

# THE HURRICANE

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# The Hurricane



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Albert City-Truesdale Community School Newsletter

September/October/November 2013



## Grandparents' Day

by Dakota McChesney

Grandparents' day was a day to remember about the ones you love. At Albert City-Truesdale Elementary school there was a great program to celebrate grandparents. The kids had a great time. First they did a song and fifth and sixth grades had done a little speech and then the third and fourth grades did a little speech for individual kids to say a line. After everything was done they showed a slide show of pictures and names of all the grandparents and they loved it. All the kids went back their rooms and ate cookies and drank lemonade then it was time to go home some rode the bus home and some with their grandparents. That was a great day for a lot of the grandparents and the children.

## Fire Safety Week



Albert City-Truesdale Elementary

Attention Parents!

All 2:15 dismissals have been moved to 1:00 dismissals to line-up with Sioux Central's schedule.

**Dates:**  
November 27th  
December 20th  
April 17th



## Winter Weather Information

With the winter season just around the corner, it is possible we may need to delay the start of school or cancel school for the day due to weather conditions that make travel to and from school dangerous. Our district makes the decision on whether or not to hold classes in cooperation with the administration at the Sioux Central Schools. Therefore, when Sioux Central starts late or cancels classes, Albert City-Truesdale will do the same. We will notify radio and television stations of these decisions as soon as the decision is made in the morning.

**You may listen to KAYL/Storm Lake, KICD/Spencer or watch KTIV/Channel 4, or check Facebook to catch these announcements.** You can also sign-up for text/voice alerts (EZ School Message) through our office. Sioux Central also offers text alerts via their website: [www.sioux-central.k12.ia.us](http://www.sioux-central.k12.ia.us)

# *Nurse* *Notes*

Happy Autumn! This has been a busy new school year in the nurse's office as I am off to a great start, welcoming new children and taking care of all of the details involved in making sure I'm ready for students...

~Every August finds me quite busy compiling the health records for our students, handing over important information to teachers and staff, and updating our supplies for the year.

~During the first week of school, I trained and certified six staff members in CPR and First Aid, ensuring that we have a sufficient number of staff who can handle any emergency or incident when I am not here. There are several staff who help carry out the first aid and medication needs on a regular basis, and we could not function without them!

~Each fall, BV County Public Health comes to audit our immunizations. All students are required to have certain vaccines to stop the spread of diseases that, in the past, were often epidemics.

~Our staff had the opportunity to receive a flu shot. 'Tis the season!

~The first week in October I started going into the 1<sup>st</sup>- through 6<sup>th</sup>-grade classrooms every Thursday to administer fluoride and to teach a mini-lesson on good health. So far we've talked about taking care of our teeth, good hand washing, lice prevention, and covering our coughs and sneezes with the crook of our elbow. Many more subjects to come!

~I am planning to complete our annual "mini-physicals" in December. Watch for those results to be sent home in January with report cards.

~A reminder: Students cannot attend school with a fever or vomiting, and they must be fever-free (without using Tylenol or ibuprofen) and without vomiting for 24 hours before they can return to school. This not only helps to prevent the spread of illness in our building and community, but allows students time to heal before getting back to their usual activities.

~As always, please remember that a case of head lice can happen to anyone; however, there are several things you and your family members can do to lessen your risk. First, make it a point to NEVER share combs, brushes, hats, scarves, hoodies or any other item that touches the hair or head. Lice do not jump, but they can hitch a ride on these articles! Second, check the head of everyone in your home for 15 minutes every week, by combing through and parting the hair; lice are very small, and like the warmth of the scalp. The eggs (nits) are glued to the shaft of hair; they do not "flick" off, but must be pulled off with a fingernail.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns! I work at school on Thursdays, but welcome calls at home, if that is more convenient for you. Thank you for partnering with me in the good health of our students!

Julie Olson, RN  
AC-T School Nurse  
843-5416 ext. 272  
[nurse@albertct.k12.ia.us](mailto:nurse@albertct.k12.ia.us)

# News from the 6th Grade

## Dakota McChesney By Lyric Mendez

Dakota lives on the outside of Albert City off of highway three. He has four siblings; all boys. He loves to act and he likes to play the game Skyrim. He is very neat. He wants to go to BVU College. He can't wait to be 23 years old because he wants to be a carpenter when he grows up. He wants to live in the Iowa country. He would not want to be the president instead he would rather be either a carpenter or marine biologist.

