Transportation

The Columbia School District provides transportation to and from school for all resident students in grades kindergarten through seven (K-7) who reside one (1) mile or more from their school of attendance, and for all resident students in grades eight through twelve (8-12) who reside two (2) miles or more from their school of attendance.

As a general rule, bus stops will be established at locations which will require no student within the city limits or within an organized subdivision to walk more than two blocks and no other students to walk more than 1/4 mile. Dead-end streets or roads, or other unusual situations, may result in an exception to this rule. Exceptions will be determined by district personnel.

Parents of students ineligible for transportation per the above-referenced district policy may, on an individual basis, contract with First Student for transportation service. This service will be provided if requested by parents, but only in those cases where the number of students and the routes of travel justify such an arrangement. Pay ridership will not be considered if it requires additional bus routes or a significant deviation to an existing route. The per-student cost of pay ridership for the 2011-12 school year is $148.10 per semester.

As a small autonomous school, the students at Ridgeway Elementary will be provided with transportation during the regular school year. This transportation will be provided as a part of the contract with Columbia Public Schools.

The Ridgeway Principal and SAS Board may make recommendations to changes to this plan as deemed necessary. Some of these changes might include:

1. Working with the District Director of Transportation in order to assist with the most efficient routing of students.
2. Evaluating budgeted funds for efficiencies in transportation.
3. Choosing to contract bussing through an alternative company separate from the school district.
4. Adjusting transportation to accommodate altered start or end times for the school day.
5. Adjusting transportation to accommodate altered days in school compared to the school district.
6. Adjusting time to accommodate early release times not scheduled with the school district calendar.

Ridgeway has served as a magnet school for Columbia Public Schools since 1972. If the time comes when Ridgeway would no longer be a small autonomous school, then Ridgeway would revert back to a magnet school for the district. This would include transportation for the students of Ridgeway.