



Village of Bourbonnais POLICE DEPARTMENT

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JAMES A. PHELPS
CHIEF OF POLICE

Dear Parents:

On 01/06/23, I, SRO Garcia, was informed about numerous parents that violated the school bus stop arm that was extended while students were being unloaded at Alan B. Shepard. This is no isolated incident as stop arm violations continue to happen elsewhere. I would like to remind everyone that disobeying the extended stop arm, even in the parking lot, is a violation of Illinois Vehicle Code and could result in a traffic citation. Below is section (a) of 625 ILCS 5/11-1414, the law that details the "Approaching, Overtaking, and Passing School Bus."

(a) The driver of a vehicle shall stop such vehicle before meeting or overtaking, from either direction, any school bus stopped on a highway, roadway, private road, parking lot, school property, or at any other location, including, without limitation, a location that is not a highway or roadway for the purpose of receiving or discharging pupils. Such stop is required before reaching the school bus when there is in operation on the school bus the visual signals as specified in Sections 12-803 and 12-805 of this Code. The driver of the vehicle shall not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or the driver of the vehicle is signaled by the school bus driver to proceed or the visual signals are no longer actuated.

The buses of Bourbonnais Elementary School District #53 are equipped with stop arm cameras that record the vehicle, driver, and license plate of the violation. This evidence can be used to issue the traffic citation via mail at a later date. The penalty for violating the stop arm of a bus is a minimum fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and possible license suspension of three (3) months.

Though I am informing you about the consequences of the violation, my main reason for writing this is to remind everyone why the law and fines exist; to keep our children safe. Pick up and drop off from a bus is a dangerous time for students. To ensure their safety while they board or exit the bus everyone needs to adhere to the stop arm while it is displayed. Younger students can be unpredictable and may come around a bus without warning. Please consider the safety of students when you see the flashing red lights and extended stop arm of a bus no matter where the bus is located.

Thank you for considering the safety of all students and following the law.

SRO Travis Garcia #134

Respectfully:
School Resource Officer Travis Garcia #134