



# TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 20, 2020

Dear Twinsburg Schools Family:

The Twinsburg City School District and the surrounding community is joining with other schools and communities to recognize National School Bus Safety Week, October 19-23, 2020. **The national theme this year is: "Red Lights Mean STOP!"**

We all should remember that when everyone (school bus drivers, parents, students and motorists) does their part, there is no safer place for a student than on the school bus. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) tells us that students are about 70 times more likely to get to school safely when taking a school bus instead of traveling by car.

School buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road; they are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in preventing crashes and injuries; and in every state, stop-arm laws protect children from other motorists.

The big yellow school bus has become an institution in our country, with children and families benefiting from the safe transportation service accomplished with these vehicles and the staff who operate them.

Often, we take for granted the benefit of this service, even while school and transportation staff continue to focus on maximizing safety and efficiency.

We ask other motorists to be extra vigilant around school buses, observing traffic laws requiring them to stop for school buses that are loading or unloading and to watch for children who may be crossing the road.

Our District Transportation Staff offers the following tips for your child while getting on and off the bus:

- Get to the bus stop in plenty of time – at least 10-15 minutes prior to the scheduled departure;
- Wait at your driver designated place of safety – usually well up on a curb, in a driveway, or sidewalk;
- Take 10 giant steps away from the bus when unloading, and stay there until the bus pulls away;
- Always follow the driver's directions for how to cross the street, and be alert to traffic and look both ways; and
- If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus.



We recognize that school bus transportation is a partnership. Students, parents, bus drivers, school staff and motorists all have to work together to keep our children safe.

Bus drivers help to keep our children safe by watching surrounding traffic closely and by doing their best to follow scheduled routes and times to provide regular and dependable service. Bus drivers help teach their riders safe riding practices. Our students need to know and respect the following:

- Follow the bus driver's instructions – just like in a classroom or school building, the Student Code of Conduct still applies;
- Remember the safe riding rules, and wear a mask or face covering at all times;
- Wait for their bus at designated stops, standing at their driver-designated place of safety;
- Sanitize hands while boarding and exiting the school bus;
- Move quickly to their assigned seat when boarding the bus;
- Remain seated after boarding the bus;
- Respect other riders on the bus, and keep hands to yourself; and
- Talk to the bus driver if they have questions or concerns.

Parents can assist in the following ways:

- Review the safe riding rules with your children, and help them understand why each rule is important;
- Dress children in light-colored clothing or jackets on dark mornings;
- Help children to be ready at their stop before the bus arrives;
- Take turns supervising bus stops for smaller children; and
- Do not allow children to wear items that may get caught in handrails, doors and seats. Items such as drawstrings, dangling straps on book bags and loose clothing can be particularly dangerous.

Thank you for entrusting the safety of your children to our Transportation Department. With your assistance and support, we will continue to provide safe and effective school transportation services for the community.

The Twinsburg City School District Transportation Department

Mark Desmond  
Transportation Supervisor

Tracy Abbott  
Assistant Transportation Supervisor

