

Harlow's School Bus Inc. of MT - Missoula

SCHOOL BUS RULES

RESPECT & SAFETY: 3 SIMPLE, EASY-TO-FOLLOW RULES

Always Follow BUS DRIVERS Instructions for Safety!

RULE #1: RESPECT YOUR BUS DRIVER

- A. Stay seated in assigned seat
- B. Face forward for your safety
- C. Quiet voices & Respectful Language: **NO Swearing, No Shouting!**

RULE #2: RESPECT YOUR FELLOW PASSENGERS

- A. Hands to yourself
- B. Feet out of aisle and on the floor
- C. **Seatbelts must be worn** (on buses that have seatbelts) **It is the Law!** § 61-13-1, MCA
- D. Belongings on your lap & No Eating!
- E. Electronic Devices: must use headphones, **NO PICTURES!**

RULE #3: RESPECT BUS PROPERTY

- A. Individuals may be liable for vandalism



Safe transportation of children is priority #1. We need and want your help!!

Bus drivers need to be able to concentrate on the road and other traffic. It is dangerous and distracting to drive a bus with excessive noise and movement from passengers. The safest way for students to ride the bus is with feet on the floor, seated, and facing forward not hanging out in the aisle, with reasonable conversation levels. Belongings should be small enough to fit on a lap without crowding their seatmates. We will balance passenger loads and not overload the designated limit per bus.

At the bus stop, students should be ready to load at least **5 minutes before** the bus arrives. Students should stand back until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door opens. Be respectful of other students and the bus driver. Load quickly and sit down immediately in your assigned seat so cars are not held up behind the bus. Please do not attempt to bring oversize or possibly dangerous objects onto the bus. This includes large band instruments, sticks, weapons of any kind, skateboards, and anything else the driver feels could be a problem. Any article, including cell phones, that creates a conflict on the bus may be confiscated. Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, weapons, and/or pornographic materials are prohibited.

Students must ride the bus route to which they are assigned. There is not room for students to ride home to other locations than their home address. Please make other arrangements.

When unloading, students need to stay seated until the bus has stopped and the door has opened. Also they should not be pushing, shoving and yelling while getting off. When students exit the bus, if they have to cross the road, they must do so in front of the bus, after the bus driver gives them an okay sign that it is safe to do so. Students must stay **10 feet** in front of the bus, where they can be seen at all times by the driver. Students should never attempt to reach under the bus to retrieve something. Students should never follow a moving bus or chase it. The danger zone around a bus is **10 feet** in all directions, which can be blind spots if you are in the driver's seat.

Drivers will give verbal or written warnings for some offenses, such as talking too loud, or getting out of seats while the bus is moving. Repeat offenses can be "written up" and suspensions issued. These can be for one, three or five days. In some cases they can be for the remainder of the school year. Some offenses, such as hitting another student, or the school bus driver do not require an advance warning for suspension. These major offenses will be handled on a case-by-case basis. It is a privilege to ride the bus; it is not a guaranteed right. If there are too many disruptions and safety concerns that create a dangerous situation for the other students riding, that privilege can be taken away. When a student is suspended from their bus route, they are also suspended from riding the bus for any field trips or sports activities. Harlow's School Bus Service strives to provide safe, pleasant and short journeys to and from school. Mr. Brent Heist, Hellgate Elementary Director of Student Services is charged with the responsibility, in partnership with Harlow's, of ensuring that the transportation of children to and from school is done in a safe and efficient manner. There will not be any compromise on student safety when it comes to school bus transportation.

If your child has a medical condition or allergy that might warrant our attention, please inform your driver or call the office before there is an emergency. Harlow's School Bus drivers are certified and licensed Montana School Bus Drivers and are trained in basic first aid.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the company at 406-549-0594 or contact Mr. Brent Heist, Hellgate Elementary Director of Student Services at 406-532-4023.