

SUMMER/FALL 2022

EARLY LEARNING NEWSLETTER

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 **HENRY**
COUNTY SCHOOLS



**EARLY
LEARNING**



BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

Henry County Schools is ready to welcome 3,000+ Kindergarteners and new students, as well as, our 40,000+ returning students for the 2022 - 2023 school year! As we embark on another year of high-level learning we are laser-focused on ensuring that every student has the best educational experience to prepare for lifelong success.

This issue of the Early Learning Newsletter is full of information about the Henry County School Systems' commitments to our students, as well as, information on getting your children ready to succeed in school. We are excited to welcome everyone and to embark on a year full of learning and adventures!



Henry County Schools is ready for day one, are you? We have a website dedicated to making sure that you have all the information and tools you need to start the school year with success. Visit <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/147587> or scan the QR code below and you will find:

- 2022-2023 Open House Toolkit
- Infinite Campus Parent Portal Setup and Information
- Online Registration links
- School Enrollment Zones
- Schools Map
- Family Information and Resources
- Here Comes the Bus App information
- Technology Information



Here's to an awesome 2022-2023 School Year!

SCHOOL PROFILES

Do you want to learn more about our 28 Elementary, 11 Middle, 10 High, and 3 Specialty schools?

Visit <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/151164> to view each site's school profile. Each profile is loaded with information on what makes that school unique and a great place to learn!

ENROLLMENT SUPPORT



The Henry County Schools' Learning and Support Center is home to the HCS Welcome Center. Our Welcome Center provides a wide array of support services to families and has welcomed over 4,000 families since its Grand Opening in July of 2021. Tailored services include OLR (Online Registration) Kiosks with one-on-one support from administrative assistants, bilingual staff members, identification of homeless youth, hospital homebound services, and other programs related to the enrollment process. We serve as a liaison between families and other District Office departments and we have partnered with outside community agencies to meet the needs of Henry County families.

At the Henry County Schools' Welcome Center, we are happy to provide families support with enrollment and to answer any questions you may have. If you are in need of an affidavit of residency, the Hospital Homebound Program, School Choice/School Transfer, and support for families in transition please come visit us! We are located at 166 Holly Smith Drive in McDonough and can be reached at 770-957-3945. We look forward to serving you!

For more information, please visit our website at:
<https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/147767>

5-YEAR-OLD MILESTONES

Monitoring and understanding how children develop both mentally and physically are important to help children be successful. The Center for Disease Control has developed checklists to monitor developmental milestones for newborns through age 5. The milestones listed are what most children (75% or more) can do by a certain age.

By the end of your child's fifth year, they should be able to:

- Follow Rules
- Sing and dance
- Complete simple chores
- Use and recognize rhymes
- Count to 10
- Names some letters
- Writes some letters in their name
- Answer basic questions about a book read aloud
- Pays attention for 5-10 minutes
- Hop on one foot
- Able to button simple buttons



You are your child's first teacher and you know them better than anyone else. If your child is not meeting identified milestones, it is important to act early and to discuss any issues with their pediatrician.

For more information, visit the Center for Disease Control's Milestones website at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

You can also download a free Milestones Tracker app on your iOS and Android devices in English and Spanish.



Information is taken from the Center for Disease Control's Developmental Milestones website: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>

The Power of Early Intervention



The Henry County School preschool special needs program is part of a federal law called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA states that children with disabilities or developmental delays have the right to a free, appropriate public education (FAPE).

The Preschool Special Needs program is designed to provide early intervention services to children, ages 3 to 5, with identified disabilities. Early intervention is critical to a child's success. Through the program, children receive play-based learning, dramatic play activities, imagination and creativity, and early literacy skills all as a part of their specialized instruction. This instruction is designed to prepare them to be Kindergarten Ready, while focusing on personal care, communication, motor skills, social skills and navigating the world around them.

