FAMILY NEWSLETTER SECOND QUARTER 2026–2027

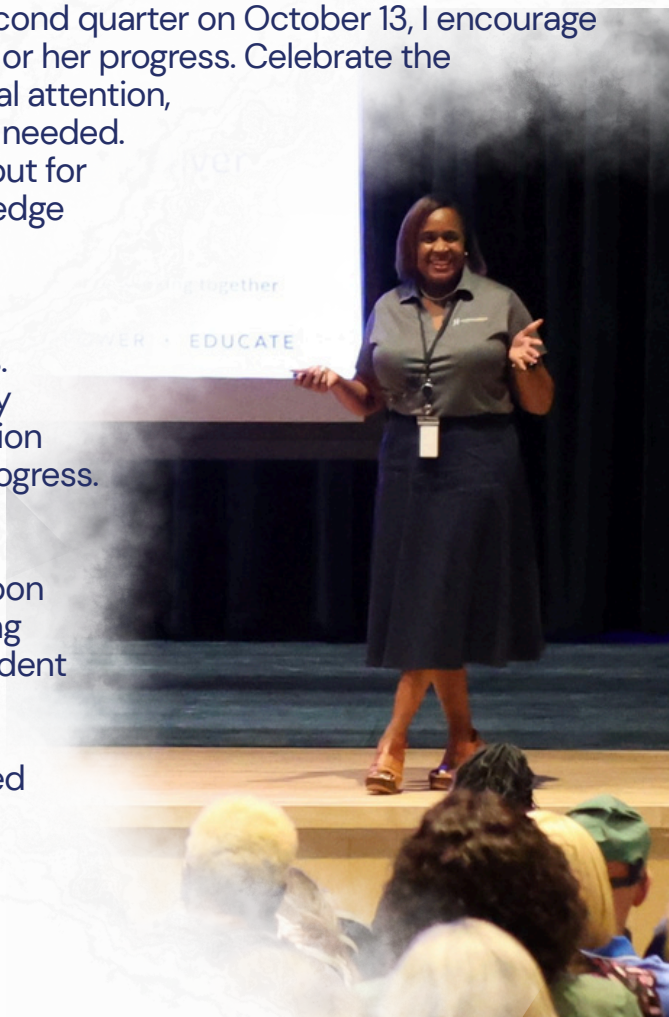
Dear HCSD Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of the first quarter of the 2026–2027 school year!

Our theme this year, WE ARE ONE, reminds us that educating our children is truly a shared commitment. Every student deserves to know that there is a team of people at school, at home, and throughout our community believing in them, encouraging them, and expecting them to do their very best.

At the heart of our work is instruction. While many wonderful things happen in our schools each day, teaching and learning must remain our greatest priority. We are committed to ensuring that every classroom provides students with high-quality, engaging instruction that challenges them to think, grow, and achieve. Our continued focus on strengthening literacy and mathematics, providing appropriate academic support, and preparing students for college, careers, and life is important to their future success.

As we prepare to close the first quarter and begin the second quarter on October 13, I encourage you to spend some time talking with your child about his or her progress. Celebrate the accomplishments, discuss areas that may need additional attention, and work with teachers and school staff when support is needed. Our goal is not simply for students to earn good grades, but for them to truly learn, grow, and master the skills and knowledge they will need for what comes next.



Regular attendance is an important part of that success. Every day counts, and every instructional minute matters. When students are in school, on time, engaged, and ready to learn, our teachers can provide the consistent instruction and support they need to make meaningful academic progress.

As we finish the first quarter, I encourage our students to finish strong and enter the next quarter ready to build upon what they have learned. Together, we will continue creating opportunities, raising expectations, and ensuring that student learning remains at the center of everything we do.

WE ARE ONE: one district, one community, and one shared commitment to every child's success.

Dr. Glenda Sheffield
Superintendent

Frequently Asked Questions...

- Where do I find my student's bell schedule?
- Where can I find the lunch menu for my student's school?
- How do I know when school breaks are?
  - School Calendar
  - School Calendar Breaks (at-a-glance)
- Where can I find Early Release Schedule times?

HCSD Athletics

Schedules will be updated as they become available. Click on logo for schedules.



Important Dates: Second Quarter

October

- October 8- World Sight Day (Wear blue)
- October 9- HCHS Homecoming
- October 12- End Quarter 1
- October 12-15- National School Lunch Week
- October 14- EMS Homecoming
- October 15- Early Out & Parent Conference Day (contact your child's teacher to set an appointment)
- October 16-19- Fall Break- No School for students or staff
- October 26-30- Red Ribbon Week
- October 28- NDMS Homecoming

November

- November 3- Election Day- No School for staff or students
- November 23-27- Thanksgiving Break- No School for staff or students

December

- December 18- Half Day
- December 21- January 6- No School for students
  - December 21- January 1- No School for students or staff
  - January 4- Intercession day- Only students and staff notified by the principal should report
  - January 5-6- Staff Work Day- No students

Substitute Training Opportunities

October 29, 2026
November 20, 2026
December 17, 2026
January 28, 2027
February 18, 2027
March 18, 2027

All substitute trainings are held in the NDMS Multipurpose Room at 9:00 AM.

