

TURTLE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DIVISION



The future is in our hands.

“SCHOOL BUS SAFETY GUIDELINES”

The Turtle Mountain School Division strives to maintain a safe and healthy atmosphere within our Transportation system. This can only be achieved through the cooperation of students, parents and bus drivers.

The school bus is considered as an extension of the classroom and thereby recognizes the importance of the bus drivers’ role in safety. We support the bus drivers’ efforts to maintain an orderly atmosphere. Drivers follow a “Code of Conduct” to help keep consistent with student discipline and this also helps students to know what is expected of them.

PLEASE READ THE RULES

BEFORE LEAVING THE HOUSE

Leave your home on time so you’ll arrive at the bus stop on time; as you are asked to be at your bus stop a few minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.

Please remember the following we preparing to ride the bus:

- Dress appropriately for the weather
- Large items (hockey sticks, curling brooms, etc.) are not allowed on the bus for safety reasons. Parents are asked to bring these items to school separately.
- You may not bring: animals, guns, knives, fuel cans, alcohol, drugs or any dangerous objects on the bus. No smoking or lighting of matches/lighters is allowed. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who violates these rules.

CHECKLIST

Students-always listen to school bus drivers – they’re in charge. If you forget any of the school bus safety rules they can tell you what it takes to be a safe bus rider.

1. Stand in a group while waiting for the bus. Don’t run around.
2. Stay out of the danger zone until the bus driver lets you know it’s safe to get on. If you can touch the bus, you’re too close.
3. Once the bus arrives, line up with the smaller children at the front. Get on the bus one at a time.
4. Use the handrail when getting on or off the bus.
5. Take your seat right away and stay seated until you leave the bus.
6. Face forward and don’t throw things inside the bus or out the bus window.
7. Talk quietly and keep your head and arms inside the bus.
8. Wait until the bus stops before standing. Move away right after stepping off the bus.
9. Always cross roads safely. Look four ways before crossing-left, right, ahead and behind. And remember to “Point, Pause and Proceed.”
10. Once you have exited the bus, watch for the driver’s hand signal before crossing the road. **DO NOT STOP OR GO BACK TO PICK UP ITEMS ON THE GROUND.** The bus driver may not be able to see you.

RIDER ELIGIBILITY

Only those students assigned to a bus are eligible to ride the bus. Students are required to remain on the school bus to and from their assigned school. If another destination other than the assigned route is desired, a request in writing must be given by the parent or guardian to the bus driver. The bus driver, principal and/or Transportation Coordinator may authorize another destination if circumstances warrant. Students other than regular bus students must have written authorization from their parent(s) to ride the bus. Please call the local bus garage. Transportation for meetings, birthday parties or other social events is only allowed if there is available space and authorized by the bus garage supervisor.

The previous rules also apply to students being transported for extracurricular activities.

EMERGENCY EXITING OF A SCHOOL BUS

Emergencies such as collisions, fires, stalled vehicles, weather conditions, etc. can occur. It is important students follow the guidelines listed below:

- Stay calm and quiet.
- Know where all the exits are located.
- Listen to the directions of the driver or other officials at the scene.
- Use the front or rear door exits when instructed to do so. Wait your turn and proceed quickly to the closest exit. Don’t crowd into the aisle.
- Older students shall assist younger students in getting out of the emergency exits.
- Move away from the bus and stay away. Stay in a group.

INJURIES OR ACCIDENTS

If a student receives an injury while riding the school bus or while getting on or off the bus, we will attempt to notify parents. First aid will be given. If the injury appears to be serious, the student will be referred to a doctor for diagnosis and/or treatment.

BUSSING DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

1. All buses will operate when it is reasonable to do so. However, the drivers have the option of refusing to drive if they feel that driving their route is too dangerous. Safety is the first consideration. If, at 6:20 a.m., the temperature reaches -45°C classes will automatically be cancelled. Cancellations will be broadcast on radio (CJRB 1220 AM, CKLQ 880 AM, CJOB 680 AM, KIX 101 FM, KX 96.1 FM, CBC 990 AM and STAR 94.7 FM) as early as possible.

