School Bus Bullying

The Road to Safer, Calmer School Bus Environments

Some Reasons Bullying Happens on the Bus

- Bullies believe they are in charge of the bus;
- The worst behaved ›*learned misbehaviors'* may exceed the bus driver's skills to intervene.
- Tolerated in the bus environment?

School Bus Bullying - What can be done?

- Establish bus driver authority (state law);
- Trustworthy Policy - (process happens);
- Follow the bus driver's directions;
- Delegate run of bus to the well behaved;
- Well-behaved must feel safe to help intervene.

Adults and also the students can take back control of the environment from the bullies and the otherwise malbehaved students that have established a hostile environment.

School Bus Bullying - Prep before leaving school

- Out of aisle; Soft voices; Sit forward;
- Respectful toward others, bus driver, and self;
- Nothing in mouth;
- Negotiate to protect bus environment - do not bargain or make deals.

Immediate interventions

1. "Stay out of aile 2. Soft Voices
3. Don't argew." ~ Chuznne (?) g3

- Enforce following directions;
- In the moment - Lowest level possible;
- Warning - Seat change - Wait outside bus with staff member - Escort to office;
- Parent in charge of first referral when possible.

Stay on Task

- 'No' until 'Yes' is the reward.
- When the adult intervenes the worst behaved may shift focus to include bullying the adult.
- When the adults involved drift from the task the students also drift.
- A return to a previous norm or worse.

"By listening and folowing drecshen."
~ Riley, g2

After Bus Environment Calmed

- Focus on maintenance activities that help promote the well-behaved having the run of the bus.
- When adults drift from their task bored students may return to inventing unwanted activities.
- Restrain the ›*Draconian Effect'* the well behaved may eventually act out.
- Adapting policy options to meet the needs of a well-behaved bus environment.

Bus Forty-Seven Olympic Games

- ›No‹ until ›Yes‹ is the reward;
- No candy/food rewards, except at school for all team players. (Not a reward, just a get together.);
- Star day earns privilege to choose seating the next day.

Bus Forty-Seven Olympic Games - Benefits

> *"No yelling, talk nice to other students, stay out of aile and try to make a save before the bus driver sees and also soft voices and be safe, respectful and responsible."*
> *~ Janessa, g4*

- Demonstrates how authority works;
- Benefits the well behaved;
- Directs energy in a positive direction;
- Discourages negative attention-getting;
- Reduces major misbehaviors;
- Accepting Responsibility/Leadership skill building;
- Planning ahead for what you want to happen later in life;
- Demonstrates that the well-behaved working together can make a difference;
- Demonstrates that a star achievement can be better than candy.

Effective Support

> *We need to be quiet at railroad crossins - out of ile - listen."*
> *~ Tim g5*

The greatest deterrent to safer, calmer environments:

The fear of making a mistake among both some children and some adults that can override the decision to make a difference.

- Mistakes are allowed;
- Failure is allowed;
- Failure to keep trying is not allowed.

> *"We keep winning stars because peoples help keep others quiet at the quiet places. By shhing, two fingers up and saying be quiet.*
> *~ Kathryn g5*

'No' until 'Yes' is the reward.

Help Stop Bullying Now Resources

Take a Stand, Lend a Hand - Stop Bullying Now! – Website Includes downloadable videos for class training and discussion. www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/

Stop Bullying/Prevention - Stan Davis Presents practical research-based strategies to help reduce bullying in schools. www.stopbullyingnow.com/

Free Ads and Bullying Report Form. www.2safeschools.org

The Peaceful School Bus Program - A whole-school program that's designed to decrease inappropriate behavior on buses while creating a climate of respect and cooperation. Get K-12 students on board with peaceful, positive behavior. www.hazelden.org/web/go/peacefulschoolbus

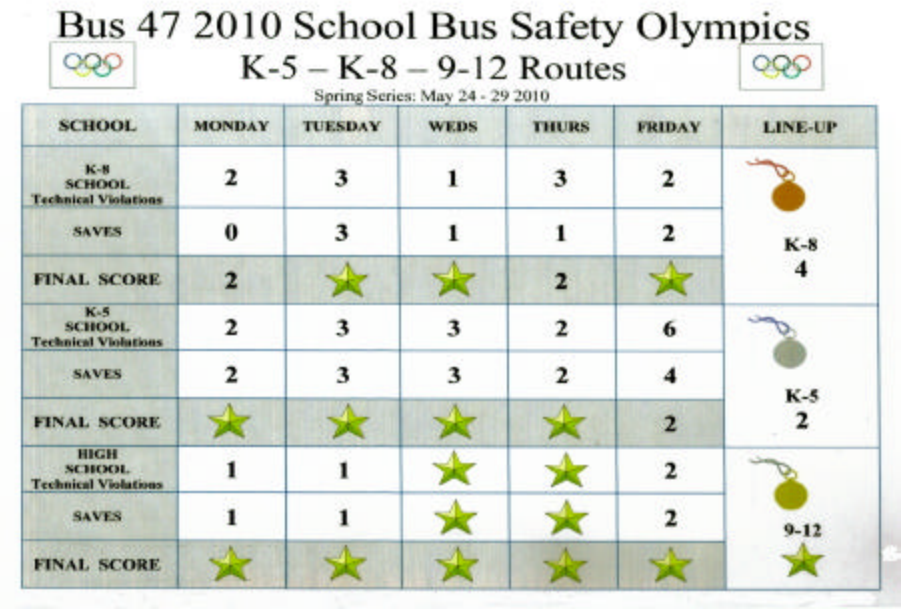
The Method of Shared Concern - A procedure focused on groups where bullying is of moderate severity and to involve groups of secondary or late primary school students.
www.kenrigby.net/SharedConcern.pdf

