



# ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Brendan Lyons, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools**

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Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff,

On Wednesday, a Titusville student reported that an unknown “big” yellow bus approached her at her bus stop (Shadybrook Trailer Park/Old Manchester Road, Poughkeepsie). The student described the bus as having wide black stripes and the number 83 on it. The bus also had dark colored tape covering what appeared to be a school district name. The front of the bus was reportedly different from an Arlington bus and the windows were not tinted.

The bus was empty, except for the driver, who was described as a bald dark skinned man between 5’8” and 5’11” tall. The man waved the student to get on the bus. The student refused and walked away. The student’s mother and older sister witnessed the incident. The bus then drove off.

The principal learned about this incident Thursday afternoon and immediately called the School Resource Officer (SRO). The SRO then interviewed the student and her family. The Dutchess County Sherriff’s office has issued a bulletin to other police agencies describing the bus and the driver. The DC Sheriff’s Office is investigating and continuing to monitor the situation. Please contact the Dutchess County Sherriff’s office at 486-3800 if you have any information about this vehicle.

Please use this opportunity to remind your child about basic safety measures:

- Don’t talk to strangers.
- Don’t go anywhere with someone you don’t know.
- If a stranger approaches you, seek help immediately.
- Trust your instincts, if you feel you are being followed or something is not right, seek help immediately.
- Use the buddy system. Avoid walking anywhere alone.
- Review contact telephone numbers and home safety practices.
- If a stranger grabs you, do everything you can to stop him or her from pulling you away. Drop to the ground, kick, hit, bite, and scream. Do whatever it takes to attract the attention of others who can help you. If someone is dragging you away, scream, “this is not my dad,” or “this is not my mom.”
- Report any suspicious activity to your school and police department.

We will continue to work with our School Resource Officer and the Sheriff’s Office regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Brendan Lyons, Ed.D.

***Our mission is to empower all students to be self-directed, lifelong learners, who willingly contribute to their community and lead passionate, purposeful lives.***