## Deon McChesney by Dustin Melby

Deon likes to climb trees. And has one dog with two cats. His hobby is playing with his dog bud. He is eleven years old and has four siblings Dakota, Roger, Mike, and Jay. His birthday is August 28th. He is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. When he grows up he wants to work at Tyson. The Green Bay Packers are his favorite football team.

## Abby's Life By Brandon Johnson

Abby Bean lives near Marathon, Iowa and her parents are Chris and CJ Bean. She has three siblings' two brothers and one sister. She has many pets. She has nineteen cows, fifteen chickens, six rabbits, 3 Ginny pigs, one dog, one cat, one donkey, and one parrot. You can't get many more than that. Her favorite shoes are Ariat cowboy boots and she loves s'mores. Her favorite singer is Band Perry. Her favorite thing about AC-T is the teachers and the small classes. She wants to do something with animal sciences and she wants to go to ISU.

## The life of Mrs. Witham By Deon McChesney

**Mrs. Witham is our school librarian. She likes to eat ice cream for dessert. Her favorite cartoon character is Calvin. She is 39. She likes to spend time with her family and listen to audiobooks for fun. She has 1 pet. She likes the staff and students make it feel like a big family about AC-T. She doesn't watch Football. She has 5 kids. She does like being in school. I am really glad she is here.**

## An Interview with Miss Speer By Alyssa Feeley

Miss Speer is our new first grade teacher! She was born in Des Moines. She graduated from Iowa State University. Miss Speer now lives in Newell, Iowa. This is Miss Speer's first time teaching, and her favorite thing to teach her class is math. She likes the small

community of Albert City. Her favorite holiday is Christmas, her favorite color is yellow, her favorite sport is football, and her favorite food is anything with pasta in it. Miss Speer's favorite school lunch is Italian Dunkers. That is one of my favorite school lunches too! She also liked Mismatch Day the most for Homecoming. I had a really great time interviewing Miss Speer!

## *Mrs. Lovin by Abby Bean*

Mrs. Lovin is a para-educator in our 6th grade class, she lives in Albert City, had 1 son named Ryan, and has been teaching for 35 years. Mrs. Lovin is married to Mr. Lovin our P.E. teacher. Mrs. Lovin went to the Morningside College in Sioux City. Her favorite classes to teach are social studies and science. Mrs. Lovin's hobbies are reading, shopping, cooking, and traveling. Her favorite movie is "It's a Wonderful Life". Mrs. Lovin likes all the animals EXCEPT snakes. Mrs. Lovin's favorite classes are reading and science. If Mrs. Lovin weren't a teacher she would be a pharmacist. I think Mrs. Lovin is a great teacher!

## *Interview with Mrs. Nevill By: Dakota Caldwell*

We have a new After School Club director and paraprofessional; Mrs. Nevill. She has lived in Albert City with her husband, Fred, and their cat and dog for the past five years. You may have seen her working at Crossroads. She has 3 grown children, Cassandra who is an R.N., Christopher who drives a truck, and Nicole a stay at home mother. She loves to visit her 7 grandkids in her free time. Mrs. Nevill's favorite hobby is to compete in BBQ competitions. She and her husband have won a lot of trophies and were even asked to compete on the show, "The Shed," which is on the Food Network. Her favorite color is purple and she loves rib eye steak with a baked potato. Welcome Mrs. Nevill to AC-T!!

## *New Principal - Mr. Tibbetts By Ethan Baack*

Mr. Tibbetts is the son of Don and Shayla Tibbetts. He was born in Cherokee, IA. He is 31 years old. He graduated from Sioux Central High School. I am so glad he is a Rebel. He went to Buena Vista University and Iowa State University. It's good you are a cyclone Mr. Tibbetts. His favorite lunch at school is the McRib. Mr. Tibbetts has a wife named Abby, a daughter named Reagan, and a sister named Brittney who's younger by a year. Mr. Tibbetts was a Second Grade teacher, Fourth Grade Special Education, and a coach for high school and college. His favorite place to eat is Texas Roadhouse. Mr. Tibbetts has two dogs: a shorkie named Clipper and a golden doodle named Bentley. We are glad you are here at AC-T, Mr. Tibbetts! Go Hurricanes!

