



Stay CONNECTED, Stay INFORMED, Stay ENGAGED!



Welcome to Issue #3 of our Family Connections Newsletter! We're excited to share this edition with you, as it's filled with updates and highlights celebrating the wonderful things happening across Henry County Schools. Our goal is to keep you informed, supported, and connected by sharing helpful tools and resources that make it easier to support your child's learning and success. We look forward to continuing this partnership with you and encourage you to stay tuned for our next Family Connections Newsletter which will be published during Quarter 4 (April 2026).

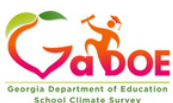
Your Feedback Matters to US!

Georgia School Climate Survey

The window for the **Georgia School Climate Family Survey** is now open. This brief survey helps us collect valuable information from our parents and families about our schools. If your children are enrolled at multiple schools, complete a separate survey for each school. This information is also used by the Georgia Department of Education as part of the calculation of each school's climate star rating.

Your voice is important, so please take the time to share your input and feedback with us.

Please use the link below to visit access your Family Survey based on grade level and school:



Family Surveys



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Literacy In Action: The 2025 Henry County Picture Book Bowl

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, the halls of McDonough Middle School buzzed with the excitement of young readers and their families. This year's Helen Ruffin Picture Book Bowl, hosted by the HCS Educational Technology, Media & Systems Integration Department, brought together the brightest K-3 readers from 25 elementary schools across Henry County for a high-stakes celebration of reading.

The competition is a fast-paced "quiz bowl" style event where students answer questions based on a specific list of Georgia Children's Book Award nominees.



The competition was fierce, but Locust Grove Elementary claimed 1st Place, followed closely by Mt. Carmel Elementary in 2nd Place. Rounding out the leaderboard, Walnut Creek Elementary and Austin Road Elementary both demonstrated incredible knowledge to finish in a tie for 3rd Place.

The journey didn't end at the county line for our top two finishers. Locust Grove Elementary and Mt. Carmel Elementary earned the honor of representing Henry County at the Region and State competitions held in Macon, Georgia.



Locust Grove Elementary saw its dedication to reading pay off, securing 1st Place in the Metro Region and 3rd Place in the state.

Congratulations to all the students, coaches, and families who put in the hours of reading and practice to make this year's Bowl a resounding success!



Congratulations!



Griffin RESA Math Contests



It's competition season for the Office of Mathematics! We are proud to congratulate Woodland High School, Ola High School, and Union Grove High School for their outstanding placements at the Griffin RESA Math Contests, as well as our middle schools for their enthusiastic participation.

The Griffin RESA Math Contests are regional competitions among schools in the Griffin RESA region, which includes the following school systems: Butts, Fayette, Henry, Lamar, Newton, Pike, Spalding, and Upson. These contests provide students with meaningful opportunities to demonstrate mathematical thinking, problem-solving skills, and teamwork in a competitive and engaging environment.



Congratulations to our high school winners from Ola High, Union Grove High, and Woodland High for their outstanding placements at the 2025-2026 Griffin RESA Math Contests!

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to our middle school students for showing that they have the mathematical knowledge to compete at a high level!



2025-2026 Reading Challenge

In collaboration with the Greg Street “We Need to Read” Foundation, Henry READS invites all Henry County students and their families to join in this district-wide reading challenge!

Details

- Duration - October 1, 2025 to **February 28, 2026**
- \$103 Prize for each school’s top reader (overall minutes logged in Beanstack)
- Additional monthly incentives through various Henry partners
- Digital Library Cards for all HCS students
- Reading log submission through Beanstack
- Student access to Sora (HCS ebook & audiobook collection)
- District-wide celebration for overall winners

