



# Beachlines

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A safety newsletter  
for our employees  
and friends



GREG BEACH | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

*"They say to be successful in life is to laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to leave the world a bit better; and to know one life has breathed easier because you have lived here." - Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Dear drivers, attendants, and staffers, Welcome back! Emerson's words hold true as we embark on our 83rd year of serving others and striving to make the world a better place. For over eight decades, the Beach Transportation Company, spanning three generations of the Beach family, has been dedicated to providing safe and reliable transportation services to our community and the children we serve. Our commitment has been upheld by the efforts of hundreds of loyal team members.

Currently, our organization operates a fleet that covers over 1,000,000 miles annually, with more than 180 employees catering to the transportation needs of over 3,500 Missoula-area school children. Additionally, we offer charter bus services for athletic teams and other customers from across the U.S. and Canada.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. The National School Transportation Association has honored Beach Transportation Company with

the "Golden Merit Award" three times, recognizing our excellence in service, safety programs, and community responsibility. We have also been featured in School Bus Fleet Magazine's "Great Fleets Across America" profile for our safe and efficient school transportation services. Moreover, we have received the top rating from the Department of Defense's Military Management Command on six occasions.

We recognize that no single individual can build or sustain an organization. It takes a cohesive team effort and, most importantly, grit. The enduring success of Beach Transportation is rooted in our collaborative spirit, with each team member contributing their unique talents, temperaments, and convictions to serve the greater good.

Public service often goes unnoticed, and the tireless hours and effort required can be easily overlooked. Nevertheless, at Beach Transportation, we remain dedicated to working behind the scenes with gritty, dogged determination to ensure our kids receive safe transportation services and a quality education.



**God bless our country, God bless you, and thank you for your dedication in serving the young people we care for, and as I'm fond of saying, "Keep calm and carry on!"**

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# From the GM:

*Welcome.* Such a small word, that holds a lot of meaning here at Beach Transportation. For some, it means “welcome back” and to others it’s “welcome to the team”. But no matter your interpretation, we want to welcome you through our doors. As you look around the office, you might notice that somethings have changed (while a whole lot has stayed the same). One thing holds true despite all the change happening. Our staff make us who we are and allow us to do what makes us amazing.

We are truly honored by those returning, and excited to introduce you to the newest staff members of the Beach family.



This summer, we all stayed busy as we shifted positions and duties. Josh assumed his new role as Head Dispatcher and worked closely with Anne in utilizing our computer route systems to their fullest potential. Tracie tag teamed with Sarah and Scott in helping train our new drivers with the updated testing procedures.

The wash bay and shop were hard at work! They were getting all the buses inspection ready and clean before everyone comes back. Becky continued to hold us all down and help Wayne with recruitment efforts in bringing on drivers and attendants for the new school year. Lastly, we added Shawnae to the office team who has been helping with marketing and other tasks.



As for myself, I am excited to report that you can teach an old dog new tricks. After Mitch’s departure, I have been learning all the bits and bobs that have made Beach operate smoothly. I look forward to continuing to get to know everyone and remember, my door is always open.

From our shop staff, attendants, drivers, and office staff – I want to say “thank you”. Let’s have another fantastic year creating positive impact on peoples’ lives and supporting one another.

- Carlin



## **Back-to-School Traditions from around the world**

**Germany:** kids starting 1<sup>st</sup> grade are gifted with a giant cone filled with school supplies and candies. The tradition is taken from German folklore that marks when a child’s status is changing.

**Indonesia:** the first day of school is about the importance of making friends. Their first day instead serves as an orientation for students to get to know each other all day before academics start.

**Japan:** the first day of school actually happens in April. The school calendar is closely aligned with the folklore and emotional associations of each season. Spring is marked as “new beginnings” and thus is when the school year starts.

**Saudi Arabia:** back to school celebrations can last for days. They let there be multiple days for socialization prior to the start of the academic year.

## **2023-2024 Building Hours**

The Flanagan Building is open at 6AM with coffee available.

The Main Office will open at 6:15AM. It will not be open before then.

-Thank you!

# Back on the School Bus



By TRACIE HOFFMAN  
Safety Director

It's with great pleasure we welcome you back at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. It's always exciting to have you breathe life back into the office after a quiet summer!

As we work together during the year, I encourage you to keep in mind our objective of safety; your personal safety, the safety of your equipment and especially the safety of the many students you transport. Following are three tips for a good start:

Establish safety practices and discipline with your students the first day. Use the mandatory greeting sheet as your guide and get off on the right foot. Introduce yourself, let them know what to expect from you and what you expect from them. Presenting boundaries and expectations will be the first step in a positive relationship with your students.

