



Books on the Bus

“Fueling Kids’ Love of Reading”

What Is Books On The Bus? The Books on the Bus program is a community collaboration between the Bath Elementary PTA, RSU₁, and the Patten Free Library inspired by similar programs in Topsham, Maine and Brussels, Wisconsin. Our mission is to provide kids with convenient access to books while also helping to improve bus behavior.

Why Books? For many children the bus can be stressful, boring, and even a little scary. Providing kids with a focused activity can help them with anxiety while fostering a love of reading and building relationships with other kids. In addition, similar programs show that students who are engaged in a meaningful activity on the bus are more likely to sit still and stay focused, allowing drivers to focus on the safe transportation of students.

How Does It Work? The donated books will be placed in specially designed seat pockets allowing students easy access to them during their commute. Books will primarily target kids ages 5-9. As books find a new home with students or become too worn, they will be restocked. To avoid any confusion, all books will be labeled with our logo.

When Does It Start? The program will launch on March 2, 2018, to coincide with Read Across America Day. The program will start with one bus, and as we continue to grow and raise funds, we will expand to more buses. Our mission is to have books on every bus in the RSU 1 district.

How Can I Help? We need donations of clean, mold-free, sturdy books from smoke-free environments to be brought to the Patten Free Library Children’s Room. Books should be age appropriate (primarily targeting ages 5-9).



For more information or if you would like to make a book donation, please contact Sheryl Ritchie, Literacy Committee Chair for the Bath Elementary PTA, shanson712@yahoo.com or Carol McFadden, Head of Children’s Services, Patten Free Library, 443-5141 x17 ccmfadden@patten.lib.me.us