



Greetings, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Families!

Spring brings a fresh burst of energy to our schools – longer days, warmer weather and lots to look forward to as we head into the final stretch of the school year. With special events, end-of-year testing and celebrations filling our calendars, now is a great time to double down on what matters most: showing up to school every day, staying engaged, and sticking to the expectations that help everyone succeed. When students come to school ready to learn each day, and families and community members support strong routines at home, we set the stage for continued growth and success. Together, we can help our students finish the year feeling proud, confident, and ready for what's next.

March was a particularly meaningful month in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, marked by many moments of learning, celebration and connection. Throughout the district, schools hosted literacy events and classroom activities to celebrate Read Across America Week and to remind us all why a love of reading is fundamental to lifelong success.

We announced the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools [School Social Worker of the Year Ilisa Henderson](#) and also celebrated Arts in our Schools Month in March. Students of all ages experienced [performances](#) and [showcased their talents](#), reflecting both their hard work and the guidance of dedicated educators. Across our athletic fields and courts, student-athletes demonstrated teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship, making our entire community proud. Congratulations to our fall and winter N.C. High School Athletic Association state champions:

- ***Basketball***

- 8A Women's State Champions – Mallard Creek High School
  - N.C. Farm Bureau Sportsmanship Award – Jazmeen Stone
  - Most Outstanding Player – My'Asia Young
  - Most Valuable Player – Camri Hobbs
- 7A Women's State Champions – North Mecklenburg High School
  - NC Farm Bureau Sportsmanship Award – Stephanie Mobley
  - Most Outstanding Player – Morgan Knox
  - Most Valuable Player – Lensie Joseph
    - Meck Power 6 Player of the Year
    - District 9 Player of the Year
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Team All State
  - District 6 Coach of the Year and N.C. Basketball Coaches Association All-State Coach of the Year – Jennifer Baker, athletic director
- 8A Men's State Champions – West Charlotte High School

- ***Football***

- 8A State Champions – William A. Hough High School

- West Offensive Player of the Game – Jamarian Morrison
  - West Defensive Player of the Game – Ryan Peterson
  - N.C. Farm Bureau Sportsmanship Award – Samari Matthews
  - Most Valuable Player – Ethan Royal
- ***Women's Tennis***
    - 7A Singles State Champion – Juliana Andrea Castellanos, Ballantyne Ridge High School
    - 8A Singles State Champion – Devin Gilroy, William A. Hough High School
    - 8A Doubles State Champions – Teagan Reilly and Lila Cheatwood, Myers Park High School
    - 8A Dual Team State Champions – Myers Park High School
- ***Wrestling***
    - 8A Men's Individual Wrestling State Champions – William A. Hough High School
- ***Indoor Track and Field***
    - 8A Women's Team Champions – Mallard Creek High School
      - 8A Women's Team Runner-Up – Myers Park High School
    - 8A Men's Team Champions – Mallard Creek High School
    - N.C. Farm Bureau Sportsmanship Award Winners
      - Sana'ia Lazenby, Mallard Creek High School
      - Calla Lanik, Myers Park High School
      - Zach Prioleau, Mallard Creek High School
- ***Swimming and Diving***
    - 8A Men's & Women's Team State Champions – Myers Park High School
    - 8A Men's Individual State Champion – Nate Robinson, Myers Park High School
    - Farm Bureau Sportsmanship Award Winners
      - Avery Klamforth, Myers Park High School
      - Peter Cassidy, Myers Park High School

We also saw students and staff actively giving back through [service projects](#) and community partnerships, reinforcing our belief that schools are vital centers of care and leadership. These efforts – both large and small – help build strong connections beyond the classroom and reflect our shared commitment to preparing students not only academically, but also to be engaged citizens.

I recently shared my 2026-2027 budget recommendation with the Board of Education. The proposal reflects key priorities, financial considerations and our approach to maintaining strong, student-focused schools. Key components of the proposal include:

- A continued commitment to student-centered decision-making and academic excellence
- Strategic staffing adjustments through natural attrition to align with enrollment trends
- Investments in employee compensation, student technology and school operations
- Planning for rising operational costs, including utilities and facility needs

- Ongoing efforts to maintain safe, stable, and high-quality learning environments for all students

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, our partners and the entire Mecklenburg County community. As responsible stewards of their funding and trust, we are committed to sustaining recent academic gains, while ensuring long-term financial stability and operational efficiency.

Here are a few key dates in the budget timeline:

- April 2: [Budget Engagement Session](#) at Kennedy Middle School, 4000 Gallant Lane, Charlotte, NC 28273 (*Final session in our series*)
- April 14 – Public Hearing on Superintendent’s Budget Recommendation
- April 28 – Board of Education Vote on Superintendent’s Budget Recommendation

Later this month, our district will host a Health and Wellness Fair for families and staff in partnership with Novant Health. The event will be held on Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Goodwill Opportunity Campus, 5301 Wilkinson Blvd. This event is an opportunity to visit with vendors that offer health assessments, immunizations, dental screenings, mammograms and more! Lunch and prizes will be available. Register [here](#) by April 10.

Students and staff at schools following the traditional calendar soon will head out for Spring Break (April 6-10). I hope you will take some time to rest and relax and return to school rejuvenated and ready for the final stretch of the year.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our students’ success. I am grateful for all that our community has accomplished together, and I look forward to the continued momentum that spring brings as we create *Endless Possibilities* for every learner in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

In service and partnership,

*Crystal*

Crystal L. Hill, Ed.D.  
Superintendent