

Why School Bus Drivers need to learn to communicate "more better"

HOW to teach them the importance of good communication skills

It always begins with a story!!

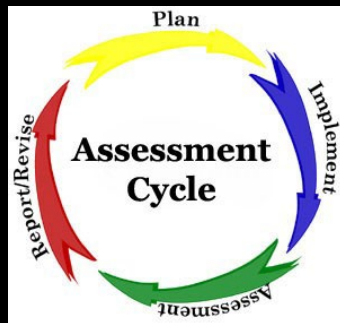


Presented by: Tom Korth
Oakland Schools (ISD)

Collaboration in training drivers and administrators to build relationships

Drivers and administrators need to understand and create a mindset of cooperation

Like the teacher, the school bus driver has to be trained and tested, evaluated, practice and participate in professional and personal development, develop plans for their students using software to route and report referrals, employ techniques in conflict management and resolution, while maintaining an orderly atmosphere where each student can feel and be safe. Unlike the teacher, the school bus driver must also navigate a 40,000 lb. moving vehicle through school building lots and on roads where parents and other drivers simply don't want to get behind a school bus, while maintaining order on the bus.



Dream Job

As a Kindergarten student – I remember boarding the bus on my first day! WISHED and PICTURED myself behind the wheel ... clutching & gears



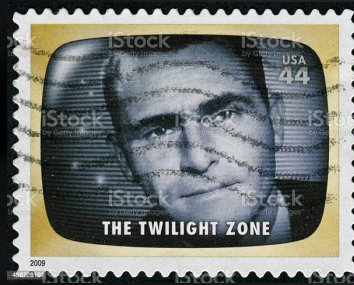
Life moved on ... 2005 to earn extra money ... health insurance ... Bus Driver



Middle School – I was beyond awkward / glasses / Mrs. Franks protection



Invisible



Not sharing information with me – the driver - causing my imagination to run wild

Teacher Comment

As she deboarded my bus – loaded with students – for all to hear – she looked at me and said, *(I was hearing it in slow motion)*

***"You
Are
Only
A
Bus
Driver"***

Look at me and say those words out loud

How do you think that makes a school bus driver feel in relation to their job and sense of well being?

HEADLINES



Obviously deranged school bus driver enters classroom confronting terrorized students



What is your mindset about school bus drivers?



**WITNESSES A FIGHT. BREAKS IT UP.
SUSPENDED FOR TOUCHING CHILDREN.**

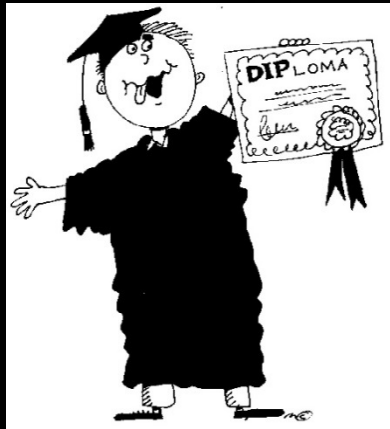


**WITNESSES A FIGHT. DOES NOTHING.
SUSPENDED FOR NOT INTERVENING.**



The perceptions are :

School bus drivers do not generally follow a post Bachelor's degree, with some drivers only completing a high school diploma, or do the job as bus driver after retirement from a previous career.



Therefore, drivers are perceived as ineffective or unqualified in affecting a student's educational experience



Say these words with me ... out loud

You're only a bus driver

Transportation Communications Summit

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z_mol9CGLn9Ux-oHKpoFmHM-Kuwlhs2s/view?usp=drive_link

Communications Coach – Ted Zotos

The Energy Bus – Jon Gordon

Jon Gordon book

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kzaHQrzN41dBM3x--oiBwyT2WCrqReob/view?usp=drive_link

Energy Bus 9 minute

CULTURE & TEAMWORK

Building a GREAT CULTURE

Jon Gordon

11 thoughts about TEAMWORK

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

Henry Ford

Trailblazing and collaboration wins

University of Albany study - school bus drivers

More than pay benefits – feel appreciated – treat them as professionals

STN - School Transportation News - Changing the perception of being a school bus driver

October 12, 2023

Bridge Magazine - Michigan - attracting new bus drivers

November 1, 2023

School Bus Summit

Transportation Directors Summit – panel discussion / Kentucky / Tennessee interest in video recording and in person

Oakland Schools Training

Oakland Schools Transportation Training

We all know the "how" to do the safety training

School bus drivers want to be appreciated and treated as professionals

They are professional drivers – but more than that – they are integral to the education process if for no other reason

Oakland Schools fact - 72% of our students take the bus to and from school each day

Without the chrome yellow & black school bus ... Oakland Schools wouldn't make count days – impacts funding

Community Information – PSA and news stories

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VsM4XEX6NOeNkFOdaUa6IMYJCs1afPMh/view?usp=drive_link

News story