

Instructions to School Bus Riders

It is recommended that all riders, parents of riders, and teachers become thoroughly familiar with the following regulations governing school bus riders. Many Meridian C.U.S.D #223 students are transported each day to school on buses provided by the school district. Since bus drivers must follow a rigid time schedule, there is a set of rules, which applies to those who ride buses. Bus riders need to be aware that their activities are recorded with sound on video cameras on all buses.

1. Be on time at the designated school bus stop; help keep the bus on schedule. If the driver were required to wait for tardy pupils, it would be unfair to other families, prolong the duration of the trip, and possibly contribute to unsafe practices. Please be at your bus stop five minutes prior to your bus departure time.
2. School buses are required to travel public roads only to pick up school children. One and one-half miles is the legal distance a student may be required to walk to meet transportation or to the school building.
3. Stay off the road at all times while waiting for the bus. Bus students should stand five feet back from the roadway. Students should watch for the driver to signal them to come to the bus or cross in front of the bus. If the students have to cross in front of the bus, cross ten feet in front of the bus. Students should never cross behind the school bus.
4. Be careful when approaching the bus stops. Do not move toward the bus until the bus has been brought to a complete stop. Students should be a safe distance from a moving bus for the safety of everyone. Students, not on the bus, should not touch the bus when it is moving.
5. Be alert to traffic, look both ways, and always walk in front of bus when boarding or leaving the bus.
6. Be alert to a danger signal from the driver. Always walk out so you can see the driver's eyes and wait for the signal to approach the bus. If you can see the driver's eyes you know he/she can see you.
7. Remain in the bus in the event of a road emergency until instructions are given by the driver. Remember to always listen to your driver.
8. Do not leave your seat while the bus is in motion. All students must remain in their seats at all times while the bus is in motion. Please get on or off the bus without pushing or shoving.
9. Always practice good safe bus riding habits. Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times after entering and until leaving the bus.
10. No throwing of any type of article on the bus.
11. Students are not to eat, chew gum, or drink on the school bus.
12. Students should refrain from marking, defacing, or in any way damaging school buses on the inside or outside. The parents of the students will pay for any such damage. School buses are very expensive new and are very expensive to maintain. Please help your child to see the importance of maintaining school property. Do not throw anything out the bus windows.
13. Pupils must refrain from unnecessary conversation with the driver. Drivers are very busy with the job of safe driving. Remember that loud talking and laughing or unnecessary confusion, diverts the driver's attention and could result in a serious accident. Students or drivers should use no profanity.
14. Be absolutely quiet when approaching a railroad crossing stop or dangerous roadway intersections.
15. Treat bus equipment as you would valuable furniture in your own home. Never tamper with the bus or any of its equipment. Ask permission to open or close windows. Keep all body parts inside the bus window.
16. Assist in keeping the bus safe and sanitary at all times.
17. Carry no animals on the bus.
18. Keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisles.
19. Be courteous to fellow pupils and the bus driver.
20. Help look after the safety and comfort of smaller children.
22. Do not ask the driver to stop at places other than the regular bus stop; he/she is not

permitted to do this except by proper authorization from a school official.

23. Observe safety precautions at discharge points. Where it is necessary to cross the highway, proceed to a point at least 10 feet in front of the bus on the right shoulder of the highway where traffic may be observed in both directions. Then wait for a signal from the bus driver permitting you to cross.

24. Observe the same rules and regulations on other trips under school sponsorship as you observe between home and school. Respect the wishes of the chaperone appointed by the school.

25. Use cell phone and I-pod rules that apply at school. We will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.

26. In case of school being dismissed early during the day (hot weather, snow, etc.) parents should have a written/documented plan whereby their child may stay at a neighbor's home if the parent is not at home on such a day.

27. Conditions regarding bus schedules due to bad weather.

- a) We will utilize our calling system. Make sure that we have your preferred notification number on file.
- b) Hazardous weather (snow): When it is decided that buses will not run, radio and television stations will be informed. This information is to be broadcast no later than 7:30 A.M. We will do our best to broadcast the information over Rockford radio stations WRRR, WXRX, WROK, WZOK and Rochelle radio. T.V. channels 13 and 17 will also be informed.
- c) Please remember these stations are very difficult to contact on mornings such as this and all cannot be informed at once.

28. It will be the parents' responsibility to bring children to or from school if portions of the routes are impassable.