As attendance specialist at Carnahan School of the Future, Charlie Bean greets students each morning and continues to keep an eye on them throughout the day. “Both the administrator and teachers do that,” he explains. “They know them well.”

At Carnahan, Charlie also serves as athletic director and recruiting specialist, a job that involves handling admission inquiries and helping students enroll. He’s often the first person with whom families make contact. “He is cultivating relationships with students before they ever arrive here,” notes Principal Alice Roach. “The students are prepared from day one and the follow-up comes later. People know he cares.”

The school’s tremendous rise in attendance rates over the last few years is testament to Charlie’s caring way. He reaches out to not only chronically absent students but to those who have a mid-range good track record of getting to school and arriving on time. His guiding principle, passed down from Dr. Roach is “what gets monitored, gets done,” meaning that students will generally meet expectations if there is someone in their court keeping a close eye on them.

Charlie’s proactive approach, the extensive data base he relies on, and support from social workers, counselors and other administrators have resulted in a significant boost in attendance. So much so that the district’s Special Education department recently asked Charlie to create a plan to assist the Special Education population at Carnahan.

Charlie entered the Lindbergh district in the eighth grade but he wishes he could have been there his whole high school career. “I loved all the subjects and developed great relationships with them, adding that he still keeps in touch with some of them via Facebook. He remembers vividly that on his graduation day he had a hard time holding back tears “because I didn’t want to leave that school.”

Despite his high praise for his alma mater, he believes students can get what they need from whatever school they attend. “Now days, where you go, there are opportunities if you opt to take advantage of them.”

Advice for Voluntary Transfer Families

From Trina:  
• Whether you are happy or not about attending your school, focus your attention and energy on making the most of the situation. Later in life, you’ll use the benefits especially if you check your attitude at the door and view the experience as the opportunity that it is.

From Charlie:  
• School attendance and punctuality are imperative. “It’s that simple, if kids aren’t there, they can’t benefit.”

• Students are best served if they get involved in after school activities. It’s a chance to get to know other students better and to discover what interests them. Also, they must be open to other people. It may be hard at first for them to step outside their comfort zone, but once they acclimate, it’s all good.

• Parents should get to know who is working with their child. Stop in at the school, observe what is going on, talk to the teachers. Education is a partnership between the student, the school and the parents.

As attendance specialist at Carnahan School of the Future, Charlie Bean greets students each morning and continues to keep an eye on them throughout the day. “The former volunteer transfer student says he is building relationships with the students and floats in and out of classrooms. Through these day-in, day-out interactions, Charlie is building relationships and working to be that adult that students look forward to seeing each and every day. “I want the kids to feel comfortable talking to me,” he explains. “I want to be a person they will listen to and look up to.”

He recalls that at Lindbergh, Dr. Don Jones, his 12th grade principal, “monitored my whereabouts,” making sure he steered clear of mischief. And teacher Debra Peppers, a friend and mentor to him, had one of those faces that students “always enjoyed seeing.”

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At Carnahan High, teenagers just as his own principal and teachers did with him. He is a highly-regarded charter public school that has successfully served students from across the city high schools. The district’s Special Education department recently asked Charlie to create a plan to assist the Special Education population at Carnahan.

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success it has achieved. You are at the deserving of recognition. scores of others also an enviable record of hardworking students. This issue of the Parent Affton High School leadership activities and community Scholarship, which covers full tuition, room The recipient of the business school's ACT, and plans to major in accounting. 59 in his class. He earned a 26 on his college prep certificate, the Presidential of perfect attendance and receiving the at Bayless High. His honors include being takes pride in as the only Haitian student was part of the Diversity Club, which he at the Lindbergh School District prepared Trina tomorrow. Small differences 25 years ago stands completely alone. In fact, each one is ultimately connected to ALL others by words of students, teachers and parents. We all breathe its air, drink of its water, eat beautiful brown and green squares and wind in your face! What a view! We had a rare opportunity on a recent weekend to fly from St. Louis to a distant Great and Small Message from the CEO