## *New Superintendent - Mr. Dicks by Jack Pohlman*

Hi! My name is Jack Pohlman. I am interviewing Mr. Dicks-our new Superintendent. He was born in Storm Lake, IA and he is 48 years old. His parents are Ron and Eleanor Dicks. He has two older sisters also. His wife's name is Paula; she is a kindergarten teacher at Newell-Fonda. They have three children: Brady, a junior; Taylor, a freshman, and Mason, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. We share Mr. Dicks with Newell-Fonda where he is their Superintendent also. His favorite food is steak and pork burgers on the grill. Mr. Dicks is a good superintendent and I wish he was here more. He is usually here on Wednesdays. Welcome to AC-T Mr. Dicks!

## *Fabulous First Grade News by Miss Speer*

At the beginning of October, the first and second grade classes had the opportunity to go to the Community Apple Orchard in Fort Dodge. We all had such a blast! Willie Appleseed, the great great grandson of Johnny Appleseed, sang us a song and gave us a tour of the apple orchard. He finished the tour by teaching us how to properly pick an apple from the tree, and then letting us pick and eat a fresh, Golden Delicious apple! The tour also included showing us where they make the cider and the yummy apple pies! Another favorite part of the field trip for us was when we were able to take a ride on the Pumpkin Cruiser around the pasture and pick our very own pumpkin to take home with us! We finished our field trip with the recess of a lifetime by getting to play on the Back 40 Playground! This field trip was something that will be in our memories all year long, and I'm sure my first graders cannot wait to go back again next year as second graders!

## **Kindergarten News** by: Mrs. Frederick

My Kindergarten class had many exciting learning experiences during Fire Safety Week. The kids learned many things about how to be safe during a fire. My students also saw the fire fighters in their gear! They showed us how they will look when they go into a fire. The kids also learned to stay low to the ground and get out as fast as possible. The fire fighters did an excellent job teaching the kids about fire safety. My students could hardly wait for the fire truck ride. They were very excited and enjoyed the truck



ride around town. They did an excellent job on the ride. The Kinders were also happy to receive a nice gift bag and hat from the fire fighters. We would like to thank the fire fighters for everything that they taught us and taking the time to make this day special for our class. They all did an excellent job and made Fire Safety Week one to remember! Thank you fire fighters!

# *Guidance Counselor News, by Mrs. Wildeman*

## **Cyber Bullying**

A cyber bullying prevention unit has been taught in large group guidance for older elementary grades by Mrs. Wildeman this fall. Cyber bullying is done through forms of technology such as email, websites or cell phone texting to intentionally hurt, humiliate, harass, or embarrass the person or persons being targeted.

### **What Parents Can Do About Cyber Bullying:**

Develop technical skills - Take courses in computer technology, learn how kids use online materials.

Get more involved with your kids - By spending quality time with your pre-teens and teens, you can develop a relationship where they're freer to open up with you when they have problems. Tragically, many young people feel their parents don't care about the details of their lives, so they isolate themselves from their parents.

Relocate the computer - Insist your children can go online only in areas of the home where the rest of the family can see what they're doing. In other words, do not allow even personal laptops in bedrooms.

Teach computer etiquette (netiquette) - For example, stress the importance of never posting images or typing anything you would not want the entire world to see. Explain how information you share online can remain there forever, and we never know how many times it will be forwarded.

Monitor who your children call and text on their cell phone. This can be done online through your cell phone provider. It is a good idea to periodically check your child's phone for inappropriate text or images. Consider having children turn in their cell phones to you each night before bed. If you have questions feel free to email Mrs. Wildeman [wwildeman@sioux-central.k12.ia.us](mailto:wwildeman@sioux-central.k12.ia.us)

## **Pre-Kindergarten Update by Mrs. Keara Cormany**

We have 14 preschoolers bouncing in the door every morning with smiles on their faces and full of energy. We have been learning so much already and are very busy. Students are working on getting along with each other, sharing, taking turns, playing together and much more! Every student has worked extremely hard on learning to write their name and is making progress.

