



Mark Franklin

Support Staff Spotlight

NAME: Mark Franklin

POSITION: Coordinator

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 4 years

Q. What are your primary job duties as Transportation Coordinator?

A. We have a bus fleet of 40 and seven vans. My most important responsibility is scheduling trips. I assign the buses and drivers for covering our routes and out of town trips. It's a challenge to meet all of the scheduling demands with substitute drivers and bus aides, a lot of moving pieces. But we work together to make sure all the trips and routes are covered.

Q. What is your role in training?

A. I train all new school bus drivers and we do ongoing training. We also offer Type II drivers licenses for those who would like to transport students in vans. We cover safety, policies and rules and how to pre-trip the vans and buses to make sure they get to and from their destinations safely. Safety is our top priority.

Q. How has being a former bus driver helped you in your new role?

A. It helps me understand what it's like to be in their shoes. I'm more patient with the drivers. I know exactly what they are experiencing on the roads during their daily routes and trips. It has been very helpful to have driving experience.

Q. What are you doing to recruit new bus drivers?

A. We don't have enough bus drivers and are continually running short. We aren't unique to this bus driver shortage trend though as districts across the state are experiencing this too. We are putting yellow yard signs on our school grounds letting people know bus drivers are needed. We have information on our website on how to apply to be a bus driver as well. If people are interested, they need to contact us.

Over 

NOTES:

We are researching a new bus routing program to speed up the process and make it more accurate and efficient. It's an electronic system which allows us to instantly enter students and assign routes. It supports more timely communications with parents too.



Highlights Mark Franklin

I grew up in Walla Walla. I'm a Navy veteran and spent 24 years in law enforcement in Walla Walla and Columbia counties.



Safety is our paramount duty in Transportation. Our families trust us with their children and we take this responsibility seriously.



My wife and I volunteer at the Little Theatre.