

# South Whidbey School District's School Bus Rules and Guidelines

Students have the privilege of traveling via school bus to and from school in a safe and relaxed manner. Family and student participation in this is essential. When a student negatively impacts the bus riding experience for others, they will be removed from the bus.

## School Bus Rules

The following rules are based on Washington Administrative Code (WAC 392-145) and SWSD Transportation Policies. Students shall ride their regularly assigned bus at all times, unless permission has been granted by the parent or guardian to ride a different bus (Grades K-8). School authorities should verify with the drivers the availability of extra seating space. Non-regular riders may need to be placed on an alternate bus if the request will overload the requested bus.

- Respect for the driver, and all riders at all times
- Riders need to stay in their seat, facing forward
- Voices to a conversational or “inside” level only
- Keep hands and feet to yourself
- No Food or Drink, including Gum is allowed to be consumed on the bus

### ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Using a light while waiting at your stop is crucial for safety to other drivers as well as the driver's visibility to see you at your assigned stop
- Items not allowed on bus: balloons (visibility issue), plants/pets/living things, any sort of glass/ceramic vessels, aerosol containers, oversized bags posing a safety issue
- Students must cross the roadway only in front of the school bus and never behind it

### **Certain activities may result in immediate withdrawal from the bus. These include but are not limited to:**

1. Aggressive action towards bus driver/violence
2. Fighting on the bus
3. Throwing objects in or out of the bus
4. Possession of dangerous articles/weapons/laser pointers
5. Destroying or defacing district or private property
6. Use of sparking devices or open flame
7. Smoking or the possession of drugs, alcohol, or any form of tobacco
8. Obscene gestures or profanity directed at the bus driver or other passengers
9. Any part of the body extended outside of the bus
10. Harassment or intimidation

-Should a student be repeatedly violating the rules of the school bus, they will be removed from riding the bus. Parents/guardians will be notified and responsible for the transportation of their student to and from school.

**-Should the student engage in an action with imminent harm, immediate yearlong removal from the bus may be deemed appropriate and necessary.**

-School districts will be reimbursed for damage to school buses resulting from student misconduct.

**-Students in violation of school bus rules, in addition to being removed from the bus, may be subject to additional disciplinary action per our Student Handbook as the violation is on school property and treated as being at school.**

**First offense-** removal from bus for three school days

**Second offense-** removal from the bus for 10 school days

**Third offense-** removal from the bus for the remainder of the school year

**BUS RIDING AGREEMENT:**

Please sit down with your bus rider and review the expectations above. Please also discuss the responsibilities and repercussions should our expectations not be followed. At the end of the day, all of the above are stated in a lens of safety for all riders.

Please initial and then sign below, indicating both the rider and guardian understand the expectations of the bus.

\_\_\_\_\_ Respect for the driver, and all riders at all times

\_\_\_\_\_ Riders need to stay in their seat, facing forward

\_\_\_\_\_ Voices to a conversational or “inside” level only

\_\_\_\_\_ Keep hands and feet to yourself

\_\_\_\_\_ No Food or Drink, including Gum is allowed to be consumed on the bus

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**Sign and return to your bus driver by October 31, 2023**

**Bus Driver Bios:**

**Lion - Bus 17 - Jermie Canty:** [jcanty@sw.wednet.edu](mailto:jcanty@sw.wednet.edu)

Loves driving the **Lion** bus route and is also known as Batman Bus driver.

I hope that each kid has a good time on the bus. If there is ever a problem please let me know.

Let's work on things together.

**Monkey - Bus 14 - Irene Sowerby: [isowerby@sw.wednet.edu](mailto:isowerby@sw.wednet.edu)**

My name is Irene and I am a mom whose life mantra is "Organized Chaos" life is just chaotic by design no matter who you are or whatever background you come from but once you create some formulas to help organize the chaos you instantly create room for magic to slip into your life and it effortlessly leads you to "mind over matter" frame of mind and that is where magic happens. Other than that I am an ambivert, I love reading, cooking, swimming. I highly appreciate the use of magic words (please and thank you).

