



# WELCOME ABOARD

## KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

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## TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS



Welcome to the Sultan School District. We take great pride in transporting the most precious cargo in the world: your children. We will do everything humanly possible to make this monumental occasion, the day your child rides a yellow school bus for the first time, a very pleasant and memorable event. We hope that the first ride will be a good beginning for the many pleasant and safe school bus rides for your child.

We have prepared this handout as a guide for you, the parent of a new kindergarten student. The Transportation Department follows the Washington State and Sultan School District policies, procedures, and regulations. In the event a situation occurs that is not covered in this booklet, please give us a call at the Transportation Office (360) 793-9820 #3, and we will assist you.

Our primary goal is to provide safe and efficient transportation for all eligible students. The Transportation Department staff is always available to discuss any questions you may have regarding your child's transportation. Please feel free to call us.

### **BUS ROUTES**

If you use a daycare/babysitter, it is wise to make sure the area is served by a bus from the elementary school in your area. If the daycare/ babysitter is outside your child's kindergarten attendance area, you would be expected to provide transportation to and from school. If you need information regarding the boundaries of your child's school, please call the Transportation Department prior to making firm commitments for daycare.

### **BUS STOPS**

There must be an authorized adult present to receive kindergarten students. If there is not an adult at the stop, the student will be returned to the school. At this point, it becomes the parent's/guardian's responsibility to transport the child.

When kindergarten students are being picked up or being dropped off with older siblings, they do not need an adult present. If you are allowing your student to walk home from the bus stop without an adult, you should have a permission note

given to the driver. For the first few weeks of school, it is recommended that you take your child to the bus stop and meet the bus on the return trip. This will help your child overcome possible fears of the new situation. You can help teach your child about rules and expected behavior at the bus stop.

*Please help us reinforce the following safety rules:*

- No standing or playing in the street.
- Keep books and lunch boxes out of the street.
- Wait until the bus stops and wait until the driver opens the door and waves the student onto the bus.
- Keep your pets on a leash.
- Walk on the shoulder or walkway, and, if possible, always walk facing traffic when walking to and from the bus stop.

One of the most crucial rules to teach kindergarten students is how to cross the street safely for loading or unloading the bus. Students must always cross in front of the bus, away from the crossing arm. Students must never cross the street until the driver checks the road, all traffic has stopped (and red bus lights are flashing), and the driver waves to the child to cross. The student should always look to the driver for instructions before crossing. Play-acting safety rules with your child is a good way to teach rules.



Sultan School District

### *Do's & Don'ts*

1. Do walk with your student to the bus stop and do familiarize your student with the surroundings and their home.
2. Do make sure your student is ready when the bus arrives. Students should be waiting at the stop at least 5 minutes before the published stop time; however, arriving too early can lead to unsupervised discipline problems, so timing is important.
3. Do be flexible, especially during the first few days of school. The schedule may change each day due to new students entering the school. Schedules become dependable after a week or two. Thank you for your patience with the necessary schedule adjustments.
4. Do make sure your student knows his/her full name, address, and phone number.
5. Do make sure your student learns to stay out of the road while waiting for the bus. Students should stand quietly at the bus stop.
6. Do keep pets at home and away from the bus stop. Unless your pet is on a leash and friendly towards children.
7. Animals, fish, birds, etc., may not ride the bus to school with your student. Drivers have implicit instructions never to allow any type of animal onto the bus, except for assistance animals.
8. Don't pack glass containers; they are not allowed on the bus. Glass containers also cause problems at school.
9. Toys or "show and tell" items can create problems on the bus. Students should carry books and materials in a bag. It would also help to mark this bag with your child's name and class.

*How to be*

## SAFE, RESPECTFUL, & RESPONSIBLE



*On the Bus.....*

Being **Safe** means:

- Sitting seat to seat and back-to-back in your seat.
- Your feet should be dangling from the seat, not on the seat.
- Keeping you and your belonging out of the aisle.

Being **Respectful** means:

- Using school leave voices.
- Not touching other students or their belongings.
- Not writing on or tearing the bus seats.

Being **Responsible** means:

- Keeping all your items in your backpack.
- Keeping your backpack on your lap or on your back.
- Using the garbage can if you have garbage.



**Be Safe.... Be Respectful.... Be Responsible.... Thank you!**