



Mark D. Rosekrans Associate, Superintendent for Operations

Vern Blauwkamp. Transportation Supervisor

### **TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

Vern Blauwkamp currently heads the Transportation Department at Charlotte Public Schools. He has recently retired from the army and joined our district to become the Transportation Supervisor in August 2006. We have 30 employees in this department. They include one supervisor, one full-time secretary/dispatcher, one full-time mechanic, one part-time mechanic, and 26 bus drivers.

Our very competent bus drivers safely transport more than 1,900 children to and from school, traveling more than 2,260 miles on a daily basis. We employ drivers for 24 regular busses (five also are kindergarten bus drivers); one driver transports vocational education students in the morning and two drivers transport them in the afternoon. In addition to their regular routes, many of the drivers transport students for field trips and some commit to transporting student/athletes to events for an entire sports season.

They also occasionally provide bus transportation for our staff, other Charlotte schools and community groups.

The two-member mechanics group maintains a fleet of 35 busses for Charlotte Public Schools. Each year our busses are inspected by the Michigan State Police. The mechanics staff does an outstanding job of maintaining this fleet of busses.

The Transportation Supervisor and secretary/dispatcher are responsible for plotting bus routes and stops prior to the beginning of each school year. During a routine day, the secretary/dispatcher schedules field trips and requested changes in students' transportation needs. Effective communication with parents and drivers is a major requirement for this position. Sometimes when parents call the transportation office, they are seeking resolution of student-related issues. Initial contact can be stressful for both parties. It often takes a strong, cool person to work through these problems successfully. The secretary in this office also provides personnel and payroll support and is responsible for ordering department supplies. The transportation supervisor prepares the department budget annually.

Our transportation staff is a group of dedicated, caring individuals who provide an invaluable service to the families in our school district.