



Whitehall-Coplay Transportation Department

2640 Campus Drive

Whitehall, Pa 18052

Jeff Bauder, Supervisor of Transportation Services

BUS RULES FOR ALL STUDENTS

- 1. After 3 no-show days at a stop, the bus may will no longer stop at that location or travel to that road.** Parents should communicate with the transportation department if their child will not be riding for a few days. If a child has not been on the bus for several days, and desires to resume riding, parents must call the transportation department to reactivate the stop.
- 2. All student must be at their designated stop five (5) minutes prior the scheduled arrival time.**
- 3. All students must ride their assigned bus to and from school. Students cannot ride another bus with friends, or to go to work.** Riding another bus is only permitted in emergency situations. The purpose is only to provide transportation service from the home, day care, to school and return. In an emergency situation, a parent may contact the school and the transportation department to get permission and then a bus pass will be issued.

4. **Students may only board and disembark the school bus at their assigned stop.** Walking to another bus stop within the route is dangerous and not allowed. Once students are on board, they may not disembark at any other location other than their designated stop or at the school. There are safety and legal reasons for this policy. In certain situations where arrangements have been made in writing, by the parents and approved by the transportation department may a student disembark at a different stop within the same route.
5. **Once a school bus is in motion, students will not be allowed to board the bus.** This is both a safety issue and a legal issue. Once a bus turns off its lights all traffic may and will begin to move. A bus driver may not reactivate their lighting system for at least 150 ft to give other drivers warning the bus will be stopping again.
6. **After boarding the bus students shall be seated immediately and remain properly seated for the duration of the bus ride.** Properly seated means that during the course of the bus ride students shall sit with their posterior on the seat bench and shall not change seats, stand up in/on their seat, or sit facing towards the rear of the bus. Unless seated three to a seat students shall not have any body part in the aisle of the bus.
7. **Students are expected to behave accordingly on the bus and know the rules for riding the bus.** It is very important to remember that the bus driver is in charge. Drivers have the same authority in the bus as teachers have in the classroom. Loud and boisterous noise and improper conduct can cause a distraction to the driver which can lead to serious safety hazards on the bus. The students conduct on the bus should be no different than what is expected in the classroom. If it is not allowed in the classroom it is not allowed in the bus. Destructive behavior to the bus will not be tolerated, and students will be held responsible.
8. **Food and drink.** Eating and/or drinking on the bus is not allowed. All food and/or drink must be disposed of before boarding the bus.

9. **Kindergarten students.** Kindergarten students will not be released without the presence of a parent or guardian at the bus stop. If you choose to allow your child to be released without an adult present you must send a note to school with your child giving permission for them to be released.
10. **The aisle of the bus must be kept free of objects that could obstruct an emergency evacuation of the bus.** Any large object that cannot be held on the student's lap, such as musical instruments, projects, equipment bags may not be transported on the bus.
11. **Think safety, teach safety, and act safely.** Always cross in front of the bus, never cross until you look both ways and make sure traffic is stopped, even when the buses lights are activated. Remember the danger zone of a bus is 10 feet all around the bus, the driver cannot see you or your child inside the danger zone. When disembarking the bus leave in an orderly fashion and if you need to cross the street do so while the bus is there with it's lights activated again always looking before crossing to make sure traffic is stopped.
12. **All Whitehall Coplay School District buses are equipped with cameras that record both audio and video.** Electronic video and audio recordings will be viewed to investigate incidents reported by a bus driver, administrator, supervisor, student, parent, or other person; they may also be viewed at random. Each unit only holds a limited amount of recordings before they are recorded over again. Under certain circumstances, determined by administration, recordings may be saved for future use.
13. **By riding the bus, it is implied that all students and parents understand these rules and will abide by them.** Stating that they did not know the rules does not excuse a student from mis-behavior or infractions of the rules.

Please remember that the main job of the driver is to drive the bus safely. Even with the rules and seating assignments in place, things can happen on the bus that the driver will not see.