

Elementary Bus Lessons

Bus Introduction:

1. Get to know your driver . . .
   - Have the driver introduce himself/herself to the students.
   - Have the driver stress that their job is to ensure the safety of all the students.
   - Know Bus Driver's name, bus number, and color.

2. Give a tour of the outside of the bus
   - Show/Explain the mirrors.
   - Show/Explain the stop arm.
   - Show/explain the emergency exits.

3. Give a tour of the inside of the bus
   - Show/Explain the driver's area (seat, controls, etc.).
   - Show/Explain the emergency exits.
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There are 3 Expectations for each student on Warren County Buses in order to have a Safe Bus Ride:

- Be Responsible.
- Use Respect.
- Safety First.
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(Connect these expectations to school-wide expectations.)

Bus Stop:

- Arrive 5 minutes early.
- Park at end of the bus area.
- Show students the spacing that they should have at the bus stop (discuss the importance of being far enough back for the bus driver to see them.
- Model the procedure for getting on the bus.
- Drive around the bus area and model the procedure for exiting the bus.
- Discuss with students the importance of being ready with their backpacks before the bus arrives, and being ready to board when the bus arrives. Give specific examples to fit your route.

Boarding the Bus:

Teach the students how to enter the bus by holding on to the handrail to help climb the stairs. Discuss the importance of having shoe laces tied and backpack straps and coat strings that could hang, adjusted properly.

Teach students to wait for the person ahead of them to move before they try to move. Teach students to:

- Go directly to their seat.
- Keep their bottom on the seat.
- Keep feet off the seat and in front of them.
- Keep belongings inside their backpacks in their laps

Riding the Bus:

Teach the students while the bus is in motion, the following is very important to ensure their safety:

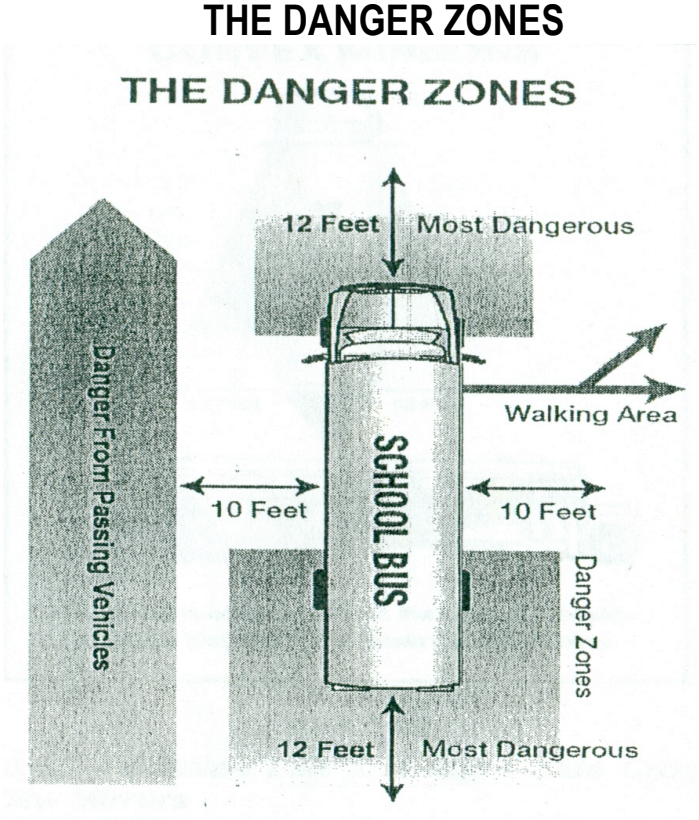
- Sit quietly using a level (2) voice
- Face forward
- Keep bottom to bottom . . . and back to back
- Hold backpacks on laps

Teach the students the signal that means everyone go to level 0 voice and listen.

Driver holds hand up / Level O

Crossing:

Teach the students about the "Danger Zone."



Show students what you are able to see from the bus window.

Teach them to never bend over to pick up anything in front of the bus. If something falls under the bus, teach them to let the driver know. The driver will assist the student. Stress that this will not be a problem if all of their belongings are in their backpacks.

Emergency Information:

Students should be taught ways to exit the bus in the event of an accident.

Perform one evacuation drill. Discuss ALL other emergency procedures.

Teach the importance of only exiting the emergency exits when directed to do so from a police officer, fireman, bus driver, or other school personnel.

Exiting the Bus:

Teach the students how to exit at their stop safely.

- Stay seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Exit the bus by using the handrail to keep from falling.
- Distance to walk out from the bus if they cross the roadway / must be able to see the driver for him/her to see you.
- Watch for the driver to motion you to cross for your safety / the driver is responsible for your safety.