



K – Grade 12 & Busing Policy



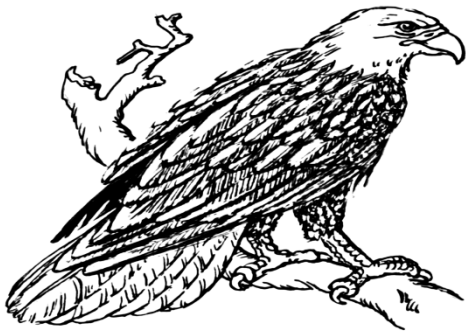
Prepared by:
St. Mary's Education Department
35 Dedham St. 2nd Floor, Suite 206
Fredericton N.B. E3A 2V2
Phone: 506-459-2219
Revised
March 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of Acknowledgment.....	3
Letter to Students.....	4
K3-12 Startup Information.....	5
High School Incentives & Other Information	6
Student Summer Career Program.....	6
Achievement Awards.....	7
Travel Grants.....	8
Tutoring Policy.....	9
Bus Policy.....	10

Letter of Acknowledgment

“In the knowledge of my people, the Elders and the children are as one in the Circle of Life. The circle represents the unity of the earth, moon, sun and stars, the four cycles of the seasons, and life as we are born, as we age and die, to be reborn. The Elders are the holders of knowledge, the teachers of our culture, songs, heritage, and survival, which are held in high esteem and respect. The children, our future, represent the carriers of this knowledge that never grows old. The Eagle represents the strength, truth, wisdom and freedom of the First Nations of this the Turtle Island called North America. The Eagle represents many virtues to the First Nations People. Although, in modern society, it is most familiar as an American emblem of Liberty, equality, and fraternity, this metaphor originates with the teaching of the First Nations. The soaring flight of the Eagle allows it to communicate with the Creator and pass on the Creator’s messages to the First Nations. Its flight also confers the gift of foresight on the Eagle since, from the great height; the Eagle can detect imminent danger and warn the First Nations of coming perils. The Eagle represents the collective strength, truth wisdom of the First Nations of North America. It exemplifies the solidarity of Nations, when unity is required. All of these qualities will be necessary if the First Nations are to pass on to their children the wisdom of yesterday, together with the technology of today.”



Charleston, Mike. Traditions and Education Towards a Vision of our Future: A Declaration of First Nations Jurisdiction Over Education. Ottawa: 1998: p.ii.

LETTER TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Dear Students and Families,

On behalf of the St. Mary's First Nation Chief & Council, and St. Mary's First Nation Education Department, I would like to welcome all new and returning students and wish you great success in your pursuit for education.

The fundamental purpose of this policy is to familiarize you with the Kindergarten to Grade 12 program and its incentives. It is structured to give you an inside look at the policies and guidelines which govern its delivery and to advise you of what is available to registered status First Nations as well as community members.

If you have any questions, concerns, or difficulties throughout your academic year, please contact me at 506-459-2219 or via email percysacobie@smfn.ca or drop by the SMFN Education Department Office located at 35 Dedham Street 2nd Floor Fredericton N.B.

I believe that education is about protecting the interests of future generations. As a registered member of this community, your input and involvement alongside elders, parents, and community leaders is important. In the upcoming year, I would be very interested in hearing and sharing your ideas and / or initiatives that would enhance and support the educational aspirations within our community.

‘Tahu

Percy Sacobie
Intern Education Director

K3-12 GYM AND STARTUP ALLOWANCES

Community members(non-registered) must have lived in the community for a minimum of 12 consecutive months to be considered for any financial support.

Gym Allowances

K3 Students attending any First Nation recognized learning facility— \$25 per student

- Pick up by parent/guardian
- Out of town - mailed out when parent/guardian provides school information form

K4– 8 \$50 per student

- Pick up by parent/guardian
- Mailed out when parent/guardian provides school information form

Gr 9-12 \$80 per student

- Pick up by parent/guardian/student
- Mailed out when parent/guardian provides school information form

Students who were not registered at the end of the previous school year will not receive a Gym Startup until they are registered at school)

School Supplies Startup

K5-Gr 5 Fees for school supplies are paid directly to school.

