

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Your friendly neighborhood bus driver

After leaving North Carolina and her job as a realtor when her husband retired from the Navy, Jean Spitzer certainly didn't see herself driving a bus in her future life.

But when she was searching for employment that would allow her some time off in the afternoons, driving a bus was one of her few options.

"I absolutely love to play tennis," Spitzer said. "When I was looking for a job after we got to Texas, it turned out bus driving had perfect hours because you work in the mornings and late afternoon. You have a nice break in between, which is perfect for me to play tennis."

The transition from selling houses to driving buses wasn't an easy one, however.

"I was very nervous," Spitzer said. "I was intimidated of driving a big bus. But when you come out of training, it's actually easier than driving a car because of all the mirrors you have."

Spitzer went to work for Comal ISD, and after a year on the job, the route in her own neighborhood – Green Crossing Subdivision in New Braunfels – became available.

"I jumped at the chance to drive a bus in my own neighborhood," Spitzer said. "I was thrilled when I got the route because I was able to drive my two boys to school."



In addition to the fact Spitzer was getting paid to transport her own kids to school, plus a few dozen others, she truly began to believe she found her calling.

“It’s a terrific job if you like kids,” Spitzer said. “It’s so wonderful to drive my neighbors kids. Unlike a teacher who teaches a student one year, I get to watch them grow up year after year. I’ve made so many new friends around the neighborhood because of this job.”

Spitzer said some of the exciting aspects of her job include having her riders come by trick-or-treating on Halloween, and seeing them at the high school football games on Friday night.

“The first thing they say to me is how short I am,” Spitzer said. “They always see me sitting up so high on the bus. That’s one thing I love about children, you never know what they’re going to say.”

Spitzer has driven three of Melissa Prado’s children through the years.

“Miss Jean is just awesome,” Prado said. “It makes things so much easier knowing she’s driving our kids. I have a little guy that just entered kindergarten this year, and he’s a little rough around the edges, so I was a little bit worried. Miss Jean’s been great with him and he loves her and listens to her.”

Comal ISD director of transportation Gus Rodriguez rewarded Spitzer for her outstanding effort by driving her route on the final day of school last spring.

“Jean has a great rapport with her students, and you can tell she truly likes each and every one of them,” Rodriguez said. “That’s so important in this field, because the way you treat a child can have a positive or negative impact on their day.”

Spitzer said she doesn’t plan on quitting her job as a driver anytime soon.

“This is a great place to work,” Spitzer said. “We have a great staff here, and I’ve made many lifelong friends. I’ve recommended this job to several people, and I tell them they don’t have to be afraid of driving a big bus. I plan on driving for many more years if I can.”