

Bus Rules Explained

Follow Directions first time given – You can ask questions and have conversation, you are encouraged to do so, but do so in a respectful manner. There is a time and a place for that conversation, when the bus isn't moving is ideal. **SAFETY:** Your bus driver is responsible for your safety. His/Her instructions are based on keeping you safe in all regards. If he/she directs you to do something please do so without argument or questioning.

Abide by the FTCSC Student Code of Conduct & Expectations – In your student handbook, an electronic copy is available to you at all times, are clear descriptions of acceptable behaviors along with consequences if those behavioral expectations are not met. While on the bus you are expected to abide by those expectations just as if you are in a classroom.

Treat other riders with respect and consideration to safety –

Keep all items in a bag that is small enough to be held in the lap. All items must be maintained in the space of your seat and may not be in the aisle or impede into the space of others. – **SAFETY:** The aisle must be kept clear at all times so that students can move freely to or from their seats while boarding or during dismissal. This includes body parts as well as carry on items. It is understood that having three to a seat makes this more problematic, just do the best you can in that situation. Keep your stuff within your space.

Be responsible for your belongings; items that could be lost, damaged or stolen are not the responsibility of FTCSC. – Your stuff is your stuff, take care of it.

Use kind words and talk with appropriate voice levels. – Speak to others as you want them to speak to you. Profanity and derogatory language (being mean or demeaning) are not acceptable types of communication. Speak in a conversational tone, like you do in a classroom. Yes, the bus is loud but that doesn't mean you get to yell across the bus. All other conversations can wait until you are off the bus. **SAFETY:** Create a safe environment by speaking to others as you would want them to speak to you.

Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself and inside the bus. – Stay in your space. Failure to do so will result in immediate consequences up to and including expulsion from the bus. Objects refers to anything that could harm another person (either intentionally or unintentionally) including perfume, aerosols, sprays, vapes, drugs, or weapons (as defined in the Student Code of Conduct and Expectations. **SAFETY:** No fighting or pestering of another rider by physically touching or trying to intimidate them. Many people have allergies that can be triggered by chemical sprays (perfumes, aerosols, vapes, etc.). Allergic reactions can be severe or even fatal. The use of these items is grounds for immediate disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Be at your designated stop 10 minutes prior to bus arrival. – Your driver tries to maintain a schedule so please do your part by being ready for the bus to arrive. In bad weather it is understandable that you don't want to wait outside but it is disrespectful to the driver and your fellow student riders to be late to the stop because you are inside a house or vehicle. Know when your bus is to arrive and be at the stop when it gets there. **SAFETY:** Designated bus stop locations are established with your safety in mind. In neighborhoods they are typically well lit

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and sidewalks are available for walking safely to the bus stop. While house stops may not be as well illuminated they do eliminate the need for walking along the road. Stay 10' away from the road until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has activated the student warning lights and signaled you to board the bus. Be aware of traffic even if the student warning lights are activated!

Go straight to your assigned seat and remain seated while the bus is in motion. (Use seat belt if available) – The bus is on an assigned schedule so please go directly to your assigned seat.

Follow the rules listed here and your driver will more than likely let you sit with your friends.

SAFETY: Seat assignments ensure each student has a place to sit during their time on the bus. It also enables emergency personnel to check attendance in the event of an accident. If your bus has seat belts FTCSC strongly advises you to use them. It is the best way to keep you safe in the event that an accident occurs.

Personal Electronic Devices (PED), food, gum, or drinks are to be kept in your backpack.

Headphones must be used, with one ear left uncovered, for listening to audio on a PED. – You may use a PED to listen to music or a podcast while riding a bus but your PED must remain in your backpack while on the bus. Pick something that will last the entire bus ride because getting the PED out to change what you are listening to is not acceptable behavior. **SAFETY:** You must also keep one ear uncovered so that you can hear driver instruction.

Ask before putting the windows down. Never put the window down below the line. – Be respectful of the driver and your fellow passengers. Do not lower the window past the line and keep your body parts inside the bus. The bus is wide and takes up a lot of space on the road.

SAFETY: The line is there to minimize your risk by limiting the open space available for objects to fly into the bus and to keep your body parts safely inside the bus. Even at a moderately slow speed you could get seriously injured if a body part should strike an object outside the bus.