

MAHWAH TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MAHWAH, NJ 07430
BUS SAFETY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):

With the start of another new school year upon us, it is our responsibility to provide both you and your children with important information regarding bus safety and proper bus behavior. There are specific expectations for proper conduct that all children must adhere to while riding any bus, whether to and from school, on a field trip, or any other school-related activity. The purpose of this letter is to request that you speak with your son(s) or daughter(s) about proper conduct on a school bus, and the potential consequences that will result should unsafe behavior occur. This fall each student will attend a bus safety training session during the school day, facilitated by each school's administration. We strive for a positive climate at school and this expectation extends to our buses as well. Students should treat bus drivers, as well as one another, with kindness and respect while riding the bus. Your support in reinforcing our expectations is greatly appreciated.

In the interest of both safety and good citizenship, students are expected to adhere to the following bus guidelines as per Board of Education Regulation #5600:

- Leave home early enough to arrive at the bus stop on time. Walk in a safe manner.
- Wait for the bus in a safe place – well off the roadway.
- Enter the bus in an orderly manner and take a seat.
- Follow the instructions of the school bus driver.
- Remain in your seat while the bus is in motion. Do not stand up while the bus is in motion.
- Keep aisles clear at all times.
- Remain quiet and orderly.
- Be courteous to the school bus driver and fellow passengers.
- Be alert to traffic when leaving the bus.
- Always be considerate of other people's property. Stay off people's lawns.
- Never put any body part outside the bus window, nor throw anything out the window.

Students who cause disturbances while riding buses to/from school will be subject to the following procedures:

1. A first offense will result in a conference with the student, appropriate disciplinary action and notification to his/her parent or guardian.
2. A second offense will result in the student being prohibited from taking the bus for a minimum of one day and a conference with the student, his/her parent or guardian, and the assistant principal/principal.
3. A third offense will result in the student not being permitted to travel on the bus for a week and possibly for the remainder of the school year.

****Steps 1 – 3 may be waived if the situation is sufficiently serious****

Any form of Harassment, Intimidation and/or Bullying will not be tolerated on a school bus. Please be aware that any reported incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying on a bus will be investigated as per New Jersey law. Consequences and appropriate remedial action for confirmed instances will be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact a building administrator, at any time.

Sincerely,
Administrative Team