

THE HOKE FAMILY HUB

ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

*CONNECTED

*INFORMED

*EMPOWERED

Building Strong Community Connections: A Key to Student Success

Dear Families,

As we move into September, we are excited to continue our journey together with this year's theme, Elevate Every Classroom. Each day, we are committed to creating learning environments where students feel challenged, supported, and inspired to reach new heights. Your partnership plays an essential role in this work—whether it's encouraging daily reading, ensuring consistent attendance, or celebrating your child's progress, every effort makes a difference. Together, we can elevate learning for all students and make this school year one of growth and success.

Warm Regards,

A.J. Hammond

Assistant Superintendent for PreK-5

BACK TO SCHOOL

Parent Tip: Start the Year Strong

Establishing routines early can make a big difference for students. Set consistent bedtimes, prepare school materials the night before, and talk with your child about what they're excited (and maybe nervous) about as the new year begins. A little preparation helps students feel confident, calm, and ready to learn!

SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS

- LABOR DAY/NO SCHOOL - 9/01
- DIBELS/MCLASS ASSESSMENT BEGINS K-5 - 9/2
- GRANDPARENTS DAY - 9/07
- IREADY MATH DIAGNOSTIC BEGINS - 9/08
- BEGINNING OF YEAR ASSESSMENT FOR 3RD GRADERS - 9/09
- PROGRESS REPORTS SENT HOME - 9/19

MATH MATTERS

BY DUSTIN BEST



Celebrate Mistakes: Building Math Confidence at Home

As students dive into a new school year, it's natural for them (and us!) to want to get every math problem right. But did you know that making mistakes is actually an important part of learning? This month, let's focus on how celebrating mistakes can help your child grow into a confident math thinker!



When kids try a math problem and get it wrong, their brains are actually growing. Neuroscience research shows that our brains spark and make new connections when we make a mistake and think through how to fix it. This helps children:

- Develop perseverance
- Grow their problem-solving skills
- Build confidence to tackle new challenges



Here are some ways to support a positive, “mistakes welcome” math environment at home:

- Model thinking out loud: If you make a simple error (like miscounting or dropping a digit), share it with your child: “Oops! I made a mistake. Let’s try that again together.”
- Praise effort and process: Instead of saying “You’re so smart!” try “I love how you kept working even when it was tricky” or “Great job trying a new strategy!”
- Ask questions: If your child gets a different answer, ask, “How did you get there?” This opens the door to conversation and learning, rather than just pointing out the error.
- Share your own math “failures”: Tell a story about a time you struggled in math and what you did to get through it. It helps kids see mistakes are normal for everyone.
- When helping with homework, ask, “What is your favorite mistake you made today?”
- Encourage your child to explain what they tried and what they learned.
- Celebrate the effort with a high five, a sticker, or a special shoutout.



By embracing mistakes together, you’re teaching your child that learning math is about courage, creativity, and growth, not just getting the right answer. Here’s to a year of fearless math adventures!

Reading Corner

BY A.J. Hammond

Helping Your Child

Build Reading Fluency.

Reading fluency is the ability to read smoothly, accurately, and with expression. When children become fluent readers, they can focus less on sounding out words and more on understanding and enjoying what they read.

Fluency develops over time through practice and support. At home, you can help by:

- Listening to your child read aloud and gently correcting mistakes.
- Encouraging repeated reading of favorite books or passages.
- Reading together—take turns reading pages or parts of a story.
- Modeling fluent reading by reading aloud to your child with expression.

These small daily practices make a big difference. Just a few minutes each day helps your child move from “sounding out” words to becoming a confident, fluent reader who can better understand and enjoy stories.

[CLICK HERE FOR RESOURCES TO HELP BUILD FLUENCY.](#)

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT

BY AMBER HUTCHINS

**DREAM IT, TEST IT, PROVE IT—MAKE
SCIENCE YOUR SUPERPOWER!**



☀️ *Science Starts at Home!* ☀️

Did you know that children are natural scientists? Every time they ask “Why?” or explore the world around them, they’re practicing the same curiosity that fuels scientists and inventors.

As parents, you don’t need special equipment to encourage science learning—just everyday moments:

🔍 *Ask your child to predict what will happen before pouring water into a cup of ice.*

🌱 *Plant a seed together and watch it grow.*

🧩 *Build with blocks, Legos, or even empty boxes and talk about balance, weight, and design.*

These small experiences help children build critical thinking, problem-solving, and observation skills that last a lifetime. Most importantly, it shows them that science isn’t just something they do at school—it’s all around them, every day.

💡 *Try this week: Check the weather forecast with your child. Ask them to notice the clouds outside and see if they match what the forecast predicts. Talk about how scientists use observations and tools to make weather predictions.*

Science is about wonder, curiosity, and discovery—and it starts with you!



MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR YOUR WHOLE CHILD

BY: LORETTA KIMBLE

Did you know that showing up to school every day has a major impact on your child’s academic success? Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college. By encouraging daily attendance and helping your child understand why being present matters, you are setting them up for success—both in the classroom and in their future careers. Click [here](#) to learn more to support preKindergarten and Kindergarten children. Click [here](#) to learn more to support other elementary children

Parent Tips: Starting the Year Strong

1. **Set a Routine** – Establish consistent bedtimes, morning habits, and study times to help your child stay focused and reduce stress.
2. **Check In Regularly** – Instead of “Do you have homework?” try asking, “What did you learn today?” to spark meaningful conversations.
3. **Stay Connected** – Use the new Infinite Campus Parent Portal to check grades and assignments, and keep in touch with teachers and counselors. For questions about accessing the Parent Portal, please see the administration at your child’s school.
4. **Prioritize Attendance** – Every day counts. Encourage your child to be on time and present—small absences can add up quickly.
5. **Balance Screen Time** – Create “tech-free” moments during meals or before bed to help your child recharge and focus.

