

Getting to School

If you drive your children to school, for the safety of all the children, please avoid entering or parking in the bus circle when the buses are loading or unloading children – 7:45-8:05 am, and 3:00-3:15 pm

Remember that it is against the law to pass a stopped school bus with flashing lights; **the driver will report you**. Please use the designated visitor parking area in the lower lot or the upper lot; please leave the other spaces available for teachers.

There's usually a lot of traffic during the morning ~ please **do not stop on the left side** of the road where your child would exit your car into the path of a passing car.

If your child rides the bus, please try to have your child at the bus stop **5 minutes before the bus is scheduled**. Stress the importance of waiting off the road for the bus to stop, and when leaving the bus, moving away from it immediately. On the bus, we expect children to follow the “respect other people” rule, ~ including the bus driver, who is in charge, and the other children.

On the bus, *respect other people* means that children should

- *remain seated while the bus is in motion*
- *talk quietly; not shout or scream or use profanity*
- *place nothing outside the windows*
- *not throw anything*
- *not hit anyone*
- *help keep the bus clean*
- *not eat or drink on the bus*

Kindergarten and preschool children must be met at their bus stop by a responsible person – if there's no one there, the driver will keep the child on the bus and return him/her to the school.

Bus discipline is essential for the safety of all children. Children must not behave in ways that distract the driver. We provide annual bus safety programs to explain the rules; we hold emergency evacuation drills. The bus driver may choose to assign seats. We use a "point" system for serious infractions of the bus rules. The driver sends a report to the classroom teacher and the parents on the first point. The student meets with the principal upon the second point, and is suspended from the bus for one day upon the third. Parents are informed at every step. The fifth violation will result in a 5-day bus suspension; further violations may result in the withdrawal of all bus privileges.

Warren School buses conform to federal safety requirements, which include padded seat backs that provide protection for students in the event of an accident. Seat belts are not necessary and are not routinely furnished; however, the school will make a seat belt available for a child upon the parent's written request.

Field trips extend the classroom; they teach children things that they might not otherwise learn or learn as well. Students must have your written permission to take field trips but you may provide blanket permission at the beginning of the year. In any case, teachers will provide information about each trip. "Scholarships" are generally available for students who cannot afford the cost, if any. Contact the classroom teacher or the principal. The usual bus rules apply on field trips.