



THE DRIVER'S SEAT SPRING 2020-2021 EDITION

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



410-751-3229

Director

Michael Hardesty

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Supervisor

Keith Shorter:

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

.....

Area Supervisors

John O'Meally:

Manchester Valley &
Francis Scott Key High
Areas,

Scott Parsons:

Winters Mill &
Westminster High
Areas,

Kristin Ebert:

In-County Special Needs,

Operational Performance

Anita Stubenrauch

.....

Driver Instructors

Angela Williams,
Scheneeka Weeden,
Chasity Foerster

.....

Planner/Analysts

Kim Gold

Farrah Solomon

Routing Associates

Pat Wall

Jill Fulton

.....

Staff Support

Cindy Washick

A great deal has transpired since our Fall/Winter newsletter was issued this past February. First, let me congratulate all of our courageous and dedicated school bus drivers and assistants who have consistently reported to work since we returned to the four-day hybrid in-school instructional model on January 7, 2021. I am extremely proud that, with very few exceptions, all bus runs have been covered each school day with very few schedule disruptions. Drivers have been extremely cooperative in ensuring that students are wearing their masks, enforcing safe seating protocols, performing daily cleaning and disinfecting, and keeping up-to-date seating charts necessary for contact tracing.

Second, I also want to commend contractors and drivers in learning the new FirstNet push-to-talk (ptt) phone system that has been installed on all CCPS buses this school year. The FirstNet cellular system has proven to be extremely effective in delivering emergency messages to drivers and in rapidly solving issues such as undeliverable students and students who may have not reported home at the end of the day. In addition, the FirstNet ptt system provides for direct and private communication between a bus contractor and that contractor's bus talk group.

In addition to the FirstNet ptt phone system, we have made great use of the ZONAR GPS/bus tracking technology that is part of our overall five-year agreement with BusPatrol America, LLC. Among other uses, ZONAR technology has enabled us to address calls received from parents claiming that the bus is running late or has missed their child's bus stop. We have also been able to use the bus tracking technology to assist schools in determining the time of a reported student incident on the bus and in determining the length of time a student was on the bus for COVID contact tracing. As for the external BusPatrol stop arm cameras, I am able to report that as of May 1, 2021 there have been over 1,300 stop arm violators that have been identified by this camera technology. Violators are issued a \$250 fine per violation by the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. I think we can all agree that these stop arm cameras, mounted on all CCPS school buses, provide for a much safer ride to and from school for our students.

