

TRANSPORTATION

The Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-176, permits school boards to provide transportation for pupils, but does not require them to do so. Express bus service will be provided for students enrolled in all Specialty Programs. This service will be to and from express bus stops only. Wireless communication devices may be used on school buses provided that the device does not distract the driver, compromise safety, or violate other school bus rules and regulations.

Meeting the Bus

State law requires that buses operate on the same routes, as per their schedules, on a daily basis. Parents/Guardians or their designees are requested to accompany their young child(ren) to and from their assigned bus stop. At Pennington, students walking to and from a bus stop must have on file in the office and on the bus a signed **HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**. A **SCHOOL BUS CONTRACT** will be signed by parents and student(s) and kept on file.

Students should:

- Be on time
- Arrive at their **assigned** bus stop at least 5-10 minutes before the regular pickup time
- Stand away from the road. Do NOT stand on the traveled portion of the roadway while waiting for a bus
- Maintain proper conduct
- Respect the property of others
- Wait until the bus has stopped; then walk to the front door. Do NOT run alongside a moving bus
- Board the bus in an orderly fashion

Students Riding the Bus should:

- Obey instructions of the bus driver and/or bus attendant
- Be seated immediately
- Remain seated, facing forward
- Share seats equally
- Be courteous and respect property
- Keep all body parts inside bus
- Keep aisles clear; and maintain good conduct

Violations of the “Code of Behavior” and other infractions will not be tolerated:

- Fire
- Having glass objects
- Transporting large object
- Tampering with equipment
- Weapons
- Drug and Substance Abuse
- Littering
- Threats
- Endangering others
- Fighting
- Smoking
- Profanity

- Horseplay
- Eating/Drinking
- Spitting
- Obscene gestures
- Vandalism
- Throwing objects from the bus

Leaving the Bus

Students must:

- Remain seated until bus comes to a full stop
- Leave the bus in an orderly manner, students in the front seats first
- Leave the bus stop area when safety permits as soon as discharged from the bus
- Not loiter around the bus
- Cross the street, if necessary to do so, at the front of the bus and at a distance of at least ten feet in front of the bus
- Not cross until the driver has signaled that it is safe to do so. Crossing four or more traffic lanes or a divided roadway is prohibited

If a disciplinary problem should occur in the afternoon, and the problem is such that, in the judgment of the driver, it is unsafe to proceed, the driver may return to the school to seek immediate disciplinary action and/or assistance. Bus drivers are instructed to report any infractions to the school principal/designee.

Changing Buses & Parent/Responsible Person(s)

Students must have a written request from the parent to proceed to another scheduled stop on their regular scheduled bus. This written request is subject to approval of the school principal or designee. Bus drivers must receive notification by the school office when approval is given to a student to change to an alternate stop or bus.

No change will be made in the location of bus stops or bus routing without approval of the Office of Transportation Services.

No change in the bus assigned may be made without the permission of the school principal and the Office of Transportation Services.

A parent/guardian or other person who is not previously noted on the emergency card as having custody or permission to receive the student(s) at the end of the day at school/bus stop will be denied unless adequate proof or permission is presented. If the necessary requirements are not met, the student will remain or be returned to Pennington.

If the parent or responsible person is frequently not at the afternoon bus stop to receive their student(s), the student(s) may be suspended from bus privileges.

School Bus Trespassing

Only authorized persons are permitted aboard a school bus (school property). "It shall be unlawful for any person, whether or not a student, to enter upon or remain upon any school property after having been directed to vacate the property by a person authorized to give such direction." (Code of Virginia 18.2-128)

School Bus Use is a Privilege

Should a student be reported to the Principal, the principal will be responsible for disciplinary action, which may include the loss of bus transportation privileges until the parent, the bus driver, the principal, (and in some instances), a representative from the Office of Transportation Services can arrive at an understanding which will correct the problem. The parent will be responsible for the transportation of students who have lost school bus transportation privileges.

Oral or written threats to harm others or PWCS property, which are planned or made on a school bus or which are intended to be carried out on a school bus, at a school bus stop, or while traveling to and from school, may result in the loss of transportation for a specific period of time or for the remainder of the school year in addition to other disciplinary action. A School Bus Video Observation System records activities aboard some buses.

Transportation- Automobile

The safety and well-being of your children is paramount for the Pennington School staff. To ensure their safety and to ease the flow of traffic before and after school, we ask your cooperation when dropping off and picking up your children. Please follow these simple guidelines:

- Students are to be dropped off no earlier than 8:40 a.m.
- Pull forward to the end of the parking lot when unloading or loading children
- Load and unload from the right side of the car only
- The center lane is for thru traffic
- Children should walk on the sidewalk beside the bus lane and cross only at the crosswalk
- In the afternoon, students will meet their cars after their number has been called
- Please refrain from cell phone use during student arrival/dismissal
- If you wish to park, please do so in the back lot
- Please park when unloading projects/items.
- At no time should unattended cars block vehicles that are parked in either lot
- NEVER leave your unattended car in the Parent Pick-Up Lane

At no time should cars enter the bus lane between
8:00-9:30 a.m. or between 2:45-4:15 p.m.