

## National School Bus Safety Week Oct 16-20, 2023:

This year's School Bus Safety Week theme is "**Safely Rolling to My Destination**".

School Bus Safety Week is celebrated during the third full week of October each year. October 16th - 20th, 2023 marks this year's safety week. The annual event is a great way to bring together school bus operators, students, parents, educators, motorists, and anyone else interested in school bus safety to raise awareness of the importance of school bus safety.

### [School Bus Stopping, know when to stop!](#)

#### **GET TO KNOW THE "DANGER ZONE!"**

School buses are the safest form of highway transportation. They are designed with numerous safety features, including reinforced sides, high seat backs, and bright colors for visibility. School bus drivers are trained extensively in safety procedures. However, did you know that the most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the school bus?

The "**Danger Zone**" is the area on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver (ten feet in front of the bus where the driver may be too high to see a child, ten feet on either side of the bus where a child may be in the driver's blind spot, and the area behind the school bus). Here's how to stay safe around the danger zone:

- Arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes early.
- Stand at least 5 giant steps (10 feet) away from the edge of the road.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it is okay before stepping onto the bus.
- Be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps or dangling objects do not get caught in the handrail or door when exiting the bus.
- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus.
- Be sure the bus driver can see you, and you can see the bus driver.
- Only cross the street once the bus driver signals it's safe.
- Never run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.

Parents and guardians should teach and reinforce these habits with their children. Here is additional information about how to [Stay Safe at the Bus Stop](#) and [Keep Your Children Safe In And Around The School Bus](#).

## **OPERATION SAFE STOP!**

The annual Operation Safe Stop will be conducted on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. This is a proactive approach to educate the motoring public that passing a stopped school bus when children are loading or unloading is both dangerous and illegal.

PennDOT, our local law enforcement agencies, and the School District will combine our efforts to raise public awareness about the potential consequences of these traffic violations.

## **RED LIGHTS MEAN STOP!**

Learn and follow the school bus laws in your state and the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions:

- **Yellow flashing lights** indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
- **Red flashing lights** and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

Motorists sharing the road with school buses should be cautious and always stop when the bus displays flashing red lights and a stop sign arm. Failure to stop can result in fines and, more importantly, jeopardize the safety of students.

## **STAY AWARE AT THE WHEEL!**

Make school bus transportation safer for everyone by following these practices:

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods and school zones, watch out for students who may be walking.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood.
- Be ALERT.

## **THANK YOU & STAY SAFE!**

Nazareth Area School District  
Transportation Department