



## TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

### School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

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May 1st is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day! Thank you to all of our bus drivers for their dedication to student safety.



### 2023-24 Transportation Re-Enrolment Forms

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Re-enrolment forms for next school year will be automatically assigned to families that are currently assigned to bus service. If you have a child that did not access bus service this school year, you will be required to completed a new registration form.

Re-enrolment forms for the 2023-24 school year will be available in late May. Emails will go out to all busing families when the forms become available in your SchoolEngage portal. New registration forms will be available once all of the re-enrolment forms are assigned.

Please visit our [website](#) for instructions on how to complete the re-enrolment and registration process.

## Clarification on Prohibited Items on the School Bus

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School bus contractors will try to accommodate students with the transportation of articles and equipment for extra-curricular activities. However, some items cannot be transported due to safety and/or available space. All permissible items must be tightly secured and/or safely contained within the bus seat.

Additionally, they must not impede the aisle, emergency exits, or the driver's line of sight (i.e., block the window). The bus driver reserves the right to refuse any item they may deem unsafe to transport.

Scooters and skateboards are only permitted if they are properly secured or enclosed in a canvas bag or in/on a backpack. Some backpacks are made to properly secure skateboards - RVS considers this to be a permissible item. These items must be safely stored underneath the seat or in the student's lap.

If you are unsure if an item will be permitted, please [email](#) transportation for assistance.

## Visibility and Pedestrian Safety

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When crossing the road, it is very important that you are aware of your surroundings and only proceed when it is safe.

You can use Point, Pause, Proceed as a rule of thumb:

1. Hold your arm and **point** across the street where you intend to cross.
2. **Pause** and look both ways to make sure it is safe.
3. Once safe, **proceed** to cross.

When you are walking or running outdoors at any time of day, you are smaller and harder to see than the vehicles around you. To make yourself more visible:

1. **Signal your intent** - Use hand signals before crossing the road to let drivers know what you plan on doing. Fully extend your right or left arm and point in the direction you are going before crossing.
2. **Watch the weather** - When it is raining, snowing, or there is a heavy fog, you can be even harder to see outside. Wearing bright coloured clothing and using hand signals can make you more visible in poor weather.
3. **Wear light coloured clothing** - Brightly coloured clothing can improve your visibility to drivers and help make sure that you're seen while crossing the road or walking against traffic.

## Red (Flashing) Light Runners

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Did you know that outside of Calgary and Airdrie city limits the 8-way warning light system is utilized on school buses and regulated by law enforcement?

When approaching a school bus from either direction, and the alternating amber lights are flashing, you should prepare to stop. This is an indication that the bus is going to be stopping and students will be approaching or exiting the bus.

When the school bus comes to a complete stop, its alternating red lights will begin flashing and the STOP sign arm will extend. This is an indication that the bus will begin loading or unloading students. Vehicles must come to a full stop ~20 meters away from the bus and are not permitted to pass. This applies to vehicles approaching the bus in either direction - unless the road is divided by a median - then traffic in the opposite lane(s) may proceed with caution.

Failure to stop for a school bus is a ticket-able violation and may cost offending drivers up to \$486 in fines and 6 demerit points.

Please visit our [website](#) and complete the Fly By Form if you see a vehicle passing a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing.

**Safety is everyone's responsibility, and we encourage you to report vehicle fly bys if you witness them. Let's all work together to keep our students safe!**

**For more information  
please visit our [website](#)**

*Rocky View Schools  
Transportation Department*