

Dear Parents,

The Dunklin R-5 Transportation Department would like to welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration considers school buses to be the safest means of school transportation. (For more information, visit: <u>www.NHTSA.gov/School-Buses</u>). Our main focus is to ensure the safety and well being of the children as we transport them to and from school.

It is important that your contact information is always current; therefore, if your phone number or address changes please let the school know. If your child's transportation changes, contact the school office right away so we can ensure that your child is routed correctly. Please note; we will not be able to make any permanent changes without written authorization and we will not make any changes upon student request. Also, we are not allowing bus changes, each student will only be allowed to ride their assigned bus. Bus assignments must be limited to two stops and consistent. We will not be responsible for calendars or inconsistent schedules.

If your child is in kindergarten, to further ensure their safety, it is mandatory that a parent/guardian or an approved person appointed by a parent/guardian is present when your kindergartner gets on and off of the bus. If no one is present at the time of afternoon drop off, your child will be returned to school. At times throughout the school year, substitute bus drivers will be transporting your child to and/or from school. The substitute driver may not be as familiar with you or your child as their regular driver; however, they are trained and required to follow procedures to insure the safety and well being of every child. We ask for your patience and consideration.

During these unprecedented times, we are asking that your child wear their face masks while on the bus to ensure a healthy environment for everyone. We disinfect our buses after every route. Also, we are not allowing bus changes at this time, each student will only be allowed to ride their assigned bus.

We take the safety of our students and drivers very seriously; therefore we would like to point out that it is unlawful for anyone besides students and school personnel to step on the school bus. If you have an issue that needs to be addressed, please call the office where your child attends or the transportation office.

Thank you.

Sue Sharp

Dunklin R-5 School District Director of Transportation