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Transportation Procedures for 2015-2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to an exciting new school year! Part of your child's day involves getting to and from school through our transportation system. Your child may also ride a school or activity bus for field trips. In an effort to secure the safety and well-being of all students, the following School Bus Expectations have been established. Please remember that riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right. We also encourage parents to accompany their child/children to their assigned stop. We ask that students arrive at their assigned stop 10 minutes prior to the scheduled bus stop time. The bus rules and consequences adhere to the Union County Public Schools Board of Education, Policy 4-3 Code of Student Conduct for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Bus Expectations

S.T.O.P.

Stand at your assigned stop (10 minutes early).

Turn left and right. Look both ways before crossing.

Observe the stop sign and flashing red lights.

Proceed only when all cars have stopped.

Use appropriate language and keep all body parts to yourself.

- Respect the driver and other students while on the bus.
- Remain seated at all times during the bus ride.
- Eating or drinking (except bottled water) is not permitted on the bus.
- Profanity or fighting is not permitted on the school bus (Code of Conduct #2, #3, #4, #10, and #11).
- Bullying is not permitted on the bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity or while waiting at the bus stop (Code of Conduct #12).

Use or possession of inappropriate objects is not allowed on the school bus.

- Possession or use of weapons is not allowed (Code of Conduct #6).
- Possession of tobacco products or any illegal drugs or alcohol while on the bus or at the bus stop are not allowed (Code of Conduct #9 and #13).
- Please do not vandalize the bus by marking, tearing seats, etc. (Code of Conduct # 8).
- Possession or use of nuisance items is not allowed on the bus (Code of Conduct #14).

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- Objects should not be thrown on the bus or from the bus. Students/parents may be responsible for damage to vehicles which may be damaged from objects thrown from bus.
- Animals, oversized projects, plants etc. are not permitted while riding the bus.

The school-based administration reserves the right to discipline students for other acts that disrupt the safe operation of the bus but are not specifically mentioned above.

Consequences

If your child does not meet the expectations, appropriate action will be taken. Each driver will complete a School Bus Incident Report and submit it to the school administrator.

1ST OFFENSE- Warning issued to student. Additional consequences will be based on the Student Code of Conduct for elementary, middle, and high school students according to UCPS Board of Education Policy, 4-3. Parent/Guardian will be notified.

2ND OFFENSE- Denial of bus privileges up to 3 days depending on maturity of student and severity of offense. Additional consequences will be based on the Student Code of Conduct for elementary, middle, and high school students according to UCPS Board of Education Policy, 4-3. Parent/Guardian notified.

3RD OFFENSE- Denial of bus privileges up to 5 days depending on maturity of student and severity of offense. Additional consequences will be based on the Student Code of Conduct for elementary, middle, and high school students according to UCPS Board of Education Policy, 4-3. Parent/Guardian notified.

4TH OFFENSE- Denial of bus privileges up to 10 days depending on maturity of student and severity of offense. Additional consequences will be based on the Student Code of Conduct for elementary, middle, and high school students according to UCPS Board of Education Policy, 4-3. Parent/Guardian notified.

5TH OFFENSE- Denial of bus privileges up to 20 days depending on maturity of student and severity of offense. Additional consequences will be based on the Student Code of Conduct for elementary, middle, and high school students according to UCPS Board of Education Policy, 4-3. Parent/Guardian notified.

6TH OFFENSE- Removal of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year. Additional consequences will be based on the Student Code of Conduct for elementary, middle, and high school students according to UCPS Board of Education Policy, 4-3. Parent/Guardian notified.

- The principal may “skip” initial steps of discipline and move to more stringent steps if severity of the offense justifies more severe consequences.
- Actions involving exceptional children will be taken in compliance with exceptional children’s guidelines and procedures.
- Principals may use discretion and grant a child’s bus privileges be restored if all parties involved agree to a written contract and specific steps and consequences for future inappropriate school bus behavior.
- Written notification of consequences shall be provided to the student’s assigned bus driver.

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Afternoon Bus Stop Procedures for Elementary Schools

Union County Public Schools strongly recommends that parents accompany students to and from their assigned bus stops. Since all of our buses serve two and three schools in the afternoons, an on-time schedule is very important, and parents can help us better serve all of our students by meeting the elementary bus at their child's stop. School bus drivers will be instructed to wait for parents to receive all **Pre-K and Kindergarten** students at assigned bus stops. If no parent/guardian is present, drivers will contact their Transportation Area and await further instructions. If the school cannot contact a parent/guardian, the driver will return the student to school and the parent/guardian shall be responsible for retrieving the student from the school in a timely manner. Multiple return trips to the school could result in student losing their bus riding privileges. Please check with your school for more specific guidelines.

Unauthorized Passengers

We also would like to remind all parents that North Carolina Law states that no unauthorized passengers may board a school bus. If you have questions for the bus driver, please speak to them from outside the bus, or contact the school.

The statute reads as follows:

§ 14-132.2. Willfully trespassing upon, damaging, or impeding the progress of a public school bus.

(a) Any person who shall unlawfully and willfully demolish, destroy, deface, injure, burn or damage any public school bus or public school activity bus shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(b) Any person who shall enter a public school bus or public school activity bus after being forbidden to do so by the authorized school bus driver in charge thereof, or the school principal to whom the public school bus or public school activity bus is assigned, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(c) Any occupant of a public school bus or public school activity bus who shall refuse to leave said bus upon demand of the authorized driver in charge thereof, or upon demand of the principal of the school to which said bus is assigned, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(c1) Any person who shall unlawfully and willfully stop, impede, delay, or detain any public school bus or public school activity bus being operated for public school purposes shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

The bus rules and consequences adhere to the Union County Public Schools Board of Education, Policy 4-3

Code of Student Conduct for elementary, middle, and high school students.

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Updated 8/12/2015

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