

WALKING SCHOOL BUS FAQ

1. **What is a Walking School Bus?**
2. **Please show me a detailed map of each of the Walking School Bus routes.**
3. **Do I have to take an entire Walking School Bus route to reach SPARK?**
4. **Why should I use the Park & Walk area instead of driving my child to the school parking lot?**
5. **Do I need to walk or bike in with my child on a Walking School Bus route?**
6. **Will a Walking School Bus still happen even if it rains?**
7. **My child usually takes the bus in the morning, and I don't have time to walk in. Why should I consider walking or biking instead?**

1. What is a Walking School Bus?

Put simply, a Walking School Bus is a group of families that walk to school together in the morning.

On Friday mornings, SPARK families can easily meet up while walking (or biking) to school on our four Walking School Bus routes. These come within two blocks of most SPARK households. SPARKY and other friends from SPARK often join families on the walk to school, too!

All routes have been designed to reach the SPARK Parking Lot on Briarcliff Rd at 7:35am. These routes go along roads with lower speed limits and less vehicular traffic so that the walk or bike ride in is not only safe but pleasant too.

Each of the routes has a map and timetable. Here is basic info for the routes:

<u>Route Name</u>	<u>Route Starting Location</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Distance and Total Time</u>
PURPLE ROUTE	Lanier Blvd and Amsterdam Ave	7:09am	1.2 miles, 26 min walk
RED ROUTE	Poncey-Highland Playground	7:10am	1.0 miles, 25 min walk
BLUE ROUTE	Sinclair Ave and Austin Ave	7:02am	1.4 miles, 33 min walk
GOLD ROUTE	Sinclair Ave and Austin Ave (Freedom Park Connector)	7:11am	2.6 miles, 24 min bike ride



