



March 15, 2023

Dear Students and Families Impacted by Bus 113 and Bus 131 Cancellations,

As you know, in response to continued bus driver shortages, Peoria Unified's transportation department has suspended bus service through May of 2023 for students riding Buses 113 and 131. We are hopeful that staffing increases might allow for a faster resumption of service, but in the meantime, we are **reaching out to offer an additional resource for families impacted by the cancellations:**

Beginning Monday, January 9th, **students who ride Bus 113 or Bus 131 may arrive earlier and stay later to accommodate their parents' work schedules and transportation needs.** I want to thank our English Teacher, Dr. Robert Scott, for offering to provide early morning supervision daily beginning at 6:00am. Dr. Scott will also provide afternoon supervision on every day except Wednesdays, from 2:30 – 4pm. A number of students and parents have indicated that these extended hours would help them:

Bus 113 and 131 Supervision with Dr. Scott **Room 506**

Before School (Daily)
6 – 7am

After School (M, Tu, Th, F)
2:30 – 4pm

I know that many of our parents and students are deeply inconvenienced by these cancellations. Our district's leaders and transportation staff are working every day to hire and train more drivers. I appreciate your patience and partnership as we work together through this challenge. If you have any questions, please call our office at 623-412-4400.

Mr. Hollabaugh
Principal



March 15, 2023

Dear Students and Families,

This message is being sent to the students and families who utilize **Bus Routes 113 and 131:**

As you know, school districts around the state and country continue to experience a shortage of bus drivers. Because of this shortage, each quarter, Peoria Unified has had to suspend a handful of bus routes across the district. While we have raised pay and continue to advertise for and hire new bus drivers, the ongoing shortage requires us to adjust our current

bus schedule for the remainder of the fourth quarter to accommodate additional drivers who will be out on FMLA in the weeks ahead.

Effective Monday, March 27, Peoria Unified will reinstate all 3rd quarter bus routes that have been suspended since January, to provide those families some relief. However, as we are still experiencing a shortage of drivers, we will need to cancel the following bus routes for the remainder of the school year. **Beginning Monday, March 27th, students riding on these routes will need to have an alternate form of transportation to and from school:**

SCHOOL	ROUTE(S)
Apache	Bus 131
Centennial HS	Bus 113, Bus 131
Cotton Boll	Bus 75
Coyote Hills	Bus 113
Kellis HS	Bus 253
Marshall Ranch	Bus 133
Parkridge	Bus 113
Paseo Verde	Bus 131
Santa Fe	Bus 133
Sun Valley	Bus 75

These cancelations will *not* impact:

- Special education routes
- Academic buses (preschool, 8th-graders going to high school for special classes, MET students, PFA)
- Academic and athletic trips outside of the normal AM and PM route times. For example, field trips and athletics will continue for the time being. Some of these extracurricular buses are being chartered during the normal route times.

Please know Peoria Unified continues to evaluate its hiring and recruitment process, increase its advertising to seek driver applicants, and reform the Transportation Department employee group to discuss any whether any improvements or adjustments would improve efficiency.

If you or someone you know wants a rewarding career supporting our students as a bus driver, please share this information with them and direct them to [our website to apply](#). If any changes allow us to reinstate these routes sooner than anticipated, we will let you know.

We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your understanding and support.

Peoria Unified Transportation Department