

SUMMER 2023

EARLY LEARNING NEWSLETTER

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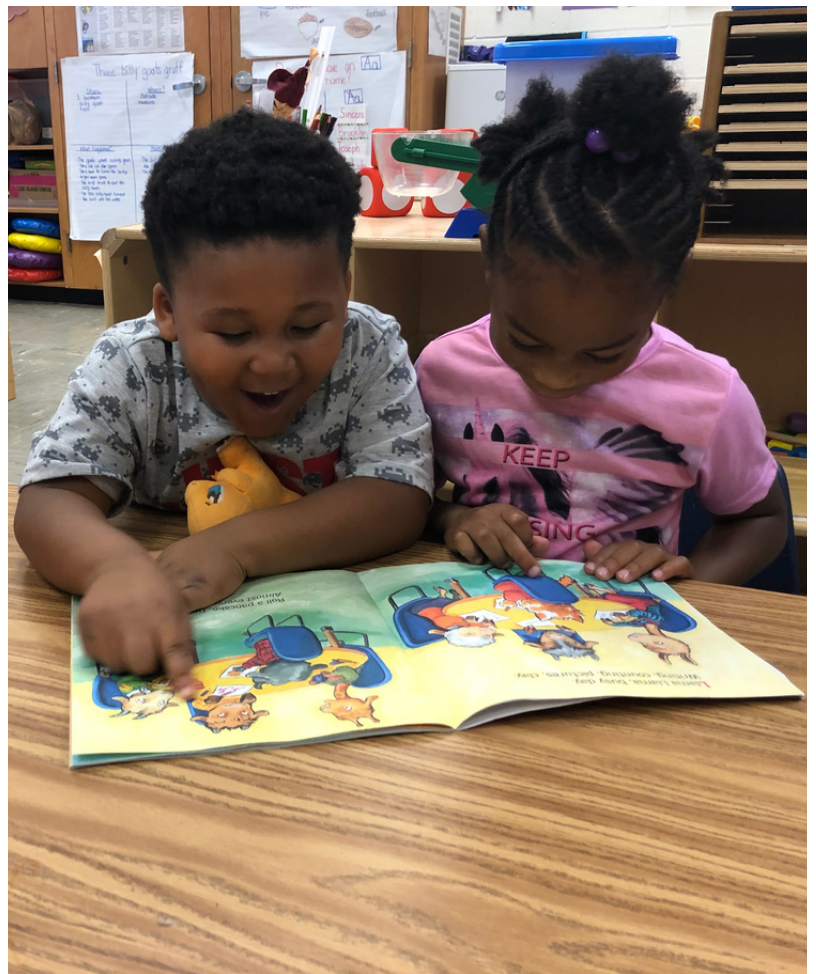
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BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

As we prepare to welcome over 2,500 Kindergarteners and new students, alongside our 40,000 returning students, we are committed to providing the best educational experience to ensure lifelong success for every student in Henry County.

In this edition of the Early Learning Newsletter, you will find valuable information about our school system's unwavering commitment to our students. To our new students and parents, we extend a warm welcome. For our returning students, welcome back!

HCS WELCOME CENTER



Our Welcome Center offers a range of tailored services designed to make the enrollment process seamless and hassle-free. Our dedicated team is ready to assist you with OLR (Online Registration) using our convenient one-on-one support from our administrative assistants. Additionally, we have bilingual staff members on hand to cater to the needs of our diverse community. We understand the importance of identifying and assisting homeless youth, and we have specialized programs to support. Furthermore, we offer services related to hospital homebound programs and can guide you through the enrollment process for various programs.

At the Henry County Schools' Welcome Center, we take pride in being the bridge between families and other District Office departments. Our collaboration with external community agencies enables us to cater to the unique needs of Henry County families effectively.

If you require assistance with enrollment or have any questions, please don't hesitate to visit us at 166 Holly Smith Drive in McDonough. You can also reach us at 770-957-3945. Our team is eager to serve you and support your journey with Henry County Schools!

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

5-YEAR-OLD MILESTONES

Observing and understanding children's mental and physical development play a crucial role in fostering their success. The Center for Disease Control has created checklists to track developmental milestones for newborns through age 5. These milestones represent accomplishments that are typically achieved by the majority of children (75% or more) at a specific age. By the conclusion of your child's fifth year, they should ideally exhibit the following capabilities:

- 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.



Behavior Strategies for Early Learners



For families at home, behavior strategies for young children center around cultivating a positive and nurturing atmosphere, while fostering appropriate behavior and promoting healthy social-emotional growth. Here are some effective behavior strategies to implement:

- **Establish Routines:** Consistent daily routines provide structure and predictability for young children, reducing anxiety and promoting a sense of security.
- **Set Clear Expectations:** Clearly communicate behavioral expectations to children using simple language and age-appropriate terms.
- **Model Positive Behavior:** Children learn by observing their parents and caregivers. Demonstrate the behavior you wish to see in your child.
- **Use Redirection:** If a child engages in inappropriate behavior, gently redirect their attention to a more suitable activity or behavior.
- **Provide Choices:** Offer children choices when appropriate, empowering them to make decisions and fostering a sense of independence.
- **Practice Patience:** Be patient with your child's learning process. Understand that young children may not have the same impulse control as adults.

If you have any concerns about your child's behavior, please reach out to our team for support and guidance. To contact the Preschool Special Needs Department of Henry County Schools, please call 770.957.8086.

EVENTS

Labor Day: September 4th

Fall Break: September 18th – 22nd

Please check the school website for upcoming events and essential information about your child's school!



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>



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 Pam Nutt (District 1 Representative), Sophie Pope (District 4 Representative), Annette Edwards (District 2 Representative and Chair), Superintendent Mary Elizabeth Davis, Holly Cobb (District 3 and Vice-Chair), and Makenzie McDaniel (District 5 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. Remaining meetings for 2023 are scheduled on:

August 14
September 11
October 9
November 13
December 11

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>