

**Burr Elementary School**  
**1960 Burr Street**  
**Fairfield, Connecticut 06824**

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Dear Burr Parents,

Recently there was a bus incident at Burr that involved a student vandalizing a seat. Please be aware that at no time during this incident was the safety and security of other students on the bus at risk. This incident was thoroughly investigated by me, and I am confident that we took appropriate action to ensure that this doesn't happen again. We will continue to work with all students at school to understand the rules and expectations of riding the bus as well as what to do if they witness inappropriate or unsafe behavior. I would highly encourage all parents to open a dialogue with your child about bus rules and expectations. Rules to highlight include:

- Students should remain seated while the bus is in motion. This includes keeping their bodies outside of the center aisle, not laying down on seats, and not switching seats without the bus driver's permission.
- Students should keep hands off each other at all times.
- Students should respect bus property. This includes not drawing or defacing seats or parts of the bus in any way.
- Students should refrain from yelling or screaming while on the bus. This can be distracting to the driver.
- Students can use electronic devices to read but should not be playing games, watching movies, or listening to music.
- Students should listen to the bus driver's directions the first time they are given.

We are working as a school this month on the skill of assertion. Assertion means to stand up for what's right. While it is not the job of individual students to police the bus, they can clearly be of great help when they witness someone breaking the rules and/or doing something unsafe. This includes telling the person to stop, letting the driver know of any infraction, or letting an adult at home or at school (teacher, principal, etc.) know immediately. Additionally, we are continuing to empower our fifth graders (including our Safety Patrol members) to model proper behavior for younger students.

As a parent myself, I understand the importance of feeling that your child is safe at school. At Burr we will continue to explore and implement proactive safety procedures for the benefit of all students and staff.

I appreciate your support.

*Jason Bluestein*

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