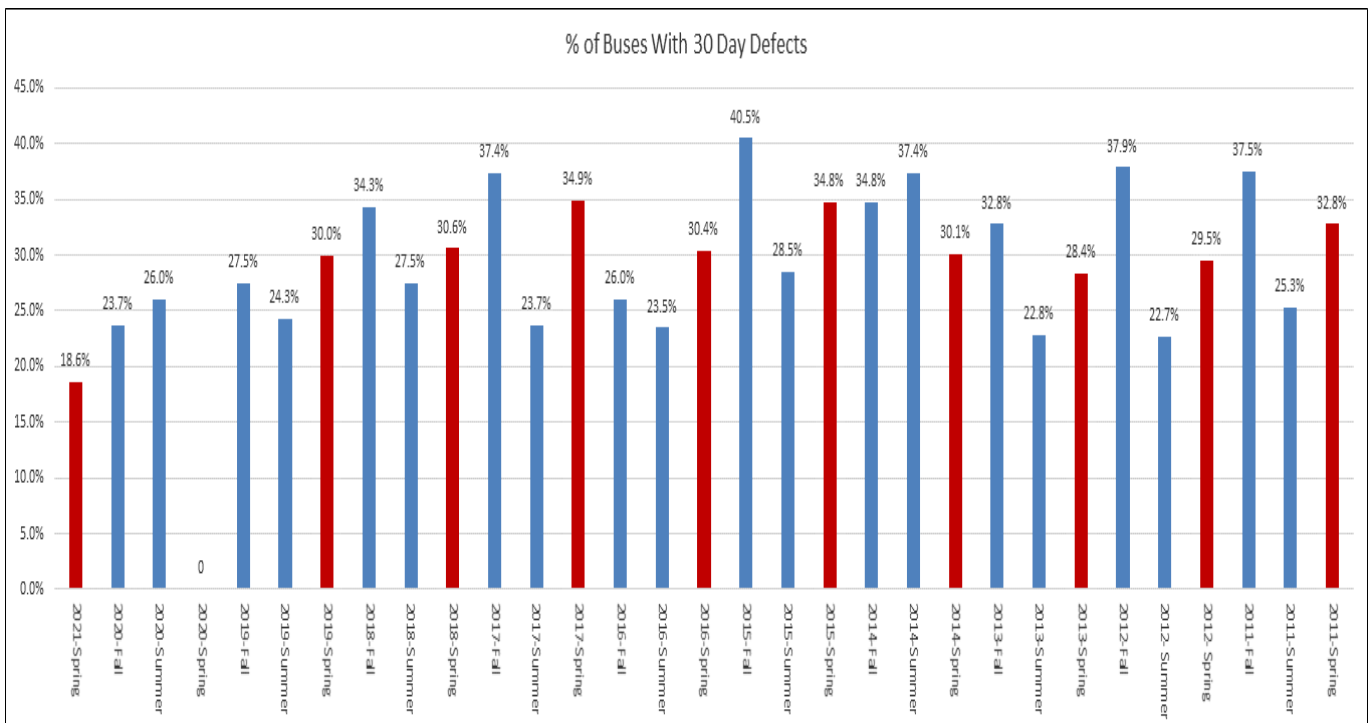
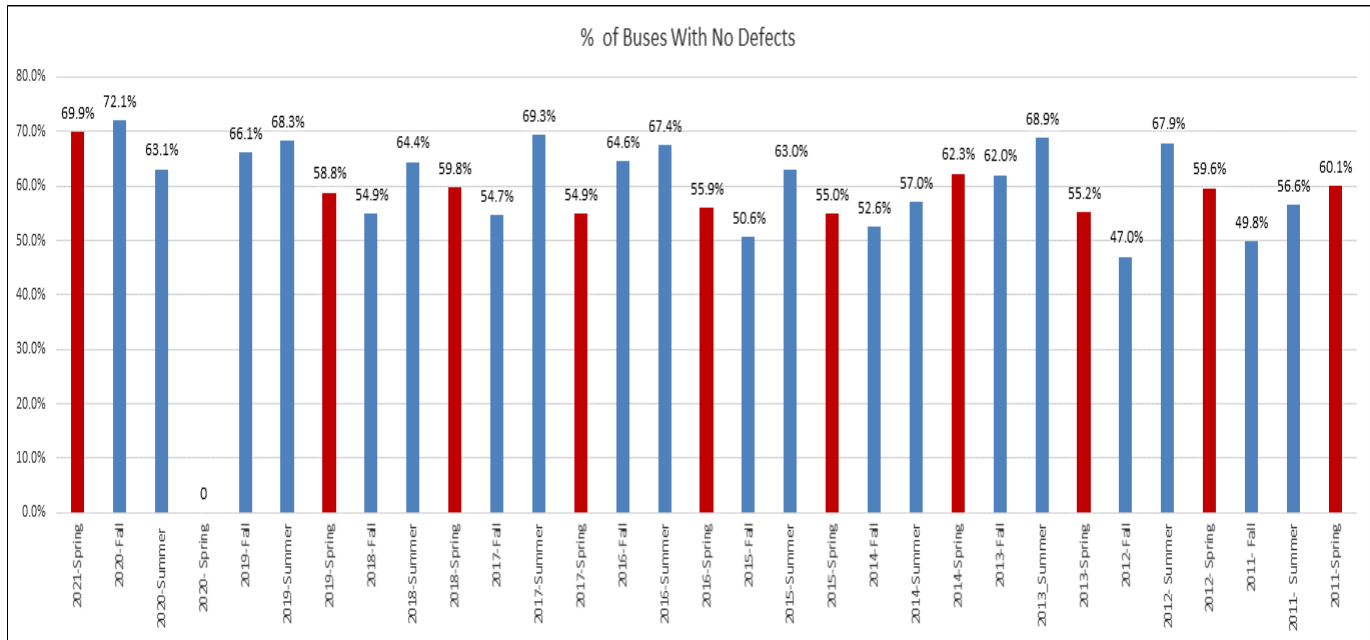
All drivers and assistants should receive through email, invitations to sign up for two hours of first aid and CPR training and an additional two hours of SafeSchools training as part of this year's annual in-service training. Please watch for these invites and be mindful of the sign up/completion date requirements. All drivers and assistants will need to sign up for one day in-person CPR training scheduled for June 21, 22, or 23 at Manchester Valley High School. Please contact your contractor or one of the driver instructors (410.751.3229) if you have any questions.

