

THE HOKE FAMILY HUB

ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

*CONNECTED

* INFORMED

*EMPOWERED

Welcome to October! By: A.J. Hammond

As we step into October, we want to thank you for your continued partnership in making this school year a success. Together, we are building strong connections between home and school that directly support student growth and achievement.

We're excited to share that families now have access to the **Parent Portal**, a secure online tool designed to keep you informed and engaged in your child's educational journey.

Through the portal, you'll be able to:

- View your child's **schedule**, **grades**, and **attendance** in real time
- Keep up with teacher communications and announcements
- Monitor academic progress and stay aware of any upcoming assignments or events

 To get started:

Use the following link to access directions on how to access the portal when you're ready: <https://bit.ly/HCSParent>

We encourage all parents and caregivers to set up their accounts as soon as possible so you can stay closely connected with your child's progress and support their learning every step of the way.



PARENT TIPS

Healthy Habits for Busy Seasons

Fall is a busy time—between school projects, sports, and holiday events, children can easily become overwhelmed. Helping your child develop healthy habits now will give them the energy and focus they need to succeed.

Tips to Try:

- **Hydration matters** – Encourage your child to carry a reusable water bottle to school and after-school activities.
- **Fuel for learning** – Pack balanced snacks like fruit, cheese sticks, or whole-grain crackers to keep their brains and bodies fueled.
- **Rest is best** – Set a regular bedtime routine so your child gets the recommended hours of sleep for their age.
- **Movement counts** – Even short bursts of physical activity, like a family walk or stretching, can help reduce stress and boost mood.

By modeling these habits as a family, you'll show your child that balance is possible—even in the busiest seasons!

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

Oct. 12th -16th - Q1 NC Check-in 5th Grade Science

Oct. 13th - Balls or Trees Study begins in PreK

Oct. 13th- Columbus Day

Oct. 16th - Quarter 1 Grading Ends

Oct. 19th - Mandatory Workday/ Parent- Teacher Conference Day

Oct. 22nd - Elementary Report Cards Release Date

Oct. 26th - Red Ribbon/Drug-Free America Week

Oct. 26th - 30th - Q1 NC Check-in (Reading and Math)

MATH MATTERS

✨ Talk Math! ✨

Encourage your child to explore math in everyday life—while cooking, shopping, or playing games! 🛒🍪🎲

💬 Ask them to explain their thinking, share ideas, and try different ways to solve problems.

🔍 Questions like “How did you figure that out?” or “Is there another way to show it?” turn ordinary moments into powerful learning opportunities.

📏 Everyday activities like measuring ingredients, comparing prices, sorting laundry, or keeping score in a game are all math in action!

When kids describe their strategies or notice patterns in daily routines, they build deeper understanding and confidence. And remember—parents don’t have to know all the answers. Simply listening and showing interest helps children see themselves as capable math thinkers. 💡

[Here are a few fun activities](#) you can try together to spark math conversations!

Reading Corner

BY Mary Haywood

HELP YOUR CHILD THINK THROUGH HARD THINGS

A think-aloud is when you say your thinking out loud so your child can hear how you make sense of something, solve a problem, or decide what to do next.

Think-alouds can help children become stronger readers and more confident problem solvers. While reading, you might say, “I notice...” or “I’m thinking...” to show how you use clues from the text. You can also use think-alouds while cooking, solving a puzzle, making a choice, or working through a mistake.

Join our Family Literacy Mini-PD on Thursday, October 29 at 6:00 PM to see a model, practice the strategy, and learn easy ways to use think-alouds at home.

Join on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/8335283448?omn=95908904880&jst=2>

WEEK 2



TOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

226,731

MATH PROBLEMS SOLVED!

1	DON STEED ELEMENTARY	7,338
2	UPCHURCH ELEMENTARY	6,369
3	SCURLOCK ELEMENTARY	3,735

I Love Math Challenge Update

Don Steed Elementary is leading the **I Love Math Challenge** at the end of Week 2! Upchurch Elementary is close behind in second place, with Scurlock Elementary currently holding third place.

There are still **two weeks left**, so every school has time to climb the leaderboard! Keep encouraging students to log in, complete problems, and show their love for math. Every problem counts—let’s finish strong!



SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT

BY AMBER HUTCHINS



Science in Action: Building Curiosity and Confidence

At Hoke County Schools, science isn't just a subject—it's an opportunity for students to explore, question, and discover the world around them. With the adoption of the new North Carolina Science Standards, our classrooms focus on hands-on learning that develops curiosity, critical thinking, and real-world problem solving.

Science education helps students build essential life skills:

- Problem solving — designing and testing experiments
- Collaboration — working with others to investigate and explain
- Communication — describing findings, asking questions, and refining ideas



How Families Can Support Science Learning

You don't need a lab at home to help your child engage with science. Everyday moments can spark scientific thinking:

- Ask open questions like, "Why do you think that happened?" or "How could we test that?"
- Explore nature together—watch insects, plants, or weather phenomena
- Use cooking, gardening, or simple household experiments to show cause and effect



These small conversations build the mindset of a scientist.

Parent/Caregiver Support Resource

To help families feel confident in supporting science learning at home, the NC Department of Public Instruction offers the Parent/Caregiver Guide for the NC K-12 Science Standards. This resource gives helpful background on the standards, example practices, and tips on how to talk with your child about science.

You can access it here: NC Parent/Caregiver Guide [NCDPI](#)



MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR YOUR WHOLE CHILD

Helping Your Child Stay Healthy and Ready to Learn

Families play a big role in keeping kids healthy, organized, and ready for school. A little preparation at home can prevent absences and ease stress.

Health & Wellness

- Immunizations: Required for childcare, kindergarten, 7th, and 12th grade. Families have 30 days to provide records.
- Health Assessment: Needed for any child entering a NC public school for the first time.
- Medical Needs: Share conditions or medications with the school and complete forms.

Routines & Organization

- Sleep: Children ages 6-12 need 9-12 hours of sleep.
- Routine: Consistent mornings and evenings reduce stress.
- Homework Space: Quiet, stocked, and free of distractions.
- Meals: Pack lunches the night before.

Academic & Emotional Preparation

- Talk About School: Discuss feelings and ease anxiety.
- Connect With Teachers: Attend conferences and parent nights.

Safety & Transportation

- Practice the Route: Walk or bike with your child.
- Bus Safety: Review waiting, riding, and exiting rules.

✨ Together, families and schools can help students feel confident and ready to learn all year long.

UNDERSTANDING THE FUNCTIONS OF BEHAVIORS: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

BY SHEQUETA HARRIS

October's Function of Behavior: Escape or Avoidance Behavior

What It Looks Like: Your child may refuse to do homework, throw a tantrum to avoid chores, or run away from a situation that feels overwhelming.

How to Respond: Avoidant behaviors usually mean a child feels overwhelmed or unsure about what's expected. Breaking tasks into smaller steps and giving choices can make a big difference.

You can:

- Set clear and consistent expectations so they know what's required and why.
- Use a 'first-then' approach. For example, "First, finish your homework, then you can play outside."
- Break tasks into manageable steps to make them feel less overwhelming and give your child a sense of control.

Copycat Rhythm



PEEK AT PRE-K

BY ANNETTE FERNANDEZ

Children love making sounds with everyday objects—and it's more than just fun! Rhythm games help them recognize and repeat patterns, listen carefully, and practice keeping a steady beat.

Try This at Home:

Start with two wooden blocks or spoons. Clap a simple beat, such as tap-tap, tap-tap, and let your child copy you. Once that's easy, try a longer pattern, like tap-tap-tap. Ask your child questions to build listening skills: Did your taps sound like mine? Can you make the same beat again?

Take turns leading—sometimes you create the rhythm, sometimes your child does. Encourage using other “instruments,” like rhythm sticks, spoons, or even clapping hands. Watch how your child adjusts the speed, keeps the beat, and adds creativity to the patterns.

This playful activity turns sound into learning—boosting memory, focus, and self-expression.

Indian Education Department News

By: Christina Bullard

☀️ **The Indian Education Department is excited to begin a new school year!** ☀️

This year, we'll continue learning, growing, and celebrating our Native heritage together—supporting students both academically and culturally, while building pride in who they are and where they come from. 💛 ✨

Throughout the year, we'll also host after-school programs, cultural activities, and family events designed to strengthen academics and cultural identity. Parents and guardians, we are excited to partner with you in encouraging our children to reach their fullest potential. 🌱📚

Stay tuned for letters, flyers, and reminders about upcoming events. Together, we'll honor the wisdom of our ancestors and inspire the next generation of leaders.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Indian Education Department—we are here to support you and your family.

