



To: Parents/Guardians:

It is the policy of the Hillsdale Board of Education to provide for the safety and welfare of pupils at all times. **School bus transportation is a privilege.** The bus driver is completely in charge of the bus and its riders at all times. **Students must comply with all the rules and directions of the driver.** Therefore, should a violation of the rules take place, a bus conduct report will be submitted to the school's administration. **Severe and repeated bus infractions will result in disciplinary action. First offense: One (1) day bus suspension; Second offense: two (2) week bus suspension; Third offense: One (1) month bus suspension; Fourth offense: Bus suspension for the remainder of the academic school year.** Additionally, students are reminded that the school bus and bus stop are extensions of the school day.

The School Bus Rules and Safety Guidelines are as follows:

1. Students should **be at the designated bus stop 5-10 minutes before their scheduled pick-up time.** This will prevent students from running after the bus and crossing the street without the driver being aware.
2. As the bus arrives at the designated stop, students should **stay on the curb** until the bus comes to a complete stop and the red school lights are flashing.
3. Students **should not push or shove others as the bus approaches.**
4. **Students who cross the street must wait until the driver gives them the signal that it is safe to cross.** (A thumb & index finger motion). If the driver honks the horn (an indication that a vehicle is passing the school bus), crossing students are to run back to the curb or in front of the school bus. **(It is strongly recommended that a parent walk their child to the bus if the child has to cross the street.** Sometimes motorists do not stop for a school bus that has its red school lights flashing.)
5. Parents: **If your child missed the bus,** please don't follow the bus in your car and let your child out when the bus stops. **This is extremely dangerous!!** Drive directly to another designated stop.
6. When getting on the bus, students should **find a seat quickly and buckle their seat belt.** It's the law in New Jersey. Motorists do not like to wait too long for a stopped bus. Students must **remain in their seats while the bus is moving** so they do not fall and get hurt if the bus stops short. When getting off the bus, students must **remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.**
7. Students should **keep their feet and carry-on items out of the aisle** to prevent someone from tripping. Carry-on items should be placed under the seat and should never block the rear emergency exit door.
8. Students should **keep their voices at a low level** when talking on the bus. **NO SCREAMING!** The driver needs to concentrate on driving and sudden loud noises can distract the driver and cause an accident.
9. Students should **never put their head or hands out of the bus window.** It can be injured by a large passing vehicle, street sign, tree limb, etc.

10. Students **should not throw anything inside the bus or out the windows.** Someone inside or outside the bus can get hurt.
11. Students should **keep their hands to themselves.** Someone can get hurt.
12. Students **should not spit, eat, drink, smoke, use obscene or offensive language or gestures** while on the bus. A student can choke while eating or drinking in a moving vehicle. Students should respect others and other people's property.
13. Students **should not damage the bus** in any way. The parents or the school will be held responsible for the damage.
14. **If a student has a problem with someone on the bus,** they should tell the bus driver and the school principal.
15. Students **should not shove or push others** while getting on or off the bus.
16. Just before exiting the bus on the trip home, **students must always tell the driver if they are crossing the street.**
17. Students should **exit the bus ONLY at their designated stop.**
18. Before getting off the bus, students should **look alongside the bus** for a passing motorcycle, bicycle, jogger, etc. passing the stopped school bus on the right side of the bus.
19. **STUDENTS MUST NEVER CROSS THE STREET BEHIND THE BUS!!!! THEY ARE TO ALWAYS CROSS THE STREET AT LEAST 10 FEET IN FRONT OF THE BUS.**
20. Students **should not stand anywhere near the bus** when they get off. The bus can hit them if it turns or if they fall.
21. If a student **drops something near or under the bus,** they are not to pick it up. They are to notify the driver first.
22. **If an evacuation is necessary,** students sitting in the front half of the bus are to exit through the front passenger door. Students sitting in the rear half of the bus are to exit through the rear emergency exit door. Once outside, students are to stand at least 100 feet away from the bus. If the bus is stalled on a railroad track and a train is coming, students are to run toward the oncoming train at an angle away from the tracks.
23. **The bus driver is in charge** of the bus. Students are to listen to his/her directions and help to provide a safe ride to and from school.
24. **No gift giving.** Although this is a nice gesture and appreciated. These are different times and gift giving is not encouraged. Thank you.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT SEVERE MISBEHAVIOR ON THE BUS, SUCH AS ACTIONS WHICH ENDANGER THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE STUDENTS AND/OR THE DRIVER, MAY RESULT IN THE SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF RIDING PRIVILEGES, SUCH BEHAVIOR INCLUDES FIGHTING, DISORDERLY CONDUCT, DISRESPECT TO THE BUS DRIVER OR DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

SCHOOL BUS RULES AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

Parents and children must review and sign that they have read and acknowledged the School Bus Rules and Safety Guidelines in order to receive bus privileges for the 2023-2024 school year. **This page needs to be submitted along with the Bus Application to the attention of the Transportation Department, George White Middle School, 120 Magnolia Avenue, Hillsdale, New Jersey 07642 no later than Friday, June 30, 2023.**

(A separate form must be completed for each child.)

Parent/Guardian's Name _____(print)

Parent/Guardian's Name _____(signature)

Date: _____

Student's Name _____(print)

Student's Name _____(signature) (If child can sign)

School _____

Grade _____

Date: _____