

# Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

Among the many observances this month is National School Bus Safety Week, scheduled for Oct. 22-26.

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, school buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road. The NHTSA also cites the design of school buses as a factor in making them safe:

"School buses are designed so that they're highly visible and include safety features such as flashing red lights, cross-view mirrors and stop-sign arms" ([www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety#topic-bus-stop-safety](http://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety#topic-bus-stop-safety)).

And while school bus drivers are honored with their own day in May, it's hard to recognize School Bus Safety Week without recognizing the men and women who drive the buses.

Kelly Duarte, an ESC employee, works at Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center, splitting her day between driving the preschoolers to and from the school and working for the Maintenance Department.

Kelly drove for Southeastern High School for two years and was hired at Pickaway-Ross in 2002.

Sixteen years later, some of those pre-schoolers she drove are now high school juniors and seniors.

They recognize her at the career center and still call her Miss Kelly. This, Kelly says, is a bit of a mixed blessing.

"I must have made an impact on them for them to remember me but at the same time I feel a little old."

Kelly says she loves being a bus driver in general and especially likes working at Pickaway-Ross.

"I feel appreciated here," she said.

As much as she loves her job, she says that she thinks the profession of school bus driver can be



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Kelly Duarte has been driving Pickaway-Ross' preschool bus since 2002. She says she loves her job and gets to "laugh every day."

overlooked.

"We deal with kids and people not using their turn signals and angry drivers and flat tires," but, she says, "I laugh every day."

Pickaway County ESC is lucky to have a driver like Kelly.

The ESC helps prepare people to be bus drivers as a provider of preservice school bus driver training.

We are one of eight sites responsible for training Ohio school bus drivers.

More information about becoming a bus driver can be found at [www.pickawayesc.org/School-BusDriverSafety.aspx](http://www.pickawayesc.org/School-BusDriverSafety.aspx), including the preservice training class schedule.

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