

Talking Points-Please contact me at Darleen.vanriper@firstgroup.com with any comments or questions

1. The Flu Season has Arrived:

With the beginning of the “cold” season, the flu also thought it appropriate to make an appearance in the Lincoln County School District. Our buses are certainly experiencing lower load counts due to sick students, and even our employees are not spared from whatever bug is floating around. Unfortunately, Covid has also been making its rounds. Over the Thanksgiving break alone, we had 4 staff down with Covid, and multiple others sick with the flu. Thankfully, most of them recovered quickly and are back in the school bus saddle.

In order to protect our families and employees, we are continuing to sanitize all areas in buses and facilities, make masks available to employees and students, and remind to practice social distance as needed.

2. Activities at First Student

On the days before Thanksgiving each area feasted on various potlucks: the north celebrated with favorite dishes, east/west had a huge desert buffet that was accompanied with breakfast foods, and the south went with non-traditional hamburgers and salads.



On December 15, we will have a holiday potluck and an ugly sweater contest. Main prize is a 50” Smart TV, followed by smaller gift card prizes. You can look forward to pictures of the ugliest holiday sweater.

During November we had multiple training sessions that included First Aid & CPR and TSWSN (ODE course “Transporting Students with Special Needs”). During this particular course, employees receive refreshers on specific disabilities, how to recognize triggers, and how to deescalate “rumbles.” Employees also get to practice the use of Child Security Restraint Systems, ranging from seatbelts, to harnesses, to wheel chairs.



3. Driver/Candidate Comparison Report (as of 12/05/2022)

	11/1/2022		12/5/2022	
Lincoln County Bus Routes	73	Driver Shortage	73	Driver Shortage
Drivers on hand (as of 11/1/2022, LOA excluded)	52	21	53	20
Out of Town Drivers	0	21	0	20
Routes not currently serviced (combos)	15	6	15	5
Other Considerations:				
Cover Drivers positions not staffed	5	26	5	25
Route Monitor positions not staffed	4		0	Candidate Rider
Drivers on LOA/FMLA/WC (Regular & Casual)	5		2	
Casual Drivers with limited availability	11		10	
LCS&D & FS Staff (1 & 9) Available to Drive	8		9	

Please note that this information is subject to frequent changes.

During November, we lost three drivers, gained two back from LOA and another who passed her CDL test. We were also able to secure a couple of OOT (Out-of-Town) drivers to help us out during this time where we have many illness-related callouts. One OOT driver is in Lincoln City, and the second is stationed out of Toledo.

Routes continue to be combined, and staff/management continues to cover open routes as follows: Kim Bolden, ALM; Sheila Morris, LSM; Donald Ayarza, SM; Brenda Porter, Dispatcher; Karen Howard, Dispatcher; Dave Pearson, TIC; Eric Treve (Technician), and Darleen Van Riper, LM. Lisa Loring covers SN routes as needed, which then leaves Mona Miller as our sole dispatcher.

Due to the high call-outs, we are thankful to be able to schedule Annette for route. If all goes well, this need should not be in effect for much longer.

4. The Training Pipeline

We currently have 9 individuals (two more from last month) in training at various stages. A few are in class, a few are in Behind-the-Wheel training. At this point our trainers are busy getting the BTW candidates through training and ready for their tests.