

# BLUE RIDGE TRANSPORTATION

“Help us keep your children safe”

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We're pleased to be transporting your child to and from school this year. Please remember, riding the bus is a privilege. Therefore, students and parents cooperation regarding the bus rules and procedures is important. The transportation team is proud of our safety record and professionalism. Rules are intended to increase student safety. Please help us ensure your child's safety by adhering to the following procedures:

- Provide your child with a backpack or book bag. Lose items are dangerous for children entering and exiting the bus.
- Check your child's clothing for the presence of long drawstrings, shoe laces that may get snagged in the bus door as your child enters or exits.
- Make sure your child arrives at the designated bus stop five minutes early each day.
- Children who are late for the bus may panic and chase it, or run into the road. This present a significant danger to the child.
- Stop times on routes may vary due to seasonal traffic situations, accidents or road conditions in inclement weather.
- If the bus is 5 minutes late for your pick up, please call transportation office.
- The driver is unable to return for students who miss the bus.
- Insist your child wait for the bus safely, in an orderly fashion, and back from the roadway. Behavior problems at the bus stop can create hazardous conditions for all children waiting.
- When the bus arrives, your child must wait for the bus driver's signal before boarding. Children must board in a single file line.
- Teach your children the importance of sitting quietly on the ride to and from school. It is important for our drivers concentrate on driving safely. Excessive noise presents a potential danger.

Please note, if anything makes your child feel unsafe at the bus stop, or on the bus ride, please contact the transportation department immediately at (928) 368-6126 ext. 7806 or 7807. We are deeply committed to the safety of our students and employees.

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## STUDENT DISCIPLINE ON THE SCHOOL BUSES

Bus drivers must handle student misbehavior that threatens passenger safety or distracts the driver. In the case of a violation, your child will receive a verbal warning for the first offense. In addition, a referral will be sent to the Transportation Supervisor. Every attempt will be made to contact a parent or guardian when such issues arise. Therefore, please be certain your contact information is accurately listed. Below is a list of examples of student misconduct that will be addressed.

- IGNORING THE BUS DRIVER'S INSTRUCTIONS
- BEING OUT OF THE SEAT WHEN THE BUS IS IN MOTION
- EATING OR DRINKING ON THE BUS (Drinking water is permitted in a plastic bottle)
- LITTERING
- SHOUTING OR SCREAMING
- FAILURE TO KEEP HEAD, HANDS, FEET AND ALL OBJECTS TO ONE'S SELF AND INSIDE THE BUS
- FIGHTING, HITTING, SPITTING, OR BITING ANOTHER STUDENT
- BULLYING, TEASING, OR AGGRAVATING OTHER STUDENTS
- MISCONDUCT AT THE BUS STOP, VERBAL ABUSE, OBSCENE GESTURES, THREATS MADE TOWARD OTHERS
- ASSAULT OF BUS DRIVER, OR STUDENT (WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF BUS PRIVILEGES FOR ONE SCHOOL YEAR)
- DESTRUCTION OF SCHOOL PROPERTY, SUCH AS SEATS, INTERIOR, OR EXTERIOR OF BUS (WILL BE AN IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF RIDING PRIVILEGES UP TO ONE SCHOOL YEAR)
- USE OR DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS OR MEDICATIONS, PRESCRIPTION OR OTHER. \*(Parents of students with medical conditions that may require assistance during the school day should meet with the Principal and the transportation department to ensure proper support is provided, including distribution and use of medication.)
- POSSESSION OF TOBACCO, MATCHES, LIGHTERS OR WEAPONS WILL RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE LOSS OF BUS PRIVILEGES.

1<sup>st</sup> TICKET – VERBAL WARNING

2<sup>ND</sup> TICKET – ONE MONTH SUSPENSION

3<sup>RD</sup> TICKET – SUSPENSION FOR SCHOOL YEAR

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A standard school bus may contain as many as 80 students! The bus driver has an enormous responsibility of operating the bus safely, including analyzing road conditions, while monitoring students. Thus, the need for rules. Our buses are equipped with cameras to ensure safety and protect the students, and our bus drivers. Videos are viewed randomly by the Transportation Supervisor to enhance any investigations. This footage is also used as an evaluation tool. An investigation may be initiated following an incident reported by a student, parent/guardian, employee, or community member.

Please note, the expectations for the student behavior on the bus do not differ from what's expected in the classroom.

**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJUST SUSPENSION TIMES BASED ON SEVERITY OF THE INCIDENT, OR IF MULTIPLE INFRACTIONS OCCUR. A SUSPENSION FROM THE BUS DOES NOT INCLUDE SCHOOL OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.**

**Should your student be suspended from their bus route, they will lose all transportation privileges to and from school. Students suspended will NOT be allowed to change bus stops or routes.**

Transportation is provided to and from the bus stop closest to the child's home. Please teach your student his/her physical address.

Bus routes are not designed to transport students to alternate sites, i.e. piano lessons, dance classes, club meetings, parties or businesses. Multiple and/or varied stops for individual students leads to confusion, and is the leading cause of losing track of students. Daily changes to bus stops will NOT be allowed.

Only in the exception of an emergency, i.e. death or hospitalization of a family member, accident, etc., will changes be made.

Should a student require more than one permanent stop during the school week, (with no more than 2 stops per student) it must be prescheduled with the school and transportation department.

If a child is a bus rider and a parent/guardian would like to pick them up they need to do this by 2:00 p.m. (11:30 a.m. on Friday) from the school. The parent/guardian must come into the front office to sign the child out. This rule helps ensure we can account

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for the child. Last minute notices will not be accommodated (unless there is a family emergency).

Once a student is on the bus, **they cannot be removed.** Boarded students will be taken to their assigned stop. Removing students at the last minute impedes the process of getting all our student's home in a timely manner.

Due to time constraints, buses will not wait for late students. Buses are also unable to return to bus stops to pick up students who may have missed the bus. Please note, our buses operate on a tight turnaround schedule.

If a parent or guardian is not **at the bus stop to receive a Kindergarten student**, the student will be taken back to the elementary school where they may be picked up. In such instances, parents/guardians will be contacted.

Your signature at the bottom of this page indicates you have read and understand the requirements and expectations outlined above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Print Child(ren) names

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.