



TRANSPORTATION

July 24, 2019

Dear School Bus Families,

As the 2019-20 school year swiftly approaches, it is a good time to review the bus stop expectations that will enable us to have the safest and most efficient school year possible.

- **All students are expected to be at their designated bus stop at least five minutes prior to their scheduled stop time.** If the student is not present at the bus stop at their designated stop time, the driver is directed to proceed on with the route to ensure arrival to school on time. Please note that "waiting in the car...walking out the door or walking to the stop" are not considered being "at the bus stop".

Why is this important?** Students walking up to the bus or running in an attempt to catch up with the bus is a **high level safety concern.** First, the school bus lighting sequence initiated at 500 feet, alerts nearby vehicles that students are in the area and the school bus will be stopping to pick up or drop off students at a designated bus stop. Secondly, students are far less visible to the bus driver when they are not physically at the bus stop, especially if they are attempting to run along side of the school bus. **The safest location for bus riders is to be standing at the bus stop in clear view to the driver as the bus approaches.

- For our preschool and kindergarten families, **it is required that an authorized parent or guardian be physically at their kindergartener's bus stop for pick-up and drop-off every day.** As it relates to after school drop offs, if an authorized individual is not at the bus stop on time, our drivers are directed to return the student to school after completing the route. Furthermore, the bus driver is not to release the student at an alternate bus stop or unauthorized individual without prior authorization through the school. **Note:** A kindergartener may get off the bus with a fourth grade sibling or older who is **authorized on the school permission form** as well.

***Why is this important?** Bottom line.....we simply need to know who is a "safe individual" to get your kindergartener off the bus. All such approvals **MUST** go through the school because the school knows you and your family best!*

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- Bus Pass requests are to be submitted in advance through the school. The official bus pass form will be completed by the school and given to the student to give to the driver for the day(s) the student is to ride.

Note: Transportation is provided from home to school - school to home only. Alternate locations are not permitted.

Why is this important? It is imperative that we know who is on our school bus at any given time in the event of an emergency. This allows us to provide accurate and timely information to parents, school officials and if necessary, first responders in the event of an emergency. Additionally, the state of Missouri has strict guidelines regarding student eligibility (home to school - school to home), on which the district is audited every year.

Did you know???

- Students are 70 times more likely to reach school safely in a school bus than any other vehicle.
- There are 6 high definition cameras with individual microphones on our school buses (5 interior view and 1 street view).
- The Missouri Department of Education mandates that school bus transportation is to be provided for students who live 3 ½ miles from school regardless of road hazard or accessibility. Students under this mileage criteria are to walk or be transported to school by other means. The City of St. Charles School District extends the courtesy of transporting students who live more than one mile from school.
- ALL bus stops are established at the safest location accessible by school bus and no two bus stops can be less than 500 feet apart per Missouri state law. (5 CSR 30-2D.010)
- Missouri state law prohibits any non-authorized individual from boarding any school bus. (RSMO 569.155)

We very much look forward to seeing everyone this year and will work hard to provide your student with the safest and most professional transportation possible. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call the dispatch office at (636) 443-4094.

Thank you,

Cynthia Priest

Direct of Transportation

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