



**Depew Union Free School District**  
DISTRICT OFFICES  
5201 S. Transit Road  
Depew, New York 14043-4335  
[www.depewschools.org](http://www.depewschools.org)

**Hank Stopinski, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(716) 686-5105  
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## Superintendent's Weekly Message

8/26/2022

Community Members,

Preparing for the arrival of our students in September is a task that we begin shortly after the end of the previous school year in late June. Not only must we refresh our buildings, we must prepare schedules, complete training, interview new staff and so much more. One of our most important tasks is to prepare for the transportation of our students which takes the entire summer!

Did you know that all of our drivers must pass extensive federal and state background checks? They must complete over 26 hours of training in the classroom and behind the wheel of a school bus and hold a Commercial Driver's License. Have you ever thought about the importance that our drivers and bus aides play in supporting our students and staff? Our transportation staff are often the first person our children see when they go to school and the last person they see when going home for the afternoon. They are some of our biggest cheerleaders for our athletes, support for our musicians who travel to regional competitions and the people who get our students to those important field trips safely throughout the year. I encourage you all to thank our transportation team when you have a moment.

As you prepare for the start of school, I encourage you to visit the [District Student Transportation Website Link](#) for some important information regarding our transportation service. Some very important bus rules to review with your children to encourage safe behavior include:

1. Have children put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag, so they won't drop things along the way. Secure any loose drawstrings, etc. so they won't catch on the handrails or bus door. Always use the handrail when loading or unloading.
2. Have them wear bright, contrasting colors so drivers can see them more easily during early hours.
3. Be at the stop 5 minutes before the bus arrives. Make sure they leave home on time so they can.
4. Running to the stop is dangerous. Never run to catch the bus.
5. There is safety in numbers and groups are easier for drivers to see. Walk them to the stop, have older children walk in groups.

**"Inspiring, Challenging, Achieving"**



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6. Practice good pedestrian behavior. Walk on sidewalks, stay out of the street, if you must walk in the street, face traffic, and stay close to the edge of the road.
7. When crossing the street look left, right then left again. Do the same thing at driveways and alleys, as well as crossing the street to load the bus. Parents should be sure to teach this behavior to children.
8. Don't let your child play running games or push & shove at bus stops. It is very dangerous near traffic.
9. Make sure your child stands at least 10 feet (5 giant steps) from the road. While waiting for the bus, the child will then be out of the way of traffic. Practice with your children so that they can become familiar with the 10 feet rule.
10. Respect other pupils, residents, and property while waiting for the bus.

Do not hesitate to pull me aside at a District or Community event and help me to better understand our schools and community. For those of you who may be interested, please consider following me on Twitter @DrStopinski where I will be sharing the good news of Depew.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hank Stopinski  
Superintendent of Schools