

Horry County Schools Bus Behavior Expectations

Forestbrook Middle School

To assure safety on school buses, it is essential that students and parents recognize the necessity for all bus riders to cooperate fully with the bus driver and to observe the rules that they remain seated on buses and conduct themselves in an orderly manner. The bus driver has responsibility for supervision of students in the bus. He/she may stop the bus at any time misbehavior or threatening behavior offers a hazard to safe driving. A student who creates a disturbance shall be reported to his/her school principal. Appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken. (Regulation JKD-R, 6/21/99). The following regulations govern the conduct of students and other passengers on school buses serving Horry County Schools. The bus driver shall assure that his/her passengers abide by them. Parents should not try to solve disagreements with drivers or students at school bus stops. Please contact the local bus supervisor at 293-1804 or 293-6941.

Video cameras:

Students on a school bus are subject to being videotaped at any time in order to promote safety. The tapes may be used by the administration in taking disciplinary or other appropriate action against the students.

Meeting the bus:

- Students must be on time.
- If a student has to walk along the highway in approaching the bus stop, he/she should always walk on the shoulder.
- Students should remain on their side of the roadway and wait for the driver to signal them to cross.
- Students should walk, not run, when crossing the highway.
- Students should not run alongside the bus when the bus is moving, but should wait until it stops and then walk to the door.
- Students should not enter the restricted area set aside for bus parking or loading unless the bus is at a complete stop.
- Students should enter only their assigned bus.

On the bus:

- **Students should go to their seats without crowding or pushing and remain seated while the bus is in motion.**
- Students must never extend arms, legs, or heads out of the bus window.
- Students should not talk to the driver while the bus is in motion except in an emergency.
- Students must never tamper with the emergency exits or any other part of the bus equipment.
- Students must not vandalize or deface the bus or its seat coverings in any manner. Any damage to the bus or seats should be reported by the student to the driver as soon as possible.
- Only the driver or other authorized person should remove first aid equipment which is to be used only for emergency treatment.
- Students must not tamper with the fire extinguisher which is to be used only by the driver in an emergency.
- Students should only open bus windows with the permission of the driver.
- Students must not fight, scuffle, or create any disturbance in the bus. The same conduct expected in the classroom should be maintained on the bus.
- Students must not wave or shout to pedestrians or occupants of other vehicles.
- Students must not throw objects from the windows.



***Be sure to
contribute to the
safety of all.***

Bus Behavior (continued)

On the bus:

- Books, lunch boxes, or other objects should not be placed in the aisle of the bus. The “SC Commercial Driver’s License Manual” states there should be nothing in the aisles that might trip riders. Aisles and stairwells must always be clear. Band instruments, science projects, coolers, etc. will not be allowed on any state or county-owned school bus unless they can be placed under the seat or held in the rider’s lap.
- Students are not allowed to eat or drink on the bus.

Students must remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop. They must never attempt to leave until the bus has come to a full stop and the door is opened to indicate that they may leave.

Exiting the bus:

(Regulation JCDAD-R, 7/31/96.)

- Students should leave in an orderly manner.
- Students must not loiter or play around the stopped or parked bus.
- Students are permitted to leave only at regular designated stops. Any changes must be made with the parent’s request and approved by the bus supervisor. **A written parent request should be given to the school secretary by 10 a.m. The secretary will call the parent to confirm the note and will write a rider verification note for the student. Due to bus overcrowding, a change of bus to ride home with a friend may not be permitted.**
- After the student leaves the bus to cross the highway, he/she should walk at a right angle at least ten feet in front of the bus and wait until the bus driver directs him/her to cross.
- After the driver gives the signal, the student should walk, not run, across the highway.
(Regulation JCDAD-R, 7/31/96.)

Sanctions to be applied by FMS in cases of bus conduct violations include, but are not limited to:

- First offense-warning and parent conference.
- Second offense-suspension from bus for up to five (5) school days.
- Third offense-suspension from bus for up to ten (10) school days.
- Fourth offense-suspension from bus for up to fifteen (15) school days.
- Fifth offense-loss of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the year.
- However, if the bus supervisor and the principal determine that a student’s behavior on the bus poses a direct and serious threat to the safety of himself/herself or others on or off the bus, the student will lose his/her bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year. (Regulation JKD-R, 6/21/99).

These guidelines may be adjusted based on the seriousness of the offense. If the bus supervisor and principal determine that the offense poses a direct and serious threat to the safety of himself/ herself or others on the bus, the student can be suspended from riding the bus for the remainder of the year or recommendation for an expulsion hearing may be appropriate. For serious offenses (weapons, assaults, drugs or threat to staff) on the school bus, school sanctions such as suspension and recommendation for expulsion hearing may be appropriate.

Please note: Suspension from the bus is NOT suspension from school. The student is expected to use an alternative means of transportation to come to school and return home.



FORESTBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL – CELL PHONE & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones may be brought to school but must be kept turned off and put away while on school property (including school buses). All classrooms have phones in case of emergencies. Any violations of the cell phone policy will result in disciplinary action and a parent coming to school to pick up the cell phone.

FORESTBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BROKEN, LOST, OR STOLEN ELECTRONIC DEVICES INCLUDING CELL PHONES.

Cell phones and all other electronic devices MAY NOT be used or visible and must be turned off once students are dismissed to classes in the morning, remaining so until school is dismissed at 3:30 pm. Parents will be required to pick up phones , etc., of students who fail to comply. Repeated offenses may result in disciplinary actions (ISS,OSS,etc.)

Cell phones are the number one stolen valuable thing in the school. It is imperative that both students and parents understand that the utmost care must be taken in securing personal cell phones at all times. The administration and staff cannot ensure that lost or stolen cell phones will be recovered.

When going through the metal detectors, students should place their cell phones in their book bags prior to walking through the metal detector.



GO GATORS!!