

BCPS Transportation Department

Parent Responsibilities

Parents of students who ride the bus:

Will have the student ready and at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled pick up time. Late students running to the bus stop is not safe! The bus driver may not see the student running to the bus and the student may get hit by another vehicle or the bus as they cross the street and approach it.

Will provide the necessary protection and safety for the child to and from the bus stop. Bus stops cannot be at every driveway and children will need to walk a distance to their bus stop. It is the parent's responsibility to provide whatever protection is necessary for their safety.

Will monitor your child's behavior at the bus stop. Please watch and make sure they do not stand any closer than 10 to 15 feet from the roadway. Students must respect other homeowner's property – no littering, trespassing, foul language or excessive noise.

Will call the Transportation Department in advance if your child(ren) will not be riding due to illness or vacations. This is especially important as the bus can avoid a street or turn around if no pickup is necessary at your house.

Will make arrangements to have someone at home for young children after school. Make sure that the bus driver can tell that someone is home, like having the garage door open for instance, and make sure the doors are unlocked so they can get into the house. If the bus driver can ascertain that no one is at home, we will not let young children off the bus. We will bring the student back to school or to the bus garage if necessary until you call or pick up your child. We will make every effort to call your home and leave a message regarding where you can pick up your child.

Will Pick up your child from school if they become sick during the day. The transportation office will make every effort to contact a parent if the child should become ill on the bus so that you can meet your child at school or at the bus stop.

Will not let students ride the bus when they have the following conditions:

- Nausea or diarrhea
- High temperature
- Infections or contagious conditions (lice, chickenpox, pink eye, etc)

Will keep animals away from the bus stop/loading area. Bus drivers cannot wait while the student takes care of their family pet and we do not want to risk injuring the pet if it chases the bus.

Will not allow your child to take any pets or insects on the bus. Even when pets are in a cage or container other students may become frightened of the pet or may be allergic to the animal. The bus driver will deny transportation to and from school if the student comes to the bus with a “critter”.

Will accept joint responsibility with the school staff for proper conduct of your child. A student’s misbehavior can result in an accident or injury to themselves or others. In the event that a student continually misbehaves on the bus, the bus driver will issue a Bus Discipline Slip. The student will be given the white copy of a triplicate form with the safety violation stated on it. The bus driver or supervisor will make every effort to contact the parent and discuss the violation. **The slip must be signed by the parent and student (if appropriate for age) and given to the bus driver the next time the student rides the bus.** Without a signed discipline slip, your child will not be allowed to ride the bus. A copy of the slip is kept in the driver’s file and a copy is sent to the principal.

A student will be suspended from riding their bus for three days after receiving three discipline slips. Students will be suspended immediately for three or more days for fighting, smoking, lighting matches or lighters, having drugs, alcohol or weapons on the bus.

Will take prescription drugs to school personally and give them to the teacher or office personnel. Do not allow the student to carry prescription drugs to school on the bus.

Will not allow students on buses with a lot of extra paraphernalia, i.e., radios, expensive or disruptive toys. The school cannot be responsible for lost, stolen or broken toys or belongings. Large band instruments that cannot fit on the floor in front of the student or on their lap are not allowed. Keep the size of their backpack to a minimum. A student’s belongings should not take up space needed to transport another student. Band instruments, backpacks and other objects are never allowed in the aisle. The aisle must remain open at all times.

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Student Responsibilities

Students who ride the bus:

Will arrive on time to the bus stop.

Will only cross the street in front of the bus and when the driver gives the signal to cross.

Will keep hands to oneself.

Will talk softly. Classroom voices only. No screaming and yelling.

Will not stand or change seats while the bus is in motion.

Will keep head, hands and feet inside the bus window at all times.

Will load and unload in a safe, orderly fashion.

Will be aware of the "Danger Zone" surrounding the bus. This zone includes ten feet all around the bus with the most dangerous area being by the front bumper and the front and rear tires.

Will be courteous and respectful to the bus driver and other students at all times.

Will not use obscene language or gestures.

Will not distract the bus driver.

Will not carry any weapon or potential weapon on the bus or to school.

Will not carry drugs or alcohol onto the bus.

Will be quiet at railroad tracks and remain quiet until the bus has passed over the tracks.

Will not take prescription drugs to school on the bus.

Will not eat or drink on the bus unless it is allowed by the bus driver.

Will not damage the bus seat in any way. Will not write on, cut or poke holes in the bus seats.

Will assume financial responsibility for vandalizing a bus seat.

Will not smoke or light matches or lighters.

Will report any unsafe conditions or serious misbehavior to the bus driver.

Will do the best to assure everyone has a safe and pleasant bus ride.

Will go directly home after getting off the bus. Will not talk to strangers or accept rides from strangers.