

Operations: Creating the Preconditions for Learning

Dr. Matthew Boucher, Executive Director of Operations
Natalie Ratha, Transportation Services Supervisor
Marcus Lewis, Building & Grounds Supervisor
Sarah Mott, Nutritional Services Supervisor
Matt Sherry, Safety Coordinator



Operations: Creating the Preconditions for Learning

In school systems it is important and necessary to focus on the design of learning, instruction, and student outcomes related to the magic that happens in the classroom.

Tonight we want to ***bring into focus*** the critical role our colleagues in Transportation, Buildings and Grounds, Nutritional Services, and Safety and Security play in creating the ***preconditions for learning*** to happen...

Transportation: A Precondition to Learning



**Transportation
Services**

Transportation: A Precondition to Learning



2025-26SY

- 18 public schools, 9 non-pub schools, and 1 charter
- 144 vehicles daily: 85 full size buses, 32 short buses, and 26 vans
- Base Hours: 6:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. dispatch and phone
- 6 transportation contractors

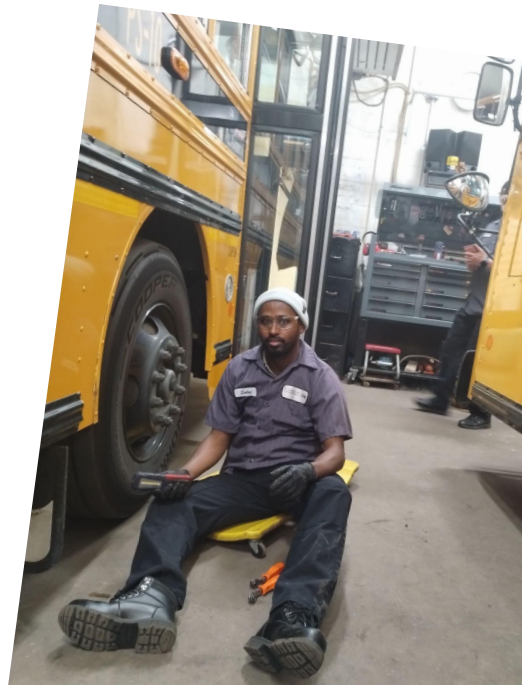


Transportation Services



SAFETY FIRST

- Background Checks
- Annual State Requirements: 8 hours safety training, random D&A checks, driving evaluation, evacuation drills, school bus safety curriculum in schools
- State Patrol vehicle inspections
- 3:30 a.m. winter weather road checks



**BE SAFE.
BE KIND.
BE YOUR BEST.**

St. Cloud Area
School District 

ON THE BUS WHILE WAITING & MOVING

BE SAFE

Stay in your seat
Keep windows at least halfway up
Keep aisle clear
Report concerns to driver (when bus is stopped)

BE YOUR BEST

Be ready to ride
Care for the bus & others' property
Follow driver's instructions
Store your belongings
Quite conversations

AT THE BUS STOP

BE SAFE

Remain a safe distance away until the bus stops
Wait your turn to load the bus
Wait for driver's signal before crossing the street
Wait at designated stop

BE KIND

Keep hands/feet to self
Use kind words
Greet others

BE YOUR BEST

Be on time
Be prepared
Respect Property
Wait Patiently

BE KIND

Use appropriate words & actions
Make room for others to walk & sit
Be a positive role model & school representative
Greet others & be welcoming
Respect personal space
Use kind words & treat others well



