

BUS SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

*Working Together To Transport the Future,
Our Children*

Our primary goal is to transport our students, your children, safely and in a frame of mind to learn. Working together we will have a safe and successful school year. The following Partnership Contract rules are taken directly from the Student Discipline Handbook. Bus Behavior can be found on pages 13 and 14. Consequences for violating the Bus Behavior policy are outlined in the Marietta City Schools Discipline Plan.

The Marietta City Schools Department of Transportation is responsible for the safety of all students being transported on their school buses. Compliance with the rules is required in order to ensure the safe transportation of students to and from school and school related activities. The Transportation Dept. reserves the right to remove any unruly student(s) jeopardizing the safety of others.

Maintaining proper student discipline while students are being transported is the responsibility of the School Bus Driver, Director of Transportation, Administration, and other personnel with supervisory responsibility over the students being transported.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Marietta City Schools

BUS SAFETY PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT

1. Students shall follow all student behavior policies and regulations while on school provided transportation including, but not limited to, the prohibitions on physical violence, bullying, assault, battery, disrespectful conduct, or other unruly behavior.
2. Students are to keep all body parts inside the bus at all times.
3. Nothing may be thrown into, out of, within, or at the bus.
4. **BUS DISRUPTION:** Student must not make unnecessary noise and must remain seated at all times, unless directed by the Driver. Students must be absolutely silent at all railroad crossings.
5. Obscene language and gestures are prohibited on the bus.
6. Emergency doors and windows are to be used only at the direction of the Driver.
7. Students may not board or disembark a bus at a bus stop other than that assigned for their residence without submitting a written request from their parent or guardian to the principal or designee for approval.
8. Students shall not use any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including but not limited to: cell phones, pagers, audible radios, tape players, and compact disc players without headphones, or any other electronic device in a manner that interferes with the bus' communication equipment or the Driver's operation of the bus.
9. Students shall not use mirrors, lasers, flashing lights, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective surfaces in a manner which might interfere with the operation of the bus. Sports equipment, skateboards or items deemed by Driver as a safety hazard are prohibited.
10. Consumption of food or drinks is prohibited. This includes gum and candy.
11. Students shall board and exit the bus quickly and quietly, in an orderly manner. Students are to cross the street in front of the bus in full view of the Driver. **Unsafe bus stop behavior will be reported.**
12. Students shall move behind the guardrail or white line before the bus is put into motion, and they must be seated (if available) and **REMAIN** seated or behind the guardrail or white line throughout the entire bus ride.
13. Articles brought on the bus such as band instruments must be kept in the possession of the owner at all times. Every effort will be made to accommodate band instruments; however, those that are too large or pose a threat to safety may be denied for transport.
14. Students need to be at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the scheduled time. Buses arriving within five (5) minutes of the scheduled time are considered to be on time. The bus will stop to load and unload passengers only at the designated bus stops. During inclement weather the Driver may make stops closer to a passenger's home, if possible.
15. Any behavior that is considered unsafe or disruptive by the Bus Driver will be handled through the use of The Discipline Plan.
16. Inappropriate behaviors determined to be major violations of the behavior code do not require a short form notice prior to being submitted to the school administrators.
17. Prohibited items may be temporarily held by the Driver, provided they are returned to the student, student's parent/guardian, school administrator, or Director of Transportation. Drivers may not keep student's personal property overnight.

UNSAFE BEHAVIOR ON THE RIDE HOME:

- If unsafe behavior occurs before the bus leaves the school, the student will be provided with two options: (1) Correct the behavior and continue home (behavior documented) or (2) be removed from the bus and stay at the school with staff supervision until a parent or guardian can pick the student up.
- If unsafe behaviors occur after the bus leaves the school, the Driver will pull over to a SAFE location and restore order, calling in to Dispatch for assistance. If necessary, the student(s) will be removed from the bus and transported home by alternate means.
- If either of the above instances occurs, the graduated Discipline Plan will be in effect.

This Partnership includes a defined Discipline Plan to encourage the student to make better behavior choices.

MARIETTA CITY SCHOOLS DISCIPLINE PLAN

- **1st Offense** – Driver will give student verbal warning and continue to monitor student for compliance.
Recommended Action: Failure to comply may result in written warning or documented phone call to parent.
- **2nd Offense** – Short discipline form will be sent home for parent signature and/or a documented phone call to parent.
Recommended Action: Driver will call parent to confirm receipt and to advise parent of consequences of next write up.
- **3rd Offense** – Submit long form to Principal or designated representative, with a copy of short form and/or phone record and documentation of repeated behavior.
Recommended Action: Three (3) day bus suspension. A conference with Administrator, Driver and Parent will be required before student may return to bus. If scheduling issues arise, a phone conference with parent may be acceptable. Upon return, student will be reassigned to front seat near the Driver, until student demonstrates appropriate behavior.
- **4th Offense** – Submit long form to Principal or designated representative.
Recommended Action: Ten (10) days bus suspension. A final conference with Student, Parent, Administrator and Driver will be required before student may return to bus. Upon return, student will remain assigned to a front seat.
- **5th Offense** – Long Form submitted to Principal.
Recommended Action: Bus suspension for a minimum of one (1) month, with maximum being the remainder of the school year.

Remember, riding the school bus is a privilege.

SIGN AND RETURN THIS PORTION TO BUS DRIVER

We have read the Bus Safety Partnership and agree to abide by these rules. Failure to comply may result in bus suspension and loss of riding privilege. This page **MUST** be signed by both Student **and** Parent or Guardian and returned to the Bus Driver no later than five days from issue date indicated below. Note: Failure to return contract within five days of issue will result in loss of riding privileges until completed and signed contract is returned to the driver.

SCHOOL: _____ ROUTE # _____ BUS # _____ GRADE: _____

DATE ISSUED: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____ SEX: M or F

ADDRESS: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____

HOME #: _____ CELL #: _____ WORK #: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____

Name

Phone #

Relationship to student: _____

Please list any medical conditions, allergies or special instructions for your child. _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

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