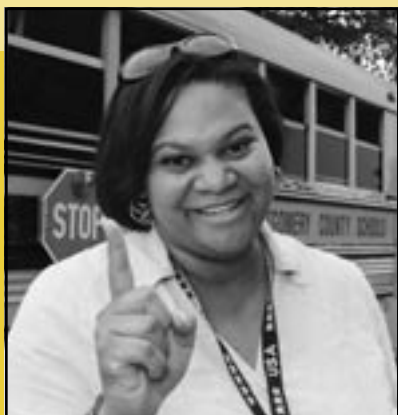




Montgomery County Public Schools
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

Ride by the Rules: Making the Right Choices



Ms. Sheba Ram, MCPS Bus Operator

Ms. S says...

- **Be Respectful**
- **Be Responsible**
- **Be Safe**



Protect Yourself— and Others

You are responsible for your behavior and self-control at all times. Knowing this, and making good decisions based on the rules, can save you from making mistakes that could have unintended consequences.

School buses are an extension of school, and you must adhere to the same standards of behavior on a school bus as in the classroom. If you don't, you could face severe consequences, including losing the privilege of riding the bus or even being suspended from school. To protect yourself and others, and keep the privilege of riding the school bus, ride by the rules!

Put safety first

Be careful walking to and from the bus stop and while waiting for the bus to arrive. During early morning and late afternoon hours it is more difficult for motorists to see pedestrians. At all times, but particularly in winter when you may be walking and waiting near dark and slippery roads you should

- ◆ Wear highly visible clothing and/or carry a backpack with reflective material
- ◆ Have a safe and well-lit area to wait for the bus, especially when the roads are wet or slick
- ◆ Wait well off the road and be observant of all traffic
- ◆ Move toward the bus only after it stops and the driver has signaled that it is safe
- ◆ Refrain from trying to direct traffic upon walking toward or leaving the bus

Remember: Riding the school bus is a privilege for most students, not a right, and this privilege can be revoked at any time. Be smart...

Ride by the Rules!



Obey the bus operator just as you would a teacher or school administrator.

Do:

- ◆ Behave appropriately at the bus stop, respecting private property and keeping noise levels down for nearby residents
- ◆ Line up to board the bus promptly, without shoving or pushing
- ◆ Be seated and make room for others to sit as well. After bus routes are adjusted at the beginning of the school year, standing is not allowed
- ◆ Obey the bus operator just as you would a teacher or school administrator and act as you would in the classroom
- ◆ Keep the aisle and emergency door clear of obstructions
- ◆ Keep your arms, feet, and head inside the bus at all times
- ◆ Tell the bus operator, principal, and your parents if anyone is harassing, bullying, threatening, or fighting with you
- ◆ Be aware that bus operators may assign seats to students
- ◆ Be considerate of nearby yards, driveways, houses, buildings, and private property
- ◆ Discard trash in appropriate containers
- ◆ Be courteous and respectful of others

Don't:

- ◆ Use vulgar language or gestures
- ◆ Throw any papers or objects in the bus or out the windows
- ◆ Smoke, drink, eat, chew tobacco, or play radios without headphones
- ◆ Engage in any violent behavior or sexual harassment, which also may be punishable by law
- ◆ Engage in any sexual activity
- ◆ Bring prohibited materials (i.e., alcohol, drugs, weapons, explosives, and glass containers) on the bus. In addition to being against school system regulations, possession of some of these materials is a criminal offense
- ◆ Damage or deface any part of the vehicle
- ◆ Operate the emergency door without permission
- ◆ Bring large objects that cannot be held on your lap on the bus, such as some musical instruments, class projects, etc.; try to make other arrangements to take such items to school



Know the consequences

Failure to follow the rules may result in one or more of the following consequences:

- ◆ The bus operator may bring you back to the school, or call the police, if you pose a serious threat to your own safety and/or the safety and health of other riders
- ◆ The principal may suspend your bus riding privileges temporarily or permanently, depending on the circumstances
- ◆ For certain offenses, you may be suspended from school
- ◆ For illegal activities, you may face criminal charges

NOTE: Buses may be equipped with both an audio and a visual recording device.



For more information, see the
Department of Transportation Web site:
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/
departments/transportation](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/transportation)

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