

## **Overview Of School Bus Expectations & Policies**

### **Important Information from All Star Transportation**

In order to maintain the pickup times listed below, Newtown Public Schools requests that **students be at their bus stop 10 minutes prior to the scheduled pickup time.**

Students should stand back 10 to 15 feet from the road whenever possible.

Students should wait for the school bus to come to a complete stop and for the doors to open before approaching the bus.

Children should never run after the bus as it pulls away as the driver may not see them. If your child has to cross in front of the bus they should be instructed to wait until the bus driver nods their head to signal it is safe to cross the street.

Students should also be instructed to cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus; so they can see the driver then the driver can see them.

If they should drop something in front of the bus, they should leave it until they get the driver's attention and permission to retrieve the item.

### **Bus Drop-Off Procedure/Waiver**

Students in Kindergarten through fourth grade must be met at the bus stop by a parent or known adult, or older sibling. If no parent or known adult, or older sibling is at the bus stop, children will be transported back to their home schools. If a student must be returned to a school, the following policy is in place: Reed students will be returned to Reed School. Elementary students will be returned to their elementary school. If siblings being returned are from both Reed and an elementary school, both students will be returned to the elementary school together.

If a family chooses, a waiver may be signed allowing its first through fourth grade children to disembark from the bus even if no adult is there to meet the children. No waivers for Kindergarten students will be accepted. The Drop Off Waiver Form can be found on the Transportation page of the Newtown Public Schools website.

If you have any questions regarding the transportation schedule, please e-mail [alan.colangelo@all-startransportation.com](mailto:alan.colangelo@all-startransportation.com) or call All-Star Transportation at 203-304-9778.

For Drop-Off Waivers, please see the link on the Transportation page of the Newtown Public Schools website.

### **Bus Waivers/Stop Change Forms**

Each school had sent these to parents and requested that they be completed and returned to the schools. If any parent has not yet done so, please get them to the school their child will be attending as soon as possible (elementary schools only).

**Bus Waivers:** Applies only to students in grades 1st – 4th. No waiver to get off of a bus unattended will be accepted for any KG student. The waiver is intended to allow the bus to release a student if no adult is visibly present. We don't know based on if a car is parked in the driveway... the driver needs to base this on if they do not visibly see an adult present.

**Stop Change Form:** If any family has moved or a student will be getting on/off at a stop different from the home address on a daily basis, this form must be completed. A stop change form is not intended to specify where someone wants a stop; it is solely for notification that their child will not get on/off the regularly schedule stop, but rather at another regularly scheduled stop.

### **Expectations**

Students should be out at the bus stop about 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Times change slightly based on a number of factors (road conditions, weather, students at previous stops not there, etc). Students should not be inside house at top of driveways waiting to put coats on when the bus arrives. When the bus stops, students should be ready to board immediately.

Attached is a list of bus expectations. The school bus is an extension of the classroom and students are expected to maintain behavior acceptable in a classroom setting. It helps the driver out tremendously if parents would go over these behavior expectations to promote a safe, hassle-free ride for all students.

Students should never cross in front of a bus without a visible signal from the driver that it is safe to do so. Likewise, no student should ever run towards/from the rear, alongside of a bus. A driver may not see a student in some danger zone blind spots. If a student drops something, never run up to the side of the bus to retrieve it. There is a danger zone around a bus where a driver may not see the student in a mirror. Always yell out to get the driver's attention if you need them to remain stopped for any reason.

### **BUS CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

**DON'T LOSE YOUR RIDING PRIVILEGE! FOLLOW THESE EXPECTATIONS:**

1. DEMONSTRATE RESPECTFUL CONDUCT AS IN THE CLASSROOM.
2. BE COURTEOUS, KIND, DO NOT USE PROFANITY.
3. REFRAIN FROM EATING OR DRINKING ON THE BUS.
4. KEEP THE BUS CLEAN.
5. COOPERATE WITH THE DRIVER.
6. DO NOT SMOKE (THIS INCLUDES ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES/VAPING).
7. BE RESPECTFUL OF EQUIPMENT & OTHERS' BELONGINGS.
8. REMAIN SEATED UNTIL BUS IS STOPPED COMPLETELY AT STUDENT'S BUS STOP.
9. KEEP HEAD, HANDS, FEET INSIDE BUS.
10. BUS DRIVER IS AUTHORIZED TO ASSIGN SEATS.

For the Reed and Elementary buses, grade level seating is enforced with youngest grades at the front of the bus and Reed students at the rear of the bus.