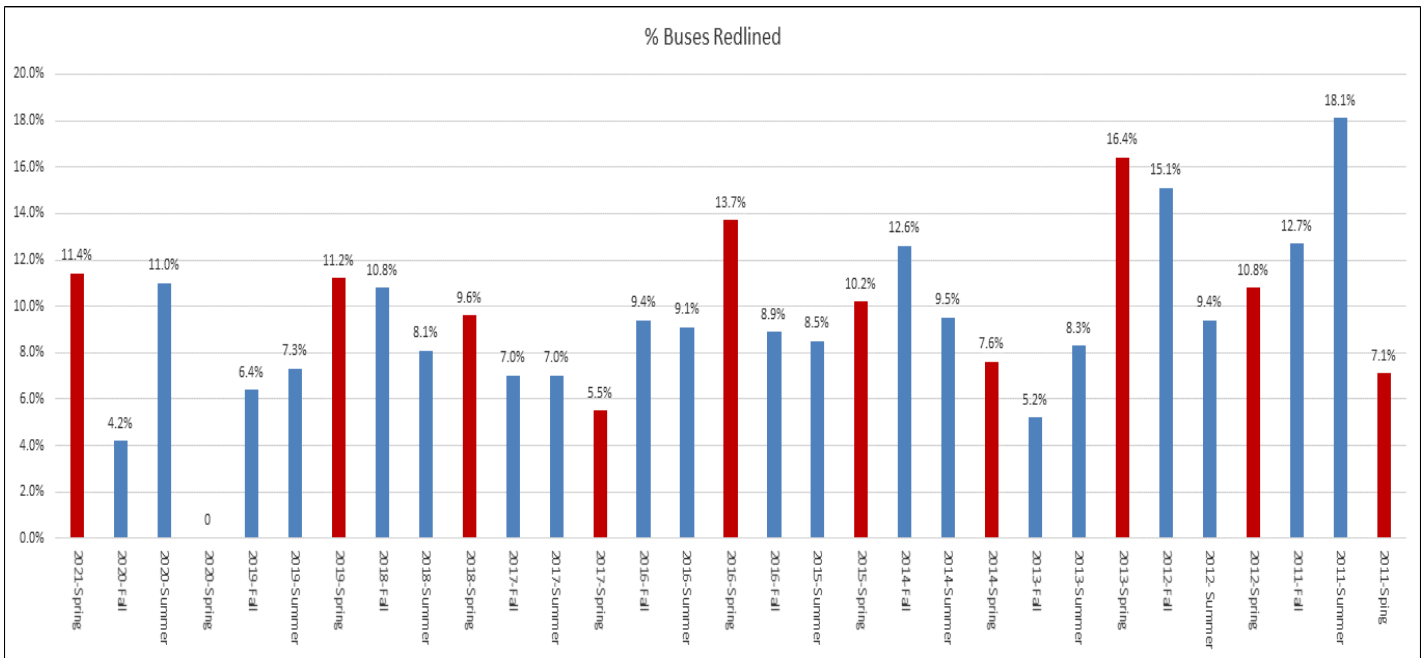
Finally, we are gearing up for the school system's Summer Recovery Program and Extended School Year (ESY) that will provide in-school instruction this summer for many CCPS students. These programs will run from July 6 through August 6 with transportation provided for most of the participating students. If you are interested in driving or assisting this summer, please see your contractor for more details on potential opportunities. We expect to have preliminary summer routes completed by June 1.

