



The Driver's Seat

Summer 2019-2020 School Year



410-751-3229

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Director:

Michael Hardesty

Supervisor:

Keith Shorter:

Out-of-County Special Needs, Liberty, Century & South Carroll High Areas,

Area Supervisors:

John O'Meally:

Manchester Valley and Francis Scott Key High Areas,

Scott Parsons:

Winters Mill & Westminster High Areas,

Kristin Ebert:

In-County Special Needs,

Anita Stubenrauch:

Operational Performance

Driver Instructors:

Chasity Foerster

Scheneeka Weeden,

Angela Williams

Planner/Analysts:

Kim Gold &

Lauren Rose,

Routing Associates:

Jill Fulton

Pat Wall

Administrative

Support:

Cindy Washick

“It’s those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” as the song lyrics go with temperatures well into the 90’s for the past several weeks as this is written in mid- July. However, as we know in the school bus business, summertime is the time for all of us to regroup and get ready for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. All Extended School Year (ESY) summer bus routes were prepared and successfully implemented for both in-county and out-of-county bus runs. Regular and special needs bus routes for the upcoming school year have been updated and sent to bus contractors for their review on August 1st, with the preliminary bus routes being posted on the CCPS website on Friday, August 9. Contractors are busy preparing their buses for the August 19-22 bus inspections and making sure that they have adequate drivers for the start of school. To assist with that, our driver instructors will be conducting Pre-Service classes and driver testing during July and August. AngelTrax camera technicians will also be busy installing the new Vulcan6 DVR and new camera units on all 320 school buses.

The new AngelTrax DVR and cameras will provide high definition quality video and audio coverage inside the bus with four interior camera positions. In addition, there will be one forward-facing camera mounted on the windshield. This forward-facing camera will greatly assist in our accident investigations. It is our expectation that the installation of the new AngelTrax Vulcan camera units will take most of the summer and possibly into the first month of school to complete. The Transportation Services Department continues to explore new technologies designed to improve student safety, driver safety, communication, and route efficiency.

Contractors and drivers are requested to carefully and thoroughly review their bus routes as soon as they are received. Suggested changes should be forwarded to the appropriate Transportation Area Supervisor. The Transportation staff will continue to make necessary changes to the bus routes as we approach the start of school.

I want to take this opportunity to again thank all of our contractors, bus drivers and bus assistants for the tremendous job each of you did this past school year. While I’m always hesitant to report accident data, everyone should take pride in knowing that the number of school bus accidents decreased by 22% for this past school year as compared to the previous 2017-2018 school year! Please take time to enjoy the remainder of your summer with family and friends and refresh those batteries. School starts on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 and it will be here before we know it!



PRE-K TRANSPORTATION

◆ Pre-K start date: Monday, September 9, 2019

◆ Full-day Pre-K schools:

- Cranberry Station Elementary
- Elmer Wolfe Elementary
- Robert Moton Elementary
- Taneytown Elementary



◆ All Pre-K students will ride the regular route bus to school in the morning and be picked up at the regular established bus stop.

◆ All Pre-K students will be provided a **GREEN** tag by their home school that will match the bus number for the student's home bound transportation to make identification of the student easier for bus drivers.

◆ In addition, full-day students will be wearing a **GREEN HAT**  and carrying a **CLEAR TOTE**. Full-day Pre-K students will ride the regular ed. bus home in the p.m.

◆ It is the parents' responsibility to make sure there is someone at the stop to meet their student. If no parent or guardian is available to receive the student, the bus driver will contact the Transportation Services Department for direction about whether to return the student to school or not.

◆ Pre-K Students should be seated in the front of the bus with the kindergarten students.

◆ On delayed openings, full-day Pre-K students will ride their regularly assigned bus to and from school.

Kindergarten students riding the bus will be provided a **YELLOW** tag by their home school that will match the bus number for home-bound transportation.





During the summer through August 1, AngelTrax has installed more than 42 additional complete Vulcan camera systems on school buses. These complete new systems have 5 cameras, including an external-view windshield camera and an improved DVR. All fleet buses will receive the new Vulcan System with a goal of upgrading the entire fleet over the next several months.



FLY-BY SURVEY RESULTS

A one-day survey conducted by NASDPTS found that over 95,000 motorists ran school bus stop arms in one day.

A national survey that tracks the illegal passing of school buses has found that more than 95,000 motorists ran school bus stop arms in one day.



In the ninth annual survey, conducted by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS), over 27% of school bus drivers in 39 states participated, with 130,963 school bus drivers reporting that 95,319 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day earlier this year.

