



We want you and your child to share in this same experience. After viewing a video, you and your child will learn all about how to get on the bus, how to act while travelling, and how to properly exit the bus. After, we will take you on a short bus ride to experience what it is like to ride on a bus just like the “big kids”.

We hope you will join us for this fun learning experience that runs about 45 minutes.

Parents must accompany the child through this event.



First  Student Canada



### First Student Canada

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### Grande Prairie Public School District

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### Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools

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# First Ride



- The First Ride Program is a School Bus Safety program that introduces young children and their parents to the school buses and school bus safety. It is intended to be a fun learning experience for everyone.
- First Ride will help familiarize you and your child with our buses and provide hands-on safety information.
- The program is focused on students entering Preschool, Kindergarten and Grade 1 students who will use bus services in the fall; however, any student who is new to taking the school bus or would like a refresher is welcome to attend.
- **This event is an important learning opportunity for any student who is taking the bus for the first time.**
- Come out to our First Ride event to learn about taking the bus safely and with expertise.

# First Ride

## *Preschool and Kindergarten Students*

- Parents must apply for a bus pass if they want their child to ride the school bus. Applications are available online through the Transportation Department at [www.gppsd.ab.ca](http://www.gppsd.ab.ca)
- Eligibility for busing can be found on the Transportation website at [www.gppsd.ab.ca](http://www.gppsd.ab.ca)
- Parents should practice using landmarks so their children will recognize their stop.
- Students should tell the driver if they are not sure of their stop.
- They should stay on the bus if they are not sure where to get off or if they have missed their stop.
- Preschool and Kindergarten students will not be allowed off the school bus at a stop where there is no responsible caregiver there to meet them. The only exception to this is if they are walking with older siblings and there is a letter from parents filed with the school board.

## *Safety First*

- Be at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled stop time.
- Line up in the safety zone and always adhere to the 1-meter safety zone around the bus.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching (walking).
- Use the handrail while boarding the bus.
- Once on the bus, students are to go directly to their seat. Each student will be assigned to a seat which they are to sit in for the entire school year.
- While riding the bus, students are to:
  - obey the bus driver.
  - Always remain seated.
  - sit facing the front of the bus.
  - speak in a library voice.
  - be silent crossing railroad tracks.
  - keep all body parts inside the bus.
  - show respect to everyone on the bus.
  - Scan their bus pass getting on and off the bus.
- When unloading, walk to the front of the bus and hold the handrails while exiting.
- Once off the bus, move to the safety zone away from the bus to clear visibility for all drivers (at least 10 steps)

## *Riding the Bus*

- When referring to your child's bus route, know the school's name, route name, the address of the bus stop, and time. Signs are posted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> window of the door side of the bus.
- If the **student does not remember their bus stop** the driver will radio dispatch. First Student will then inform the parent/guardian that the student is still on the bus. They will arrange with the parent to pick their child up at the First Student office.
- Ensure that your child is dressed for the weather condition. Ensure clothing is safe; drawstrings that could catch in the bus doors should be removed.
- **Missing student:** If the student does not arrive at the stop or at home, the driver or the parent/guardian should call First Student immediately. First Student will call the school; sometimes they have been picked up by another spouse/parent or went to a friend's house. The school will check Zonar to see when and where the child scanned on/off the bus and call home if the student missed the bus. Dispatch will contact all busses in the case the child is on another bus by mistake. After all possibilities are exhausted parents should phone the police.