At the beginning of October, the class went to visit Pumpkin Hollow Pumpkin Patch. On arriving, the class took a hayride down to the patch. Along with looking through the pumpkin patch, children were able to play in a pool of corn and pet animals in a petting zoo. Children talked about the different kinds of pumpkins that were in the pumpkin patch and found that there were some that were bumpy, smooth, tall, short, round, fat, and oblong. We learned that pumpkins grow above the ground, have seeds in them, and can be green and orange. We also found out that there are not any pumpkins in the pumpkin patch that talk and have eyes, a nose, and a mouth! All children picked out their own mini pumpkin and helped pick a big pumpkin for the classroom in which we carved into a jack-o-lantern as Halloween got closer.

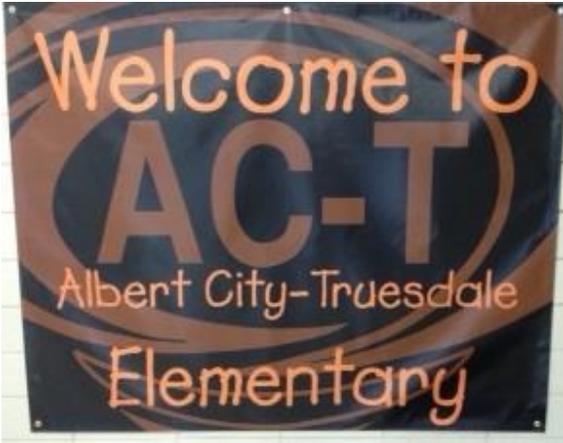


During fire prevention week, the preschool took a trip to the Albert City Fire Department. Children listened to the firefighters talk about all of the bunker gear they wear. We even got to see firefighter, Jamie Wood, put the gear on so we could see what a firefighter would look like if they came into our house if there was a fire. After looking at their gear, we looked at their tools they use and how it all fits on the fire truck. At the end of our visit, children got to sit in the fire and rescue vehicle, where the firefighters sit on their way to a fire. Children took their trip boards with so they

could draw and write about what they saw and liked on the visit. Children were super listeners, and were thankful that we have such wonderful firefighters who take time out of their busy day to talk with us!

Total sales from the Fall Scholastic Book Fair were \$644.58 AC-T receives \$354.52 in Scholastic Dollars to spend on books for our library as a result. Thanks for supporting our library! The children just love the new books!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – by Cody Tibbetts, AC-T Principal



We are off to a great start to the 2013 - 2014 school year here at Albert City –Truesdale Elementary! The students and staff are doing a phenomenal job of extending their learning. AC-T is continually researching best practices and constantly building on our current foundation/understanding of our district’s selection of technology. We are fortunate to have a school board completely supportive of our educational needs and that wants the best for our students and staff. You could spend an entire week going from school district to school district and AC-T would be right at the top of the list of technology opportunities for students. We should be proud to say that we are from Hurricane Country!

New to the elementary this year is a weekly recognition, titled “Super Achiever”. This award was created to spotlight one lower (PK-2) and one upper (3-6) elementary student each week for their excellence in character and/or academics during the school week. Students are presented a certificate, their first names are posted to our school’s Facebook page, and their picture is taken and displayed on a bulletin board in the school.

School pride is a vital part of school success. Pride that is present in our school will encourage our “Super Achievers” reach their full potential. In the upcoming months, people who enter the elementary will begin noticing inspirational, motivational, and educational quotes in the hallways, classrooms, and office that were chosen by the teachers. Here is an example of what one may look like:



**Success**  
comes from taking the hand you were dealt  
and using it to the very best of your ability.  
- Ty Boyd



I would like to give a special thank you to our Pride of Albert City-Truesdale (PACT) group for their continued support of AC-T Elementary. The students and staff are thankful for their efforts and for the PACT supporting the importance of a well-rounded education.

Thank you to everyone in this community for ensuring that our students succeed! Be proud of what we have and continue seeking opportunities to enhance our school! Be sure and follow us on Facebook at Albert City-Truesdale Elementary and share any community happenings on our new bulletin board in our school’s main entrance.

