

Sarasota District Schools Transportation
301 Old Venice Road
Osprey, Florida 34229
486-2141, fax: 486-2148

Most Helpful Hints to prepare young School Bus Riders.

Be patient the first 2 weeks of school while schools, teachers, students and bus drivers get acquainted with where each student is scheduled to be (bus, after care, etc). Buses will probably run late during this transition period. For the Bus driver it's learning the faces and names of the students from the 3-6 different schools they transport daily. Parents can assist in this process by doing the following:

- Help your student to memorize: first & last name, address, phone #'s, bus #'s, bus stop names and teacher names.
- Label your students with a note in book bag or lunchbox: bus number AM + PM, name of bus stop, telephone #'s.
- Have older siblings or friends keep track of younger students until they are used to the school bus procedure.
- AM + PM bus stop times are the bus drive away times. Have your student at the AM stop 5 minutes in advance. In the PM the adult meeting the student should arrive at the stop 5 minutes prior to time (this reduces student anxiety).
- All kindergartners are required to have an adult meet them at the stop. Our drivers will not knowingly let them off if there if there is no eligible older student or an adult to meet them.
- Remind your student of the importance of staying seated safely at all times on the bus – kneeling on the seat, heads or hands out the window or crawling on the floor is not safe. Classroom level voice to their seatmate is acceptable. Wearing of seat belts is required by law. Cell Phones, I-Pods, etc and skateboards are to remain in a secured bag at all times while on the bus.

Our Transportation Department can be reached online with a wealth of information from a) location and phone numbers b) driver/attendant training programs and updates to c) bus routes and stop information. That website is: <http://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/> left column: Bus Routes