



August 30, 2024

Eaton Elementary School

Family Newsletter

OUR SCHOOL'S WHY

School Mission

To promote academic excellence through inclusion, modeling, collaboration and challenging students to think in innovative ways.

School Vision

We are creating a nurturing school community that prepares the whole child to be a problem solver, critical thinker, and empathetic global citizen.



Core Values

- Empowerment
- Perseverance
- Respect
- Integrity
- Academic Excellence

Happy Friday!

It was a wonderful week at Eaton--a bit warm, but a good week! This week's newsletter comes to you via Google Docs, again - hopefully, we will be back up and running in our usual format after the Labor Day holiday weekend!

Other items to note:

Neptune Navigate Letter:

- Parents/Guardians – Please click the above link to learn more about New Hanover County Schools' **Digital Citizenship** program. This year, NHCS will again use a program called Neptune Navigate to teach students about digital citizenship. The lessons for this online program will be facilitated by the media specialist Ms. Mitchell during students' I.T. classes. They will begin these lessons later in the school year. Please see the parent letter for more information, including a link to the district implementation plan for the 2024-2025 school year.
- You'll also find "[Continue the Conversation \(https://neptunenavigate.com/ctc/\)](https://neptunenavigate.com/ctc/)", a **module for parents**. This is an important resource for you to further the discussion with your child about being a good digital citizen. The topics your child will cover through this program include digital citizenship, cyberbullying, digital footprint, social media and digital world basics, media literacy, privacy, and tech laws/age appropriateness.

Student Absences:

- If your child is absent please send a note explaining the absence when they return to school. You are also welcome to email the teacher and copy our data manager, Amy.Wooten@nhcs.net. Absences without documentation will be coded as unexcused. Please reference the attendance document shared at the bottom of the newsletter for information on excused and unexcused absences.

Eaton Student & Parent Handbook

- Eaton Elementary School policy states that student personal devices (cell phone, smartwatch, ipad, etc.) must remain off and in bookbags during the day. This includes when students are on the bus. We are seeing an increase in distracting behaviors as students play with watches during instruction.

NHCS Academic & Testing Information

- [AIG Newsletter](#) / Kelly Jones
- Grades 3-4 will participate in NC Check-In Formative Assessments for Reading on September 17, 2024.
- 5th Grade will participate in NC Check-In Formative Assessments for Reading and Science when we return from intercession. This date will be shared with families soon.
- NC Check Ins Information:
 - Subject/Type: Benchmark assessments for all EOGs and EOC courses
 - Required or Optional: Required based on school
 - Who takes it? All students in grades 3-5 -- Reading, Math, & Science
 - Administration Platform: Online
 - What is it and why is it important? [NC Check-Ins](#) are interim assessments aligned to North Carolina grade-level content standards. The end-of-grade (EOG) tests share a

common question bank with the NC Check-Ins, which then exposes NC Check-In students to similar question types and rigor found on the EOGs.

- How are the results used? Teachers use these results to reflect on students' learning progression of standards covered during instruction and to help support student learning.

Attention Volunteers:

- We have appreciated our building volunteers this week. As we move forward with the layered supports, we ask that our volunteers remain in their assigned volunteer areas. Moving around the building outside of your assigned volunteer room or area and interrupting staff during instruction or planning and preparation time interferes with the normal operations of the school and takes time away from teacher preparation and student learning.
- We are looking for **Level 2 Volunteers** to support the cafeteria team every Thursday with Ice Cream sales from 10:45 am - 12:30 pm. If you are interested, please sign up using the following [link](#). **You must be a level 2 volunteer to serve in the cafeteria.**
- **We really need some ice cream volunteers for the 11:30-12:30 pm time slot!**

Transportation / School Bus - [Edulog](#)

- Please click this [link](#) for a process for tracking your child's school bus in both the morning and the afternoon. You are able to set zone alerts to ensure students and parents meet the buses on time in both the morning and the afternoon.
- In the event a bus is late arriving in either the morning or the afternoon, Edulog will allow parents to see where the bus is in real time.

De Assignment Information

- In an effort to reduce late arrival & departures to & from school, students who do not meet ridership eligibility will be permanently de-assigned from NHCS's Transportation department. Exceptions are made on an individual basis. To remain eligible to ride a bus, students and parents/guardians/caregivers must:
 - ride the bus at least three (3) times per week
 - follow the procedures for 'meeting at the bus stop' for K-2 and special education students
 - follow safety procedures when riding the bus

Student and School Safety

Standards Based Protocols

New Hanover County Schools implemented a Standards Based Protocol in the 2023-2024 school year to ensure the safety of students, staff, and community members in the buildings. We will continue using these protocols to ensure our safety. Our staff and students practice the following safety protocols based on the Standards Based Protocols:

1. Hold / There is a potential medical emergency and we need the hallways clear
2. Secure / Protocol used to safeguard people in the building.
3. Lockdown / protocol used to secure individual rooms and keep students/staff quiet and in place
4. Evacuate / Things such as monthly fire drills are practiced to ensure students and staff know when and how to evacuate and where to evacuate
5. Shelter / Things such as tornado drills ensure students and staff know where to shelter during inclement weather.

