

TRANSPORTATION CODE OF CONDUCT

Transportation is a privilege offered to K -12 students of Fruitport Community Schools. Appropriate student behavior is an expectation for riding Fruitport Community Schools' buses. This expectation is enforced to and from school, field trips, sporting events, or any other time students are riding in Fruitport Community Schools' vehicles. These expectations follow and are in accordance with the laws for the State of Michigan and policies set forth by the Fruitport Community Schools Board of Education.

Students will be assigned to one bus in the morning and one bus in the afternoon. Students **MUST** ride the bus they are assigned and **MUST** board and depart from the bus at the assigned bus stop. We are unable to allow students to ride a bus other than their assigned bus. **NO BUS PASSES** will be given to any student without prior authorization from the Transportation Department at 865-3196 option 1.

The school bus and school vehicles are an extension of the District itself. All rules, policies, and procedures that apply in school will also apply on the bus. Students must follow all school expectations as well as bus expectations. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action up to and including bus suspension.

It is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to see that each student gets safely to, from, and is safe while at the bus stop. Be on time at the designated bus stop 5 to 7 minutes prior to scheduled time. **Drivers will not wait for students who are not at their designated stop on time.**

Alternative transportation needs to be provided for oversized objects, animals or plants that need to be transported to or from school.

Bus Conduct:

Before and during loading (at the stop and at school) each student shall:

- Be on time at the designated loading zone 5 to 7 minutes prior to scheduled departure time.
- Stay off the road at all times while walking to and from bus stop and while waiting for the school bus.
- Ride assigned bus only.
- Line up single file at least 10 feet off the roadway.
- Not approach the bus until it's completely stopped and cross in FRONT of the bus upon paddle direction from the driver.
- Go directly to a seat and be seated.
- Be respectful of others and their property.

During the bus ride each student shall:

- Be seated quickly, slide over for others, remain seated and face forward at all times, and keep head, hands, arms, legs and objects to oneself and inside the school vehicle at all times.
- Refrain from using any aerosol spray, cologne, perfume or other items with strong odors while on the bus out of consideration and wellbeing of others.
- Keep the bus clean and safe.
- Not throw anything from the bus.
- Keep all bags, backpacks, band instruments, etc. on student's lap.
- Be respectful of others and their property.
- Not bring food or beverage items on the bus.
- Keep aisle and exits clear at all times.
- Use appropriate language and topics; No harassing others (physically, verbally or sexually). No spitting, biting, hitting, pulling hair, fighting, or profanity.

Exiting the bus each student shall:

- Exit the bus only at their assigned bus stop.
- Stay seated until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door opens.
- Take only their belongings with them.
- Exit in an orderly manner.
- Remove earbuds and headphones from both ears when exiting & crossing the road.
- Hold the handrail while using the steps.
- Take 10 giant steps away from the front of the bus and cross in FRONT of the bus upon verbal direction from bus driver.
- Be respectful of others and their property.

A student may be suspended and/or permanently lose riding privileges for engaging in gross disobedience or misconduct including but not limited to the following: Violating any school rule or school district policy, willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider, willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus, repeated use of profanity, or repeated willful disobedience of a directive from a bus driver or other supervisor, or other behavior the building principal deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupants.

Cell Phones or similar electronic device:

- Screens need to be dimmed as the light can interfere with the driver's ability to see.
- Students must use earbuds or headphones, no speakers allowed.
- Students must be responsible for any electronic device that they bring on the bus. If an electronic device causes ANY driver distraction or disrupts the safe operation of the bus, such device(s) WILL BE confiscated by the bus driver.
- Disrupts or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs or videos.

Video Cameras may be active on the bus to record student conduct and may be used for the purposes of investigation into misconduct or accidents on the bus.