

CMS Engagement in Action!

May 2026

Happy May!

As we move toward the end of the school year, we're excited to share this edition of our Family Engagement Newsletter filled with helpful resources to support you and your child every step of the way. This time of year brings important milestones, from testing and attendance goals to planning for summer and next year—and families don't have to navigate it alone.

Inside, you'll find district resources, learning opportunities, and community supports created to help your family stay informed, connected, and confident through the finish line. Thank you for being such an important partner in your child's success. Together, we can finish the year strong and prepare for what's ahead.



Check Out Family Academy On Demand

As we approach the end of the school year, we invite families to stay engaged with Family Academy and explore our On Demand library! These short, informative sessions cover a variety of topics designed to support families and students—available anytime, anywhere, and at your own pace. Whether you missed a session or want to revisit a favorite, this library is a great way to stay connected, informed, and prepared for the months ahead.

Visit [CMS Family Academy On Demand](#) to learn more and explore!



Meaningful Medicine with Atrium Health

May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

Did you know that Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, in partnership with Atrium Health, offers students on-campus access during school hours to virtual medical visits and mental health therapy, plus summer internships for high school students interested in healthcare? Services support students when it matters most!

Check out the Family Academy Lunch and Learn *Meaningful Medicine: Bringing telemedicine, virtual therapy, and career readiness programs direct to students* to learn about the services and resources that are available to support your student!!

VIDEO: [Meaningful Medicine: Bringing Telemedicine, Virtual Therapy, and Career Readiness Programs Direct to Students](#)

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.



STEAM — INTO — SUMMER



**Welcoming All CMS Families & Students
(Grades K–12)**

May 21, 2026 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

204 Lowry Street, Pineville, NC 28134

NEW LOCATION: Pineville Elementary School Parking Lot

**Free
ice
cream**

**Fun,
hands-on
STEAM
activities**

**Tools and
resources to
support summer
learning
at home**

**FREE
STEAM KITS**
and community resources
while supplies last!

STEAM

**Free
pizza**



cms
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

CELEBRATE A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR AND CONTINUE LEARNING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER!

Save the Date: Bases Loaded: Back-To-School Celebration 2026

Join Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
for an exciting
Back-to-School Celebration!

**Saturday, August 1, 2026
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
at Trust Field**
Home of the Charlotte Knights
324 S. Mint St., Charlotte, NC 28202

**BASES LOADED:
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
CELEBRATION**

**2026
GRAND
SLAM
START!**

Free Parking
OR
Scan QR code to download
the CMS app

Special Areas:
CMS Hub Area, Health & Wellness Area, College & Career Cove Area,
Community Resources Area, Family Fun Zone Area

Bain or Shine
Free Event
Lunch Provided
Free School Supplies
Free Haircuts

**Registration Opens
June 1, 2026**
Scan or visit bit.ly/CMS2026BTS

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools is pleased to announce Bases Loaded: Back-To-School Celebration 2026- Grand Slam Start! In partnership with the Charlotte Knights this event is designed to equip families with essential resources, connect with the community, prepare and build excitement for our students for a successful start of the school year. Last year's celebration was a tremendous success and we are excited to build on that momentum to make this year's event even more impactful.

Registration Opens June 1, 2026!

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!

The Big Picture

The Big Picture is a short video series that supports teen health and well-being by addressing real topics many adolescents face today. Created by local high school students, these videos share honest teen perspectives, encourage healthy choices, and remind families that support is always available. With guidance from Teen Health Connection educators and national youth health data, The Big Picture helps spark meaningful conversations between teens and the adults who care about them.



To explore *The Big Picture* video series, use the link below.

[Big Picture](#)

🌞2026 Summer Camps Guide🌞

We know that summer planning for Charlotte parents is underway - and it can be A LOT of puzzle pieces to manage.

Good news - nonprofits across Mecklenburg County are offering a wide-range of camp opportunities for kids of all interests. From creative theatre programs and hands-on enrichment camps to outdoor environmental experiences and traditional day camps, there's something for every child to explore, learn, and grow.

[Check out the offerings compiled by SHARE Charlotte here!](#)

[Looking for more? Find additional camps shared by Charlotte on the Cheap here!](#)

Become a CROWN Community Ambassador!

Are you a passionate advocate for our school and the CMS mission? We are looking for "boots-on-the-ground" champions, parents, family members, and community leaders to serve as CROWN



Are you interested
in becoming a
CROWN Ambassador?

APPLY TODAY!



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?

- **Make a Difference:** Volunteer to help ensure vital information reaches every family.
- **Build Your Skills:** Receive professional development and district training.
- **Leadership Pathway:** Successful Ambassadors may grow into Senior Ambassador mentor roles.
- **Resume Builder:** Gain valuable experience connecting with the community and staff.

Important Dates:

- Application Deadline May 10th: [Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

Program Timeframe: July 2026 – June 2027

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!



Celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week: May 4th-8th!

Every day, teachers transform ordinary moments into extraordinary discoveries. They turn curiosity into confidence, challenges into triumphs and classrooms into launchpads for dreams.

Take a moment to share how much you care! From a homemade card to a positive message about how much you care, teachers always appreciate to know you are there!

Gearing up for the End of the Year?

