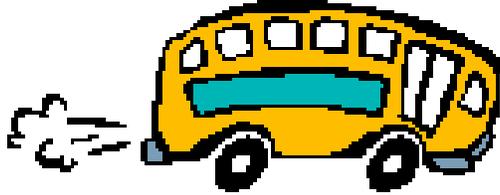


TRANSPORTATION



Facts to Know about Transportation

A large number of our pupils are transported to and from school, thus making school bus safety one of our priority concerns.

The school bus driver has a tremendous responsibility and must depend upon the support of both parents and school officials in order to promote safe practices.

School bus safety has become an inherent part of the elementary curriculum at every grade level. Teachers, through a planned school bus safety curriculum, teach school bus safety in the fall of each school year.

Twice each year, in cooperation with the principal, bus drivers must conduct emergency bus evacuation drills to familiarize students with proper procedures to be used in the event of an accident or other emergency. Students are expected to be attentive and cooperative during these important drills.

The privilege of riding a bus may be removed for improper conduct. When the bus privilege is removed, parents have the obligation of finding alternative ways to transport their child to and from school. When students are denied bus transportation, they are required to attend school; failure to attend school will result in further disciplinary action.

School Bus Guidelines

As the new school year progresses, parents of pupils who ride the school buses are encouraged to review the rules of conduct with their children. Children should be reminded that breaking one or more of these rules could result in suspension of bus riding privileges.

All students receive their bus transportation assignments in the U. S. mail shortly before the beginning of school. Students are given one school bus assignment for the entire school year. Alternate bus arrangements requested by parents/guardians create problems in the overall transportation system. Please limit these requests to emergency situations. Questions about bus transportation should be directed to the Transportation Department.

Prior to Loading

- Be on time at the designated bus stop, arriving five (5) minutes before the bus is due.
- Wait for your bus at your designated place of safety, well off the road. Cross the street to enter the bus only when the bus is stopped, the red flashing signals are on and you have received a hand signal from your driver. Never cross behind a bus.
- Respect the property rights of people who reside at or near the bus stop.
- Enter the bus in an orderly manner and take your seat. Bus drivers will assign seats.

While on the Bus

- Observe regular classroom conduct; engage in quiet conversation and follow the bus driver's instructions. The bus driver has the same authority on the bus as a teacher has in the classroom.
- Remain in your seat at all times, except when boarding and unloading. Do not change seats at bus stops.
- Keep your hands, head, and feet inside the bus at all times.
- Loud talking, laughter, and other similar conduct divert the driver's attention and may result in a serious accident.
- Do not damage or tamper with any parts of the bus. In addition to disciplinary actions from violating this rule, you or your parents will be responsible for the payment of the cost of repair.
- Keep the aisle clear, except when entering or exiting.
- Do not throw anything in the bus or out of the bus window.
- Horseplay, fighting, eating, and drinking are strictly forbidden.
- Be courteous to fellow pupils and the bus driver.
- The following items are never permitted in any school vehicle: live animals, weapons, drugs, alcohol or tobacco, flammable liquids (gasoline, propane, fuel), fireworks, firecrackers, smoke bombs, balls (except for team buses), water pistols, spray bottles, pea shooters, and slingshots.

After Leaving the Bus

- When it is necessary to cross the road, go to your designated place of safety in front of the bus, look to your driver for the crossing hand signal, then cross after looking to be sure that no traffic is approaching from either direction.
- Be alert to the danger signal from the bus driver.
- Stand at your designated point of safety until the bus leaves, then go directly home.

In many situations throughout our school district, supervision by the parents/guardians of students at bus stops provides added assurance that the children are safe and secure while loading and unloading the school buses. It is particularly important and expected that adult supervision be present at bus stops when kindergarten students are loading and unloading, especially during the middle of the day. Kindergarten students will not be discharged at their bus stop without a parent clearly observed by the bus driver.

Kindergarten students will be taken back to the child's school, where attempts will be made to contact parents or guardians for pick up. Lack of adult supervision at kindergarten bus stops creates a difficult situation for students, parents, and school and transportation staff. Persistent problems in this area may result in loss of bus privileges.