

Opp City Schools

Transportation Department

Bus Riding Information

Dear Parents and Students, The Opp City School System take great pride in the safe transportation of our students. Below is a condensed guide to discuss with your child the basic rules that will help us to ensure safe transportation on the school bus.

1. **Students/Parents/Guardians must be waiting at their assigned bus stop.** Students should arrive at the bus stop no less than five (5) minutes before the normal scheduled bus arrival time. Please allow a ten (10) minute window in the afternoon for drop-offs. Pick-up and drop-off times are unusually consistent but can be affected by weather, previous stops, or school dismissals.
2. **All students have assigned buses, schools, and bus stops.** If the need arises for students to temporarily get on or off at a different stop or ride a different bus, a parent/guardian **MUST** make contact with your child's school administration for approval. **NO notes sent by students will be accepted.** The student will then be given an approved note from the administrators to the bus driver. This must be done to keep track of all students riding buses in case of an emergency. Drivers are instructed to not let students ride, or change their normal bus stop routine, without the written approved authorization from a school administrator.
3. **All students will remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop.** Drivers are trained to check for safe crossing prior to letting riders depart the bus. When it is safe, the driver will open the door and allow riders to exit.
4. **Do not eat or drink on the bus.** Ants and bugs will find anything that is left on the bus. Gum, candy, soft drinks, and food spilled or left on the bus will attract insects. However, we will allow students to bring water on the bus.
5. **No loud talking, yelling, or loud laughing on the bus.** Normal activity is allowed at the discretion of the driver.
6. **Students are required to sit properly in their seats.** Students will face forward with feet and legs not extending into or crossing the center aisle. We understand that some riders are taller than others and the driver will consider this when assigning seats.
7. **Profanity (verbal or gesturing) will not be tolerated.** Older riders on the bus are requested to mentor younger riders to maintain an orderly and safe ride on the school bus.

8. **Do not throw objects from bus windows at any time.** This includes litter, book bags, and notes to those outside of the bus. The driver may limit the full opening of specific windows as necessary for safety reasons.
9. **Damage to the bus.** Intentional defacing, graffiti, or cuts/holes in the seats will be dealt with by the School Principal and the Transportation Supervisor. Students caught damaging school property will be held liable for the cost of repairing the damage. They will not be allowed to ride until restitution has been made. Students must stay in their assigned seats to avoid having their seats damaged by others.
10. **Cell/camera phones, MP3, iPods, CD players, and electronic games are allowed on the bus as long as they do not cause a distraction or disturbance and must be used with headphones. Cell phone use on the bus is limited to emergencies only. At no time is anyone allowed to take pictures of themselves or other students while riding a bus.** Any of the above items that cause distractions or disturbances on the bus will be taken by the driver and given to the school principal. All of the above items are to be placed inside the student's book bag before exiting the bus at school.
11. **All riders will fill out transportation information with their school.** This information will be used to contact parents/guardians in case of an emergency or sickness of riders.
12. **Inclement weather schedule.** In the event of inclement weather, drivers will attempt to pick up or drop off students as close to their residence as possible. In some cases this may not be possible, so please make arrangements to have your child at the designated bus stop. Also, in some rare cases of heavy rain or lightning, some students may have to stay on the bus until bad weather subsides. Once the driver deems it safe, they will allow student(s) to exit the bus.

Call your student's school for the status of riders when necessary.