



A note from the Superintendent

by Matthew Moore

Be Safe. Be Smart. Be Seen.

National School Bus Safety Week will be observed across the country October 22-26, providing a wonderful opportunity to remind each of us of the importance of our role when it comes to keeping kids safe in and around school buses. The big yellow buses that herald the start and end of each school day transport an average of 5,000 students in Jessamine County, traveling a collective 6,500 miles on a daily basis. Our buses are part of the largest mass transportation fleet in the country, as approximately 475,000 school buses carry 25 million children each day.

The National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Department of Transportation agree that school buses are the safest form of transportation for getting children to and from school. According to the Transportation Research Board, the school bus is 13 times safer than other non-commercial vehicles, including the family car. Safety features including the color and size of the bus, reinforced sides, flashing lights, cross view mirrors, and crossing and stop sign arms ensure that children are protected and secure on, as well as while getting on and off, the bus.

Additional advancements in technology enable us to make your child's ride to and from school as safe, comfortable, and efficient as possible. Infofinderi.com a tool that helps families locate bus routing information including bus numbers and pick-up/drop-off times, can be accessed on the district website, www.jessamine.kyschools.us. The vast majority of our buses are also equipped with a digital video system, enhancing bus security, discouraging vandalism, and assisting with the resolution of disciplinary issues.

We also rely on you to help us keep kids safe on and near the school bus. When other drivers obey bus warning lights and signage, it helps ensure that students are able to enter and exit the bus in a safe manner. State law requires that on a roadway with less than four lanes, all traffic in both directions must come to a halt while a school bus is stopped with the stop arm extended and wait until the sign is withdrawn and the bus begins moving, before motorists move their vehicles.

It's also important to teach your child to take particular care in the "Safety Zone". This zone- ten feet in front of the bus, ten feet on both sides, and the area behind the bus—is where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver. Also remind your child to stand at least 6 feet from the edge of the road while waiting for the bus, to check both ways for cars before stepping off the bus, and to always cross in front of the bus, not behind it.

This year's safety week theme is "My Driver-My Safety Hero" and it is true that while our modern buses and technological tools are important, Jessamine County's dedicated team of 150 transportation professionals

are the ones who make the biggest difference. All school bus drivers must obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Once they have a license, drivers receive specialized classroom and behind-the-wheel training in student loading/unloading procedures, student evacuation, student behavior management, and emergency medical procedures. In addition, drivers are required to participate in pre-employment and random drug and alcohol testing, undergo frequent driving record checks and pass annual medical exams to ensure that they are physically qualified to drive a school bus.

Jessamine Schools' bus drivers, monitors, mechanics, and administrative employees all serve in critical roles in our district, delivering students to school and back home safely to their families. I hope that you will join us as we salute our transportation professionals for all that they do to protect and care for our students, each and every day.

The Jessamine County School District has partnered with the Jessamine County Education Foundation on the 2020 Vision for Technology initiative to provide a Chromebook for each student in grades 3-12 by the 2020-2021 school year. Chromebooks are relatively inexpensive laptops that are designed to work best with an internet connection, using mainly cloud-based applications and storing data online. These information powerhouses provide a huge return on investment in the classroom, increasing student engagement, improving educational opportunities through access to technology, and allowing teachers to further personalize student learning.

The Ed Foundation kicked off Phase 1 of the project with a \$50,000 donation and 257 Chromebooks have already been purchased for use in JCS elementary schools. We need your help to complete Phase 1 and move on to Phase 2 of the project, which is to purchase additional devices for the middle and high schools. Check out your school's progress toward the one-to-one initiative in the chart below (grades 3-12), and consider a donation to help get us to our goal of 100% for all schools!

Donations are tax deductible and can be made at www.jessedfoundation.com/donate.html or by mailing a check to JCEF, P.O. Box 844, Nicholasville, KY 40340. If you would like to designate your donation for a specific school, please include a reference in the memo line of your check or in the notes of the PayPal donation. Thank you for supporting JCS students through the Education Foundation's 2020 Vision for Technology initiative!

JCS Chromebook Project

