

CMS Engagement in Action!

April 2026

Finishing the Year Strong—Together

As we move into April, we're excited to share opportunities and resources to support your family as the school year comes to a close. This month's Family Engagement highlights focus on helping families stay informed, connected, and confident through our Family Academy sessions, access to community resources, and tips for finishing the year strong.



Whether you're looking to strengthen routines at home, partner more closely with your child's school, or learn about supports available in the community, there's something for everyone. We invite you to join us, stay engaged, and continue working alongside teachers and school leaders to ensure a successful end to the year and a strong transition into what's next.

♥ Thank you for being such an important part of your child's learning journey.



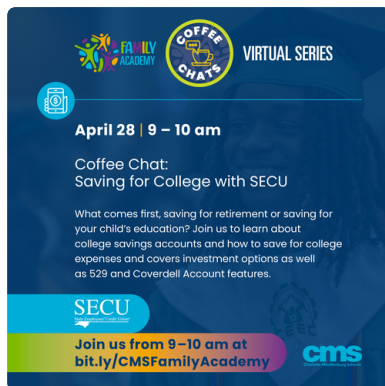
CMS Family Academy Virtual Lunch & Learns!

Have you attended a Family Academy Lunch and Learn? It's easy to stay connected!

Every Thursday, 12 -1 PM, Login using bit.ly/CMSFamilyAcademy

- April 16: [Planning for the Future with CFNC](#)
- April 23: [Meaningful Medicine: Bringing telemedicine, virtual therapy, and career readiness programs direct to students](#)
- April 30: [Together We Grow: DIBELS and iReady Assessment End of Year Overview](#)

Family Academy Coffee Chat



Tuesday, April 28 (9-10 AM): [Saving for College with SECU](#)

Link to Join: bit.ly/CMSFamilyAcademy

Join us for *Saving for College with SECU*. During this session, you'll learn about college savings accounts and how to save for college expenses. Families will also explore investment options as well as 529 and Coverdell Account features.

Save the Date!

Join us on May 21 at 6:00 pm at Family Academy on the Go STEAM into Summer! Families will connect with CMS Departments and community organizations while engaging in interactive experiences and gaining resources to support learning throughout the summer months.



Family Portal

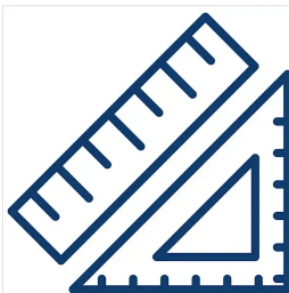


Visit the Family Portal for a one-stop shopping experience! Access district instructional resources, learning tools, curriculum guides, and more—all in one convenient location. Whether you're helping with homework or planning ahead, everything you need is just a click away.

➡ Explore the portal today at www.cmsk12.org/familyportal and stay connected every step of the way!

Have you explored the CMS Family Portal?

Calling all High School Families: Have you explored the high school pathway? As we approach the 4th Quarter, we invite you to explore the [High School Resources Pathway](#). Find College and Career Readiness supports, Math 1 information, and more at the tip of your fingers!



Math



College and Career Readiness

Parent Leadership Session: Forward Focus: Parents Leading the Way



Join us for the final Parent Leadership Session of the year as we look ahead to how parents/guardians will continue to shape student success in the 2026–27 school year.

All sessions will be held virtually from 12-1pm and 6-7pm. Please log on using the following meeting link: [Parent Leadership](#)

Become a CROWN Community Ambassador!



Are you passionate about advancing the mission of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools? We are looking for "boots-on-the-ground" champions, parents, family members, and community leaders, to serve as CROWN Community Ambassadors.

As an ambassador, you will serve as a trusted voice, helping families navigate district resources, sharing important information, and attending community events to promote the great things happening in CMS. This is a fantastic opportunity to use your lived experience to ensure our messaging is family-friendly and culturally responsive.

Why Join?

- Help ensure vital information reaches every family
- Gain practical skills through focused training
- Gain valuable experience connecting with the community and staff

Important Dates:

- Program Timeframe: July 2026-May 2027
- Application: Available April 13, 2026

Strengthening Home-School Partnerships

The Family and Community Engagement team would like to extend a special thank you and "shout out" to the following schools for their leadership in piloting our new Parent Empowerment workshops:



- Garinger High School
- Eastway Middle School
- Sterling Elementary School
- Nations Ford Elementary School
- Hornets Nest Elementary School

These schools collaborated closely with our team to deliver interactive sessions designed to provide parents and guardians with actionable resources. The workshops focused on critical pillars of student success, including:

- Navigating the transitions through middle and high school
- Establishing effective schedules, routines, and attendance habits
- Building strong, transparent relationships with school staff
- Practical strategies for home reading and incorporating DIBELS drills

We've got you covered, families! 🌱

Need a fresh **Family Academy poster** for your community space?
Just fill out this quick form—we'll take care of the rest!

