

As The Wheel Turns

Mr. Johnson's October 2024 Newsletter



Team –

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your incredible generosity in gathering supplies for our friends in Western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene. Your dedication to helping those in need reflects the compassion and resilience that define our team. We'll soon be delivering these supplies to the Avery County Schools transportation department, and we'll share more details in the coming days.

As we move forward, **I want to remind everyone that NCDPI inspections begin on October 28.** Let's continue to stay focused and proactive on pre-trip books and inspections to ensure our buses meet every standard. For example, if seat damage is present, you might say *"hole on seat 4"* or *"can feel metal (seat bones) on seat 7, passenger side."* If you have any questions, please speak with your manager.

Additionally, please remember the essentials of safety: always double-check for any students and lost items after each run and wear your seatbelt every time you're on the road. **These steps are vital to keeping ourselves and our students safe every day.**

Thank you for all you do – see you on the road!

Mr. Adam Johnson

Executive Director of Transportation
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

DPI INSPECTIONS BEGIN OCTOBER 28

As we gear up for our annual DPI inspection starting Monday, October 28, we want to make sure we're all prepared and ready to ace the inspection.

Here are a few key pointers to help you get ready:

- Remove any items that didn't come with the bus.
- Ensure your pre/post trip book is diligently filled out daily, noting any defects.
- Remove aerosol cans, hand sanitizer, scissors, or any items that should be kept out of reach of children.
- Keep the driver area clear of debris, including old routes, clothing, and food items.
- Ensure that nothing covers the lettering of the bus, including name tags and rules.

For our drivers, pay special attention to the following details:

- Confirm that the visor/driver fan is secure and not loose.
- Check the fire extinguisher for the pin and date, ensuring it's in the green zone.
- Verify that the first aid/spill kit is secure and fully stocked with no missing items.
- Ensure the defrost is functioning properly.
- Test the horn, headlights (both low and high beam), and seat belt cutter.
- Confirm that all amber lights are working, and the stop sign/arm deploy smoothly.
- Check that emergency window/roof hatch buzzers are operational, with decals in place and not faded.
- Ensure the low air warning buzzer is functioning.
- Confirm the secure attachment of seat bottoms and report any issues with seat bones/holes.

This checklist is just a snapshot of what we need to focus on together as a team. By working collaboratively, we can ensure a successful inspection.

