

IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION

We are proud of the safety record of our school buses and the professionalism of our transportation team. Please help us ensure your child's safety by following these simple but important procedures:

- ★ Kindergarten students **MUST** have a parent or approved individual at the bus stop. If no one is present at the bus stop, your child will be returned to school, and it will be your responsibility to pick them up.
- ★ K-5 Students receive a colored bus tag which must be always attached to their backpack to assist with student safety.
- ★ Understand, review, and support the Student Expectation/Responsibilities and Bus Violation Consequences with your student(s).
- ★ Encourage safe riding practices to help minimize driver distraction.
- ★ By law, the bus driver is unable to make an unauthorized bus stop. Please make sure your student arrives to their designated stop at least 5 min prior to scheduled pick up time. Please allow 10 min (+/-) for after school drop off.
- ★ Riding the bus to/from school is a **PRIVILEGE**. If the loss of bus privilege occurs, the parent is responsible to ensure the student attends school.
- ★ **ALL** items must remain inside of your student's backpack while on the bus. Please check your child(ren) clothing/backpacks for long drawstrings or dangling items. These could get snagged in the bus door as the child exits the bus.
- ★ The bus driver is the authority on the bus. Every student needs to follow instructions and show respect for the rights, safety and security of others.
- ★ All students are required to follow the Dress Code as stated in the Student Code of Conduct. No hoods that are attached to a coat or sweatshirt are allowed to be worn on the bus.

We are deeply committed to the safety of your child(ren) as well as our community. The Board of Education has authorized the installation of video cameras on school buses for numerous reasons, including, but not limited to, monitoring behavior inside and outside of the bus. This may be submitted to school administration and used as evidence of misbehavior. Tapes can be viewed only in accordance with the law.

For more information about Fitzgerald Public Schools Transportation Department visit:

<http://fitz.k12.mi.us/administration-information/transportation/>

For frequently asked questions regarding Michigan school bus transportation visit:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_6569_38338-137337--,00.html

Daily cleaning and disinfecting of the bus are performed by FPS staff.

FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION DEPT.

23200 Ryan Rd.
Warren, MI 48091
586.758.0965
FAX: 586.620.6279
EMAIL: lauvic@myfitz.net

FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION 586.758.0965

Parent/Student Bus Transportation Guidelines



Fitzgerald Public Schools is proud to continue safe bus transportation for students living in the designated busing boundaries. Parents will need to annually request transportation for their eligible busing student by downloading the free Edulog Parent Portal app.



To ensure your students are assigned transportation for the current school year, you must use the REQUEST option from the Parent Portal app.

Student Expectations & Responsibilities

FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY - STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED to adhere to the following:

RESPECT AND COOPERATE WITH THE BUS DRIVER. F.P.S. bus drivers are trained, certified and licensed professionals and conduct a very important safety function. Behavior problems could distract the bus driver, resulting in unforeseen incidents.

REMAIN SEATED AT ALL TIMES.

Students are to remain seated until arriving at their destination. Keep legs and feet, backpacks, instruments or athletic equipment out of the aisle. For optimal safety, sit upright, facing forward with feet on the floor.

BE AT YOUR ASSIGNED BUS STOP 5 MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED PICK UP. The bus driver will scan the bus stop area, looking for any students approaching the bus. Once the driver closes the door, the red lights will deactivate. By Law, the driver will NOT be allowed to reactivate alternating flashing lights to conduct a legal bus stop at the current location.

KEEP OFF PRIVATE PROPERTY, LINE UP SINGLE FILE.

Students must remain out of the street and be respectful of the owner's privacy and personal property where the stop is located. Stay away from curb/street and form a single line. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop, and the door opens before approaching the bus. Do not push or shove. Behavior problems at the bus stop can create hazardous conditions for students and other motorists.

ALWAYS TREAT OTHERS WITH RESPECT BY KEEPING HANDS AND FEET TO YOURSELF, & USE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE.

The use of obscene, vulgar or profane language or an inappropriate gesture is **prohibited**. Normal conversation is encouraged however please do not shout or participate in any activity that may distract the driver. Fighting/bullying or other acts of violence will result in automatic loss of bus privilege.

EATING, DRINKING OR ANY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IS NOT ALLOWED ON THE BUS.

Many students have allergies. No food, drinks, perfume/cologne spray, glass containers or balloons are permitted. Tobacco, alcohol, drugs, flammable or hazardous material is strictly prohibited.

NO ITEMS SHOULD BE THROWN IN, AT OR FROM THE BUS OR BUS DAMAGE

Thrown objects may cause distraction to the driver, or cause injury to other students or motorists. Students are expected to help keep the bus clean. If needed, dispose of trash in trash can when exiting the bus. No vandalism to bus seats.

CELL PHONE USAGE ON THE BUS.

H.S. & Middle School – When cell phones are used while riding the bus, personal listening devices (head phones, ear buds) must be used to eliminate distraction to the bus driver and other passengers.

Elementary – Use of cell phones are **prohibited** for elementary age students on the bus.

VIDEO RECORDING BY ANY TYPE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED WHILE ON THE BUS!

ADVANCED APPROVAL IS NEEDED TO CHANGE ASSIGNED BUS ROUTES/BUS STOPS.

Students are expected to ride the bus route they have been assigned and get off at their designated bus stop. Only in an emergency, as determined by the transportation department or school administrator, will students be allowed to ride alternate routes or bus stops. Parents **must** contact the transportation office or school administrator when requesting a change for their student.

Student Consequences for Bus Violations

Violation Procedure:

General Consequences

- Visual/Verbal Direction
- Review Rider Expectations
- Conversation w/student
- Seat relocation
- Driver/Parent conversation

When multiple General incident reports have been documented, the student will be moved to a Minor Consequences status.

Minor Consequences

- SWIS Referral w/Review of Rider Expectations
- Staff/Supervisor Conference
- Parent Contact
- In-School Discipline
- Loss of Bus Privileges
 - 1-3 Day
 - 3-5 Day
 - 5+ Day

Major Consequences

- Supervisor, School or other Professional Staff Intervention
- Parent/Staff Conference
- Loss of bus privilege
 - 3-5 Day
 - 5-10 Day
 - 10+ Day
 - Remainder of Semester
 - Remainder of School Year
 - Permanent w/provisions
 - Permanent

Consequences are subject to the seriousness of the offense. If, in the judgment of the Principal or Transportation Supervisor, the violation is a major infraction of the Student Expectations/Responsibilities, a student may lose bus privileges on the first violation. Parents may be charged the cost to repair vandalism done to the bus.

CHATTERTON MIDDLE SCHOOL BUSING

All CMS students who are eligible for busing MUST HAVE A SCHOOL I.D. WITH CORRECT ROUTE # to ride the bus to/from school.