

# THE BUS STOPS HERE



*Safety Newsletter*

October 13, 2023



SUFFOLK TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC

SUFFOLK BUS CORP.

**NON-VERBAL STUDENTS:** There are three primary ways that students can communicate with you while riding on your bus. The three ways to communicate are through:

- 1) Physical gestures - students who use physical gestures can communicate with you by clapping their hands, blinking, fist pumping and pointing at something they want. A DA shared an experience when one of her non-verbal riders reached out to hold her hand in a time of discomfort and in response, she took hold of that hand to comfort her. When you recognize a student's attempt to interact with you, it becomes easier to build a positive relationship with the students on your bus which results in a safer bus ride for everyone.
- 2) Sounds - pay close attention to the sounds that your riders make while transporting them. Their high-pitched squeals can help you learn how they are feeling. Take a moment to listen for patterns. For example, do some of your riders make soft squealing sounds that become louder and more intense? Do the students begin to rock their body after these sounds become louder? At this time, the students may be showing you they are feeling happy, sad, stressed, etc.
- 3) Touch - the act of touching is another way that non-verbal students use to communicate with you. They may try to touch another person's face or touch their own smile to show you that they are happy.



**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:** The Leonard Family Scholarship is back! The annual scholarship is open to the children of employees of New York School Bus Contractors Association member companies. STS is a proud member of this association. Preference is given to students with financial need. In addition, \$10 from every new bus purchased from Leonard Bus Sales is put toward this scholarship fund. A one-time \$2,500 scholarship will be paid directly to the educational institution for the 2024/2025 school year. The application for the

scholarship can be found on My Parking Space, click on "Notifications", click on "Forms". Deadline to file an application is 4/1/24.

**CDL PERMIT CLASS:** We are holding our next CDL permit class on Wednesday, 10/18, from 12:30PM-3:30 PM at the Safety and Training facility located at 1780 Smithtown Ave, Ronkonkoma [behind Long Island McArthur Airport]. This is a great opportunity for DA's, and friends and family to come in and get more information on driving and obtaining a CDL permit.



This class is free, and everyone is welcome. Remember, you get a \$500 bounty for every driver referral you make after they drive for 6 months!

**CAN YOU BE SEEN IN THE YARD:** Please make sure you are wearing uniform company coat or vest with reflective strips. The hours of sunlight are quickly diminishing, and it is important to be seen in the early morning hours and at dusk. If you have a coat or vest without the reflective strips, please stop by Safety & Training at 1780 Smithtown Ave, Ronkonkoma, to get a new coat.

**SEPTEMBER SAFETY WINNERS:** Roger Owens, large bus; Deisy Flores, van; Rosa Ulloa, DA; Marcus Haywood, Transit; William Padula, ADA; Daniel Valon, Shop; Linda Familia, management. Congratulations!



This week's Facebook spotlight is Blanca Gomez, Supervisor for North Babylon out of the 31 Moffitt yard

*"Don't let yesterday take up too much of today."*