



Riding the Bus Safely

Information you and your child need to know:

We highly recommend that your child participate in our school bus safety program prior to utilizing the school bus for the first time.

Getting on the bus:

Be at the bus stop on time. Never run to or from the bus

Wait at the designated stop in a safe place well back from traffic

Respect private property. It is inappropriate for students to play or trespass on private property near the bus stop. Please supervise your child at the stop.

Line up in single file. **Do not push** or rush to the bus. There are enough seats for everyone.

Hold the handrail when boarding the bus.

Riding the bus:

Get in the bus promptly and sit properly, facing forward at all times

Hold school bags on laps and do not stick feet or heads into the aisles

Keep your head and arms inside the bus. Do not throw anything out of the window or inside the bus

Talk quietly. The driver needs to concentrate on driving the bus safely.

To prevent choking and triggering or causing an allergic reaction to others there is no eating or drinking on the bus.

No fighting, shouting or playing in or around the bus

Follow the bus driver's instructions

Leaving the bus:

Look for your parents or baby sitter. Stay on the bus if they are not there!

Hold the handrail and take two large steps away from the bus

If you must cross the street, walk at least 3 metres ahead of the bus. Cross only when the driver gives a signal it is clear. Cross in single file so the driver can see everyone.

If your child drops something near the bus, tell them not to pick it up. Have them tell the driver

or another adult and they will assist him/her to retrieve the item.

Allow the passengers in front of you to leave first. **Do not push.**

Parents!

Instruct your child to look for you or their caregiver at the stop *before* they get off the bus.

If they do not see you or their caregiver they should stay on the bus and tell the driver no one is there to meet them.

The driver will then keep your child on the bus and return him/her to school.

Does your child have special medical problems or carry an EpiPen?

Please ensure that children with special medical problems are identified to the school and the Transportation Department so that the driver can be made aware and appropriate seating is arranged on the bus to permit the driver easy access in the event of a medical emergency.

The school can assign a Bus Buddy for these children to help notify the driver when an emergency arises.

Inclement weather

Buses can be periodically delayed due to weather and traffic. Parents if not waiting with their children at the bus stop should instruct their children what to do in the event the bus is late or does not show up. If bad weather is forecasted parents may decide not to send their children on the bus; this is especially true for medically fragile students who need regular routines and may be put at risk if buses are significantly delayed.

Do you know these phone numbers?

Your child's school

The morning bus company

The afternoon bus company

The Board's Transportation Department @ 416-394-4BUS or 416-394-4287

All these numbers are available at your school office.