



Update from the Superintendent

To: Parents and Guardians
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent
Date: October 18, 2024

Next week (October 21-25), as we observe National School Bus Safety Week, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the integral role of our BDS Transportation Team of Teams in our community. The big yellow school bus is not just a symbol of education; it represents safety, reliability, and dedication. Our bus drivers and transportation staff, with their mission-critical role in our vision of putting the 'A' back in Bay, are a valued part of our community. Their commitment to our students and schools is truly commendable and deserves our sincere appreciation.

Every day, our transportation team ensures the safe travel of more than 8,000 students across 99 routes, covering more than 6,600 miles daily—that's about 1.2 million miles annually. These impressive numbers highlight our team's tremendous responsibility to guarantee that each student arrives at school ready to learn and returns home safely.

Our bus drivers are the first faces our children see each morning and the last ones they see before heading home. Their dedication to safety and their role in fostering each school day's positive start and end is invaluable. The professionalism and commitment shown by our drivers, mechanics, and support staff are also essential components of our district's success. More than 200 BDS Team of Teams members work at transportation and their commitment to safety is commendable.

We are deeply grateful to the many other members of our community who contribute to the safety of our students. Parents, guardians, and community members who adhere to school bus safety rules and remain vigilant while buses are loading and unloading play a vital role in ensuring our children's safety. Your cooperation is not just important; it's critical to creating a secure environment for all our students traveling to and from school. We appreciate and recognize your efforts.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford and his team for their steadfast commitment to school bus safety in our community. Their support, along with the efforts of all local law enforcement agencies, helps enforce safety guidelines and ensures that our students are safe on their daily commutes.

Please join me in celebrating our exceptional BDS Transportation Team during School Bus Safety Week. Their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to the safety and well-being of our students are commendable and crucial to our shared vision for success.

Thank you for your continued support of Bay District Schools and for partnering with us to keep our students safe every day. Together, we are making a difference. Together, we're putting the 'A' back in Bay.