Take A Bully Intervention Course Online. www.bullying.org/

About The Author: James Kraemer has driven school bus over twenty years for the same employer. He has studied violence on the school buses and in the workplace for nearly as long. Kraemer says that he has fell in virtually every pit and has tripped over nearly every stumbling block in his path while remaining on task to find what can help establish safer, calmer bus environments for children, as well as safer workplaces for school bus drivers. He believes energizing the well behaved to have the run of the bus environment is the most effective method to safer environments and has focused on that method the past few years. There have been no fights on any of his routes for well over a decade and counting

More about the Olympic Game Activity
For this activity to be optimum may involve several preparatory steps:

- Adults and also the students believe they can take back control of the environment from the bullies and the otherwise malbehaved students that have established a hostile bus environment;
- Look for protective strategies when possible that might sometimes replace punishment strategies;
- Include the parents, such as the parent the authority in charge of the first bus citation when possible;
- After establishing a safer, calmer bus environment, then distributing power to the well behaved so that they might have the run of the bus;
- After establishing a safer, calmer bus environment finding activities students can act out that helps the bus driver keep kids safe;
- After establishing a safer, calmer bus environment, then 'switching gears' when time from hostile environment remedies to optional remedies that are more appropriate for safer, calmer bus environments and better behaved students;
- After establishing a safer, calmer bus environment, then gently restraining a draconian style that the well behaved may eventually act out toward the worst behaved students, and even on occasion toward other well-behaved students that make a mistake.



Bus 47 2010 School Bus Safety Olympics
K-5 – K-8 – 9-12 Routes
Spring Series: May 24 - 29 2010

SCHOOL	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDS	THURS	FRIDAY	LINE-UP
K-8 SCHOOL Technical Violations	2	3	1	3	2	K-8 4
SAVES	0	3	1	1	2	
FINAL SCORE	2	★	★	2	★	
K-5 SCHOOL Technical Violations	2	3	3	2	6	K-5 2
SAVES	2	3	3	2	4	
FINAL SCORE	★	★	★	★	2	
HIGH SCHOOL Technical Violations	1	1	★	★	2	9-12 ★
SAVES	1	1	★	★	2	
FINAL SCORE	★	★	★	★	★	

Reasons students need to sit forward in their seats

Students siting other than as instructed are the most likely to reach into other compartments, grab Items and throw them around the bus, bully another student, and act out other unruly and disrespectful conduct in and outside the bus. These students are also the most likely to injure others or self during the normal operation of the school bus.

S***tudents not properly seated, facing forward within their 'Compartmentalization envelope' (CE) have no protection from compartmentalization engineering. "Any students not seated facing forward – bodies turned toward the aisle, toward their bus wall, or facing rearward against the direction of bus movement, or kneeling in the seat facing forward or to the rear, or standing and facing in any direction while the bus is moving or other improper seating positions – all these students are outside their CE." ~ Dr. Ray Turner, court recognized school bus accident reconstruction expert.***

The Kameron Institute issued a report on bullying on school buses. They have surveyed some 30-thousand public school students, staff and bus drivers since 2003.

- 12 Million Children Experience Bus Bullying Daily
- There are 50 million children in public and private schools. School buses transport half of this number or 25 million children each school day.
- 41% - Elementary Students report bullying happened on the bus that day.*
- 52% - Middle School Students surveyed report bullying happened on the bus that day.*
  **Sample size 10,000 students. Margin for error plus or minus 5 percent.*

According to the National Association of School Psychologists, "In the United States, about 160,000 children miss school every day for fear of being bullied. Some of these children endure rides on buses where bullies have the run." ~ Barbara Coloroso, author of "The Bully, The Bullied, and The Bystander: Breaking the Cycle of Violence.

The bullied child in general can not be counted on to stop the bully, not without effective support from the adults involved and also from the well behaved students encouraged to help intervene. Bullying may not stop at this point but awareness about bullying remains a form of supervision and provides the target with hope.

The school buses are the first and last school function for millions of children every school day. Restoring and maintaining safe, calm environments on the school buses sets the stage for restoring everything in-between. ~ James Kraemer – safeschs@peak.org

Bloopers from students

"I don't care, I don't ride that much anyway" ~ 9th grader

Middle school age student – "I will never ride your bus again."

High school age student – "I would rather be kicked off the bus than behave."

"It's a child's game. I'm not playing it. Just let us sit where we want and we'll behave." ~ From a 10th grader, one of the students that has earned the majority of technical violations on the route.

"I hope you're fired." ~ 9th Grader