

As The Wheel Turns



A NOTE FROM MR. JOHNSON

As we enter the month of November, a season of reflection and giving thanks, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for each and every one of you. Our incredible team of bus drivers and transportation staff plays an indispensable role in the smooth operation of our organization, and I couldn't be more thankful for your dedication and hard work.

This year has presented its fair share of challenges, yet through it all, you have continued to show unwavering commitment, resilience, and a true sense of unity. Your efforts have not only ensured the safe and efficient transportation of our students but have also set a remarkable example for teamwork and professionalism.

It's easy to overlook the daily contributions you make, but I want you to know that they don't go unnoticed. Whether you're behind the wheel, maintaining our vehicles, coordinating routes, or providing support behind the scenes, your collective efforts make a world of difference.

As we move into the holiday season, I encourage each of you to take some time to reflect on the positive impact you've had on our community and the lives of the people we serve. Your dedication and hard work have made it possible for students, commuters, and families to reach their destinations safely and on time.

This November, let's carry the spirit of gratitude with us as we continue to work together as a team. We are stronger and more resilient because of each of you, and for that, I am truly thankful.

See you on the road,
Mr. Johnson

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCEPTION



In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, we often come across extraordinary individuals who go above and beyond their call of duty to make the world a better place. Today, we are proud to recognize and celebrate one of our very own, a true hero in the CMS Transportation family, Ms. **Chiquita Byers**.

Ms. Byers' quick thinking and unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of our students recently made headlines when she rescued a two-year-old boy in a heartwarming act of kindness and responsibility.

Early in October, Ms. Byers was operating school bus 1107. Little did she know that her day would take an extraordinary turn when she spotted a two-year-old boy all alone in the middle of the street. Without a moment's hesitation, she pulled over her bus, displaying her exemplary commitment to the safety of children.

Ms. Byers' instincts as a caring and responsible individual kicked in immediately. She got out of her bus and gently guided the toddler safely onto the bus. She promptly contacted the area office and dialed 911, ensuring that help was on the way. Her actions were not only heroic but also heartwarming, reflecting the true essence of a CMS Transportation Hero.

Ms. Chiquita Byers has set a remarkable example for all of us, reminding us that being a part of the CMS Transportation team means more than just driving a bus.

This heartwarming incident highlights the invaluable role that our school bus drivers play in the lives of our students and the broader community. We often take for granted the dedication and responsibility that goes into their work, but Ms. Byers' heroic act serves as a poignant reminder of the significance of their contributions.

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 OCTOBER AVERAGES

1

Average October Morning OTA: 91.8%
Average October Afternoon OTA: 89.55%

2

Average DPI Score: 51.62

3

Drivers Hired (October): 20.5
Technicians Hired (October): 3

OCTOBER WAS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



In the spirit of unity and support, CMS Transportation proudly stands with all those affected by breast cancer.

As we commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we want to take a moment to reflect on the strength, resilience, and courage of survivors, their families, and those currently battling this disease.



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

RECENT AWARDS

Best On-Time Arrival (September)

- Morning: Hopewell: 95.3%
- Afternoon: West Charlotte: 94.5%

Lowest Absenteeism (September)

- Morning: Rocky River: 2.2%
 - Afternoon: Rocky River: 1.4%
-

Recruitment

- July: Mallard Creek (6)
 - August: Myers Park (5)
 - September: Mallard Creek (4)
-

Routing

- **Will Baker**

We honor and recognize Mr. Baker's commitment to achieving excellence in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Transportation!

CONGRATULATIONS!

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY FOCUS | NOVEMBER

Team -

As we continue our unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety of our students and staff, **I want to emphasize the importance of school bus safety, with a special focus on overhead compartments for the month of November.**

This initiative requires a review of the safety features, including:

- Full and secure first aid kits and body fluid spill kits
- A current year inspection tag
- A secured driver fan and sun visor
- A visible safety pin.

Our leadership team will then create a schedule to identify and verify the completion of the necessary work to address these defects. Your prompt review and reporting of any defect is essential.

Your commitment to school bus safety in CMS is truly commendable, and your attentiveness in ensuring the safety of our students and staff is highly appreciated. **By working together, we can create a safer environment for all.**

Thank you for your dedication to this important task, and please do not hesitate to reach out to your area manager if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!
Mr. Johnson

NOVEMBER CALENDAR UPDATES

Monday, November 6: Teacher Workday

Tuesday, November 7: Teacher Workday/Election Day

Friday, November 10: Veterans Day (Holiday)

Thursday, November 23: Thanksgiving (Holiday)

Friday, November 24: 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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