

WINTER WEATHER

Pupil safety is the primary concern determining actions taken as a result of cold or inclement weather.

1. Schools will not be closed due to cold or inclement weather, but shall remain open for instruction.
2. School bus service will be cancelled should the Wind Chill Factor or the temperature reach -40C. A second reading will be taken at 7:45 a.m. and if the reading is above -40C, busses will commence their schedules with a one hour change to the regular schedule. Temperature readings are taken and confirmed with the local radio station, 102.3 The Bear. Any announcements will be made on 102.3 The Bear radio station and information will also be posted on the School District website at www.sd81.bc.ca on the affected days as well as the District's Facebook page.
3. Students should not expect to wait for a school bus more than fifteen (15) minutes past the scheduled pick up time, pupils should return to their homes or another prearranged place to shelter.
4. Students should be appropriately dressed for weather conditions, in the event of bus delay.

BAND INSTRUMENTS: Please note that band instruments MUST fit with the student in the bus seats. Band instruments **larger** than 11" x 11" x 22" WILL NOT be allowed on the buses. Other arrangements will need to be made to transport the instruments to and from school.

NOTICE TO MOTORISTS

Every province in Canada has a law requiring motorists, traveling in **BOTH** directions, to **stop when approaching a school bus displaying flashing red lights**. Even so, many motorists either don't know this law or they do not care about it, or they are so completely unaware of what is happening around them that they simply do not see the bus with signals flashing. This is a motor vehicle violation. Our bus drivers will report violators to the R.C.M.P.

Students know this law exists and it gives them a sense of security when crossing the street going to or from a school bus. Students expect motorists to stop.

A defensive driver keeps up with changing laws and obeys them. The Canada Safety Council appeals to drivers to drive defensively.

PLEASE, LOOK OUT FOR OUR CHILDREN!



SCHOOL DISTRICT #81 (FORT NELSON)

ALL ABOUT SCHOOL BUSES

BUS SCHEDULES

Bus schedules are established annually and are subject to change if circumstances require. **All times are approximate** and subject to adjustments as required. Parents should ensure that children know when and where to get on and off the bus, the route it will take and the arrangements for their safe return from the bus stop to their home. For further information please contact Pansy Anderson, Administrative Assistant, at the School Board Office at **250-774-2591**.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

Significant issues with regards to misconduct on the bus will be brought to the School Principal. Most issues will be dealt with at the school level. Meetings between parents, bus driver, lead hand and principal can be set up to discuss conflicts ~ contact the principal to arrange. If you have concerns about bussing or our drivers you can contact, Francis Roberts at **250-774-3767**. If your concerns are not addressed, please contact Pansy Anderson at **250-774-2591**. Emergency bus inquiries after school hours can be addressed at 250-774-2591.

The Board of Education believes that the paramount consideration on the school bus is the safety of all who ride the buses. The Board further acknowledges that the bus is an extension of the school and as such should be maintained as an orderly, happy environment. Just as the bus drivers have the responsibility to maintain such an atmosphere, students who partake in the privilege of riding the school bus are responsible for their conduct on the bus. **Video cameras** have been installed on all the buses, so that we can monitor each bus.

NOTE: Students, Parents and Education Personnel must be aware that riding the school bus is a **PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT**. Students endangering the safety of others should expect to lose this privilege. Thank you for your cooperation.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

School Bus transportation or transportation assistance may be afforded to students who are enrolled in Kindergarten to Grade 3 who live more than 4.0 km from a school or Grades 4-12 and who live more than 4.8 km from a school which there is a grade for them. School buses do **NOT** provide door-to-door service.

BUS CANCELLATIONS

Occasionally a bus run must be cancelled or delayed due to mechanical problems or weather conditions. As well, these problems may cause delays on certain days throughout the year. We ask that parents and students listen to the local radio station, **102.3 The Bear** for updated information on either cancellations or delays. This information will also be posted on the School District #81 webpage www.sd81.bc.ca, as well as the District's Facebook page.

