

## Kennewick School District #17

### Bus Safety Tips for Parents

- ◆ Have your children put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag so they won't drop things along the way.
- ◆ Stop and look left, right, and left again if you must cross the street. Do the same thing at driveways and alleys. Exaggerate your head turns and narrate your actions so your child knows you are looking left, right and left.
- ◆ Make sure they leave home on time so they can walk to the bus stop and arrive five minutes before the bus is due. Running can be dangerous.
- ◆ Kindergarten students must be met in the afternoon at the bus stop.
- ◆ If you must walk in the street, walk single file, face traffic and stay as close to the edge of the road as you can.
- ◆ Walk young children to the bus stop and have older children walk in groups. There is safety in numbers, groups are easier for drivers to see.
- ◆ Remind children to look to the right before they step off the bus. Drivers in a hurry sometimes try to sneak by buses on the right.
- ◆ When you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street. Children can be so excited at seeing you after school that they dash across the street and forget the safety rules. Wait for the bus drivers hand signal before crossing in front of the bus. Instruct your child to never cross behind the bus.
- ◆ If your child is entering into kindergarten, make sure to fill out the transportation request form which is located at your child's school.
- ◆ Teach your children to secure loose drawstrings and other objects that may get caught in the handrail or door of the bus as they are exiting.
- ◆ Your child needs a note if you would like for them to get off at a stop other than their assigned bus stop. Your child needs to have the note signed by the office. The driver isn't allowed to let a child off at another stop without a note signed by the office.
- ◆ Children should ride quietly, be courteous to the driver and attendant, and follow the driver's instructions and the Bus Rules.
- ◆ Children should stay seated during the entire bus ride and keep the aisle clear.
- ◆ Don't let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is dangerous near traffic.
- ◆ Warn children that, if they drop something around the outside of the bus, they should never pick it up. Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions. If they bend over to pick up a dropped object, they might not be seen by the driver and could be hurt if the driver pulls away from the stop.
- ◆ Make sure your child stands at least 10 feet (five giant steps) from the road while waiting for the bus. The child will then be out of the way of traffic. Have younger children practice taking five giant steps to become familiar with 10 feet.
- ◆ Sit safely: Bottom to the bottom, back to the back, hands on your backpack in your lap.
- ◆ Glass containers, skateboards, scooters, live animals (except service dogs), alcohol, drugs, tobacco, fire arms, weapons, vape pens, large musical instruments, flammables are not allowed on the buses.
- ◆ No balloon bouquets or flower arrangements in glass containers.

