



Miriam & Isaac Blech  
Early Childhood Center  
Henry Lindenbaum Lower School

270 West 89th Street  
New York, NY 10024-1796  
212-595-7087  
Fax: 212-595-7252  
www.heschel.org

Joseph Slifka Middle School  
314 West 91st Street  
New York, NY 10024-1796  
212-595-7817  
Fax: 212-595-6281

The A.J. Heschel High School  
Joseph and Sylvia Slifka Building  
20 West End Avenue  
New York, NY 10023-7809  
212-246-7717  
Fax: 212-489-1990

May, 2010

Dear Parents,

As we prepare for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year, it is time to think about student transportation. Please read the following important information regarding public school bus service and Student MetroCards:

### Public School Bus (Grades K-6)

Department of Education school bus service is available to students in grades K through 6. (Bus for grade 6 is new this year. Please see the *Choosing a stop (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)* section below for more information.) Eligibility for public school bus service is determined by the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) and is based on student age and distance from school. *OPT makes all final decisions regarding eligibility.*

#### **Choosing a stop (Grades K-5):**

If you wish your child to take the public school bus, please see the list of bus stops attached to the Arrival/Dismissal form. Please choose only one of the stops listed. If you do not see a stop within 5 blocks of your address, please mark 'other' and we can apply for a different location. However, it is in your child's best interest to pick a stop already routed. OPT is not in the habit of allocating new stops to existing schools.

In late August or early September, once the bus routes are confirmed by OPT based on student participation, we will inform you via email of your child's route number, stop pick-up, and stop drop-off times. It is important to check your email often, as routes are subject to change within the first weeks of school.

#### **Choosing a stop (6<sup>th</sup> Grade):**

Since busing for 6<sup>th</sup> graders is new this year, we do not know yet what bus stops will be available. If you would like to register your 6<sup>th</sup> grader for the public school bus, please fill out the enclosed 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bus form and record your address. OPT will determine our bus stops based on our students' addresses, however the available stops OPT offers may be limited. The office will let you know as soon as OPT secures our bus routes.

### Private School Bus (Grades N-5)

The Heschel School currently works with a private bus company called Emmanuel Transit (ET). Harrison Jean, the E.T. coordinator, can be reached at 718-241-0351. If interested, be sure to contact him early in the summer to ensure your child's participation. *Please note that all contracts are made between you and the private bus company.* If your child will be riding this or any other private bus, please note this on the Arrival/Dismissal form.



Miriam & Isaac Blech  
Early Childhood Center  
Henry Lindenbaum Lower School

270 West 89th Street  
New York, NY 10024-1796  
212-595-7087  
Fax: 212-595-7252  
www.heschel.org

Joseph Slifka Middle School  
314 West 91st Street  
New York, NY 10024-1796  
212-595-7817  
Fax: 212-595-6281

The A.J. Heschel High School  
Joseph and Sylvia Slifka Building  
20 West End Avenue  
New York, NY 10023-7809  
212-246-7717  
Fax: 212-489-1990

## Student MetroCards

**If your child is taking a Department of Education school bus, he/she will not be eligible to receive a MetroCard.**

Over the summer, all students who are not requesting school bus service are automatically registered for a Student MetroCard, at which point OPT determines each student's eligibility. For official information on eligibility and fare breakdowns, please see the *Student MetroCard Information Sheet* in the list of forms.

Student MetroCards become available at the beginning of each semester (September and February) and an email will be sent to parents accordingly. For students in grades K-5, a parent/guardian must sign out for the MetroCard in the office at 89<sup>th</sup> Street. Students in grades 6-12 may pick up their own MetroCard from their division's office when available.

**To secure public school bus service for your child, please fill out and return the enclosed Arrival/Dismissal form or 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bus form no later than Friday, June 18, 2010.**

**All other parents of Early Childhood and Lower School students (N-5) are required to complete and sign the attached Arrival/Dismissal form by Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, regardless of whether transportation is needed.**

**Send all Transportation forms to:**

Transportation Coordinator  
The Abraham Joshua Heschel School  
270 West 89<sup>th</sup> Street,  
New York, NY 10024

If you have any questions regarding the transportation options or general transportation issues, feel free to call 212-595-7087, ext #12235.

Sincerely,

Allison Nowak  
Transportation Coordinator  
[allisonno@heschel.org](mailto:allisonno@heschel.org)