Billie Jo Juarez

A Bedford County Treasure

January 2025



For over two decades, Ms. Billie Jo Juarez has been a cornerstone of Bedford County Schools' transportation team. Since starting in 1999 as a special education bus driver, Ms. Juarez has brought dedication, compassion and a deep love for her work to the roads of our community.

Her journey began with a special education route, where she spent over ten years ensuring that every child in her care felt safe and valued. In 2011, she transitioned to a full-time, permanent substitute bus driver role and has recently taken on the responsibility of training new drivers. Today, Ms. Juarez is not just a driver but a mentor, sharing her expertise with the next generation of school bus drivers.

When asked why she has devoted her career to this work, her answer is simple yet profound:
“I love kids. I love to drive.”

For Ms. Juarez, every child is unique, and she firmly believes that there are no "bad kids." “They each just want and need attention and seek it in different ways,” she explains.

Her days are long but fulfilling. Rising at 3:00 AM, she enjoys a moment of peace before her busy schedule begins. By 4:00 AM, she is on her way to the transportation department, warming up buses by 5:00 AM. After completing her morning route, she spends her mid-morning hours training new drivers, returning in the afternoon for her second route of the day. Currently, she is guiding three new drivers through the training process, shaping them into capable and confident members of the team.

Ms. Juarez’s dedication has not gone unnoticed. She is often voted "Bus Driver of the Year" by her peers, a testament to her exceptional work ethic and the respect she commands among colleagues.

BCS Route Coordinator Gail Flanagan describes her as “a true asset to our school system. I've been with BCS since 2003, and we've been working together this entire time. She can drive any bus and do any route. She's my go-to for everything, and especially for advice about special education needs.”

Her co-workers echo this praise:

·Sandra Moore shares, “Billie Jo never complains about anything. She does her job with a smile on her face, always.”

·Sandy Locke adds, “She is perfect for the job. She knows every route without looking at someone's turn-by-turn, she remembers the students' names, and often helps the driver with how to talk to each student. You could not ask for a better person to transport your child.”

·Kay Thompson emphasizes, “Billie Jo is a very good driver and knows her business. She is professional and truly understands the students. She's a great person all around!”

For Ms. Juarez, every day is a new adventure. “No day is ever the same, so it’s never boring,” she says with a smile.

Bedford County Schools is fortunate to have someone as dedicated and compassionate as Ms. Billie Jo Juarez, a true role model and a beloved member of our school community.