

As The Wheel Turns

cms
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools



A NOTE FROM MR. JOHNSON

Happy New Year, Team!

As we begin the exciting journey that 2024 holds for us, I would like to extend my best wishes to all of you for a year filled with joy, success, and personal fulfillment. Your efforts have not only made a positive impact on the daily lives of our students but have also contributed significantly to the overall success of our CMS community.

This month marks a crucial milestone for us as we gear up for the DPI Inspections starting on January 8. I have full confidence in the professionalism of our Team, and I believe that together, we will not only meet but exceed the expectations set before us. Your attention to detail, safety protocols, and teamwork are the driving forces behind our success, and I am confident that we will continue to uphold these standards during the inspections.

In this newsletter, you will find additional details regarding the DPI Inspections. Please take a moment to review the information.

Once again, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the incredible work you do day in and day out. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of our students. Your role is instrumental in creating a positive learning environment for everyone in our school community.

Wishing you a year filled with success, happiness, and continued achievements. Together, let's make 2024 a remarkable year for the CMS Transportation Team!

See you on the road,
Mr. Johnson

DPI INSPECTIONS BEGIN JANUARY 8

Welcome back to another year of ensuring the safety and well-being of the students we transport. As we gear up for our annual DPI inspection starting Monday, January 8, 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.



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.

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



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

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 DECEMBER AVERAGES

1

Average December Morning OTA: 93.7%
Average December Afternoon OTA: 91.6%

2

Average December DPI Score: 51.43

3

Drivers Hired (December): 3
Technicians Hired (December): 1

CMS TRANSPORTATION CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

Spreading holiday vibes! This year, **Myers Park Transportation** teamed up with our awesome schools to make a difference in our community. Drivers and staff worked together to collect clothes, toys, personal products, and household essentials for students and families. The best part? It brought our schools and drivers closer, creating heartwarming connections and putting smiles on students' faces. [See the video here.](#)



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](#).

JANUARY CALENDAR UPDATES

Monday, January 1: Holiday

Tuesday, January 2: Workday

Monday, January 15: Holiday

Wednesday, January 24: Last Day of Quarter

Thursday, January 25: Workday

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS AND UPDATES!

Want to be featured in the CMS Transportation Newsletter?

Email Tom Miner for more details and information!

ThomasA.Miner@cms.k12.nc.us