

**Transporting your children** to and from school each day is a great privilege and a great responsibility. Blaine School District Transportation Department members strive to create a safe, respectful, and responsible atmosphere on all of our buses and at the bus stops. Our drivers are implementing Positive Behavior Instructional Supports on our buses. Drivers will teach and model for students how to be safe, respectful and responsible while on the bus.

**To help ensure** that we are working together, we invite you to get to know your bus drivers. Come partner with us so we can ensure your child is successful. We look forward to getting to know you and to making sure that your students begin and end each day with a safe, respectful and responsible experience aboard our buses.

Please contact the BSD Transportation Department (360) 332-0700 or your school's office directly for changes to your student's bus riding schedule.

## **BE SAFE**

1. Back to back — Seat to seat — Feet on floor, facing forward
  2. Food free zone
  3. Silence at and during a railroad crossing
  4. Cross only in front of the bus
  5. Keep skateboards, glass, any oversized objects off the bus
- *Note: Washington State Administrative Code 392-145-121 prohibits the transport of heavy, sharp, bulky or other unsecured items in the passenger area of any school bus that may be hazardous in the event of an accident or emergency stop. For transportation to and from school, this includes curriculum-related items such as larger musical instruments. Also, helium balloons are not allowed.*

## **BE RESPONSIBLE**

1. Be at bus stop 5 minutes early and wait 5 big steps back from roadway
  2. Go directly to your seat
  3. Get on and off the bus at your designated stop
  4. Keep all items inside your backpack and keep yourself inside your seat space
  5. Cell phones must be silenced. No videos or pictures while on the bus.
- *Note 1: For a student to ride another bus or to get off at a different stop, written permission or a phone call by parent or guardian to the school office is required. The school office will issue a bus pass which must be given to the bus driver when boarding.*
  - *Note 2: Parent/Guardian or designee must be present at the bus stop to receive preschool and Primary students returning home, as well as when departing on the bus to school.*

## **BE RESPECTFUL**

1. Follow driver's directions at all times
  2. Use classroom voice
  3. Use polite words, treat each other with kindness
  4. Keep hands and feet to yourself
  5. Respect each other's space
- *Note: Procedures for incident reports—A Bus Incident Report will be written for a student who does not follow the rules. The report will be given to the school discipline officer who will determine the action to be taken.*

## **BUS CONDUCT RULES**

### **PRIOR TO LOADING**

1. Be at the designated bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled time. The bus cannot wait for a tardy student; the bus needs to stay on schedule.
2. When it is necessary to walk along the roadway, walk on the left facing traffic. Walk on the shoulder or sidewalk when available.
3. Students shall cross the road in front and never behind the school bus. Students that cross must wait for a signal from the driver that it is safe to do so.
4. Upon entering the bus, please find a seat and remain seated.
5. Students shall identify themselves upon request and comply with the direction of the bus driver, administration, or other authorized school personnel.
6. While waiting for the bus, stay off the traveled portion of the roadway. Utilize the side walk if available. No pushing and shoving. Please respect the property of homeowners in the area. Do not run beside the bus when it is moving.
7. When loading, wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before moving toward it. Board the bus in an orderly manner.

### **WHILE ON THE BUS**

1. Obey the direction of the driver and other personnel in authority on the bus. Be seated while the bus is in motion, facing forward with feet out of the aisle. Do not sit in the stepwell or driver's seat.
2. Conduct yourself in a manner that will not distract the driver or disturb other riders. While the bus is moving, please do not talk to the driver except for important matters or emergencies.
3. With the exception of ordinary conversation, students shall observe regular standards of classroom conduct while on a school bus.
4. Students are expected to refrain from conducting themselves in a manner that would constitute harassment, intimidation, bullying, threats, threatening statements, or verbal abuse of another student for any reason. Any student who believes that they have been a victim or witness to, should bring this to the attention of the bus driver.
5. Obtain driver permission before opening a window. Keep hands, head, legs, etc. inside the bus at all times. Do not throw or pass objects through open windows.
6. Cell phones will be kept in silence mode and limited to communicating with parents only. Under no circumstance will videos or pictures be allowed.
7. Students may be assigned a seat in which they shall be seated at all times unless specifically authorized to change seats.
8. Keep the bus clean. Eating, drinking and chewing gum are not allowed. Deposit paper and other unwanted objects in the trash container provided.
9. Students shall not carry any object on the bus which could affect the safety of the passengers including, but not limited to: items such as knives, sharp objects, firearms, chemicals, explosives and breakable containers.
10. No plants, animals, balloons, or hazardous objects are allowed on the bus.
11. Do not use tobacco, profane language or gestures, drugs, alcoholic beverages, matches or lighters on the bus. Vape, juul, or any electronic smoking devices are strictly prohibited on buses.

12. Gang activity is prohibited. Gang clothing, gang graffiti, gang language and or hand signs, or other action that imitate or promote the formation or continuance of gangs will be deemed to be engaging in gang activity.
13. Keep the aisle and front stepwell clear of books and personal belongings of students. When departing, remove all items which were brought on the bus.
14. All items brought on the bus should be in a backpack and held on the student's lap, except for approved musical instruments.
15. In the interest of safety, life, and property, students are directed to refrain from tampering in any way with the emergency exits or fire extinguishers.

### **GETTING OFF THE BUS**

1. Always wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before and after the door opens before starting to unload.
2. Move away from the bus after exiting.
3. Do not attempt to retrieve dropped items anywhere close to the bus. Instead, notify the driver.
4. When crossing the road, always cross in front of the bus. Look for the signal from the driver before crossing.
5. Check for traffic one more time after the driver signals.
6. Drivers will not release Primary aged children without an approved adult at the bus stop.

### **PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE CONSEQUENCES**

(steps may be skipped or adjusted depending on the severity of the offense)

1. Bus Driver discusses behavior with student and may contact parent
2. Referral to the school discipline office (school consequence or one day bus suspension)
3. Three day bus suspension
4. Five day bus suspension
5. Ten day bus suspension
6. Long term bus suspension (remainder of term or year)
  - *Students/Parents are responsible for the cost of repairs due to vandalism or misuse.*

### **WALKERS**

Students living within a one-mile radius from school are expected to walk or bike to school. (This is a straight-line, "as the crow flies", one-mile walking distance.) Please call Transportation at 360-332-0700 to see whether your child will walk to a particular school. The district partners with the City of Blaine and Blaine Police Dept. to support families with identifying safe school walk routes.