

School Bus Character

Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship

A school bus is part of the total school program and all school rules apply. Riding a school bus is a privilege that can be lost through unacceptable behavior. The following behaviors are expected of all who ride a school bus.

TRUSTWORTHINESS and RESPONSIBILITY

- Follow all bus and school rules and instructions of the driver at all times, especially during loading and unloading.
- Be safety conscious. Look out for the younger children.
- Do the right thing and encourage others to do the same.
- Tell the driver the complete and accurate truth when asked about bus-related incidents.
- Let your actions bring honor to you, your family and your school.
- Refuse to horseplay.

RESPECT

- The driver is in authority when you are on a school bus. Give the driver complete cooperation and respect. Encourage others to do so.
- Use good manners; be courteous and polite. Be orderly, speak quietly and do not distract others.
- Treat others with dignity and honor.
- Take care of the bus. Refuse to write on or damage the bus. Keep the bus clean.
- Solve disagreements and respond to insults without violence.
- Refuse to use profane language or participate in immoral or abusive acts.

FAIRNESS and CARING

- Be kind to other students and the driver.
- Be fair and just. Wait your turn to enter and exit the bus.
- Let others have the good seats sometimes. Share your seat with others who need a seat.
- Be considerate to everyone, especially those doing homework or who don't feel well.
- Refuse to gossip, spread rumors, use put-downs, insults or ridicule in jest or to hurt someone.
- Express gratitude to your driver.
- Refuse to become "territorial" with seating. The ride each day is a good time to meet and get to know other students.

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CITIZENSHIP

Sample School Bus Rules*

Leaving Home

- Make certain you have everything you need for the school day before leaving home.

Waiting for the Bus

- Be at the bus stop a few minutes before pick-up time.
- Wait for the bus in a safe place; stay out of the street/road.
- Wait quietly and orderly. Bring honor to your school and family.
- Respect the property of others.
- Keep the bus stop litter free.
- Stand back from the street/road as the bus approaches. Give the driver room to stop.
- Be prepared to load when the bus stops.

Boarding the Bus

- Board the bus at the correct stop. Have written permission from appropriate individuals to get on/off at the stop other than your assigned stop.
- Cross the street with caution in front of the bus where the bus driver and other traffic can see you.
- Form a single line; don't crowd, push or break in line.
- Use the handrail and take steps one at a time.
- Go directly to your seat and be seated.
- Refuse to bring items on the bus that are not allowed.

Riding the Bus

- Sit in your assigned seat and stay seated during the bus ride.
- Use good manners; be courteous and polite. Be orderly, speak quietly and do not distract others.
- Show respect and cooperate with the driver; encourage others to do the same.
- Keep arms, head and objects inside of windows. Refuse to throw objects within or out of the bus.
- Take care of the bus. Refuse to write on or damage the bus. Keep the bus clean.
- Keep aisle clear. Place your book bag and other items in your lap or under the seat.
- Refuse to eat, drink or bring food on the bus unless given permission.
- Take your belongings and trash off the bus.

Leaving the Bus

- Stay seated until the bus stops.
- Get off the bus only at your stop unless you have the required written permission.
- Use handrails and take steps one at a time.
- Exit through the emergency door only during an emergency.
- Walk away from the bus immediately if you don't have to cross the street/road.
- Walk in front of the bus where the bus driver can see you when crossing the street/road.
- Get the bus driver's attention before you try to pick up something you have dropped.
- Never run back to the bus when the door has been closed and/or the bus is moving.

**Note:* These are sample school bus rules. Use only those that do not conflict with school rules.

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