Upcoming Bond Referendum Information



Election Day: November 3rd

Key Focus Areas:

- Completing the construction and equipping of the atheltic complex at HCHS
- Construction and equipping a greenhouse for the CTE Agriculture Program at HCHS
- Construction and equipping a dedicated education placement learning center at HCHS

JAHA ADULT EDUCUATION ENROLLMENT

Adult Education classes have started. If you know someone who is interested in Adult Education classes, please reach out to Mrs. JoAnne Sanders at jlsanders@hcsdsc.org.

Adult Ed Schedule:

Hampton: Tues/Thurs 4:30-7:30 PM
Hardeeville: Mon/Wed 4:30-7:30 PM
Ridgeland: Tues/Thurs 4:30-7:30 PM

(Ridgeland classes will be located at 456 Grays Highway, Ridgeland, SC.)



BEAUFORT-JASPER YMCA SWIM SAFETY COURSE FOR HAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Making a Splash with Water Safety!

Beginning in the 2024–25 school year, Hampton County School District partnered with the Beaufort-Jasper YMCA to provide free Safety Around Water (SAW) swim lessons to second-grade students across all five elementary schools in Hampton County.

BEAUFORT-JASPER YMCA OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

Lessons are held at the outdoor pool at Open Arms Fellowship Church Connexxion/Camp Wildwood, where students learn essential water safety skills and basic swimming techniques in a fun, supportive environment. The goal of the program is to help every child develop confidence around water while understanding the importance of making safe choices and recognizing potential water-related dangers. We are excited to announce that the program is in full swing for the 2026–27 school year! This valuable partnership continues to provide every second-grade student in Hampton County School District the opportunity to build important, potentially life-saving water safety skills.

We are grateful to the Beaufort-Jasper YMCA, Open Arms Fellowship Church Connexxion/Camp Wildwood, and our elementary schools for working together to make this meaningful opportunity possible for our students. Together, we are helping our children become safer, more confident, and better prepared around water!

Upcoming Baillie Players Drama Productions

- Brunson Elementary School
  - November 17, 2026
- Hampton Intermediate School
  - November 18, 2026
- Varnville Elementary School
  - December 17, 2026

Individual schools will provide additional information about performance times.



ACT 114 (READ TO SUCCEED LAW)

BACKGROUND

Read to Succeed legislation recommits efforts in the education system to a third grade reading guarantee for all students. Ensuring that all third-grade students can read and comprehend grade-level text is crucial for their academic success and overall development. As students transition from learning to read to reading to learn, their ability to understand and analyze text directly impacts their capacity to grasp new concepts in math, science, and social studies. Mastery of reading skills in third grade also supports cognitive growth, critical thinking, and a love for learning, setting the stage for future educational achievements.

THE LAW

The South Carolina Read to Succeed Act became law in 2014 and received significant legislative updates in 2024. The intent of Read to Succeed is to ensure all students have the reading skills necessary to become college, career or military ready. One component of the Read to Succeed Act is the requirement that schools retain students who are significantly behind grade level in reading at the end of third grade. The current law, Act 114, states that “a student must be retained in the third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency at the end of the third grade as indicated by scoring Does Not Meet Expectations or at the lowest achievement level on the state summative reading assessment.” More information will be shared during the school year.

2nd Grade CogAT and IOWA Assessments

CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test)

The CogAT measures students' reasoning and problem-solving abilities in verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal areas. It helps identify students' learning strengths and provides information that educators can use to support academic growth and identify gifted and talented learners.

Iowa Assessments

The Iowa Assessments measure student achievement in key academic areas, including reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. These assessments provide valuable information about how well students are performing academically and help schools monitor progress toward grade-level expectations.

Together, the CogAT and Iowa Assessments provide a more complete picture of a student's potential and academic achievement, helping educators make informed decisions about instruction and enrichment opportunities.

Test Dates:

- CogAT- October 6-8
- IOWA October 13 and 14



PSAT/NMSQT OPPORTUNITY FOR 8TH, 10TH, 11TH GRADE STUDENTS

Hampton County School District is excited to offer the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) at no cost to all 8th and 10th grade students. This valuable assessment provides students with an opportunity to prepare for future college entrance exams while gaining insight into their academic strengths and areas for growth.

Testing Dates

- Hampton County High School: October 21, 2026
- North District Middle School: October 22, 2026
- Estill Middle School: October 22, 2026

The PSAT/NMSQT serves as an important step toward college and career readiness. It provides excellent practice for the SAT by measuring the same knowledge and skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. The assessment also mirrors the format, structure, and question types found on the digital SAT.

