



Tips & Policies for Successful School Bus Rides

DEAR PARENT/GUARDIAN:

Your child will soon be riding the school bus, perhaps for the first time. We would like to make this a positive experience. The following tips and policies are designed to keep your child safe. Please go over the following rules and guidelines to help prepare your child for the first day on the bus. We also ask that you walk out to the bus with your child the first two or three days. Students should ride the bus on the first day of school so they can understand and experience the whole routine of their school day. The first days of school we provide adults at the schools to help students learn how to load their assigned bus. If they are transported by parents during the first days of school they don't receive the added assistance.

PARENTS RIDING THE BUS

Parents may not ride the school bus. Drivers are instructed not to let unauthorized adults on the bus. This is for the protection of all students. The only exception is when a parent serves as a school approved chaperone for a field trip.

STUDENTS WILL BE DROPPED AT THE SAME LOCATION 5 DAYS A WEEK

Elementary children often cannot recognize what day of the week it is and if there are split locations for drop off during the week the child may become confused and get off at the wrong place and could potentially be in severe danger if there is no adult at that location. If a Pre-K through 5th grade child needs to get dropped at a different location parents must give written consent to M&M Bus Service 2 days prior to the one-time change. **NO changes in drop off location will be accepted via email or social media. No student drop off schedules or calendars will be accepted for a weekly change in drop off.** Please see the accompanying document for further information. [LINK](#)

YOU MAY CHOOSE HOME OR DAYCARE AS THE DROP OFF LOCATION

Before the school year begins, you must designate either your home or a specific daycare for the drop off location. If you choose a daycare, you must fill out a Childcare Transportation Request Form. If M&M does not receive a Childcare Transportation Request Form, your child will be dropped at the address you listed as your home. A new Childcare Transportation Request Form has to be filled out every school year. Please see the accompanying document for further information. [LINK](#)

SCHOOL BAGS

It is extremely important that your child carry a school bag to school. All papers, shoes, or other items carried between home and school should be in the school bag. Loose items cause a serious hazard for students as they get on or off the school bus. Almost all accidents that occur around the school bus are caused by children going back or stopping to pick up papers or other items that they have dropped or forgotten.

WAITING AT THE BUS STOP

Students should wait approximately 20 feet back from the residential corner where the bus will stop. When the driver opens the door, then it is time to walk toward the bus. Schedule your child to be at the bus stop

5 minutes before the time the bus is to arrive. Arriving late can cause the student to hurry and forget to be careful.

CROSSING THE STREET

If it is necessary for your child to cross the street to get on the bus, extra caution should be used. Students should wait for the bus to stop, and the red lights and stop arm should be extended. The driver will signal to students by a waving of the hand to let them know it is safe to cross. Students must wait for the driver's signal before crossing. The students should also check for traffic before crossing the road. Students should cross 10 feet in front of the bus so that the driver can see them. A child that is 3-4 feet tall cannot be seen by the driver if they walk too close to the bus. If the students can see the driver's face, then the driver can see the student.

STAYING SEATED

Remind your child that it is necessary to remain seated while the bus is moving. Students should not get up until the bus stops at the school or at the student's bus stop. The driver will allow them time to get seated in the morning or time to get off at night and safely off the street before pulling away. Kindergarten, pre-school, and elementary students should sit the closest to the front of the bus.

AFTER SCHOOL DROP OFF

When getting dropped off, students should walk directly to the sidewalk or driveway. If it is necessary to cross the street, walk 10 feet in front of the bus and wait for the driver's signal before crossing. Never cross behind the bus! You must notify the school and bus company if your child's pick up and drop off location should change. If you need your child to get dropped off at a daycare, a form must be filled out by you to notify the bus company. If your child wishes to ride home with another student or get off at any stop that is not their regular stop, written notification must be given to the bus company 2 days prior to the one-time change. **NO changes in drop off location will be accepted via email or social media. No student drop off schedules or calendars will be accepted for a weekly change in drop off.** If your child should ever miss the bus, they should go back into the school and someone will assist them. **Students should never begin walking home or attempt to run after the bus.**

SCHOOL DELAYS OR CANCELLATIONS

Listen to radio stations WCCO (830) or KRWC (1340) or TV channels 4, 5, and 11. The school also uses an auto notification system for parents via the phone numbers you designate. When school is 2 hours late there is no AM Preschool that day.

We hope this will help to promote safe journeys for your student/s in the years that lie ahead. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at:

320-274-8313

Student School Bus Safety Rules

MN.Statute 121A.59:

Transportation by school bus is a privilege not a right.

1. Follow the directions of the driver at all times.
2. Sit in your seat facing forward with feet on the floor.
3. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
4. No fighting, harassment, bullying, intimidation, or horseplay.
5. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
6. No eating, drinking, use of tobacco or drugs.
7. Dangerous or large objects are not allowed on the bus.
8. Students must ride their assigned bus and get off at their assigned stop.
9. Students must always remain on school grounds while waiting for the bus.
10. Students will pay for any vandalism to buses.

Keep The Bus Clean!!!

Students who choose not to follow the bus rules will not be allowed to ride the bus for a specified period of time, according to the Board approved school bus discipline policy for each school building. Discipline policies are in effect while waiting for the bus as well as when riding the bus.

If there happens to be an incident involving your child, please contact our office at 320-274-8313. Parents will be asked to fill out an incident report form over the phone with a staff member. Our office will then investigate the incident and either hand it over to the appropriate school administrator or return your call once the investigation has been completed.

Safety

The number one priority for M&M Bus Service is safety. The students we transport are our first concern in all aspects of student transportation from hiring drivers to planning school bus routes.

The M&M team of drivers undergo extensive training and testing upon employment and receive ongoing training on a regular basis. Training includes but is not limited to:

- **State and Federal Background Checks**
- **Pre-Employment Drug Testing**
- **Random Drug and Alcohol Testing**
- **State Written and Behind the Wheel Tests**
- **DOT Physical Examinations**
- **First Aid and Emergency Preparedness Training**
- **Defensive Driving Training**
- **Student Behavior Management**
- **Inclement Weather Driving Techniques**
- **Anti-Bullying Training**
- **Sexual Harrassment Training**
- **Special Needs Training**
- **Large Vehicle Obstacle Course Training**
- **Vehicle Maintenance and Daily Pre-Trip Inspection**
- **Annual Driving Evaluation of driving skills and Student Behavior Management**

M&M Bus Service also provides all in-bus safety training for students at the elementary level with a comprehensive, age sensitive program. We execute practice emergency evacuations as prescribed by MN State Law.