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A Newsletter from The NACS Transportation Center

on the bus



school bus facts >>>

SCHOOL BUS STATS

AS OF OUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AUGUST 11TH, 2022, THE NACS TRANSPORTATION CENTER IS OPERATING UNDER THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS:

ROUTED DRIVERS:
75

ELEMENTARY ROUTES:
71

SECONDARY ROUTES:
72

STUDENTS TRANSPORTED:
6,230

MILES COVERED DAILY:
4,485

Early Registration Success

Transportation more prepared than ever.

We all dreaded it. The first day of school has historically been ... how do we say ... a big hot mess when it came to the school buses. Last fall, Transportation quickly realized that two weeks to route over 6,000 students was simply not enough time. In an effort to make our first day

more efficient for students, parents, teachers, administrators, and bus drivers, we devised a long overdue plan to allow early registration for the first time in NACS history. With the help and cooperation of the IT department, school administrators, PowerSchool secretaries, and the School Board of Trustees, parents were permitted to enroll their students for the 2022-2023 school year beginning in May of 2022. Uncertain if parents would jump on board, we weren't sure what to expect. By early July, we realized our efforts were more than worth it. Parents were doing their part to register their students and, in doing so, the Transportation Center was able to get a giant head start on building our routes for the upcoming school year. This summer we had 10 weeks to prepare vs 10 business days in previous years.

Transportation would like to thank all of the people who made early registration a possibility. As smoothly as our buses ran on Aug 11th, we feel that the difference early registration made was more than evident on our first day of school. We especially want to thank the IT Department and PowerSchool secretaries for working with us to make this year our most successful first day back to school in recent memory.



office spotlight >>>

lori**forker**

tc

Dispatcher/Router



She and her husband, Jeff, have two children, Lindsey and Ryan, who are both Carroll High School graduates. Lori's family hails from West Virginia where she spent most of her childhood summers. Although she loves the Fort, she says she will always consider West Virginia her home.

In her spare time, Lori is a crafter who specializes in refurbishing old home decor. She spends her weekends either preparing for or participating in craft shows in and around the Fort Wayne area.

Lori recently became a first-time grandmother to a baby boy named Corbin. He holds his grandma's whole entire heart and we're also checking to see if he holds the world record for most hair on a newborn baby.

Lori joined our office staff in 2017 and has become a familiar voice throughout the district. As a dispatcher, you will often hear Lori on the radio during our afternoon routes. Lori also serves as our lead router and Transfinder expert. She says she loves the puzzle-like challenge of routing school buses.



Coffee Station Fun

If we have to be at work, we might as well make it fun, right? Our jobs are stressful enough so we prefer to keep things light here at Transportation. A letter board at our coffee station helps us start the day with a little caffeine and a big smile.

school bus safety >>>

NACS Begins School Year As The Safest Fleet in the Region With 100% Safety Inspection Rating.



Every summer, the Indiana State Police Commercial Vehicle Inspection Team comes to our bus garage and individually inspects every single bus and activity bus in our fleet. This year they inspected a total of 98 buses. Inspection Officers check under the hood, under the bus, tires, brakes, interior lights, exterior lights, strobe lights, emergency exits, first aid kits, belts, hoses, and even seat securement. The pressure was on!

For the first time that anyone on staff can remember, NACS was given a 100% inspection rating – a well earned promotion from the 99% we've received in previous years. The ISP inspectors didn't find a single faulty item on any of our buses. Northwest Allen County Schools was the **only** public school district in the region with a 100% rating. The next closest was a (still impressive) rating of 97% from our friends at East Allen County Schools.

We would like to congratulate Troy Bearman, Lyle Felger, and Jeff Josse on their hard work and dedication to ensuring our school buses are as safe as possible for our students. They take so much pride in what they do and we are equally proud to have them on our team. If you would like to see Indiana School Bus Inspection ratings for any district in Indiana, you can access them at any time at the link below.

[Indiana State School Bus Inspection Ratings](#)

From the Director

To our NACS Bus Drivers:

I want to take a minute to tell each of you how important you are to our district. Every day, I watch our buses roll out and every day I'm amazed at what we do as a team.

Every driver, every dispatcher, every router, every mechanic, every school administrator, secretary, and bus lot assistant ... they each play an integral role in making it all come together.

I hope you know you are so very appreciated not only by me and Angie, but to the thousands of NACS families that we serve each and every school day.

Your jobs are so hard. Thank you for making it look so easy.

-Natalie Hoffman

NACS Transportation Director