All grades CHSMES Books Supplies are distributed at the school.

Gr 6- Gr 8 \$60.00—cheque written to parent or guardian.

Gr 9- Gr 12 \$60.00—cheque written to student (students who were not registered at the end of the previous school year will not receive a cheque for school supplies until they are registered at school)

Frex Passes will be available from the date startup and gym allowances are distributed until the Thursday in September during exhibition week. These bracelets are for students who are St. Mary's band members and community members that are registered in school.

St. Mary's Education Department does not cover fees for Extracurricular activities.

High School technology fees are paid by St. Mary's Education Department.

School fees are covered by the Education Department. If you have paid your child/children school fees, a receipt may be taken to the department for reimbursement.

Children are entitled to go to any school their parents choose, but the school must be an accredited school by Indigenous Service Canada. Tuition is paid directly to the school/institute. Tuition payments for private schools cannot exceed the New Brunswick provincial rate.

HIGH SCHOOL INCENTIVES & OTHER INFORMATION

Each high school student who is a registered St. Mary's band member or a community member will receive a high school allowance. This is distributed in December in the amount of \$80 and June in the amount of \$120. Students who have received their band membership throughout the school year must provide their letter from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) confirming their registration as the allowances are pro-rated. Students must have at least 50% attendance for each term to qualify for the December allowance and the June allowance. **Community members (non-registered) must have lived in the community for a minimum of 12 consecutive months to be considered for any financial support.**

STUDENT SUMMER CAREER PROGRAM

Community members (non-registered) must have lived in the community for a minimum of 12 consecutive months to be considered for any financial support.

All high school students in grade 9-12 who are St. Mary's Band Members and Community members who also live within the city, or can travel to work within the city, are eligible to apply for the 5 week Summer Career program.

Applications are due the first Thursday in June. **NO** applications are accepted after this date.

Job placements start the first week in July.

Any student who has not completed employment training week must do so. If your placement requires you to have First Aid you must attend the training.

Students who are challenging for credits must complete and present their presentation at the end of their placement. You can only challenge for credits once.

Grades and work hours are as followed:

- Grade 9-----16 hours per week
- Grade 10-----20 hours per week
- Grade 11-----25 hours per week
- Grade 12-----30 hours per week

Your career placement position is permanent for the duration of your employment.

Students may find their own employment or ask Summer Career Coordinator to find you a placement in the area you would like to work.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Community members (non-registered) must have lived in the community for a minimum of 12 consecutive months to be considered for any financial support.

All SMFN students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 will receive a grading award at the end of the school year once an official report card is shared with the Education Department.

Year-end awards are as followed

- High Honors are marks of 84-100%, -- \$100-- Grade 9-12 only, if you are not eligible for High honors you will receive a grading award of \$25.
- K-Gr8—Grading award of \$25.
- Extra-Curricular one award per student--\$20 (Please bring proof of participation, an award or certificate etc.)
- Maliseet Language, **One** high honor per Grade--\$50.

Students who attend Chief Harold Sappier Memorial Elementary School will receive awards through the school.

You must be a St Mary's First Nation Band member or live in the community for 3 consecutive years at the time of your graduation in order to qualify for grad awards. High School Graduates will receive an award for \$1000 in lieu of a grad trip in addition to a gift bag with various items.

St. Mary's Education Student Travel Grant Information

Guidelines:

Student travel grants are available for educational purposes. Travel grants will only be awarded to applicants whose travel plans are hosted by an educational institution. The following is a detailed outline of the required documentation and the application process.

