Riding the School Bus

in Prairie Rose School Division

Be Cool! Follow The Rules!

1. Be on time
2. Never run near the bus
3. Stand back from the bus
4. Don't push or shove
5. Stay in your seat
6. Don't yell or shout
7. Don't eat food on the bus
8. Always obey the driver
9. Always cross at least 3 meters (10 feet) in front of the bus
10. Wait for driver's signal before crossing
11. Never crawl under or touch a school bus

Hey kids, how would you behave if your mom or dad were sitting on the bus beside you?

Dear Parents:

- Ensure that students are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. There is always a remote possibility of bus breakdown in cold weather and help could be several minutes away from the bus. Students need to be dressed to ensure that they are protected from the elements.
- Notify the school secretary, as soon as possible, of any changes to the family information including changes to transportation or medical needs. Your cooperation assures that our transportation staff can continue to offer bus service without interruption or inconvenience.
- Notify the transportation department at the division office by phone of email if your child(ren) will not be boarding the bus at home in the morning. We handle many calls early in the morning. If we can't handle your call personally, please leave a message and we will ensure that your driver receives the information.
  Do not call the bus garages for this purpose.

Transporting Items on the School Bus

- School books, school bags, backpacks, and band instruments must be kept on your lap or under the seat while travelling on the school bus. All loose straps and belts on school bags and knapsacks must be contained for the safety consideration of other passengers.
- Hockey sticks, broomball sticks, hockey bags, skateboards, scooters, toboggans (all types), and large items will not be transported on the school bus. The driver may refuse boarding on the school bus if a student attempts to bring any items on the bus that the driver feels compromises the safety of riders.
- In-line skates, figure skates, and hockey skates may only be transported on the bus if they are in a skate bag and held on the passenger's lap or placed under the seat.
- Food and drink are not to be carried onto the bus for purposes of eating or drinking on the bus. This includes all extra-curricular trips.

School Bus Evacuation

School bus drivers and school administrators also provide school bus evacuation and safety training to all students in the school division, twice each year. This ensures they participate in the procedures required in the event of a school bus evacuation in an emergency situation.

Students Switching School Buses

Students may be transported on buses other than their regular bus, only in emergency situations or under extenuating circumstances (***not for incidental events such as birthday parties, play parties or homework sessions, etc.***), provided the following conditions are met

- A note, signed by the parent or guardian, and authorized by the principal or school secretary, requesting permission from the driver to ride along with a particular student to that student's place of residence. NOTE: the driver can refuse the request if there is no room on the bus.

Students shall not board or exit a school bus at any point on the route other than at designated approved locations, except in case of emergencies.

School Bus and Class Cancellation

Information on class and bus cancellation will be posted on the home page of our website at www.prsdmb.ca by 6:45 am on days when cancellations occur. Information is also shared with many radio stations – tune in and keep informed. If your email address has been shared with your school, we will email you as soon as we can to keep you informed. Please ***do not call the division office*** in the morning. Tending to these calls takes away from our efficiency in communicating closure information to staff and the media.

Follow the link below to find more information on class and bus cancellations:
http://www.prsdmb.ca/studentsparents/class-cancellations/

Handling Behaviour and Conduct Problems

The student is under the disciplinary authority of the principal while riding the school bus. Misconduct by a student will be reported to the principal by the bus driver and followed up with a written report.

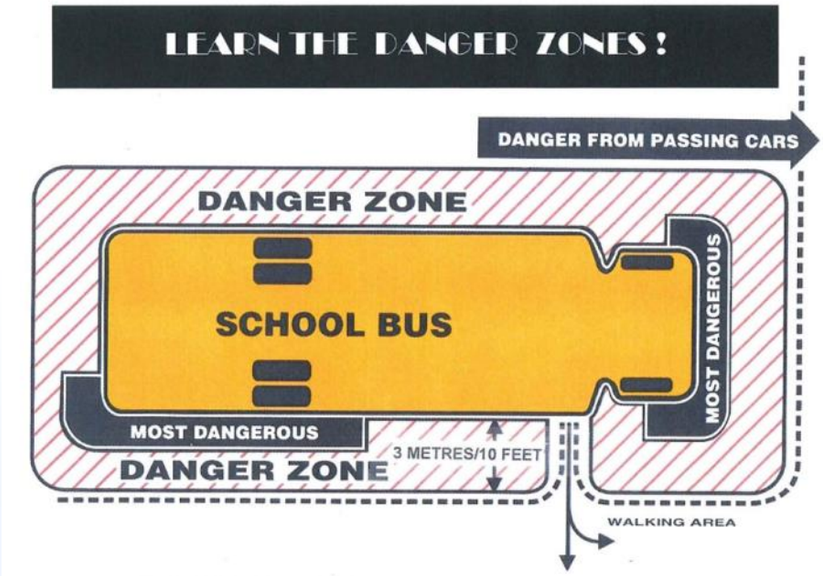
The principal may take such disciplinary action as the Public Schools Act allows including the suspension of the student's privilege to transportation. The principal will be guided by a 3-step process including discussion; warning and finally suspension.

Bullying and cyber-bullying actions, both by students and staff, should be dealt with immediately using actions appropriate for the situation. The actions must address the victim, the bully, and the context to help resolve the present situation and to prevent future occurrences.

The school bus is an expensive piece of equipment. Vandalism in any form will be severely dealt with.

School Bus Safety

School bus transportation is the safest form of land transportation. Statistics show it is 40 times safer for your child than travelling to and from school by any other means. However, it is not perfect so our goal is to make it as safe as possible. Prairie Rose School Division provides a safety program that teaches students what they can do both in and around the school bus to be safe. But you can help too. Please go over the following safety messages with your child to make sure they understand how to be safe in and around the school bus.



D - Don't be late & never run after the bus.

O - On the sidewalk, away from the road. Staying away from the road is the safe place to wait.

N - Never go into the danger zone, especially close to the front of the bus.

T - Tell the driver if you drop something. It is dangerous if you bend down near the front of the bus or climb under the bus to get something you dropped.

If you have to cross the street, cross in front of the bus. Follow the driver's directions. Stop at the center line of the road and look left, right, left. Never go if a car is coming.

Safety Inside the Bus

- Never put your head, arms, or any other body part outside the window.
- Don't distract the driver when the bus is in motion.
- Take your seat, keep your bag on your lap.

Talk With Your Kids

Please go over these questions together and make sure they know how to behave safely around the school bus.

1. When should you arrive at the bus stop?
2. Where should you wait for the bus?
3. If you drop anything near or under the bus, what should you do?
4. If you are late and your bus is pulling away, what should you do?
5. When you get off the bus, how many steps should you take before you turn left or right?
6. If you have to cross the street, how many steps in front of the bus should you take?
7. What can happen if you put your arms or head out the window?
8. The wind blows your favorite hat off and it lands in front of the bus, what should you do?
9. What can happen if you go inside the crossing gate?
10. When you need to cross the street, what should you do?
11. When you cross the street, and you reach the center line of the road, what should you do?

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Division Office: (204) 745-2003 Toll free: 1 (866) 745-2003 transportation@prsdmb.ca Updated 2016