

“Fastest kid alive”: Five-year-old's after-school routine has made him an internet star

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After the video went viral, Star Athletics reached out to Chad Desormeaux and Xavier with an invite to Disney World. Photo: Chad Desormeaux Photo: Chad Desormeaux

A Louisiana kindergartner turned a school bus safety rule into a game. Now, his classmates and people all around the world are cheering for him.

The 5-year-old boy is Xavier. He lives in Carencro, Louisiana. Because he's so young, when Xavier gets off the bus, his driver can't pull off until he's home safely.

One day, bus driver Chad Desormeaux heard Xavier say he was the fastest kid alive. Then he raced home as the other kids cheered him on. His classmates yelled, "Go, Xavier!" He ran to his house about three doors down.

Desormeaux thought it was adorable. He soon found out it was an everyday thing. One day, he decided to record with permission from Xavier's parents and posted the video on TikTok.

In one video, the bus driver asks, "You ready, Xavier?" He asks for a thumbs-up, and the driver opens the door so Xavier can take off.

"We sit there, and we watch him run home that way to make sure he makes it into a driveway," Desormeaux said. "The faster he runs, the faster we can take off. It became a game."

The bus driver's video has nearly 6 million views. Xavier said that he feels great.

"I've been practicing," he said, adding that he often runs by himself.

Desormeaux is no longer driving the school bus because he was recently elected to the school board. He previously worked as a substitute bus driver. There were too few drivers, and he did that for over a year.

Attention Has Been A Blessing

Xavier's mother is Tiffany Saine. She said her son has always been into racing. He would often run in the family's driveway when he was younger.

He loves running and playing Sonic and other video games, she said.

His family didn't realize the video would blow up the way it did on social media, she said. Even the mayor of Carencro wants to meet the 5-year-old soon.

"We are blessed," Saine said. She said she feels excited for him to get recognized.

A Trip To Disney World

Desormeaux, Xavier's bus driver, said he didn't post the video for money or anything like that. He thought it was adorable and wanted to share.

Once the video was viewed by a lot of people, an organization called Star Athletics reached out. It invited the 5-year-old on a trip to Disney World.

Star Athletics is owned by Olympic medalist Dennis Mitchell and his wife, coach Damu Cherry-Mitchell. The pair work with athletes such as Sha'Carri Richardson. She is a track and field star.

It was Xavier's first time flying and going to Disney World in Florida. He also got to meet Richardson.

They also went to an Orlando Magic basketball game. People who spotted the 5-year-old at Disney World asked to take photos with him.

"It was so much fun," the boy's mother said. "We went to Disney World. I mean, they just showed us so much love."



Image 1. After a clip of Xavier running from the bus stop went viral, he proclaimed himself the fastest kid alive. Photo: Chad Desormeaux



Image 2. Xavier and track superstar Sha'Carri Richardson meet in Florida.

Desormeaux said Xavier is a gifted child. The two have grown to be pretty close.

Photo: Chad Desormeaux

Desormeaux has four kids of his own. He also has a few kids who came home with his son from college. He has a full house of young people with his son, four football players, his daughter and her best friend.

"It's all for good reason," he said. "Most of them are going to get scholarships in football, including my son."

Desormeaux is glad to have met Xavier. He said the more he gets to know him, the more he is amazed by him.

"He might be the fastest kid right now, but I think he could be president one day," he said.

Quiz

- 1 Which selection from the article helps the reader understand that Xavier enjoys running home from the bus?
- (A) Because he's so young, when Xavier gets off the bus, his driver can't pull off until he's home safely.
 - (B) Desormeaux thought it was adorable. He soon found out it was an everyday thing.
 - (C) "The faster he runs, the faster we can take off. It became a game."
 - (D) The bus driver's video has nearly 6 million views. Xavier said that he feels great.

- 2 Read the sentence from the introduction [paragraphs 1-9].

Then he raced home as the other kids cheered him on. His classmates yelled, "Go, Xavier!"

How does this sentence support the main idea of the article?

- (A) It shows how classmates are celebrating Xavier.
 - (B) It shows how others have reached out to Xavier.
 - (C) It shows why Xavier decided to start running.
 - (D) It shows why Xavier became popular online.
- 3 Which sentence summarizes the section "Attention Has Been A Blessing"?
- (A) Xavier's family is confused by the attention he is receiving.
 - (B) Xavier's family is excited about the attention he is receiving.
 - (C) Xavier's family is worried about the attention he is receiving.
 - (D) Xavier's family is familiar with the attention he is receiving.
- 4 Read the section "A Trip To Disney World." Which selection explains Xavier became well-known for running home from the bus?
- (A) Desormeaux, Xavier's bus driver, said he didn't post the video for money or anything like that.
 - (B) Once the video was viewed by a lot of people, an organization called Star Athletics reached out.
 - (C) He has a full house of young people with his son, four football players, his daughter and her best friend.
 - (D) Desormeaux is glad to have met Xavier. He said the more he gets to know him, the more he is amazed by him.