Get to know your route. This is important for Drivers and Attendants. Be clear on where you're going and what hazards to watch for along the way. Do you have unmarked intersections, railroad tracks or tight places that will need more of your attention as you travel each day? Identify these places early and be extra cautious when you're in those areas. Attendants, be helpful to your driver in those tight spots, at intersections and when they have to back up the bus, be an extra set of eyes.

Pay special attention to where you pick up and drop off your students. What hazards await you at each stop? Be perfect in your loading and unloading procedures. Vow to be alert, attentive and keep them safe while they are close to the bus.

Now is the time to establish good habits in your driving and interaction with students. Be determined to do things the right way, the safest way avoiding shortcuts and "the easier way". Remember that safety doesn't just happen; it takes deliberate action by each of us to achieve consistent, positive results. Our staff is committed to ensuring an outstanding learning experience for all our students as we support their development as scholars and citizens.

We all have reasons we do this particular job, let

me share two of mine:

There was the young boy with special needs that loved to see the NAPA trucks driving around town. They were white and had a yellow hat on the top of the cab. He would get very excited when he saw one and yell at the top of his lungs, "It's the hat truck! It's the hat truck!" as he bounced up and down with delight. This young man is still in Missoula, still knows my name and always comes over to talk to me when he sees me.

There was a middle school girl who always sat in the back of the bus. She was loud, independent and always testing her boundaries. I learned her name and used it when I greeted her each morning and said goodbye each afternoon. One morning she asked why I bothered saying hi to everyone and how did I know her name. I explained that saying "hi" was just a friendly way to welcome them onto the bus and I knew her name because everyone on the bus was important to me. She started saying hello and goodbye back. Over time her disruptive behavior became easier to quiet. During a week of her sitting in the front seat because of a fight with someone in the back, we talked about her homelife. Our casual interaction became easier. Her behavior though far from perfect, got better. That was many years ago but last year at a gas station, a girl with a familiar face got out of a car and walked over to where I was fueling. She said, calling me by name, you were my favorite bus driver! She then proudly told me of her husband, little son and her job.

Whether you are an Attendant or a Driver, you can, and do, make a lasting impression in the lives of the students you transport. Each of them is an individual and wants the respect and belonging that is foundationally part of all of us. You fill an important role in the lives of many.

Your support and cooperation, along with our best professional efforts, will support this goal.



# LOOKING UP THE ROAD

## SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS

Please check your email and the Drivers Board for changes to the calendar

### August

- 29 MCPS K, 6th, 9th start
- 30 DeSmet starts  
MCPS 1-5, 7-8, 10-12 starts  
Target Range starts

### September

- 4 Labor Day- No School
- 5 Lolo starts  
Woodman starts  
Early K starts
- 11 Preschool starts  
DeSmet- No School
- 22 Lolo- No School
- 28 Preschool- No School  
DeSmet - 1/2 Day
- 29 Preschool- No School

### October

- 13 Target Range- No School
- 16-20 School Bus Safety Week
- 18 DeSmet- No School
- 19-20 All districts- No School

### November

- 3 Woodman- No School
- 5 Daylight Savings- Fall Back!
- 6 Willard & Woodman- No School
- 9 Preschool & Early K- No School  
DeSmet, MCPS K-8 - 1/2 Day
- 10 MCPS K-8 - No School  
DeSmet & Lolo- No School  
Early K & Preschool- No School
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Break- No School

### December

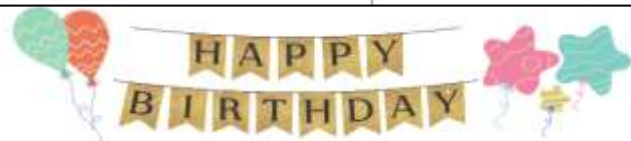
- 22-1 MCPS- Winter Break
- 22-2 Target Range & DeSmet- Break

## Welcome New Hires



### 2023 Summer New Hires

- Donnette Coate
- Veta Wade
- Val Larson
- Denise Rohan-Smith
- Scott Rohan-Smith
- Debra Chism
- Makena Howard
- Gabe Katzenstein
- Doreen Boyer
- Lorrie Hegel
- Greg Guscio
- Liz Dobbs
- Rod Brown
- Dana Green
- Daniel LaRose
- Launi Haygood
- Robert Mingo
- Martina Rowley
- Linda Otway
- Patrick Wayne
- Harvey Delger
- Gayle Collins



