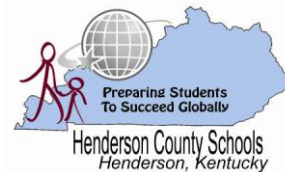


# Henderson County Schools

1805 Second Street, Henderson, Kentucky 42420

(270) 831-5000 Fax: (270) 831-5009

<http://www.hendersonschools.net>



## Media Advisory

For more information contact:

Jinger Carter, Danielle Crafton, and Linda Payne

*Henderson County Schools Publication Team*

1805 Second Street

Henderson, KY

Phone: 270-831-5000

FAX: 270-831-5016

Email: [hendersonpublications@henderson.kyschools.us](mailto:hendersonpublications@henderson.kyschools.us)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2013

## Henderson County Schools Transportation Department Encourages Parents and Children to "Love the Bus"

***Honoring Local School Bus Drivers and Monitors February 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2013***

**(Henderson, KY)-** Parents, students and teachers are celebrating the men and women from the Henderson County Schools Transportation Department who take more than 4,000+ students safely to and from schools in Henderson, KY each day as part of the sixth annual National Love the Bus program this February.

The Love the Bus program, founded in 2007 and coordinated by the American School Bus Council (ASBC), is celebrated throughout February in school districts across the country as a way to raise awareness and appreciation for the hundreds of thousands of school bus drivers who safely transport more than 26 million children to and from school each day. It is also an opportunity for parents and children to learn more about the safety and environmental benefits of school bus transportation.

"We want to honor the bus drivers and bus monitors who safely transport our students day after day," said Keegan O'Daniel, Director of Transportation. "Love the Bus is a great opportunity to give attention to a group of employees who provide a vital service to a child's educational day. They are the only employee group with the unique opportunity to be the only constant throughout a child's entire K-12 education."

To help celebrate Love the Bus, parents, teachers and children are encouraged to visit the program's Web site, [www.LoveTheBus.com](http://www.LoveTheBus.com), to share stories about their favorite bus drivers, and make interactive valentines to email or print and give to their bus drivers during the week of February 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Educators also may log on to [www.LoveTheBus.com](http://www.LoveTheBus.com) to download an educator's toolkit which provides details on incorporating Love The Bus into their lesson plans and offers best practices for communicating about pupil transportation.

Bus drivers receive specialized classroom and behind-the-wheel training in driving a school bus, student loading/unloading procedures, student evacuation, student behavior and security management, and

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emergency medical procedures. All school bus drivers are required to participate in pre-employment, random and post-accident drug and alcohol testing, frequent driving record checks, and they must pass periodic medical exams to ensure they are physically qualified.

In addition to the qualified drivers, school buses are, by far, the safest vehicles on the road, with a safety record confirmed by government authorities to be better than any other form of transportation. School buses are designed and constructed with more safety features than any other vehicle, and the school transportation industry works continually to incorporate the latest technology, training and testing to keep school buses safe.

For more information contact Keegan O'Daniel at 270.831.5120.



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