Like Always, GO HURRICANES! Cody Tibbetts

## **Certified Enrollment Decreases**

**Jeff Dicks, Superintendent**

October 1<sup>st</sup> is the official count day for Iowa Schools. We then electronically “certify” an official number on October 15<sup>th</sup>. This is an important day that determines the funding that will be available the next year, since the school finance formula is one year behind. We will show a decrease of 9 students in our certified enrollment for 2013-14. Because funding is one year behind, this means we will be operating with less money next year.



Because Iowa schools are funded on a per pupil basis, we will experience a decrease of approximately \$6,100 per student, or an overall decrease of \$54,900. However, we will experience an increase in other funding streams that was passed by the Legislature, called Operational Sharing. The Albert City-Truesdale district is sharing 5 different positions that we will receive incentive funding for. They are: Counselor with Sioux Central, Business Manager with the AEA, and Transportation Director, Librarian, and Superintendent with Newell-Fonda.

By sharing these positions, the State of Iowa will supplement us with \$123,220 for next year. These types of sharing agreements are a proactive way to stave off funding deficits. This money is guaranteed for 5 years according to current law, however, because of the number of districts looking into this, it may be adjusted in the future. I commend the Board of Education in being proactive and open-minded in entering into these sharing agreements. By sharing these positions, it saves money, and also generates additional money from the state.

The transition to a shared superintendent has been very good. We have an excellent staff at AC-T, and Mr. Tibbetts has made a great transition to administration. I have been extremely impressed with the support of our district from the parents and community in general.

## **School Safety**

In October, the Board of Education approved the installation of an electronic door system, and cameras to secure the school. This will enable us to keep the building locked throughout the day, and all visitors will be “buzzed” in through a camera and intercom system. This will be a great addition to our district.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News by Mrs. Spragg**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been very busy since the beginning of the year. Students have goals to reach throughout the year. Their accomplishments are posted in the lobby of the school. Stop by and see their individual successes. I am very proud of these hard workers!!! They also selected an animal to study and have posters of the information they learned hanging in the lobby.

All students made the addition goal by getting at least 90 problems correct in 5 minutes or less. The subtraction goal was met by 14 out of 16 students. Next, they will be working on multiplication and division goals.

The students are also expected to work on their Reading. The first goal is to read 20 words more per minute than they did at the beginning of the year with 95% accuracy. Twelve out of sixteen students have already met this goal. By the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are expected to read a minimum of 114 words per minute with 95% accuracy. Three students are already meeting this goal.

These students are very proud of themselves and enjoy when people notice their successes. Please encourage them to strive for their best in the future!

## News from the Band Room ~ Mr. Perry

With the upcoming holiday season comes the great opportunity to take in some fantastic music programs. The one that I know that you will be itching to see is the AC-T Elementary Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the big gym. Your eyes and ears will thank you for the experience to see and hear the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, and all of the different choral ensembles. To be perfectly honest, a successful 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band concert is one where you can tell that we are playing Jingle Bells! But I know that the concert will be a success, because I have some really WONDERFUL students that are working EXTREMELY hard to put on a great show.

And if you are in the mood for more great music, be sure to visit the Sioux Central 6-12 Winter Concert on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the main gym.

## Fall Fitness Day by Mr. Lovin

Albert City-Truesdale Community School participated in the Fall Fitness Day on October 9<sup>th</sup>. All students in grades PK-6 walked to the track and ran laps or walked around the track for 30 minutes and then back to the school. There were 363 schools who participated with a total of 126,072 kids statewide. Five prizes were awarded and AC-T was a \$250 winner from Hopkins Sporting Goods. The certificate will be used toward P.E. equipment. Good job Hurricanes!

Dear AC-T Families,

I am excited to join the AC-T team as your school librarian. I invite you to explore the online resources available to students through Iowa AEA online. (<http://www.iowaaeaonline.org>).

BookFLIX is an excellent literacy site that features popular titles from Scholastic. The site pairs fiction and nonfiction books with a common theme. You can choose to read the stories or select the read aloud feature. Games and information about the authors are included. The AC-T **username is 50510ac; password is plaea8**. This site is an excellent way to reinforce reading comprehension and entice students to explore nonfiction text.

