

# Drivers urged to use caution during morning, afternoon bus routes

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School buses don't just run in the mornings and afternoons.

"Our routes start running around 6 a.m. and continue until about 8:30," said Clinton Public School District Transportation Director Donny Gray. "There are also shuttles during the day taking students to classes on other campuses and occasional field trips."

With school about to start, the Clinton Public School District is encouraging drivers to slow down and take extreme caution when approaching and driving through school zones, and to drive with caution throughout the school day.

"Also, be aware of children playing or walking near bus stops," Gray said. "Slow down when you see the yellow flashing lights on a school bus, and be prepared to stop when they change to red. Never pass a bus with its red light flashing. It is illegal to do this, and it puts children in danger."

During the 2018-19 school year, bus drivers reported multiple incidents of other drivers ignoring the stop sign and flashing lights and illegally passing buses when children were getting on or off. CPSD partners with the Clinton Police Department to encourage safety around bus stops and schools, and such incidents are reported to police.

"We are transporting children on these buses," said Dr. Tim Martin, superintendent of schools. "If you are driving



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and see a school bus, keep that in mind before you text and drive or if you're thinking about passing a stopped bus that has its lights flashing."

In inclement weather all motorists should slow down. The opening minutes of rain or drizzle are the most dangerous.

"That's when the water loosens all the accumulated dirt and oil," Gray

said. "This immediately forms a mixture which quickly coats the road with a dangerous slick film. High speeds on roadways where there is water present can cause a vehicle to hydroplane out of control."

For more information, bus routes and safety tips, visit the CPSD Transportation Department Web site at: <http://clintonpublicschools.com/domain/23>.

## RULES FOR STUDENTS:

- ARRIVE AT THE BUS STOP FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE BUS ARRIVES.
- WAIT UNTIL THE BUS COMES TO A COMPLETE STOP AND THE DRIVER SIGNALS YOU TO BOARD.
- TAKE YOUR SEAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND REMAIN SEATED, FACING FORWARD.
- KEEP ALL YOUR BELONGINGS ON YOUR LAP AND OUT OF THE AISLE.
- FOLLOW THE DRIVER'S INSTRUCTIONS AT ALL TIMES.
- TALK QUIETLY WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND AVOID MAKING NOISES THAT WOULD DISTRACT THE DRIVER OR BOTHER OTHERS ON THE BUS.
- TO EXIT THE BUS, WAIT UNTIL THE BUS COMES TO A COMPLETE STOP BEFORE STANDING UP.
- IF YOU MUST CROSS THE STREET AFTER YOU GET OFF THE BUS, WALK TEN GIANT STEPS AHEAD OF THE BUS, WAIT FOR THE DRIVER'S SIGNAL TO CROSS AND THEN LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE YOU CROSS.
- STAY OUT OF THE DANGER ZONE (10 FEET AROUND ALL SIDES OF THE BUS).
- NEVER RUN BACK TO THE BUS, STOOP DOWN OR CRAWL NEAR THE BUS, EVEN IF YOU DROP OR FORGET SOMETHING.

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