



TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT Information for Parents.....

- Kdg. students should wear the student information tag for at least the first month of school. This information will be mailed to resident address before the first day of school.
- Kdg. students will not be allowed off the bus unless a parent/guardian is present at the bus stop. You must be outside of your car or home, where the bus driver can see you. If no one is present, one phone call will be made. If no contact is made the student will be transported back to school. If you are unable to be at the stop and have made arrangements for someone else to be there, please notify Transportation.
- Students should know their first and last name and be able to communicate that to the bus driver.
- Familiarize your student with your neighborhood. The bus may not take the same routes as you.
- Students shall cross all streets at least ten (10) feet in front of school bus and after driver has signaled the student to do so. The bus driver will teach the student how to cross the road using overhead red flashing lights and the signal.
- Students will ride only assigned school bus and will board and depart at their assigned bus stop.
- Parents should know their students bus number(s) and bus driver(s) name.
- In accordance with State Law all items must be kept on the students lap, so not to obstruct the drivers view or ability to operate the bus, and to protect all occupants against injury. Please provide your student with a backpack or duffle bag to keep their belongings secure. If there is a question on the transportation of a particular item, the Transportation Office should be consulted.
- If your student will not be riding the bus on a given day, please call the Transportation office at 231-865-3196 press 1. Please leave a voicemail message including student name, bus #, contact phone number and message.
- At least the first two weeks of school the afternoon drop off time will be later than normal. This time is necessary to ensure that students are getting on the proper bus and to make sure that parents are at the bus stop to receive students. It takes time for everyone to get into a routine.
- If your student does not get off at the designated bus stop, please use the nearest phone to call Transportation (231)865-3196 press 1. Please do not leave the house until after you have spoken with Transportation as your student may arrive home. All buses are equipped with two-way radios for contact with the drivers and the office. For at least the first month of school, buses tend to run late in the afternoon as we try to ensure that students are on their scheduled bus.
- All Oakridge Public School students need to fill out a Student Transportation Information form. If your student will need transportation to or from a daycare provider or a location other than home, please complete that section of the form. A student is allowed only one designated pickup location and only one designated drop off location. This assignment must be on a regularly scheduled (Monday-Friday) basis. Completed forms are to be returned to the school office, bus driver or transportation office before June 30, 2014. If we do not receive the information, your student will be placed on a bus route near home. To ensure that bus routes remain as published for the 2014 – 2015 school year, there will be no changes in bus routes from the beginning of August to early October 2014.
- Parents are also to be informed that they are responsible for:
The safety of their child while going to or from the bus stop and while waiting for the school bus;
Their child being at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to scheduled pick-up time;
Damage to school buses, personal property, or public property.

COMMON WORDS USED BY BUS DRIVERS: Please take some time to talk with your student about these words:

“Sit down, sit back, put your hands in your lap!” – encourages students to stay seated and facing forward for the entire ride. They are like eggs in an egg carton when they are seated. If the driver has to brake suddenly, students who are seated will avoid injuries.

Buzzy Says: “Sit down, sit back, put your hands in your lap!”

Use your T-Rex arms – encourages students to remain in own personal space and not in others personal space. *“You can make a difference.”*

Inside voice – reminds students that we are inside and not out on the playground. We are able to talk with our seat buddy. This will allow drivers to hear sirens, horns, the 2-way radio, or a student who needs assistance. *“A quiet voice is the right choice.”*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ????????

Is there a maximum ride time for students on a bus? There is no maximum riding time in the law for children in kindergarten through grade twelve. The district will make every effort to keep ride time to 1 hour.

What about the safety of my child getting to and from the bus stop? There are no sidewalks where we live and it's not very safe walking on the busy road we live on. It is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to see that a child gets safely to and from the bus stop. The school district provides transportation as a non-mandated service and established placement of the bus stops in accordance with the requirements of the law.

Is there a law about how far my child has to walk to the bus stop? No law specifies the maximum distance a student may walk to the bus stop. This is governed by local district policies.

What time should students arrive at the bus stop? Students must arrive at their designated bus stop at least 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. The driver cannot and will not wait for late students. While waiting for the bus to arrive students must stay at least 10 feet off the traveled roadway.

My child is starting kindergarten. Will the bus pick my child up in front of my house? There are no special laws or regulations for transporting regular education students enrolled in kindergarten. They may be required to walk to the nearest bus stop.

Isn't the school district required to transport my child? School districts are NOT required by law to transport regular education children. If the Board of Education elects to provide transportation, Michigan Compiled Law outlines the obligations of the school district.

How many students are allowed to ride a school bus? The school district may only transport the manufactured rated seating capacity of the school bus. The rated capacity is based on three students per seat.

Is there a specified distance that must exist between school bus stops? The lights on the school bus, which are used to notify other traffic of an upcoming stop, must by law, be activated 200 feet from the stop. Recognizing the need for some extenuating circumstances the distance between bus stops will be in accordance to state law.

Why are emergency evacuations performed (fire drills)? Emergency evacuations are performed so that students will know what to do in the event of an emergency situation. All students (Kdg.-12th grade) are required to participate. A minimum of 3 will be performed each school year.

Who is responsible for the assigning of buses and routes? The local school district has the authority to locate bus stops and design bus routes in accordance with Michigan Compiled Law.

RIDE THE SCHOOL BUS SAFELY TIPS

School Bus Safety!

Avoid the Danger Zones!



Always remain 10 steps away from the bus to be out of the "Danger Zone" and where the driver can see you. Always cross the street in front of the bus. Never go behind the bus.

AT THE BUS STOP:

- Walk with an adult to the school bus stop. Never run.
- Always go to the bus stop 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- While at the bus stop, wait in a safe place away from the road. Do not run and play while waiting.
- Wait for the bus to arrive, watch for the red flashing lights and the signal from driver to cross, and cross only when all traffic has stopped. Look left-right-left to make sure no cars are coming before crossing.
- Ask the driver for help if you drop something while getting on the bus.
- Encourage children to use handrails when they get on the bus to avoid a fall.

WHILE ON THE SCHOOL BUS:

- Go straight to your seat. Remain seated and facing forward for the entire bus ride. (Sit on your pockets.)
- Talk quietly (so the driver will not be distracted.) Use your inside voice.
- If you need to talk to the bus driver; wait for the bus to stop, raise your hand, and call the driver's name.
- Never throw things on the bus or out the windows.
- Keep the aisles clear at all times.
- Keep hands & arms in your personal space. (Use your T-Rex arms)
- Do what the school bus driver tells you.
- Keep your loose items inside your backpack or book bag.

EXIT THE BUS:

- When getting off the bus make sure you walk (not run) 5 giant steps away from the door. Stay away from the bus wheels and watch out for moving cars.
- Watch for the red flashing lights and the signal from the driver to cross, and cross only when all traffic has stopped. Look left-right-left to make sure no cars are coming before crossing.
- Once you get off the bus, go straight home so an adult will know where you are.
- Only get on and off the bus at your designated stop.
- Ask the driver for help if you drop something while getting off the bus. Never return to the bus to get belongings as driver may not see you.
- Encourage children to use handrails when they get off the bus to avoid a fall.

COMMON WORDS USED BY BUS DRIVERS: Please take some time to talk with your student about these words:

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