Again, I thank all of our dedicated school bus contractors, drivers and assistants in providing exceptional service through these very difficult times.

SPRING 2021 BUS INSPECTION

The Spring 2021 bus inspection has come and gone. We worked around some rain on the first week of inspection, thanks to the flexibility of contractors reporting early on Wednesday; but, overall, the weather was pleasant. Generally, the percent of buses passing was just under 70 percent, our second best result in the past ten years, only being outdone by the 2020 inspection where our percent of buses passing was 72.1 percent. The percent of buses with 30-day defects was 18.6 percent, the lowest result in the past ten years. However, the percent of buses with major defects was high at 11.4 percent. This was the highest percentage of buses with major defects since the Spring of 2016, and a marked increase from the Fall inspection. The charts below show the percent of buses passing, having 30-day defects or having major defects over the past ten years of bus inspections.





Daily Results

The chart below shows our daily results by inspection date and site. Clearly, our most successful day was Wednesday, March 31st at Winters Mill High School. Almost 80 percent of the buses inspected that day passed. The inspections at Century High on Tuesday, March 30th resulted in a decent pass rate of almost 68 percent, but the number of buses with major defects was 12 , nearly 17 percent.

A majority of contractors continue to maintain their buses to an extremely high standard, and we are so proud of the fleet overall. The MVA inspectors commented again about how efficient our inspection was and how well our fleet is maintained overall. We will be running reports from the MSDE database to determine the results of each contractor by bus over the last several years to get a better sense of overall performance by contractor.

As always, we are extremely proud of our fleet and the way our buses are maintained; but, will continue to strive for improvement.

Thanks for the great job that you ALL do.

Daily Bus Inspection Results Spring 2021						
Inspection Location/Date	Pass		30 Day		Redline	
	# of buses	%	# of buses	%	# of buses	%
CHS- Tuesday, March 30	48	66.7%	12	16.7%	12	16.7%
WMHS- Wednesday, March 31	55	79.7%	10	14.5%	4	5.8%
FSK- Thursday, April 1	29	72.5%	4	10.0%	7	17.5%
MVHS- Tuesday, April 6	40	70.2%	11	19.3%	6	10.5%
WMHS- Wednesday, April 7	42	61.8%	20	29.4%	6	8.8%
Total	214	69.9%	57	18.6%	35	11.4%

DOT OFFICE OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY AND COMPLIANCE NOTICE

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-334, (Farm Bill) removed hemp from the definition of marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act. Under the Farm Bill, hemp-derived products containing a concentration of up to 0.3% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) are not controlled substances. THC is the primary psychoactive component of marijuana. Any product, including “Cannabidiol” (CBD) products, with a concentration of more than 0.3% THC remains classified as marijuana, a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act.

We have had inquiries about whether the Department of Transportation-regulated safety-sensitive employees can use CBD products. Safety-sensitive employees who are subject to drug testing specified under 49 CFR part 40 (Part 40) include: pilots, school bus drivers, truck drivers, train engineers, transit vehicle operators, aircraft maintenance personnel, fire-armed transit security personnel, ship captains, and pipeline emergency response personnel, among others.

It is important for all employers and safety-sensitive employees to know:

- The Department of Transportation requires testing for marijuana and not CBD.
- The labeling of many CBD products may be misleading because the products could contain higher levels of THC than what the product label states. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not currently certify the levels of THC in CBD products, so there is no Federal oversight to ensure that the labels are accurate. The FDA has cautioned the public that: “Consumers should beware purchasing and using any [CBD] products.” The FDA has stated: “It is currently illegal to market CBD by adding it to a food or labeling it as a dietary supplement.”* Also, the FDA has issued several warning letters to companies because their products contained more CBD than indicated on the product label. **[i]
- The Department of Transportation’s Drug and Alcohol Testing Regulation, Part 40, does not authorize the use of Schedule I drugs, including marijuana, for any reason. Furthermore, CBD use is not a legitimate medical explanation for a laboratory-confirmed marijuana positive result. Therefore, Medical Review Officers will verify a drug test confirmed at the appropriate cutoffs as positive, even if an employee claims they only used a CBD product.

