REDBANK VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
The place to be!

Dear Redbank Valley Families, August 8, 2026

As we prepare for the new school year, we want to share an important update to afternoon transportation for students attending Redbank Valley Primary School and Redbank Valley Intermediate School.

Beginning this school year, some students will participate in a supervised bus transfer at Redbank Valley High School before continuing home on their assigned afternoon bus.

We know a change in transportation can bring questions, especially when younger students are involved. Please know that we have carefully planned this process with student safety, simplicity, and efficiency in mind.

Afternoon Transportation at a Glance

What's changing?
Some Primary and Intermediate students will transfer buses at Redbank Valley High School before continuing home.

Who will transfer?
Only students whose assigned afternoon route requires a transfer. Not every student will need to change buses.

Why are we making this change?
Our goal is to reduce the amount of time students spend waiting after school and allow buses to begin their routes home more quickly.

Will students be supervised?
Absolutely. District staff and bus drivers will be stationed throughout the transfer area to guide students and make sure everyone boards the correct bus.

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LAURA NEISWONGER
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

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Why the Change?

Under our previous transportation system, buses traveled to all three district buildings before beginning their afternoon routes. This meant some students spent additional time waiting at school or riding between buildings. In some cases, students waited up to 30 minutes before their bus actually began the trip home.

The new plan will help us:

- Reduce unnecessary waiting after school.
- Get buses started on their home routes sooner.
- Help students arrive home sooner whenever possible.
- Create a more efficient afternoon dismissal process.

How Will the Transfer Work?

After dismissal, Primary and Intermediate buses will travel to Redbank Valley High School.

Students who need to transfer will get off their first bus and board their assigned home bus. Students who do not need to transfer will simply remain on their bus.

We've also designed the bus lineup to make transfers as easy as possible. A student who needs to transfer will only move to the bus immediately in front of or immediately behind the bus on which they arrived. This means a very short walk and makes it easier for staff to guide and assist students.

Once every student is safely on the correct bus, buses will depart for their afternoon routes.

Helping Students Adjust

We expect students will become comfortable with the new routine quickly, but we will provide plenty of support—especially during the first few weeks.

- **Backpack tags:** If your child requires a transfer, you will receive a transportation tag in the mail. Please securely attach it to your child's backpack so staff can easily identify their bus assignment if assistance is needed.
- **Extra staff:** District staff and bus drivers will be stationed throughout the high school bus loop to guide students.
- **Continued support:** We will provide additional assistance during the first several weeks while students learn the new routine.

What Families Need to Do

If your child's afternoon route requires a transfer, you will receive transportation information before the start of school. Please:

- Attach the provided transportation tag to your child's backpack.
- Review your child's bus assignment together before the first day.
- Remind your child that staff will be there to help if they are ever unsure where to go.

As we begin this new process, afternoon arrival times may vary slightly during the first few weeks as students, drivers, and staff become familiar with the routine and we fine-tune our routes. We appreciate your patience during this transition.

Above all, student safety remains our highest priority. Every transfer will be supervised, and staff will ensure students are on the correct buses before buses depart.

We are excited about the opportunity to reduce unnecessary wait times and create a smoother afternoon transportation experience for our students. Thank you for your patience, trust, and partnership as we put this new process in place.

If you have questions about your child's transportation or the transfer process, please email me at lneiswonger@redbankvalley.net. I will respond as quickly as possible. If you would prefer a phone conversation, simply let me know in your email, and I will be happy to schedule a time to speak with you.

Sincerely,

Laura Neiswonger
Transportation Director
Redbank Valley School District