

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

It is important that you always know your child's school bus route number and the name of the operator/bus driver for the route.

You should call the Transportation Dept. at 204-729-3975 (or send a note for the driver) if your student/child:

- 1) Is going to be absent from riding the bus;
- 2) They have made alternate plans to go with a friend to their house;
- 3) They are bringing a friend on the bus; or
- 4) Your child leaves something on the school bus.

Your child should always be dressed appropriately for the weather. From time to time, school bus vehicles may be delayed due to weather or road conditions so please ensure that your children are dressed so they can comfortably wait for their bus under all conditions.

It is also important to talk to your children about an alternate plan in the event that the bus does not arrive, or they miss their school bus.

We would like to remind parents that drawstrings on jackets, long scarves and other clothing items can pose a danger to children, as the potential exists for long drawstrings, scarves or oversize toggles to get caught on bus and/or playground equipment. Please check your child's clothing to help ensure their safety.

"SCHOOL BUS SAFETY IS THE CONCERN OF EVERYONE. PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILDREN TO BE BUS SAFETY CONSCIOUS AND OBEY THE RULES OF GOOD RIDERSHIP."

CANCELLATIONS/INCLEMENT WEATHER



From time to time, poor road conditions due to inclement weather force the cancellation of our transportation services. Decisions to cancel bus services are made jointly by the Superintendent of Schools and the

Supervisor of Transportation according to the pre-established criteria of the Division. The Supervisor of Transportation shall contact the local radio stations prior to 7:00 a.m. to advise which buses have been cancelled, and which buses (if any) will be operating. (Star FM, KX96 and CKLQ)

Notifications will also be posted on the BSD website.

*In most cases if the out of town buses are not running, the in-town buses will still run and it is up to the parent's/guardian's discretion to send their child to school. Please notify the Transportation Dept. and your school should you choose to keep your child at home.

**On the occasion if your busing is cancelled, and you transport your child to school in the morning, please note, that you must also make your own arrangements for transportation at the end of the school day.

Quick Reference:

Bus (s): _____

Driver (s): _____

Transfer (if applicable): _____

Pick Up Time: _____

Drop Off Time: _____

**Department of Transportation
Phone # 204-729-3975**

School Phone # _____

Riding the School Bus



Information for Parents/Guardians /Students



Department of Transportation
Brandon School Division
800 Richmond Ave. E.
Brandon, MB R7A 7T8

Telephone: 204-729-3975

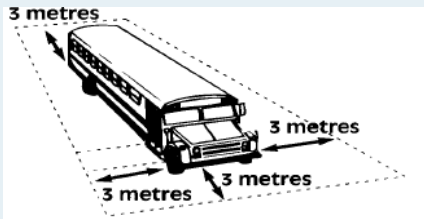
Fax: 204-729-3981

Email: transportation@bsd.ca

BUS STOP LOCATIONS

- * Students should arrive at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick up time and properly dressed for the weather;
- * Children should wait in a safe place, well back from the side of the road;
- * Do not abuse, damage or litter private property while waiting for the school bus;
- * If students must cross the road to board the bus, wait until the bus has arrived and all traffic has stopped; then wait for the signal from the school bus driver before crossing.
- * **WALK, DON'T RUN.**
- * Hold the handrail, board the bus in single file, without pushing or shoving.

The safety of children getting to and from bus stops and while waiting at school bus stop locations requires the consistent and co-operative effort of parents and/or caregivers. In some instances, children are left unattended as parents are not available. Parents are strongly urged to be at the pick-up and drop-off points each day or arrange for a responsible adult to be there. There is no substitute for adult supervision in student safety.



SCHOOL BUS DANGER ZONE

It is important for all parents and students to recognize that a danger zone exists in the immediate vicinity of school buses. This area is generally defined as a three metre /10 feet perimeter around the bus.

At every opportunity, students must be reminded to stay clear of the danger zone. Your assistance in helping your child recognize and keep clear of this area at all times is paramount to a sound school bus safety program.

Please remind your child to never linger or run behind or in front of the school bus to pick up something that was dropped in the Danger Zone.

RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS

Kindly review the following good school bus passenger rules with your child:

- * Take your seat right away and remain seated until leaving the bus.
- * Each driver will have assigned seating and a seating plan in effect.
- * Eating or drinking is not permitted on the school bus.
- * Aisles are to be kept clear at all times. Books and parcels should be kept on your lap.
- * Avoid distracting or disturbing the driver.
- * Students shall refrain from loud or boisterous talking or yelling.
- * Do not use abusive or obscene language.
- * Never throw objects inside the school bus or out the windows.
- * Windows should only be opened with the permission of the driver. Keep your hands, feet, arms and head inside the school bus at all times.
- * Students shall not touch the emergency door or exits or any part of the bus equipment, unless directed to do so.
- * Students will be responsible for any willful damage or vandalism to the school bus.
- * Promptly obey the driver's instructions.
- * Objects of a dangerous or objectionable nature will not be allowed on the bus.
- * Always treat your driver and other passengers with respect and courtesy.
- * The driver will report disciplinary problems to the principal who will determine the disciplinary measures to be taken.
- * The principal shall be guided by a three step procedure for discipline handling: discussion, warning and finally, suspension.
- * All Divisional rules, policies and procedures that are applicable to students in school are also applicable while riding the bus.

"SCHOOL BUS SAFETY IS THE CONCERN OF EVERYONE"



GETTING OFF THE BUS

- * Remain seated until the bus has reached its destination and comes to a complete stop.
- * Do not rush when leaving the bus.
- * If you have to cross the road, walk along the edge of the road until you are about three metres/ten feet **IN FRONT** of the bus where the bus driver can see you. Then look left and right and proceed into the roadway where you are protected by the stopped bus until you are level with the left front fender of the bus. Remain in this position until you are certain that all traffic has stopped. When the way is clear in both directions, proceed across the road. Continue to look left and right as you cross. At an intersection, look in all directions.
- * Never cross the road behind the bus

TRANSPORTING EQUIPMENT ON BUSES

In the interest of safety, only certain equipment is allowed on school vehicles, under the following conditions:

1. Musical equipment must be housed in cases and should be kept on the student's lap whenever possible.
2. Ice skates must be carried in a sports bag, or tied together with the blades covered, and kept on the floor at the student's feet.
3. Parents are expected to provide transportation for their children when bulky or large items such as projects and sports equipment (i.e. skis) must be taken to and from school.
4. Animals are not permitted on the bus at any time.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

In the interest of student safety, our buses are equipped with video cameras (interior and exterior).

NOTE: The Highway Traffic Act requires that all traffic must stop when approaching from the front or overtaking from the rear of a school bus that is stopped with red signal lights flashing on the front and rear. Traffic is to remain stopped until the red signal lights are no longer flashing. The only exception to the rule is where a highway is divided into separate roadways by a physical barrier. In that case, traffic approaching the bus from the front is not required to stop.

Violations of this law are enforced with fines in excess of \$600.