

22 April 2014

MEMORANDUM

From: Director of Operations

To: MVISD Bus Riders

Subject: Students late to the bus

There have been many occasions this year when a driver either left a student at home or has filled out a safety infraction form and communicated to a student about not being at the bus stop on time.

First glance at this issue one might think, "what's the big deal about this?"

So let's think about this for a minute;

First, this just delays the bus, causing the bus to be late for the rest of the stops on the route. When a student is habitually late it has a snowball affect. Other students see this behavior and they leisurely take their time getting to the bus stop as well. So now we have a big problem - an hour bus ride now turns into an hour and a half.

Second, and more importantly a student that is late is at a GREATER risk of serious injury. All students need to be at the bus stop and ready to board the bus when it arrives, this gives the bus driver the opportunity to visually observe the students and the boarding process. Therefore a student not present, is not visible – the loading and unloading is the most dangerous time of the school bus ride. Running to the bus stop and running after the bus is simply NOT safe, this can lead to serious injury and death. Many things can go wrong, falling down under bus, running out in front of a car, knocked down by the rear swing of a turning bus, etc. Before the driver departs from the bus stop the driver will check all areas around the bus with the mirrors that are visible. When the driver moves forward their focus shifts forward with the bus. Of course during periods of bad weather or darkness, this makes the issue only more dangerous.

Please – ensure your Children are at the bus stop on time. Thank you. John Duvall