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Hermon School Department

**Transportation Policy for Students and Parent/Guardians**

Part I - Conduct for Pupils Transported

The rights of pupils to ride in the school bus are conditioned on their behavior and observance of rules pertaining to proper conduct. Drivers are authorized to enforce these rules and to make suggestions in line with good citizenship.

(A) Meeting the Bus

1. All pupils must be on time.
2. When crossing the highway pupils should walk, not run.
3. Pupils shall not run alongside the bus when it is moving.

(B) On the Bus

1. Pupils shall obey the driver as he/she has full charge of the bus.
2. Pupils shall not extend arms, legs or head out of the bus.
3. Pupils shall go to seats, without crowding or pushing, and remain seated while the bus is in motion.
4. Pupils shall refrain from talking with the driver except in an emergency.
5. Pupils shall not tamper with the emergency door or any part of the bus equipment.
6. Pupils shall not mar or deface the bus. Damage done to seats or other equipment must be paid for by the pupil.
7. Pupils shall not open windows unless permission is granted by the driver.
8. Pupils shall not use profanity and/or abusive language.
9. Pupils shall not fight or scuffle in the bus or create any disturbance.
10. Pupils shall not shout or wave to pedestrians or occupants of other vehicles nor throw objects out of or within the bus.
11. Pupils shall remain seated until the bus stops previous to exiting from the bus.

12. Pupils shall not place backpacks or other objects in the aisle of the bus.
13. Pupils, after exiting the bus (if they must cross the highway), shall go around to the front of the bus and await the bus driver's signal for them to cross the highway.

## Part II - Policy for Enforcement of Pupil Conduct

It is the policy of the Hermon School Department that any student who fails to abide by the rules laid down in this policy shall be dealt with according to the consequences set forth in the Hermon School Department Code of Conduct including but not limited to verbal warnings, parental conferences or suspension from riding privileges for minor infractions and extended suspensions to permanent suspension for repeated or major infractions. The final decision regarding consequences for infraction shall rest jointly with the transportation supervisor and the building principal.

## Part III - Parent Communication Procedure

Consistent with the Hermon School Committee policy that a resolution at the lowest possible level take place when there are concerns or complaints, parents are urged to contact the bus driver to discuss concerns or ask questions concerning the operation of the bus on which their child is transported.

If the questions are of a more general nature or if any situation remains unresolved with the driver, then the parent should contact the transportation supervisor (848-5689 or 848-3283 to leave a message). Should any complaint not be resolved at the transportation supervisor level, an appeal can be made to the superintendent of schools and finally to the Hermon School Committee as per the Policy on Complaints.

**NOTE:** Hermon school buses represent an extension of the school. Hermon School Committee policies and school rules are in effect on school buses, and students are subject to disciplinary action beyond suspension from riding privileges under applicable policies or school rules for misconduct on the bus.