



November 1, 2018

Dear Madison Family,

As we turn on the news each day we are reminded of how quickly life can change. The recent tragedies involving young children and bus safety are leading stories on nearly every news outlet. Our prayers are with the families in Rochester, IN and Louisville, KY.

This is a tragic reminder that our children can be and are at risk each time they load/unload their bus. We talk with students about bus safety. We review our routes regularly and, as often as possible, designate pick up points where students do not have to cross in front of the bus to board. Our bus drivers diligently remind children to follow safety protocols on and around their bus, and we work closely with building staff to ensure pick-up and drop-off are as safe as possible.

We are reaching out to ask you for your assistance. Please take a moment and discuss the following with your child:

- When waiting for the bus, actively watch ALL traffic.
- Stand at least 10 large steps back away from the road.
- If possible, please provide a reflector or small light for your child to have on their person or backpack as a way of alerting traffic.
- As the bus approaches, stand still and watch for the yellow/red flashing lights.
- **When the bus stops, DO NOT walk into the road without a directive from the driver.**
- Watch for your bus driver to give you some kind of signal when it's safe to cross.
- Most of all, **everyone...**always **BE ALERT!** Be on the lookout for buses as they travel the roads.

We are aware of the reckless and inaccurate assertions pertaining to our transportation safety being made part of the local political campaign. Please be assured that we take the safety and well-being of our students and faculty very seriously and are disappointed to see the use of such a tragedy used for political gain.

We have dedicated staff throughout our district who are passionate about all aspects of safety. As the landscape and climate of our world changes daily, our team is dedicated to reviewing our procedures, dedicating resources, and doing all we can at all times to keep students safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Studebaker