SPARK 2023-24 WALKING SCHOOL BUS ROUTES



PURPLE ROUTE

Start: Lanier Blvd & Amsterdam Ave
1.2 miles, 26 min walk



RED ROUTE

Start: Poncey-Highland Playground
1.0 miles, 25 min walk



BLUE ROUTE

Start: Sinclair Ave and Austin Ave
1.4 miles, 33 min walk



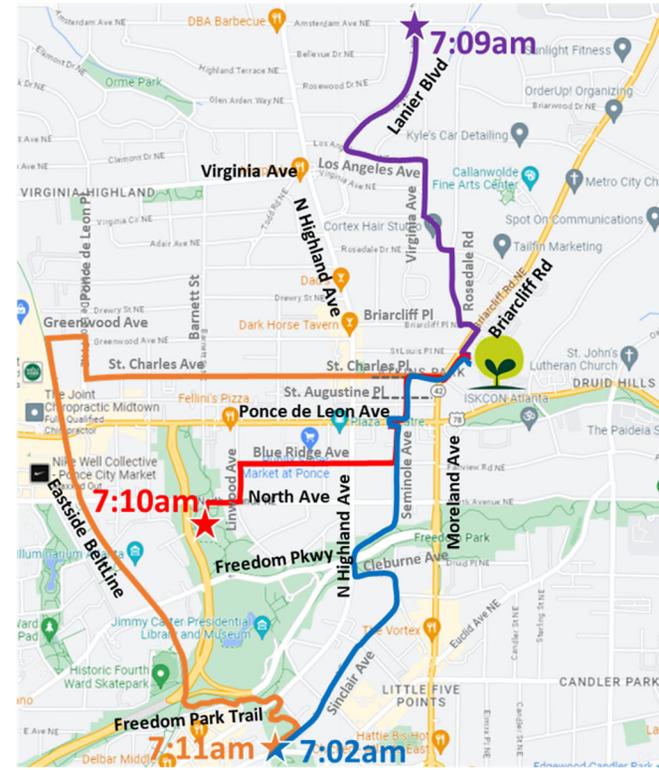
GOLD ROUTE

Start: Sinclair Ave and Austin Ave
2.6 miles, 24 min bike ride



PARK & WALK

Start: St. Augustine Pl and St. Charles Pl
0.2 miles, 5 min walk

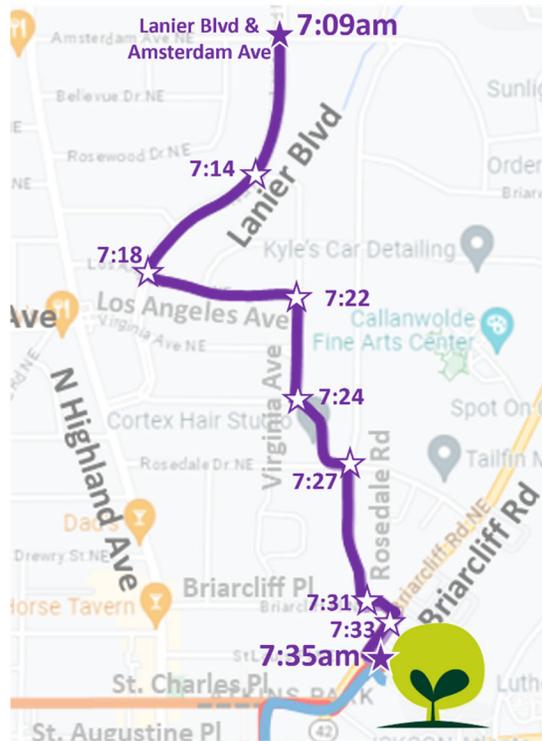


2. Please show me a detailed map of each of the Walking School Bus routes.

Follow the maps and timetables below to be part of one of our four Walking School Bus routes. The Purple Route, Red Route, and Blue Route are for walkers, while the Gold Route is for bikers.

PURPLE ROUTE

1.2 miles, 26 min walk

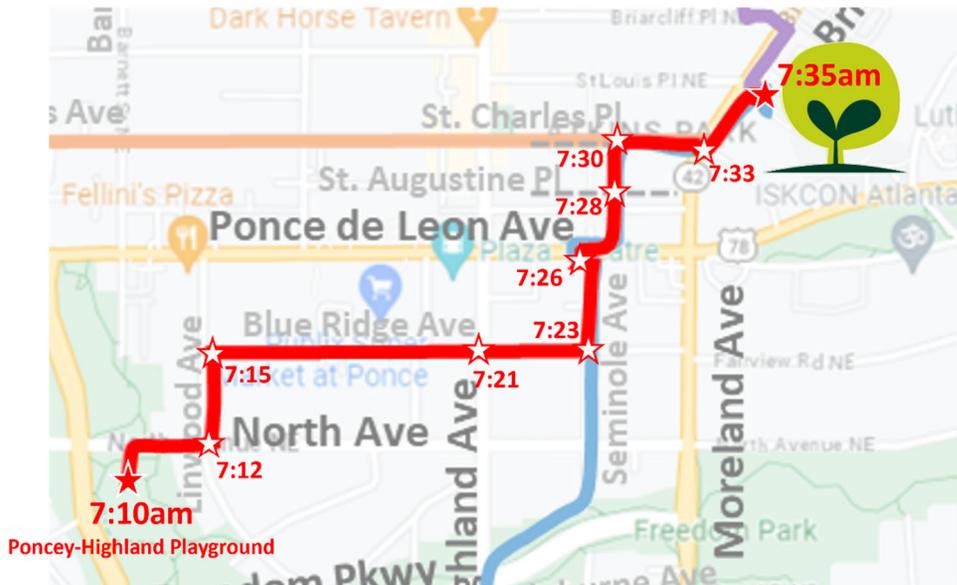


TIMETABLE

- 7:09 Lanier Blvd and Amsterdam Ave**
- 7:14 Lanier Blvd and N Virginia Ave
- 7:18 Lanier Blvd and Los Angeles Ave
- 7:22 N Virginia Ave and Los Angeles Ave
- 7:24 Virginia Ave and Hudson Dr
- 7:27 Virginia Ave and Rosedale Dr
- 7:31 Rosedale Rd and Briarcliff Pl
- 7:33 Briarcliff Rd PHB
- 7:35 SPARK**

