

SCHOOL BUS 101

As your Transportation Director I thought it would be appropriate to share facts with you to assure you that your children are safe, and we are doing everything possible to deliver them safely each and everyday. Today's lesson will be called School Bus 101.

Our school district transports up to 2,600 students, on 25 regular bus routes, every school day. With the school year consisting of approximately 180 days this translates into nearly ½ million bus rides per school year. The students on these routes travel over 230,000 miles each school year to and from school. This figure doesn't include the additional 50,000 miles we travel for extra curricular activities. Of the 26 regular drivers this district employs, 8 have over 20 years experience and the average driver seniority is 14 years. Regardless of what the print media feels, we have an impeccable safety record. Please don't believe everything you read. Newspapers like to sensationalize information to draw their readers to the story. Our bus drivers and aides care about the students. They go out of their way to deliver them safely daily. On a daily basis drivers travel around town with students who have no one to meet them at their bus stop. We have taken students to various locations to assure their safety. Drivers and aides have been known to pass out treats, purchase coats, hats and gloves. I have seen drivers attend school programs, invite students to lunch and even attend medical appointments when family wasn't available. I have personally been in my office with students until 5:30 or later waiting for a responsible party to arrive. We simply would never place a child in harms way if we were made aware of a problem.

Please teach your child to treat their school bus as an extension of the classroom. Their school day starts when they board the bus in the morning and ends when they get off in the afternoon. Imagine your child's classroom being three times as large (65 students) and the teacher turning her back to the students. Throw in the fact they have to concentrate on driving a 40-foot, 7-ton vehicle and you're living the life of your child's school bus driver. The responsibility these people have is unbelievable. Don't feel sorry for them. They all love their jobs. All they want is to be treated with respect and for you to reinforce the bus rules with them. The bus rules are put in place by the state and are designed to keep your child safe. Statistics have proven that the school bus is eight times safer than a conventional automobile and by far the safest mode of travel period. To continue with this safety trend your child needs to follow the rules and the drivers need to concentrate on the road. This can only happen with your help. I personally am asking you for your assistance with this matter. After all we are transporting the world's most precious cargo, your child.

Ted Peters
Transportation Supervisor
Sandusky City Schools