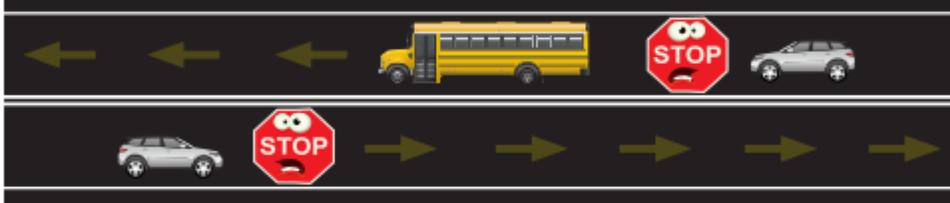
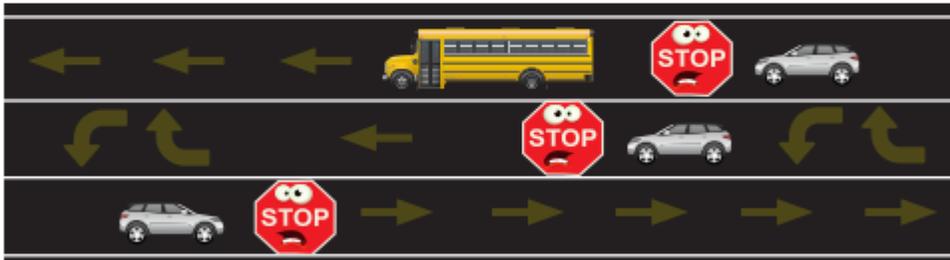


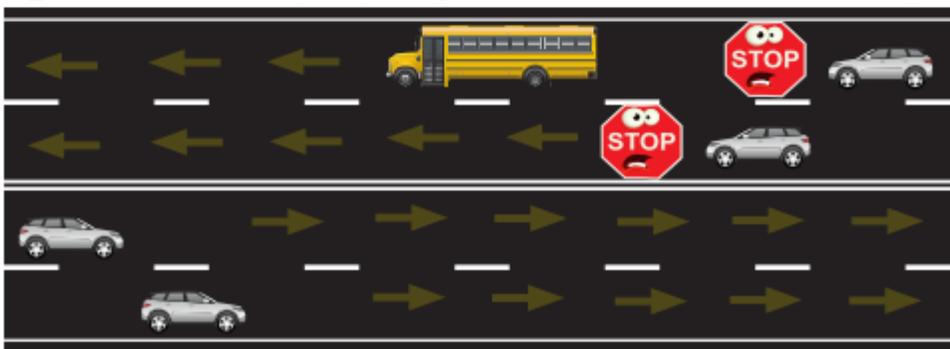
Buses provide means for welcoming students Back to School on August 17th!



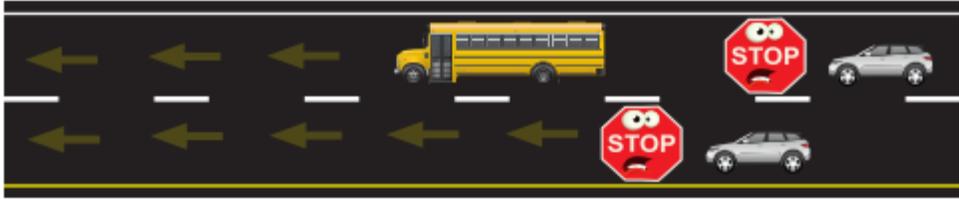
↑ 2 LANE ROADWAY
When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.



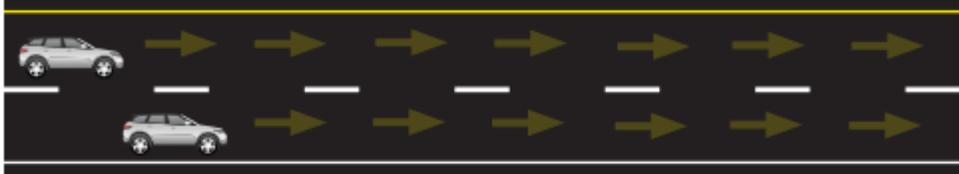
↑ 2 LANE ROADWAY + CENTER TURN
When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.



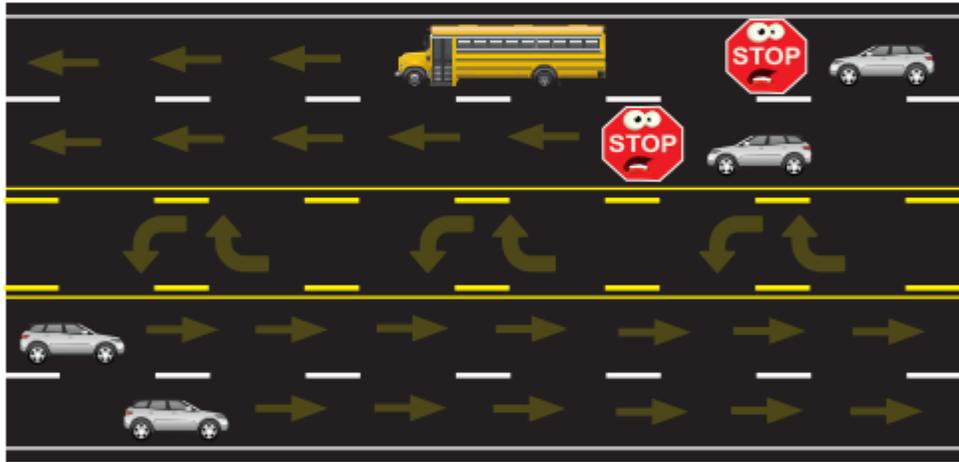
↑ 4 LANE ROADWAY NO MEDIAN SEPARATION
When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.



