

# BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

## POSITIVE INCENTIVES

### 2011-2012



School Bus Awards will be conferred upon students and bus groups that demonstrate safe conduct and responsible social behavior. These incentives serve to encourage children toward excellent bus conduct focusing on the positive rather than punitive.

**OBJECTIVES:** To have students:

1. Stay in assigned seat. (Seatbelts engaged)
2. Use quiet voices.
3. Keep their hands to themselves.

Bus awards will be presented monthly during student assemblies or other meetings, recognizing children and groups in the following **categories**.

- **Individual** – Students with bus conduct which is consistently safe/socially responsible will receive a certificate and sticker touting their achievement. An individual may be selected from each school bus group.
- **Bus Group** – Three bus groups are chosen for excellence in the categories of Safest Bus, Friendliest Bus, Most Improved Bus.

#### **MONTHLY AWARDS:**

- **Safest Bus** – No negative social incidents for that month. Students always wear safety belts, stay in their seats and use quiet voices. Older students help the younger students when necessary.
- **Friendliest Bus** – No more than three negative social reports. Children always wear safety belts, stay in their seats and use quiet voices. Older students help the younger when necessary.
- **Most Improved Bus** – This bus group has had more than five negative social reports in one month, but is currently under three. Children wear safety belts, stay in seats and use quiet voices.

- **Driver of the Month** – This award will be conferred upon the driver with the most votes from students each month. Voting procedures will be decided by the administration of the school building. It is recommended that children take part in the electoral process.

### **BUS THEMES/ACTIVITIES:**

Bus themes and activities will be utilized on buses where there is a consistent disruption of safety/social objectives and will be target specific to meet the needs of recidivist riders.

- **Reading Day** – Books donated to or purchased by the school can be designated for specific buses. The books can be differentiated according to levels and placed in the seat of the rider. Activity and coloring books also work well and occupy the time and minds of children.
- **Etch a Sketch** – Small versions could be purchased and left for children to occupy their time while on the school bus.
- **Rubiks Cubes** – A great way to occupy students who have difficulty with stray hands.
- **Positive Verbal Praise** – Is recommended on all school buses. Drivers who develop a positive rapport with children are less likely to have incidents of disruption.
- **Random Acts of Stickers** – Pick 3-5 students weekly to single out for positive behavior and give them stickers. Not knowing when they can be positively reinforced serves to keep many students on their best behavior.
- **Bus Helpers** – One representative for grades 3-5 and one for K-2 can be selected. Their job is to help the driver with monitoring bus progress, cleanliness and positive peer to peer encouragement.
- **Unity** – Drivers should single out children for recognition on their birthdays. The bus can be encouraged to sing the birthday song. This makes children feel like a valued member of the bus community.