**Giraffe - Bus18 - Dylan Blair: [dblair@sw.wednet.edu](mailto:dblair@sw.wednet.edu)**

When I'm not transporting students, I love spending time with my two dogs and exploring the great outdoors, whether it's hiking, camping or just enjoying a walk in nature!

**Bear - Bus 12 - Steve Lampkin: [slampkin@sw.wednet.edu](mailto:slampkin@sw.wednet.edu)**

My name is Steve Lampkin. I drive the Bear bus. I believe in safety first. I graduated from Langley High School in 1975. I then went into the Navy and became a Search and Rescue crew Chief.

**Frog - Bus19 - Joe Merrick [jmerrick@sw.wednet.edu](mailto:jmerrick@sw.wednet.edu)**

I'm an adventurous road tripper, exploring new places with my wife. Seafood is my culinary delight, and I cherish quality time with my kids and grandkids.

**Cougar - Bus 16 - Kerry McMullen [kmcmullen@sw.wednet.edu](mailto:kmcmullen@sw.wednet.edu)**

I am a lifelong Washington resident and love all things NW, including our weather most of the time. I retired from corporate life so my wife and I could run our own business which we sold and moved to Whidbey Island in 2019. My biggest vice is anything with an engine. I restore cars, take cars to the race track, enjoy all kinds of boats and will even tinker with small engines. I am not necessarily accomplished at any of those but I enjoy them.

I enjoy driving a school bus on Whidbey Island and feel like it is the best way to keep myself surrounded by youthful energy. The students on the bus are the first priority and it is important both drivers and school administration believe this is true. The bus should be first of all a safe place for all of the students. It should also be a fun way for them to get home. Please feel free to contact me at any time through the transportation office at Whidbey Island School District. I welcome your feedback and input.

**Orca - Bus 13 - Jean Fankhauser: [jfankhauser2@sw.wednet.edu](mailto:jfankhauser2@sw.wednet.edu)**

Hello, I am Jean! I've been with SWSD since 2018. I am looking forward to a great school year!

**Cheetah - Bus 25 - Teri McKillop: [teeter@sw.wednet.edu](mailto:teeter@sw.wednet.edu)**

Hello! My name is Teri Clough McKillop, or Miss Teri. I have been driving the cheetah route for more than 6 years. I love working with my students and Families!

**Falcon - Bus 15 - Bonnie Nixon: [bnixon@sw.wednet.edu](mailto:bnixon@sw.wednet.edu)**

My name is Bonnie Nixon. I moved here with my husband from Idaho in 1977 and started driving School buses for S.W.S.D. when my youngest of 3 kids was a 1st grader in Sept. 1996, This choice fit

perfectly with having a family for having the same days off and also getting to drive their field trips and to know their friends, coaches, teachers, and staff better. I have met some of the nicest people of ALL ages doing it and am very thankful for the good memories and friendships. You can find me driving the Falcon route for the BEST kids you will ever have the privilege of knowing. I have no complaints! They are awesome!!

**Substitutes: Eric Westpha, Sue Harris, Dominic DiLorenzo**

The South Whidbey substitute bus drivers support our transportation department and provide the needed back up for our permanent drivers. They deserve the same respect that all drivers deserve. We need all of our student riders to help welcome and support the substitute drivers. They will not know the students' names and addresses by heart. A quiet bus is essential for these drivers to know when a stop is coming up.

**Transportation Supervisor:** Linda Proctor 360-221-5209 [lproctor@sw.wednet.edu](mailto:lproctor@sw.wednet.edu)

South Whidbey transportation supervisor, Linda Proctor, manages all routes, rosters, transportation communications - all phone calls and emails, State reporting, training, and is often a substitute driver. Linda's office hours start an hour before the drivers begin their routes and end after the last bus returns.