DIVIDED HIGHWAY



↑ 4 LANES + DIVIDED HIGHWAY + MEDIAN SEPARATION
 When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.

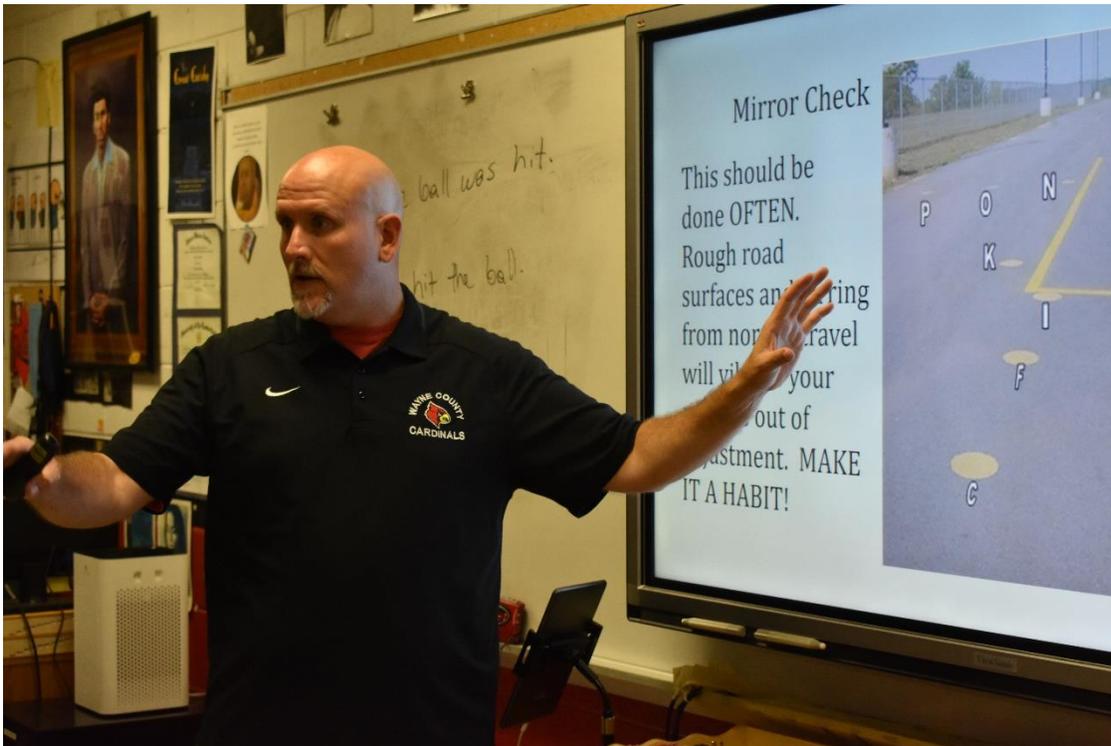


↑ 4 LANES + ROADWAY + CENTER TURN
 When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.





Bus Garage Supervisor Tracy Turpin, Driver/Inspector Steve Denney and fellow maintenance crew have had a busy summer maintaining the bus fleet so all 75 buses are ready for the start of the school year.



