



Summer Horizons

An Environment for Effective Teaching & Learning

Summer - 8/24/2018

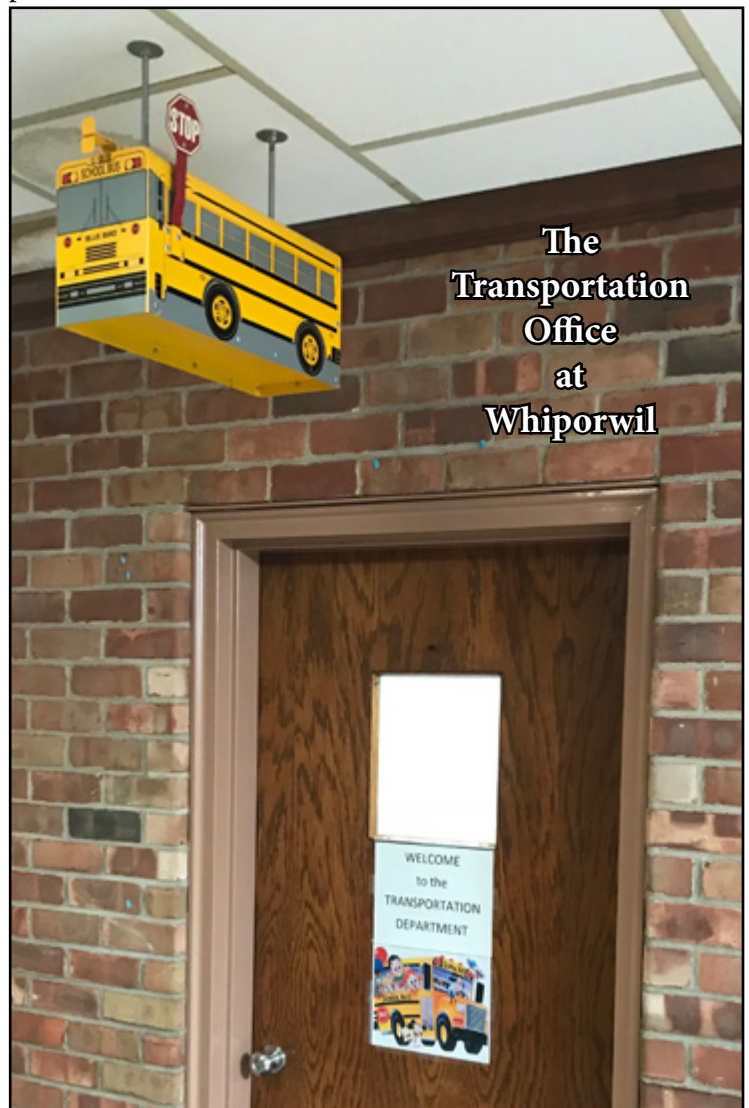
“THE WHEELS ON THE BUS GO ROUND AND ROUND!” HAUPPAUGE’S SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT KEEPS IT MOVING!

Handling the transportation for over 3,500 Hauppauge students who attend public, private and parochial schools is no small task, but Gerry Kinsley, School Transportation Supervisor for the Hauppauge School District, makes it happen! Mr. Kinsley handles a variety of tasks in his position, with each one being as important as the other.

Mr. Kinsley said “Each year our school bus drivers take a refresher course. They also take a 19A Road Test, undergo additional training and a medical exam to be ready for September.”

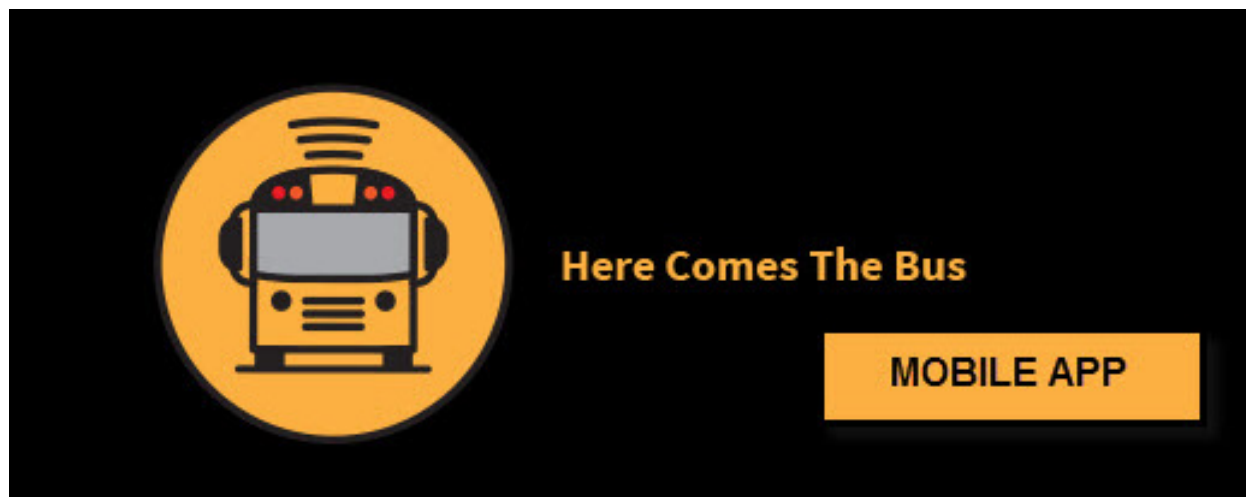
In August, the Transportation Department begins working on their September listing of routes and balancing the loads of students on buses to avoid overcrowding. The District uses 30 large school buses and approximately 30 small school buses to transport all of their 3,500 students to the public, private and parochial schools they attend. Letters and bus schedules will be mailed home to parents about two weeks before school begins. Each letter will contain the student’s bus stop and route.