I had a rare opportunity on a recent weekend to fly from St. Louis to a distant Great and Small. Indeed, I was even fortunate enough to see a subsonic jet assignment. It was like seeing with the naked eye without the need for a telescope. What a treat! I flew over my part and behind the beautiful horizon of green spaces and courageous and invited other governmental and educational leaders to join me in the next phase of our mission to make the country as it is one city to see. Every difference, even one that seems so small, some big and some giant, some real and some unreal, some dark and light, the good and the bad and others honest and brave, some tested and shaped by human interaction and some still unbeknownst remaining, still untransformed. Yet, for all those differences, each one is part of God's earth and each one is connected to all of the others. Some look directly like the ones you know ‘look down’ and some look indirectly. Standards under our feet, our feet no longer underneath, and space no longer exists. Not yet. We will continue to explore in ALL others by turns of roads and streams and unlisted ways and even the air. Each one different and unique and beautiful in its own way and yet all similar in other respects. And from our perspective, passing $1,000,000 feet at 400 mph per hour. It can't help but think how people are the same. 25 years ago... a difference and unique — people come in all shapes, sizes, colors, personalities, and... abilities. But we are also the same in many ways too. We all share this planet. We all breathe in its air, drink of its water, eat its food, and we all need to find ways to make a difference. Whether that difference is big or small, important or not, we all need today to reason into BIG differences tomorrow... to change our world at the Lindbergh School District prepared Clayton Brewton High School... to change the world. And if that's not enough to convince you, try this. Take a penny and double it every day for just 30 days. That's starting pretty small, isn't it? 1 penny is a nice start, but once you get on the second one, the value grows day by day, day by day. It's like the progression would be: 2, then 8, then 16, then, 32, then 52... Then you get the idea. You know how much you will have just 30 days after starting with a “small difference” of one cent? $33,863 million! Blows... That’s enough to buy one family abroad traveling at some upper-speed, don’t you think?!

Differences... Great and Small
Contact Persons for Volunteer Student Transfer Program Families

Each of the districts accepting voluntary transfer students has a designated contact person. Contact person's role is to coordinate the district's administrative resources and support the transfer program, and serve as the liaison between the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) and the district.

Contact person's responsibilities may include enrolling transfer students, conducting orientations for new students and parents, processing applications and submitting transportation requests. Contact persons are often the first individual from the district that a new family meets, and they are a valuable resource fortransfer students and their parents. They can answer specific questions about district policy and procedures and can refer parents to the proper school administrator if necessary.

Affton
Ms. Marcie Burkermp 314.849.5566
Bayless
Mr. Bill Smith 314.256.8664
Brentwood
Mr. Paul Faulkner
Ms. Colleen Lehobek 314.962.4507
Clayton
Ms. Dorothy Kelly 314.854.6494
Hancock Place
Mrs. Lisa Charleigh 314.544.1300, ext. 411
Kirkwood
Mr. Sheilas Washington 314.213.6180
Ladue
Mr. Matt Myers 314.983.5333
Lindbergh
Mr. Chuck Trippett 314.729.2400, ext. 1815
Mehlville
Dr. Brian Lane 314.467.5220
Parkway
Ms. Michelle Wemple 314.415.8065
Dr. Charlotte Nations 314.510.5863
Pattonville
Dr. Dorothy Green 314.213.8090
Ms. Helen Weisner 314.673.9775
Rockwood
Mr. Terry Harris 314.622.8315
Valley Park
Mrs. Vickie Pardeck 636.522.3614
Webster Groves
Ms. Gay Hennnessy 314.916.4278
Special School District
Mrs. Mary Lee Burmell 314.989.8125

New Emergency Communication System

To improve communication with parents regarding transportation and their child's participation in St. Louis student transportation, the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation has instituted a telephone broadcast system, similar to emergency broadcast systems in many U.S. school districts. This system, provided by School Reach, allows VICC to quickly send all households and parents a pre-recorded message by phone within minutes of a transportation emergency or unplanned event that could significantly delay a child's pick-up or drop-off from school. These emergencies include traffic jams, bus breakdowns, inclement weather, accidents, Highway 40 construction delays, etc. The service may also be used from time-to-time to communicate general program announcements or reminders.

This system will simultaneously call a home and one additional emergency number for each student's family who needs to be contacted and will deliver a message from Tami Webb, transportation operations manager or another official in charge of the transfer program. Calls will be delivered to both live (in person) responders and answering machines. Calls not answered and busy signals will be automatically retried by the system every two minutes. When you receive one of these calls, please return the call immediately.

Your child's school will also continue to separately announce school closings due to snow or weather, via the media or their own phone system. However, in the event your child's district is open, but road conditions are such that VICC's transportation department feels it is not safe to transport students to school, VICC would use this separate system to notify parents through the affected districts in addition to making the standard media announcements.

For this notification system to best operate, it is imperative that you know your student's school and transportation emergency number (from your student's bus card) and your home and/or emergency phone numbers. Your school then updates VICC's parent contact records so a separate notification to VICC is not necessary.

Starting Dates for County Schools

Classes will begin soon in your county school. Make plans now to be at school every day, beginning on the very first day. Watch your mailbox for your bus card about one week prior to the beginning of classes. The first day of school for each county district is listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affton</td>
<td>August 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayless</td>
<td>August 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brentwood</td>
<td>August 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>August 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hancock Place</td>
<td>August 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkwood</td>
<td>August 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ladue</td>
<td>August 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lindbergh</td>
<td>August 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mehlville</td>
<td>August 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parkway</td>
<td>August 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pattonville</td>
<td>August 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockwood</td>
<td>August 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valley Park</td>
<td>August 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webster Groves</td>
<td>August 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) complies fully with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA is a law that affords parents and students 18 years of age and older with certain rights with respect to the student's educational records.