1. Travel must be school sponsored. A representative/s from the host institution must be present at all approved activities.
2. The purpose of the travel must be clearly defined and state which grade, subject, and/or course name and number.
3. A detailed itinerary must be submitted with the application.
4. The maximum amount for any individual to partake in an event will be \$1500 with a maximum of 10 grants given per year.
5. This grant will be offered to a student once while in K to 12 and once in post-secondary/college.
6. The funding provided for this travel grant is not retroactive and no reimbursements.
7. Applications and accompanying documentation must be submitted to the education office.
8. Applications must be received six weeks before the proposed travel dates to be considered under this program.
9. A complete application review process can take approximately one to two weeks.
10. Incomplete applications will not be processed and returned to the applicant. Applications lacking detailed information will slow down the review process. Applications may be contacted to provide clarification before funding can be recommended.
11. If travel is postponed, SMED should be notified of the new date/s. If the project/proposal is cancelled after financial support has been provided, SMED must be notified, and the funding must be returned. Failure to do so may result in royalties being garnished.
12. Applications will be notified of funding approval by a letter or email from SMED.

Completed applications should be sent or dropped off at the SMED office.

Attention: Director of Education

35 Dedham Street - 2nd Floor, Suite 206 - Fredericton, New Brunswick - E3A 2V2

Sylvan Learning

900 Hanwell Rd, Fredericton, NB E3B 6A2

(506) 906-0143

Tutoring Policy

Tutoring assistance is available to all St. Mary's First Nation Students. To those students who find themselves having trouble in any given course, it is recommended that tutoring assistance be pursued. St Mary's Education Department will provide a tutor unless the student has already provided one.

Before funds can be disbursed to cover the actual cost of tutoring, we must receive completed documents and signed by the appropriate individual. Once these documents are received, payment to the tutor will be issued.

- Tutoring for K-12 will be located at the Education Department only.
- Tutoring will be by appointment only
- Tutoring if approved can be supported by Jordans Principle

CANCELLATION OF LESSONS BY STUDENT

The student may cancel lessons by giving at least 4 hours prior notice to the Tutor

If sessions are cancelled on the part of the student (within the 4-hour policy), a makeup session must be arranged with tutor.

CANCELLATION OF LESSONS BY TUTOR

The Tutor may cancel lessons by giving 4 hours prior notice to the student. Where a lesson was pre-paid, the Tutor shall reschedule the appointment at a time agreeable to both parties.

If sessions are cancelled on the part of the tutor (within the 4-hour policy), a makeup session must be arranged with student.

SCHOOL BUS

The purpose of this policy is to provide information regarding laws, rules, and guidelines to safely operate a school bus therefore providing safe transportation for students. It has been developed in accordance with Federal and Provincial Motor Vehicle Laws, New Brunswick's Education and Early Childhood Development K-12, and St. Mary's First Nation Human Resources Policy & Procedures.

This policy is NOT intended to take the place of any Provincial or Federal motor vehicle laws or other official publications of the St. Mary's First Nation Education Department Policies and/or St. Mary's First Nation Human Resource Policy & Procedure Manual approved by Chief & Council.

Forward

In no other area of education do we accept more responsibility for student welfare than in transporting students by school buses and / or other approved transportation vehicles, to and from school, school related activities, and recreational activities. The safe transportation of students requires the dedicated efforts of many individuals associated with the educational system. This includes the New Brunswick Department of Safety, the New Brunswick Department of Education, the local school board, the superintendent and staff, the vehicle maintenance and service personnel, teachers, parents, students, St. Mary's First Nation and most important --- the driver of the bus.

LOADING/UNLOADING

- ✓ Check rear view mirrors prior to stopping to assure traffic to the rear of bus is also stopping and no vehicles are passing on either side of the bus.
- ✓ At a bus stop continue to check rear view mirrors for traffic. If students are crossing in front of bus, check and double check cross view mirrors.
- ✓ Be sure you know where all of your passengers are when entering or exiting the bus.
- ✓ **DO NOT PROCEED** if you cannot account for any passenger. Before leaving the stop, recheck mirror system.