The Hauppauge School District is looking to modernize bus schedules with a new app called “Here Comes the Bus.” This was recently piloted this past June at Forest Brook Elementary School. How does this work? With GPS (Global Positioning System) standard on most school buses, “Here Comes the Bus” takes that information and translates it into an easy to follow program and map that works on a computer, tablet or smartphone. It allows you to see where the bus is and how close it is to your home. Your child’s pick-up/drop-off location shows on the map as a red dot, with a circled radius around this dot. When the bus enters the radius (which is two minutes from the pick-up/drop-off), the parent gets a notification. When the bus reaches the pick-up/drop-off location and the bus door opens, the red dot turns green to let the parent know the bus is there for pick-up or if the student is off the bus for drop-off. Parents will receive information on how to download the app. They then will enter their child’s student



**The
Transportation
Office
at
Whiporwil**

ID#, preceded by “HP.” The reason for the “HP” to precede their ID# is that other Suffolk County school districts are utilizing “Here Comes the Bus” as well, and you want to distinguish that this is your child by putting “HP” before their student ID# representing the Hauppauge School District.



Mr. Kinsley said with regard to younger students being dropped off at bus stops, “We do not drop off Kindergarten and First Grade students unless there is a parent at the bus stop. These younger students are never left unattended. If a parent is not at the bus stop, the student is kept on the bus and the bus driver radios for the school to contact the parent. If the parent is reached and makes it to the bus stop before the bus is finished with the route, the student is dropped off then. If the parent cannot be reached by the end of the bus route, the student is brought to the Transportation Office at the Whiporwil District Office on Hoffman Lane until their parent is able to pick them up.”

With regard to bus safety rules, Mr. Kinsley said that the bus drivers talk to students on every bus, every September. They are made aware that the bus has seat belts. Although it is not mandatory for students to wear a seatbelt on the bus, it is suggested to them to use the seat belts. Students are told that there is no standing, no screaming and no eating or drinking on the bus. One of the main reasons students are not allowed to eat on the bus is that there may be a student nearby them with a food allergy.



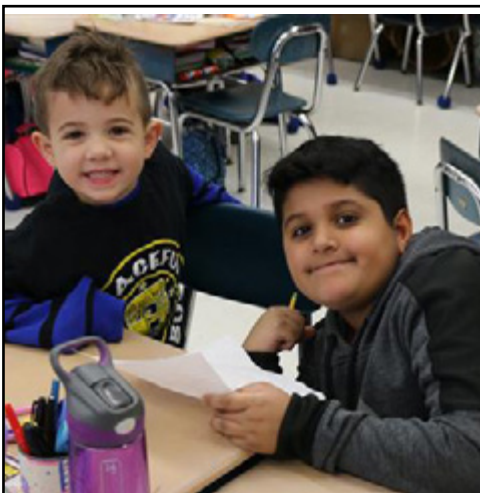
Seven years ago, Pines Principal, Claudine DiMuzio, took a proactive approach and implemented the “Peaceful School Bus Program” in her building. The program was designed to reduce the number of student behavior problems on the school bus by creating a greater sense of community and responsibility among students riding the bus. This was an effort to make every child’s experience on the bus more enjoyable.

The program begins in September with a breakfast to welcome the bus drivers into the learning community and enlist them as partners in the “Peaceful School Bus Program.” During the school year, students on the same bus route/ bus team meet together in the school building.

Kindergarten and first-grade students assemble in the gym and are grouped by bus. They are then taken to classrooms where older students from the same bus greet them. These meetings help students to get to know each other and learn how to behave and act responsibly on the school bus. All walkers and SCOPE students are grouped together as a team, as this program will support their need to understand the responsibilities of a walker/bus rider. In January, the young students and their mentors work together to make Valentine cards for their bus drivers. Students can earn “compliments” from the bus drivers which can earn students prizes like extended recess or homework passes.

In the seven years since its inception, the number of bus-related incidents has decreased significantly thanks to the “Peaceful School Bus Program.”

If your child ever reports a problem on the bus to you, please let the bus driver, classroom teacher or main office know so that the school may address the issue in a timely manner. The safety and well-being of every child is of the utmost importance.



“Peaceful School Bus Safety Rules”

Stay seated in your assigned seat; an adult may tell you where to sit. Buckle up!

Always respect others; the bus driver, the bus and yourself.

Flinging things in or out of the bus is not allowed.

Eating and drinking on the bus are not allowed.

Talk quietly and kindly; no yelling or hurtful words.

You are responsible and accountable for your actions.

Mr. Kinsley comes to the Hauppauge School District after retiring from the MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) after 33 years. At the MTA, Mr. Kinsley began as a bus driver and retired as Assistant Chief Transportation Officer. He also worked at Suffolk Transportation after his retirement, and before joining Hauppauge Schools three years ago. Running the Hauppauge Public School’s Transportation Office is a very important job. Mr. Kinsley and his fleet of drivers do a great job with the importance of our children’s safety always at the forefront.

Peaceful Bus Chant

Everybody look at us.

We ride on a peaceful bus.

We don’t scream and we don’t shout.

That’s what peace is all about.

We don’t push and we don’t shove.

A peaceful bus is what we love.

Yay, Peaceful!!!

2018 - 2019
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