



Distance Education Bus Rules

Please read the following bus standards together with your student. If you choose to have your student ride the bus, the student must respect the authority of the driver and Discovery Day mentors. Students will be expected to immediately and politely follow any instructions given and follow these standards while waiting to board, riding on, and exiting the bus. We understand student's typical levels of enthusiasm when they get to see their friends. With that in mind, we also want to ensure that each student always treats other students and supervising adults with respect and kindness. Students also will need to keep their devices put away. They may contact parents before boarding or after exiting the bus. We would like the bus to be a pleasant and safe experience for each individual traveler. Thank you for your help with this!

While waiting for the bus or for my parent to pick me up, I will:

1. Wait calmly in line, only in the designated areas.
2. Respect others by keeping my hands and objects to myself.
3. Wait quietly and patiently on the bus while all the other students get checked in or out.
4. Leave with a parent only when officially checked out by a Discovery Day mentor.

While on the bus, I will:

1. Put away all electronic devices, including phones, iPads, iPods, laptops, etc.
2. Keep the aisle clear of feet and objects except during loading and unloading.
3. Respect the bus as school property. Keep food put away until I exit the bus.
4. Keep head, arms, and hands inside the bus at all times.
5. Please remain seated and facing forward at all times. Use only quiet voices.
6. Keep hands, feet, and objects to myself. Always be kind to other students.

While on the bus, I will NOT:

1. Throw things or eat while on the bus.
2. Stand or change seats while the bus is in motion.
3. Use loud voices, laughter, or make disturbing noises.
4. Tease or provoke other students, or start or participate in quarrels or fights.
5. Vandalize the bus in any way. *Students who damage the bus will pay for all damages and bus privileges may be revoked.*
6. Bring animals, breakable containers, flammable liquids, or dangerous objects on the bus. No skateboards are allowed unless prior arrangements are made.
7. Share inappropriate material. *This behavior is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate and permanent loss of bus privileges for this school year, possibly longer.*
8. Exhibit belligerence, blatant unkindness or volume, vulgarity, or profanity. *These behaviors will not be tolerated and may result in the immediate denial of bus service for as long as is deemed appropriate. The five chances listed below may be revoked.*

Consequences for Appropriate Behavior

When students are following these rules, we will praise and encourage them. We will review the ten positive expectations above before each bus ride so the expectations are fresh in their minds. We will often congratulate them on their behavior at the end of the bus ride by using a quick self-evaluation, helping them celebrate the peaceful and safe environment that their good choices created.

Consequences for Disruptive Behavior

Note: For safety reasons, students will not be moved while the bus is in transit. In extreme situations, the bus will pull over so that a student may be moved next to an adult. If there is misbehavior during the ride, mentors will inform the student(s) involved that they need to talk to an adult about their behavior at the end of the ride. Upon arrival to the destination, mentors will take students to either the Discovery Day Director or to their parents to discuss the misbehavior and encourage better choices.

When students are not following the rules stated above, we will help guide them to better individual decisions by using the following protocol for each successive offense:

- **First Time:** We will talk to the individual(s) as well as their parents about their choices and how they can choose to follow the stated expectations in the future. If an incident has occurred between two or more students, then the following week these individuals will not be allowed to sit by each other on the bus.

Note: This is not intended to be punitive, but to help students practice appropriately following the bus rules for one week so they can hopefully experience success. Then, they will be given the freedom to try sitting next to each other again with the understanding that if rules are not followed a second time, they will have assigned seating on the bus for the rest of the year. The message is to choose carefully who they sit by on the bus. We want students to develop an awareness and choose to sit by students that will help them make good choices.

- **Second Time:** We again talk to student and parents about choices and personal responsibilities. The student will have an assigned seat on the bus as chosen by a Discovery Day mentor for the remainder of the year.
- **Third Time:** Individual bus privileges will be suspended for a week and the student will be asked to help create a plan that will work for them to follow the rules. Once this plan has been received, the student will be allowed to ride the bus again the following week.
- **Fourth Time:** After talking to the student and the parents about appropriate bus behavior, the plan will be revised and include what the student can improve upon. They will again be suspended from riding the bus for a week. Then, the student is allowed to try one final time to exhibit appropriate behavior on the bus.
- **Fifth Time:** The individual will no longer be allowed to ride the bus for this school year.