

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

EARLY LEARNING NEWSLETTER

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HENRY
COUNTY SCHOOLS



**EARLY
LEARNING**



ABOUT HCS

Henry County Schools is the 8th largest school district in Georgia and 123rd largest district in the United States. HCS is nestled about 20 minutes south of the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and is comprised of 52 schools, including 3 Academies. Over the past 20 years, we have grown in community population from 113,000 residents to over 244,000 residents. Student enrollment since 1999 has grown from 21,000 students to almost 43,000 students. In recent years our number of employees has grown from 3,000 in 1999 to nearly 6,000.

Henry County Schools is in Pursuit of Exceptional and we are taking action to advance opportunities, access, and outcomes so that every student in our school district has Exceptional Support, Exceptional Access, and an Exceptional Future. In 2020, our Board adopted our 2021-2026 Community-Inspired Strategic Plan and laid out a clear vision and mission for Henry County Schools. Our vision is to ensure a high-quality, world-class education for every student, and our mission is to empower all students with exceptional opportunities and access that lead to success in a global society.

MEET THE OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING



Henry County Schools' Office of Early Learning serves to empower, guide, and shape the future for Henry County's youngest learners. Our focus is for students to develop strong foundational skills, create, innovate, and engage in applied learning. We are here to serve as a resource for Henry County families and build connections of learning from home to school.

For more information visit our website at
<https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/125355>



Meet our dynamic team!

Krystal Richter

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770.957.6547



The Exceptional Student Education Preschool Program serves preschool children with disabilities who reside within the Henry County School district. We offer services diagnostic services to determine eligibility and assist in supporting individual student needs. If found eligible, early intervention services may include, pre-academic supports and services, speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, deaf, hard-of-hearing services, vision services, transition support, parent support, training, and other services and supports as deemed educationally necessary by the IEP team. These services are delivered through facility/school-based and community-based approaches, based on individual student needs.

Eligibilities Served

AUTISM

DEAF/HARD-OF-HEARING
EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL
DISORDERED
INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED
ORTHOPEDICALLY IMPAIRED

OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRED

SIGNIFICANTLY DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED
SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY
SPEECH-LANGUAGE IMPAIRED
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURED
VISUALLY IMPAIRED

For more information visit our website at

<https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/88416> or you can contact us at 770.957.8086

MEET THE ESE PRESCHOOL TEAM



Shandra Christopher
ESE Elementary School Instruction
Coordinator



Deana Cain
Professional Learning Specialist



Deborah Creech
Administrative Assistant



Child Find is the process that ensures all children with disabilities, birth to age 21, who are in need of special education and related services or early intervention are identified, located, and evaluated. If Identified, children aged birth to three will be referred to Babies Can't Wait and children aged three to five will be referred to their local school system.

Any child who is suspected of having a disability or delay in one or more areas of communication, motor skills, cognition, adaptive skills, and/or social skills should be referred to Child Find by the child's Parents/Guardians, Child Care provider, Doctor and/or Special Providers.

To refer a child to Child Find contact the Preschool Special Needs Department of Henry County Schools at 770.957.8086.



Babies Can't Wait (BCW) is Georgia's early intervention program that offers a variety of coordinated services for infants and toddlers with special needs, from birth to three years-of-age and their families. Part C early intervention builds on and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities. For more information on BCW visit our website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/babies-cant-wait>

WELCOME ALL!



The Henry County Schools' Welcome Center opened in June 2021 and has since served thousands of families. Services offered include Enrollment Support and Affidavits of Residency, kiosks for Online Registration, Language Services, the Hospital Homebound Program, School Choice/School Transfer, and support for families in transition.

The Welcome Center is located at 166 Holly Smith Drive in McDonough and can be reached via phone at 770-957-3945.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Did you know that you can register your soon-to-be Kindergartener completely online? Henry County Schools has made the process quick and easy with our registration portal. Please visit <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/147767> or scan the QR code for more information.



KINDERGARTEN READY

Every parent wants their child to experience success in school. The start of your child's educational career can be filled with many emotions. For many children, this is the first time they will experience an educational setting. Below are some suggestions to help prepare your child for Kindergarten next fall.

Get READY for SCHOOL - Encourage your child to:

- Express emotions in appropriate ways—explain feelings in words your child can understand and encourage your child to do the same.
- Share supplies like crayons, toys, or books.
- Dress independently including buttoning and zipping clothing and tying their own shoes.
- Listen carefully and follow directions.
- Have a bedtime routine that includes reading.

Get INVOLVED at SCHOOL - We encourage you to:

- Attend and actively support school activities.
- Participate in the PTO, school advisory committee, or volunteer for school events.
- Talk with your child about school on a daily basis.
- Take interest in your child's learning and share learning experiences at home.
- Visit the Henry County Schools' website for information about school activities.

Get READY to LEARN - To prepare for learning:

- Engage in rich discussion about books as well as what is going on around them. Ask and answer questions to enrich your child's vocabulary and understanding of the world.
- While Reading, encourage your child to follow along by pointing to words and pictures on the page, identify interesting words or images to grab his/her attention.
- After reading or viewing your child's favorite television show, encourage him/her to retell the story identifying the characters, location, and events that take place.
- Practice identifying letters and sounds of letters of the alphabet when writing first and last name or other words, reading books, websites, watching television, or when visiting places in the community.
- Count basic items and identify numbers 0-20 as you read or when completing routines like grocery shopping, cleaning the house, or preparing dinner.
- Identify basic shapes and colors of items around the house, in nature, or any place you visit.
- Praise and encourage your child for his/her effort and make learning fun!

GKIDS READINESS



Do you have an up-and-coming Kindergartener? The GKIDS Readiness Exam is given to all Kindergarten students during their first six weeks in school. This assessment provides you and your child's teachers with a snapshot of basic reading, math, and other foundational skills needed to be successful. Below you will find the individual skills assessed. To find out more about the assessment and ways that you can better prepare your child at home, visit

<http://gkidsreadinesscheck.gadoe.org/>

Foundations of School Success

- Independence
- Follows rules and procedures
- Plays with peers
- Uses senses
- Solves problems
- Communicates needs and thoughts
- Uses fine motor skills

English Language Arts

- Differentiates sounds
- Recognizes upper- and lowercase letters
- Tracks words
- Draws letters, numbers, and pictures
- Follows multi-step directions
- Uses spoken language
- Uses writing tools

Mathematics

- Count to 20
- Counts 10 objects
- Recognizes numbers
- Sorts and classifies
- Recognizes shapes



**Foundations of
School Success**



**English Language
Arts**



Mathematics

For more suggestions on ways to prepare your child at home visit The Henry County Schools' Assessment Guides for GKIDS Readiness at: <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/151339>

SUMMER LEARNING

When you hear the word summer, what do you think of? Many think of vacations, sun, and fun outdoors but what do all of these things have in common? They can all be wonderful learning opportunities. It is important to engage children in the world around them. Here are a few suggestions on how to engage your child during the Summer months.

- Read together daily.
- Discuss the weather and how it changes.
- Have your child "write" a list of items needed from the store.
- Go to the park and discuss the animals and nature.
- Have your child count and sort objects.
- Play board games together.

These are a few ways you can encourage learning and academic thinking. For more activity suggestions and Summer Learning Calendars, visit the HCS Never Stop Learning site at: <https://sites.google.com/henry.k12.ga.us/hcs-never-stop-learning/home>. Above all, remember to have FUN!



EVENTS

HCS Kindergarten Registration - Begins week of March 22nd

<https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/147767>

Week of the Young Child - April 2nd - 8th

<https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc>

First Day of School - August 3rd



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/>