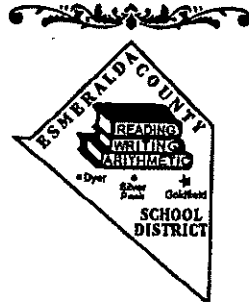


ESMERALDA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
233 Ramsey Street P.O. Box 560
Goldfield, Nevada 89013-0560



Robert Aumauger, Superintendent
Clerks Dept.: (775) 485-6382
Financial Dept.: (775) 485-3213
District Office Fax: (775) 485-3511

Dyer Elem.: (775) 572-3250
(775) 572-3347
Dyer Fax: (775) 572-3310
Goldfield Elem.: (775) 485-3215
Goldfield Fax: (775) 485-3536
Silver Peak Elem.: (775) 937-2261
Silver Peak Fax: (775) 937-2308

February 12, 2008

Fish Lake Valley High School Parents
Activity Bus Participants
Dyer, Nevada

Dear Parents:

Everyday, I am reminded of the sacrifices our young people make in Fish Lake Valley to graduate from high school and participate in school activities. I do not believe that there is another group of students in the Nation that makes such a commitment.

The primary purpose of this letter is to clarify what I said in my October 12, 2007 note to you about not speaking Spanish on the bus. I understand there has been some confusion about whether students on the Activity Bus are allowed to speak Spanish if they want to. **As I explain in greater detail below, there is no general rule prohibiting Spanish on any of our buses.** Indeed, parents and children should rest assured that students will not be subject to discipline merely for speaking Spanish to each other. Students will be subject to discipline only if they engage in behavior that is uncooperative or disruptive of the academic process, or which creates safety concerns, whether they are speaking English, Spanish, or another language.

Funding for the Activity Bus

As you probably already know, the Activity Bus is made possible by a donation from Nye County Public Schools and a 21st Century Grant from the Department of Education. Almost 60% of the operation of the Activity Bus is paid for through the 21st Century Grant. The Grant requires that all participants spend a portion of their riding time performing tasks that will enhance their educational performance in the high school. This includes receiving assistance from the adult tutor, studying and completing homework in

their various subjects, reading, and etc. The major criterion for evaluating the Grant's success is raising student grades during the school year.

The Department of Education monitors our performance and makes sure that we are working toward our established goals. If the State finds that we are not in compliance we will ultimately lose the Grant. Unfortunately, the \$17,000 we receive from Nye County will be no where near enough to fund the bus for much of the year. Also keep in mind that Nye County has not made a commitment for next year.

I know and appreciate how tired the students are when they get on the bus each evening. Unfortunately, there are no grants available that will pay to operate the bus and not require students to perform some educational tasks.

Riding the Activity Bus

Because of the federal funding we receive for the Activity Bus, the Activity Bus is unique from other route buses in that there is a specific instructional time (45 minutes) set aside for all participants. During that time, all students are required to do academic work, and all students will be asked to practice their English skills as part of their educational activities.

What counts as academic work during those 45 minutes?

- Students may read a book if they have their work done and do not need help from the tutor on the bus.
- Any student who needs assistance with his or her English skills, however, needs to work with the tutor.
- Those students who are more proficient in English will be permitted to assist students who are less proficient in English. Speaking, reading and writing English is critical to every student's success in school, and we want to encourage all of our youngsters to practice the language as much as possible.
- Of course, if students are taking a foreign language class, activities using that language during study time are very appropriate.

Please note that these guidelines apply only to the Activity Bus, and that students riding the regular high school route bus may of course likewise speak to each other in any language they choose, as long as they are respectful.

What happens after the 45 minutes are over?

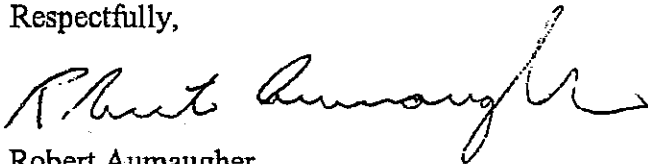
- Students may sleep, visit with their friends, or take part in other activities that do not violate bus safety rules.
- Students may speak to each other in whatever language they choose as long as they are not cursing or harassing other students.

At *any* time on the bus, whenever a student interacts with the tutor, bus driver or any other person responsible for the safety and well-being of the bus and its occupants, that student must communicate in English. If a student is not English-proficient and needs a translator, that student should have another student translate for him or her. The reason the student must speak in English or use a translator is because the bus driver and tutor do not speak Spanish, and it is critical that those responsible for the safety of the bus fully understand what is being said to them in order to protect everyone riding the bus.

All of us want to see this bus continue for our District students. If we all work together and support each other this will be a reality.

We very much appreciate your support. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Aumaugher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Robert Aumaugher
Superintendent/Principal