

“In the Bus Loop”

Safety Tips for Parents from All-Star Transportation

Parents/Guardians play an important role in keeping children safe on school buses! The staff at All-Star Transportation would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to school year 2014-2015. We would like to share some important safety information which will help to keep your child safe and to keep you in “the bus loop”.

Your child’s bus ride is the first and the last part of his or her school day. The drivers at All-Star want that ride to be as safe and comfortable as possible, and you can help by reviewing the following safety tips:

Be at the bus stop on time! We ask parents to have children at the bus stop and **VISIBLE TO THE DRIVER** at least 5 minutes before the designated pick up time. If you wish to verify your child’s pick up time, please call the All-Star office.

Wait for the bus in a safe place! Bus drivers will stop the bus approximately 10 feet before the places where students are standing. Be sure to remind your child NOT to walk towards the bus until it has stopped, and the flashing **RED** lights are on.

When crossing the street look to the driver for the head nod! If your child crosses the street to board the bus the driver will instruct him or her to wait for a “head nod” (from the driver), before stepping into the street.

When your child departs the bus it is vital that they stop and look both ways when they reach the driver side corner of the bus and wait for the “head nod” from the driver before continuing across the street.

If something is dropped by your child while crossing the street, he or she must not attempt to retrieve it; it may have gone under the bus.

Review “Back-Pack-Facts” with your child weekly! Back packs should be worn when boarding the bus, and should stay on laps during the course of the bus ride. Back packs should NOT be opened on the bus! Precious possessions can “disappear” on a school bus, resulting in a traumatic school day. Drinking and eating are not permitted on our school buses. Please be sure to have your child’s name on back packs, lunch boxes, and all outer clothing. Items which are left on the bus will be turned in to the appropriate school.

Explain to your child that he or she has important responsibilities during the bus ride! Please be sure to explain to your child that he or she must be **SEATED** when the bus is moving. Good citizenship and teamwork are two important concepts which are vital to safe school bus transportation. Speaking with an "indoor voice" when riding the bus, treating other students with respect, and always following the bus driver's directions are three important components of a safe ride to and from school!

Cell phones must not be used to take pictures or record conversations. They may be used to make calls, only with the driver's permission.

Kindergarten students will not be allowed to leave the bus without a parent or designated adult to meet them! First grade through fifth grade elementary school students **will be expected** to leave the bus with or **without** an adult present. It is the responsibility of each parent to be at the bus stop on time if the student needs to be met.

Please do not pass any school bus vehicles when students are loading or unloading! There is a \$450. citation for doing so, whether the bus is on the road or at a school.

Day Care arrangements must be finalized by August 20, 2014! It is of utmost importance that all children are transported to and from the correct address. If your child is going to or from school, via an address other than your home address, it is imperative that a "Special Transportation Request" form is filled out before the beginning of each school year. These forms are available at all Region 12 schools, (see attached) and must be returned to your child's school by August 20th. Drop-off destinations for all "REACH" 12:00 bus routes must be consistent-5 days a week.

Encourage your child to enjoy the bus ride! The staff at All-Star Transportation is pleased to be a part of your child's school day. Please call the office 868-0666 with transportation questions or concerns.

Updated 7/28/2014