It remains unacceptable for any safety-sensitive employee subject to the Department of Transportation’s drug testing regulations to use marijuana. Since the use of CBD products could lead to a positive drug test result, Department of Transportation-regulated safety-sensitive employees should exercise caution when considering whether to use CBD products.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. This policy and compliance notice is not legally binding in its own right and will not be relied upon by the Department as a separate basis for affirmative enforcement action or other administrative penalty. Conformity with this policy and compliance notice is voluntary only and nonconformity will not affect rights and obligations under existing statutes and regulations. Safety-sensitive employees must continue to comply with the underlying regulatory requirements for drug testing, specified at 49 CFR part 40.

CCPS School Bus Communication System Push-to-Talk (PTT)

All buses serving Carroll County Public Schools are now equipped with the PTT Communication System. The PTT device is used to contact the Transportation Services Department (TSD), emergency services, school bus contractors, and parents of special needs students.

The following are authorized circumstances for the use of the PTT device:

- When the school bus is involved in an accident.
- When a student, driver, attendant, or other passenger needs medical assistance.
- When the school bus has a mechanical problem requiring assistance.
- To inform TSD that the school bus is operating more than 15 minutes late on its regular route.
- To call TSD for police assistance.
- When a student is unable to be delivered home as usual.
- When it is necessary to contact your school bus contractor.
- When it is necessary to contact special needs parents/guardians.

If you have questions regarding the use of the PTT device on your bus, please contact your contractor or CCPS Area Supervisor.



Sonim Models

XP3, XP5s, XP8

SUMMER IN-SERVICE

Online CPR training: May 3 – May 28. CPR log ins are inactive after May 28th. To remain certified, this CPR training must be complete **before** the session closes on May 28th.

AFTER the online session period has closed, all those who completed the online portion will receive an email from the Health and Safety Institute CPR coordinator with an online link to sign up for in-person skills class.

Safe Schools on-line training: May 24 – June 21. Check off sheets will be signed and collected at in-person CPR skills session.

In-person CPR skills sessions: June 21, 22, 23 @ Manchester Valley High School. Check off sheet collection.

CPR certificates will be emailed to the email address the employee used for online training.

PLEASE DO NOT DELETE THE EMAIL.





SPECIAL NEEDS REMINDERS

The 2020-2021 school year has been challenging for our special needs students, however, their bus transportation has been a positive experience for all, thanks in large part to the superb job done by the drivers, assistants and contractors. Thanks for all that you do for our students!

Here are just a few end of school year reminders regarding special needs bus transportation:

- The Transportation Services Department will contact the bus staff if a student needs to keep his or her vest for ESY. All other vests should be collected by the bus staff and turned into their bus contractor on the last day of school.
- Please contact the school administrator or the Transportation Services Department if a recommendation is made to continue or discontinue the use of equipment for next school year. This decision is made by the Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) team; however, the input of the bus staff is a great resource for the I.E.P team.
- If a student has not been riding for five consecutive days, please notify your contractor and the Transportation Services Department.
- If the information on a student's profile sheet is incorrect, i.e., phone number, contacts or equipment needed, please call the Transportation Services Department so the information can be corrected for next school year.



STOP ARM VIOLATOR UPDATE

Since the program launched in October, the Bus Patrol Stop Arm Camera System has captured about 1400 violations. This is a significant number with our currently reduced operations and the periods of full virtual instruction when buses were not traveling. We are pleased to report that drivers passing our schools buses illegally are being held accountable with a \$250 fine.

