

BUSES CAN'T BE OVERLOADED

Parents Need To Arrange New After-School Transportation

BY SUSAN USHER

Tightened state rules mean that yellow buses won't leave Brunswick County school grounds this year if they have even one too many students on board.

Tom Simmons, assistant principal at Union Primary School, said the change will have the biggest impact at primary schools such as Union. He said getting children to their proper after-school destinations will take more cooperation from parents this year.



SIMMONS

In past years parents frequently arranged for their child to ride a different bus in the afternoon to a relative's house or to a day care center to stay until they got off work.

And, since more parents bring students to school in the morning than pick them up, buses usually have fuller loads in the afternoons.

Buses sometimes left Union, and perhaps other primary schools, with eight to 10 extra students on board. Most of the "extras" might get off at one of the first stops, a local day-care center, leaving the bus at or below capacity for the balance of the run.

That won't be allowed this year, said Simmons. Instead, parents need to make other arrangements when students need to go some place other than home after school, such as a day care center, Scout meeting, or a relative's house, that would require riding a bus other than the bus to which they are assigned.

If students board a bus in the afternoon that isn't their assigned bus, it could result in overcrowding and force the driver to leave some students at school until she can return to make a second, late run.

"As much as possible we need to have each child ride one bus," said

Simmons. "If we have a 50-passenger bus, we can't leave the parking lot with 51 children on it."

"If Bus 89 is at capacity and one more child gets on to go to Grandma's, that leaves the bus overloaded. So what do we do?"

However, Simmons said the school staff realizes that emergencies "do pop up" and will try to work with those.

Union Primary is expecting nearly 1,000 students next week, up from a year ago. That, said Simmons, could make the bus situation even tighter, depending on where those new students live.

In an attempt to ease the overcrowding potential, Union Primary has swapped two of its smaller buses for larger buses that weren't running with full loads from West Brunswick High School.

The bus exchange with West Brunswick High School has resulted in a change of buses assigned to two routes. Bus Nos. 7 and 8 have been replaced by Nos. 179 and 182, respectively.

Otherwise, bus routes are essentially unchanged from last year, though a few may be shortened, said Simmons. Only buses serving Shallotte or following N.C. 130 (Holden Beach Road) will travel through Shallotte this year, with others taking the bypass.

"The times for pick-up and drop-off should be about the same," he said.

The buses, drivers and general are as follows:

■Bus No. 181, Lisa Stanley, U.S. 17 South, including Grissetown and Thomasboro; Carolina Shores North, Calabash; Hickman's Crossroads and areas near the South Carolina state line and Pinecrest community;

■Bus No. 145, Jackie Hardy, from Grissetown on U.S. 17 South to N.C. 904, to N.C. 179, and roads adjacent to N.C. 179, including Hale Swamp Road, Stanley Road, Brickland Road, S.R. 1262 (Ce-

Program Set For 4th Grade Parents

Shallotte Middle School will hold an orientation program next week for parents of children who will enter the fourth grade this year.

Counselor Mary Yates said the program is scheduled Tuesday, Aug. 20, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the school.

The purpose is to acquaint parents with the rules at Shallotte Middle School and tell them about the differences between primary school and middle school.

Mrs. Yates said parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers and ask questions.

dar Lane), S.R. 1147 (Todd Road S.W.), S.R. 1207 (Maple Hill Road) and Ocean Isle Beach proper;

■Bus No. 182, Sharon Stallings, from Grissetown on U.S. 17 South to N.C. 904 to Calabash; Clariday Woods, Calabash; Carolina Shores Resort (South); Hidden Valley, Bay Point, Bonaparte Retreat I and II and Sea Village subdivisions, Old Georgetown Road and Jenrette Road;

■Bus No. 23, Charlene Hewett, from the Stanbury Road-Varnamtown area to N.C. 130 to U.S. 17 to N.C. 179, including Coastal Retreat, Siesta Sands, area near East Coast

Housing, Wood Duck Retreat; and in Shallotte area, Brierwood Estates. Afternoon stops include Resort Plaza and Tiny Friends and Kids Klub Day Care.

■Bus No. 42, Adalene Fullwood, from U.S. 17 north to Bolivia School district; garage area to N.C. 211 West, and Royal Oak community, major paved roads and some dirt roads;

■Bus No. 51, Ellen Bulak, includes Shallotte Point Road and adjacent side roads such as Todd Road, Holden Road, Shady Rest, Gurganus Road (S.R. 1152), Shallotte Point Loop Road (S.R. 1149), Causeway Road and streets to the left and right of Ocean Isle Beach Causeway;

■Bus No. 89, Theresa Hewett, includes Boone's Neck area, S.R. 1137, S.R. 1309, Seashore Road, S.R. 1238, Sea Aire Estates, Hurricane Haven, Shoreline Estates, Greenwood Acres, Buccaneer Hills, East Tanglewood, North Tanglewood, Windy Point and Fisherman's Village subdivisions, Bill's Quick Stop and Summer Place;

