

# A Safe Journey to School



## Riding on the school bus:

Take a seat as quickly as possible, place belongings under your seat or on your lap and stay seated. Exercise good behaviour on the bus at all times (the same conduct as expected in the classroom). You may talk quietly with other students near you, but do not yell. Noisy children are a distraction to the bus driver. Our bus drivers must keep their eyes on the road to make sure you get to school and back home safely. Loud noises can make the driver take his/her eyes off the road. You must be absolutely quiet while the bus is stopped at a railroad crossing.

Unnecessary conversation with the driver of the bus shall be avoided.

Obtain approval of the driver to open windows. Do not throw any objects out of the bus window. Keep head, arms and hands inside the bus at all times.

Remain properly seated while the bus is in motion. Remain in assigned seat unless directed to move by driver. Do not stand or sit on the bus floor.

Save food for snack time at school or until you get home.

Wait until the school bus comes to a complete stop before getting off.

Be aware that the driver is in charge and their directions should be respected and followed at all times.

The driver is not authorized to make any changes in schedules or stop locations. Please do not make requests of him/her for any change. Any changes in scheduling and/or stops must be made by a parent or guardian well in advance with your school and transportation offices.

## When getting off the bus:

Take ten large steps away from the bus.

In Urban Areas: under no circumstances should children in an urban area attempt to cross in front of the bus. If a child must cross a street after getting off the bus, he/she should wait until the bus pulls safely away, walk to the nearest intersection and then cross the street following normal safety procedures. Use extreme caution whenever getting on or off the bus.

Prior to crossing a street at an intersection: Kids should be alert. Look both ways. Look twice. Listen. If you think you hear a car, stop. Wait, listen, and look. Look again and then cross the street when you absolutely know it's safe. Continue to watch for traffic.

In Rural Areas: In a situation where the eight-light safety system is used, students may cross in front of the bus. Students should cross in front of the bus at least five metres (15 feet) so that the driver can see them at all times. Students should await the driver's signal indicating it is safe before crossing. Before crossing, students should look both ways before stepping onto the roadway and continue to watch for traffic. Never cross behind the bus. Remember that other motorists don't always stop for a stopped school bus – use extreme caution whenever getting on or off the bus.

If you drop something near or under the school bus, never attempt to retrieve it without the driver's permission. If you can't tell the driver, leave it there till the bus pulls away. Younger children should then get a parent to help them retrieve it.

## Parents' Responsibilities:

Know your children's school bus route number and the driver's name.

Parents are responsible for their child's safety to, from and while the student waits for the bus at their designated stop. Ensure that your children are at the bus stop prior to the scheduled arrival time of the school bus – at least five minutes early.

Dress your children in clothing appropriate for the weather conditions.

Encourage school bus safety at home.

Ensure that alternate arrangements are in place for your child in the event that the bus is missed, is late or does not arrive.

Ensure that your children have an alternate plan in case an adult is not home.

For safety reasons, ensure that items carried on the bus by your children are limited to small articles placed in a backpack, or small gym or kit bag. These items are easily carried on the lap or stored under the seat occupied by your child.

In order to maintain access to individual properties throughout the rural area, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to have driveways/laneways in a suitable condition to accommodate regular school bus travel. The residence access road must be of all-weather construction and there must be a sufficient clear area in the yard to enable the bus to turn around without backing up. If a driveway is not maintained then you will need to make alternate arrangements to meet the bus and/or transportation of the student will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.