

## **Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent**

*This week’s Oriole Corner has been written by guest columnist*

*Kathy Vance, CPS Transportation Supervisor*

In the State of Michigan there are approximately 16,000 school buses on the roads every day, that travel nearly 900,000 miles per day carrying around 700,000 students. To get students where they need to go it requires about 350,000 stops per day. Locally, here in Charlotte, we have a fleet of 22 buses that travel approximately 2,125 miles per day. These buses make 894 stops two times a day, and move 1,693 students around our district which does not include extra trips. Last year we drove 292,445 miles accident free!

Charlotte Public Schools Transportation Department strives to provide both a safe and positive experience to students getting to and from school as well as to athletic events and field trips. This is done through the effort of our 17 regular drivers and 5 part-time sub drivers that have a combined total of nearly 300 years of experience.

Currently our bus fleet consists of buses with 3 different types of fuel. We are running buses with diesel, propane, and our newest additions to the fleet run on gasoline. The oldest bus we have on the road as a regular route bus is a 2012 GM propane bus. Overall we have an awesome fleet and anticipate with our new mechanic and mechanic’s helper to improve our overall bus inspection score. We have equipped 6 of our buses with state of the art Angel Trax cameras, which are 3-camera systems. The rest of the fleet have Pro-Vision systems which are 2-camera systems.

At the beginning of every school year we reach out to the schools and schedule PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) training for students in regards to bus safety. This year we were able to reach out to grades 1<sup>st</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>, and also the Developmental Kindergarten and Kindergarten students at Galewood Early Elementary School, with the help of the teachers. We handed out coloring books on bus safety as a take away for the little kiddos. With the upper grades we handed out bookmarks that were age appropriate, along with stickers and pencils. The bus drivers in the Transportation Department feel that since we have been doing this it has made positive changes to student behavior on the bus.

Our team at the Charlotte Public Schools Transportation Department strive to provide the safest service and a positive experience to all of our students.

Ride with Pride!