



Welcome to kindergarten!

...FAST FACTS



HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE BUS...

For all new JK/SK students, bussing services **will not** be automatically set up when registering for school. All transportation requests/arrangements are made through the Transportation Consortium. Please register on our website at www.nwobus.ca. You can also contact our office, no later than mid-August, to check eligibility and ensure arrangements are in place for your child's first day of school. We are open all summer!

FIRST RIDER PROGRAM...

All new riders from JK to Grade 3 are encouraged to participate in the 'First Rider' Program held in your area. This program teaches bus safety and provides an opportunity for students to experience a bus ride.

VISIBLE PARENT...

In the interest of safety, we have a *Visible Parent Program* for Junior/Senior Kindergarten bus students. JK/SK students riding the school bus are to be accompanied by an adult or an approved alternate over the age of eleven (11) years and in Grade 6 to their stop in the morning and met at their stop after school. This ensures students are not going home to an empty house and/or a child is not required to navigate to and from their stop unaccompanied. The Consortium will provide all JK/SK bus students with a tag to wear on their backpack indicating they require a visible parent. This tag also indicates which school the student attends. This information assists the bus drivers and school staff on bus duty during the first couple of weeks, to ensure that new riders are getting off at the correct school in the morning and boarding the right bus after school. **Parents are asked to approach the bus door once the bus comes to a complete stop.** Once the driver has paired the student with the appropriate parent/guardian, all other students may exit the bus. Bus drivers are instructed not to let JK/SK students on or off the bus unless there is a visible parent/alternate at the stop. Parents/guardians are responsible for the safety and conduct of their child prior to boarding and after drop off.

LIFE-THREATENING CONDITION...

We request that parents complete a *Life-Threatening Condition* form if their child uses bus service and has any type of potentially life threatening medical condition. This information will remain confidential and is provided to Bus Operators/Bus Drivers so if a related medical situation occurs on the bus the driver will understand what is happening and what action to take. For example, a driver who is aware of a child's condition could assist the student by retrieving an inhaler or pen from a packsack.

**FOOD AND DRINK
ON THE BUS...**

In the interest of student safety, eating or drinking is not permitted on the school buses. There has been a significant increase in the number of students who have serious allergies which can result in an anaphylactic reaction requiring an epi-pen and/or medical intervention. The only exception to this is for diabetic students who may need a sugary snack to prevent an insulin reaction. (There are also choking concerns.)

SPECIAL NEEDS...

If you are aware of a condition or challenge your child may have that will provide better understanding to the bus operator and driver please tell us. Educating us will enable us to care more appropriately for your child. For example, if you know that your child is Autistic, has Downs Syndrome or any other special challenge, please complete a *Special Needs* Safe Plan form, attach an updated photo, sign and date the bottom of the form and return it to our office.

The intent in providing this information is to enhance a bus driver's ability to recognize a potential special need for your child and respond appropriately and compassionately.

**TEMPORARY
CHANGES...**

Temporary changes may be considered if the change is for at least five consecutive school days and has the same pick-up and drop off. The request must be made two school days in advance of the requested change; is conditional on room on the bus; results in no new or additional stop; results in no route extensions or deviations, and meets regular eligibility requirements. Temporary changes will not be considered until after mid-October.

**INCLEMENT
WEATHER...**

The Transportation Consortium is monitoring weather all the time which can often be the day before when we are aware a storm may occur. Cancellations are posted on www.nwobus.ca as well as broadcast on local radio stations. We encourage all bus parents to sign up for AUTOMATIC EMAIL ALERTS and/or SUBSCRIBE TO SMS TEXTING ALERTS on our website to be notified at the time the decision to cancel busses is made.

**GET TO KNOW US
BETTER...**

Visit www.nwobus.ca

Contact us 223-1256 or toll free 1-866-860-7770.

We are open year round!