School Transportation Director Justin Alley teaches safety mechanisms to drivers



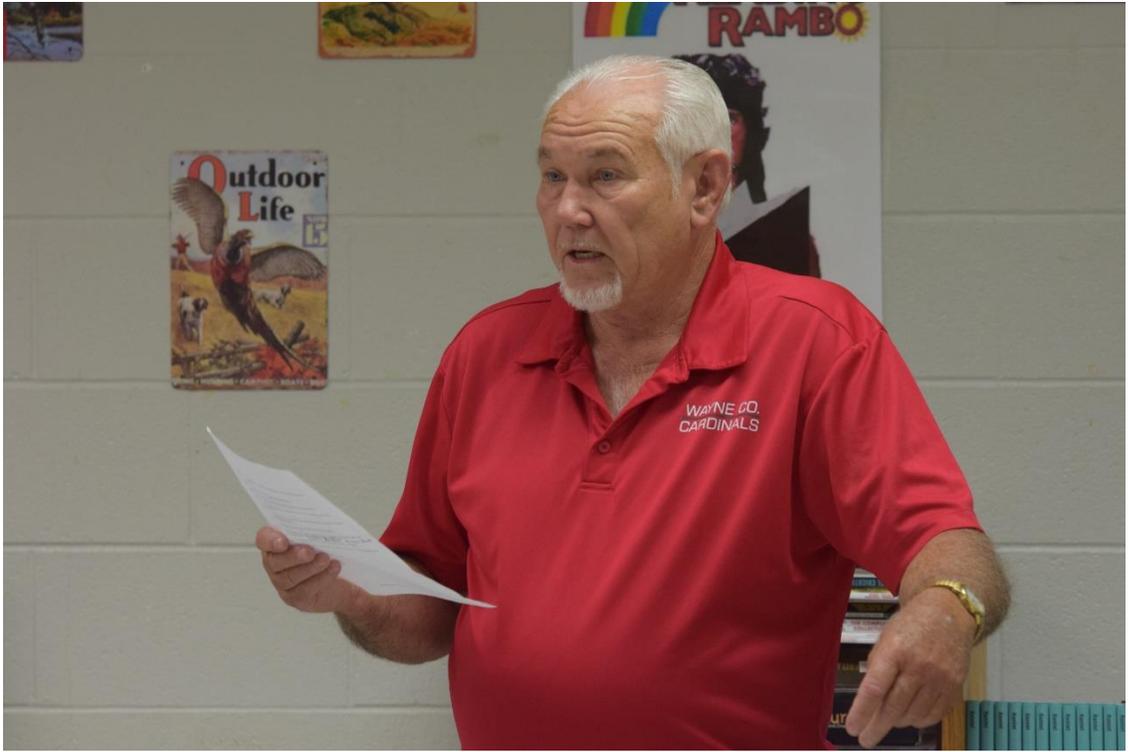
Front Row (l-r): Alberta Bell, Lisa Jones, and Mike Cooksey participated in classroom training.



Substitute bus drivers receive classroom instruction



Driver Trainers Mike DeRossett and Jennifer Jones, along with Driver Lloyd Jones prepared for driving skills course.



Driver Trainer Dwight Dobbs instructed a class on emergency situations and accident prevention



Nurse Sandy Latham discusses medication check offs with Bus Driver Troy Neal



Drivers Dusty Vaughn and Harold Neal go over emergency medications



Healthy Kids Nurse shared information with (l-r) Bus Drivers Scotty Fulton, Joey Condrey, and Allen Mercer

It is back to school time and the safety of the young people in the community has never been more important. The Wayne County School staff have been undergoing all kinds of update trainings geared towards student safety.

In particular, an eight-hour update training for all of the transportation employees was held August 4th featuring everything from emergency medicine to driving skill classes. During medication training, drivers learn to administer Glucagon injectable medicine to EpiPens to Narcan to seizure medication – just to name a few of the skills they must master.

Transportation employees are asking motorists to help them ensure safety by observing the addition of school buses on the road once school starts on August 17th.

“When school is in session, we have instances nearly every day of people that run the Bus Stop sign, especially in high-traffic areas on Highway 90, Columbia Avenue, Main Street, and Highway 92,” noted School Transportation Director Justin Alley. “Motorists should use extreme caution and make sure to stop for the bus. Drivers turn on their yellow warning lights approximately 200 feet before the actual stop, so motorists should have plenty of warning to stop, prior to the bus stopping and turning the red lights on.”

Parents and students are reminded that students should be out waiting for the bus approximately 5 minutes before the bus arrives. Buses should not have to stop and wait for students to be at their assigned stop location.

The good news is the district has purchased five new buses this school year. “Mr. Roberts and the Board of Education have gotten us on the proper rotation of purchasing new buses, which tremendously helps our fleet,” said Alley.

“This year we plan to run 44 routes,” said Alley. “We have consolidated enough to cut 2.5 routes from last year, especially since the higher fuel prices and inflation costs.”

The fleet traveled 2,541 miles per day last year on regular routes, which includes morning, preschool lunchtime routes, and returning home in the afternoon. Over 161 days, the buses traveled a total of 409,101 miles last year. Buses also transport students after school hours to athletic and academic events totaling 132,551 miles.

Maintenance is a very important on-going activity. Bus Garage Supervisor Tracy Turpin explained that monthly inspections of the buses include checking: tires, oils, fluids, and all the safety equipment. They conduct 75 bus inspections per month on the 34 or 84-passenger seat buses. The preschool buses and handicapped buses have hired monitors onboard to assist the children.

In addition, the bus drivers inspect their buses every morning before their route and every evening before they leave. They check off their inspection sheets, following state guidelines, explained Turpin.

Wayne County Schools Transportation Department plays a key role in the success of a student’s day at school. A child’s bus driver is the first to welcome them to school in the morning and may be the most consistent school employee in their lives, as they progress through their public education. It is not uncommon for the drivers to have provided transportation for a student year after year, so in many cases they build long-term relationships with their passengers. Last year, one of the drivers cared about his kids so much that he gave them a pre-planned picnic at the park since they had become such a tightknit group.

Bus drivers are always in high demand at school districts across the state. Fortunately, Wayne County Schools have enough drivers to start the school year, however, they are constantly recruiting applicants for these important part time positions.