SEATING AND AISLE SPACE

Each student shall have a seat and remain properly seated while the bus is in motion. There shall be **NO** standees nor shall anyone sit on the lap of another. A driver has the authority to assign seats. No school bus driver shall allow transportation of more passengers than the manufacturer's rated capacity, unless an unplanned, temporary, non-recurring, emergency situation arises. An emergency situation shall include, but not be limited to:

1. An accident or mechanical failure; and
2. Every passenger can be seated (no standees).

The aisle of any school bus shall be always unobstructed, including in front of all emergency door exits. Objects, such as, but not limited to, musical instruments, books, athletic equipment, and tools shall not be placed in the aisle. If skis or similar equipment are carried on a school bus, they shall be secured.

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT FACTS

1. Instruct students safe practices and evacuation drills.
2. Evidence that the driver has left a student on an unattended school bus, without St. Mary's First Nation approval, shall result in the revocation of School Bus Driver's Certificate [Saf-C1304.04(b)(19)].
3. All post-trip inspections should include inspecting the bus for students.
4. Never fuel the bus while passengers are on board. Turn off the engine while fueling.
5. Use of tobacco products, including smoking, shall not be permitted on school buses.
6. Drivers shall refrain from using foul language.
7. Drivers shall refrain from using their cell phones.
8. Drivers shall not leave the bus while the key is in the ignition. Remain within 100 feet of the bus and have the bus within your unobstructed view at all times while students are on board.
9. Operate at a safe rate of speed consistent with the volume of traffic, intersections, curves, railroad crossings and other conditions requiring special caution. The maximum speed shall not exceed the posted speed limit, but may be lower where highway signs or conditions indicate lower speeds.
10. The bus driver shall reduce speed and pull off the road where safe to do so, giving opportunity for other vehicles to pass so that a line of not more than 5 vehicles shall accumulate to the rear of the bus.
11. The emergency door should not be used as an entrance or exit except in the case of an emergency evacuation drill. Drivers shall not allow students to operate the service door handle or other bus controls except in an emergency.
12. Carefully, count the students unloading at a bus stop and account for each student before proceeding.
13. Be aware of the hazard of items, such as jacket drawstrings, backpacks, etc., catching on the handrail or other equipment in the area of the service door. Service door should remain open until you are certain all students have cleared the Danger Zone.
14. As a school bus driver, you represent the school for which you are dropping off and picking up students. Many people judge the school by their impressions of the drivers since, to most people; the driver is the representative from the school they see most often. Also remember, you are also representing St. Mary's First Nation, and the school district in which St. Mary's is located in.
15. Always be courteous and cooperative. This not only promotes good public relations, it encourages safe driving practices.
16. School bus drivers shall properly wear the seat-belt assembly when operating the school bus.

17. Drivers shall dress appropriately and be neat in appearance. They shall wear closed toe and heel shoes or boots.
18. Drivers shall not consume any food or beverage while the school bus is in motion or while students are on the bus.
19. You must never be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs while operating the school bus for any reason.

DISCIPLINE TIPS FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

Teaching students to ride a bus in a safe and respectful manner is accomplished by respect, care, patience, and student management, not by harsh discipline and punishment. Listed below are tips a school bus driver may employ to effectively manage student behavior on his/her bus.

- Greet students with a smile and their name. Recognizing each as an individual goes a long way toward maintaining order on the bus.
- Explain the reason for each safe riding rule. Students are more likely to follow the rules if they understand them.
- Be consistent in enforcing the rules each and every day.
- Be firm in your manner. Be confident. You are the “manager” of your bus.
- Be courteous and caring when you enforce safe riding practices. Students do not like to be embarrassed, especially in front of their peers.
- Be consistent with consequences for not following safe riding rules. State what those consequences are when you teach the safe riding rules.
- Be fair. The safe riding rules apply to all. Students will respect fairness, but will be confrontational if they perceive unfairness, inconsistency or injustice.
- Remain emotionally neutral. Do not allow students to push your “hot buttons”.
- Listen to what a student has to say. Their perception of a situation may be different from yours.
- Communicate effectively. Use eye contact, a pleasant tone, clear and understandable statements, and positive body language. Say what you mean and mean what you say.
- If you have made a mistake, say so. Students will appreciate honesty.
- Statements such as “You need to do the following” will work better than “Sit down and be quiet!”
- If you have a serious behavior situation that you need to deal with immediately, pull the bus entirely off the road in a safe place and activate 4 way flashers.
- Follow your school district’s policy for dealing with student conduct on the bus. If you need help, let your supervisor know.
- Avoid any physical contact with students.
- Harassment of any kind - racial, religious, or sexual shall not be allowed and must be reported to your supervisor.
- Children with disabilities or “coded” students may be riding the bus without the driver being aware they are “coded”. Be suspect of ongoing, unusual behavior patterns. Ask for help. Sometimes a meeting of driver, supervisor, school administrator, parent and student is necessary.
- Recognize and reinforce good student behavior. Let students know they have met your