Deadline



Reading Challenge Resources

Digital Library Cards

<https://tinyurl.com/HCSDigitalCard>



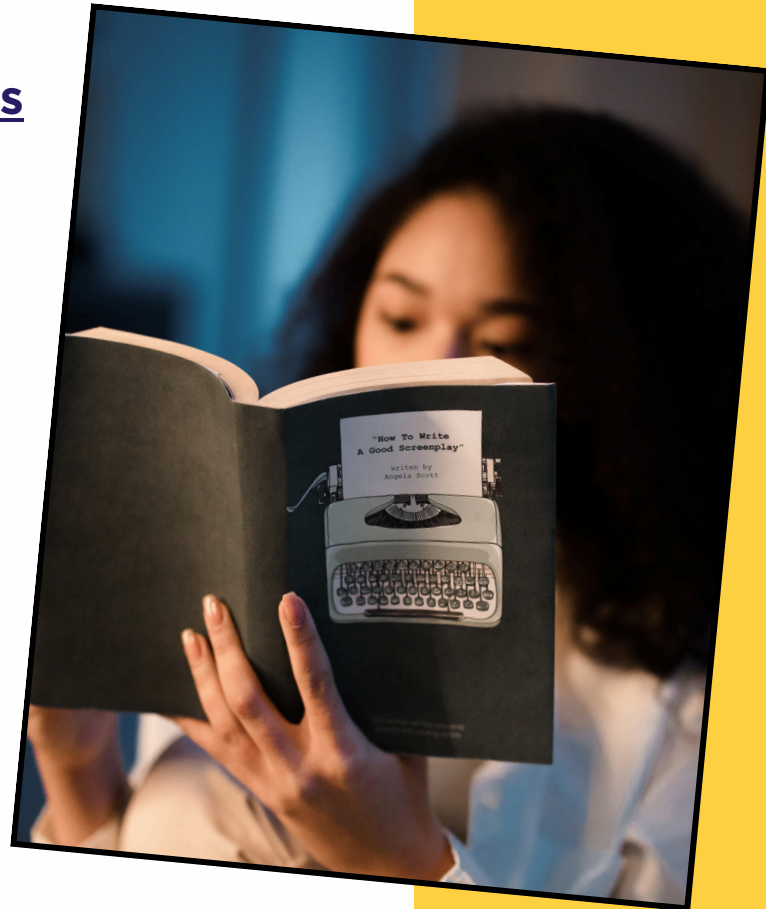
Sora (HCS eBook and Audiobooks)

<https://launchpad.classlink.com/henry>



Beanstack (Reading Log submission)

<https://launchpad.classlink.com/henry>



Please contact your school media specialist for additional Information



In Pursuit of
Exceptional

Core Belief #1

We believe each student can learn at or above grade level and will have an equal opportunity to do so.

Commitment #1

Each student will learn at or above grade level and have an equal opportunity to do so.

Core Belief #2

We believe family and community involvement is critical to student success.

Commitment #2 We will foster connections for families and community to support student learning.

Core Belief #3 We believe all learning environments should be supportive, safe, and secure.

Commitment #3

All school environments will be supportive, safe, and secure.

Core Belief #4

We believe effective teachers and leaders produce excellent results.

Commitment #4

We will recruit, support, retain, and recognize results-driven teachers and leaders.



HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

A PARENT'S GUIDE to GEORGIA MILESTONES ASSESSMENT

What is Georgia Milestones Assessment?

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (Georgia Milestones) is a state required comprehensive assessment system spanning grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures your students mastery of the state standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Students in grades 3 through 8 will take End-of-Grade (EOG) assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics, while grade 5 and 8 students will also take the EOG Science assessments and grade 8 students will take a social studies EOG. High school students will take End-of-Course (EOC) assessments for each of the four EOC associated courses in which they are enrolled, as designated by the State Board of Education.



What is the purpose of the Georgia Milestones Assessment?

Georgia Milestones is designed to provide information about how well students are mastering the state adopted content standards. Georgia Milestones is designed to provide students and teachers with critical information about a student's individual achievement and his/her readiness for their next level of learning — be it the next grade, the next course, or the next endeavor (college or career).



What types of questions will on the Georgia Milestones Assessment?

The Georgia Milestones assessment is conducted online and encompasses the following item types:

- Students in grades 3, 5, 8, and those enrolled in Literature and Composition II are required to complete a writing component, which involves composing an essay that cites evidence from the texts they have read.
- In grades 4, 6, and 7, students engage in a peer revision task, where they provide constructive feedback on writing samples appropriate for their grade level.
- The assessment includes technology-enhanced items that present multi-step problems through interactive components. Additionally, there are multiple-choice items included in the assessment.



When do students take the assessment?

For students in grades 3 to 8, testing will occur annually between April and May.

For students in grades 9 to 12, assessments will be administered in May. This schedule also applies to middle school students enrolled in high school courses that include an End-of-Course (EOC) assessment. Furthermore, high school students attending schools that operate on a block schedule will take the EOC Milestones in December and May.

Students will complete different sections of the test each day, with an estimated total testing duration of approximately two hours per day.



What can I do to help my student be prepared for the test?

Students who are prepared, calm, and rested perform better on tests. Here are some of the many ways to help your student approach Georgia Milestones in a relaxed, positive way:

- Encourage your student to employ good study and test-taking skills. These skills include following directions carefully, avoiding careless errors, and reviewing work.
- Explain the purpose of the tests. The assessments give students an opportunity to show what they have learned in school. They also give teachers information that helps them plan instruction.
- Point out that some items may be more difficult than others.
- Be certain your student gets plenty of sleep and has a healthy breakfast and lunch. Taking tests is hard work for many students and can require a lot of energy.
- Be certain your student is at school on time. Rushing and worrying about being late could affect performance on the tests.
- Remember to ask your student about the testing at the end of each day.
- Remember to always be positive during this period and offer encouraging words.

