



## August 2016 Teacher Newsletter

[www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student](http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student)

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### **Establish a Back-to-School Routine**

As the new school year approaches, you begin thinking about classroom themes, professional development and lesson plans. As you prepare for the first day of school, be sure to also think about how you will establish a back-to-school routine for your students.

As a teacher, you expect each student to arrive to school ready to learn. Parents who have clear expectations regarding class schedules and student behavior can better prepare their child for the day. To help them, consider sending parents a letter that includes your students' daily schedule, to include lunch and recess times. Remember to include the school menu for the week, so parents can plan lunches accordingly. This valuable information will help parents with their back-to-school routines at home.

As you establish a routine for your classroom, consider the following questions.

- How can I communicate with parents about the importance of a night and morning routine?
- What can I do to establish classroom routines?
- What supplies do my students need to be prepared each day?
- What do I need to tell parents about the importance of reading at home?
- How can I better communicate with parents on a consistent basis?

### **School Bus Safety**

Did you know that approximately 5,500 school buses transport about 250,000 Arkansas students each day during the school year? As motorists and school buses begin to share the roadways, it becomes important to stress the importance of bus safety and remind motorists that it is illegal to pass a stopped bus with its red lights flashing, as students are getting on and off the bus.

To promote school bus safety throughout the school year, consider incorporating bus safety activities in your classroom. The Flashing Red. Kids Ahead. public awareness campaign includes resources and safety tips you can share with your students and with parents. Encourage students to get involved in the campaign. They can show their creativity by designing posters, preparing safety videos and encouraging other students, as well as parents, to obey traffic laws.

When thinking about school bus safety, consider the following questions.

- What information can I share with parents about the Flashing Red. Kids Ahead. campaign?
- What tips can I give to parents about school bus safety?
- How can I incorporate school bus safety in my classroom?

Remember: Flashing Red. Kids Ahead.

To learn more about the campaign, visit <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/flashing%20red.%20kids%20ahead>.