Check out ONE Access Resources available at Library!

From Homework Help, including free virtual through Tutor.com, to College and Career Connections, ONE Access has resources to support your student at home!



ONE Access, or “One Number Equals Access,” uses students’ school identification numbers instead of separate library cards. With their ONE Access account, students can:

Access Library research databases

Borrow digital materials such as e-books, e-audiobooks, magazines, music and video

Borrow up to 10 print or audiobooks (no DVDs or music CDs)

There are no overdue fines for ONE Access accounts, but users are responsible for fees on lost or damaged books.

New Middle School Collection Arrives at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library!

Finding the "perfect fit" book just got easier for our local pre-teens. Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is excited to announce a new Middle-Grade Collection specifically curated for students in grades 5-8 (ages 10-14). Recognizing that this age group is often caught between juvenile stories and more mature Young Adult themes, CML created this dedicated section to bridge the gap with fiction and graphic novels that are both engaging and age-appropriate. Whether your student is a reluctant reader or a total bookworm, come explore the new displays at your local branch or ask a staff member to point you in the direction of this collection.

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](#)



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!

[Stay Connected, Stay Engaged: Instructional Resources](#)

Finishing the Year Strong: PreK-12 Family Resource

PreK-12 Family Resources **cms**

KINDERGARTEN READINESS (Pre-K)
Scan the code to find helpful resources you can use at home to support your child in preparing for Kindergarten.


bit.ly/CMSPK26

DIBELS RESOURCES (Grades K-2)
Scan the code to find helpful resources you can use at home to support your child in practicing important reading skills.

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
 bit.ly/CMSOPRK4	 bit.ly/CMSOPRGN	 bit.ly/CMSOPRG2

STANDARDS RESOURCES (Grades 3-12)
Scan the code to find helpful resources you can use at home to support your child in practicing important Reading, Math, and Science standards based on their recent assessments.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Grades 3-5	MIDDLE SCHOOL Grades 6-8	HIGH SCHOOL Grades 9-12
 bit.ly/CMSFSR03	 bit.ly/CMSFSR08	 bit.ly/CMSFSR02

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](#)

American Heart Association

Generation Tobacco-Free: Empowering Youth to Lead Change

Join the American Heart Association on May 12th from 12-2 PM to learn youth perspectives regarding tobacco marketing and use among their peers. We will also hear perspectives from some amazing community leaders, educators and tobacco experts on youth mobilization strategies, emerging trends and advocacy efforts. Learn how to empower youth to be the next generation of change. Take action throughout your communities to address and end tobacco use and vaping! Interested in learning more? Check out the [flyer linked here](#)



**American
Heart
Association®**

Calling all College Students!



College students—save 15% at IKEA Charlotte!

Verified college students can receive 15% off a one-time purchase at IKEA Charlotte when they join the free IKEA Family Loyalty Program and complete a quick student verification using a “.edu” email. Discounts are available for both in-store and online purchases! See the flyer linked below for full details and step-by-step instructions.

[FLYER: College students—save 15% at IKEA Charlotte!](#)

Strong Fathers, Strong Family Resources

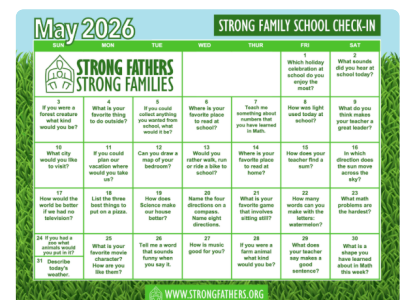
May can feel full for families—end-of-year assessments, Teacher Appreciation Week, and graduations all happening at once. To help, check out these simple, ready-to-use calendars designed to spark and support family conversations at every stage.

[May 2026 Early Childhood Activity Calendar-English](#)

[May 2026 Early Childhood Activity Calendar-Spanish](#)

[May 2026 Check In Questions Calendar-English](#)

[May 2026 Check In Questions Calendar-Spanish](#)



Memorial Day Celebration in the U.S. National Whitewater Center

In celebration of Memorial Day, The U.S. National Whitewater Center will host a FREE weekend-long celebration featuring 3, 5, or 8-mile trail races, yoga, and live music on the River Jam Stage.



For a complete schedule and programming: [Memorial Day Celebration](#)

Community Love Health Fair



Join the Steve Smith Foundation for the Community Love Health Fair on May 16, 2026 in Charlotte! This family-friendly event will provide health education opportunities, screenings, and activities to connect the community with wellness providers all in a fun, welcoming environment.

Date: May 16, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Location: 616 Colonnade Drive, Charlotte, NC 28205

For more information reach out via email:
social@stevesmithfamilyfdn.org



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)



Latisha Hensley

Director

latisha.hensley@cms.k12.nc.us



Molly Rush

Elementary B, D, E
Specialist

mollyg.mulholland@cms.k12.nc.us



Madeline Cueto

Elementary A, C
Specialist

madeline.cueto@cms.k12.nc.us



Christina Hunter

K-8, Middle
Specialist

christina1.hunter@cms.k12.nc.us



Robin Brown

High School
Specialist

robine.brown@cms.k12.nc.us



**FAMILY & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



CMS Family and Community Engagement

familyengagement@cms.k12.nc.us

Contact