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## Bus Conduct and Safety Rules

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To insure the safety of students riding the school bus all riders must abide by MVUSD rules & regulations, Federal laws and California state laws.

Please review Bus Conduct and Safety Rules with your rider.

For the safety of everyone aboard, the driver must be able to devote full attention to the road. Unnecessary conversation with the driver or any creation of a disturbance is not allowed.

### OBEY THE BUS DRIVER AT ALL TIMES

The SAFETY of EVERYONE depends upon the adherence to safe conduct by each individual.

1. Please arrive at assigned pick-up point at least five minutes but not more than ten minutes before bus arrival time.
2. Use only the assigned bus and bus stop printed on bus pass. A CURRENT BUS PASS MUST BE PRESENTED EVERY TIME student boards bus.
3. Orderly behavior is required at the bus stop. NOTE: As bus arrives, students must stand in a single file line at least twelve feet back from where bus stops. Do not move toward the bus until it has come to a complete stop and driver has opened the door.
4. Students are to remain calm and quiet at all school loading zones and respect the property where they are waiting for the bus.
5. Students must always board bus and find a seat quickly and remain seated. Riders must always face forward.
6. Shouting, yelling, boisterous behavior, unnecessary loud noises are allowed.
7. Riders may not use profane language, obscene gestures or use sexual innuendoes at any time before/during/or while exiting bus.
8. All electronic devices including but not limited to cell phones, hand held games, radios, iPods, and iPads are not allowed out of the backpack.

9. Keep head, arms, legs and property inside of the bus. Yelling out of the window is not allowed.
10. No fighting, tripping, slapping, hitting, poking, shoving, intimidating looks, threats or body language is allowed before/during/after riding and unloading bus.
11. No eating, drinking or gum chewing is allowed.
12. The following are not allowed at bus stops or on school property.
  - \* Animals (mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, insects, rodents, etc.)
  - \* Glass objects, skateboards, scooters, aerosol cans of any type
  - \* Matches, lighters, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, prescription medicine, over the counter medicine
  - \* Knives, switchblades, pocket knife, guns, scissors, rope, any sharp or pointed objects, pepper spray
  - \* Pornographic material/literature
13. Littering and vandalism of the bus is not permitted. Throwing trash inside of or out of the bus is not allowed. Parents are responsible for all charges pertaining to acts of vandalism and property damage.
14. Shoes, shirts and pants/shorts/dress/skirt must be worn at all times.
  - \* EXCEPTION: Cleats cannot be worn aboard the bus
15. No opening, closing or tampering with any part of the bus or its equipment. This includes windows.
16. Riders must follow their driver's instructions.
17. If rider crosses street, the driver will escort student across the street, in front of bus, while the red flashing lights are activated. Driver will step out first. This applies to all school routes and trips with students in the district.
18. MVUSD buses & activity vans are equipped with cameras. Recordings will be reviewed if a safety concern arises.

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### Q & A's regarding School Bus Transportation

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**Q.** Who may ride a school bus?

**A.** Only students who have registered for a bus pass may ride. Grades K-5 who live more than 1 aerial mile from school, grades 6-8 who live more than 2 aerial miles from

school and grades 9-12 who live more than 3 aerial miles from school.

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**Q.** Who may not ride a school bus?

**A.** Students who have been denied transportation in a disciplinary action, students who live within the non-busing zone, student without a current bus pass and any other person unless authorized by law, District policy or the Director of Transportation.

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**Q.** What if, due to an emergency, my child needs to ride a different bus home?

**A.** The MVUSD Board of Trustees realizes that emergencies do occur. In the case of an emergency, we will try to accommodate parents. Please call the Transportation Department prior to boarding.

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**Q.** What if I cannot afford to pay for transportation?

**A.** Complete required Fee Assistance Disclosure Form with proof of income for past 30 days.

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**Q.** What is the cost?

**A.** Fees vary depending on the type of pass required. Check our District website at [www.murrieta.k12.ca.us](http://www.murrieta.k12.ca.us)

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**Q.** What if the bus is late arriving at the designated bus stop?

**A.** Buses may run late due to various reasons. Transportation does not have the manpower to phone parents however, you may download the Zonar App to track what time your student boarded the bus. You may call the Dispatcher at 696-1600, ext. 1189/1193 and they will be able to advise on late bus estimated arrival time.

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**Q.** What if I have a concern about a bus stop or route?

