



## *The Driver's Seat*

*Winter 2018—2019 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 Frances Scott  
Key High Areas,***

***Scott Parsons:***

***Winters Mill &  
Westminster High  
Areas,***

***Kristin Ebert:***

***In-County Special  
Needs,***

#### ***Operational Performance:***

***Anita Stubenrauch***

#### ***Driver Instructors:***

***Dena Hozik,***

***Scheneeka Weeden,***

***Angela Williams,***

***Transportation  
Planner/Analysts:***

***Kim Gold &  
Lauren Rose,***

***Transportation  
Routing Associate:***

***Pat Wall***

#### ***Support Staff:***

***Jill Fulton***

***Cindy Washick***

Up until now, the predictions of an "El Nino" winter have proven to be true in terms of continuous precipitation. Fortunately, the timing of the precipitation and the cold temperatures have collided a few times, resulting in five school closures, four school delays and one early dismissal through February 12th. Please remember to review your winter driving techniques and training. February is statistically our snowiest month; so, please be prepared for anything Mother Nature throws our way.

Recently, a five-year old student was left on a Delaware school bus for the entire school day before being discovered by the bus driver when the driver arrived at school for the afternoon bus run. The day of this incident was January 22, 2019, when outside temperatures were only in the 20's. Fortunately, the child was found responsive and in good physical health considering what had transpired. Obviously, the child's parents were quite upset and worried about the future harm this incident may have caused to their child. Every year we read about incidents such as this; and, Carroll County has not been immune to having this happen. Please remember that it only takes the one time that you forget to do your child check walkthrough that a student could have been left on board your bus. Take the time, be certain that you have checked the seats and floor on each row of your bus, and do your child check following each bus run.

The Transportation Services Department (TSD) continues to pilot the Synovia real time GPS bus tracking system on forty-eight buses, primarily within the Manchester Valley High School catchment area. This is a voluntary pilot project only involving buses owned by bus contractors willing to participate. Contractors are able to track their buses in real time, receive actual time and miles travelled, and be alerted to certain engine and equipment functions such as warning light activation, braking, idling time, and speed. Parents of students on the buses involved in the pilot have been offered the ability to know when their child's bus is nearing their bus stop through the "*Here Comes The Bus*" phone or computer application. Additional features of the system will provide driving directions and communication capability through a tablet mounted on the bus's dashboard out of the driver's line of sight. The TSD will continue to evaluate this system with more updates to follow.

Finally, I want to recognize Patty Groft, a special needs driver for Ramona Rawlings, who, while driving her bus on southbound Littlestown Pike in the Silver Run area of the county on January 8, 2019, was met head-on by a motorist travelling northbound who had crossed over the center line into the southbound lane. From viewing the bus camera footage, it was evident that Patty did everything possible to avoid the accident. The impact of the crash took out the left front wheel and steering of the bus, causing the bus to cross the road, and come to rest partially hanging over the Silver Run bridge. Despite injuries to both herself and her bus assistant, Patty immediately went to the two pre-k students on board, comforted them and got them off the bus to safety.

We all hope incidents like this never happen to us. I'm confident that Patty's actions while heroic, were not unlike what most of our drivers would have done given the same circumstances. Please take time to review your defensive driving, accident prevention, and emergency evacuation procedures training. We never know when we might be confronted with a situation similar to Patty's. Thank you for all you do to transport our students safely to and from school each and every school day!



