



Greetings, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Families!

Over the past several weeks, our district has navigated a series of winter weather challenges that have caused disruptions to school schedules, and I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your cooperation, patience and support. Your flexibility has allowed us to prioritize the safety of our students and staff while adapting to rapidly changing conditions. Thank you for partnering with us and for demonstrating such a strong spirit of community. We are excited to get back into the routine of school with students in class.

Attendance remains the foundation of student success, and regular, in-person instruction continues to be essential to academic growth. At the same time, we understand that short-term absences due to illness, weather and other unforeseen circumstances do occur. In response, we have expanded our attendance efforts to **Every Day Counts; Engagement Matters**, ensuring students remain connected to learning even when they are **temporarily** unable to attend school no matter the reason.

Families can now access grade-specific [Stay Connected, Stay Engaged: Instructional Resources](#) on the CMS website. These materials provide short-term learning support during absences and serve as a bridge – not a replacement – for the high-quality instruction delivered by our educators. Our teachers and support staff, including social workers, remain committed to partnering with families when students are absent. We are also working closely with community partners to remove barriers that impact attendance and engagement. Our goal is to maintain strong attendance expectations while ensuring students stay connected to learning and are prepared to return to the classroom successfully.

February brings several important celebrations that highlight the richness of our school community. We proudly recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Black History Month, honoring the achievements, resilience and contributions of Black Americans – past and present – whose stories continue to shape our nation and inspire us all.

We also are celebrating Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, which recognizes the students who are developing valuable skills and the educators who guide them toward college, career and future success. And we join schools across the country in observing National School Counseling Week to express our appreciation for the counselors who support our students' academic, emotional and career development every day.

Please join me in congratulating our [district spelling bee winners](#) – Saishrihan Julakanty and Kamryn Ballard. Their hard work, preparation and poise made us proud. They will represent Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in the upcoming regional spelling bee. I also want to recognize our dedicated educators – all 203 of them – who either earned or renewed their [National Board](#)

[Certification](#), a significant professional achievement that reflects their commitment to excellence in teaching.

This month, our district will host a [series of enrollment events](#) to welcome families who will have students entering kindergarten in the fall. The events will assist families with the enrollment process, answer questions they may have and ensure that students are prepared and ready for a strong start in August. We can't wait to welcome the Class of 2039!

Here are a few important dates for your calendar:

- [Midyear graduation](#) – Feb. 12 (*New date, same times and location*)
- [Board of Education Meeting](#) – Feb. 24
- [Teacher Workday](#) – Feb. 16 (*No school for students*)

In closing, I want to reiterate the [recent updates to the district calendar](#) made by our Board of Education in response to the instructional time lost during the recent inclement weather closures. These adjustments allow us to maintain high-quality learning experiences for students while continuing to meet state requirements. As a reminder, Feb. 11 and April 29 will now be full school days for students following the traditional academic calendar. I encourage you to visit our [district website](#) for details.

Thank you for your continued partnership and engagement. Together, we remain focused on ensuring that every student in our district feels supported, challenged and inspired.

In service and partnership,

*Crystal*

Crystal L. Hill, Ed.D.  
Superintendent