

Dear Parents,

Surveillance cameras. Each Eanes ISD school bus has one. Most have two. A few have a third camera on the outside to record traffic violators. Don't mess with a stopped school bus with flashing reds...the fine stings.

Last Friday a bus load of students was given an inch and they took a mile. They turned their after-school transport into a "party bus". The music was loud and the dancing straight out of the '70's. In a moving bus they were standing on seats and dancing in the aisles. Bridge Pointers, I tell ya'! Consumed by the energy of the mob even the best of them were in a "Friday Afternoon Fever". (Seemed to me like a bunch of teachers on the last day of school!) Not good. Unaware or forgetting about the cameras...busted!

During Morning Assembly today this tale was shared with the entire school. You could have heard a pin drop. I reminded the students of their single most important responsibility while on a bus; **bottom on the seat, face forward!** The students know better and probably could have given the lecture themselves.

In truth, all of our systems, routines and expectations require diligence and unfailing attention. We nail them down, transfer them into common practice and it is our charge, even for the "we should know better" behaviors, to keep them on the front burner. Our bus event is totally on us and has our full attention. The director of transportation, the driver and I are all over this...and the kids get it.

Final takeaway? A bus ride is a district service reserved for those who ride it safely. A standing student and a tapped brake are an awful combination. The miracle of safe arrival and dismissal of 750 K-5 students requires our very best...even on Friday afternoons and even if Pat Benatar is singing "Hit Me With Your Best Shot!" on the bus speakers! Remember: **bottom on the seat, face forward.** Fire away!

Sincerely,

M. Bradford Wirht  
Principal