What resources are available for my child to prepare for GMAS?

There are 2 main online resources to help you and your child become familiar with the assessment content and the assessment platform:

- **Experience Online Georgia** provides students with an opportunity to become familiar with the online testing platform through the Test Practice link. This practice site does not require a log-in and is available 7 days a week.



<http://www.gaexperienceonline.com/>



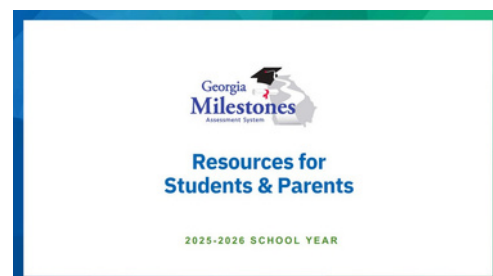
- **Georgia Milestones Parent Resource Guide**

A variety of resources are available to acquaint parents with the Georgia Milestones assessments.



- Parent Q&A
- Practice Tests
- Score Interpretation Guidance
- Test Blueprints
- Study/Resource Guides
- Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)

tinyurl.com/Parent-Resource-Guide



COMMUNITY SERVICE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT (Class of 2028 and Beyond)

Henry County Board of Education developed a new graduation requirement of 23.5 hours which includes a required community service component for students graduating in 2028 and subsequent school years, as outlined in Board [Policy IHF \(6\)](#) and [Regulation IHF-R\(1\)](#).

These requirements were inspired by Henry County Schools' vision to ensure a high-quality, world-class education for every student and its mission to empower all students with exceptional opportunities and access that lead to success in a global society. The board believes all students should contribute to the Henry County community through service. As a result, HCS graduates will be more competitive regarding post-secondary opportunities such as scholarships, college admissions, and work experience.

- **How many units of credit will students need to graduate?**

Students will need a total of 23.5 units to satisfy graduation requirements.

- **Will students receive credit for community service?**

Students will be awarded 0.5 credit with a grade of Satisfactory (S) at the completion of 20 hours. Community Service must be completed the semester prior to graduation.

- **When should I begin to plan community service hours?**

Students should begin to plan for community service hours before completing eighth grade.

- **When can I begin earning hours?**

Students may begin earning hours after the completion of eighth grade.

- **Will community service count toward my GPA?**

The grade will not count toward the high school GPA or the HOPE Scholarship GPA.

- **What opportunities exist for community service?**

Many students become involved in community service activities through their participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities and athletics, as well as civic, community, and faith-based organizations. A list of possible opportunities may be found in Appendix A of Regulation IHF-R(1).

- **How will community service be reported to schools?**

Students will have access through the Infinite Campus (IC) portal to enter community service hours. Parents/guardians may monitor hours through IC. In some circumstances, additional documentation may be required if there are questions regarding the validity of the community service entry.

- **Will students be rewarded for completing more than 20 hours?**

Yes. The Office of the Superintendent will recognize graduating seniors who have achieved a greater number than the required 20 hours of community service. For specific information, please review Regulation IHF-R(1).

- **What happens if community service is not completed?**

Students will be awarded an incomplete (I) and will be ineligible to receive an HCS diploma.

- **Are there any exemptions?**

Yes. Exemptions are listed in Regulation IHF-R(1).

- **Who can I contact for more information?**

Families may contact their school's College and Career Readiness Coach for more information.

Scan the QR Code for a
comprehensive review of
[HCS Board Policy IHF-R\(1\):](#)
Graduation Requirements
Entering Fall 2024
and Thereafter



RESOURCE Library



On-Demand Resources

The HCS Family Connections Library includes on-demand resources for busy parents who are looking for resources to help their child.

The HCS Family Connections Library includes a variety of information from early learning resources to information on financial aid and scholarships.

**Visit the Family Resource
Library today!**



<https://bit.ly/FCRLibrary>

TOOLS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

HENRY CONNECTS FAMILY VIEW



One of our core beliefs is that family and community involvement is critical to student success! In an effort to bring classroom resources to your living room, we have developed the Henry Connects Family View. This a one-stop shop developed to strengthen the partnership between home and school. It connects families to school information, tools, and instructional resources specifically tailored to your child's courses.

An Infinite Campus Parent Portal account is required to access HenryConnects Family View. Don't have a Parent Portal account? Click the link below to get started!

Scan here to access Infinite Campus



<https://bit.ly/HCS-ParentPortal>

"Catch the Pace" is a weekly update from Henry County Schools' Superintendent Dr. John Pace III on all things happening in Henry. Each week, Dr. Pace recaps various events taking place in HCS as well as provides information and updates on various topics involving our schools and community. You can "Catch the Pace" by following Henry County Schools on our various social media platforms.



