

Dear Parents,

Lamers Bus Lines Inc. will be providing school bus transportation for your kindergartener this year. Starting school is a very big step for your youngster! We want to do our part to make it safe and comfortable for the children and for the parents.

This guide is intended to help you to help us safely transport your child.

We have developed a list of answers to the most commonly asked questions by parents.

1. Is this the regular time the bus will stop?

We establish approximate times that the bus will arrive. Generally speaking, we are able to arrive at the stop within a few minutes of the stop time. We have several factors that are out of our control to deal with, such as traffic delays, hazardous road conditions, waiting for other students along the route, route changes, equipment failures, etc. We offer approximate times at the beginning of the year. Please keep in mind that they are approximate times. During the first two weeks of the school year routes are changing very quickly. We make many changes during the week before school starts and the first week of school. Many times these changes require us to change a particular route, or perhaps several routes. By the second full week of school, students, drivers, teachers and other motorists are starting to get accustomed to the route system, and route times should become quite constant after that time.

2. If my child is not going to ride the bus today, do I need to call the bus company and let them know?

This is a courtesy that is appreciated but is not required. If your child is the only student that gets on at a particular stop, it is nice to know that the child will not be riding on a particular day, and the driver does not need to hold up traffic at that stop. When you call our office, please give them the name of the passenger, pickup or drop location, school, grade, bus number and driver's name, if you know it.

3. Why does my child need to ride so long?

We consider riding time when we build the routes and try to keep it to a minimum. Most students ride the bus less than one hour. We also try to establish routes that will fill the bus to the rated capacity, in an effort to reduce the cost of transportation for the School District.

4. Can my child bring a friend home with him/her on the bus?

Only passengers that are authorized by the school district will be allowed to ride the bus. If your child would like to have a friend ride the bus home or to school with them, the following items are required.

- a. The student must be an authorized passenger and currently riding a Lamers Bus. If the extra passenger is not already assigned to a Lamers Bus, permission will not be allowed.
- b. The parents of both students should send notes allowing permission for the students to do this. Notes should be given to the driver the day of the transportation.
- c. The parents should call our office ahead of time to get verbal permission and to verify that there is room on that particular bus for additional passengers (s).

If the above items are not followed, we will have no choice but to leave the student behind.

5. Do I have to watch my child get on and off of the bus?

It is not required that you be present when your child gets on and off the bus. We will pick up and drop off the student at the appropriate location. We do not know for certain that someone is home to receive the student unless we have visual contact with the family member. Sometimes the child may go around to a back door or perhaps an upstairs apartment that is not within direct visual contact with the driver. It is very helpful if a family member is available to indicate to the driver that someone is home to receive the student. If it appears to the driver that no one is home, and they generally have visual contact with a family member, they are instructed to call the bus company office and our office will try the home number to verify that someone is home to receive the student. If there is no answer, the driver will be asked to get the child back on the bus and try to deliver the student again later if the route permits, or drop the student back at school. This is a very upsetting and frightening process for small children and should be avoided if at all possible. If you know that you will not make it home in time to receive your child on a particular day, call us and will attempt to work out an alternate drop time or location for that day.

The ideal situation is for parents to be visible to the driver when the child is getting dropped off.

Safety Tips

Extra caution is always required during the loading/unloading of the buses. Help your child ride the bus safely by working with us to teach the child the following items.

- a. While waiting for the bus, stay on the sidewalk or off of the road surface until the bus come to a complete stop. Do not push and shove to get on first.
- b. If you student must cross the street to get on or off the bus, and the bus displays the red flashing lights and stop sign, the student should always wait for the signal from the bus driver indicating that it is safe to cross the road. The student should always cross the road 10 feet in front of the bus and never behind the bus. Teach your child that if the driver blows his horn they should stop crossing immediately and look at the driver for further instructions.
- c. Many times in town the bus does not use the red flashing lights and stop sign when picking up or discharging your child. State law dictates where we can and cannot use our red lights and stop sign. When this is the case your child should be taught how to cross the road safely, without the guidance of the bus driver. We will load or discharge the student on the same side of the road as our direction of travel. If your child must cross the road to get home, they should walk away from the bus to the sidewalk, walk up to the nearest corner, and wait until it is safe for them to cross safely. If they do not need to cross the road, they should move directly away from the bus so that the bus may proceed safely.
- d. If your child drops something and it falls under the bus while leaving or boarding the bus, teach them to let it go. If the child goes after the dropped item and the driver is not aware, there could be a disaster.
- e. Look over your child's book bag and jacket from time to time. Little items dangling from book bags or long drawstrings on jackets, sweatshirt, etc. can get caught in the door or handrail while exiting the bus. This can present a very real hazard to the child.

Many of the buses have students of all grades on the bus. When this is the case, we generally require the youngest students to sit in the front of the bus, allowing the older students to sit further back. This way the driver is able to give a little more attention to the younger students on the bus and also watch for any students that may have fallen asleep during the bus ride.

Please make a name tag for your child to wear or to be attached to his/her book bag. The nametag should indicate the child's name, home address, telephone number, pick up or drop location and school. This is a very important item for the first few weeks of school and can save a lot of tears and anxiety.

We have enclosed a copy of the bus rules for you to go over with your child prior to the start of the school year.

If you have any questions or comments regarding bus transportation, we encourage you to call our office. Our normal business hours during the school year are 6:00 am – 5:00pm Monday thru Friday. Our phone number is (920) 336-5264.

The staff at Lamers Bus Lines