👉 Request a Poster [HERE](#)

Already have a poster? Great! You can also share our digital Family Academy poster with your family and community members. It's available in multiple languages so everyone can stay connected:

- [English](#)
- [French](#)
- [Portuguese](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)

➡ Share these links with your community to help families access resources in their preferred language!



District and Community Resources



Looking for resources in your home language?

Visit: [CMS Learning and Language Acquisition Webpage](#)



Resources

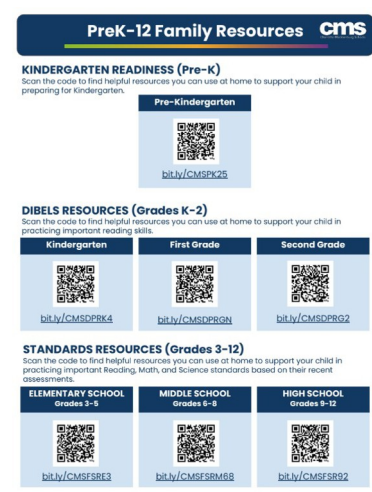
Stay Connected, Stay Engaged: Instructional Resources

cms
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Daily Attendance Matters!

Being in school each day helps students learn, connect, and thrive. When unexpected absences happen, learning can still continue! The resources provided help students stay engaged, practice key skills, and keep their routines strong until they're back in the classroom. These tools support learning, but nothing replaces being at school!

Finishing the Year Strong: PreK-12 Family Resource



With less than two months remaining before end-of-year assessments, now is a great time to reinforce key reading and math skills at home. Explore the resources for easy ways to support your child's reading and math skills: [PreK-12 Family Resource](#)

State Employees Credit Union

At SECU, "People Helping People" is more than our philosophy, it's a way of life. SECU employees are committed to helping members and communities prepare for successful financial futures by offering consumer education presentations for all ages.

Interested in learning more? Check out the flyers linked below, or email outreach@ncsecu.org to learn more!

[Adult Education: Community](#)

[Adult Education: SECU Members](#)

[Reality of Money](#)

Adventure Awaits: Healthy Kids Day at Camp Thunderbird

Looking for the ultimate way to kick off spring? Join us at YMCA Camp Thunderbird on Sunday, April 19 (12:00 PM – 3:00 PM) for Healthy Kids Day! Explore the camp, enjoy paddle sports on Lake Wylie, take a guided tour, and dive into interactive crafts. It's a great



opportunity for new families to see the magic of camp and for returning campers to reconnect with the shores of Lake Wylie.

For more information visit: [Healthy Kids Day](#)



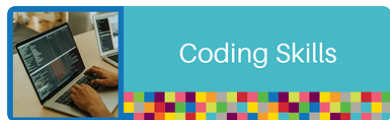
Spring Break, SHOUT!

Charlotte SHOUT!, presented by Bank of America, is a beloved, annual celebration of the city's art, culture, and community. Built on the pillars of art, music, food, and ideas, Charlotte SHOUT! is an inclusive and inspirational sensory feast for all ages, with more than 200 events and attractions taking place from April 3-19 in Uptown, Charlotte.



To learn more about additional activities over spring break, [click here](#).

STARBASE: Intro to Coding - Spring Break Camp!



STARBASE Charlotte, a Department of Defense Youth program, will be offering a STEM Careers summer camp at no cost at West Boulevard Library. The camp will focus on hands-on STEM

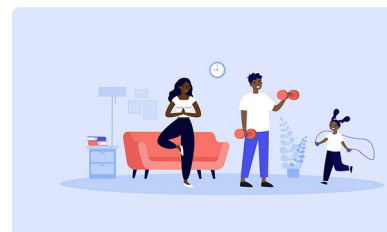
experiments and experiences. Camp will be for students in Grades 4 – 6. Camp will be Monday through Thursday, April 6, 2026 - April 9, 2026, from 9:15 AM - 2:30 PM.

Interested in other opportunities at the library this spring break? Check out Spring Break at the Library events using the link below.

[CM Library Spring Break Events](#)

American Heart Association

The American Heart Association's Life's Essential 8 are the key measures for improving and maintaining cardiovascular health. Supporting good heart and brain health early helps lower the risk for heart disease, stroke and other major health problems later in life.



Check out heart.org/lifes8forkids to learn more!

Join Us: Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, Healthy Lives!

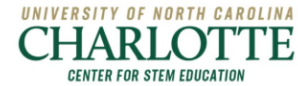
CMS families and staff are invited to a wellness event hosted by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Novant Health. Enjoy a day dedicated to community health with lunch, prizes, and expert wellness information.

- **When:** Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Goodwill Opportunity Campus, 5301 Wilkinson Blvd.
- **Activities:** Immunizations, dental screenings, mammograms, yoga, and financial literacy sessions.
- **Action:** Please **RSVP by April 10** by scanning the QR code on the flyer.



