

SCHOOL BUS DANGER ZONE

The area that extends fifteen (15) feet from the front, sides and rear of the bus is known as the **DANGER ZONE**. In fact, all areas that are close to the bus can be considered danger zones. In the last fifty years, 89 students in the U.S. were killed while in the danger zone. Seventy-five (75) of these students were in grades K-3.

It is recommended that your children do the following to stay safe when waiting for the bus and getting on and off the bus:

- Students should be at their designated bus stop at least five (5) minutes prior to their pickup time.
- Students should stand away from the edge of the road and curb (at least 10 feet) and NOT approach the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the bus driver opens the door and gives the signal to enter the bus.
- While waiting for the bus, students should refrain from horseplay, pushing, shoving or running in the area of the bus stop. If the bus stop is at a neighbor's house, please have them respect the neighbor's property.
- Students who miss the bus are NOT to run after the bus or pickup anything they drop near the wheels of the bus. Running to catch the bus is an extremely unsafe and dangerous act. There have been many fatalities caused by students who run after the bus and fall under the wheels or get hit by a car as they run across the road.

If students have to cross the road, they should pay attention to the instructions the bus driver provides, such as:

- Walk ten (10) feet away from the front of their bus when they exit and wait for the bus driver to signal them to cross.
- If more than one student is crossing, they must cross in a group after receiving the UNIVERSAL CROSSING SIGNAL from their bus driver.
- If the bus driver identifies a potential hazardous condition, he/she will sound the bus horn and the students are to return to the curb or side of the road.

You, as the parent or guardian, play a vital role in ensuring that your child does not become a statistic. Please review these topics with your children so they understand the significance of the **DANGER ZONE** and the safe practices involved in getting on and off the bus. We want to achieve our goal of **ZERO** mishaps during the loading and unloading process and your attention to this will ensure the safety of all of our students.

If you have any questions, please contact the Transportation Department at 298-5225 ext. 44104.

