

Connecting

JULY 2021

NEWS FOR MANAGERS & MECHANICS

The Reasons Why Drivers Play A Vital Role In Student Safety

When it comes to school kids, everyone believes parents, teachers or their friends to be people who play the prime role in their lives. Seldom are the school bus drivers given credit for the work that they do. Being a guide for students from home to school and back was the duty of a bus driver of the past. His role has changed over the years and he is now one of the most important entities in a student's life.

Just How Important is the Bus Driver?

Drivers act as the link between school authority and the students outside of the school campus. A driver helps to record and inform on students behavior on the bus. This way the school's reputation is kept intact as the school is able to take disciplinary actions.

- Drivers are the first line of defense against the smuggling of unwanted materials into the campus by the students. Drivers also act as security for students outside of the campus. While using a bus, the student's life depends on how the driver conducts himself while driving.
- Drivers could provide orientation to new students. A driver can explain to students about the procedures and mode of operations of a school, thereby giving them prior idea of how the school functions.
- Drivers are the school's eyes on the road. Hence they can notify the school authority about traffic blocks and other issue with the use of an effective school bus tracking system. This could help the schools to alert other bus accordingly to stay away from the informed routes.



- In some cases, drivers may know more about a student than the teachers. Teachers may teach a student for a few classes but a bus driver may have driven the same student for years through the same route.
- A driver's network runs deeply through a society so his conduct is important as it reflects the values and virtues of the school administration in the public.
- A student first meets the driver in a day. So the driver is responsible for imparting positive atmosphere to the student so that his day begins on a positive note.

It is clear that a school bus driver has several duties entitled to him/her. Moreover the schools must also provide the driver with adequate training in order to handle different situations that he may have to face when on duty.

What Training Can Company Managers Give to Improve Driver's Capabilities?

- Drivers must be given training to manage the students on board the bus. Without the supervision of a teacher, or some other school authority, the children may misbehave. Hence such training will help the drivers become self-sufficient.
- Drivers should be given an annual driving test to know if they are up to the mark. Moreover managers should also observe the driver daily to ensure he is of a sound mind and is stress free. A driver of sound mind and body can ensure better student safety.
- A driver must be trained to handle students of different age groups. Every student belonging to a different age group has different needs. A driver must be capable of realizing this and must act accordingly.
- They should also be given special training to take care of disabled students, if the situation arises.
- A driver should also be capable of handling hazardous situations like accidents, fire and so on, as their quick responses could turn out to be a life saver.

In the present scenario, where a lot of questions are frequently posed to student safety, the driver can play a pivotal role in helping the parents and teachers to take care of their wards.





SUMMER BUILDING CHECKLIST

- CHANGE FURNACE FILTERS, VACUUM FILTER AREA IF NEEDED. VACUUM HEAT EXCHANGE RADIATORS
- MAINTAIN YARD GROWTH
- POWER WASH BUILDING EXTERIOR
- CLEAN OUT GARAGE AND WASHBAY. DISPOSE OF SCRAP METAL/FILTERS
- INSPECT/CLEAN SCALE FROM AERATORS AND HOSE CONNECTIONS
- ORGANIZE PARTS
- CALL PROFESSIONALS FOR PEST CONTROL (AS NEEDED)
- TEST SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS
- CHECK WATER SOFTENER, ADD SALT AS NEEDED
- RUN WATER, FLUSH TOILETS IN UNUSED SPACES
- VACUUM REFRIGERATOR COILS
- CHECK ALL LOCKS AND DEADBOLTS ON DOORS AND WINDOWS
- INSPECT WINDOWS, DOORS, WALLS, AND FOUNDATIONS FOR CRACKS OR DAMAGE
- MEND/REPAIR CRACKS & GAPS IN WALKWAYS
- INSPECT INDOOR AREAS AND CRAWL SPACES FOR WATER DAMAGE, MOLD, AND MILDEW
- LOOK FOR VISIBLE SIGNS OF ANTS OR OTHER DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS
- TEST SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS.

