

August 2005

Dear Parents/Guardians:

All students who ride a bus to school are subject to school regulations until they get off the bus at school or depart from the bus at the bus stop near their home. Any misbehavior which distracts the driver is a serious hazard to the safe operation of the vehicle and as such jeopardizes the safety of all passengers.

Please review the rules for safe bus riding with your child(ren) so that you know what is expected of them.

- Leave home early enough to arrive at the bus stop on time, but not too early.
- Wait at the bus stop without disturbing or endangering others or causing destruction of property.
- Respect the rights of property owners near the bus stop. Keep off roads and highways and watch traffic.
- Maintain reasonable quiet on the school bus. Enter in an orderly way without pushing and shoving to be first.
- Follow the instructions of the school bus driver. The driver is in charge of the bus.
- Remain in your seat while the bus is in motion.
- Always keep your head and arms inside the school bus.
- Be alert to traffic as you exit the bus. Even though you follow the rules, there may be a driver in a passing car who is careless and your alertness can save your life.
- Learn the emergency drill procedures taught at the beginning of the school year and follow them whenever necessary.

Riding the school bus is a privilege. Abuses of it will result in the child and the child's parents assuming the responsibility for their transportation to and from school. Parents will also be financially responsible for any damage to the bus.

Serious offenses will result in immediate suspension of the bus privilege. Student Handbook guidelines will also be a determining factor when considering discipline problems. Children reported for misbehaving on the bus will generally be disciplined in the following manner:

First Offense: A verbal warning will be given to the student with a letter to the parents. It is hoped that parental intervention will prevent a recurrence of improper behavior.

Second Offense: After an informal hearing with the student, school officials will withhold school transportation for two days. Parents will be informed in writing of the reasons for such disciplinary action. The suspension shall take place on the fifth day after the student has been reported in order to allow sufficient time for parents to make necessary arrangements for such transportation. In cases of emergency, the child may be suspended immediately, without written warning, and parents notified as soon as possible.

Third Offense: Discipline for a third offense will allow the student to ride the bus to school in the morning, but they will be retained after school for a thirty minute period for five school days. Parents will be required to pick their child up following the detention.

Fourth Offense: A student who has been reported for infraction of bus rules for the fourth time, will be suspended from the bus immediately. Parents will be notified. It will be the responsibility of the parents to get their child to and from school. It is the parents' responsibility to contact the Superintendent of Schools for a hearing to consider permanent removal of the student from bus transportation.

Your reinforcement of these procedures with your child will help assure your child's safety and security. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Lynda Mitchell
Superintendent of Schools

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cc: Worhunsky Bus Company