Testimonial of Success

Kelley is an amazing example of the power of early intervention. When Kelley entered special needs preschool in March of 2020, she had a vocabulary of less than ten words. She was not saying "mama" or "dada" at that time and primarily communicated through gestures to get her needs met. Also, Kelley had difficulty playing with children her own age when she entered the program.

As of April 2022, Kelley is an outgoing 5-year-old who loves to talk to her peers and teachers. She loves to tell others about her activities inside and outside of the classroom, including dance and cooking classes. Kelley helps her classmates and loves being a leader. Kelley's personality shines. She can communicate her wants and needs fully and works with peers successfully. Kelley is more than ready for kindergarten, and we are proud of how well she thrived in special needs preschool's language-rich environment.

To contact the Preschool Special Needs Department of Henry County Schools, please call 770.957.8086.

EVENTS

HCS Open House: August 1st

- High Schools: 12 pm – 3 pm
- Middle Schools: 2 pm – 5 pm
- Elementary Schools: 4 pm – 7 am

First Day of School: August 3rd

Labor Day: September 5th

Fall Break: September 19th – 23rd



COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Henry County Schools – <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/>



Henry County Library System – <https://henrylibraries.org/>



Henry County Parks and Recreation –

<https://www.co.henry.ga.us/Departments/M-R/Parks-Recreation>



Ferst Readers – <https://ferstreaders.org/>



Bright from the Start – <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/>



CDC Developmental Milestones –

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>



Department of Public Health –

<https://www.district4health.org/locations/henry-county/>



Henry County Schools is In Pursuit of *Exceptional*

TAKING ACTION TO ADVANCE

OPPORTUNITIES | ACCESS | OUTCOMES

IN PURSUIT OF

AMBITIOUS GOALS

Imagine a day...

...when every student has access to a supported Pre-K program;

...when every elementary school has a robotics & coding program and a STEM lab;

...when every student has taken a band, orchestra, or chorus class;

...when every student has exposure to a world language program before they enter middle school;

...when every middle schooler has access to a computer science course or engineering pathway;

...when every middle schooler performs in the theater or learns to design the sets on computer software;

...when high school students choose HCS specifically for the Arts Education program;

...when every student develops financial literacy;

...when high school is the launching pad to post-secondary education and stable employment...

When *Every* student...

...is reading at the appropriate level or above and when they are not, we have a clear plan to get them what they need...no exceptions, just *Exceptional* support.

...learns in a nurturing and supportive environment that fosters student health and well-being...no exceptions, just *Exceptional* access.

...graduates with college credit, industry certification, or work-based learning experience and has a solid post-graduation plan...no exceptions, just *Exceptional* futures.

...no exceptions, just

Exceptional



HENRY
COUNTY SCHOOLS

Community-Inspired
2021-2026 Strategic Plan

Developed by the Henry County Board of Education

For more information visit: <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/128814>

(HCS 2021-2026 Strategic Plan-1P.5.11.21.v1.7)

Henry County Board of Education | Holly Cobb (D3), Annette Edwards (D5), Dr. Pam Nutt (D1), Makenzie McDaniel (D2), Sophe Pope (D4)

HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Our award-winning Henry County Board of Education is comprised of five members. Pictured from left to right are Sophie Pope (District 4 Representative), Annette Edwards (District 5 Representative and Vice-Chair), Holly Cobb (District 3 and Chair), Superintendent Mary Elizabeth Davis, Makenzie McDaniel (District 2 Representative), and Pam Nutt (District 1 Representative). Board members are elected by the citizens of Henry County to a four-year term of service. The Board meets at least once a month to lead our school system to be the best in the Metro-Atlanta area and the Nation. The remaining meetings for the year are:

August 8
September 12
October 10
November 14
December 12

Each meeting date has a Study Session at 4:00 p.m. and a Business Session at 7:00 p.m. The general public is invited to attend all meetings and can also stream each meeting at home.

For more information about the Board of Education Governance Team, visit <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/domain/9>

For more information on Board of Education meetings, visit:
<https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/domain/8>