

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Caption 1: One of the new Petermann Northwest buses that will carry Battle Ground students.

Caption 2: Kim Jensen, a driver, dispatcher and router for Petermann Northwest, behind the wheel of one of the 41 new buses.

New buses ready to carry BG students

As Petermann Northwest begins its fourth year carrying Battle Ground Public Schools students, the company has 41 new buses ready to roll. Each has an interior camera and a GPS (global positioning system) device.

“It’s nice to know where a given bus is at all times, in case of a breakdown on a rural road,” said Mike Gately, Petermann’s manager for Battle Ground and Hockinson school bus service. “We’ve also installed them in our older buses. The shop was jammed all summer getting the work done.”

Besides the new buses, Gately and his staff and school district officials are plenty proud of the results of the annual summer inspection by the Washington State Patrol. “They were here about two weeks and spent 20 or 30 minutes a bus,” Gately explained. “We didn’t have any out-of-service issues such as problems with brakes, steering or tires.”

The 38 full-size buses and three mini-buses are the snub-nose style, with the engine in front, as opposed to the flat-nosed, rear-engine “transit” style buses. They were manufactured by Thomas Built Buses of High Point, N.C., a subsidiary of Daimler Trucks North America, LLC. The vehicles were driven across the country to Battle Ground this summer by a private service.

Gately said Petermann put 39 of its old buses up for sale via online auction and found a single buyer for all of them. They are going by ship out of the Port of Tacoma to a town in Panama where they'll be part of the city bus fleet.

The middle man in the deal, who lives in Orlando, Fla., came to Battle Ground to check out the buses before cementing the deal. "He told us there'll be a three-day celebration when the buses arrive in Panama," Gately said.

A few facts offered by Gately about bus service to Battle Ground Public Schools:

- Buses travel about 10,170 miles total every school day carrying students to and from their homes, not counting field trips and extracurricular activities.
- On a typical day 113 buses are used by Petermann ferrying Battle Ground district students.
- The first Battle Ground students picked up on any route this year will be at 6:45 a.m. on Yale Bridge Road, bound for Battle Ground High School, where classes will begin at 8 a.m.
- The last stop of the day will be about 4:45 p.m. on Dole Valley Road with students from Amboy Middle and Yacolt Primary schools.
- Petermann employs 145 drivers and 20 others (mechanics, dispatchers, office workers) to serve Battle Ground schools.



More information: Mike Gately or Dick Gregory, Petermann's Battle Ground yards, 687-7137

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