A copy of VICC's FERPA statement is included in VICC student handbooks, which can be requested by calling 314.721.8422, ext. 3012. The handbooks are also available on the VICC website at www.choicecorp.org. Click on the link for "City Residents Currently Enrolled in County Schools," and then click on "Voluntary Transfer Program Handbook." The full policy will be published in the next issue of the Parent Link.

Transportation Information

Transportation to and from school is provided by the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation so long as your child is enrolled in a school that participates. A copy of your child’s transportation information is available upon request.

Transportation cards with the bus stop location and time are mailed to all transfer families about two weeks before school begins in the fall. If you do not receive your card before school begins, please contact the principal of the school your child will be attending. Please do not call the transportation staff. After the regular school year begins, new cards will be mailed only if it is necessary to make a change to the bus/cab route. Please review each new card carefully, including the effective date, stop location and times and destroy old cards.

Any day-to-day transportation problems or concerns you may have should be addressed by first calling the bus (or cab) contractor. Transportation issues include normal operational concerns, such as the following:

- Checking time of bus/cab pick-up or drop-off
- Looking for lost items left on the bus
- Checking on activity bus schedules
- Checking to see if child is on bus/cab

Refer to your child’s bus card for the appropriate bus/cab company. If the contractor is unable to resolve a concern, or if you have one of the following issues, then call the VICC transportation staff at 314.721.8657.

- Overall routing issues or concerns
- Pick-up or drop-off location concerns
- On-going concerns with driver or contractor that you could not resolve by working directly with them.
- Requesting taxi or other alternative transportation service in the event your regular bus does not show.

Student Responsibilities

Students are required to take the bus at their assigned stop. They must arrive at their designated pick-up location 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time, and remain at least 15 minutes after the pick-up time, before calling the transportation staff at 314.721.8567 for advice on alternative transportation. If your child is not at the bus stop 10 minutes before the time, the bus driver will call the school and remain there for the full 15 minutes after the scheduled time and they miss the bus, it will be your responsibility to get them to school. The transportation staff does not send substitute transportation if you are late.

For the safety of all children, students must obey general safety rules as well as those established by the school district they are attending. You should obtain a copy of your school's rules and review them with your child. Violations of bus rules can result in a student being removed from riding the bus (either on a temporary or permanent basis). If a bus suspension occurs, it becomes the parents' responsibility to transport the child to and from school for the duration of the suspension.

Parent Responsibilities

Transportation may run late or other routes may not be firmly in place during the first few weeks of school. Please make sure your child knows exactly what to do if his or her bus does not arrive. This includes knowing where to go and whom to call. Please make sure your child knows what is expected when he or she is dropped off at the end of the school day. If you normally meet your child at the bus stop, be sure your child understands where do you exit the bus and review them with your child. Violations of bus rules can result in a student being removed from riding the bus (either on a temporary or permanent basis). If a bus suspension occurs, it becomes the parents' responsibility to transport the child to and from school for the duration of the suspension.

General Safety Rules

Please review the general safety rules with your student. These can be found in your student’s program handbook. Please refer to the box below if you need a copy of the handbook.

Student Safety

Help us protect your children as they travel to and from school. Certain types of clothing cannot be worn while on the bus. Especially dangerous are jacket and sweatshirt drawstrings, long types of children’s clothing can create a hazard as your child exits the bus. Please be sure that your child knows exactly what to do if his or her bus does not arrive. This includes knowing where to go and whom to call. Please make sure your child knows what is expected when he or she is dropped off at the end of the school day. If you normally meet your child at the bus stop, be sure your child understands where do you exit the bus and review them with your child. Violations of bus rules can result in a student being removed from riding the bus (either on a temporary or permanent basis). If a bus suspension occurs, it becomes the parents’ responsibility to transport the child to and from school for the duration of the suspension.

Tresspass Policy

To bolster the safety of students riding busses to school, the VICC Board adopted the following trespass policy:

"Trespass occurs when anyone boards a school bus without prior approval from VICC. Any VICC-staffed or contracted person (including drivers, contractor or school staff whose job responsibilities require him/her to be on the bus), shall be authorized to consider trespassing. Only with prior approval from VICC or a contractor may any parent, guardian or member of the general public be allowed on a bus at any time.”

Review the transportation sections in the Voluntary Transfer Program Handbook (pages 9 - 19) with your child before the start of school.

If you need a handbook, please call 314.721.8422, ext. 1012, or visit our website www.choicecorp.org.