



## **IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION**

The safety of your child is the ultimate concern of Montrose Area School District. However, parents and transportation need to work together for this to be achievable.

The following information will assist us in transporting your student(s) safely and stress free:

- Transportation Director, JoAnne McCain, can be reached at 570-278-6227 or [jmccain@masd.info](mailto:jmccain@masd.info) with any issues/comments/concerns.
- For the safety of our students, it will be our practice to have a parent, guardian, or sibling meet your elementary student(s) when the bus driver drops them off at your student's bus stop. If at drop off, there is no parent, guardian, or sibling present, the bus driver will take your child back to their school and it will be your responsibility to pick up your child.
- The first day or two of school, parents like to take pictures and video their children getting on and off the bus, which may delay the bus. Please be patient.
- If your child is a bus rider, it is important to have your child ride the bus the first week of school. This helps the driver know who will be riding so the route can be adjusted to get the children to school and home in a timely manner.
- Take the time to go over the bus rules with your child. Let them know that they need to listen to the bus driver and follow their directions to keep them safe.
- If you need to call the Transportation Director, the first couple of weeks of school, please understand that there is a high volume of calls during this time and it may be difficult to get through. Please be patient.
- It is important that our drivers can concentrate on driving the route safely. If anything makes your child feel unsafe at the bus stop or on the bus ride, please contact the Transportation Director, rather than trying to discuss it at the bus stop.

**REMEMBER THAT YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY IS OUR UTMOST CONCERN.**

**PLEASE ASSIST US IN CREATING A SUCCESSFUL BUS RIDE  
FOR YOU AND YOUR STUDENT(S).**

## **TIPS TO HELP MAKE YOUR CHILD'S BUS RIDE SAFE**

You can help keep your child safe on the bus by sharing the following tips with them:

- Please have your child carry a backpack so that his/her hands are free to grab handrails when getting on and off the bus.
- Make sure your child arrives at the designated bus stop five minutes early each day. Children who are late for the bus may panic and chase after the bus or run into the road.
- At the bus stop—Stay back from the road – at least 20 giant steps
- Wait quietly in line when getting on and off the bus
- Get on and off the bus in single file, no pushing or shoving
- On the bus—Sit properly in the seat
- Talk quietly
- Stay in the assigned seat—never stand or move from seat to seat when the bus is moving
- Do not throw objects inside or outside of the bus
- Obey the bus driver
- Stay out of the danger zone – the area 10 feet all around the bus that is the most dangerous. The driver cannot see anyone closer to the bus.
- Look in all directions before crossing the street and stop at the edge of the bus to check for traffic.
- Use eyes and ears, look and listen for dangers.
- Walk – never run
- Children should learn their name, address, and telephone number
- Children should learn their teacher's name, bus driver's name, and bus number

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

If your child misses their bus, please do not attempt to chase the bus. It is extremely dangerous for a child to run after a moving school bus. Also, parents should not follow the bus in their vehicle and let a child out to try and rush to the bus. Please call the Transportation Director at (570) 278-6227 and arrange to meet the bus at a specific location.

Riding a school bus for the first time can be very overwhelming to a child. Since infancy children have been buckled into a car or booster seat. Pennsylvania law does not mandate seat belts on large school buses; therefore, your child will not be wearing a seat belt while riding the bus. School buses have the highest safety standards of any vehicle on the road. Children are very safe inside the school bus due to the design of the bus as well as the padded seats.

## **STUDENT BEHAVIOR AFFECTS BUS SAFETY**

The behavior of each student on the bus directly affects the safety of others. The bus driver reports incidents of poor behavior on the bus in writing to the school principal. Depending on the seriousness of the incident, the principal may issue a warning to the student, speak to the parents, suspend bus privileges, or take other disciplinary action.