

The Davis Academy Transportation Guidelines and Bus Policies

School bus safety is a primary concern. We reserve the right to take whatever action is necessary to maintain a high level of safety. Violations of any of the guidelines and policies, or any other dangerous or disruptive acts on the bus, may result in suspension of bus riding privileges. A school bus is an extension of the classroom and actions not allowed in class will not be allowed on the bus. Maintaining proper conduct while on the bus shall be the joint responsibility of the student, parent and bus driver. Students shall observe the following code of conduct.

Procedures

1. Every child registered is generally expected to ride the bus daily to and from school.
2. Students are to arrive to their bus stops 5 minutes before the arrival of the school bus. The bus is not considered late until 5 minutes past their scheduled pick-up time.
3. Students that arrive late to bus stops and miss the bus must make arrangements to arrive at school another way. Students are not permitted to go to any other stops along the bus route. Parents are NOT permitted to advance to any other bus stop due to a missed bus.
4. Any afternoon transportation changes must be made by sending an email to bus@davisacademy.org by 2:00 p.m. of the day of the change. It is also helpful to copy your child's homeroom teacher (for lower school) on these communications. Such changes include, but are not limited to: not riding the bus, or a person other than the student's normal ride picking up at the stop. We will not be able to honor phone requests or requests after this time due to the logistical nature of informing all involved in the process.
5. Only registered riders for each route are permitted to ride the bus. Students may not bring guests on to the bus.
6. Students are permitted to carry large items (including projects, sports equipment, musical instruments...etc.) to and from school ONLY if the bus can accommodate them. Please keep in mind the buses have limited space.
7. Students may not be left unattended at a bus stop to wait for the bus. They must be with an adult in the designated area until boarding the bus.

School Bus Law

1. Parents are only authorized to enter and ride a school bus when they are chaperoning a school-sponsored trip and are approved by The Davis Academy. If parents have problems or concerns they would like to discuss with school bus drivers, they are to call the school and schedule appointments. School bus drivers cannot hold conversations at bus stops since this can create dangerous conditions taking the drivers' attention away from safety of the children and traffic situation. This can also cause delay in the drivers' schedule and tie up traffic, causing unnecessary problems.

2. When it is necessary for a student to cross the street to enter or exit a bus during a school route: The Student(s) MUST WAIT FOR THE DRIVER TO SIGNAL THEM BEFORE CROSSING. The student must cross in front of the bus in full view of the driver. Never run beside a bus, chase after a bus or pick up anything that has fallen near the wheels of the bus.
3. The following are NOT ALLOWED on the bus: weapons, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, matches, lighters, fireworks, obscene language, obscene literature, obscene gestures, animals, glass objects, balloons, skateboards and additional items.
4. Students shall never approach the school bus until it has completely stopped and the door is opened. In boarding, they should go directly to an available seat. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats, if necessary.

Safety Guidelines

1. Students must show proper respect to the driver and/or staff if present at all times and obey ALL instructions given.
2. Students shall remain seated at all times while buses are in operation, unless otherwise directed by the driver, and keep aisles and exits clear.
3. Students shall not engage in loud talking, yelling, using obscene language or gestures, fighting, hitting, throwing of items or any activity that may divert the driver's attention either from safely driving the bus or during the loading and/or unloading of passengers.
4. Students may not throw anything out of the window, put any body parts out of the window or open the rear exit emergency door unless there is an emergency or you are directed by the driver.
5. Students are not permitted to bring cell phones or other electronic devices on the bus, and the use of cell phone cameras, and any other electronic recording device is prohibited. All electronic devices should be left at home before boarding the school bus.
6. Students shall not tamper with or vandalize the buses, seats or any bus equipment. Any damage to a school bus caused by a student will be the financial responsibility of that student's family.
7. Students shall remain quiet at railroad crossings.
8. Students shall not consume food, gum or drink on the bus at any time.
9. Students are to keep all of their property and belongings in their personal carrying cases, book bags and backpacks.
10. Students are expected to follow all guidelines outlined in the Student-Parent Handbook as if at school.
11. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), a division of the Department of Transportation, sets national standards for school bus safety. The NHTSA guidelines state that children under the age of 5 or under 50 pounds should be secured in a Child Safety Restraint System CSRS (add-on seat, suitable for the child's weight and age). However, Federal and Georgia law do not require seat belts on school buses due to a preponderance of existing safety features.

Consent and Release

As the parent(s) and legal guardian(s) ("Parents") of Davis Academy student(s) ("Student") who is/are enrolled in The Alfred and Adele Davis Academy (Davis Academy), Parents acknowledge that Parents are responsible for the transportation of Student and are contracting with an outside Bus Service, an independent third-party entity (the "Bus Company") to provide such transportation for Student. Davis Academy has, at its direction, supplemented the transportation costs of the Bus Company on a voluntary basis for this school year.

By registering Student for this service, Parents understand the inherent risks and liabilities involved in the transportation of students, acknowledge that the Bus Company is unrelated to Davis Academy, as an independent third party, and that Davis Academy does not make any representations about the Bus Company or its employees. Parents assume all risks inherent and otherwise, known and unknown, including, without limitation, risks of death, personal or bodily injury, disability or property damage resulting from, in connection with, or in any way related to the transportation of Student.

By registering for this service, Parents jointly and severally, legally bind themselves and Student and agree to release, discharge, promise not to sue, and hold Davis Academy and its predecessors, successors, and assigns, as well as all of their respective representatives, agents, owners, officers, directors, shareholders, managers, partners, employees, staff, volunteers, and supervisors, past and present, harmless from and indemnify them against all claims, demands, suits, charges, fees, attorneys' fees, costs, damages, liens, liabilities, and actions of any kind whatsoever arising out or connected with, directly or indirectly, the transportation of Student. Registration and ridership also evidence Parents waiver and release of all and any claims, damages, liabilities, actions, costs, or expenses which Parents or Student may have against Davis Academy arising in any way out of Student's travel to/from Davis Academy with the Bus Company. The types of claims Parents release include contract claims, statutory claims, torts of any kind, negligence, intentional acts, economic and non-economic damages, expenses, costs, insurance claims, attorneys' fees, or any other type of claim.

Other

The Davis Academy and the Bus Company reserve the right to implement additional guidelines as needed, including but not limited to video monitoring and tracking of the bus and its ridership.