

(8/23/23 – District Administrator’s Corner Article)

And, here they come! We are all very excited for our students to return to our campus! We have been planning and preparing for the 2023-2024 school year. And, you will inevitably notice changes in traffic patterns around our communities. Many students rely on school buses to get them to and from school safely. If you are driving near our campus at the start or end of the day, please remember the following as you encounter a school bus:

- Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. You should slow down and prepare to stop your vehicle.
- Red flashing lights and an extended stop-arm indicate that the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. It is the law to stop your vehicle and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before you can start driving again.
- Even when lights aren’t flashing, watch for children...particularly in the morning or mid-afternoon, around school arrival and dismissal times. Be alert as you back out of a driveway or drive through a neighborhood, school zone, or bus stop.
- Parents - please talk bus safety with your children: The River Valley School District and our transportation provider, Lamers Bus Company, have worked cooperatively to build a Bus Handbook for all students. The link to the new handbook can be found on our website:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10xvwYDiRgcHMPGt9dub2RqFhkrkPXAjZTFSg5HtXk/edit?usp=sharing>

Within the district, we each have a role in making sure our transportation is running smoothly.

Role of the Student:

- Follow safety procedures and wear seatbelts when available.
- Ride only the designated bus and only enter and exit the bus safely at designated stops.
- Obey rules and be courteous.
- Refrain from using profanity, causing disruption, fighting, or destroying property.
- Always treat the bus driver and other riders with dignity and respect.

Role of the Bus Driver:

- Transport students to and from school safely to the best of their ability.
- Assign seats to riders.
- Fairly and consistently enforce bus rules and regulations.
- Communicate bus issues to the terminal manager who will share with the principal.

Role of Transportation Provider:

- Communicate family and student needs with the school district administration.
- Train, manage, and support bus drivers and bus fleet.
- Communicate emergencies (weather or accident) to families and the school district.
- Create and sustain bus routes based on enrollment and registration.
- Approve guest riders on the bus routes.

Role of the Parent:

- Ensure the student is at the bus stop and ready to board the bus.
- Ensure their children’s safety, well-being, and conduct on the way to and from the bus stops and until the bus arrives.
- Aid in ensuring the conduct of their children is appropriate while riding the bus.

Together, we can make our transportation more reliable, safe, and smooth. It is great to see those yellow buses making their routes and transporting our future!

Sincerely,

Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator
River Valley School District