

WELCOME ABOARD

KINDERGARTNERS



MARYSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #25
Marysville, Washington

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Welcome to the Marysville School District. We take great pride in transporting the most precious cargo in the world: Your children. We will do everything humanly possible to make this monumental occasion – the day your child rides a yellow school bus for the first time – a very pleasant and memorable event. We hope that the first ride will be a good beginning for many pleasant and safe school bus rides for your child.

We have prepared this booklet as a guide for you, the parent of a new kindergarten student. Our intent is to provide information pertaining to Washington State and Marysville School District policies, procedures and regulations. In the event a situation occurs that is not covered in this booklet, please give us a call at the Transportation Office (360 965-0300), and we will assist you.

Our primary goal is to provide safe and efficient transportation for all eligible students. The Transportation Department staff is always available to discuss any questions you may have regarding your child's transportation. Please feel free to call us.

BUS ROUTES

If you use a daycare/baby-sitter, it is wise to make sure the area is served by a bus from the elementary school in your area. If the daycare/babysitter is outside your child's kindergarten attendance area, you would be expected to provide transportation to and from school. If you need information about the boundaries of your school's service area, please call the Transportation Department prior to making firm commitments or arrangements for daycare.

BUS STOPS

There **must** be an adult present to receive kindergarten students. If there is not an adult at the stop, the student will be returned to the school. At this point it becomes the parent's/guardian's responsibility to transport the child.

When kindergarten students are being picked up or being dropped off with older students, they do not need an adult present. If you are allowing your student to walk home from the bus stop without an adult, you should have a permission note given to the driver. For the first few weeks of school, it is recommended that you take your child to the bus stop and also meet the bus on the return trip. This will help your child overcome possible fears of the new situation. You can also help teach your child about rules and expected behavior at the bus stop.

Please help us reinforce the following safety rules:

- 1) No standing or playing in the street.
- 2) Keep books and lunch pails out of the street.
- 3) Wait until the bus stops and wait until the driver opens the door and waves the student onto the bus.
- 4) Leave pets at home.
- 5) Walk on the shoulder or walkway, and, if possible, always walk facing traffic when walking to and from the bus stop.

Please allow your child to ride to and from school the first few days of school. Driving your child will only delay learning how to ride the bus, as well as delay our being able to time the route and establish bus stop times accurately. Should you feel a need to be at the school, have your child ride the bus and you can follow the bus.

One of the most crucial rules to teach kindergarten students is how to cross the street safely for loading or unloading the bus. Students must always cross in front of the bus, away from the crossing arm. Students must never cross the street until the driver checks the road, all traffic has stopped (and red bus lights are flashing), and the driver waves to the child to cross. The child should always look to the driver for instructions before crossing. If the child drops something while they are crossing, they should return immediately to the side of the road, then get the driver's attention before going back to pick up the article. Students should not stop to pick up the article until the driver is aware of the problem because the driver may not be able to see the student and may not be aware of the child's presence. Play-acting safety rules with your child is a good way to teach rules.



DO'S AND DON'TS

1. Do walk with your student to the bus stop and do familiarize your student with the surroundings and their route home.
2. Do make sure your child is ready when the bus arrives. Students should be waiting at the stop at least 5 minutes before the published stop time; however, arriving too early can lead to unsupervised discipline problems, so timing is important.
3. Do be flexible, especially during the first few days of school. The schedule may change each day due to new students entering school. Schedules become dependable after a week or two. Thank you for your patience with the necessary schedule adjustments.
4. Do make sure your student knows his/her full name, address and phone number. **Also pin this information onto clothing** so that it will not come off and get lost at school.
5. Do make sure your student learns to stay out of the road while waiting for the bus. Students should stand quietly at the bus stop, well away from traffic.
6. Do keep pets at home and away from the bus stop.
7. Animals, fish, birds, etc., may not ride the bus to school with your student. Drivers have implicit instructions never to allow any type of animal onto the bus, with the exception of assistance animals.
8. Don't pack glass containers; they are not allowed on the school bus. Glass containers also cause problems at school.
9. Toys or "show and tell" items can create problems on the bus. Students should carry books and materials in a bag. It would also help to mark this bag with your child's name and class.



How to be

SAFE, RESPECTFUL, & RESPONSIBLE



On the Bus

Being **Safe**, Means:

- Sitting seat to seat and back to back in your seat.
- Your feet should be on the ground and in front of you.
- Keeping you and your belongings out of the aisle.

Being **Respectful**, Means:

- Using school level voices.
- Not touching other students or their belongings.
- Not writing on or tearing the bus seats.

Being **Responsible**, Means:

- Keeping all your items in your backpack.
- Keeping your backpack on your lap or on your back.
- Using the garbage can if you have garbage.

