

# Connecting

SEPTEMBER 2023

NEWS FOR MANAGERS & MECHANICS

## You Did It!

*Nearly all the driver's seats are filled for the start of the school year!*

### Keeping The Driver Vibe High

Inspiring school bus drivers is crucial for maintaining a positive and safe transportation environment for students. Here are some strategies that a school bus transportation manager can employ to inspire and motivate their drivers.

**Lead by Example:** Demonstrate professionalism, punctuality, and a strong commitment to safety. When drivers see their manager setting a high standard, they are more likely to follow suit.

**Open Communication:** Maintain open lines of communication with your drivers. Listen to their concerns, feedback, and suggestions. Regularly hold meetings to discuss any issues or share updates. Make sure drivers feel heard and valued. Encourage drivers to take ownership of their roles and responsibilities. Give them some autonomy in making decisions related to their routes and handling minor issues. Feeling trusted and empowered can boost their morale.

**Safety Emphasis:** Continuously reinforce the importance of safety. Celebrate milestones, such as accident-free periods or safe driving records. Highlight the role drivers play in keeping students safe. Consider starting a program that reward drivers for safe driving records.

**Regular Feedback:** Offer constructive feedback on their performance. Address any concerns or areas for improvement privately and respectfully. Provide actionable suggestions for growth.

**Supportive Environment:** Create a supportive work environment where drivers can reach out for help when needed. Provide resources for dealing with stress and challenging situations. Ensure they have access to counseling or support services if necessary.

**Flexibility:** Understand the personal needs and challenges of your drivers. Be flexible and accommodating when possible. This can improve their work-life balance and job satisfaction.

**Recognition and Appreciation:** Acknowledge and reward outstanding performance. Recognize drivers who consistently adhere to safety protocols, exhibit exceptional customer service, or go above and beyond their duties. Simple gestures like certificates, verbal praise, or small rewards can make a big difference.

**Employee Assistance Programs:** Offer access to employee assistance programs (EAPs) that provide support for personal and emotional issues. This can demonstrate your commitment to their well-being.

**COMPANY GOAL:**

Reduce Accidents by

**10%**

**2023- 2024  
School Year**

**01**

**ACCIDENT COUNT**

TAKE A PAUSE TO RESET  
BEFORE STARTING ANY MANUEVER

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**REMEMBER** that *a happy school bus driver* is more likely to be *motivated, committed, and focused* on ensuring the safety and well-being of the students they transport. By addressing their needs and fostering *a positive work environment*, you can help create a *happy and dedicated team of school bus drivers*.

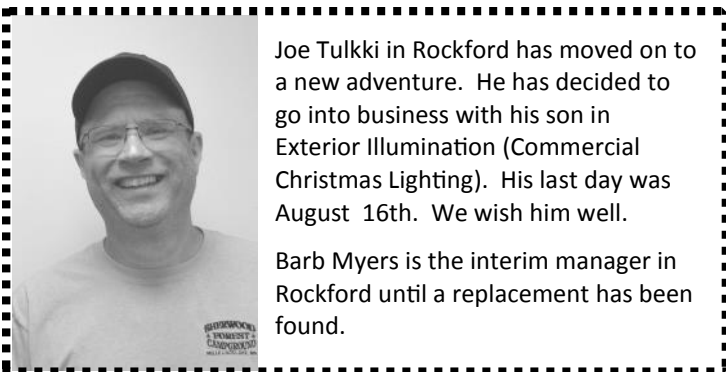
## BIRTHDAYS

### SEPTEMBER

5th—Corey Segarra  
14th—Renee Matejcek  
20th—Tanya Bloomdahl  
25th—Bill Drummer  
28th—Jeremiah Stone

## Monthly Manager Checklist

- ⇒ Have you **updated your payroll** spreadsheet?
- ⇒ Have you completed the **Route Worksheet** for the start of the month?
- ⇒ Have you been in contact with Trust In Us or your DOT testing clinic to begin **3rd period Random Drug testing**?
- ⇒ Have you sent Liz your sign-in sheet from **Back 2 School Workshops**?



Joe Tulkki in Rockford has moved on to a new adventure. He has decided to go into business with his son in Exterior Illumination (Commercial Christmas Lighting). His last day was August 16th. We wish him well.

Barb Myers is the interim manager in Rockford until a replacement has been found.



Colin Pathoumthong in Westonka has accepted a mechanic position with John Deere in Albertville. This will be closer to home and less of a daily commute.

Jeff Frey is holding down the shop while a candidate search begins to fill the open position as soon as possible.

## East Central School Open House Event



# SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <b>LABOR DAY</b> <b>4.0 Holiday</b>	5 PAYROLL PO LISTS DUE	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 SCHOOL DIST. BILLING	16
17	18 PAYROLL PO LISTS DUE	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	<b>50 days until MEA break!</b>					