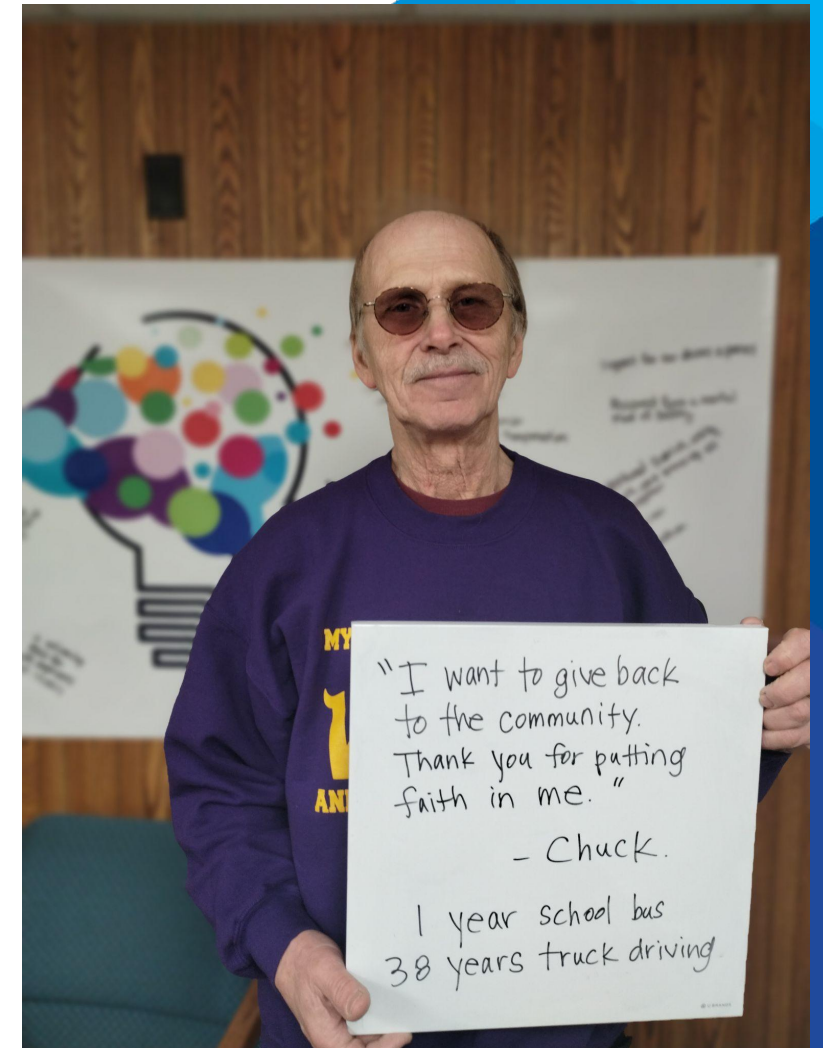
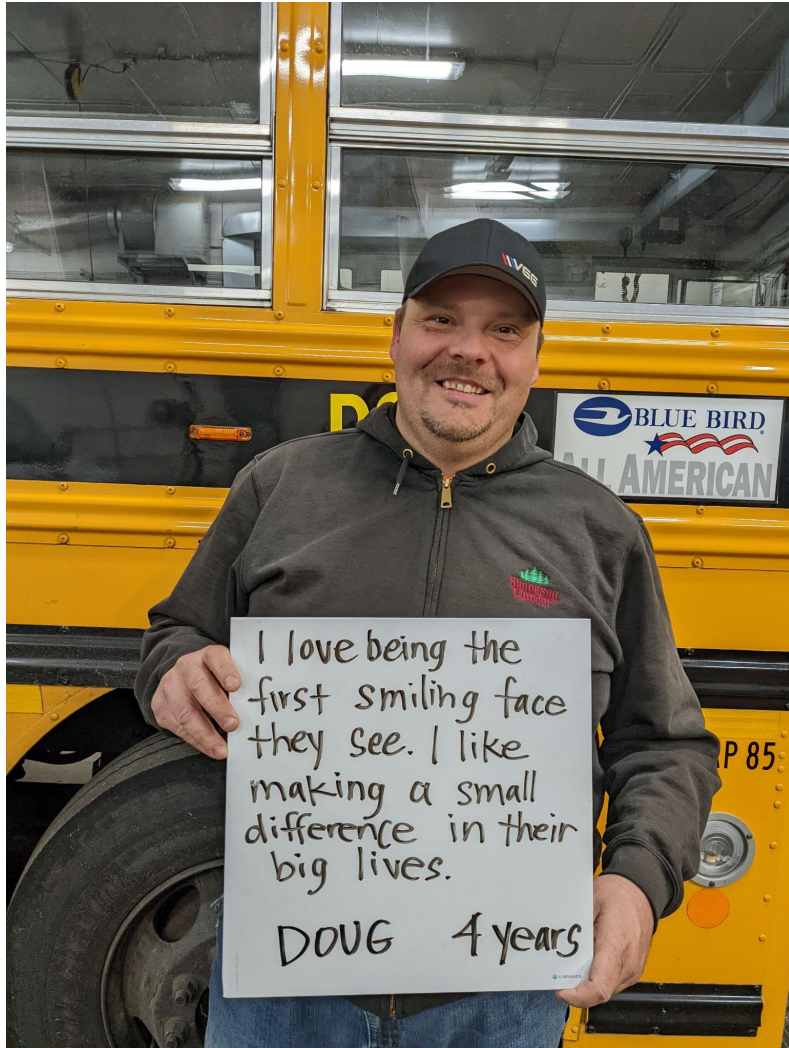
Transportation: A Precondition to Learning

- Summer Pakrat mobile library with LEAF Organization
- SpEd training for drivers and paras
- Professional Development and growth



BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY

FEB.18th



Facilities & Grounds

Spaces Conducive to Learning: A Precondition to Engagement



Facilities & Grounds



Spaces Conducive to Learning: A Precondition to Engagement



- Our facilities equate to 2,029,514 sq ft and growing!!!
- 66 custodians cover that space in 18 buildings. Investing 528+ total hours each day in cleaning!
- 12 Engineers who oversee a total of 37 boilers with an equivalent of 3000 mechanical hp!
- 6 full-time grounds personnel currently maintain in excess of 280 acres of sporting and frontage grounds - over 260 sq mi.

