

Coffee with Mr O Q&A - 11/18/2025

1) Would you be interested in developing a partnership with Atrium Health and Wake Forest Medical School for internships for students at The Pearl and The Pearl come to the school for opportunities for the students? I can share more information on Tuesday.

Yes always interested in opportunities for our students. Any work-based learning is a plus for students. Please reach out if you know of an opportunity and share with Mr O to get set up.

2) Is anything further being done to address morning carpool bottlenecks at curve to student entrance and light on 49? Two changes coming soon - speed limit on Hwy 49 changing from 55 to 35 near the school and light going in at bus lot entrance. Gates have been requested for both parking lot entrances/exits and when those are in place, we will look at possibility of second entrance to the student lot being the morning entrance for student parking.

3) What internships and opportunities are available for students? Will there be new CTE programs available? CMS priority is for students to complete a pathway and earn the credentials associated with that pathway. CMS thinks this is good way to prepare students for next steps and possible career choices. Green Energy is new CTE Pathway starting Jan 2026. PHS is very open to internships/opportunities for students but they would not be coming from CMS and so would need to seek this out ourselves as a school. Also, if your child is having any issues getting classes to complete their pathway, please email Mr O, Mr Merrill, and counselor to get resolved.

4) What is the plan for the beautification of the school? Its gotten noticeably worse this year. CMS only paid for first two years for a landscaper for PHS as a new school. Ideas from parents - Maybe we can look at forming a beautification committee or have an Earth Ambassador to coordinate campus clean up and beautification through Green Team, NHS and other clubs. Students always looking for volunteer opportunities.

5)Boundaries

To address boundaries, best place to start is with group of parents to communicate with District 6 board member (Summer Nunn) as well as Dr Gilchrist Sr

6) TARC

Rocketry club sounds like great idea and next step is for student(s) to reach out to their science/math teachers about finding an advisor to be able to start the club at PHS.

7) Please review the sensitivity of body scanners at school entrance point to address weapons of any kind being detected.

Scanners were revamped and tweaked over first two weeks of school and feel confident in scanning sensitivity as well as multiple points of detection throughout school and multiple means of scanning people.

8) What is your response to the recent video released on the first day of school when a knife went undetected until the parent pointed it out but CMS officials said it was quickly detected? I do not agree at all with these parents who know weapons are prohibited but I am curious if any changes were made after that day to help ensure our kids are safe at school. Thank you.

Same answer as above.

9) I would like to know what are the next steps with ICE

As a school, we are determining needs of any families and getting them the information and resources to know their rights.

10) next year for halloween could we dress up but excluding any costumes that cover our face?

No sorry will not be allowing that. Tried it year one and too many issues.

EXTRA NOTES

- We are top 5% in academic growth for all NC schools (elem - high school) and 2nd year in row!
- Will be getting list together of all our clubs and send link out in Mr O's weekly newsletter
- Ideas to look into: Future City Club (Dreams, Imaginations and Gifts - nonprofit), and International Market Event (with foods & performances)