Throughout a 180-day school year, these sample results point to more than 17 million violations among America's motoring public, according to NASDPTS. The number of incidents is likely far greater, since not all school bus drivers participated in the voluntary survey.

Underscoring the significantly higher number of illegal passes this year over last year's survey's 83,944 passing incidents was the six-day period in late 2018 when six students were killed, and eight students and two adults were injured by vehicles either violating school bus stop arms or hitting students and adults while they were waiting at a bus stop, Mike LaRocco, president of NASDPTS, pointed out. He added that these fatalities occurred in states across the U.S.: Indiana, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania.

"Despite the fact that students are much safer being transported to and from school in a school bus, students and adults at the bus stop are still very much at the mercy of inattentive motorists," LaRocco added. "The sheer volume of these illegal passing incidents in a day, let alone an entire school year, is tragic and sobering, particularly when you consider that these injuries and deaths are easily preventable."

LaRocco also said that the pupil transportation industry needs to "get motorists to understand that although their vehicles may be necessary in the function of their daily lives, they are also two-ton weapons in the hands of drivers who are not paying attention to the world around them as they drive our nation's roads."

The survey results for each year since it was started in 2011 have been consistent. In addition to the previously mentioned 2018 total coming in at over 80,000 passing incidents, the number of violations counted on the day the survey was conducted in 2017 totaled nearly 78,000. The 2016 survey found slightly fewer violations, at over 74,000.

The survey results, NASDPTS noted, have brought attention among state and federal lawmakers for the need for greater safety countermeasures. Several states have recently increased penalties for stop-arm violations (such as Idaho and West Virginia, Maryland, Maine, and Indiana), authorized the use of photo evidence for issuing citations (including New York, Indiana, and Oklahoma), or enacted measures designed to deter illegal school bus passing.

Additionally, NASDPTS joined the National School Transportation Association and the National Association for Pupil Transportation in expressing support for the Stop for School Buses Act of 2019 (H.R.2218/S.1254), introduced in the House by U.S. Representatives Jackie Walorski (R-Ind.) and Julia Brownley (D-Calif.), and in the Senate by Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Gary Peters (D-Mich.). This bipartisan legislation calls upon the U.S. Department of Transportation to undertake a comprehensive review of all issues involved with illegal passing of school buses and make recommendations to Congress on best practices to address this national safety problem.

As the new school year ramps up throughout the U.S., NASDPTS encourages state directors, school districts, law enforcement agencies, legislators, and motorists to redouble their efforts to reduce the ongoing threat to the safety of students posed by distracted driving and illegal passing of school buses.

Detailed results from the 2019 survey and past years are available at www.nasdpts.org/stoparm.

<https://www.schoolbusfleet.com/news/735018/national-stop-arm-survey-counts-over-95k-illegal-passes-of-school-buses>

SET THE ENVIRONMENT

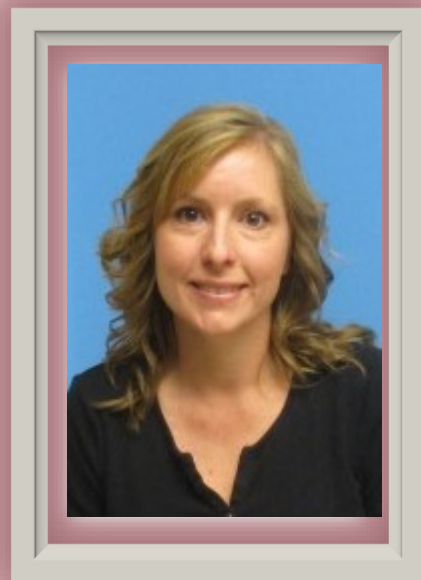
“The most important single ingredient in the formula for success is knowing how to get along with people.” This quote by Theodore Roosevelt makes its way in not only our daily lives, but in our jobs as well. For a driver to be successful they need to know how to get along with the students they are transporting. We have said many times to be friendly but not their friend. This is the time of the school year to set your expectations for the rest of the year, and that rules and procedures are established. The driver needs to have command of the school bus they are driving in order to safely navigate the roadways to and from school. Communication is the single most important part of our discipline process used on a school bus. Drivers should be using student’s names when they act out and reminding them of the rules. Comments like “I don’t like to get kids in trouble” or “I like to handle problems myself” send mixed messages to students and parents. Drivers who follow the policies and procedures established by the Transportation Services Department by writing referrals when necessary are protecting themselves with the policies they enforce. School administrators offer help in working with problem students by using counseling, by reviewing bus riding rules individually and by bus, and by making that all-important contact with home. The use of the referral tells the administrator in charge that you have exhausted your on-board methods of solving the problem. The effective driver uses the referral when it becomes necessary to do so. A key to successful referral writing is in positively identifying the offending student(s). Cameras can really help with this task by giving more details to the administrators to allow them to more effectively deal with the problem. The camera sees and hears more than the driver can in most instances.