2026 UNC Charlotte STEAM Innovation Expo

The UNC Charlotte Center for STEM Education, UNC Charlotte STEM departments, and community stakeholders will facilitate events focused on engaging and interactive STEM learning opportunities. Through hands-on activities, STEM talks, lab tours, nature experiences, exhibits and performances, the UNC Charlotte STEAM Expo engages a wide range of public audiences while inspiring future generations.



Topics will include: Art & Design, Business & Careers, Chemistry, Earth & Space Sciences, Engineering, Environment, Food, Health, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Science & Society, Technology

WHEN: April 26, 2026, 1:00-4:00 PM

WHERE: UNC Charlotte Main Plaza, 8838 Crave Road, Charlotte, NC 28223

AUDIENCE: Children, Families, Pre-K, Teens

ADMISSION: Free

For additional information: [UNC Charlotte STEAM EXPO](#)

Poem in Your Pocket Day 2026 will take place on April 30th.



Poem in Your Pocket Day takes place every year during [National Poetry Month](#).

Poem in Your Pocket Day was initiated in April 2002 by the Office of the Mayor in New York City, in partnership with the city's Departments of Cultural Affairs and Education. In 2008, the Academy of American Poets took the initiative to all fifty United States, encouraging individuals around the country to participate.

Ways to Participate:

- Select a poem and share it on social media using the hashtag #PocketPoem.
- Record a video of yourself reading a poem, then share it on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, or another social media platform you use.
- Email a poem to your friends, family, neighbors, or local government leaders.
- Schedule a video chat and read a poem to your loved ones.
- Add a poem to your email footer.
- Read a poem out loud from your porch, window, backyard, or outdoor space.

Discover more ways to celebrate National Poetry Month in the classroom or at home: [National Poetry Month](#)



Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages Resources

We're excited to share resources that will help you stay connected to what your child is learning this quarter!

Families can explore resources for Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages by using [this link](#).

Scholarship Opportunities



Big Opportunity: The 2026 Gantt-McColl Scholarship is Now Open!

Attention Mecklenburg County seniors! If you are looking for a significant boost to your college fund, the Gantt-McColl Scholarship—offered in partnership with UNCF—is officially accepting applications. This is a prestigious renewable scholarship that can provide up to \$30,000 over four years (\$7,500 per year) to help cover your educational expenses.

Key Dates & Contact Info

- Application Deadline: May 6, 2026.
- Apply Online: Visit opportunities.uncf.org to start your application today.

For more information, feel free to reach out to Wayne Wilson II at wwilson@uncf.org.

Transforming the Future: The 2026 Kieth and Serena Cockrell Scholarship

Students in the Charlotte region have another incredible opportunity to fund their higher education through the Kieth and Serena Cockrell Scholarship. Dedicated to "Honoring the Legacy and Transforming our Future," this program offers a renewable scholarship of up to \$30,000. Selected recipients will receive \$7,500 per year for four years to support their college journey.

Key Dates & Contact Info

- Application Deadline: May 6, 2026.
- Where to Apply: Visit opportunities.uncf.org to get started.
- Questions? Reach out to Wayne Wilson II at wwilson@uncf.org for more information.

Need Support With Infinite Campus?

Infinite Campus is our new student information system for this school year! Just like PowerSchool last year, Infinite Campus gives families easy access to important information—announcements, assignments, attendance, grades, your child’s schedule, and so much more—all in one convenient place.

The instructions for creating your Parent Portal account and completing your back-to-school forms are below. Please carefully review them. Be sure to enter your student's full legal name.



[English Version](#)

[Arabic Version](#)

[Chinese Version](#)

[French Version](#)

[Hindi Version](#)

[Portuguese Version](#)

[Russian Version](#)

[Spanish Version](#)

[Tamil Version](#)

[Telugu Version](#)

[Ukrainian Version](#)

[Vietnamese Version](#)

Save the Date!

Bases Loaded: Back-to-School Celebration 2026 – Grand Slam Start!

We are excited to host the 2026 Back to School Celebration at Truist Field, home of the Charlotte Knights, on August 1, 2026 from 9am-1pm. This annual event brings families together for a day of connection, information, and fun as we kick off the new school year.

Our goal is to ensure every family walks away with their questions answered and feels fully supported heading into 2026–2027. We look forward to another amazing experience with our CMS students, families, staff and community partners.

Registration will open June 1st!



Engage with Us!

CMS Family and Community Engagement is excited to support and promote family engagement opportunities within the community.



From hosting professional learning sessions to sharing resources and engaging with your organization, we are here to support you! Please complete the form linked below to engage with our team related to your upcoming event. A member of our team will connect with the point of contact listed in the form.

<https://bit.ly/CMSCommunityEngagementEvents>



Connect
WITH US

CMS Family and Community Engagement

Email: familyengagement@cms.k12.nc.us

Website: [CMS Family and Community Engagement](https://www.cms.k12.nc.us/family-community-engagement)

Facebook: [facebook.com/CMScpfe](https://www.facebook.com/CMScpfe)



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**FAMILY & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



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