Facilities & Grounds



Spaces Conducive to Learning: A Precondition to Engagement



25/26 Buildings and Grounds Focus

Establishing a unified vision and identity to the unit:
“World Class facilities and recognizing those who provide that”.

Streamlining procedures to harness untapped potential.

- HVAC/BAS system/Ticketing methods,
- Custodial and Engineering SOP's.
- Establishing Vendor directives, abilities and partnerships.

Maintenance Methods

- Preventative approach vs reactive approach.

Human Development

- Investing in training, time, education and skills to advance and develop staff allowing the staff to be a better positioned unit for new and advancing environments.

Facilities & Grounds



Spaces Conducive to Learning: A Precondition to Engagement



**Recognizing those who contribute to
“WORLD CLASS FACILITIES”**

Engineers, Custodians (Subs), Grounds Staff

Operations Team Members

District Leadership

District 742

Nutrition: a Precondition to Cognitive Engagement

2024-25 School Year

- Over 680,000 breakfasts
- Over 1.14 million lunches

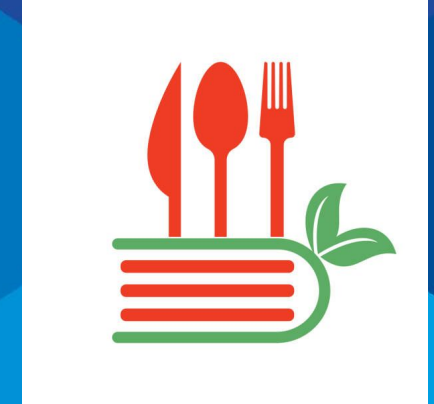
Research shows that school meals are the healthiest meals that kids eat

Always improving our menus and kitchens to provide the best service and food

- Elementary School serving lines
- Combi Ovens
- Student Taste Testing
- Local Foods



Nutritional Services





Nutrition: a Precondition to Cognitive Engagement

- Upcoming Initiatives
- MDE Global Flavors Handbook Pilot
 - Recipe testing, student education, community engagement
- Summer feeding for summer school sites
- Exploring partnership with City of St. Cloud for Wasted Food to Energy- 742 Organics



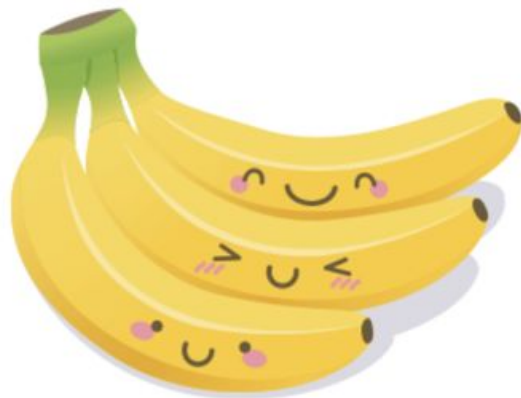
Nutritional Services



Nutritional Services



**Thanks a bunch
for all you do!**



"To all the kitchen staff throughout the district, a deep and sincere 'thank you.'

On these late start and early out days, you all show up for the students in an important and meaningful way. You feed the bellies of the students so they can feed their minds, and you put in the same amount of work and effort, but often in half the time! You are all amazing and I am constantly thankful for the hard work you put in! Thanks!"

Anonymous

Safety and Belonging: Preconditions to Learning



***Safety &
Security***

- The Security Coordinator position was created in June of 2025 through a Department of Justice grant.
- The goal of this position is to create safe and secure learning environments for students and staff of ISD 742.
- The Security Coordinator will continue to work closely with ISD 742 students, staff, school administration, district administration, and local law enforcement.

Safety and Belonging: Preconditions to Learning



***Safety &
Security***

- Embracing, training, and encouraging CRISIS GO utilization within buildings.
- Trained active threat to district non-licensed staff, ABE staff, and DAO staff.
- Implementing the Standard Reunification Method for bringing students and families together.
- DAO staff will be trained in 2026 to work on our reunification team.
- Joint active threat training with SCPD and ISD 742 staff.
- Continue security work with the Apollo remodel.

Safety and Belonging: Preconditions to Learning



***Safety &
Security***

- I would like to recognize every ISD 742 staff member who has embraced the changes so far.
- I would also like to recognize every school administrator who has embraced the use of CRISIS GO.
- Finally, I would like to recognize Dr. Putnam for taking a chance on implementing a Security Coordinator position for the team.



Operations: Creating the Preconditions for Learning

Thank you for affording us the time to highlight and celebrate the importance of the work our often silent partners in Operations do to create the ***preconditions for learning!***

Thank you!

Questions?