

Transportation

Bus Riding Rules for Student Safety

Students must be at their designated stop and ready to board the bus five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled pickup time.

The bus cannot wait for students arriving late to the stop because all traffic stops when the bus is loading and the bus is on a schedule. The other students on the bus are expecting to arrive at school on time. Riders should be waiting in an orderly manner at least ten (10) feet away from the road prior to the arrival of the bus.

Students are permitted to ride only the bus to which they have been assigned.

Switching to another bus is only permitted only if a written request is made by parents well in advance.

Students must board and disembark the bus at their assigned stop and cannot switch stops either in the morning or the afternoon.

Walking to or from another bus stop along the route is dangerous and not permitted. Once students are on board, they may not disembark at any location other than their designated stop or the school. The school cannot assume the liability for students who do not use the same stop consistently.

Once a school bus is in motion it will not stop for late or missed riders.

This safety measure is designed to discourage students from running after and/or between buses in a loading (possibly, high traffic) area. The chance of an accident increases dramatically when one bus must quickly stop in a line of moving buses, possibly causing a chain reaction. Students who miss their bus as it departs from school should immediately report to the Head of Barrie Prep or Head of Barrie Montessori's office.

Assigned Seats.

For the safety of all passengers, drivers are permitted to assign students to specific seats based on safety and/or behavioral concerns. Students who have been placed in an assigned seat are expected to remain in that seat and not move unless permission is granted to do so.

As soon as they are boarded, riders must take their seat promptly and remain properly seated for the duration of the bus ride.

"Properly seated" means that during the course of the bus ride students shall sit on the seat bench facing forward and on their posterior. Riders cannot change seats, stand up, sit on the top of the seat, or sit facing towards the rear of the bus. Unless seated three to a seat students shall not have any body part in the aisle of the bus.

Students are expected to know the rules of the bus and behave accordingly.

Talk quietly. The driver must concentrate to drive the bus safely. Loud and boisterous noise and improper conduct can cause a distraction to the driver which can lead to a serious accident. Student conduct on the bus should be no different than what is expected in the classroom. If it is not allowed in the classroom, it is not allowed in the bus. Destructive behavior to the bus will not be tolerated, and students will be held responsible.

Food and Drink.

Eating and/or drinking on the bus is not allowed. All food and/or drink must be disposed of before boarding the bus.

The aisle of a school bus must be kept free and clear of objects in the event an emergency evacuation is needed.

Personal belongings that cannot be held on a student's lap or placed safely on the floor in the space under the seat or immediately in front of the student are not permitted on the school bus. Examples of such large objects include but are not necessarily limited to certain musical instruments, science fair and other types of projects, athletic and P.E. equipment, bags, flag poles, flowers, balloons and other such items that could pose a safety problem.

Objects that might roll IN or UNDER a bus must be secured in a bag or sack.

Students will not be permitted to bring games, toys, balls, etc., on a bus unless they are secured in a school bag, equipment bag, or sack. At no time should students attempt to reach under a bus to retrieve an object.

Potentially hazardous items, chemicals, animals, or breakable items are not permitted on the bus.

Examples of items not permitted on the bus are: animals or insects; an object that could become a missile in an accident; flammable or hazardous chemicals; glass or sharp objects; and weapons of any kind.

Restricted or limited use of cell phones and electronic devices.

Students are not to use electronic devices such as cellular phones, personal digital assistants (PDA), laptop computers, or video games on the bus. A small handheld radio or MP3 player may be used provided the user is listening through personal headphones and the volume is low enough that others cannot hear the music.

It is very important to remember that the Bus Driver is in charge.

Like the teacher in the classroom, the Bus Driver is the adult in charge and responsible for the safety of all riders. Riders must be respectful and responsive to directions given by the driver.

Please remember that the main job of the driver is to drive the bus safely. Even with rules and seating assignments set in place, things can happen on the bus that the driver will not see. Should an issue arise that you are concerned about, please talk with your driver right away. He or she will be more than happy to assist.

Loss of Riding Privilege

If any student is consistently unable to follow any of the rules above, parents will be notified and the student will lose riding privileges.