



# I am CPS

A Culture Transformation for Our Tomorrow



## I Continuously Improve

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### Brandon Clark

Web Application  
Administrator

Information Technology  
Management

Don’t let Brandon Clark’s quiet demeanor fool you. When it comes to tackling a tech issue, this Web Application Administrator is enterprising, energetic and extremely focused.

An example: Brandon led the team that took on the herculean task of creating an online magnet school application process that would, on a trial basis, move Cincinnati Public Schools off its long-standing, first-come paper application system and into a lottery. Under a tight deadline of about 10 weeks, the team developed an online system that launched in October 2015 — including a talking avatar that explained what each magnet school offers — and, by March 2016, had processed 2,279 magnet school applications, glitch free.

“He was very calm, cool and organized,” says Sarah Trimble-Oliver, CPS’ Chief Information Officer and Brandon’s supervisor. “Brandon presented a reliable solution that was a huge success.”

Brandon does concede that developing an online magnet application system at such a fast pace was challenging.

“We formed a team approach for this project and there were a lot of deadlines, but we did it,” Brandon says. “We had a great IT team, and a lot of internal support.”

By taking on these challenges, Brandon models the *I am CPS* value of I Continuously Improve, which includes consistently striving for improved results, actively seeking opportunities to learn, and supporting processes that help improve performance.

To keep improving, Brandon searches for new processes and applications that can enhance CPS’ systems, and he’s willing to try new approaches to problem solving. For example, he frequently meets with colleagues who use the programs and applications he designs to see how they can be tweaked to perform better. Plus, he reads technology articles online and attends tech conferences to get fresh ideas.

“The stuff that I’m developing can be very time consuming, but, if I think of something that can be helpful to our staff, and I’m able to do it, then why not — especially if it will benefit the kids,” he says.

Getting away from his desk and its multiple computer screens proves to be a valuable learning tool, too.

“He goes way above his normal responsibilities and volunteers to do things outside his job just so he can learn, such as volunteering on our Tech Truck,” Trimble-Oliver says.

The Tech Truck visits schools to offer easy access to professional development in technology and is a great place to talk to staff, find out what’s working and share ideas, Brandon says.

And it’s important to Brandon — a 2010 University of Cincinnati graduate who attended CPS’ College Hill elementary school — that students see him happily working in a tech career.

“As a young, black male, I want to be a role model and show the kids the type of position I have,” Brandon says. “I work on computers and get to have fun. Maybe that will help them see opportunities for themselves.”