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**Rocky Mountain
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6**

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September, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION DURING COVID-19

Rocky Mountain School District has been preparing school bus transportation procedures that are in accordance with the Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings. To keep your children as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic please see our school bus procedures listed below.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROCEDURES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

Before and after riding the school bus:

- Students who are sick will need to be kept home. Students who develop symptoms while at school will not be permitted to return home on a school bus and should be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- All students must clean their hands before they leave home to take the bus, when they leave school prior to taking the bus, and when they get home.
- Parents will be responsible for their child's safety at the bus stop. Parents should remain with their child, Kindergarten to Grade 5, until the bus departs in the morning and then again meet their child at the bus in the afternoon.

Face Masks:

- All grade 4-12 students are required to wear masks when loading, riding and unloading the bus. If they do not have one, a disposable mask will be available. No student is required to wear a mask if they are unable to tolerate it.
- Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 may wear a mask if they would like to.
- Your child's school bus driver is required to wear a re-usable non-medical mask when loading or unloading students, or when physical distancing cannot be maintained in the course of their duties. A face shield or safety glasses may be used along with the non-medical mask when the bus is stopped, and although this has become normal practice for some, please prepare your child for this change in their bus driver's attire.
- All adults riding or entering a school bus must wear a mask. If they are required to enter the bus and do not have a mask, one will be provided.

Riding the school bus:

- Line up at the bus stop keeping a safe distance from others while waiting for the school bus.
- As you board the bus, walk directly to your assigned seat unless the driver instructs otherwise.
- No eating or drinking (except water) on the school bus.
- Always follow the driver's instructions.
- As you unload from the bus, wait until the students in the seat in front have moved before you get up to unload.

Assigned Seating

- Students will be assigned seats. Family members and school cohorts will be required to sit together whenever possible. Seating arrangements will be altered whenever necessary to support student health & safety.
- Students will load the bus back to front and unload front to back whenever possible.
- When space is available students will be seated in the window seat away from the aisle.

Additional Bus Cleaning

- Buses will be sanitized following each time a school bus is used (routes and trips). This will include at least twice daily; once after the morning route, again after the afternoon route and after any bus trips throughout the day.

Non-Eligible Bus Riders

- Courtesy riders will be allowed to ride the bus as per Board Policy 3600. If the pandemic situation worsens, the School District may discontinue courtesy rides to reduce density on school buses.
- School Buses **will not** be accepting guest riders which includes after-school friends coming home with a bus student and therefore bus passes will not be issued by schools. Alternate transportation will need to be arranged in those cases.

School Bus Registration

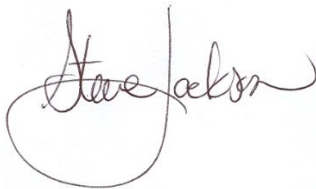
- Your child will receive a registration form from their bus driver. Please review and return the completed registration form to the bus driver as soon as possible.
- Up-to-date student passenger lists will be maintained for each school bus.

Rocky Mountain School District extends our thanks to everyone for their help and cooperation as we apply these new safety measures to keep our students as safe as possible during this pandemic. If busing requirements change throughout the year we will inform parents.

If you have any specific questions or concerns regarding school bus transportation please contact the Operations Department in your area (Golden 250-344-8641, Windermere (250) 342-6814, Kimberley (250) 427-2268).

We look forward to seeing all the students back at school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Jackson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Steve Jackson, ASCT, RPA, FMA, GSC
Director of Operations