



Support Staff Spotlight

NAME: Mat Roe

POSITION: Bus Driver

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 26 years

Q. What are your responsibilities as a bus driver?

A. Our main responsibility is transporting students safely. Whether it is to and from school or an out of town trip, safety remains our number one concern. We are required to complete pre-trip procedures, wash our buses, pay close attention to our schedules and receive continual training.

Q. What is it like navigating a massive school bus?

A. At first it was a challenge, but I have been doing this so long it is like driving a big car. It is second nature to me at this point.

Q. How do you work with other motorists on the road?

A. Most people realize school buses stop and it takes time to get kids safely off and on the buses. I go up Mill Creek each day and I have pull overs to allow other vehicles to safely pass the school bus. I know they need to get to work or get kids to school, so as often as possible, I will pull over and let them get by the bus.

Q. How do you maintain good student behavior on your school bus?

A. I tend to be old-school with my approach. I'm consistent. I let students know what the rules are and consistently enforce them. The main job is to keep kids safe.

Q. What is it like working at the new transportation cooperative facility?

A. It is like night and day. I'm not sure you could have found a worse facility than the one we had previously. The new facility is beautiful. It was odd at first to have everything new since our old facility was in such poor shape.

Over



NOTES:

I equate a school bus driver to an offensive lineman in football. We don't get a lot of the credit, and quite frankly I don't think we are seeking credit, but one always hopes to have a positive impact on a student's day.



Highlights Mat Roe

I have worked part-time at the YMCA for 11 years. Between the two jobs, I know a lot of people.



I was born in California and lived in the Tacoma area as a young child. I moved to Walla Walla when I was 11. I'm a 1977 Wa-Hi graduate.

My daughter is in Running Start and my son is at the U. of Idaho.