RED ROUTE

1.0 miles, 25 min walk



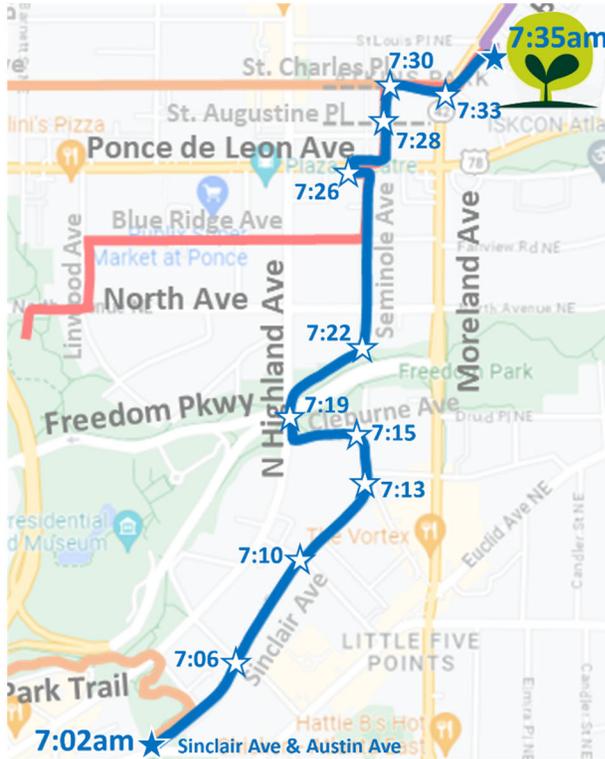
TIMETABLE

- 7:10 Poncey-Highland Playground**
- 7:12 North Ave and Linwood Ave
- 7:15 Linwood Ave and Blue Ridge Ave
- 7:21 Blue Ridge Ave and North Highland Ave
- 7:23 Blue Ridge Ave and Seminole Ave
- 7:26 Ponce de Leon Ave PHB
- 7:28 St. Augustine Pl and Malcolm's Way Alley*
- 7:30 St. Charles Pl and Malcolm's Way Alley*
- 7:33 St. Charles Pl and Briarcliff Rd
- 7:35 SPARK**

** Please note that the Malcolm's Way Alley includes stairs without a railing*

BLUE ROUTE

1.4 miles, 33 min walk



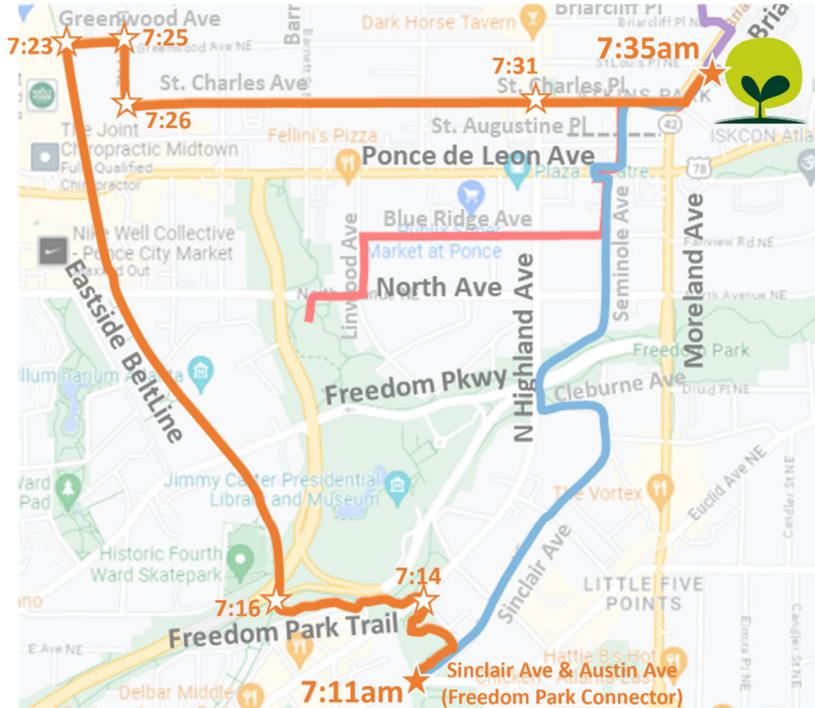
TIMETABLE

- 7:02 Sinclair Ave and Austin Ave**
- 7:06 Sinclair Ave and Washita Ave
- 7:10 Sinclair Ave and Colquitt Ave
- 7:13 Sinclair Ave and Seminole Ave
- 7:15 Seminole Ave and Cleburne Ave
- 7:19 North Highland Ave and Freedom Parkway
- 7:22 Freedom Park Trail Seminole Ave exit
- 7:26 Ponce de Leon Ave PHB
- 7:28 St. Augustine Pl and Malcolm's Way Alley*
- 7:30 St. Charles Pl and Malcolm's Way Alley*
- 7:33 St. Charles Pl and Briarcliff Rd
- 7:35 SPARK**

** Please note that the Malcolm's Way Alley includes stairs without a railing*

GOLD ROUTE

2.6 miles, 24 min bike ride



TIMETABLE

- 7:11 Sinclair Ave and Austin Ave (Freedom Park Connector)**
- 7:14 North Highland Ave and Freedom Park Trail
- 7:16 Freedom Park Trail and Eastside BeltLine
- 7:23 Eastside BeltLine exit at Greenwood Ave
- 7:25 Greenwood Ave and Ponce de Leon Pl
- 7:26 Ponce de Leon Pl and St. Charles Ave
- 7:31 St. Charles Ave and North Highland Ave
- 7:35 SPARK**

3. Do I have to take an entire Walking School Bus route from its starting point?

No, you can join at any point along the route. Consult the route timetables to find a time and place that's convenient for you. Try to be at a route meet-up point a few minutes early.