**2ND PERIOD
RANDOM TESTS
MUST BE
COMPLETED BY
Aug 31st**

* SUMMER 4.0 WORKSHOP NEWS *



The Evening of August 12th

COMPANY BBQ AT THE BALLPARK

← Mankato MoonDogs vs Duluth Huskies →

Mandatory for all Full Time Employees

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

3rd—Adam Gondreau
4th—Rich Melton
9th—Fred Kreykes

How Can You Make the Biggest Difference?

I believe that our smallest actions, words, gestures and behaviors often lead to our greatest long term rewards and outcomes. In short, our kindness, willingness to help, attention to detail, attitude, desire to offer a positive word, or simple “please” and “thank you” responses will make all the difference in building strong personal and team relations. Clear and consistent communication is key, too.

Many school transportation professionals over the years have told me that it’s a thankless job but they do it for the kids. Do you ever find yourself feeling unappreciated by school administration, management or the parents? I’m sure we all feel this way at some time or another, but it’s an amazing feeling when you impact a student’s life or help out your team in a positive way. It helps reaffirm why you do what you do every day.

Workplace recognition motivates, provides a sense of accomplishment, and it helps employees feel valued for their work. It not only boosts individual employee engagement, but it has been found to improve productivity and loyalty to the organization, leading to higher retention rates. That’s one idea to help keep those school bus drivers, mechanics and other staff happy.

Bottom line...Consistency in behaviors and leadership is where the power is. Recognition is also an essential component of organizational culture. Leaders try to drive that message with consistent communication, but sometimes the message is not always clear and can cause frustration internally within teams.

Have you ever been in a meeting where your boss thought their vision was clearly communicated, but you walk out wondering if the task is even possible to accomplish? Then, to come back the following week to the same meeting and find out that nothing has happened to achieve that goal? According to leadership and trust expert David Horsager, ask these three questions consistently at every meeting:

How? How? How?

Asking these three questions will lead to clarity, then hope and then action. It has helped identify a clear path to achieve a desired outcome. You need to remove the vagueness and cut through the fear until the answer is crystal clear, actionable and achievable.

Horsager added that co-leadership is a disaster, but collaborative leadership is transformational. Be sure to remember this during your next meeting. In addition to “how?” ask “why?” to motivate and unify people and “who?” to be sure the right team members are on board with the task at hand.

I work hard for my team every day, and I believe that it’s the little things done consistently that make the biggest difference. If you ever want to take your ideas and turn them into actions, change the way you think and ask your team “how?” until you can pinpoint something specific that you would do differently to achieve your goals. And don’t forget to provide some recognition along the way. Who doesn’t like to feel appreciated?



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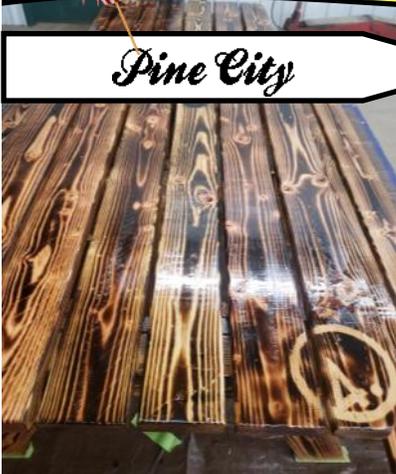
East Central



Saint Peter



End Of The Year Celebrations!



Pine City



Chisago Lakes



JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>HAPPY <i>4th of July</i> * INDEPENDENCE DAY *</p>				<i>1</i> PAYROLL & PO LISTS DUE	<i>2</i> CHOICE 1 4TH OF JULY BONUS HOLIDAY	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> <i>4th Of July Holiday</i>	<i>6</i> CHOICE 2 4TH OF JULY BONUS HOLIDAY	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> PAYROLL DUE	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> PO LIST DUE	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>