

# Start of the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Tianay Amat, Interim Superintendent  
August 23, 2021



PREPARING STUDENTS  
**FOR LIFE**

# Welcome Back to the 2021-2022 School Year



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

# Welcome Back 2021 - Staff Event 8/17

## Everyday People Create Joy

- Emcee
  - Steve Sippel, principal, Fairview-Clifton
- Interactive, Virtual Event
- Performances by the Middle School Jazz Ensemble
- Aiken student, Akbar Ruberintwari, played and sang “Everyday People”



# Welcome Back 2021 – Partner and Community Event 8/18

## Everyday People Create Joy

- Emcee
  - Kathy Wade, CEO, Learning Through Art Inc.
- A salute to our community partners with speeches from:
  - Girl Scouts of Western Ohio
  - YMCA of Greater Cincinnati
  - Video from D.A.D. Initiative
- Interactive, Virtual Event
- Performances by the Middle School Jazz Ensemble
- Aiken student, Akbar Ruberintwari, played and sang “Everyday People”



# Welcome Back Students! 8/19

- All students returned to class!
- First day media coverage of the following schools, including principal interviews:
  - North Avondale Montessori
  - Pleasant Ridge Montessori
  - Rockdale Academy
  - Rothenberg Preparatory Academy
  - Withrow University High School



As Cincinnati Public Schools welcomed back nearly 36,000 students to their classrooms Thursday, district officials said they're making an extra effort to address potential learning loss that might have resulted with some students due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## CPS returns to classroom for new school year

by Clancy Burke & Jenna Cisneros, WKRC | Thursday, August 19th 2021



Students return to Withrow High School and other CPS schools Thursday (WKRC)



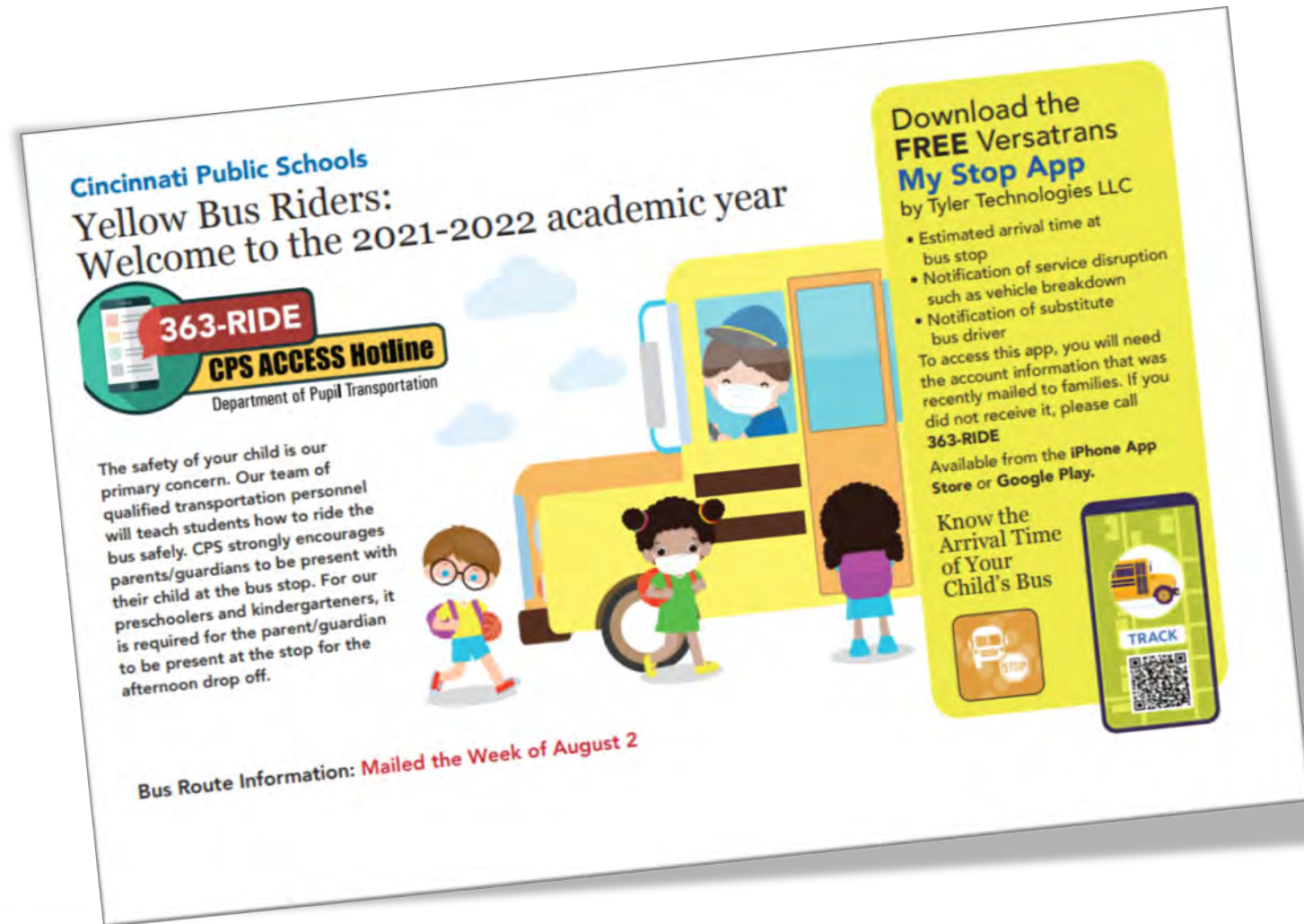
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# Transportation



