

School Bus Safety Week is every Week!

Here at the Okinawa Student Transportation office, for us every week is school bus safety week. First of all let's talk about something that is near and dear to every service members heart – the safety and wellbeing of their children. Nothing is more important to us than our children. To ensure that they are safe, we need to talk to and teach them about being safe. And this includes proper behavior around school buses.

School Bus Safety Week is here. It's the time of year when we give you specific reminders for paying attention to safety practices that need to be observed all year round by all school aged students. **Every student is a bus rider even if they do not ride to and from schools each day; They will go on field trips at some point throughout the school year.**

Fact 1: School buses are the safest form of transportation on the planet for school aged children.

Fact 2: Loading and off loading the safest form of transportation is the most dangerous action for students.

Carelessness and inattention around school buses is measured in children's lives and lifelong guilt and remorse. Unlucky children, the majority from 5 to 8 years of age, succumb to errant drivers who fail to heed the desperate message; stop for school buses when the sign in out. Many more are seriously injured.

Students also need to wait until it is safe to cross. It is the students' responsibility to make sure it is safe before stepping onto the street. Cars are expecting pedestrians to cross at the crosswalk, but not every place has crosswalks. Base housing does not and it is imperative that students make sure the bus leaves the area before they look both ways and then make sure it is safe before crossing the street.

Bus routes run on cell phone time as a standard. If a student is running late for catching the school bus, students should never run after the bus. The bus will not stop at other than authorized bus stops and will not stop after departing the bus stop or school. Remind students to go back home (or to the school office) and call their parents for a ride.

Remember: BE SAFE when in and around school buses.