

Instructions for Students Riding School Buses

Please help your child learn and follow the safe rider rules listed below.

1. Stand at least 10 feet off the roadway while waiting for the bus.
2. Stay in your seat at all times when the bus is moving.
3. Keep your arms and head inside the bus at all times.
4. Walk 12 feet in front of the bus and wait for operator's signal before crossing the road.
5. Unnecessary conversation with the operator is dangerous. Please remain quiet – unless there is an emergency.
6. Outside of ordinary conversation, classroom conduct is to be observed. Operators are allowed to “put the bus on silent” when complete silence is required.
7. Absolute silence is required at all railroad crossings.
8. The operator is in full charge of bus and students. Students must obey the operator.
9. The operator will assign students to certain seats to promote order on the bus.
10. No eating, drinking, or smoking is allowed on the bus.
11. Students must be on time; the bus cannot wait for those who are tardy.
12. *Riding the bus is a privilege. DO NOT abuse it.*

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: Violating these rules may result in your child being reported to the school principal who has authority to take disciplinary action, including suspending your child's riding privileges or suspension or expulsion from school.

Best Safety Practices For Boarding and Exiting the Bus:

- Always stay away from the 10 foot “danger zone” around the bus, except when you are directed by the operator to get on or off the bus.
- **NEVER PICK UP AN OBJECT THAT YOU DROP UNDER OR NEAR THE BUS. ASK THE OPERATOR FOR HELP.**
- Always be sure the operator can see you.

- Make sure clothing and backpacks have no loose drawstrings or straps that could catch in the handrail or bus door.
- Always stand at least 10 feet off the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- Students must wait for the operator to signal that it is safe to cross the road.
- Students must wait for the operator to signal that it is safe to board the bus.
- When crossing a traffic lane, always look left, right, then left again; and only cross if approaching traffic has stopped and the operator has signaled it is safe to cross.
- **NEVER** walk behind the bus.

Additional Information

- * Students must comply with all aspects of the District's Code of Student Conduct.
- * Students are expected to be at their bus stop at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled bus arrival time.
- * The bus will not stop for students that are late and running for the bus.
- * When school ends, students need to board their bus immediately without delay. Once the bus starts moving, operators are prohibited from stopping to pick up additional students.
- * **YOU MAY NOT RIDE ANY BUS OTHER THAN YOUR ASSIGNED BUS.**
- * Seating on each bus is for students entitled to ride/registered to that particular bus. Friends are only allowed to ride buses to which they are not assigned in cases of extreme emergency, and only with the express permission of the Transportation Department.
- * Pencils and pens shall be carried in a back pack or closed container, not in student's hand.
- * **Any large or bulky items that interfere with the seating or safety of students (examples: large musical instruments, posters, class projects, balloons) are not allowed on the bus.**
- * When entering or leaving the bus, book bags should be carried by hand in front of the student to avoid injuring other students.
- * When route adjustments are made, students will receive notification of any significant changes in bus stop placement or scheduled time.

- * Any electronic devices such as cell phones, ipods, etc., should be put away and not be turned on when riding the bus unless special permission is given by the bus operator.
- * Strong fragrances such as perfumes, cologne, body lotions, etc. can cause severe allergic reactions and therefore cannot be worn on the bus and must not be sprayed on the bus.
- * ***PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S SAFETY TO AND FROM THE BUS STOP AND THEIR BEHAVIOR AT THE BUS STOP.***

What can I do to ensure that my child has a safe start riding the bus to school each school year?

- a. Have your child wear a name tag the first 10 days of school with his/her name, address, bus number, bus stop location, telephone number, and an emergency number.
- b. Put a tag on your child's backpack with the same information as in "a" above.
- c. Before the first day of school, walk with your child to the bus stop and go over safe walking behavior to and from the bus stop and safe waiting behavior at the bus stop.
- d. Contact your child's school and ask what the school procedures are for making sure that your child gets on the correct school bus at the end of the day.
- e. Send a note to your child's teacher the first day of school and the first Monday of the second week of school letting the teacher know the bus number your child is to ride and the stop he/she is to exit the bus.

TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES AND REGISTRATION CARD

***SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE
COUNTY***

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

(941) 782-1BUS (1287)

