

THE BUS STOPS HERE



Safety Newsletter

September 15, 2023



SUFFOLK TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC

SUFFOLK BUS CORP.

STUFF A BUS: On September 8th United Way of Long Island, in partnership with Suffolk Transportation Service and volunteers, distributed boxes filled with donated supplies to elementary schools in the Brentwood and Central Islip School Districts. The program is in its 15th year donating thousands of school supplies to students.



RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES: A school bus monitor was sitting



toward the front of her bus focused on her cellphone and wearing her earbuds. Several rows back was one of the children she was supposed to watch—a 6-year old girl in a wheelchair who was unable to speak. The girl slid down in her chair and the strap that was supposed to secure the child in her seat ended up tight against her throat, ultimately suffocating her. The DA was arrested and charged with second-degree manslaughter and second-degree endangering the welfare of a child. She was

in custody at a NJ jail pending a detention hearing. Days later, the little girl's mother was still trying to come to terms with her daughter's death--"I still feel like it's unreal, sometimes I feel that I'm OK and functioning and then other times I just feel like I can barely hold on." With this in mind, please be aware of the following:

- The Driver/DA are a team and if there is an issue, the driver should say something to the DA about not being attentive or speak to their supervisor.
- If any safety equipment is not properly secured or adjusted (shoulder straps), please notify a supervisor.
- No one should be on their cellphones or wearing earbuds and DA's should always sit where you have a clear view of the students on board.
- Always be attentive when students are on board.

FOOTBALL SEASON IS NOT A REASON TO TAILGATE: Almost 10% of all accidents are caused by following too closely. Drivers often say the car in front stopped short. As professional drivers, it is up to you to drive defensively. To avoid rear-end accidents, always follow the 4-second rule for commercial vehicles (2 second for personal vehicles). If you are driving on a normal road in good weather conditions, there should be at least a 4-second buffer between your bus and the vehicle in front of you. Here is how to calculate your distances: pay attention to the vehicle in front of you as the driver passes a fixed point such as a mile marker or a signpost. Once the vehicle passes that point, count until you pass that same point ("one thousand and one, one thousand and two"). Should you reach that point before counting to 4 seconds, then you know you are following too closely. Slow down and try the test again with a new point.

HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT: It's time for our health insurance open enrollment! **This is for new enrollees only.** If you are interested in signing up for the Company health insurance or would like more information, please email benefits@suffolkbuss.com. The enrollment period for applications ends on 9/20/23. Benefits will begin 10/1/23.

BASIC COURSE: As you may be aware, the NY State Education Department requires that a basic course for all school bus drivers be taken within the first year of employment. You will receive a letter in the mail if you need to attend this class. Registration for the class can be found on MPS. Click on My Classes, click on Upcoming, choose Driver Basic Course and choose the yard you wish to attend.



FACEBOOK: This week's Facebook spotlight is Sakeya Senior, SBC Payroll Coordinator

"If a mind thinks with a believing attitude, one can do amazing things."