Many drivers have asked about violations that occur along their routes. While we cannot share specific details about violators, we want to assure the drivers that the system is capturing the violations. Sometimes, a violation is captured but has to be discharged because it does not meet the legal criteria. For a violation to be approved the following must occur:

- **The bus must be completely stopped**
- **The red lights must be on**
- **The violator must completely pass the bus.**

The system has captured several violations in parking lots. Please remember that when you are loading and unloading at the schools, your red lights should NOT be on.

When you are on route and approach another bus with their red lights on and turn on your red lights, please remember to turn your lights off as soon as the other bus turns their lights off. Wait to proceed until you see the other bus's lights off because buses are not exempt from stop arm violations and the system captures these incidents as well!



Carroll County Public Schools

2021 – 2022 Transportation Services Calendar

August

- 23 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 24 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
- 25 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
- 26 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Century High

Contractors' Meeting Thursday, August 26th—2:00 pm; location TBD

September

- 7 Schools/Offices Closed
- 8 Schools Open – First Day for Students
- 10 Regular Education Stop Sheets, Special Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services
- 13 First Day for Pre-Kindergarten Students
- 24 Regular Education Route Stop Sheets and Regular Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services

October

- 15 Schools Closed for Students — Professional Meeting Day
- 26 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Century High
- 27 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
- 28 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 29 Special Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services

November

- 2 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
- 3 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 4 Fall Bus Inspection Inclement Weather Makeup Day (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)
- 10 End of Marking Period; Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal/System-wide; Closed for Pre-K and Prep Students
- 24 Schools/Offices Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten and Prep Students
- 25-26 Schools/Offices Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday
- 29 Schools/Offices Re-open

December

- 23 Schools/Offices Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten and Prep Students
- 24-31 Schools/Offices Closed – Winter Holiday

January

- 3 Schools/Offices Re-open
- 14 Regular Education Route Stop Sheets and Regular Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services
- 17 Schools/Offices Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- 26 End of Marking Period; Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal/System-wide; Closed for Pre-K and Prep Students

February

- 21 Schools/Offices Closed – Presidents' Day

March

- 4 Regular Education Route Stop Sheets and Regular Education Route Manifests; Special Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services
- 11 Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal/System-wide; Closed for Pre-K and Prep Students
- 29 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
- 30 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 31 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High

April

- 4 End of Marking Period; Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal/System-wide; Closed for Pre-K and Prep Students
- 5 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Century High
- 6 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 7 Spring Bus Inspection Inclement Weather Makeup Day (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)
- 15 Schools/Offices Closed – Good Friday
- 18 Schools/Offices Closed – Easter Monday
- 19 Schools/Offices Re-open

May

- 30 Schools/Offices Closed – Memorial Day

June

- 9* Last Day for Pre-Kindergarten Students
- 10* Last Day for Students; Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide



CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS' AND ASSISTANTS' CALENDAR 2021-2022

This calendar represents the school work year for school bus drivers and assistants. Because there is some variation in program times, dates, and special transportation requirements, some individual calendar considerations may be necessary. These variances shall be arranged through the Director of Transportation Services.

MONTH	DAYS
AUGUST	0
SEPTEMBER	17
OCTOBER	20
NOVEMBER	20
DECEMBER	17
JANUARY	19
FEBRUARY	19
MARCH	23
APRIL	19
MAY	21
JUNE	8
	<u>- 3*</u>
TOTAL	180

*Emergency Closing Days

If any of the five (3) emergency closing days are not used, the last day for student and staff are as listed below:

One (1) day not used – Last Student Day – June 9th, Last Staff Day - June 10th.

Two (2) days not used – Last Student Day – June 8th, Last Staff Day – June 9th.

Three (3) days not used – Last Student Day – June 7th, Last Staff Day – June 8th.

In the event that the school year is shortened due to unused emergency closing days, the last student day will be a two-hour and forty-five minutes early dismissal. The one-day immediately following the last student day will serve as a professional day for teachers.

2021– 2022 BUS INSPECTION SCHEDULEAugust

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Carroll County Public Schools 2020 – 2021 Transportation Services CalendarMay

31 Schools/Offices Closed – Memorial Day

June

14 Last Day for Pre-Kindergarten Students

15 Last Day for Students; Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide



CONSENT AND RELEASE

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.