expectations and that you appreciate their efforts. By explaining and teaching the safe riding rules and being consistent in enforcing them, the driver will prevent small problems from escalating into larger ones. The ride each day should be a pleasant one for all passengers so that they arrive at school ready to learn.

Remember, you may be the first friendly person the student sees in the morning, and also you may be the last friendly person the student sees at night!

STUDENT RULES

- Student shall follow directions of the driver the first time given.
- Student shall arrive at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Student shall wait in a safe place, clear of traffic and at least 10 feet away from where the bus stops.
- Student shall wait in an orderly line and avoid horseplay.
- Student shall cross the road or street in front of the bus only after the bus has come to a complete stop and upon direction of the driver (10 foot minimum crossing distance).
- Student shall go directly to an available or assigned seat when entering the bus.
- Student shall remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear.
- Student shall exhibit classroom conduct at all times.
- Student shall refrain from throwing or passing objects on, from or into buses.
- Student is permitted to carry only objects that can be held on his/her lap.
- Student shall refrain from the use of profane language and obscene gestures on the bus.
- Student is prohibited from using tobacco products, alcohol, drugs, or any controlled substance on the bus.
- Student shall refrain from eating and drinking on the bus.
- Student shall not carry hazardous materials, nuisance items and animals onto the bus.
- Student shall respect the rights and safety of others.
- Student shall refrain from leaving or boarding the bus at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school.
- Student is prohibited from extending head, arms or objects out of the bus windows.
- Student is prohibited from hitching rides via the rear bumper or other parts of the bus.

STUDENT MISCONDUCT / CONSEQUENCES

Misconduct is reported by the driver to the school administrator who has authority to deal with disciplinary matters. School administrators follow the consequences as laid out, however depending on the situation: more severe consequences may be applied regardless of first offense. Parents have the right to appeal a suspension after the 5th cumulative day. Parents are to contact the school administrator if their child is being bullied on the bus. The bus driver MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THE BULLYING.

Offenses on student misconduct on the bus

Category I Offenses:

- Standing
- Changing seats or not staying seated properly
- Rough play
- Excessive noise
- Spitting
- Littering

Category II Offenses:

- Disrespect
- Inappropriate language
- Bullying – verbal threat
- Bullying - name calling
- Bullying – taunting
- Bullying – harassment
- Bullying – intimidation
- Non-compliant (will not follow directions from driver)
- Throwing – objects in or out of the bus
- Verbal abuse – staff

Category III Offenses:

- Bullying – assault
- Verbal threat – staff
- Jeopardizing the safety of others
- Vandalism- Cost may be recouped from parent/guardian if student found responsible
- Drugs/alcohol
- Fighting
- Tobacco/smoking on the bus
- Arson/combustibles
- Weapons

Consequences for Category I Misconduct

GRADES K-5

- 1st offense: written warning
- 2nd offense: written warning OR 1-2 day suspension
- 3rd offense: 1-5 day suspension

GRADES 6-12

- 1st offense: written warning or 1-3 days suspension
- 2nd offense: 3-5 day suspension
- 3rd offense: 5 day suspension or possible extended loss of bus privileges.