2. Buses will not be sent home early. If buses can't make their routes in the afternoon, students will be delivered (by bus if possible) to their storm billets. Any students leaving the school after buses have been cancelled must first notify the administration of the school.
3. Two-way radio contact is maintained between all buses and the bus garages.
4. Parents can assist in safe transportation by:
 - a) ensuring children are ready at the pick-up point and are dressed appropriately for conditions;
 - b) keeping children at home on days when parents have serious concerns regarding weather conditions;
 - c) advising the bus garage in your area if a child will not be riding the bus (Killarney 523-8380, Boissevain 534-6269).
 - d) preparing an alternate plan for your child in the event you are not at home, informing the child and, if appropriate, the bus driver of this plan;
 - e) implementing a signal to the bus driver to be used during weather extremes to advise the bus driver your child has arrived at the house.

**PROCEDURES FOR MAINTAINING
DISCIPLINE ON THE BUS**

Passenger Behaviour:

The principal of a school whose pupils are transported in the school bus has the same disciplinary authority over the conduct of the pupils during the period in which they are in, entering upon, or alighting from the school bus, as provided by the regulations under the Education Administration Act.

1. A list of rules for student conduct is posted in each bus and will be reviewed with students by their bus driver.
2. Bus drivers will contact parents to assist in maintaining discipline on the bus.
3. Listed below are procedures for maintaining discipline on the bus. Consideration will be given to accommodate the individual needs of the students.
 - a. First Offense – the driver discusses the inappropriate behaviour with the student and documents it.
 - b. Second Offense – the driver reports the incident to the principal on the appropriate form. The principal reviews the misbehaviour with the student and informs the parents.
 - c. Third Offense – a third report from the driver to the principal may result in a meeting with the principal, driver, parent(s), student and the garage supervisor. A suspension is most likely to be given (the length dependent upon the situation). A suspension may be the loss of bus riding privileges and/or loss of school privileges with more duties assigned.

The bus driver will be kept informed of all student suspensions from school.

At no time are parents allowed to board school buses to discuss complaints with bus drivers or student passengers.

PARENTS

Parents are responsible for making sure their child(ren) are at their designated bus stop a few minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. Cooperation by the parents of Turtle Mountain School Division is very much appreciated when there are delays due to storms or breakdowns in equipment.

Parents' awareness and understanding of school bus safety matters will encourage their child(ren) to follow safe riding practices.

BUS DRIVERS

The TMSD bus drivers are trained and meet all requirements for operating a school bus. Our drivers are regularly trained annually for first aid, defensive driving techniques and emergency procedures. By maintaining control, the bus driver helps create a safer environment for you on the bus.

The drivers inspect their buses every day. Any problems are reported to the bus mechanics.

The bus drivers must maintain the route schedule, although sometimes weather, breakdowns or traffic situations interfere. They only stop at designated school bus stops. Drivers are responsible for reporting all stop arm violations (vehicles that pass the bus while students are being loaded and unloaded when the stop signal is extended and the red warning lights are flashing).

MOTORISTS

In school bus related accidents, the majority of students are not injured or killed while riding the bus. Many students are struck by motorists who fail to stop for the flashing red lights and extended stop arm.

Flashing amber lights are a warning that the bus is prepared to stop. Flashing red lights and extended stop arm mean that the bus is stopped to either load or unload students. Drivers must stop at least 5 metres (16 feet) from the bus when they see these signals. Only on divided roadways is opposing traffic not required to stop. However, traffic behind the bus must stop.

Each year many stop arm violations are reported to the police by our bus drivers. Every incident represents an unsafe act, which could cause substantial injury or even death to a student.

By following the guidelines outlined, the Turtle Mountain School Division which includes students, parents, drivers and administration, should ensure the safe transportation of our students.

We are all part of the "School Bus Safety Team"

Boissevain Bus Garage – 534-6269

Killarney Bus Garage – 523-8380

Division Board Office – 523-7531