

As The Wheel Turns

cms
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools



A NOTE FROM MR. JOHNSON

As we approach the end of the year and gear up for the winter break, I wanted to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. The holiday season is upon us, and I hope this time allows you to embrace the joy and warmth that it brings.

Winter break, running from December 20 to January 2, provides a well-deserved opportunity for rest and reflection. It's a chance to step back from the daily hustle and bustle, spend quality time with loved ones, and recharge.

I want to express my gratitude to each member of our dedicated transportation team. Your hard work and commitment have played an important role in creating a strong and successful first semester for our students and their families. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I am incredibly fortunate to have such a talented and devoted group of professionals supporting our commitment to excellence without exception.

As we celebrate the holiday season, let us remember the impact we have on the lives of the students we serve. Your dedication ensures that they arrive safely to and from school, creating an environment conducive to learning and growth.

Take this well-deserved break to enjoy the festivities, cherish the moments with loved ones, and take pride in the positive difference you make in the lives of others. We look forward to continuing our journey together in the new year, tackling new challenges, and achieving even greater successes.

May this holiday season bring you joy, peace, and fulfillment. I wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

See you on the road,
Mr. Johnson



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

CMS Transportation has partnered with Atrium Health to provide mental health 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.

Starting in January, we will be welcoming a dedicated behavioral health provider to our team who will be instrumental in providing necessary support and resources. Additional details about the program and how to access these services will be shared with you early next year.

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 and get a sneak peek 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

2023-2024 WILDLY IMPORTANT GOALS

1

We will increase our AM on-time arrival (OTA) rate from 91% to 93% and our PM on-time arrival rate from 87% to 89% by June 2024.

2

We will decrease our annual DPI inspection score from 48 points to 42 points.

3

We will hire and retrain 9% more technician staff and 5% more full-time drivers than in the previous fiscal year.

2023-2024 WIDLY IMPORTANT GOALS NOVEMBER AVERAGES

1

Average November Morning OTA: 92.3%
Average November Afternoon OTA: 90.8%

2

Average November DPI Score: 51.43

3

Drivers Hired (November): 11
Technicians Hired (November): 3

FUN TIMES AT OUR AREA OFFICES

Howdy, Metro Transportation Team!

Our Metro bus drivers kicked up some dust and showed off their spirit during a recent Western Friday celebration! From cowboy hats to boots, the team rocked the look with style.



CAROLINA PANTHERS EDUCATOR APPRECIATION

Cheer on the Carolina Panthers during the team's annual Educator Appreciation December game against the Atlanta Falcons on December 17 at 1 pm! Purchase tickets [here](#).

Tickets come with a Panthers educator-themed T-shirt.

EDUCATOR

← APPRECIATION →

TICKET + SHIRT = \$70



EDUCATORS
← OUR EVERYDAY HEROES →

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK POSTER CONTEST

The centerpiece of National School Bus Safety Week is the Poster Contest. Thousands of school districts in over 40 states participate in local and state-level competitions to select artwork that depicts school bus safety-related themes and encourages and promotes school bus safety. The winning posters are used to promote safer school transportation for everyone.

The 2023-24 National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest theme: Driving Safely Into the Future! Complete poster submission guidelines AND national poster submission form can be [found here](#).

Key Dates:

- **October 2 – April 1, 2024:** Poster creation period
- **April 17, 2024:** Posters must be submitted to State Directors; your State Director can be found [here](#).
- **May 10, 2024:** Winning STATE contest posters must be received by NAPT from state administrators
- **Late spring/early summer of 2024:** National winners will be notified and prizes will be sent

Need more information?

Email [Tom Miner](#) and [Mellissa Miller-Johnson](#).

AREA REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Best On-Time Arrival (October)

- Morning: **West Charlotte**: 95.7%
- Afternoon: **West Charlotte**: 97.6%

Lowest Absenteeism (October)

- Morning: **Independence**: 4.5%
- Afternoon: **Chambers**: 4.2%

Recruitment (October)

- **East**: 3
- **Chambers**: 2
- **Harding, North, Olympic and West Charlotte**: 1

Best On-Time Arrival (November)

- Morning: **West Charlotte**: 98.4%
- Afternoon: **West Charlotte**: 97.1%

Lowest Absenteeism (November)

- Morning: **Metro**: 2.1%
- Afternoon: **Metro**: 3.3%

A special shoutout to Mr. Anthony Melton and the exceptional Providence team, along with Mr. Marquis Smith and the remarkable Independence team, for their outstanding commitment to safety, resulting in a flawless record with zero accidents throughout the entire month of November! Your dedication to excellence without exception is truly commendable.

CONGRATULATIONS!

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY FOCUS | DECEMBER

Team, as we enter December, let's turn our attention to a crucial safety check covering three key areas: **Defrost, Decals, and Dimmer Switch**.

Here's the breakdown:

1. **Defrost:** Ensure those defrost systems are in top-notch condition. To check, place a piece of paper over the vent and make sure the air is flowing through smoothly. I want everyone to navigate through winter fog and frost with clear visibility.
2. **Decals:** Give those decals a once-over. Let's keep things tidy, ensuring all essential information is easily visible. If you spot any tears, rips, or missing decals, please notify your area manager so we can promptly replace them.
3. **Dimmer Switch:** Take a moment to check the dimmer switch. Proper lighting is so important for your safety and that of our students. Confirm that the blue light illuminates on your dashboard and that your lights function properly.

A special shoutout to Marquise McClelland of Metro Transportation for sharing a helpful video on how to conduct this check. You can find it [here!](#)

Together, we can – and will – create a safer environment for everyone. Thank you for your commitment to this crucial task, and feel free to reach out to your area manager if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!
Mr. Johnson

Defrost



Decals



Dimmer



DECEMBER CALENDAR UPDATES

Wednesday, December 20: Teacher Workday

Thursday, December 21: Holiday

Friday, December 22: Holiday

Monday, December 25: Christmas (Holiday)

December 26 - 29: Annual Leave Days

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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