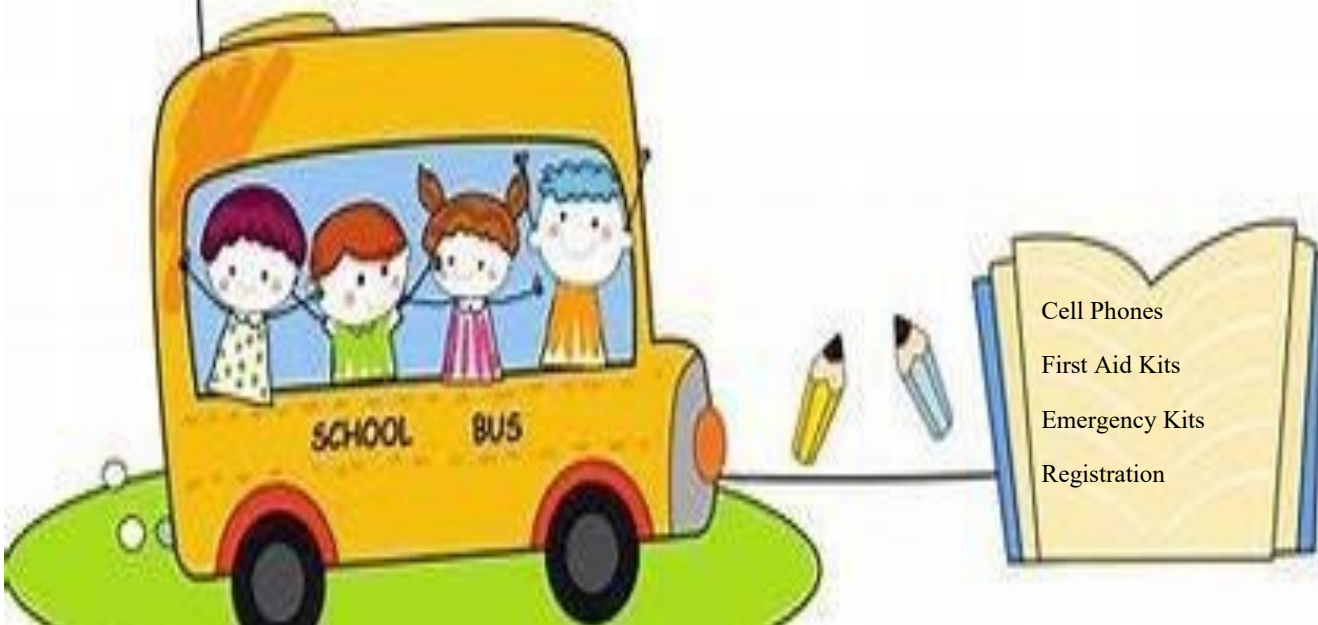
### 2018-2019 Spring Bus Inspection Schedule

#### March:

- 26 - Manchester Valley High School (8:45 am to 11:30 am)
- 27 - Winters Mill High School (8:45 am to 11:30 am)
- 28 - Francis Scott Key High School (8:45 am to 11:30 am)

#### April:

- 2 - Winters Mill High School (8:45 am to 11:30 am)
- 3 - Century High School (8:45 am to 11:30 am)
- 4 - Inclement Weather Makeup day (8:45 am to 11:30 am)



## Vulcan Camera System Installation Update



Since last September, AngelTrax has installed 30 complete Vulcan camera systems on school buses. These complete new systems include five cameras and an improved DVR. Additionally, 23 buses have received new digital video recorders and external-view windshield cameras as part of an ongoing effort to update bus camera systems across the fleet. During the next several months, 28 more buses will receive the new DVR/external-view windshield cameras with a goal of upgrading the entire fleet over the next four years



### REMINDER

**Communicating With the Bus:** During a recent bus inspection, the cell phones were checked on all buses. As a reminder, please remember to check that your bus phone is working properly every day. This includes making sure the phone has a full charge, the cellular service is up to date, a voicemail has been set up, and the correct phone number has been given to the Transportation Office.

### ACCIDENT STATISTICS

Carroll County School bus drivers were involved in **22** Accidents during the fall of 2018. Sixteen of the **22** accidents were determined to be preventable. Of the **22** accidents, **three** involved major damage or personal injury, and; **all** of the majors were determined to be preventable. The breakdown for the school year so far as preventability is as follows:

Backing .....	3
Rear Tracking of Bus .....	1
Tree Limbs/Fixed Objects .....	3
Parked Cars .....	1
Clearance/Mirrors not monitored .....	5
Failure to Yield right of way .....	2
Other/Failed to set parking break during evacuation drill.....	1