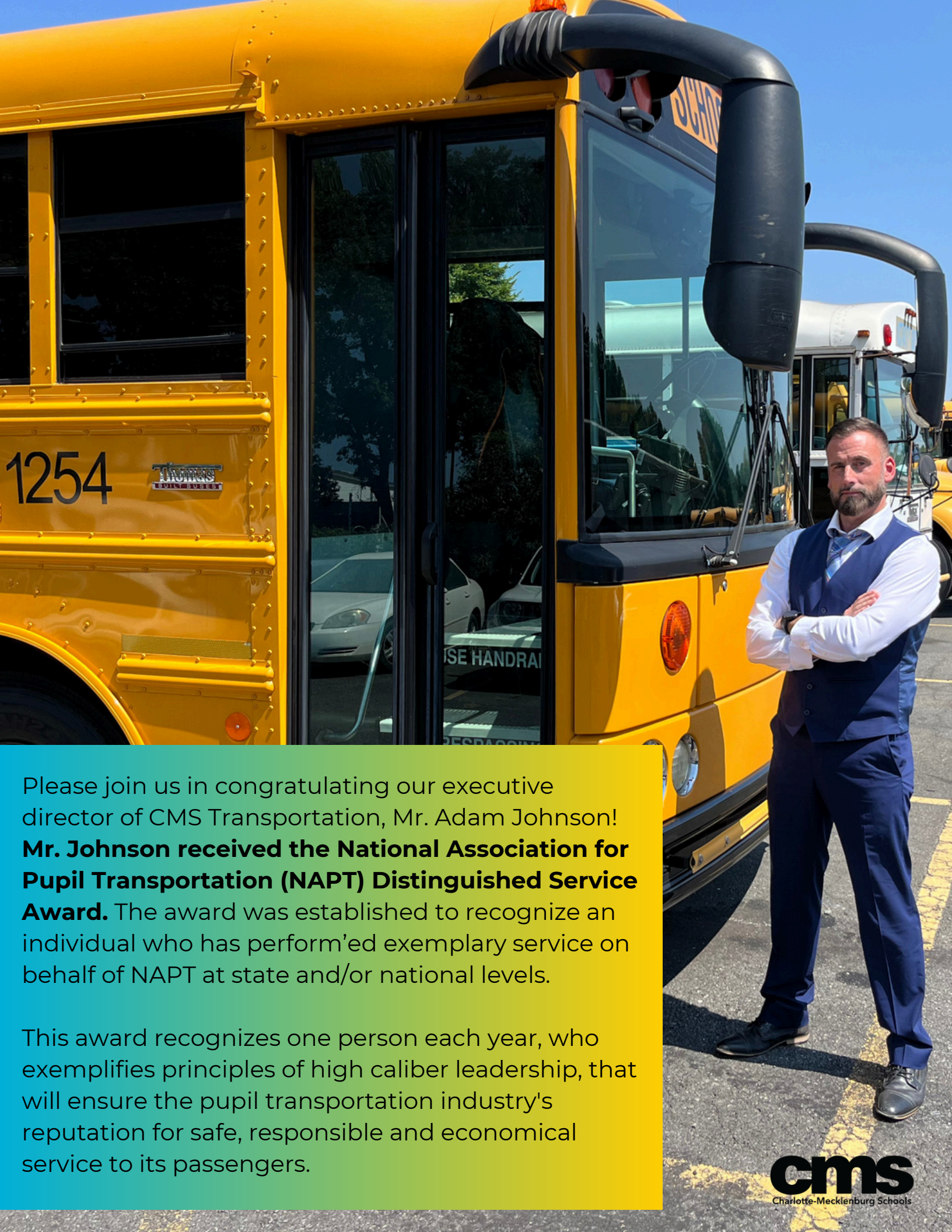


Hands + Heart: Helene Relief Effort

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Transportation

Our hearts break as we witness the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene across Western North Carolina. But – as always – our team has stepped up! For the past two weeks, all fourteen of our transportation offices have been hard at work collecting essential supplies for those affected. A huge thank you to everyone in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools community for your incredible generosity. Stay tuned for more – soon, we'll be delivering much-needed canned food, water, clothing, and more to our neighbors in Western NC! **[See the video here.](#)**





Please join us in congratulating our executive director of CMS Transportation, Mr. Adam Johnson! **Mr. Johnson received the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) Distinguished Service Award.** The award was established to recognize an individual who has perform'ed exemplary service on behalf of NAPT at state and/or national levels.

This award recognizes one person each year, who exemplifies principles of high caliber leadership, that will ensure the pupil transportation industry's reputation for safe, responsible and economical service to its passengers.

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH





SOCIAL + EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

CMS Transportation has partnered with Atrium Health to provide social and emotional well-being support to all our employees. This service, whether virtual or in-person, will be available at no cost for all transportation area offices and central office support staff.

We understand the importance of mental health, and this partnership is a significant step toward ensuring the well-being of our CMS Transportation family. [Learn more about the offerings here.](#)

What concerns can the behavioral health services address?

You are encouraged to contact the behavioral health provider for whatever may be causing you any level of emotional distress. Feel free to reach out to discuss any of the following:

- Relationship and parenting issues
- Overcoming feelings of being stuck
- Developing coping strategies
- Goal setting and making action plans
- Anger, grief and stress
- Anxiety and depressed mood
- Substance use and additions
- Managing life's changes



Shenequa Thomas, a Winston-Salem State University graduate with a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling, is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor and Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. With over a decade of experience in mental health, wellness, and community leadership & advocacy, she is dedicated to making a positive impact. Shenequa has experience in providing individual, couples, and group therapy to diverse populations.

Available Services Include:

- Individual appointments (free for CMS Transportation employees)
- Behavioral and mental health screenings
- Referrals to other behavioral health professionals

On-Site Schedule:

- Mondays: 3901 Craig Avenue
- Tuesdays: 3101 Wilkinson Boulevard
- Wednesdays: 11751 Downs Road
- Thursdays: 4400 Northpointe Boulevard
- Fridays: 6520 Orr Road

**SPEAK WITH YOUR MANAGER ABOUT
BOOKING AN APPOINTMENT.**

2024-2025 WILDLY IMPORTANT GOALS

1

We will maintain or exceed our morning on-time arrival rate from 91% to 93% and afternoon on-time arrival rate from 87% to 89% by June 2025.

2

We will maintain or continue to reduce our annual DPI inspection score from 48 points to 42 points by June 2025.

3

We will maintain or exceed our hiring and retention rates more than the previous fiscal year. (9% technician staff, 5% bus driving staff).

2024-2025 WIDLY IMPORTANT GOALS MONTHLY AVERAGES

1

Average September Morning OTA: **90.35%**
Average September Afternoon OTA: **86.83%**

2

Average Yearly DPI Score: **47.56**

3

Drivers Hired (September): **21**
Technicians Hired (September): **1**

NOVEMBER CALENDAR UPDATES

Monday, November 4: Teacher Workday (Transportation Professional Development)

Tuesday, November 5: Teacher Workday (Election Day)

Monday, November 11: Veterans Day (CMS Holiday)

Thursday, November 28: Thanksgiving (CMS Holiday)

Friday, November 29: CMS Holiday

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS AND UPDATES!

Want to be featured in the CMS Transportation Newsletter?

Email Tom Miner for more details and information!

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