Subject: A Strong Start & Transportation Update from Dr. Briggs

Dear Blue Lion Families,

We are off to an excellent start to the 2025–2026 school year! The energy in our classrooms, the smiles in our hallways, and the collaborative spirit across Cherry Hill, Belle Aire, the Middle School, and High School exemplify what it means to Engage. Inspire. Grow. as a Blue Lion Family.

The first days of school always bring opportunities to fine-tune our bus routes, and we appreciate your patience as we work toward safe and efficient transportation for everyone.

Many of you have asked about driveway pickup. While we understand the convenience it provides, we are no longer able to pick up every WCHCS student at their driveway. With ongoing challenges securing bus drivers, a trend felt across the nation, we must prioritize route efficiency and timeliness. Currently, we operate seven bus routes, with each driver completing three runs every morning for pick-up and another three runs each afternoon at dismissal: one for Washington Middle and High School students, a second for Belle Aire Intermediate students, and a third for Cherry Hill Primary students. To maintain this level of service, we have established central bus stops that serve multiple families.

When setting bus stops, we take into account factors such as traffic speed, visibility, number of students served, and distance from homes. Parents and guardians are responsible for their child's safety getting to and from the designated bus stop and while waiting. Once students board the bus, the district assumes responsibility for their safety.

We have also received questions about whether students may wait inside their houses until they see the bus coming. Ohio law requires students to be at the bus stop before the bus arrives. Drivers count the students as they wait at the stop and again as they board, ensuring all are safely accounted for. If a student is not at the stop when the bus arrives, the driver cannot confirm their presence and must continue the route on schedule. Being at the stop ahead of time also prevents the dangerous situation of a child attempting to chase a departing bus. For this reason, buses do not stop at locations where no students are visibly waiting.

Finally, students are only permitted to ride their assigned bus route at the designated times, whether that is the middle and high school run, the Belle Aire run, or the Cherry Hill run. This helps us maintain safety, accountability, and timeliness for everyone.

It is an honor to serve as superintendent of Washington Court House City Schools. I am grateful for the dedication of our staff and the support of our families, whose partnership makes all the difference in our students' success. This school year holds great promise, and together, we will continue building opportunities that help every Blue Lion thrive.

It's a great day to be a Blue Lion!

Dr. Chris Briggs
Superintendent