

Bus Passes

Each student is issued a bus pass and should have it with them whenever riding on the bus. A student who does not have a pass may be denied entry to the bus.

Lost bus passes can be replaced by contacting the Dependent Education Schools Coordinator.

Travelling with Equipment & Large Items

In the interest of safety, only certain equipment is allowed on school buses and under the following conditions:

- musical instruments must be housed in cases and should be kept on the student's lap whenever possible;
- ice skates must be kept on the floor at the students' feet and carried in a sports bag or tied together with the blades covered;
- when bulky items such as projects or sports equipment need to be taken to or from school, parents or guardians are expected to transport these items; and
- dangerous or disturbing items are not allowed on the buses.

How Parents/Guardians Can Help

Parents play the largest role in ensuring that school buses are safe and orderly environments for Canadian students. Parents can help by:

- showing their support for bus supervisors, teachers, and other staff regarding bussing issues;
- ensuring the safety and supervision of their children prior to morning pick-up and immediately following the afternoon drop-off;
- impressing upon their children the need for safe, appropriate behaviour; and
- ensuring that their children have their belongings in an appropriate bag.

Special Requirements for Students in IY1 to IY4

For safety reasons, all students in IY1 to IY4 must be met at the bus stop by a parent/guardian or other designated responsible adult on the return trip home. Bus supervisors will not discharge these young children from the bus unless there is an adult to meet them.

At the end of the bus run, these children will be brought to the Dependent Education Support Center and held there until a parent comes to pick them up. Failure to meet your child may result in suspension of bus privileges.

Don't forget! If a parent/guardian is not at the bus stop, young students will not be allowed to get off. Parents will have to pick up their child at the Dependent Education Support Center at the Selfkant Kaserne in Niederheid.

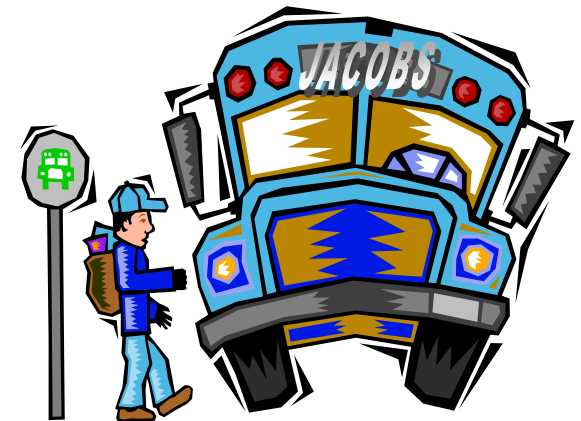


To apply for school bus services or get more information about bus policies and rules, please contact the Dependent Education Schools Coordinator at +49-(0)2451-717213



School bus information & safety tips:

a guide for Canadian students & parents/guardians living in the Geilenkirchen area



"Providing Education for Canadian Military Dependent Children since 1947"

Services Provided

Dependent Education Management provides daily transportation services to and from AFNORTH International School for students residing in the Geilenkirchen area.

Regular Bus Runs

Regular bus runs are provided each morning and afternoon.

On early dismissal days, bus routes remain the same but afternoon schedules are adjusted to coincide with the early dismissal.

After-School Activity Bus

Additional bus service is provided to accommodate participation in after school activities. Students wishing to take this late bus home must register at the school office before 2:00 each day. The bus will only operate when a minimum of 3 students have registered and an appropriate route will be established each day to accommodate those students on the list.

Bus Supervisors

Each bus is staffed with an adult supervisor whose role is to ensure safety and discipline on board the bus. Bus supervisors are fully trained in emergency first aid and carry cell phones for easy communication with the school, bus company, and parents in emergency situations or other unforeseen incidents requiring assistance.

A number of spare supervisors are also available on-call to ensure continuity of service in the event of sickness or other unexpected supervisor absence.

Who is entitled to ride the bus?

The following students are eligible to receive school transportation free of charge:

- children of members of the CF;
- children of members of other NATO forces serving under an agreement with the CF;
- children of civilians accompanying the CF; and
- other children as may be specifically authorized by DND

For students that do not fall into one of the above categories, seats will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis as space permits after all entitled students have been assigned a seat.

Safety Tips and Basic Rules for Students

Getting to the bus stop

- Be on time. The bus will not wait more than 3 minutes for students who are late.
- Do not run after the bus.
- If you must walk to the bus stop, use the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk in a single line facing traffic.

Waiting for the bus

- Do not play on the street.
- No pushing or shoving.
- Stay well back from the road.
- When the bus is approaching, line up in single file so that you can be seen.

Crossing the road

- Unlike in Canada, vehicles are not required to stop for school buses so you must be extra careful when crossing the street.
- Look both ways before crossing and wait until the way is clear.
- Walk, DO NOT RUN.

Boarding the bus

- Take your time.
- Do not push or shove.
- Use the handrail.
- Go directly to your seat and fasten your seatbelt.

The bus trip

- Stay seated at all times with your seatbelt fastened.
- Keep the aisles clear. Place pack backs and books under the seat in front of you.
- Never throw objects in the bus or out the windows.
- Do not eat or drink on the bus.
- Always keep hands, feet, arms & head inside the bus.
- Obey instructions from the bus supervisor and/or driver.
- Avoid disturbing or distracting the driver.

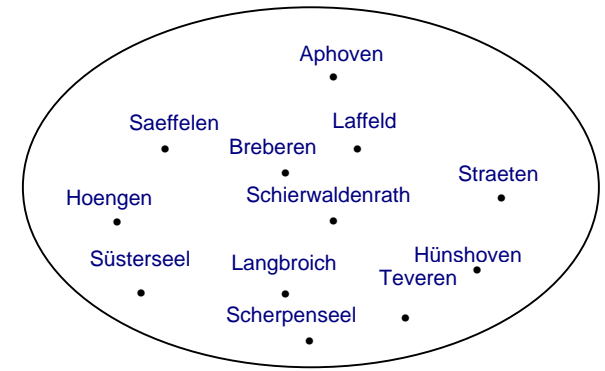
Getting off the bus

- Stay seated until the bus stops.
- Prepare for your stop by gathering up your books, coats and any other belongings.
- Let students in front get off first and do not push or shove.
- Once off the bus, move safely away from the bus.

Bus Routes & Stops

There are 6 bus routes in the approved catchment area for the Geilenkirchen area.

Catchment area:



All routes have been established such that no child should have to spend more than 40-50 minutes on a regular bus run in any one direction.

For safety and comfort reasons, whenever possible, bus stops are located at pre-existing German "Busshaltstelle" as they are generally well located, clearly indicated, and provide bus shelters.

Each family is provided with a map of the bus route serving their neighbourhood with all stops clearly marked.

Change Requests – Routes & Stops

From time to time, parents might find it necessary to request a temporary change to their child's bus route or pick-up/drop-off stop to accommodate special circumstances such as family emergencies and work schedule changes.

Change requests should be submitted in writing to the Dependent Education Schools Coordinator at least 30 hours prior to the effect of the change. The request should include the following information:

- The temporary bus route or stop
- The effective start and end dates of the change
- For IY1 to IY4 students, the name and phone # of the adult who will meet them at the stop

Note: Temporary change requests are not intended to be used to accommodate special functions and social events and such requests will be denied.