

As The Wheel Turns

cms
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools



A NOTE FROM MR. JOHNSON

Team -

It's the start of a new month, and we have more opportunities to serve the students and families of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools!

This month, we celebrate Love the Bus Month from February 12 to 16 district-wide. It's a time for us to recognize and appreciate your incredible dedication and hard work. I am especially grateful for our drivers, monitors, technicians, area managers, routing and support staff. Each of us is essential in ensuring that our CMS students arrive to and from school safely and on time.

I want to thank you for your hard work and commitment in helping us achieve our goals this school year. We have significantly improved our on-time arrival, DPI inspection scores, and recruitment. This would not have been possible without your great work! Let's continue to work hard and maintain this momentum.

As a reminder, please note that Wednesday, February 14, is an early release day, and Monday, February 19, is a holiday.

Thank you for all you do.

See you on the road!
Mr. Johnson

REMEMBERING MS. DE'SIREA SMALLS



It is with deep sadness that we inform you that a fellow CMS colleague at Olympic Transportation, Ms. De'sirea Smalls, has passed away. A memorial service will be held in her honor on Tuesday, February 6th, at 11:00 A.M. The service will take place in front of the Olympic Transportation office located at 11751 Downs Road, Pineville, N.C. 28134.

Ms. Smalls was an esteemed member of our team and made a remarkable impact on everyone she interacted with, including her students, colleagues, and school administration. We will fondly remember her and support each other during this difficult time.

To commemorate her contributions to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Transportation, a memorial with Ms. Smalls' bus has been set up in front of the transportation office. Bus 91 has been temporarily taken out of service in honor of her legacy.

Photo courtesy of Shamar Garriss



EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCEPTION

Our bus drivers play a vital role in our community every day, and we want to spotlight the exceptional efforts of Ms. Dixon and Ms. Houston from Bus 1717!

Recently, Ms. Dixon demonstrated remarkable composure when an elementary student experienced a seizure on her bus. Her quick response ensured the student's comfort and safety. Ms. Houston, the bus monitor, supported the student during the ride, and both remained on site until the student's mother and medic arrived.

Ms. Barksdale is the principal at Highland Renaissance Academy and commends their commitment to safety. "They were both kind, calm, efficient, and used their training to ensure ALL students remained calm and safe," said Ms. Barksdale. To show gratitude, Ms. Barksdale gave them a gift card and flowers. Let's take a moment to appreciate and celebrate Ms. Dixon and Ms. Houston's commitment to safely transporting CMS students to and from school!





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 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 JANUARY AVERAGES

1

Average January Morning OTA: 93.8%
Average January Afternoon OTA: 92.9%

2

Average January DPI Score: Suspended

3

Drivers Hired (January): 5
Technicians Hired (January): 0

FEBRUARY CALENDAR UPDATES

Wednesday, February 14: Early Release Day

Monday, February 19: Holiday (Presidents' Day)

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