

THE HOKE FAMILY HUB

Elementary Curriculum & Instruction

*Connected * Informed *Empowered

★ END-OF-GRADE ASSESSMENTS ARE COMING UP! ★

As we approach the final stretch of the school year, it's time to gear up for our End-of-Grade (EOG) Assessments! These important tests give us valuable insight into how much our students have grown academically—and we want every child to shine their brightest!

Attendance matters now more than ever. Each day counts as we review, practice, and prepare for success. Please help us by ensuring your child is present each day, especially during testing weeks.

Here are a few helpful tips to support your child during this important time:

- ✔ Get a Good Night's Sleep – Aim for 8-10 hours of rest so your child is refreshed and focused.
- 🍌 Eat a Healthy Breakfast – Fueling up with a nutritious breakfast helps kids think clearly and stay energized.
- 💬 Speak Positive Words – Encourage your child with affirmations like “You’ve got this!” or “Do your best and be proud!”
- 🕒 Be On Time – Arriving on time helps your child start the day calm, prepared, and ready to learn.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can help our students finish the year strong! 📅

📅 Check out our [May Calendar](https://bit.ly/MayCal2025) with important dates and testing info: <https://bit.ly/MayCal2025>

Parent Tip

🎉 Finish Strong, Families! 📚✍️

As we approach the final stretch of the school year, let's help our students cross the finish line with confidence and pride! 🏆★

Here are a few tips to support your child in finishing the year strong:

- ✔ **Stick to routines** – A consistent bedtime and study schedule helps with focus.
- ✔ **Stay positive** – Celebrate progress, no matter how small!
- ✔ **Keep communication open** – Check in with teachers and ask how you can support at home.
- ✔ **Make learning fun** – Play review games or read together outside in the sunshine! ☀️
- ✔ **Encourage effort** – Remind your child that trying their best is what really matters.

Let's cheer our learners on as they wrap up an amazing year! You've got this, families! 🙌📖

Important Dates

- May 1 School Principal's Day
Optional Teacher Workday
No School for Students
- May 4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 19 3rd -5th Grade ELA EOG
- May 20 3rd -5th Grade Math EOG
- May 21 5th Grade Science EOG
- May 25 Memorial Day - NO School
- May 29 Last Day of School (11:30 dismissal)



MATH MATTERS



by Dustin Best

Spring into Learning!

May is a wonderful time to connect math learning to the world around us as the flowers bloom and the days grow warmer. Here are some fun, engaging ways to support your child's K-5 math skills at home this month:

- **Garden Math:** Use gardening as an opportunity to explore measurement and multiplication. Ask your child to measure the height of plants weekly or calculate how many seeds are needed for rows in a garden. This reinforces concepts like measurement, addition, and arrays.
- **Outdoor Math Hunts:** Create a math scavenger hunt! Challenge your child to find objects in nature that match specific criteria, such as shapes (triangles, circles) or numbers (e.g., 4 leaves on a clover). This builds geometry and number sense while enjoying the outdoors.
- **Weather Graphing:** Track daily temperatures or rainfall for the month and create a graph together. This activity introduces data collection and interpretation in a hands-on way.
- **Celebrate Progress:** May is often a time of reflection as the school year winds down. Encourage your child to review their favorite math topics from the year. Practice those skills through games like card math (adding or multiplying numbers on cards) or board games that involve counting.

By connecting math to real-world activities and celebrating growth, you can help your child see how math is all around them—making learning meaningful and fun!

READING CORNER

BY Mary Haywood

Turn Summer Into a Literacy Adventure!

As we wrap up the school year, we are proud of the growth your child has made in reading and writing! Thank you for partnering with us to support their success!

Did you know that students who do not read over the summer can lose up to three months of reading progress? The good news is that small, consistent habits can make a big difference.

Summer is not about more school. It is about keeping your child engaged, curious, and connected to reading in meaningful ways.

Here are simple, high-impact ways to support your child this summer:

- **Read Every Day (Even a Little!)** Aim for 15–20 minutes a day. Let your child choose books that interest them. Motivation matters.
- **Talk About Reading.** You do not need to “teach.” Just talk: What was this mostly about? What surprised you? What did you learn? These conversations build comprehension and vocabulary.
- **Build Knowledge Through Experiences.** Trips to the park, cooking together, or visiting new places all help build background knowledge, which supports reading success.
- **Keep Writing Light and Fun.** Encourage journaling, lists, notes, or storytelling. Writing a little, often, keeps skills sharp.
- **Use Community Resources.** Visit your local library and explore summer reading programs. Access to books is key to preventing summer learning loss.
- **Focus on Enjoyment, Not Pressure.** The goal is to help your child enjoy reading. When reading feels positive, students are more likely to stick with it.
- More resources can be found on [Reading Rockets](#) "[Summer Reading](#)." page (scroll down to click the links)!

Looking ahead, we encourage all families to take advantage of summer learning opportunities. Thank you for your continued support this school year. We wish you and your family a safe, restful, and joy-filled summer!