**A.** Please contact the Supervisor or Director of Transportation at 696-1600 ext. 1168 or 1191

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**Q.** Will my bus stop location or time change?

**A.** If it were necessary all riders would be given a notice from the driver. For the most up to date route information go to the District website or call 696-1600 ext. 1199.

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**Q.** What about inclement weather?

**A.** Parents are advised to check the MVUSD Transportation for alternate stops.

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**Q.** When I'm at the bus stop with my child may I walk them across the street without the bus driver's assistance?

**A.** NO! California Law dictates that all students grades K-8 MUST be escorted by their bus driver if they need to cross the street, even in the presence of the rider's parent. (Vehicle Code 22112). MVUSD practice is to escort all students K-12 who must cross the street.

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**Q.** What should a student do if late arriving to the bus stop, the bus has arrived, and they must cross the street?

**A.** WAIT for the driver to escort the student across the street.

**Q.** If I drive my child to the bus stop may I drop them off across from the bus and let them cross the street to board the bus?

**A.** NO! You must drop off your children on the same side of the street in order to negate the need for the driver to escort them.

**Q.** What is MVUSD safety rating on its buses?

**A.** Excellent!

**Q.** What about rules & regulations for riding the bus?

**A.** All students riding a school bus are required to abide by ALL safety rules set forth by the District and state of California. Transportation is a privilege, not a right!

**Q.** What type of communication do the Dispatchers have with the drivers while transporting students?

**A.** All MVUSD buses are equipped with state of the art communication devices which is for the safety of our students and to determine where the bus is located.

**Q.** How are bus routes determined?

**A.** Routes are designed for safety, efficiency and conservation of time.

**Q.** Are seat belts required on school buses?

**A.** Only on large buses manufactured after July 2005. If a bus is equipped with seat belts they must be worn Pursuant to Title IV, California Code of Regulations, section 14105.

**Q.** What safety measures are taken on buses without seat belts?

**A.** "Compartmentalization". Children are contained within a structurally reinforced passenger compartment of fully padded, high back seats and crash barriers.

**Q.** Does MVUSD have seat belts in their buses?

**A.** Yes, on the small "van-type" buses seat belts are provided. On the large "transit-type" school buses manufactured prior to 7-1-05, there are no seat belts.

**Q.** What happens if the bus breaks down or is involved in an accident?

**A.** If the bus cannot continue on route, a backup bus will be dispatched to pick up or drop off your student. In both cases, it may take some time to resolve these issues.

**Please use the Zonar App for updates on your child's bus.**

**Q.** Will my elementary school student be dropped off at the bus stop even if I'm not there?

**A.** Only Preschool & Kindergarten students are required to have a designated person at the bus stop to receive them. Riders in grades 1-12 do not need to have a designated person receive them at the bus stop.

**Q.** What happens if no one is at the stop to receive my Preschooler or Kindergartner at the bus stop?

**A.** Your student's driver will return your student to school. You will then need to pick them from school.

**Q.** What happens if a student violates the rules?

**A.** The District has a progressive discipline policy which is outlined below. However, MVUSD has zero tolerance for threats of violence and any threat of violence will be investigated and appropriate consequences administered.

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** The student will be given a bus citation which the parent/guardian and principal (or designee) of the school will need to sign. Student may be assigned to a specific seat as a consequence.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** Revoked riding privileges for two (2) days.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** Revoked riding privileges for two (2) weeks.

**4<sup>th</sup> Offense:** Revoked riding privileges for remaining school term.

The **Edward Lanni School Bus Safety Act of 1997** requires all school buses in California to operate the flashing red signal lights when loading or unloading students at their assigned stops.

**Parent Notice:** (CF4119.43/4219, 43/4319.43 Universal Precautions)

If a student has a contagious condition such as ringworm, head lice, impetigo, vomiting, fever, etc. the Transportation Department will follow MVUSD health service guidelines by taking precautionary measures which may result in temporarily denying transportation until the student is medically released by our staff nurse.

MVUSD buses may be equipped with cameras for the safety of the students and they may be recorded by a video surveillance system which may include audio recording.

In the event of an unforeseen Emergency or Natural Disaster all parents will be contacted via MVUSD communication system.



## Murrieta Valley Unified School District Transportation Bus Conduct and Safety Rules

[www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/Parents/Transportation](http://www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/Parents/Transportation)

Barbara Ortiz-Monson  
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Murrieta, CA 92562  
951-696-1600 Ext. 1199

Dispatchers  
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