

THE BUS STOPS HERE



Safety Newsletter

January 7, 2022



SUFFOLK TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC

SUFFOLK BUS CORP.

LUNCH & LEARN: Join the Health and Welfare Council of Long Island (HWCLI) for VIRTUAL ZOOM informational Health Insurance session about the services they offer that can greatly benefit you and your family. The event will take place on January 12, 2022, at the Saxon, Pond Rd and Coram classrooms and will be held from 10:00-11:00 AM. You may also view the Zoom meeting on your own. Please register for the program at benefits@suffolkbuss.com. Join Zoom Meeting - Time: January 12, 2022, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM; Click on ZOOM on your computer or this link: <https://zoom.us/j/94210310661?pwd=RIltRGdIdlY1T2x5Uj9kQUx6eHlBUT09> Meeting ID: 942 1031 0661 Passcode: 105708 Dial by your location; 1-646-558-8656 US (New York)

COMMUNICATION: Over the next few weeks, we will feature helpful tips on how school bus drivers and driver assistants can help make the ride of their special needs students through understanding and communication. This information is connected to the special needs classes you attended at the beginning of the school year. Many of you may remember Henry and the lessons he taught us when dealing with children with disabilities.



TURN "I CAN'T" INTO "I CAN!" Too many students with special needs feel like they don't measure up. The thoughts and comments of, "I'm stupid", "I can't" & "I'm not smart enough" are painful reminders that special needs children are not being understood. When speaking with your riders, please realize that many may have an 'invisible' disability. An invisible disability is one that you cannot see when looking at a person. Although it looks like this person is developing, typically they are not. In contrast, disabilities that are easy to notice are called "visible" disabilities. Whether your route has special needs students or not, there are always children who struggle and need your support from time to time but don't always know how to ask for it. Because safety comes first on all bus rides, it's important to remember that safety also includes each rider's mental health. Establishing a positive connection with your students helps to create a positive climate on your bus for everyone.

However, it is not always easy to develop a connection with riders who have difficulty communicating. Asking open-ended questions helps to build that supportive relationship and also allows riders to think about their responses. Some examples are: What was your favorite part of the day? What do you like to do during your free time? What questions do you have for me today?

While speaking and asking questions, remember to make eye contact with your rider. Keep your calm and friendly tone of voice but don't always expect the rider to look directly back at you. As the child becomes more familiar and comfortable with you, eye contact can improve over time. Building a connection is the foundation to safe and fun bus rides. Remember what you do matters, and you have the power to help turn a child's, **"I can't" into "I CAN!"**

TESTING SCHEDULE: Family members are welcome to test at 1849 Pond Rd & Harold Ct ONLY

Tuesday, 1/11/22 [Rapid]	Bay Shore Hiring Center, 2309 Union Blvd, Bay Shore	9:30AM-5:30PM
Wednesday, 1/12/22 [PCR]	1849 Pond Rd Trailer, Ronkonkoma	10:00AM-12:00PM
Thursday, 1/13/22 [Rapid]	Coram Hiring Center, 2152 Route 112, Coram	9:30AM-5:30PM
Friday, 1/14/22 [PCR]	10 Harold Ct, Bay Shore	10:00AM-12:00 PM

REFRESHER UPDATE: Due to the increase in the infection rate of COVID-19, we have taken the necessary precautions to ensure everyone's safety and rescheduled the refresher classes to March. Dates for March classes will be announced in upcoming Newsletters.



FACEBOOK: This week's spotlight is Sally Rauss, large bus driver for Hauppauge School District out of 1849 Pond Rd.

*"Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind.
Be led by the dreams in your heart."*