

The Bus Rider CODE

Challenge Yourself

Stay seated until you get to your destination
Keep all objects & parts of the body inside of the bus
Follow bus driver instructions 100% of the time

Own Your Behavior

Be responsible for yourself
Keep hands & feet to yourself
Use a low tone of voice (voice level 1 or 2)

Display Respect

Be kind and use good manners
Pick up trash and wipe up spills
Thank the bus driver & use the sidewalks

Encourage Others

Set a good example



Each year School District 99M travels many miles per day to provide transportation to elementary and high school students. Every effort is made to assure the parent and student that the school bus ride is as safe as possible. You, as parents and student passengers, can help make each school bus ride a safe one.

RULES

The following rules have been developed to insure a safe, enjoyable, and efficient ride. Remember the Knight's CODE when traveling on the school bus: Challenge yourself, Own your behavior, Display respect, Encourage others. The same behavior rules that apply at school apply on the bus. **This includes all expectations from the student/parent handbook. Violations of these expectations will result in discipline measures including suspension of bus-riding privileges.**

Prior to Boarding the School Bus:

1. Be on time and waiting for the bus at the approved school bus stop. On Highway 2, students are to be within 100 feet of the highway and ready to board the bus. The bus will only stop long enough for students to load/unload.
2. Wait on the side of the road or on the sidewalk for the bus.
3. Practice good manners, respect others and their property.
4. Wait for the school bus to come to a complete stop before boarding the bus.
5. Do not run toward the bus in an effort to be the first to board the bus. Wait for the driver to signal you to cross the road, then walk to the bus to begin boarding. When it is necessary to cross the road at a bus stop, cross only in front of the bus, after looking both ways to make sure no traffic is approaching and upon signal from the driver.

While Riding the School Bus:

1. Go immediately to a seat, sit down and remain in the seat until the bus is completely stopped. Students may not reserve seats
2. Keep all objects and all parts of the body inside the bus when in motion.
3. Keep the aisles clear at all times. Backpacks, instruments, lunch boxes and so on should either be placed under the seat, or held in the lap.
4. Talk should be at voice level 1 or 2 (low conversational tone). Riders should not carry on unnecessary conversation with the driver.
5. Use language and behaviors appropriate for school.
6. Students in grades kindergarten through 6th grade are not allowed to use electronic devices on the bus. For grades 7 through 12, responsible use of cell phones and electronic devices is permitted. The camera and/or video capabilities of these devices are not to be used on the bus. Harassment or intimidation via any electronic device while on the bus will be subject to the bullying policy. These devices are subject to the same policy as outlined in the body of this handbook.
7. Obey any command or suggestion from the bus driver. The driver is in full charge of the bus and riders. At the discretion of the driver, students may be assigned a seat.
8. Repeated acts of misbehavior may result in the loss of bus riding privileges.
9. Report any damage to the driver.
10. There will be no use of tobacco/alcohol/drugs/e-cigarettes on the bus at any time.
11. Students may eat food and drink beverages on the bus. Remember to clean up after yourself. Sunflower seeds are not to be eaten on any bus.
12. Students will not exit from emergency doors unless a real emergency exists or for practice drills.

Leaving the School Bus:

1. Students may not depart the bus at a stop other than their own without written permission from the parent.
2. Do not run or push while unloading from the bus.
3. Cross in front of the bus and watch for the driver to give the "all clear" signal before crossing.
4. Students should go directly from their bus stop to their home.
5. Every attempt will be made to have the buses arrive at the unloading stops within a 10 minute time range. However, please realize that one late student, one car parked in the school loading zone, one lost lunch box, etc., will change all the best laid plans.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

1. Insure that your children are at their bus stop five (5) minutes early in the morning.
2. In the afternoon, be at the bus stop five (5) minutes early to pick up your child. If you are late for some reason, call the school to relay the message to the driver. Students will NOT be left alone at a bus stop.
3. Dress your children in clothing appropriate for the weather conditions.
4. Encourage and discuss safe bus behavior at home.
5. Establish a safety-minded example for your children.

EMERGENCY WEATHER CONDITIONS

In the event that if weather conditions during the night or early morning create hazardous driving conditions, information pertaining to the closing of the schools will be broadcasted over KOJM 92.5 (Havre) and KRYK 101.3 (Chinook). If buses are dispatched early during the day, due to adverse weather conditions, radio announcements will be broadcasted immediately. When possible, the school will also attempt to contact staff via the Infinite Campus messenger system.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Transportation by school bus is not mandatory. This service is provided for those who wish to ride under the terms listed in this document. Non-compliance may result in the parent transporting the student to and from school.

The Transportation Program is set up to provide bus service:

1. To public school students, grades K-12 who live three (3) or more miles from school and for which a route and designated stops have been established. (No north Rudyard route.) (Montana Law provides methods of financing for transportation for these eligible students through taxation.)
2. Patrons must not expect the bus to stop at every street or lane or deliver to your door. Transportation is a group service and not an individual taxi service. Do not ask for the bus to stop at undesignated locations.
3. Buses which meet the State Highway Patrol inspection will be used and drivers will be certified according to regulations of the State Department of Public Instruction.

INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS

Your family may be eligible for mileage reimbursement from your home to the nearest bus stop/school. If you qualify, complete an Individual Transportation contract prior to June 1st each year. New residents are excluded from the June 1st deadline.

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR



- ◆ **FOLLOW THE KNIGHT'S CODE**
- ◆ **BE KIND**
- ◆ **STAY SEATED**
- ◆ **FACE FORWARD**
- ◆ **TALK IN A QUIET VOICE**
- ◆ **FOLLOW BUS DRIVER INSTRUCTIONS**