The Barkhamsted School

INSPIRE ✦ EMPOWER ✦ SOAR

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Dear Families,

At the Barkhamsted School, the safety of our students is our highest priority. The school bus is an extension of the school day, and we expect students to demonstrate the same respectful, responsible, and safe behavior while riding the bus as they do in school. This expectation aligns with district policy and Connecticut law regarding student conduct on school transportation, and every student shares the responsibility for helping to create that environment.

To support a safe, orderly, and positive transportation experience, we will review the following bus expectations with all students during the first weeks of school and reinforce them throughout the year. We encourage you to review these expectations with your child and discuss the importance of making safe and respectful choices while riding the bus. By working together, families, students, bus drivers, and school staff can help ensure that every student arrives at school and home safely each day.

We S.O.A.R to Success!

	Stay Safe	**O**wn Your Actions	**A**chieve Your Goals	**R**espect Yourself & Others
Expectations	● Stay back to back, bottom to bottom ● No eating or drinking	● Keep your belongings with you ● Take turns and share seats ● Line up keeping personal space	● Listen to the bus driver ● Follow the bus driver's directions	● Talk quietly with seat mates ● Use school appropriate language

Administrative Response to Bus Misconduct

The Barkhamsted School is committed to maintaining a safe and positive transportation environment for all students. While the examples below represent the general progression of administrative responses to bus misconduct, each incident is reviewed individually. The principal will consider the student's age, developmental level, severity of the behavior, frequency of prior incidents, and the circumstances surrounding the event when determining appropriate interventions or disciplinary consequences. All decisions are made in accordance with Barkhamsted Board of Education policies and applicable Connecticut law.

Initial Incident: Depending on the nature and severity of the behavior, the principal may confer with the student, contact the parent/guardian, consult with the bus driver, and document the incident. A verbal warning, written referral, assigned seating, or other appropriate intervention may be implemented to address the behavior and promote student safety.

Repeated Misconduct: The principal will confer with the student, parent/guardian, and bus driver to review behavioral expectations and develop a plan for improvement. Assigned seating may be implemented or modified. A written referral will be sent home for parent/guardian signature, and communication with the family will occur to discuss expectations and possible consequences if the behavior continues.

Continued Pattern of Misconduct: Continued misconduct despite previous interventions may result in implementation of additional supports or disciplinary action, including a long-term assigned seat, assignment of a bus monitor when available and appropriate, and/or suspension of transportation privileges for a period of time determined by the principal. The duration of any suspension will be based on the severity, frequency, and circumstances of the behavior. Copies of the incident report and suspension letter will be provided to the parent/guardian and Superintendent.

Immediate Safety Concerns: Certain behaviors that pose an immediate risk to the safety of students, the bus driver, or others may result in immediate administrative action, including suspension of transportation privileges, without prior warnings.

When transportation privileges are suspended, transportation to and from school becomes the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Families may be held financially responsible for damage to school or transportation property.

If you have questions regarding bus routes, schedules, or transportation services, please contact LeGeyt Bus Company at (860) 379-2035. Questions regarding student behavior or bus discipline procedures should be directed to the principal.

Thank you for partnering with us to provide a safe, respectful, and positive transportation experience for every Barkhamsted student.