

Linda Sheldrake - School Bus Operator for 27 years

- Golden Apple Award Recipient (Michigan) - October 1, 1998.
- Selected as the 2017 Bus Driver of the Year by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

Been employed with the district since 2012. Worked a few years with the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind (FSDB).

Ms. Sheldrake has near perfect attendance, even comes in when feeling sick. She keeps a very clean and neat bus. Very safety conscious. A very responsible, caring and giving individual. She is a model employee with a positive attitude every day. Parents and students alike both adore her.

Using her First Observer skills and training, she noticed there was an older male sitting in a vehicle at one of the bus stops on her route every day. He was focused on only one of the girls in a group of teens walking home. This particular student ends up walking by herself part of the way home. Ms. Sheldrake had a strange feeling, and did not like the way the older male was honed in on just this one girl, and especially the way he was looking at her. Ms. Sheldrake contacted the mother to give her a heads up about her concerns. Then with permission and a minor route adjustment, she started dropping the girl off closer to her home away from the gentleman in the van. He continued to sit near the bus stop daily.

After her route the very next day, she reported it to the Safety Specialist, who in turn contacted local Law Enforcement for assistance and further observation at the bus stop. For the next few days, law enforcement observed the older male at the bus stop with no students approaching his vehicle. This appeared odd, they ran his tags and questioned him. Suspect male has not been at that bus stop since then.

