

December 3, 2025

Dear Families,

We want to share an update regarding the BATA service that some of our students use daily and to clarify both the nature of this public transportation option and our school's approach to maintaining student safety.

Last week, an adult previously unknown to our community approached the BATA stop at dismissal and requested to board the bus. A staff member remained with students and the individual while the driver contacted BATA leadership, who confirmed that the person was permitted to ride as a paying passenger. Staff did not observe signs of intoxication or any immediate safety risk at the time. We recognize that the presence of an unknown adult was unsettling for some children and for the caregivers who learned about the experience from their riders.

BATA has since reviewed the video and audio from the ride and confirmed that the rider followed all expectations outlined in their **Public Etiquette and Conduct Policy** (bata.net/conduct). Their review indicated that the rider was polite and did not interact with students while on board. BATA also reaffirmed that drivers have the authority to remove any passenger at any time if conduct becomes unsafe or inappropriate.

This event has prompted a productive conversation between The Children's House and BATA about how our shared system operates and what each of us can do to preserve its safety and reliability. While BATA's school routes are designed primarily for student riders, they remain part of the public system, and it is possible that members of the community may occasionally board.

To that end, we want to set two clear expectations moving forward:

1. **Public Nature of the BATA Service**

BATA is a public transportation provider, and while our "school loop" is scheduled with our students in mind, other members of the community can lawfully ride if they meet BATA's conduct and fare requirements. Families using this service should be aware that riders outside our school community may occasionally be present on the bus.

2. **School Response and On-Campus Boarding Requests**

Our campus functions as an open environment during carline. If a member of the public walks onto campus to access the BATA stop, staff will intercept. Each situation will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, in collaboration with the driver. Permission to board will only be granted if both staff and the driver determine that the individual presents no

safety concern, does not displace a student rider, and that allowing them to board is reasonable under the circumstances.

3. BATA encourages families of student riders to complete the **Code of Conduct Contact Form**. Providing your child's contact information helps BATA communicate with you about urgent matters. The form can be printed from [this link](#) and turned in to the BATA driver directly.

We will continue working closely with BATA to ensure a shared understanding of expectations for both drivers and riders. We will also keep BATA-riding families informed of any changes to policies or routing that could impact their child's riding experience.

The safety of our students is our highest priority, and our partnership with BATA has been a wonderful and safe resource for many years. We are committed to preserving this partnership and ensuring it continues to serve families well.

Thank you,

Michele Shane
Head of School

Andrew Lutes
Director of Operations