Shelf Talk By: Karen Nichols

Did you know that Hoke County Schools Library Media Services partners with the Hoke County Public Library to give our students and teachers access to the [NC Cardinal Student Access Program](#)?

NC Cardinal connects public libraries across North Carolina and gives users access to a wide variety of books, ebooks, audiobooks, research resources, and other digital materials. Through our partnership, both HCS students and teachers have accounts that allow them to access these resources. If you are receiving this email, you have access!

We hope you will take some time to explore what is available and use these resources for classroom instruction, research, independent reading, or just finding your next great book.



Fall Into Reading with Beanstack!

🎃 **Hallow-Read (October 1–31)**

Next up: our Hallow-Read Challenge! From October 1–October 31, students can keep up the momentum with the same great goal and prizes. Plus, the school with the highest average reading rate will be recognized and get to proudly display the Traveling Reading Trophy for the month. 🏆

🔑 **Easy Access for Students & Families**

Students can log in through Clever with their school account.

Parents can also download the free Beanstack Tracker app (available on iOS and Android).

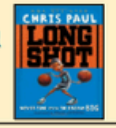
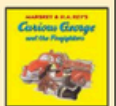
Student username = school ID number

Student password = birthdate



Click on the National Day Calendar
to find a read aloud for each day!



						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Hair Day 	2 Custodial Workers Day 	3 National Techies Day 	4 Taco Day 
5 Do Something Nice Day 	6 National Noodle Day 	7 National LED Light 	8 National Hero Day 	9 National Moldy Cheese Day 	10 National Handbag Day 	11 Sausage Pizza Day 
12 National Farmers Day 	13 Navy Birthday 	14 Dessert Day 	15 Grouch Day 	16 National Sports Day 	17 Pasta Day 	18 National Chocolate Cupcake Day 
19 National Kentucky Day 	20 Youth Confidence Day 	21 Reptile Awareness Day 	22 Color Day 	23 National Mole Day 	24 National Food Day 	25 Greasy Food Day 
26 Pumpkin Day 	27 Black Cat Day 	28 First Responder Day 	29 Cat Day 	30 Candy Corn Day 	31 Halloween 	

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- [HOKE COUNTY SCHOOLS: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION](#)
- K-12 **SCIENCE** PARENT/CAREGIVE GUIDES
 - [ENGLISH](#)
 - [SPANISH](#)
- K-12 **MATH** PARENT/CAREGIVE GUIDES
 - [ENGLISH](#)
 - [SPANISH](#)
- K-12 **ELA** PARENT/CAREGIVE GUIDES
 - [ENGLISH](#)
 - [SPANISH](#)





Hoke County Schools

Resilient and Ready

*All
Students
All Abilities
All Belong*

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

EC FAMILY NIGHT & FALL FESTIVAL

♥ A COMMUNITY EVENT ♥

CONNECT • CELEBRATE • EMPOWER

Join us for an evening of resources, connection, celebration,
and fall fun for the whole family!



VENDORS

Information and
resources for families



FOOD TRUCKS

Delicious food
for everyone



FUN ACTIVITIES

Games, crafts,
photo opportunities
and more!



COMMUNITY EVENT

Build connections
with schools,
community partners
and support services

FAMILIES
COMMUNITY
RESOURCES
FUN
TOGETHER
WE BELONG



TUESDAY

OCTOBER 13, 2026

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM



EAST HOKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

4702 Fayetteville Road
Raeford, NC 28376



EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

910-875-8009

SUPPORT

INCLUSION

OPPORTUNITY

BRIGHTER
FUTURES

Stronger Together. Brighter Futures.

HOKE COUNTY SCHOOLS

HOKE COUNTY SCHOOLS & VOLUNTEER-VILLAGE CO. PRESENT



LITERACY LESSONS - FAMILY READING - CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

**29 OCT,
2026
5:30-7:00**

**UPCHURCH ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL LIBRARY**

730 TURNPIKE RD.,
RAEFORD

OPEN TO ALL K-5 STUDENTS
AND FAMILIES!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

Made possible by
F.R.E.S.H Reads :
Facilitating Reading for
Every Student in Hoke

