

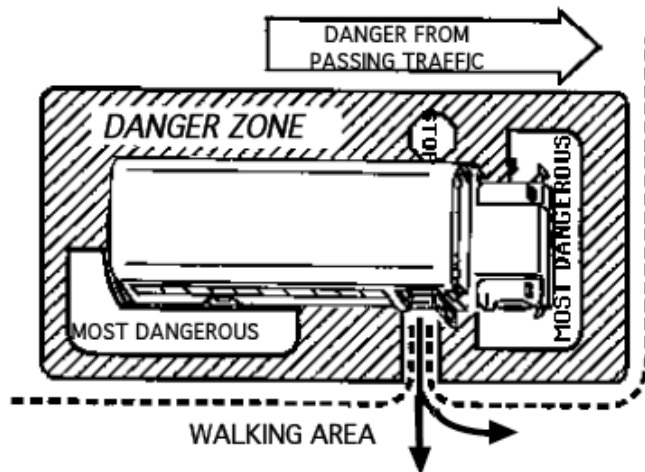
School Bus Safety Guidelines For ISM Students and Parents

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to review these guidelines for safe bus transportation with their student(s) before the first day of ridership. For the safety of all students riding the bus, we ask parents and guardians to commit their support of the school in the enforcement of this policy. Transportation by school bus is a privilege and not a right. Privileges may be revoked for conduct in violation of these guidelines.

Getting on/off the Bus

- ❖ You should be at your bus stop or ready to board from your home at least 5 minutes before your scheduled pick-up time.
- ❖ When waiting for the bus, stay a safe distance back from the roadway.
- ❖ No destructive, dangerous, or rowdy behavior such as pushing or shoving at the stop.
- ❖ Enter the bus in an orderly manner and go directly to a seat and remain seated until the destination is reached. The driver is authorized to assign seats if necessary.
- ❖ Never stop beside or reach under the bus-if you drop something, tell the driver, or wait until the bus leaves before picking it up. To avoid injury, students must carry their papers, books, and personal items in a book bag. Accidents can happen when students attempt to retrieve a dropped item near a school bus.
- ❖ Exit the bus in an orderly manner.
- ❖ If you must cross the street at a bus stop, you must WAIT until you receive a signal from the bus driver that it is safe to cross.
- ❖ Crossing a street shall always be done 10 feet (5 giant steps) in front of the bus. You should be able to see the face of the bus driver.
- ❖ The bus driver will hold the bus with warning lights flashing and the stop arm extended until the crossing is completed.
- ❖ When getting off a bus, look both ways to be sure traffic is stopped and no cars are passing on the shoulder (side of the road). PAY ATTENTION to traffic the whole time you are crossing.
- ❖ Do not approach a bus in motion. NEVER chase the bus if you miss it.

STAY SAFE! Be Aware of the school bus **DANGER ZONES**:



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On The Bus

- ❖ Students shall follow all directions given by the bus driver.
- ❖ Stay seated, facing forward and fasten seat belts if they are available on your bus.
- ❖ Use quiet voices. No profane language.
- ❖ Electronic items must not be audible to other riders or the driver. Use headphones; volume must be set at a volume over which you can still hear instruction from the driver.
- ❖ Keep all objects and all of your body inside the bus.
- ❖ Do not throw objects in, around, or out of the bus.
- ❖ All articles such as athletic equipment, books, musical instruments, etc., must be out of the aisles. If the items are too large to be kept out of the aisle, the article is too large to be transported on the school bus.
- ❖ The emergency door must only be used for emergencies. Do not touch the safety equipment.
- ❖ The school bus is a tobacco- and drug-free zone.
- ❖ No weapons, look-alike weapons, or any articles that create a hazard may be allowed on the bus.
- ❖ Be courteous to other students, other adults, and the bus driver.
- ❖ Assist the driver in keeping the bus clean. Take your trash with you or throw it away in the trash can on the bus.
- ❖ Conduct prohibited in the ISM Student Handbook is also prohibited while entering, riding, or exiting the bus.
- ❖ Students will be held responsible for any damage to the bus. If ISM is required to pay for the damage to the bus, an amount equal to this payment will be billed to the parent/guardian. Bus privileges may be suspended until damages are paid.
- ❖ Criminal misconduct on a bus will be reported to local law enforcement officials.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities For Using The Bus Service

- ❖ It is very important for parents and guardians to discuss and demonstrate pedestrian safety with their student and reinforce safe crossing after exiting a bus. Please familiarize yourself with and discuss the above guidelines with your student and ensure their understanding. We ask that parents and guardians encourage students to abide by the guidelines and to support safe riding practices and ISM's reasonable disciplinary efforts in support of the guidelines.
- ❖ View the 4-minute "School Bus Safety: Be Ready for the Ride" video with your student located here: <https://youtu.be/TS-4aRELaA8>
- ❖ Students shall be picked-up and dropped-off at their scheduled stop only.
- ❖ Children three years of age may use car seats (to be provided by the parent or guardian).
- ❖ It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of a student between leaving/arriving home and boarding/exiting the school bus. Parents/Guardians must:
 - Ensure students are ready to board at their pickup location at least 5 minutes before the scheduled pickup time;

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- Supervise their student's behavior while at the bus stop or waiting for the bus at home;
- If your student has a pickup away from your home, ensure student safety while walking to and from their bus stops;
- When appropriate, assist students in safely crossing local streets before boarding and after leaving the bus;
- Ensure students are dressed appropriately for the weather, including warm and protective clothing during the winter months;
- During periods of inclement weather, confirm that school is in session before sending students to school;
- During the winter months, if you live on a hill that tends to get icy, you will either need to bring your student to the bottom of the hill or drive them to school. Buses will not attempt to drive up icy hills.
- Discuss a backup plan with your student in case the bus is late or does not come.
- ❖ Consequences for school bus and bus stop misconduct will apply to bus routes. Decisions regarding a student's ability to ride the bus will be at the sole discretion of ISM. Parents or guardians will be notified of any suspension of bus privileges. Based on the severity of the misconduct and depending on the nature of the offense, consequences such as suspension or expulsion from school may also result from school bus/bus stop misconduct.
- ❖ Parents and guardians are requested to support ISM's efforts to maintain school bus safety and communicate any safety concerns to ISM administration.

Bus Scheduling Procedures

- ❖ If your student is not riding or missed the bus, notify the bus company by calling MTI Dispatch: 952-935-1990 (press "1" for dispatch and "1" again for Hopkins' routes when prompted).
- ❖ To check on a late-running bus, use the same calling method above or check online at hopkinsschools.org→"Parents & Students" tab→"Transportation"→"Bussing Updates."