Discipline problems, especially on the bus, are a challenge to everyone. Communicate your expectations, communicate your rules, and communicate with your school administrator. There is a saying used when speaking about the environment we live in; “What you do to your environment today will be your environment tomorrow”, let us create a good environment on our bus today.

WELCOME CHASITY

Please join us in welcoming our new Transportation Services Department member, Chasity Foerster. Chasity comes to us from F. and S. Transportation where she was a driver for eight years. Chasity is excited to be joining our Driver Instructor Team.



Coming Soon

Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse

The Federal Motor Carrier Administration (FMCSA) is establishing the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse). This new database will contain information pertaining to violations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) controlled substances (drug) and alcohol testing program for holders of CDLs.

The Clearinghouse rule requires FMCSA-regulated employers, Medical Review Officers (MROs), Substance Abuse Professionals (SAPs), consortia/third party administrators (C/TPAs), and other service agents to report to the Clearinghouse information related to violations of the drug and alcohol regulations in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, parts 40 and 382 by current and prospective employees.

The Clearinghouse will also require the following:

- Employers/Contractors will be required to query the Clearinghouse for current and prospective employees' drug and alcohol violations before permitting those employees to operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) on public roads.
- Employers/Contractors will be required to annually query the Clearinghouse for each driver they currently employ.
- The Clearinghouse offers employers a centralized location to report drug and alcohol program violations and check that no current or prospective employee is prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions, such as operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV), due to an unresolved drug and alcohol program violation. This query must be conducted as part of a pre-employment driver investigation, and at least annually for current employees.
- In addition, employers may designate a Consortia or Third Party Administrator who can report violations and perform queries on their behalf. An owner-operator is an employer that employs himself or herself as a CDL driver and must designate the C/TPA in the Clearinghouse.
- To complete the actions outlined above, employers and C/TPAs will be required to register with the Clearinghouse. [Sign up now to receive email updates](#), including a notification once registration is open.
- Employers, drivers, medical review officers (MROs), substance abuse professionals (SAPs), and consortia/third-party administrators (C/TPAs) must register in the Clearinghouse to access the Clearinghouse database. Clearinghouse registration is scheduled to open in fall 2019. [Sign up now to receive email updates](#), including a notification once registration is open.

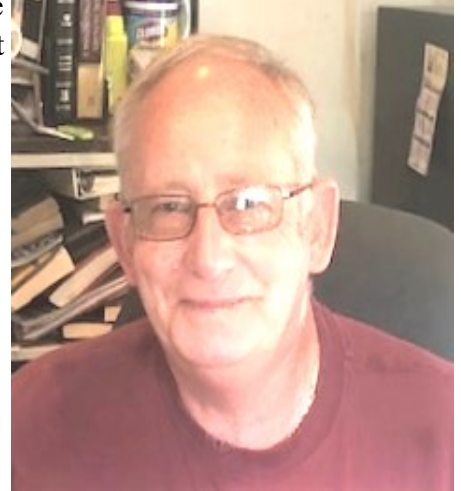
<https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/FAQ>

The Clearinghouse is a secure online database that will give employers, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs), and State law enforcement personnel real-time information about commercial driver's license (CDL) and commercial learner's permit (CLP) holders' drug and alcohol program violations.

The Clearinghouse will contain records of violations of drug and alcohol prohibitions in [49 CFR Part 382, Subpart B](#), including positive drug or alcohol test results and test refusals. When a driver completes the return-to-duty (RTD) process and follow-up testing plan, this information will also be recorded in the Clearinghouse.

SPECIAL THANKS & FAREWELL TO TWO SPECIAL CONTRACTORS

Mr. Robert Bruce Witte, Sr., a long-time resident of Carroll County and longtime bus driver and contractor retired as of the end of June. Bruce, as he is known to everyone, began his career as a substitute bus driver in 1975. He continued in that capacity until he became a contractor in 1993, when he took over the contract of Gloria King. Working with Bruce over the years has always been a pleasant experience. Bruce is an honest, hard-working man who is always willing to help out other contractors, the Transportation Services Department and the schools he served. At one point during his career Bruce owned and operated as many as 12 buses.