Other important information for student & school safety.

- Everyone entering our building, excluding staff, are required to enter the office area after being allowed entrance to the building.
- All visitors must check in through the Ident-a-Kid computer program, print, and wear the identical sticker throughout their time in our building.
- All afternoon transportation changes must be communicated in **writing, in the form of a paper note, with a parent signature**. Changes cannot be made by email or phone.
 - *In some cases, we can accept a transportation change via email, if a photograph of a valid government-issued ID along with a signature can be shared via email. We cannot guarantee that something sent via email will be read during the school day, and thus this form of communication for a transportation change is not optimal or recommended.*
 - All of our transportation procedures are in place to keep children safe.

If you need anything or have additional questions, please email either the principal or the assistant principal, respectively: rosemarie.wheeler@nhcs.net and/or karen.mccarty@nhcs.net

We look forward to serving you this year!

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[Eaton Olympians PTA](#)

[PTA Store](#)

Click on the link above to join our PTA! Come join the PTA! It's a great way to dive into school events, connect with fellow parents, and support teachers and students. Plus, you'll have a blast while making a real difference in our school community!

The PTA will again be hosting a friendly competition for PTA membership enrollment. The first class to reach 100% signup will win an ice cream party for their class! Membership link:

<https://eatonwilm.givebacks.com/store?limit=21&live=true>

Child Nutrition: What's for Breakfast & Lunch

Meals, foods and beverages sold or served at schools meet state and federal requirements which are based on the [USDA](#) Dietary Guidelines. NHCS's Child Nutrition Department provides students with access to a variety of affordable and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students.

- [MySchoolBucks](#): allows parents/guardians to prepay for meals. In addition, you are able to set up low balance alerts to keep your student's account balance in the positive.
- [MySchoolApps](#): MySchoolApps is the fast and secure way to apply for free and reduced meals online.

[Weekly Menus](#)

Volunteer Information / We love our volunteers!

All visitors to the building must complete **Level I** orientation and pass the assessment with 80% or better:

1. Read all of the information in this presentation, [Volunteer Orientation](#), and the NHCS Volunteer Handbook (we will get this to you as soon as it becomes available).
2. Complete the [Volunteer Orientation Assessment](#) with a score of 80% or higher.

If wanting to attend a field trip or work with students in small groups outside of the classroom, you will then complete **Level II** requirements:

- [Background Check Application](#).
- Cost: \$22.50
- Valid for three (3) years

If your background check expires on or before 9/15/24, you will be unable to volunteer as a Level II until Dr. McCarty receives Level II credentials including a new expiration date from NHCS district staff. She is monitoring this information on a weekly basis.

General Guidelines after receiving district clearance to serve as a volunteer:

- Please have your photo ID ready when coming to campus to either sign in.
- **When volunteering, please respect the instructional day including planning and preparation time of teachers and stay within your volunteer area.**

Eaton Volunteer Coordinator: [Dr. Karen McCarty](#), Assistant Principal

Student Support Services Updates

Anne Matney , School Counselor	<u>5th Grade Service Club Project</u> The 5th grade Service Club would like to offer a coffee/treat cart once a month for the Eaton staff. If you would like to help them with this service project, please visit the SignUp Genius page to add your name. There are 5 Wednesdays for this semester, so there are plenty of opportunities to help. You can drop off any items in the front office to the attention of Mrs. Matney, the school counselor. We thank you, in advance, for helping us serve the wonderful staff at Eaton. <u>Donations Needed</u> If you are willing and able, we are accepting donations of small rewards (erasers, stickers, small toys, etc.) to use as incentives for our school-wide positive behavior system.
Amy Wooten , Data Manager	Parents/guardians of returning students, grades 1-5, must go online and fill out your beginning of year paperwork in scribbles. Remember: You must fill this out using your zoned

	<p>school.</p> <p>Here is your link: https://nhcsncc.scribborder.com/</p>
<p><u>Allie Miele</u>, School Social Worker</p>	<p>NourishNC is a non-profit that provides free food assistance for children that attend school in New Hanover County. Our programs include the Backpack Program and our Market on Market (The MoM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PreK-5 kids discreetly receive a nonperishable food bag in their backpack every Friday at school. This bag includes 8 meals and snacks including items like mac n cheese, soups, ravioli, oatmeal, cereal, snacks, and a piece of fresh fruit.

[Eaton Year-Round Calendar](#) / Print Version

[Calendar of Events](#)

- This calendar of events is located on our website and is updated as necessary to keep families informed about our school events.