### September

- Keith Guschausky
- Bill Ellen
- Greg Besette
- Jerry Seidensticker
- Tony Hummel
- Greg Twigg
- Theresa Gordon-Ortega
- Tim Weber
- Judith Church
- Kim Deschamps
- Greg Guscio
- John Otway

### October

- Mark Wiggins
- Jon Ekstrand
- Greg Johnson
- Lorrie Hegel
- Willy Williams
- Josh Spaid
- Ryelee Debeaord
- Doreen Boyer
- Rose Moffatt
- Anela Thomas
- Jack Ballas
- Cindy Hinricher

### November

- Hank Jennings
- Bill Burt
- Cindy Marcum
- Fred Kelly
- Gus Brule
- Tracie Hoffman
- Mike Rossmiller
- Vee Vee Wade
- John Petrou
- Frank Hegel
- Robbie Hoffman
- Jason Spaid
- Shawnae Stanton
- Callie Cavill
- Traci Dalton
- Jan Deschamps
- Mike Keffer
- Vida Long
- Dale Harding
- Zonda Berry

### December

- Jay Raser
- Peter Nimlos
- Mickey Winchel
- Scott Ammons
- Dusty Thomas
- Jon Webster
- Larry Gail Allen

## Missoula Schools Word Search



Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

- LOYOLA
- MEADOW HILL
- FRANKLIN
- PAXSON
- SENTINEL
- WASHINGTON
- HELLGATE

- LEWISANDCLARK
- LOLO
- LOWELL
- DESMET
- C.S. PORTER
- WOODMAN
- COLD SPRINGS

- SENTINEL
- RATTLESNAKE
- BIG SKY
- WILLARD

# Employee Profile: Nate Krause

We recently had the pleasure of talking with Nate Krause, another integral team member at Beach Transportation. Many know Nate as a mechanic, but there is definitely more under the hood.

In previous years, Nate worked for Montana Rail Link (MRL) as a railroad worker. This seemed like the obvious choice at the time with Nate being a 5<sup>th</sup> generation railroad worker with the company. It was at this time, Nate completed his four-year apprenticeship program receiving his journeyman in electrical. After sometime with MRL, he took a step back to think about what he really wanted to do and felt called to pursuing a career in a more team-oriented environment. In his younger days, he wanted to be a motorcycle mechanic which led Nate to getting a degree in diesel technology. With this in mind Nate talked to his neighbor, Steve Smith, who worked as a driver and recommended the family atmosphere that is *Beach Transportation*.



Nate hunting up near Granite Mt.

Speaking of family, Nate's originally hails from Minnesota, but moved to Missoula in 1997 when he was 4-years-old. He grew up in Missoula doing all things Montana had to offer: hiking, hunting, fishing and tinkering with motorcycles. His best memories are hunting at Fish Creek with his father. His father was a very busy, hard-working man and Nate loved that one-on-one time at Fish Creek the most. Fishing is a staple activity for the Krause Clan and became a yearly tradition. "Every year in July, we would all go to Chamberlain, SD and we would fish the Missouri River for some walleye." He hopes to continue the tradition in the future despite the bustle of life.

"My dad was a financial guru and he taught us to be good, kind, outgoing, and generous individuals. My mom is very thoughtful and kind. I am really thankful that I had parents that raise me, my brother and sister the way we are". Nate expressed how they were, and still are, a teamwork couple in many ways. "My mom and dad both did the cooking. He would do anything with steaks and meats, while she made some of the best casseroles. My favorite meal growing up was her breaded pork chops with potatoes and homemade gravy". His mom continues the pork chop tradition on special occasions and for his birthday.



Nicole and Nate styling together

Nate mirrors this teamwork style of marriage with his wife, Nicole. "Nicole is a fantastic cook and baker. I also love to cook. I find it relaxing and enjoyable." When they are not in the kitchen whipping up something tasty, they do a lot of outreach with their church including: youth group, 541 Hope, DSOS and community cleanup projects with River of Life.

When Nate isn't at the shop, he is still busy at home doing all the things he loves. "I am always working on a project or tinkering on something!" The projects range from wood working to metal working and other fabrication. Now that Nate's dad is retired, they frequently build unique items together such as river tables. Speaking of the Krause family lifestyle, it comes as no surprise then that Nate prefers a more traditional way of life, similar to the TV show "Alone". He heads into the woods with minimal equipment and uses the tools and food nature provides to reconnect to the outdoors. Similarly, Nate frequently heads out with Nicole to go camping at the lake with their dog Ruben and cat, Papaya.



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Beach Transportation

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