# Yellow Bus Riders

- Service improving, fewer calls than last year
  - Due to proactive communications, using technology (Powerschool and MyStop)
- Improvement from Day 1 to Day 2 with on-time performance
- Daily huddles continue



# Metro Update

## Preparations for the First Day of School

- School-by-school reviews resulted in route and bus stop adjustments
- Additional adult supervision at bus stops to ensure safety
- CPS security trained for crosswalk support
- Chief Strategy Officer met with City to discuss transfer hubs
- Interim Superintendent met with Cincinnati Police Chief
- Communications:
  - District: Email, robocalls, social
  - Schools: Email, robocalls, information sessions/orientations
  - Widely publicized Metro support number
  - Shared how to access routes on Transit app and google



# Metro Update

## What We Learned and How We're Addressing

- Overall, arrivals and dismissals went better than expected the first few days of school. There were some learnings that we are addressing:

| What we learned                                         | How we're addressing                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Students learning routes                                | Guidance to stay on bus and driver will help                                                                     |
| Dismissal at Western Hills and Walnut (taking too long) | Adding more busses (ex: additional Route 37 for Walnut)                                                          |
| Traffic control at Walnut, Withrow, Shroder, Aiken      | Training additional CPS security and have requested 11 additional crossing guards and 2 new crosswalks from City |
| Students with long commutes                             | Sharing individual concerns directly with Metro to adjust routes                                                 |
| Students arriving too early (before doors open)         | Sharing individual concerns directly with Metro to adjust routes                                                 |
| Students with more than 1 transfer                      | Sharing individual concerns directly with Metro to adjust routes                                                 |



# Metro Update

## What We're Doing Going Forward

- **Metrics:**
  - Ridership (to be provided by Metro later this week)
  - Monitoring tardiness
  - Absenteeism (compare with pre-Covid)
- **Met with CFT** and addressed their specific concerns; will continue to discuss
- **Interim Superintendent Amat daily huddle with SORTA CEO Darryl Haley**
  - Haley here tonight to listen to families
- **Chief Strategy Officer Trimble-Oliver daily planning call with Metro**
  - Meeting with City of Cincinnati to request 11 additional crossing guards and new crosswalks at Aiken and Shroder
  - Training additional security staff to support crosswalks
- Continuing to **meet with Principals** to understand school improvements and ongoing challenges
- Asking parents to fill out **Metro Experience Form** to assist with any additional adjustments and to share with Metro (via email, on social and web, share with principals) <https://bit.ly/CPSMetro>



# FAQs

(see full list on [CPS website](#))

- **Why doesn't CPS provide yellow bus service for high schoolers?**
  - The State of Ohio doesn't require transportation for high schoolers. However, CPS believes for equity purposes it is important and pays for the cost of Metro passes. CPS explored yellow bus as a solution but they do not currently have the capacity to add HS.
- **Why did Metro make this change?**
  - Metro has stated that they made this change because of the bus driver shortage.
- **Isn't Metro required to provide XTRA routes?**
  - No. Metro determines which routes to offer.
- **Kids are having multiple transfers. Why?**
  - Metro committed to no more than 1 transfer per student. Please contact Metro directly to discuss specific routes.





# First Day of School Update



# 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School Principal Perspective

- Here to talk about their first day of school:
  - John Chambers, principal, Walnut Hills
  - Angel Roddy, principal, Mt. Airy School
  - Amber Simpson, principal, Pleasant Ridge Montessori
  - Dr. Carlos Blair, principal, Western Hills High School
  - Jerron Gray, principal, Withrow High School



# First Day – Walnut Hills

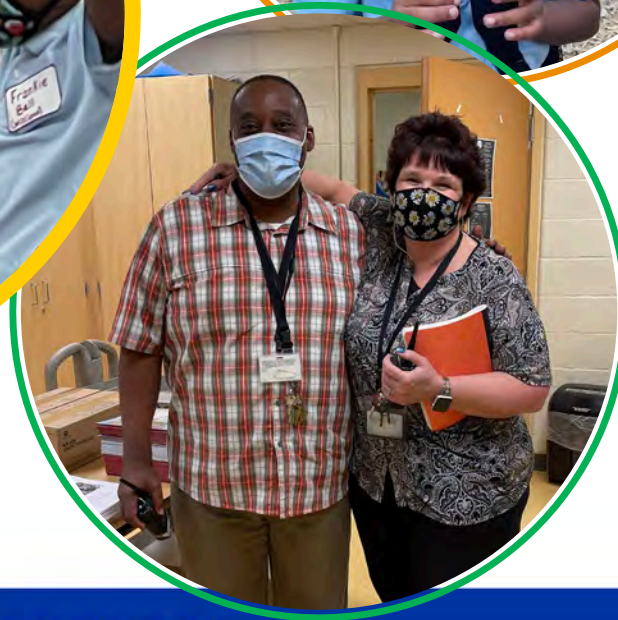
## John Chambers



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# First Day – Mt. Airy School

## Angel Roddy



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# First Day – Pleasant Ridge Montessori

## Amber Simpson



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# First Day – Western Hills High School

## Carlos Blair



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# First Day – Withrow High School

## Jerron Gray



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**Student-Centered  
Decision Making**



**Health and  
Safety**



**Community  
Engagement  
and Influence**



**Optimized  
Capabilities**



**Growth**



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