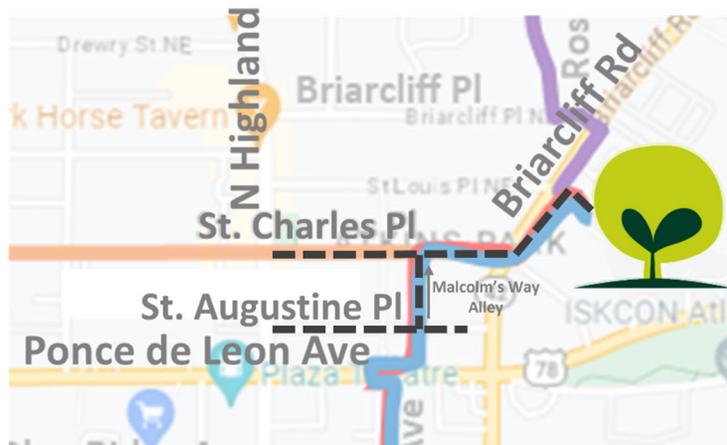
4. Why should I use the Park & Walk area instead of driving my child to the school parking lot?

Believe it or not, you may actually save time parking and walking in with your child rather than driving through the SPARK parking lot! Many parents are already doing this instead of waiting in the traffic on Briarcliff Rd. We even had GDOT shorten the cycle time for the traffic light at Briarcliff Rd and St. Charles Place during school hours to make it more convenient for families to cross Briarcliff Rd.

SPARK's Park & Walk area is on St. Charles Place and St. Augustine Place, two streets that are just north of Ponce de Leon Ave. For parents that drive, park on either street and then walk the quarter mile distance to SPARK. The walk from there only takes 5 minutes, including the time to cross Briarcliff Rd at St. Charles Place.

PARK & WALK

0.2 miles, 5 min walk



From St. Charles Place:

- Walk east until the intersection at Briarcliff Rd
- Cross to the east side of Briarcliff Rd
- Turn left and walk along Briarcliff to the SPARK entrance

From St. Augustine Place:

- Climb the stairs* and go north on the Malcolm's Way Alley to reach St. Charles Place
- Turn right at St. Charles Pl and walk to Briarcliff Rd
- Cross to the east side of Briarcliff Rd
- Turn left and walk along Briarcliff to the SPARK entrance

**Please note that this alley includes stairs without a railing*

SPARK is one of the most heavily trafficked schools in Atlanta because it is near the intersection of Ponce de Leon Ave and Briarcliff Rd, both of which have more than 25,000 vehicles on them every day. Trying to drive to the parking lot on Briarcliff Rd is not only frustratingly slow, but also results in further backing up traffic. Not only that, but idling cars in the parking lot make the air less healthy for families that walk or bike to SPARK.

5. Do I need to walk or bike in with my child on a Walking School Bus route?

Yes, we are asking all parents and guardians to accompany their children on the way to school. This way all children can safely make their way to school and no adult will feel overwhelmed being in charge of a large group of kids.

6. Will a Walking School Bus still happen even if it rains?

The Walking School Bus routes will happen every Friday unless it is raining very heavily. Thursday email updates will be sent out to families that are on the SPARK Walking School Bus mailing list.

Please bring an umbrella and raincoat if you are concerned about inclement weather.

7. My child usually takes the bus in the morning, and I don't have time to walk in. Why should I consider walking or biking instead?

Most SPARK families are within 1.5 miles of school, a short enough distance to conveniently walk or bike.

By choosing to walk to school, you'll get to be part of the SPARK community, will have more quality time with your child in the morning, and will be getting exercise at the same time! Many families will also be able to sleep a little later because the Walking School Bus meet-up times are later than bus pick-up times.

Plus, research shows that children who walk or bike to school are more alert and ready to learn, even having increased concentration levels for up to four hours. They're healthier too because they are getting more physical exercise and are more engaged with their streets and neighborhoods.