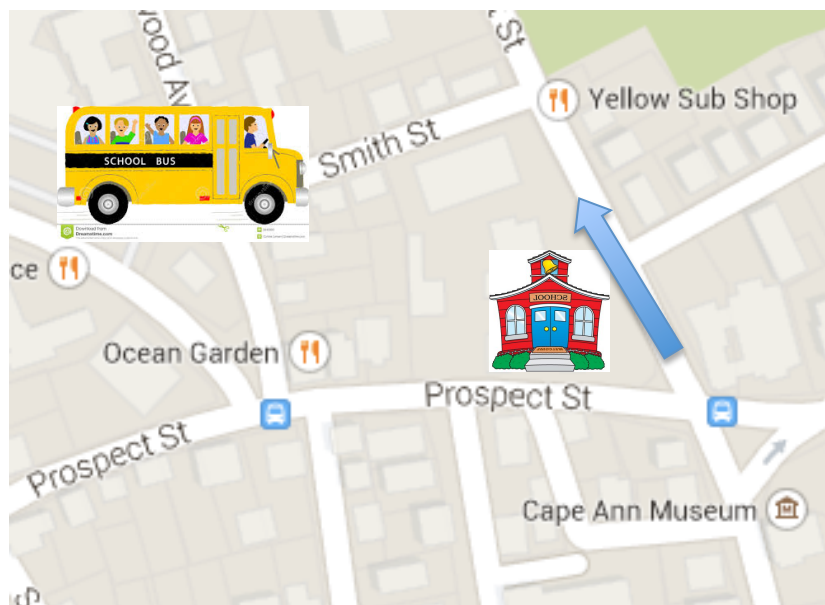
The St. Ann campus is in the heart of downtown and while I am confident the building will be a warm, welcoming and energetic learning environment, the start and end of each day will require us all to work together. The safest and most efficient way to start and end each day is to have the majority of students ride on the school bus. The fewer number of cars dropping off students in the morning the less traffic congestion there will be resulting in reduced risk of traffic accidents with or without pedestrians. The traffic pattern we have proposed to the Traffic Commission and to the City Council, detailed below, allows all students to exit onto a sidewalk adjacent to the school and efficiently proceed into the school building.

I have enclosed in this e-mail the bus routes for the 2014-2015 School year and the bus application. **Transportation for all students who live in the West Parish catchment area will be provided transportation free of charge** during the transition. Again, to restate, bus transportation is highly recommended, as it is the safest and most efficient mode of transportation in this urban area. **Please return bus applications to the Transportation Coordinator, Kathleen Verga by August 15<sup>th</sup>** so that routes can be reviewed for the number of students on each bus and so that we can ensure the timely pick-up, school arrival and the return home in the afternoon.

### Proposed Drop Off and Arrival

Busses will drop off and pick students up on **Smith Street**.

This allows students to exit onto a quiet side street and walk with staff escort on a sidewalk directly to the school.



**Pleasant Street – (Blue Arrow)** Is a one way street, heading north.

Students will be dropped off on the left hand side of the street. West Parish staff will assist students exit cars. Drivers must remain in the car and proceed forward immediately after students exit vehicle.

\* Afternoon **pick-up will be at O'Maley Innovation Middle School** unless coordinated in advance with the principal, Dr. Imel.