



MEMO

To: Parents and Guardians of JK and SK Students
From: John Bell – STEO HR, Safety and Training Coordinator
Date: August 29, 2014
Re: Purple Band Program



STEO is excited to be coordinating **The Purple Band Program** for junior and senior kindergarten students.

The Purple Band Program provides an efficient means to help protect our youngest students – our junior and senior kindergarten passengers. Simply, a Purple Band is placed around the handgrip on the top of a junior or senior kindergarten student's backpack. This band, in conjunction with an awareness program for school staff, parents and school bus drivers, helps to ensure our junior and senior kindergarten students will be met at the bus stop.

The Purple Band lets bus drivers easily identify junior and senior kindergarten students with just a quick glance. The purple band is a quick visual tool that tells bus drivers that the student with a tagged backpack needs their special attention, as well as adult/guardian supervision at the drop-off point.



School Personnel are key in ensuring that all students who should be tagged are. They will inspect the school bags of students in the Purple Band Program with lists provided for each classroom by STEO.

Parents and guardians can assist in STEO's efforts to maintain high standards of safety by adhering to the following: junior and senior kindergarten students must be accompanied to and from the bus stop by a responsible adult/designate. If no one meets the student at the bus stop, drivers are directed to take the student back to school or to the proper authorities.

Parental duties include:

- ✦ Ensuring the purple band is in place on their child's backpack;
- ✦ Ensuring the school has the correct and up-to-date contact and caregiver information; Ensuring that they or a responsible designate are at the school bus stop on time to receive the student;
- ✦ Contacting the school and bus contractor prior to the student boarding the bus if they are unable to provide supervision at the stop and have made alternate arrangements.

STEO assumes the coordination role in The Purple Band Program, bringing all of the pieces together to form a coherent, consistent system. STEO's responsibilities include offering support to guardians, bus contractors and schools in the effective delivery of The Purple Band Program.

We at STEO sincerely appreciate your participation in this amazing program and we encourage parents and guardians to contact us with inquiries.

