

MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Perky Ruggeberg
Jen Hagemann
Co-Coordinator

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The purpose of this newsletter is to inform our families and community partners with information to help our students excel by making good choices on the school bus. Transportation continues to partner with PBIS and the schools in order to maintain positive behavior on the school buses and at bus stops. PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. At Meridian Transportation we are committed to safe timely transportation that will encourage positive behavior and interactions, while discouraging problem behaviors. This approach is based on directly teaching students the behaviors we expect to see, reminding students to use those behaviors; acknowledging students when they use positive behaviors and correcting them when they do not use positive behaviors. The goal of PBIS is to create a positive culture whether it is school or school bus by reducing problem behavior and providing safe school bus transportation for students and transportation staff. We ask for parents to support their child and the transportation department in guiding children to make positive choices.

Behavior interventions are necessary when the transportation behavior matrix is not followed. Some examples of minor offenses that will be documented by the driver or transportation staff are: incompliance/defiance/disrespect; inappropriate comments/gestures/language; inappropriate bus stop behavior; inappropriate bus riding behavior; minor disruptions; minor physical contact/aggression; eating on the bus: gum, candy, food or drinks; tardy for bus stop; littering; throwing objects; all items inside the bus; others to be assessed by occurrence; 3 Minors = 1 major. Major offenses may include but are not inclusive of the following: fighting; verbal threats; major dishonesty; smoking; alcohol; weapons; aggressive physical attack; inappropriate language; harassment of students or driver; vandalism; drugs; severe insubordination; discriminatory/inflammatory language; inappropriate use of electronic equipment chronic minor infractions (3) = one Major. Bus drivers will address minor behavior with warnings but after the first warning action will be taken such as reassignment of seating. If the parent/ guardian is present at the bus stop, the driver may discuss the behavior with them. After the second minor write up, the Transportation Coordinator will make a contact with the parent/guardian of record. Major behavior will mean an immediate contact from the principal or transportation coordinator.

As we continue to work and instill positive values and character in all of our students, we cannot make progress without the support of our families. It is very important that you speak with your child about making positive choices. Parents are asked to support this positive mission for safe school bus transportation.

Perky Ruggeber and Jen Hagemann
Transportation Co-Coordinator
815-645-2613