



Heards Ferry Elementary School

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Karen Cooke, Principal

Lori Dunagan, Assistant Principal

Dear Heards Ferry Community –

What a pleasure it is to write my first newsletter to the community! Thank you for the very warm welcome that I have received at playground meetings, at a virtual meet and greet, and also through individual chats. I am proud to lead a school with such a supportive parent community and a dedicated staff. Now I'm ready to get the kids in the building and start the 2024-2025 school year off strong!

Although it has been shared previously, I'll tell you a little about myself to begin. I have been in education for over thirty years now, but it has gone by in the blink of an eye. I've been a classroom teacher, an ESOL teacher, an academic coach, an assistant principal, and now I am entering my seventh year as an elementary school principal. Elementary school has always been where my heart lives. I was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (the prairies), and while I will always love my hometown, I'm not sorry to leave the frigid winters behind! My husband (who is from Charleston, SC) teases me that I have become too soft – I was chilly on our patio when the temperature “dropped” to 82F earlier this week. I have two grown stepchildren who both live in the Atlanta area. My husband Eddie is an assistant principal in Cobb County, and I am the doting “dog-mom” to my rescue dog Maggie (who is absolutely perfect).

Now on to school items...

Next Week

Staff return to the building on Monday (July 29) and will be in pre-planning all week. On Wednesday morning, families can expect to receive emails from homeroom teachers for each child. We will host our Open House on Friday morning. Families with last names N-Z will attend from 8-9am, and those with last names A-M from 9:30-10:30am. During Open House, you will be able to see afterschool vendors, pick up transportation tags, and more in addition to visiting your children's classrooms. If you would like to pick up transportation tags in advance of Open House, you may do so at the bus entry on July 31 from 10am-1pm OR August 1 from 1-3 pm.

Eagle Alliance

Please see the attached welcome letter from our PTO – Eagle Alliance. I have had the opportunity to meet with the co-presidents of the EA – Brooke Brown and Jessica Ackel and absolutely marvel at the work done by this parent group. To all who contribute their time through volunteering and/or finances to support school initiatives – THANK YOU! I encourage all families to join and find a way to participate in the upcoming year.

DHS School Health Services Information

Also attached is the FCS District Health Services informational letter for the 2024-2025 school year. There is an abundance of important information in this letter – please take time to read it over carefully.

Newsletters

School newsletters are scheduled for the following dates: August 9, August 23, September 6, September 20, October 4, October 18, November 1, November 15, December 6, December 20, January 10, January 24, February 7, February 21, March 7, March 21, April 4, April 18, May 2, and May 16.

Your proud principal,

Karen

Attachments:

DHS School Health Services Information
Eagle Alliance Welcome Letter