



Superintendent's Website Message October 2026

Greetings, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Families!

Over the past several weeks, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) has experienced a period of transition that has understandably raised questions across our community. While change can create uncertainty, what gives me confidence is the strength of this district and the extraordinary people who serve our students every day. Across CMS, educators, staff and school leaders continue showing up with purpose, compassion and an unwavering commitment to children.

While much of the public conversation has focused on district leadership, I hope our community also remains focused on what is happening inside our schools. Every day, students are learning, teachers are inspiring, and principals are leading. The important work of educating and supporting our children continues, and our commitment to providing every student with a high-quality education remains as strong as ever.

October is National Principals Month, and we are excited to announce that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools 2027 Principal of the Year is Bob Folk, principal of Myers Park High School (High School Performance Area A).

Principal Folk has more than three decades of experience in education, including 21 years as a principal. His leadership philosophy was shaped by his father, Dr. Chris Folk, who played a pivotal role in the formation of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools through consolidation and helped guide the district through desegregation. Using his father as an example, Principal Folk leads with integrity, kindness and an unwavering conviction that every child deserves an equitable educational opportunity. He will now compete for the Wells Fargo North Carolina Southwest Region Principal of the Year.

We offer our congratulations to all of our School Performance Area Principals of the Year:

- **Elementary A** – Penni Beth Crisp, *Matthews Elementary*
- **Elementary B** – Bilal Tawwab, *University Meadows Elementary*
- **Elementary C** – Michelle Givens, *South Pine Academy*
- **Elementary D** – Angela Grant, *Esperanza Elementary*
- **Elementary E** – Shanna Rae, *University Park Creative Arts Elementary*
- **K-8** – Rolando Parkins, *Thomasboro Academy*
- **Middle School A** – Brian Slattery, *Community House Middle*
- **Middle School B** – Michael Jerrell, *McClintock Middle*
- **High School B** – Kevin Sudimack, *West Mecklenburg High*
- **High School C** – Katy Coffelt, *Northwest School of the Arts*

You can read more about Principal Folk, along with all of our School Performance Area Principals of the Year [here](#).

We have been busy since the school year started, participating in a number of student-focused events with community partners whose support continues to impact students' academic success, as well as their post-graduation pursuits and interests, including:

- [Carolina Panthers and Bank of America 3rd & Goal](#)
- [InnovateHER](#)
- [Aspiring Educator Summit](#)
- [Communities in Schools/Road to Hire partnership](#)

We also want to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to another community partner – [C.D. Spangler Foundation – for its generous investment in the CMS arts education program](#). The foundation's \$500,000 contribution will be used to repair and refurbish musical instruments, helping to ensure that students discover their talents, build confidence and develop skills that will last a lifetime.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools encourages all families of K-12 students to engage in their child's education by checking progress reports and report cards. New this year, K-2 families must check [Infinite Campus](#) to see their student's report cards with progress reports still provided in hard copy. Families of grades 3-12 students **must** access progress reports **and** report cards through Infinite Campus. If you haven't set up your account yet, please take a few minutes to do so.

Thank you for your continued support and for choosing Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Together, with you, our educators, staff and community partners, we will continue building on our progress, creating new opportunities for students, and ensuring every child can reach higher and realize the endless possibilities ahead.

In partnership,

Melissa

Melissa Balknight, Ed.D.
Acting Superintendent