Indian Education



Christina Bullard

Native American Spring Equinox: Meaning & Celebration

The Spring Equinox is a sacred time for many Native American tribes, symbolizing balance, renewal, and the changing of seasons. It marks the day when light and darkness are equal, reminding us of the importance of harmony in nature and life. For many Indigenous cultures, this time is celebrated with ceremonies that honor the rebirth of the Earth, new beginnings, and gratitude for the coming season of growth.

To honor the Spring Equinox, we can take part in activities that reflect its spiritual and cultural significance, such as:

Connecting with Nature – Spend time outdoors, plant seeds, or offer gratitude for the Earth’s renewal.

Reflecting on Balance – Use this time for personal reflection, setting goals, and finding harmony in daily life.

Learning & Sharing – Engage in learning about Native traditions and stories related to the equinox, and share this knowledge with others.

Community Gatherings – Join or support local Indigenous-led events, ceremonies, or cultural celebrations.

By embracing these practices, we honor the wisdom of Native traditions and recognize our connection to the natural world.

PEEK AT PRE-K

BY ANNETTE FERNANDEZ

How do our bodies work when we exercise? What part of our bodies work harder when we exercise?

*Invite your child to join you in walking in place. After several seconds, invite him to join you in running in place. Ask, What parts of our bodies worked harder when we ran than when we walked? Repeat with additional exercises. Use different body parts or use the same parts in different ways, such as jumping jacks, squats, etc.

*Demonstrate how to take your pulse on your wrist or neck and ask your child to feel for his own pulse. Use self-talk as you model by saying, I’m using two fingers to feel for my heartbeat. I might have to press a little bit to feel it. Support your child to check his own pulse. *Say, Do you feel that rhythm? That’s your heart beating. The heart beats to send blood all through your body. The rhythm of its beating is called your pulse. The more you move your body, the faster your heart beats. What did your child notice about his/her pulse?

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT

DREAM IT, TEST IT, PROVE IT—MAKE SCIENCE

by Amber Hutchins

YOUR SUPERPOWER!

Wrapping Up the Year with Wonder and Curiosity!

As we head into the final stretch of the school year, May is a wonderful time to celebrate all the learning and growing our students have done! From hands-on science experiments to exciting discoveries, your children have been busy exploring, asking questions, and thinking like scientists.

This month, we’ll be reviewing key concepts, doing fun investigations, and reflecting on our favorite science moments of the year. It’s also a great time to keep that curiosity going at home!

Here are a few simple ways to explore science together:

Go on a Nature Scavenger Hunt – Look for patterns in leaves, insect behavior, or bird sounds.

Try a Water Experiment – Can you make a boat out of foil that floats? How many pennies can it hold before it sinks?

What Part of the Plant Are You Eating? – At mealtime, challenge your child to identify plant parts on their plate! Are they eating roots (like carrots), stems (like celery), leaves (like spinach), flowers (like broccoli), fruits, or seeds?

Thank you for your support this year! It’s been a joy to see students grow as curious, confident learners. Let’s finish the year strong—and have some science fun along the way!



How to Beat the SUMMER SLIDE



Have your child read for at least **20 minutes** every day.

Spend time **cooking** together.



Explore different kinds of **reading material** like picture books, chapter books, and magazines.

Make use of your **local library**.



Listen to **audio books** on summer car trips.

Read aloud with your children daily.



Review skills with fun, hands-on review activities.

Engage in **meaningful conversation** and help build your child's vocabulary.



Enjoy a **new hobby!**

Learn more about these great ideas at <http://blog.AllAboutLearningPress.com/summer-slide>

ALL ABOUT Learning Press

Ways to Promote Children's Resilience

BY SHEQUETA HARRIS

Protective factors: Events, conditions, and characteristics of children, families, and broader environments that increase an individual's chances of healthy development and positive life outcomes despite exposure to significant adversity.

Resilience: The process of positive adaptation to adversity that arises through interactions between children and their environments.

• PROTECTIVE FACTOR #1: SENSITIVE, RESPONSIVE CAREGIVING

- Youth need to maintain regular age appropriate connections to important adults in their lives. Spend quality time with your child. Even short periods of time playing, reading, going outdoors, and talking can bolster children's sense of safety and security.
- Stay Connected!

• PROTECTIVE FACTOR #2: MEETING BASIC NEEDS

- This is essential to protecting children's well-being in stressful times. Know that asking for help is a sign of strength and resourcefulness, not weakness.

• PROTECTIVE FACTOR #3: EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

- Use the 3 Rs (reassurance, routines, regulation). Reassure children about their safety and safety of loved ones; maintain predictable routines; support children's regulation skills by helping them manage difficult feelings; make time for emotional "check-ins"
- Emphasize the positive!

