

Dear Parents:

Our mission at Hillcrest Elementary is to ensure the emotional and social development of our students. As you are aware from our previous correspondences, we feel another way to reinforce this is to build leadership qualities in older students who will have the ability to aid us in ensuring students are acting in a positive manner on school buses and beyond.

As with many elementary school children, negative behavior on the bus can affect students' demeanor and performance in the classroom. Your own children may have witnessed or personally experienced teasing, fighting or exclusion during transit. Hillcrest Elementary is piloting a bus monitoring program designed to decrease the frequency of these negative experiences.

Over the next few weeks we will be introducing this program by carefully selecting bus monitors from a group of student volunteers. Those chosen to be ambassadors will not be disciplinarians, but rather role models and conflict managers for younger students. They will function as an extra set of eyes on the bus, and should there be any behavior concerns, only intervene verbally. They will then report all incidents to teachers.

This program is not an addition to ROAR rules, but an extension of it. The intention is to send a consistent message about expectations for respectful treatment of others. Thank you for your support and encouragement of Hillcrest's young leaders. We look forward to initiating this and other successful peer-to-peer programs here at Hillcrest! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Marc Cutillo,  
Principal  
Hillcrest Elementary

## Bus Monitor Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus# \_\_\_\_\_ Stop# \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your interest in becoming a bus monitor! As a 6th grader, you are a role model for younger students and can make a difference in making Hillcrest Elementary School a safe place for all students at all times. Your service is needed on the bus as a leader and example of what it means to be an exemplary Hillcrest student. As a bus monitor, you will OBSERVE and REPORT incidences of inappropriate behavior on the bus. This is a great opportunity for you to learn leadership skills that you will use as you move on to middle and high school.

**IMPORTANT:** All sections must be complete with signatures to be considered for this team. All applications must be turned in to Ms. McCollough by February 1st.

**Student Section:** *Please answer the following questions thoughtfully.*

1. Why do you want to be a bus monitor?
2. What types of problems have you observed and/or experienced on your bus?
3. What do you think a bus monitor does?
4. What do you think makes a good leader?

**Teacher Section:**

This student would be a good bus monitor because:

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Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(turn over)

This student would be a good bus monitor because:

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Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Section:**

As a bus monitor you child:

- Will not be a disciplinarian
- Will not be an enforcer of rules
- Will be an objective observer trained to help students avoid conflict
- Will be responsible for giving honest, timely reports of incidents and problems they either observe or which is brought to their attention.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ consent that my child may participate in Hillcrest's Student Ambassador Program as a bus monitor. I am aware that they will be responsible to attend weekly meetings at lunch and responsible for monitoring the bus by being a reporter and an example of our school's ROAR rules at all times.