Consequences for Category II Misconduct

GRADES K-12

- 1st offense: written warning or 1-3 day suspension
- 2nd offense: 3-5 day suspension
- 3rd offense: 5 day suspension or possible extended loss of bus privileges

When a student is suspended from a school bus, they are not entitled to ride any school bus. Parents are responsible to ensure the students get to school.

FIELD TRIPS

There is a substantial difference between driving a school bus on a route and driving a school bus on a trip. Field trips, athletic and extracurricular trips pose a different set of challenges for bus drivers.

CHALLENGES

- Vehicle is unfamiliar to the driver.
- Driver has not been to a particular destination.
- Traffic and road conditions may be difficult.
- Teachers/coaches, chaperons and students may be new to the driver.

DRIVER RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE LEAVING ON A FIELD TRIP

- Driver must have proper driver license, school bus certificate.
- Unfamiliar vehicle: Check the bus out well. Check for registration and insurance card. Know all emergency exits and procedures.
- Have directions to your destination in advance. It is the driver's responsibility to know where he/she is going. Check the day before to see if there are any changes for the trip.
- Arrive early enough to warm up the bus and perform proper vehicle inspection.

DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE TRIP

- Pick-up point - park the bus in the safest location for loading.
- Speak to the leader(s) of the group, introduce yourself, check destination of trip and discuss responsibilities with the group leader(s).
- Introduce yourself to the passengers - name, bus number, describe the behavior expected on

- Any Equipment/supplies carried on bus are not allowed in aisles(s) or block any emergency doors. No items should be piled above the height of the seat backs or placed on the floor allowing sliding under the seats.
- Change in itinerary: Follow routes as written. If there is any change, driver should get permission from company or school district.
- Remain on schedule: If road or traffic conditions are such that the bus will not arrive at the destination on time, tell the leader. If lost or a wrong turn is made, **DO NOT** drive more than 5 minutes - stop and get directions as soon as possible.
- Posted speed limits shall not be exceeded. When traveling into another province review both St. Mary's First Nation and school district policies for out of province travel, also check on speed limits for school buses in provinces to be traversed.
- At destination: Unload in a safe location. Inform leader where the bus will be parked.
- Give the leader a number to call if the bus is needed early. Check with leader on time of departure and clearly define where the group will re-load.
- Parking the bus: Park in a safe and legal location. Secure bus and chock rear wheels.
- Fuel/Check: If fuel is needed, purchase before return trip while there are no passengers.
- **DO NOT** drop passengers off except at their destination.

DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY UPON ARRIVAL AT ORIGINAL PICK-UP POINT

Dismissal of passengers: Ask leader to remain near bus to check for any damage. (Suggestion: Ask leader to leave bus first. Dismiss group seat by seat after checking their seat area. Bus should not leave area until inside is checked for passengers, items, and damage.) Return bus to parking area - **DO NOT** leave it a mess for the next driver. Perform a post-trip bus inspection.

BUS & BUS STOP SAFETY

Getting on the Bus

1. Be on time at the bus stop (never run to (or) from the bus).
2. Have a safe place to wait for your bus. Remain at a safe distance from the road and traffic.
3. Respect the property you are waiting on.
4. Stand back from the curb until the bus comes to a complete stop.
5. Form a single line.
6. If crossing the road to get on the bus, wait for driver's signal.
7. When entering the bus, go directly to a seat.
8. Do not push or shove other students.
9. The following items are not to be transported on the bus
 - skate boards
 - large musical instruments
 - hockey sticks
 - ice skates/roller skates (must be in a canvas type bag and/or have skate guards)
 - skis, poles, fishing rods, etc.
 - suitcases
 - archery equipment

- animals

On the Bus

10. Remain seated during the entire ride.
11. Sit facing forward
12. Always keep aisles and emergency exits clear
13. Do not open the windows unless you have been given permission by the bus driver
14. Do not throw anything out of the bus windows
15. Show respect for the bus driver and the other students.
16. Speak quietly. No yelling or shouting.
17. No food or beverages opened on the school bus.
18. No smoking on the bus.
19. Always obey the driver.
20. Children should remain seated until the bus stops for drop off.

