

**October, 2018**

Dear Parents(s)/ Guardian(s),



**The safety and welfare of our students and staff are our highest priorities.** STUDENT SAFETY on the school bus and at the bus stop is a major priority. Parents are encouraged to monitor student behavior going to and returning from the bus stops and at the bus stop locations.

### Safety Starts at the Bus Stop

- Your child should arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Visit the bus stop and show your child where to wait for the bus: at least three giant steps (six feet) away from the curb.
- Remind your child that the bus stop is not a place to run or play.
- While waiting at the bus stop, students can talk with their friends and wait for the bus. Students should keep hands and feet to themselves, refrain from throwing objects, swinging book bags, running, and running into the street.
- Stay off private property.
- Do not stand on the traveled part of the road.
- Be respectful and watchful of traffic.
- Wait quietly and orderly.

### Get On and Off Safely

- When the school bus arrives, your child should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before approaching the bus door. Your child should use the handrails to avoid falling.
- Your child should never walk behind a school bus. If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, tell him/her to walk on a sidewalk or along the side of the street to a place at least five giant steps (10 feet) in front of the bus before crossing. Your child should also make eye contact with the bus driver before crossing to make sure the driver can see him/her. If your child drops something near the school bus, like a ball or book, the safest thing is for your child to tell the bus driver right away. Your child should not try to pick up the item, because the driver might not be able to see him/her.

### Safety Tips for Walking to Bus Stops and to Schools

- Always walk with a friend or in a group. • Walk on the sidewalk or near the roadside curb in order to be better seen.
- Stay in well-lit or populated areas. • Never approach or talk to anyone you do not know.
- Report any suspicious activity or anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. Dial 911 if necessary.

Elementary Principals