

**Safe Rider Program**  
**PITTSFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
**TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

**SAFE RIDER PROGRAM**

**WHAT IS THE SAFE RIDER PROGRAM?**

The Safe Rider Program began as an idea in September 1995. Since then, the Program has taught bus safety and etiquette for hundreds of YK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in the Pittsford Central School District. *Our mission: "To prevent all student fatalities and injuries, inside and outside the school bus, through a comprehensive program of student and school bus driver education".* As a testimony to the success of our Program, many other school districts in the Rochester area have adopted and utilized similar bus safety models.

**THE PROGRAM**

Our Safe Rider Team consists of 5 professional Pittsford bus drivers. The team members practice what they teach by safely transporting your children to and from school each and every day. The Program, held at each elementary school in the District, is broken up into 3 separate sessions throughout the school year. The schedule is coordinated by the Transportation Department Safety Office and is ultimately put together by input from the teachers at each school.

- The Fall Program begins at the start of the school year. It typically runs from mid-September to late October. The lessons themselves cover topics such as safe loading, seat belt use, and rear emergency exiting. The students actually walk around, board and evacuate a full-size school bus.
- The Winter Program is held in February. Since the weather is rather cold, we move the classes indoors in the warm confines of the school auditorium. The students are taught safe loading techniques such as where to wait for your bus and how to load/unload in slippery conditions. Winter weather behavior is also covered. The Safe Rider Team uses participatory demonstrations as well as video tapes.
- The Spring Program is held in April and May and is designed in the same format as the Fall Program. A review of loading and unloading procedures is done at this time as well as proper bus stop behavior and alternate methods of evacuating the bus in an emergency.

## **Safe Rider Program**

### **TIME COMMITMENT BY EACH STUDENT**

3 lessons per year at 30 minutes per lesson

This is equivalent to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  academic hours of school bus safety per student per year

### **SAFE RIDER SCHEDULE**

Four half hour classes offered per day during scheduled Safe Rider Program days

9:30-10:00am, 10:00-10:30am, 10:30-11:00am, 12:45-1:15pm

One Safe Rider week per school

### **WHY COMMIT TO THE SAFE RIDER PROGRAM?**

Statistics prove the school children need to learn about bus safety from the very first day of school. Lack of proper safety training in and around school buses can lead to tragic results. Listen to your children describe what they have learned after beginning this Program and practice with them. Practicing proper bus safety could be a matter of life or death.

## Safe Rider Program

The following facts are taken from the annual Kansas Department of Education School Bus Loading and Unloading area since 1970.

School children killed (nationwide) in the loading and unloading zone:			
2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
13	12	9	20

The Safe Rider program is tailored to the most susceptible YK-3 grade students, with the lessons of Danger Zones, Safe Crossing, Safe Stops and Emergency Evacuation.

Each loading and unloading, each bus stop, each bus ride, must be done safely. Safety, especially with children, is a constant learning process.

The chart below shows the number of times per year YK-3 students is exposed to danger zones, school bus stop crossing, waiting at bus stops, and riding a bus with the potential for an emergency.

School	# of YK-3 students transported	Days/school year	X2 (AM/PM)	Total
Allen Creek	224	182	X2	81,536
Jefferson Rd.	285	182	X2	103,740
Mendon Ctr.	506	182	X2	184,184
Park Road	300	182	X2	109,500
Thornell Road	315	182	X2	114,660
Total students transported	1630	182		
Total	Number of times Pittsford buses loaded and unloaded YK-3 students during the 2007-2007 school year.			593,620