



Update from the Superintendent

To: All BDS Employees
From: Mark McQueen, Superintendent
Date: February 23, 2024

This is a copy of the Superintendent's weekly message that is sent to parents/guardians. We want to make sure you have the same information as well, so you're in the loop :)

As we embrace the month of February, I am thrilled to take a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation for some more of the unsung heroes who play a vital role in the daily lives of our students – our exceptional school bus drivers.

February is “Love the Bus Month,” so it is only fitting that we take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the commitment to excellence demonstrated by our dedicated transportation team. Our school bus drivers are the heartbeat of our educational community, ensuring the safe and reliable transportation of nearly 10,000 students daily. These 100 amazing individuals travel more than 6,000 miles daily, ensuring our students arrive and depart confident that their journey will be secure and comfortable.

In addition to our bus drivers, we appreciate the other 75-plus members of the BDS Team of Teams who support them. This amazing team includes mechanics, dispatchers, route managers, and many others. Their collaborative efforts ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of our transportation system.

So, how can we appropriately thank our bus drivers for their commitment and dedication? One of the best ways to show appreciation for our bus drivers is by making sure our bus riders are respectful and polite. Our bus drivers want to do all they can to ensure student safety but need the students' assistance on the bus. Please help us help our drivers by ensuring your bus riders have good manners and respect for their fellow passengers and drivers.

You can also help appreciate our drivers and their critical safety mission by honoring all traffic laws when you see our buses on the road. We all hurry occasionally, but it's critical that ALL drivers pay attention to the buses and stop when required. Please don't speed past a stopped bus; the children are counting on all of us to help them get to and from school safely. Our bus drivers undergo constant training courses and refreshers to reinforce safety protocols, keeping them well-equipped to handle any situation that may arise, but the safety of the students depends heavily on the actions of other drivers.

As we celebrate Love the Bus Month, let us collectively express our gratitude to the incredible individuals transporting our children with care and dedication. A simple "thank you" goes a long way in recognizing our bus drivers' vital role in our students' educational journey.

Thank you, bus drivers and members of our BDS Transportation Team of Teams, for your commitment to excellence and for literally being the driving force behind the safety and well-being of our students.