Ways to Connect with Henry County Schools

Facebook



Twitter (X)



YouTube





STUDENT SERVICES

Food Pantry

**Monday-Friday
10 am to 3 pm**



**Henry County Learning and
Support Services
166 Holly Smith Drive
McDonough, GA. 30253**

*Help for families in need, offered as long as supplies last. We have
prepared Spaghetti, Tacos, and Breakfast kits.*

**Canned fruits & vegetables, baby food, breakfast items, snacks,
soup, macaroni and cheese, beans, canned meats, dry goods, and
more.**

All items may not be available at all times.

Contact us

Mary Beth Middlebook | 770-957-3945 ext. 04125

HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

TITLE I DISTRICT PARENT MEETING

Engage with other parents and District staff to **exchange** ideas and share your feedback on our *District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan* to revise it for the next school year. **Explore** resources to take home to support your child's learning.



Student Performances

- ★ BOOKS AND LEARNING KITS TO TAKE HOME*
- ★ DOOR PRIZES
- ★ GIVEAWAYS
- ★ COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS
- ★ FOOD TRUCKS - COME HUNGRY!

*While supplies last

View the District Title I Parent & Family Engagement Plan here in English, French, and Spanish.

Kimberly.Howard@Henry.k12.ga.us



**6 PM
THURSDAY
February 26**

**Interprète français
disponible**

**Intérprete de
español disponible**

**HCS
Learning &
Support Center
166 Holly Smith Dr.
McDonough 30253**

**Clear
bags only
please**



ESE FAMILY EMPOWERMENT & TRANSITION FAIR

HENRY
COUNTY SCHOOLS

SATURDAY
MARCH 7, 2026
9 AM TO 1 PM

MCDONOUGH HIGH SCHOOL
155 POST MASTER DRIVE
MCDONOUGH, GA



**SUPER FAMILIES,
SUPER FUTURES!**

**EMPOWERMENT IS
OUR SUPERPOWER**

Join us for an exciting and informative event supporting students with IEPs and their families. The fair brings together nonprofit groups, service agencies, ESE leadership, community partners, and vendors to share essential resources and information.

Families will have the chance to:

- Attend helpful informational sessions
- Connect directly with ESE leadership
- Explore local agencies, colleges, and transition opportunities
- Visit community vendors and support organizations
- Enjoy giveaways and door prizes

Learn about the wide range of resources available for students with IEPs in Henry County Schools.

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD STRONG SUPPORTS TODAY FOR SUPER FUTURES TOMORROW!



The Henry County Public Schools Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the educational experience for all students, teachers, and staff within Henry County Schools.

Please consider supporting the foundation by turning your TAXES into TOOLS to create bright futures.

You can also support the foundation by shopping at Kaufman's Furniture, where 10% of every sale will be donated to the Henry County Public Schools Foundation.

SHOP KAUFMAN'S FURNITURE
TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOLS!

10% OF EVERY SALE
 will be donated to

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

EMPLOYEES & FAMILIES OF HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FUND HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS!

- ✓ Just mention you work for Henry County Schools when you shop!
- ✓ **GET 10% OFF ALL PURCHASES!**
- ✓ **10% GOES TO OUR SCHOOLS!**
- ✓ **NO COST TO YOU!**

SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOLS, SHOP AT KAUFMAN'S!

Kaufman's FURNITURE Gallery

Visit us at 1121 Meredith Park Dr.,
 McDonough, GA 30253
<https://foundation.henry.k12.ga.us/>

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION
GFPE.ORG
 770.957.3945

TURN YOUR TAXES INTO TOOLS TO CREATE BRIGHT FUTURES IN HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

KEEP YOUR TAXES LOCAL WITH THE PEACH EDUCATION TAX CREDIT!

- KEEP FUNDING IN HENRY COUNTY
- IMPROVE LOCAL SCHOOLS
- RECEIVE A GEORGIA TAX CREDIT
- LIMITED TIME ONLY!

LEARN MORE & APPLY TODAY AT:
<https://foundation.henry.k12.ga.us/>
gfpe.org • 770.957.3945

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION
GEORGIA FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Henry County Public Schools Foundation suggests the following ways to give for anyone seeking to contribute to an exceptional education environment for all students and staff in Henry County Schools:

- Online Donations
- Recurring Donations
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Matching Gifts
- Planned Giving
- Fundraising Events
- In-Kind Donations
- Championing Volunteer Opportunities

For more information, contact HCPSF at HCPSFoundation@henry.k12.ga.us or (770) 957-6601 (ext. 04190).