



School Bus Safety Pledge

I promise to:

- ✓ Be respectful of the driver and to listen and follow the good behavior rules
- ✓ Stay in my seat, facing forward, while the bus is in motion.
- ✓ Keep the aisle clear of feet, book bags and musical instruments.
- ✓ Talk quietly and be polite to others.
- ✓ Tell the driver if I drop something outside the bus and wait for him/her to tell me its safe to pick it up.

I will not:

- ✓ Throw anything inside the bus
- ✓ Stick my hands and objects outside the window
- ✓ Eat or drink on the bus.
- ✓ Throw trash, write on or damage the bus in any way.

Important Contact Information

Please sign up for FirstStudent App. This is the First Student bus tracking app to assist you with the location and status of your assigned bus. If your child loses an item on the bus, please call your school office or transportation at 203-656-7465. All items taken to school should be clearly marked with the student's name.

Darien Public Schools transportation.....203-656-7465
 Kate Barbieri kbarbieri@darienps.org or Michael Feeney
 Dismissal changes.....www.schooldismissalmanager.com
 Weather-related cancellations or delays.....www.darienps.org
 District website.....www.darienps.org/departments/transportation
Hindley Elementary School.....203-655-1323
 10 Nearwater Lane
 Ms. Julie Droller, Principal.....jdroller@darienps.org
Holmes Elementary School.....203-353-4371
 18 Hoyt Street
 Ms. Paula Bleakley, Principal.....pbleakley@darienps.org
Ox Ridge Elementary School.....203-655-2579
 395 Mansfield Avenue
 Dr. Luke Forshaw, Principal.....lforshaw@darienps.org
Royle Elementary School
 133 Mansfield Avenue
 Mr. Dean Ketchum.....dketchum@darienps.org
Tokeneke Elementary School.....203-655-9666
 7 Old Farm Road
 Ms. Mary Michelson.....mmichelson@darienps.org



Darien Public Schools

Orientation 2019-20

Welcome to Kindergarten!



One of the most eagerly anticipated experiences for kindergarten students is riding the "big kids" bus. When you register your child for Kindergarten, you automatically register them for transportation. Please be sure to let your school know if you will not be utilizing school bus transportation. Beginning with the first day of school, kindergarten will have a regular full day schedule. Hindley, Tokeneke and Royle will dismiss at 2:55 pm and Holmes and Ox Ridge at 3:25 pm.

Be assured that Darien Public School district is committed to providing safe, efficient and reliable transportation services for its students.

The information contained in this brochure will help you prepare your child for the "big day" and to make you aware of important facts about our transportation services.

BUS STOP BASICS

Bus routes will be published in the Stamford Advocate two weeks prior to the start of school and will also be found on the district website at www.darienps.org under the heading of Departments/Transportation.

All students are assigned to the closest stop to their primary home address. Kindergarten students as assigned to a home stop for their Kindergarten year only. District policy allows for a maximum walking distance on public roadways of ½ mile to a bus stop for grades K-5. Please be aware that the district buses do not service private roadways, cul-de-sacs and driveways.

Students should be ready and waiting at their assigned bus stops at least 5 to 10 minutes before their scheduled stop time for the first two weeks and 5 minutes for the rest of the school year.

After the first two weeks of school, the arrival and drop off times should be well established. Please remember that adverse weather conditions, traffic, detours and occasional mechanical problems may delay your bus.

Students are picked up and dropped off at the same bus stop. The only exception to this rule is for the YMCA program which provides busing as part of their program.



Please remember to enter into school dismissal manager if your child will be picked up that day instead of riding on the bus! If nothing is entered your child will be placed on a bus.

Upon arrival at school, a staff member will check in the buses and greet the students.

Additional staff members will be there to assist your Kindergarteners in finding their classroom. Staff will also assist students on their buses in the afternoon. All Kindergarteners will be issued a school bus tag in a holder on a lanyard. This tag MUST be present on your child each and every day of their Kindergarten year. A parent or designated adult must be present to meet your Kindergartener at the bus stop. If your designated adult is unable to meet your child, you must advise the school in writing as to who will be present in their place at the bus stop. Children that do not have their designated adult present will ride the rest of the bus route and be returned to their school administrators until parent pick up.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Bus transportation is statistically the safest method of student transportation and student safety is always our top priority. Parents play an essential role and are urged to review these simple guidelines.

- ✓ Check children's clothing and book bags for potential hazards. Long drawstrings, straps, sashes, belts that hang loosely or long backpack straps can be dangerous if caught in the bus handrail or door.
- ✓ Always accompany your child to and from the bus stop
- ✓ Wait calmly for the bus and stay back from a busy street. Children that cross the roadway should wait for the bus to arrive, come to a complete stop and to activate their red flashing lights. The driver will not when traffic has stopped and it is safe to cross.
- ✓ Teach your child to only cross where the bus driver can see them. Cross 10 feet in front of the bus so that the driver can see the student. Never cross behind the bus. Remind children that they should NEVER stop

- and bend down in front of the bus to pick something up.
- ✓ Always walk when approaching the bus, never run.
- ✓ Teach the children to use the handrail when getting on or off the bus and remind them to sit up in the first few rows of the bus. Older students with a Kindergarten sibling must sit in the first few rows if they would like to sit with the sibling.

Due to conflicting safety research, seatbelts are not required on school buses. The steel reinforced side construction and extra padding on the seats are designed for added safety.

Remember that the flashing yellow lights mean caution and that the bus is about to stop. Flashing red lights mean stop – children are getting on or off the bus. Join with other parents to monitor the bus stop.

Bus evacuation drills are held at each school two times per year. Immediately before the drill, the school bus driver will review evacuation procedures with all students and inform them that they will practice this skill. School staff will be on hand to assist with the drill which is performed at the school.

CONDUCT

The school day begins and ends at the bus stop for many children, therefore the same rules and expectations for behaving in a safe, responsible and respectful manner apply on the bus. Inappropriate behavior on the bus will result in logical consequences that may include suspension from the bus.

Repeated behavioral infractions will be reported to the school administrators who will determine what actions will be taken. Drivers have the discretion to assign seats to some or all students to insure the safety of all.

Children will be more comfortable if they understand the behavioral and safety expectations for riding the bus. Help them prepare by teaching them the rules and safety tips of safe school bus riding.