The end of an era has occurred!!

After 42 years of service to the students, parents, schools, and community, Mr. Lawrence Schaffer has retired from being a school bus contractor. Starting back in 1977, Lawrence started driving for the then Reed's Bus Service. As time went on, Lawrence being an independent contractor in multiple endeavors, became a school bus contractor as well, serving the North Carroll and surrounding communities by providing in-county and out- of- county special needs transportation, regular education transportation, athletics, ski trips, and other community events. Countless drivers and assistants have worked for Lawrence throughout the years, and many will continue driving for the new contractor - *Sunset Bus Lines*. Mr. Schaffer provided dependable service throughout the years he was in business. "Ask and it will be done," was often used to describe Lawrence and the transportation service he provided. We in the Transportation Services Department wish Lawrence and Cathi the best in their retirement.



Carroll County Public Schools Transportation Services Department
2019-2020 Bus Inspection Schedule

August

- 19 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Century High
- 20 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
- 21 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 22 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High

October

- 29 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
- 30 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Century High
- 31 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High

November

- 5 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
- 6 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 7 Fall Bus Inspection Inclement Weather Makeup Day (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)

March

- 31 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High

April

- 1 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
- 2 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
- 7 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Century High
- 8 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
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Carroll County Public Schools

2019 – 2020 Transportation Services Calendar

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 - 21 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
 - 22 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
- Contractors' Meeting August 22nd Winters Mill High School Chorus Room—1:00 p.m.**

September

- 3 Schools Open – First Day for Students
- 6 Regular Education Stop Sheets, Special Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services

- 27 Regular Education Route Stop Sheets and Regular Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services

- 30 Schools/Offices Closed -- Rosh Hashanah

October

- 1 Schools Closed for Students — Professional Meeting Day
- 9 Schools/Offices Closed -- Yom Kippur

- 17 Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Closed for Pre-K and Prep Students

- 18 Schools Closed for Students and 10-Month Staff – Professional Meeting Day
- 25 Special Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services
- 29 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
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- 8 Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal/System-wide; Closed for Pre-K and Prep Students
- 27 Schools/Offices Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten and Prep Students
- 28-29 Schools/Offices Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 2 Schools/Offices Re-open
- 23-31 Schools/Offices Closed – Winter Holiday

January

- 1 Schools/Offices Closed – Winter Holiday
- 2 Schools/Offices Re-open
- 10 Regular Education Route Stop Sheets and Regular Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services
- 20 Schools/Offices Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- 29 Schools Closed for Students – Professional Meeting Day

February

- 17 Schools/Offices Closed – Presidents' Day

March

- 6 Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten and Prep Students-Regular Education Route Stop Sheets and Regular Education Route Manifests; Special Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services
- 31 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High

April

- 1 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
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- 9 Spring Bus Inspection Inclement Weather Makeup Day (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)
- 10 Schools/Offices Closed – Good Friday
- 13 Schools/Offices Closed – Easter Monday
- 14 Schools/Offices Re-open
- 28 Schools/Offices Closed – Primary Election Day

May

- 25 Schools/Offices Closed – Memorial Day

June

- 11 Last Day for Pre-Kindergarten Students
- 12 Last Day for Students; Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide

Permission to Photograph, Videotape or Audiotape

Throughout the school year, the Carroll County Public School System frequently covers school activities and may use your child's photograph, video image, or voice for educational, informational, or public relations purposes, with or without identification by name.

If you do not wish to have your child's voice reproduced on tape or to have his/her image appear in such things as a video or a photograph, or on the school or school system website or social media, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their children being audiotaped, photographed, videotaped, or having their image placed on a school website or social media by the school system unless such notification is received.

There are also occasions when the media cover certain school events (such as when a government leader visits a school). If you do not wish to have your child's name or likeness published by the media, you should address your concerns directly to the school involved so that the media is so advised. Please be advised that the school system has no control over the media when they are covering activities such as sporting events and musical programs that are open to the public.

Use of Student Work on Websites or in Publications

There may be times throughout the year when the Carroll County Public School System wishes to display student work on school websites, social media, or in publications. If you do not wish to have your child's art, poetry, writing, etc. appear on school websites, social media, or in publications, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their child's work being displayed on school websites, social media, or in publications unless such notification is received.

CG/bb

Revised 6/30/17

ADA ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or the provision of services, programs or activities. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact:

The Communications Office at 410-751-3020 or publicinfo@carrollk12.org, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, may use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities Management, (410) 751-3177, or the Communications Officer, (410) 751-3020, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157.