

Guidance for Students and Parents for Bus Riders

The challenge we have with extra precautions for our students extends to our buses as well. Students will be expected to wear masks when they are at the bus stop and have their mask on when they board the bus. And please understand wearing a mask will be strictly enforced. In addition, bus drivers and/or bus aides will take each student's temperature as the student enters the bus.

If a student's temperature is 100.4 or above, and the parent is visible and able to retrieve his or her student, the student will be released back to the parent. If the parent is not easily accessible at the bus stop, the student will ride to school and will be sent to the nurse's office for second temperature check. At that time parents will be called so they can come to school and bring their student home for the day. It is important for parents to keep their student home, if the student has a known temperature.

Also, it will be important for bus riders to arrive at their bus stop 5 minutes early and have their mask on, and be practicing social distancing at the bus stop until the bus arrives. Drivers will assign seats for all students and each student **MUST** remain in this seat until bus driver or other school official requires a change in the assignments. Note: *There will be no exceptions to the assigned seating rule.*

Parents also need to be aware that six feet social distancing may **not** be obtainable on most buses; however, **we will do the best we can according to the student count per bus.** Therefore, it is very important for students to keep their mask on at ALL TIMES while riding the bus, and must do their best not to touch other students or move from their seats until the bus has arrived at its final location or bus stop.

Buses will be **unloaded** from front to back in an orderly manner, and special needs buses will only be transporting students with special needs. Siblings of students with special needs students will need to ride general education bus route closest to their home address. Also, due to possible staggered release times of each class in the afternoon, most afternoon routes will be delayed so we ask students and parents to be patient as we work on the arrival times for home drop off the first few weeks.

On the Joplin Schools web page, an "E-Link" is available for parents to use their students I.D. to find their bus route. If students rode a bus route last year and have not changed address or schools, it will be the same bus route number and at the same location and approximate time as last year. Note: *Bus route # numbers do not change from year to year.*

If further assistance is needed to find a student's route #, the route summaries can be found on Joplin Schools web page under Transportation. If needed a transportation email contact and phone contact number are provided on the same web page. Finally, student information sheets, and transportation department regulation sheets will be handed out to the students the first week they ride and **MUST be signed and turned in to the driver by the end of the second week in order for student to continue to ride.**