

MOUNT BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT #507

TRANSPORTATION

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SCHOOL BUS PASSENGER RULES AND PROCEDURES



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please discuss these rules and procedures with your student(s). It will assist them in understanding the important role they play in safe and efficient school bus transportation. Appropriate respectful behavior is expected and passenger cooperation is of utmost importance. Your assistance in communicating this message is greatly appreciated.

Route guides have been established for all bus routes. Unless there are unforeseen circumstances, the bus should arrive at the bus stop within 3 minutes of the scheduled pickup and drop off time. Detailed snow routes are available in the fall on the Mount Baker School District's website. Local radio stations will give up-to-date information when school closure or delays occur. The Mount Baker School District's 24-hour weather and information telephone number is 383-2070.

We encourage you to contact the bus driver and/or the transportation office with any concerns or issues you may have regarding your student's transportation situation.

STUDENT BUS STOPS. With safety being the #1 priority, all students who must walk to a bus stop should walk facing traffic, line up single file at a safe distance from the roadway, respect private property, and not talk to or go with any strangers. Students should be waiting at their designated school bus stop AT LEAST 5 MINUTES prior to their assigned pick up time. Drivers are instructed not to arrive at stops early if possible, and also not to wait at stops for students who are not there. Please help us to be on time by being at your stop 5 minutes early.

Each school office needs written parental permission in order for their child to depart the bus at a stop or location other than their designated bus stop. The note needs to contain the following information: student's name, name of where they are going, address (this is **very important**, so a sub bus driver knows exactly where to drop them off), and how long the note is for (today only, rest of school year, etc.)

Although we are not required to have a parent present when a student is dropped off at their stop, there may be times when a driver decides it is in the best interest of the student to keep them on board (including, but not limited to, a parent is always there and not present this one time or a student is timid about getting off without a parent there). Additionally, if you require an adult to ALWAYS be present when your student is dropped off, you must notify the Transportation Office IN WRITING.

SCHOOL BUS PASSENGER RULES AND PROCEDURES (Cont'd.)

LOADING/UNLOADING BUS. We make every effort to load and unload students door side rather than have them cross in front of the bus; if it is necessary for a student to cross the road to load or unload the bus, they are *NOT* to cross until the bus red lights are flashing, the STOP paddle sign is out, the front cross arm is extended, and the driver nods to the student that it is safe to cross. Students should cross ONLY IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL BUS. **Students should *NEVER* run to catch a moving bus.**

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR PRESCHOOL PARENTS. Preschool students need to be MET at the bus stop by a parent/guardian or another adult. Please communicate to your bus driver or the Transportation Office if someone other than you will be meeting your student. If you become aware of a problem please speak with the driver or call the Transportation Office as soon as possible so it can be dealt with in a timely manner.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS. The school bus ride is considered an extension of the school day and students are expected to behave in a way that is consistent with school and classroom expectations. School bus drivers are responsible for the supervision of students from the time the bus arrives at the bus stop in the morning until the time the students are safely unloaded at the school, and from loading at the school in the afternoon until students are safely unloaded at their bus stop. Following in this information are the Rules of Conduct for Students Riding School Buses. Violations of the rules of conduct on buses will be dealt with in a progressive way. Lower level violations will be reported directly to parents by the bus drivers and discipline applied on the bus (i.e. assigned seats, etc.). More serious or exceptional misconduct will be reported to school principals. Discipline for major misconduct and repeated violations may include suspension and/or revocation of the student's bus riding privilege, as well as in-school discipline.

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES

1. **OBEY THE BUS DRIVER AT ALL TIMES.** The driver is in full charge and has the authority to assign seats. Students and parents should know that for safety and student behavior management, activity on our school buses could be recorded using a video/audio recording system installed on the majority of our buses.
2. **REMAIN SAFELY SEATED, SPEAK SOFTLY AND USE NO PROFANITY.** Passengers shall promptly go to an available or assigned seat. Aisles and exits shall remain clear. No shouting or loud talking permitted.
3. **RESPECT PEOPLE AND PROPERTY.** No disruptive, distracting, discourteous, rude, or abrasive behavior allowed. Parents of students identified as causing damage to buses could be charged with the cost of incurred damage.
4. **KEEP HEAD AND HANDS AND ALL OBJECTS INSIDE THE BUS.** Books and personal belongings will be kept out of aisles.
5. **EATING AND DRINKING ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE BUS.** Passengers shall not use or possess e-cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol, drugs or any controlled substance on the bus.
6. **ITEMS NOT ALLOWED ON THE BUS.** To comply with state law and district policies, the following items are NOT ALLOWED inside a school bus:
 - Any item that can cause injury to passengers on the bus, including but not limited to: sticks, breakable containers, straps or pins protruding from clothing.
 - Jars, bottles, glass objects.
 - Weapons, including but not limited to: guns, knives, razor blades, squirt guns, fireworks, aerosol cans.
 - Students will not have animals on buses, except one providing assistance to a disabled student, as approved by the District Office.
 - Oversized musical instruments or large, bulky objects, including large shop or horticultural projects, which cannot be held or placed between legs, etc. Horticultural flats **must** be held and not placed elsewhere.
 - Sports equipment, such as golf clubs, skis, snowboards, and skateboards.
 - Inflated balloons and other large projects/objects.

Your student needs to plan alternate transportation if any of these items need to be transported to/from school.

See School Board Policy Procedure 6605P, "Student Safety Walking to School and Riding Buses", for more information about student conduct on buses.