

## **BEAUTIFUL PLAINS BUS RIDERSHIP POLICY**

The following is provided as guidelines for training students in bus ridership. Safe and courteous ridership is a shared responsibility of the student, his/her parents, the division transportation department, and the schools.

School bus transportation is provided as a service to students. Appropriate, courteous and safe behaviour is expected.

Each driver, in cooperation with the Transportation Supervisor and the school principals will establish and maintain appropriate conduct. In the event of continuous or serious misconduct, the students' parents and school principal will be contacted. When appropriate, students may be denied bus riding privileges by the principal or his/her school.

In order to develop safe and courteous ridership, all the partners are requested to promote and encourage the following practices.

### **A) BEFORE AND AFTER THE BUS RIDE**

1. Students must be on time. This helps keep the bus on schedule.
2. Students approaching from the opposite side of the road to the bus stop are encouraged to wait until the bus is stopped in order to have the advantage of the flashing lights for a safe crossing.
3. Students are to cross at least 3 meters in front of the bus and only after checking to make sure there is no traffic approaching and the bus driver has given the "all clear" signal.
4. Students should stay well back (2 meters) from an approaching bus until it is completely stopped and then board single file in an orderly manner.
5. After unloading, students should move 2 meters from the side of the bus as it pulls away.

### **B) WHILE ON THE BUS**

1. The driver is responsible for controlling the bus riders on regular routes. On extracurricular trips, this responsibility shall be shared by the driver and the supervising teacher.

2. Students will sit on the seat assigned to them by the bus driver and shall remain seated unless loading or unloading.
3. Students are expected to keep books, coats, packages and all other objects out of the aisles. Carry on items are limited to small articles that can easily be carried on the lap or stored under a seat occupied by the student.
4. Students should be courteous to fellow students, the bus driver and to others in the following ways:
  - a) Avoid loud talking and laughing or creating confusion which might divert the driver's attention and might result in a serious accident. Keep completely quiet when the bus is stopped at railway crossings.
  - b) Keep head and hands inside the bus at all times.
  - c) Check with the driver before opening windows and before eating food on the bus. Never throw anything out of a bus window.
5. Students are expected to assist in keeping the bus safe and clean. Students should not tamper with the bus or its equipment and those who cause damage to seats, or bus equipment will be required to pay for repair or replacement costs.
6. The rear door is to be used for emergency purposes only.

**C) PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Parents are to ensure that the driver has been notified if their students will not be travelling by bus at a particular time.
2. Parents are to ensure that students are dressed appropriately for weather conditions. In winter, rural students or students taking part in extracurricular activities should be prepared for sudden storms or emergency situations; i.e. students should wear snow boots and other warm clothes. Bus riding privileges may be taken from students who are not dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.
3. Parents should be encouraged annually to review the practices outlined in this Division Bus Ridership Policy.

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