UNDERSTANDING THE FUNCTIONS OF BEHAVIORS: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

BY SHEQUETA HARRIS

As parents, we often find ourselves wondering why our children behave the way they do. Whether it's tantrums, defiance, or withdrawal, every behavior serves a purpose. Understanding the function behind your child's behavior can help you respond in a way that supports their needs and encourages positive change. In behavior science, there are four main functions of behavior. We will explore a function each month and provide strategies for responding effectively.

September's Function of Behavior:

Attention-Seeking Behavior

What It Looks Like: Your child may whine, interrupt, act out, or even engage in inappropriate behavior to get your attention—positive or negative.

How to Respond: When kids act out for attention, it's because they've learned that any reaction—even a frustrated one—keeps them in the spotlight. Research shows that (planned) ignoring the behavior while reinforcing positive attention-seeking can help.

Try:

- Ignoring undesired attention-seeking behavior (if it's safe to do so) and providing attention when they engage in positive behaviors.
- Teaching alternative ways to get attention, like using words or engaging in cooperative play.
- Scheduling regular quality time so they don't feel the need to act out just to be noticed.

PEEK AT PRE-K

BY ANNETTE FERNANDEZ



Clothes Call

Learning to zip, button, and fasten clothing is an important milestone for young children. These skills strengthen hand coordination, build confidence, and foster independence. While it can be tricky at first—holding the bottom of a jacket steady while sliding the zipper, or lining up buttons just right—consistent practice makes all the difference. Patience and encouragement go a long way, and letting your child try on their own before stepping in to help builds resilience.

Try This at Home

- Offer your child a variety of clothing items—jackets, button-down shirts, or shoes for different occasions.
- Invite them to choose what to wear and let them attempt to put it on by themselves.
- Use fun rhymes or jingles to guide them. For example: “Head goes in the big hole, arms go in the small holes.”
- Demonstrate how to zip or button, then let your child practice. Encourage repeated tries—it may take a few attempts before success.

Tip for Parents

Use the same simple directions each time and give your child plenty of opportunities to practice. Celebrate small victories—each button fastened or zipper pulled is a big step toward independence!

INDIAN EDUCATION

CHRISTINA BULLARD

Reading with your child does more than strengthen literacy—it builds confidence, connection, and cultural pride. When children see themselves reflected in the stories they read, it becomes a form of self-affirmation, making them feel seen, valued, and inspired. Research shows that children often “seek their mirrors in books” and deeply engage with stories that reflect their own experiences.

Additionally, when children connect to characters from their own culture, it helps them feel a sense of belonging and engagement in learning. Conversely, a lack of representation can diminish interest in reading and create feelings of disconnection.

To support this, we are excited to share the Museum of the Southeast American Indian YouTube Channel! This digital resource—curated by the Museum at UNC Pembroke—features videos that bring Southeastern Native cultures, traditions, and histories to life.

** Check it out here:** [Museum of the Southeast American Indian YouTube Channel](#)

Visiting this channel with your child can spark meaningful conversations, inspire curiosity, and reinforce cultural identity through engaging visual storytelling.



Hoke County
Indian Education

  **Welcome to Beanstack!**  

Get ready to join your student on a reading adventure! Beanstack makes reading fun with challenges, digital badges, and leaderboards that motivate students to build lifelong reading habits.

With Beanstack, your student can:

-  Earn badges for reading milestones
-  Track every book, article, or graphic novel
-  Compete on leaderboards & keep daily streaks

Joining is quick and easy:

 At school: Students log in through Clever.

 At home: Download the Beanstack mobile app on the App Store or Google Play

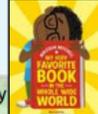
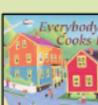
 Every page counts—let’s grow confident readers together!

[Here is a video to explain Beanstack.](#) 

Click on the National Day Calendar to find a read aloud for each day!

September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 National Food Bank Day 	2 Blueberry Popsicle Day 	3 Bowling League Day 	4 News paper Carrier Day 	5 Cheese Pizza Day 	6 Read a Book Day 
7 Neither Rain nor Shine Day 	8 Star Trek Day 	9 Teddy Bear Day 	10 Swap Ideas Day 	11 School Picture Day 	12 High Five Day 	13 Kids take over the kitchen 
14 Live Creative Day 	15 Felt Hat Day 	16 Mayflower Day 	17 Constitution Day 	18 Cheese-Burger Day 	19 Talk Like a Pirate Day 	20 Fried Rice Day 
21 Pecan Cookie Day 	22 Ice Cream Cone Day 	23 American Chicken Pot Pie Day 	24 Punctuation Day 	25 Open the Magic Day 	26 Pancake Day 	27 Day of Forgiveness 
28 Strawberry Cream Pie Day 	29 Coffee Day 	30 Chewing Gum Day 				



RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- [NCDPI - PARENT CONTENT SUPPORT GUIDES \(GRADES K-12\)](#)
- [HOKE COUNTY SCHOOLS: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION](#)