For students in 11th grade, the PSAT/NMSQT is also the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program, which can lead to national recognition and scholarship opportunities. Juniors who wish to take the PSAT/NMSQT may register through their school's counseling office. There is an $18 testing fee for 11th grade students.

Following the test, students will receive a detailed score report highlighting their strengths and areas for improvement. These results can help students create a personalized study plan and access free SAT preparation resources through Khan Academy.

Test Overview

- Sections: Reading and Writing, and Math
- Total Testing Time: 2 hours and 14 minutes
- Reading and Writing: 64 minutes (two 32-minute modules)
- Math: 70 minutes (two 35-minute modules)
- Score Range: 320-1520

We encourage all eligible students to take advantage of this opportunity to gain valuable testing experience, prepare for future college entrance exams, and explore scholarship and recognition opportunities as they plan for their future success.

SENIOR ASSESSMENT RETAKE OPPORTUNITIES

Hampton County School District will offer seniors the opportunity to retake the ACT, SAT, and WIN Career Ready assessments this fall. These retest opportunities can help students improve college admission scores, strengthen scholarship applications, and demonstrate career readiness.

Retest Dates

- ACT: September 30, 2026
- SAT: October 8, 2026
- WIN Career Ready: October 26-28, 2026

Seniors wishing to retake the ACT or SAT must sign up through their school's counseling office. Students who have not earned a Level 3 or higher on the WIN Career Ready Assessment should retake the assessment to meet South Carolina's definition of Career Ready.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to improve their scores and strengthen their postsecondary and career options.



ASVAB Testing Opportunity

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) will be administered on October 8, 2026, at Hampton County High School. The ASVAB is a career exploration and planning assessment that helps students identify their strengths, interests, and potential career pathways. While it is used by the military for enlistment purposes, it is also a valuable tool for students exploring college, career, and technical education opportunities.

Students who wish to take the ASVAB should register through Hampton County High School's School Counseling Office. We encourage interested students to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about their skills and future career options.

End-of-Course Examinations (EOCEP)

High school students enrolled in English 2, Algebra 1, Biology 1, and U.S. History and the Constitution are required to participate in South Carolina's End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP). These state assessments measure student mastery of the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards and help ensure students are prepared for future academic and career success.

The EOCEP score counts as 20% of a student's final course grade, making it an important component of overall course performance. Students are encouraged to take these assessments seriously, prepare throughout the year, and put forth their best effort on test day.

Strong performance on EOCEP assessments not only supports academic success but also reflects a student's readiness for future educational opportunities.

Test Dates:

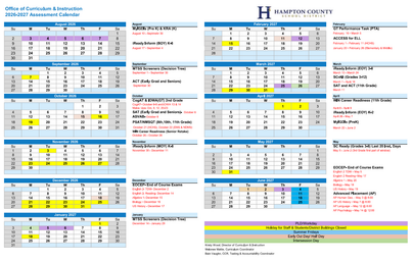
- English 2- TDW- 12/2
- All 1st Block EOCEP Classes - 12/14
- All 2nd Block EOCEP Classes- 12/15
- All 3rd Block EOCEP Classes - 2/16
- All 4th Block EOCEP Classes- 12/17



iReady Inform Middle of the Year Diagnostic

Students in grade K-8 will take the middle of the year iReady Inform Diagnostic. The testing window opens Monday, November 30, 2026 and closes on Friday, December 11, 2026.

2026-2027 Assessment Calendar



Find all testing dates and sample practice materials on our Testing portion of our HCSD website.

Child Find Screenings

Child Find Screenings are for students who may need to be screened who are not currently attending Hampton County School District.



HAMPTON COUNTY SHOUT OUTS



Ja'Shon Williams selected for Shrine Bowl

Congratulations to Ja'Shon Williams who will be taking part in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas! When asked about his accomplishment, Ja'Shon said,

"I'm very grateful for this opportunity to represent my family, team, and county in this historic all star game. My teammates have been a major part in me having this opportunity by always encouraging me to work hard even after I'm exhausted. This so no doubt in my mind that the hard work my team and I have put in since the spring will be showcased."

BHES PreK learns about apples





A special thank you to Mrs. Stuckey from Clemson Extension for visiting our PreK students and providing a fun, hands-on lesson all about apples! Students learned how apples grow, the healthy benefits of eating apples, and even explored whether apples float or sink. Our young learners had a wonderful time learning, exploring, and participating in this engaging lesson.

Club Day at HCHS

Friday, September 25th, our HCHS students had their first Club Day. They learned about the 20 clubs now offered through HCHS. Some clubs include BETA, Envirothon, Knitting, Chess, FFA, and so much more.



Congratulations to Hampton County High School on being named a Go Lime Green Mental Health Matters high school by the NAMI of SC



Fennell Elementary School's Rendition of 'Stage Fright' was a huge success!



Mental Health Talks Provided by NAMI of SC

Thank you to Mrs. J. Williams for organizing our Mental Health talks at EMS and NDMS provided by NAMI. Studens learned coping strategies, breathing techniques, and much more.





HAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT