Welcome to Transportation!

Transportation provided by Gilbert Arts Academy is a **privilege**. At G.A.A., we pride ourselves on having the best bus service around. We strive to provide a safe and friendly environment on our buses. You have a vital role in helping maintain this for our students.

It is the parent's responsibility to be on-time to their children's bus stop. Please be at your child's stop at least 10 minutes before the scheduled time in the morning and afternoon. Never assume that because the bus is usually late, that it will always be late. Stop times may vary due to unknown circumstances and may need to be adjusted throughout the year. Inappropriate conduct at bus stops or in the process of boarding or exiting from the bus may result in student's disciplinary action including, but not limited to, denial of transportation privileges.

For Kindergarten through second graders, if no one is at the bus stop to pick up your children, they will be returned back to the school. You may give the school written permission for them to walk home, or they can go with an older sibling.

Thank you so much for your participation in helping us provide the best bus experience possible for our students!

Gilbert Arts Academy

Transportation Department
(480) 525-7470

RECEIPT OF THE G.A.A. and D.P.S. GUIDELINES GOVERNING STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

Student's Name:_____ Date of Birth:_____ Grade:___

STUDENT: I have received, read, or have had explained to me the contents of the Gilbert Arts Academy and Department of Public Safety Rules and Laws Governing Student Conduct on G.A.A. buses.

Student Signature:_____ Date: _____

PARENT, GUARDIAN , OR PERSON RESPONSIBLE:

I Acknowledge receipt of the Gilbert Arts Academy and Department of Public Safety Rules and Laws Governing Student Conduct on G.A.A. buses. I have reviewed the contents of the Rules and Laws with my child, in a manner appropriate for my child's age and developmental level, and agree to help my child abide by it.

Parent/Guardian/Person Responsible

Name:_____

Parent/Guardian/Person Responsible

Signature:_____

Date:_____

Please be advised:

Failure to sign and return this receipt does not take away the responsibility to abide by the contents of the Guidelines Governing Student Conduct on G.A.A. School Buses.

RULES AND LAWS GOVERNING STUDENT CONDUCT ON G.A.A. SCHOOL BUSES

RESPECT THE BUS DRIVER AT ALL TIMES.

Follow directions the first time they are given. The bus driver's instructions are for your safety. A passenger or non-passenger who boards the school bus and refuses to comply with the school bus driver's instructions may be surrendered into the custody of a person who is authorized by the school to assume responsibility for the passenger or non passenger. This could also include the local police officers or D.P.S. officers for more severe infractions. If the driver asks for your name, give them your correct name immediately the first time you are asked.

STUDENTS ARE ONLY PERMITTED TO GET ON AND OFF THE BUS AT THEIR ASSIGNED STOP.

The only exception to this rule is if the student has a proper note from their parent or guardian. The student MUST give this note to the driver on the AM ride or the parent or guardian MUST fax a note to our office before 2:00 PM on the day the student needs the ride. The note must contain the date, the student's name, the stop the student wants to use, the parent or guardian's signature and a phone number where the parent or guardian can be reached to verify the note.

NO SKATEBOARDS, SCOOTERS, BICYCLES, ROLLER SKATE SHOES, WHEELIES, OR ROLLER BLADES ARE PERMITTED ON THE BUS.

Skateboards, scooters and bicycles are too large to be contained safely on the bus. Roller blades and roller skate shoes are not safe and could cause the child to fall while getting on or off the bus.

STUDENTS WHO MISS THE BUS SHOULD GO STRAIGHT HOME

The bus driver has a schedule to keep and if you are not at the bus stop, he or she cannot wait for you. If a student misses the bus it will be the parent or guardian's responsibility to get the student to school. The bus will not go back to pick up a student who has missed the bus. There will not be any other vehicle sent to pick up a student who has missed the bus.

RULES AND LAWS GOVERNING STUDENT CONDUCT ON G.A.A. SCHOOL BUSES

CELL PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE BUS.

D.P.S. does not allow cell phones on the bus. Cell phones are disruptive on the bus. If a student has a cell phone they MUST turn it off and secure it inside of their backpack. If a student is caught with a cell phone on the bus, the cell phone will be confiscated and the parent or guardian may pick the cell phone up at the office of their child's/children's school. Students have used them in the past in an attempt to cause problems for our drivers. Parents have been called from the bus and been given wrong information that caused the parents to panic. It is also school policy that students are not to have cell phones at school and they will be confiscated and the parent or guardian will have to pick them up in the school office.

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 8TH GRADE STUDENTS.

A parent or guardian MUST be present at the bus stop for the driver to release them from the bus. If the parent or guardian is not at the stop, the student will be returned back to the school and the parent or guardian will be responsible for picking up their child/children at the school. With written permission given to the front office, students in 3rd grade and up may walk to their destination unaccompanied.

NO PRE-KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ON THE BUS.

Only children that have reached the age of 5 years old may ride on the bus.

STUDENTS SHALL NOT CROWD THE BUSES WHILE LOADING.

A single line must be formed to board the bus. Students should not push and shove other students while waiting in line to board the bus. The bus must stop at least ten feet before reaching the students. DO NOT run at the bus when it approaches the bus stop.

PERFUMES, LOTIONS AND AEROSOL CANS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE BUS.

D.P.S. does not allow any aerosol cans on a school bus. Aerosol cans are under pressure and could possibly explode if there was an accident. We do transport a lot of students who have asthma; therefore, we do NOT allow perfumes and lotions on the bus. This could cause a more severe asthmatic student to have an attack while on the bus. Most perfumes come in glass and glass containers are NOT allowed on the bus. Any student caught with perfume, lotion or an aerosol can on the bus, will have these items confiscated by the driver until the end of the route. If a student chooses to bring these items after they have been given a warning, the items will be confiscated and the parent or guardian will have to pick these items up at the school office.

RULES AND LAWS GOVERNING STUDENT CONDUCT ON G.A.A. SCHOOL BUSES

PLEASE DON'T EAT, DRINK OR CHEW GUM ON THE BUS.

D.P.S. does not allow eating, chewing gum or drinking on the bus because it is a choking hazard. All of our drivers are trained in emergency first aid and capable of helping a choking victim. Gum is also a choking hazard and it does cause a lot of damage to the bus by being thrown onto the floor and stuck onto seats. Due to the rather extreme weather conditions here in Arizona, we encourage our students to bring **WATER ONLY** in a **PLASTIC BOTTLE**. D.P.S. mandated that no glass containers are allowed on the bus.

NO PENS, PENCILS, CRAYONS OR MARKERS OUTSIDE OF THE BACKPACK.

These items can become projectiles during an accident. These items can and have been used as weapons. They are also used to cause property damage by writing on the seats and the sides of the bus. Bus damages caused by your child or children will be billed to the parent or guardian.

THROWING OBJECTS OF ANY KIND ON THE BUS OR FROM THE BUS IS DANGEROUS.

State law prohibits littering. Objects thrown inside the bus could and have hit the drivers causing a distraction and unsafe conditions for the other students on board the bus. Objects thrown from the bus can and have broken windows of other vehicles around the bus. Any damages caused by a student will be billed to the parent or guardian.

STUDENTS MUST BE SEATED AS DIRECTED BY THE DRIVER.

Each student will be assigned a definite seat, and shall not be permitted to move from the assigned seat except upon permission of the driver. DPS requires us to have a seating chart in case of an accident. We also use these seating charts to keep track of damages caused by students. When we find damage, the parent or guardian will be billed for the damages their child/children has/have caused.

STAY SEATED AT ALL TIMES.

"Back to Back and Bottom to Bottom." Backpack on your lap. Students must NOT sit on their books, backpacks or legs because a serious injury could occur if the child rises above the height of the seat back. Students should face forward in the bus and all body parts should be clear of the aisle when the bus is in motion. The Department of Public Safety regulations do not permit passengers to stand in a moving bus. When approaching a stop, students should remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop.

RULES AND LAWS GOVERNING STUDENT CONDUCT ON G.A.A. SCHOOL BUSES

HELP KEEP THE BUS CLEAN.

Littering is illegal and is not permitted on the bus. Any student who, intentionally or unintentionally, causes damage, especially to windows or seats, while on or off the bus, the parent or guardian will be billed for the cost of damages.

KEEP HANDS, ARMS, HEAD AND ALL BODY PARTS INSIDE THE BUS AT ALL TIMES.

A bus is wider than a car, it gets very close to trees and poles, and you could be seriously injured if you have any body parts outside the bus.

KEEP AISLES CLEAR.

Books, bags and body parts are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency. If there is an emergency the bus driver needs to be able to move freely and quickly down the aisle to assist passengers.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms MUST be worn while riding the bus. The bus is an extension of the school and the school DOES have a uniform policy in place, therefore, students MUST be in uniform on the bus. Some students like to wear INAPPROPRIATE shirts under their uniforms. Because of this we can't allow any student to remove their uniform shirt.

ALL ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT MUST BE TRANSPORTED IN APPROPRIATE BAGS.

These items must also be under the control of the student at all times while on the bus. A student with athletic equipment may NOT sit next to any emergency exit. Athletic equipment may not occupy any seat that is needed for a student. This equipment may NOT block the aisle. Equipment may NOT be stored in the driver's compartment or the step-well of the bus.

NO OVER-SIZED OBJECTS OR PROJECTS.

If the item in question is too large to be kept under control at all times by the student it may NOT be transported on the bus.

AVOID UNNECESSARY NOISE.

Excessive noise might distract the driver's attention and cause an accident. All buses must stop at all railroad crossings and the driver must be able to listen for the sounds of an approaching train.

RULES AND LAWS GOVERNING STUDENT CONDUCT ON G.A.A. SCHOOL BUSES

BE COURTEOUS.

Do NOT use profane language or obscene gestures. Other words that sound similar or are a replacement for common swear words are not acceptable on the bus. There should NOT be any name calling or teasing of other students on the bus. Be respectful of others at all times.

USE OF TOBACCO, DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IN ANY FORM IS PROHIBITED.

The driver may NOT assume responsibility for transporting or carrying any form of medication on the bus. This also includes over the counter medications.

WEAPONS, LIVE ANIMALS, HARMFUL, UNSAFE OR DISRUPTIVE OBJECTS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE BUS.

Weapons are not allowed on the bus. Some descriptions of weapons would be, explosive devices, guns, knives or other weapons as described by school policy. A school bus driver may NOT transport animals, insects, or reptiles on the bus. The only exception is a service animal, as defined by A.RS.11-1024(0), to assist disabled passengers.

REMAIN SEATED UNTIL THE BUS COMES TO A COMPLETE STOP AND THE DOOR IS OPENED.

Students should remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop, DPS does not allow anyone to stand while the bus is in motion. Leave the bus carefully using the handrail. DO NOT push and shove. Walk down the steps-DO NOT jump.

TAKE 5 GIANT STEPS OUT IN FRONT OF THE BUS BEFORE CROSSING THE STREET.

You should be able to see the driver's face before you cross in front of the bus. Remember, if you can't see the driver's face, they can't see you.

RULES AND LAWS GOVERNING STUDENT CONDUCT ON G.A.A. SCHOOL BUSES

WAIT FOR THE BUS DRIVER'S SIGNAL BEFORE CROSSING THE STREET.

Your driver will signal you when it is safe to cross the street.

LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING THE STREET.

Check the road yourself before crossing. Even though the driver has given you the signal to cross, you should still look both ways before crossing the street. The driver may not have seen everything.

STAY AWAY FROM THE BUS IF YOU DROP SOMETHING

NEVER go back to pick up something in the road, get an adult to get it for you. If you forgot something on the bus, you can always get it later. NEVER run back to the bus once it has started to move. The bus driver can't see you if you are too close to the front of the bus.

Denial of Bus Transportation

If your child breaks the rules while on the bus a Behavior Report will be written. Once a driver has issued a behavior report, a copy of the report is sent to the Director of Transportation as well as the school leader. Once received and gone over, a decision will be made as to the severity of the infraction and to the proper disciplinary action will be given.Any student who is so disruptive as to cause an unsafe ride for the other students on the bus will be removed from the bus. Parents will be notified and it will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to transport their child or children to and from school for whatever length of time is determined. Parents or guardians are responsible for making sure their child or children make it to school. As per ARS 15-802.

Riding a school bus is a privilege not a right. The school is providing this service to parents in an effort to help parents to get children to school. The school is under no obligation to provide bussing for students.

Gilbert Arts Transportation reserves the right to deny transportation services to anyone it deems to be a safety risk on our buses.

Please contact the Transportation Department if you have any questions at 480-525-7470

Nathan Buck
Transportation Director