• PROTECTIVE FACTOR #4: SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVER WELL-BEING

- Prioritize time and energy for activities that are most important and meaningful to your family
- Take breaks for self-care
- Reach out for community support if needed

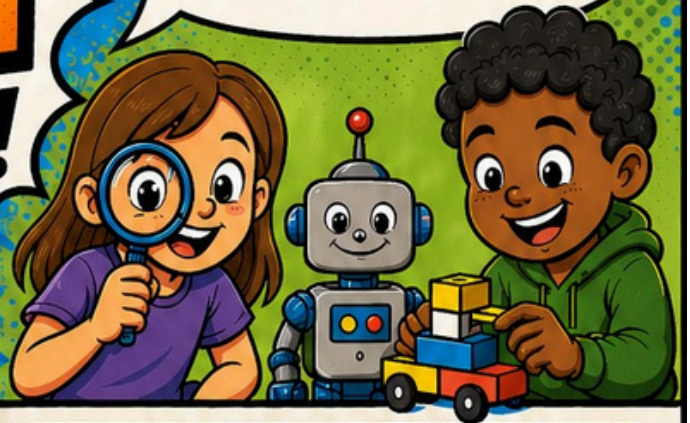
• PROTECTIVE FACTOR #5: SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

- Focus on connections
- Reach out to other families with children to check on their well-being and offer support

STEM AFTER HOURS!

EXPLORE. CREATE. SOLVE.
ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!

STEM After Hours brings fun, hands-on STEM challenges to students and their families outside of the school day!



WHAT IS STEM AFTER HOURS?



Short, exciting STEM challenges students can do at home.



Encourages curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving.



Designed for families to learn and have fun together.



Flexible, easy to fit into your schedule!

**YOU
CAN
DO IT!**

WHY IT MATTERS



Builds confidence in STEM skills



Supports what students are learning in school



Prepares our students for the future



Most importantly...

IT'S FUN!

WOW!

HOW IT WORKS

1

CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR



2

PICK A CHALLENGE



3

GATHER, BUILD, AND EXPLORE!



4

SHARE, REFLECT, AND CELEBRATE!



GREAT JOB!

WATCH THE OVERVIEW VIDEO!



SCAN ME!

Overview Video

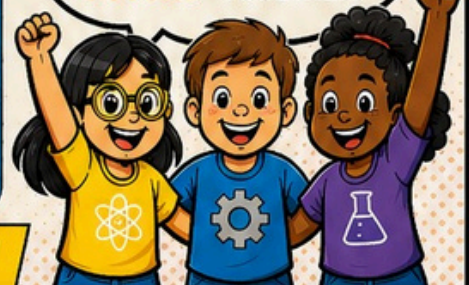
VIEW THE SLIDE DECK, CALENDARS & CHALLENGE CARDS!



SCAN ME!

Calendars & Challenge Cards

LET'S KEEP EXPLORING, KEEP CREATING, AND KEEP BUILDING A **BRIGHTER FUTURE**—TOGETHER!



★ TOGETHER, LET'S MAKE EVERY HOUR A **STEM HOUR!**

Hoke Family Hub

From Your School Libraries

Get Ready for the May Beanstack Challenge!

From May 1–May 31, students can celebrate Teacher Appreciation Month by reading and logging minutes in Beanstack.

- 150 minutes = Brag Tag
- 300 minutes = book from the vending machine
- Students can also share a thank-you with a teacher.
- Contact your school librarian for more information.



We are also proud to celebrate our elementary school librarians. They do much more than manage devices—they help students grow as readers and connect schools with valuable resources. So far this year, our elementary schools have logged 1,278,669 reading minutes in Beanstack, with Don Steed Elementary leading the way at 460,515 minutes.



Click on each book for a read aloud!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Smile Day 					1 School Principal's Day 	2 Truffle Day
3 Chocolate Custard Day 	4 Star Wars Day 	5 Astronaut Day 	6 Teachers Day 	7 School Nurse Day 	8 Coconut Cream Pie Day 	9 Sleepover Day
10 Clean Up Your Room Day 	11 Mother's Day 	12 Hospital Day 	13 Apple Pie Day 	14 Dance Like a Chicken Day 	15 Chocolate Chip Day 	16 Love A Tree Day
17 Graduation Tassel Day 	18 Visit Your Relatives Day 	19 Plant Something Day 	20 Red Sneakers Day 	21 Strawberries and Cream Day 	22 Buy a Musical Instrument Day 	23 Lucky Penny Day
24 Brothers Day 	25 Tap Dance Day 	26 Paper Airplane Day 	27 Grape Popsicle Day 	28 Hamburger Day 	29 Paperclip Day 	30 Water a Flower Day

PARENT RESOURCES

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- [HOKE COUNTY LITERACY RESOURCES GOOGLE SITE \(CLICK HERE\)](#).
- [NCDPI PARENT CONTENT SUPPORT GUIDES \(GRADES K-12\)](#).
- [I-READY PARENT CENTER](#)
- [HOKE COUNTY SCHOOLS; CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION](#)