WE CARRY PRECIOUS CARGO

RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS

Approximately 150 students in School District #81 (Fort Nelson) ride in school busses each school day. Daily school bus transportation to and from the G.W. Carlson Elementary, R.L. Angus Elementary and the Fort Nelson Secondary School is provided for students who reside beyond the walk limits in the School District. Another 60 students ride the school bus for Winter Bussing, which runs from the first Monday in November until Spring Break. Each year school buses transport students thousands of miles in safety.

Buses contracted by the Board are all licensed and inspected to meet B.C. standards every six months. We are asking for your cooperation and your child's in continuing to operate the buses in a safe and efficient manner.

We're sure you can imagine the responsibility the bus driver has in operating a big bus on a highway, observing all the driving regulations, and, at the same time, supervising anywhere from 1 to 72 active youngsters all sitting behind him/her. The responsibility is tremendous.

If, in the opinion of the bus driver, a pupil's behaviour is jeopardizing the safety of other pupils riding on a bus, the driver may return to the student's school and place the student in the custody of the Principal. It is then the parent's responsibility to pick up the student. Drivers may assign seats to students. **Video cameras** have been installed on all the buses, so that we can monitor each bus.

Parents will be responsible for any damage done to a bus by their children. For the safety of your child, please ask him/her to observe the school bus rules.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION POLICY 5520 (excerpt)

Student Conduct on Regular and Winter School Bus Routes

- The school bus is an extension of the school and as such the District Code of Conduct (Policy 5210) is in effect at all times. Each driver has complete authority over his/her bus and will issue verbal warnings to remind students of the appropriate behavior.

If repetitive poor behavior is displayed by a student, the bus driver will advise the principal/vice-principal at the student's school and the principal/vice-principal will take disciplinary action as deemed appropriate. The following represents some additional expectations, but is not limited to these items, for appropriate behaviour on all regular and winter bus routes

- Riders shall arrive at least 5 minutes before departure times. Riders are to line up and enter the bus in an orderly manner.
- Riders must remain seated and orderly at all times. Seats may be reassigned at the discretion of the driver or school administrator.
- Eating of snacks for regular and winter bus routes is only authorized for eating conditions (ie. diabetic)
- Small carry on items, including band instruments and rolled magic carpets, that are completely contained in an approved case/container (ie. backpack, sports bag) will be allowed on the buses – the item must fit on the lap of the student



- The chewing of gum, smoking, and the lighting of fires/matches or lighters, disrespectful and/or inappropriate behavior, and/or swearing is strictly prohibited.
- The consumption or transportation of alcohol, drugs/narcotics or any illegal substance is strictly prohibited.
- Students will be held responsible for willful damage to the bus.
- Students must provide written permission from their parent/guardian to the principal/vice-principal to ride a bus that they are not registered on or to disembark at a stop other than their normal location.

This Policy will be followed for all bus students on **in-town** and **out of town** runs.

SAFE BUS PROCEDURES (Parents please discuss with your children)

1. Get to the pickup spot 5 minutes early. Walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.
2. Wait for the school bus in a safe place at the side of the road.
3. Don't throw things at people or cars.
4. Bring on to the bus only articles such as school books, lunches, small band instruments (no larger than a trumpet), crazy carpets (rolled and secured with tape or a rubber band), or skates (which must have skate guards or be in a canvas bag) which can fit easily under the seat.
5. Enter the school bus in single file - don't push. Wait for the bus to come to a full stop before you attempt to get on or off.
6. WALK - don't run down the aisle and find a seat to sit on.
7. Use only the seat assigned by the driver when requested.
8. Always face the front of the bus.
9. Keep the aisles clear.
10. Remain seated until the bus comes to a COMPLETE STOP. Do not extend arms or heads out of windows.
11. Maintain your area of the bus in a neat and presentable manner.
12. Leave the school bus carefully at your regular bus stop except on permission from the school principal or written permission from your parent.
13. Cross the street safely in FRONT of the bus. WALK! Don't run. WALK to the driver's corner of the bus - STOP! Look both ways before continuing to the other side of the street.
14. Stay where the bus driver can see you.
15. Stay out of the school bus danger zone (5 feet from bus).
16. Always obey the bus driver.
17. Never walk between two buses in a school yard.

ALWAYS BE CAREFUL!