### ACCIDENT REVIEW

The Accident Review Team meets regularly to determine the preventability of school bus accidents. The determination of “preventable” does not mean that the school bus driver was primarily or legally responsible for the accident; it does mean that the driver did not do everything that reasonably could have been done to avoid the accident. In other words, he or she was not a **defensive driver**. A **defensive driver** is one who commits no driving errors and makes allowances for the lack of skill of improper driving practices of other drivers. A **defensive driver** adjusts his or her own driving to compensate for unusual weather, road, and traffic conditions and is not tricked into an accident by the unsafe actions of pedestrians and other drivers. By being alert to accident inducing situations, the **defensive driver** recognizes the need for preventive action in advance and takes the necessary precautions to prevent the accident. It is impossible to describe in detail the many ways a driver might prevent an accident. A school bus driver may not absolve themselves of any defensive driving skills or responsibilities. The Maryland State Department of Education evaluates all major school bus accidents in the state. A report conducted by MSDE makes this point that drivers should remember. The vast majority of accidents happen:

- On clear days
- During daylight hours
- On regular routes
- With buses travelling straight
- On dry roads
- With buses without defects

The lesson to be learned: Accidents don't just happen under unusual circumstances - they happen when everything seems right. Cautious drivers never take safety for granted.



**BUSTER THE BUS**

BUSTER made his appearance again this school year. Dena and Angela took BUSTER out to the elementary schools to speak to the pre-k and kindergarten classes about school bus safety. This program instills the proper way to ride a bus, the dangers of not sitting correctly, and how to cross the road safely. The importance of listening to the bus driver, using inside voices and evacuating the bus are also discussed. Those are just some of the safety procedures that the students will learn. All of the students just love BUSTER and listen to his advice. Hopefully, this will teach them the safe way to ride a school bus as they are just beginning their bus riding journey.

**SAFETY IS  
MY  
MOTTO**



**SUBSTITUTE OBSERVATIONS** will take place throughout the school year for those drivers that are due for an observation. Your contractor will inform you of the date and place to meet with a driver instructor.

### Grandfather Builds School Bus Costume for Grandson in Wheelchair

PROSPECT, Ohio — A man here used his artistic talent to create a school bus costume for his grandson, who uses a wheelchair, for Halloween.

The costume fits over 5-year-old Blake Mompher's wheelchair. Gary Mompher, his grandfather, designed the costume based on a concept that came from Megan Mompher, his mother, according to *ABC News*. His father, Aric Mompher, provided the cardboard boxes.

Gary worked for three days in his garage on the costume, which includes custom lettering and four circular, hand-painted red lights, *ABC News* reports. He also created a bulldozer costume for Blake in 2016.

Megan told *WSYX/WTTE* that her son has “always really liked school buses.”

Blake has Spina Bifida, and has had several surgeries throughout his life, according to *WSYX/WTTE*. He is about to undergo bladder reconstruction surgery.

Gary said that it “was like a miracle” to see his grandson get into the costume earlier this month, *ABC News* reports, because last year Blake had health problems that kept him from celebrating with an elaborate costume. This year, however, Gary told *ABC News* that Blake “immediately started rolling the chair and trying to run me down and everybody down.”



Click link to video from WSYX of Blake in his school bus costume. <https://twitter.com/StaciaWSYX6/status/1057280227414601728>

## LOUISE GLOVER



Mrs. Louise Glover, a Carroll County bus driver and contractor for over 45 years, passed away on November 5, 2018. Louise began driving in 1971, and became a contractor in 1973.

The first bus she owned was #171, and her daughter, Sharon Glover still owns that bus today. Louise was an active member of the Carroll County Contractors Association, serving as secretary during part of that time. In 1971 and 1972, she drove Sharon to Westminster High School. According to Sharon, “I hated that!” She must not have “hated it” that much, as Sharon continues to follow her mom’s path as a contractor. Louise often said that driving a bus with school children made her feel young. Even after she stopped driving Louise continued to enjoy seeing the buses parked in front of her house—especially #171. Louise’s passion for her buses and her kindness to others will be missed.



# School Time

## 2018 – 2019 Transportation Services Calendar

### February

- 1 Schools Closed for Students – Professional Meeting Day
- 18 Schools/Offices Closed – Presidents' Day

### March

- 8 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
- 26 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
- 27 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 28 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
- 29 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Century High

### April

- 2 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
- 3 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Century High
- 4 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Inclement Weather Make up day
- 9 Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten and Prep Students
- 19 Schools/Offices Closed – Good Friday
- 22 Schools/Offices Closed – Easter Monday
- 23 Schools/Offices Re-open

### May

- 27 Schools/Offices Closed – Memorial Day

### June

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

School