■Bus No. 114, Teresa Clemmons, includes the Varnamtown area, traveling these roads: Gal-Var Road (S.R. 1195); Varnamtown Road (S.R. 1122); Riverside; Sabbath Home Road (S.R. 1120); Stanley Road (S.R. 1119); Lockwood Folly; Stone Chimney Road (S.R. 1115); and Sea Castles and Maple Creek subdivisions;

■Bus No. 123, Doretha Johnson, in-

cludes Civictown Road, the area north of Civictown Crossroads; Empire Road; Mt. Pisgah Church Road; Morgan Road; Stanley Road; Cedar Grove Road; Grisset Road; Turkey Trap Road; Cumbee Road; and off U.S. 17, Royal Oak Road and Sherrow Estates subdivision;

■Bus No. 138, Valerie Fullwood, includes Shell Point Road; Riverview subdivision; Quail Road; Pelican Road; Gray Bridge Road; N.C. 130 West; High Hill Road; Red Bug Road; and in Shallotte, Wall Street;

■Bus No. 144, Jeanette Sabiston, includes U.S. 17 North to approximately Shallotte city limits; traveling most streets in or near town of Shallotte west of U.S. 17, including, Dari Maid Road (Forest Drive), Smith Avenue, Randall Street, Shallotte Avenue, Mulberry Street, Tiny Friends (morning stop only); Kid's Klub (morning only), For Kids Only; Bridgers Street; N.C. 130 West to Shallotte Fire Tower; Airport Road; McMilly Road (S.R. 1320); Mintz Road (S.R. 1360); and Old Shallotte Road (S.R. 1316);

■Bus No. 179, Anna Horne, U.S. 17 North to Royal Oak Service Station, N.C. 211 East to Supply

Volunteer Fire Department; Stone Chimney Road; Quilt Road; Mt. Pisgah Road; Turnpike Road; Ocean Trails I and II; Stanley Road and Taft Road;

■Bus No. 152, Holden Beach prop-

er; N.C. 130 West; Sabbath Home Road; Fulford Road (S.R. 1239); Caisson Road (S.R. 1240); Oak Road; First Street (S.R. 1275); Pine Street (S.R. 1276); Oak Ridge Mobile Home Park; Ocean Pines; Smith's Grocery, Civictown; Shallotte Middle School; and Kid's Connection Day Care.

■Bus No. 174, Cynthia Hill, travels U.S. North to Four Mile Road (S.R. 1153) to N.C. 179; includes Lakewood Estates, Ocean Aire Estates, Ocean Isle Golf Course, Gause Landing, Ocean Haven, Inland Drive, Ocean View Landing, Water Wonderland, Magnolia Drive, Dogwood East and West, Great Oak Circle and Sunset Beach proper;

■Bus No. 185, Pam Galloway, travels U.S. 17 South, includes area to right of Grissetown and Thomasboro; N.C. 904, Russtown Road (S.R. 1315); Pea Landing Road (S.R. 1304); No. 5 School Road (S.R. 1305); Old Shallotte Road (S.R. 1316); and Mintz Cemetery Road (S.R. 1318).

In general, buses serving grades K-3 stop at the home of each child, Simmons said. "We're not going to have these kids walking along U.S. 17 to meet a bus. It's different with the middle and high school kids."

However, while parents might prefer the bus to stop in their driveway, Simmons said state law requires the buses to stop 15 feet in advance of driveways, to allow the driver a better view of the children walking to and from the bus.

County Gets Approval For Flouride Program

Word flowed down from Raleigh Monday that brought a smile to members of the Brunswick County Board of Health.

Plans to flouridate the county's water supply were approved by the N.C. Department of Human Services. The county could have flouridated water as early as October, said County Engineer Robert Tucker.

Tucker had planned to give the health board an update on the county's application, but the letter he received from the state Monday changed what he had planned to say.

"We'll be going with our public information campaign in October," said Tucker.

The health board has lobbied for a flouride program for two years, asking two boards of commissioners to adopt the program.

The state approved the county's plan to install an estimated \$8,000 to \$10,000 in equipment at the N.C. 211 water plant near Southport. Equipment is already in place at the Northwest Treatment Plant in Malmo.

Public Utilities Director Jerry Webb said the next step is to receive bids for installing the equipment and to file for a state grant to cover the cost.

"We'll contact every customer on the system and doctor offices to make them aware of the flouridation program," said Webb. "That's in case there are any health concerns."

Flouride is thought to work by strengthening the mineral composition of the tooth enamel, making it more resistant to acid attacks, especially for younger children.

David McDaniel, a dentist who screens children in school, said 36 percent of Brunswick County's students had cavities or severe dental problems when screened in 1989, compared to 13 percent in New

Hanover County.

By Oct. 1, the county may be ready to begin adding flouride to the water supply, Tucker said.

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