Marlise Witham



## HOMEcomings WEEK BY SHELBY JOHNSON

Homecoming week is very exciting for everyone. It is one of the few days of the year that we get to dress up crazy. On Monday we dressed up as our favorite team and everyone did the best they could to dress up. Then on Tuesday we dressed up as the class color day every class had their own color. Wednesday was school spirit day, Hurricane Day!!!! Then on Thursday we totally matched...not! Thursday was mis-match day it was the craziest day yet! Then on Friday it was Rebel day we had seniors from Sioux Central

come and read to all the classes; then we went to a parade and a pep rally; everyone had a blast! I am so excited for next year's Home coming week, I'm sure everyone else is too.

## New Equipment for Recess by Noah Lindner

How did the students earn money for the playground equipment? That is a good question. We had fundraisers throughout the years. Like which teacher to put pie in their faces, sock day, or pick your favorite team to win the super bowl. Wow, that sounds really fun. How did you decide what to get? The student council member talked to their class rooms and we used their ideas to get equipment for the playground. What did you purchase for the class rooms? The lower grades got whiffle balls, soft balls, jump ropes, Frisbees and cones. Bean bag toss and the ladder game was purchased to share for the school. The higher grades got: a football, two soccer balls, and two basketballs, a kick ball, and two jump ropes. That is all that we got. Wow, that is a lot of stuff to play with!

**Keep up with your AC-T school happenings! Listen to the KAYL (101.7FM) School Spotlight at 7:25 AM on the following dates: November 27<sup>th</sup>, January 8<sup>th</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>!**

## HALLOWEEN BY NATHAN HARDEN

On Halloween is very fun at AC-T elementary school. The class rooms will have a party. Some kids bring candy, cookies, and cupcakes. We have a parade with the kids. The kids will wear their costumes. The costumes can't be too scary. PACT the group brings snacks for the kids on Halloween. I think Halloween will be so awesome and fun.



## Report to PARENTS

# Boost Bus Safety

**G**et your child on board with school bus safety! To avoid dangerous situations and accidents, students must follow bus safety rules and procedures. First, review your school's specific bus rules and procedures with your children. Then, make sure they understand these general bus safety principles.

**Board the bus safely.** Students should walk, not run, to the bus stop. While waiting for the bus, children should stay in a safe spot away from the road. Remind your child never to never speak to strangers at the bus stop. When the bus arrives, students should wait their turn to board and never push or shove on the stairs. Students should ask the driver for help if they drop something while getting on or off the school bus.

**Follow the driver's rules.** Explain to your child that drivers have to focus on the road to keep students safe. Distracting the driver, even for a second, could put all the riders in danger. Remind students to treat drivers with respect, and always follow printed rules or the driver's procedures—especially in case of an emergency.

**Keep the bus calm and quiet.** Students should find a seat quickly and stay in it. Many schools have a code of conduct for the bus—go over it with your child to make sure he or she understands the behaviors that are acceptable and unacceptable. Behaviors that might seem "cool" (waving one's arms out the window, for instance) can put your child's, and other children's, safety at risk. Enforce tough punishment if your child exhibits bad bus behavior. Students should never throw things on the bus or out the windows, or play with emergency exits. Make sure students know to use their "inside voices," and never play loud music on the bus.

**Watch for bullies.** Alert the bus driver if students on the bus are harassing your child. School bus drivers are not counselors, but they are there to transport students safely. You can work with them to find a solution to problems.

**Avoid the "danger zone."** Children should wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting off, and use the handrails. When crossing in front of the bus, children should take five giant steps away from the bus, make eye contact with the driver, and cross when the driver indicates that it's safe. Teach your child to look both ways before crossing, and to stay away from the wheels of the bus.

**Listen and report.** Remind your child to tell you if they notice something odd or unsafe on the bus, such as the driver seeming impaired or students bullying one another. If your child tells you about any inappropriate behavior, speak to your principal.



### Web Resources

The **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** has a bus safety pledge students can take.  
[www.nhtsa.gov/parents/parents-bus.html](http://www.nhtsa.gov/parents/parents-bus.html)

Visit **SafeKids.org** for factsheets on bus accidents and safety statistics.  
[www.safekids.org/safetytips/field\\_risks/school-bus-safety](http://www.safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/school-bus-safety)

Your state's **Department of Transportation** website may have state-specific guidelines or activities related to bus safety.