Getting Off the Bus

21. Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
22. Children should line up in the bus aisle, using the hand rail exit one at a time.
23. Children who have to cross the road must wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing.
Please cross in front of the safety arm in view of the bus driver. Look both ways before crossing
24. Children who drop an object should not stoop to pick items up.
25. Children should inform bus driver and the driver will supervise collecting of dropped items.
26. NEVER cross behind the bus.

DANGER ZONE

One of the most important concepts children should learn about bus safety is to avoid the **danger zone**. It is defined as "the area on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver (ten feet in front of the bus where the driver may be too high to see a child, ten feet on either side of the bus where a child may be in the driver's blind spot, and the area behind the school bus)."

Eighteen to 24 fatalities a year are called 'school bus-related' fatalities. This is when kids are hit by their own bus or by another vehicle. Six to nine of these are violent bus fatalities in which the child is killed by his own bus; the remaining occurs when kids are struck by passing motorists. Many of the school bus-related fatalities could probably be avoided if students follow the rules about the danger zone. Kids should take at least seven or eight giant steps from the bus, and then move four or five steps forward from the bus and wait for a hand signal from the driver to proceed.

Parent Participation

How to Help Your Child Have a Positive Experience on the School Bus

Basic guidelines for parents to teach their child / children with school bus safety:

1. Review basic road safety rules with your child
 - a. Walk on the sidewalks and cross at the crosswalks
 - b. In the absence of sidewalks and crosswalks, walk on the left side of the road facing the traffic.
 - c. Stop, look, and listen! Cross the road when it is safe to do so.
 - d. Remember to walk, do not run, across the road.
2. Make sure your child knows where their school bus stop is and what it looks like. Be there to send off and greet your child. Children in grades K-5 should be accompanied by a parent/guardian to the bus stop and wait until their child is seated on the bus. Parents / Guardians should also be waiting at the bus stop at the appropriate time after school to meet their child/children.
3. Arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled pick-up to avoid rushing
4. Make sure your child is wearing clothing that does not have drawstrings. If a jacket's drawstring gets caught in handrail or in a bus door, the child can step off the bus, not realize a drawstring is attached, and be dragged.
5. See that whatever backpack or book bag your child is carrying does not contain dangling items or straps that could get caught in the bus handrail or door. Also be mindful of long coats or scarves.
6. Remind kids about good riding manners Student behavior management is one of the most important safety concerns. Kids should:
 - a. get on the bus they should take a seat
 - b. place their book bags on the floor under their feet or in their laps,
 - c. sit in the seat and face forward with their feet on the floor.

Not following these rules can cause driver distraction or driver error.

7. Teach your kids about the danger zone.

ST. MARY'S FIRST NATION BUS POLICY SUMMARY TO COMMUNITY

Bus Policy

While on the bus, students are responsible to other students and the bus driver. For safety reasons, the bus code of behavior requires students to be seated at all times, to be cooperative and respectful of others. If a student does not respond to the driver's instructions, the principal will be informed. The school as well as the bus driver reserves the right to suspend busing privileges from students whose behavior interferes with drivers' ability to drive safely.

Bus Route Change

A note must be sent to the school with your child if any change is to be made with your child's departure from school at the end of the day. Please inform your child to give the note to their teacher, so that the teacher may inform the bus driver.

The Bus Driver is expected to:

1. Maintain order while treating the children in a respectful, cooperative manner
2. Refer violators to the principal/school administrator and St. Mary's First Nation Busing.

PLEASE TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY & RULES

Reminder to all Parents

Due to inclement weather conditions the district may cancel classes for the day, therefore, St Mary's School will not be open and the St Mary's Buses will not be running.

In addition to radio announcements, the school district will place a recorded message at 453-5455, no later than 6:30 am and place on the Anglophone West website at <https://asdw.nbed.ca> to inform the public of school closures because of inclement weather. Closures are typically posted on social media sites. Please feel free to use either of these services.

For more information on busing, St. Mary's Education department has a policy available. Please call 459-2219 to request a copy.