School Bus Safety Tips For Parents

Getting On and Off the Bus

- Teach your child that if they drop something while entering or leaving the bus, they should NEVER pick it up. Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver’s instructions.

- Teach your child to secure loose drawstrings and other objects that may get caught in the handrail or door of the bus.

- The driver isn’t allowed to let a child off at another stop without written permission. Send a note with your child to their school if he or she needs to get off at a different stop than the one assigned to them.

- If you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where your child will be dropped off, and not across the street. Children can be so excited at seeing you after school that they may dash across the street and forget the safety rules.

Bremerton School District
Transportation Department
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Bremerton, WA 98312
Phone: 360-473-0514
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Getting Ready for School

- Have your children put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag so they won’t drop things along the way.
- Have them wear bright, contrasting colors so they will be more easily seen by drivers.
- Make sure they can leave home on time so they can walk to the bus stop and arrive at least five (5), but no more than ten (10) minutes before the bus is due. Running to the bus stop can be very dangerous.

Walking to the Bus Stop

- Walk your young child to the bus stop and have older children walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.
- Practice good pedestrian behavior: walk on the sidewalk, if there is no sidewalk, stay out of the street.
- If you must walk to your bus stop, walk single file, face traffic (if possible,) and stay as far from the edge of the road as you can.
- Do not cross the street to get to your bus stop unless there is a crosswalk, or the bus has arrived and the driver has given you the signal that it is safe to cross. Make sure you look left, right, and then left again when crossing the street. Do the same at driveways and alleys.
- Exaggerate your head turns and narrate your actions so your child knows you are looking left, right, and left.
- Do not use a cell phone or have earbuds on when walking to the bus stop.

Waiting at the Bus Stop

- Don’t let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is dangerous near traffic.
- Make sure your child stands away from the road while waiting for the bus.
- Teach your child to respect public and private property at the bus stop.

Riding the Bus

- Bus behavior expectations are the same as in our schools: Be safe, be responsible, and be respectful.
- Children are to follow the driver’s instructions at all times. This will help keep your child safe on the bus.
- Children are to stay seated during the entire bus ride and keep the aisles clear.
- Children should talk quietly, and should also be courteous to other people.

Did you know that transportation by school bus is the safest way for your child to get to and from school? Transportation by bus also removes vehicles from the road, creating a better environment for everyone!