**Bus and van drivers of USD 411 take their job seriously and many patrons may not realize how much training and preparation goes into their work.  After all, there is no more important cargo to carry than your children.   For this reason 13 members of the transportation department completed an annual refresher course on first aid and CPR training lead by Curtis Guhr, a licensed instructor in these areas, Tuesday evening, Aug. 19.   While they hope never to have to utilize these skills, they are prepared should the occasion ever arise.   Thursday morning Aug. 21 they will also complete a defensive driving course before beginning regular bus routes.   Earlier this month each vehicle and bus had to pass a comprehensive mechanical and safety inspection by the Kansas State Highway Patrol.  In addition, each month this coming school year our transportation coordinator, Diana Schmidt leads all the drivers through a driving safety course with topics ranging from winter driving, loading and unloading safety procedures, to recognizing mechanical warnings and more.  Each of our bus drivers has endured a grueling state examine and driving test to receive their CDL and they must invest time and effort to maintain it.  But more than anything, our drivers take great pride in knowing that for most school children, they are the first school employee that child sees each day.   They know the importance of a welcoming smile, cheerful hello and knowing all their riders by name.  These drivers also enjoy transporting these students to activities, events, competitions and field trips.  Next time you pass by one of our vehicles or buses, know that our drivers take great pride and interest in transporting your child and know that they have taken their training seriously.**