

“Notes from the Nest”



Hawk Ridge Family Newsletter –Weeks of 9/4 & 9/11/2017

Welcome to “Notes from the Nest,” our monthly newsletter for the Hawk Ridge Community. We will distribute through our Connect-5 e-mail and phone system, as well as post on our website.

- **Thanks to all our families for a wonderful first week of school!** Our enrollment is stabilizing at about 881, although some more fluctuation may occur. That’s within 1 student of our spring projections.
- A big shout-out to the PTA for the Kindergarten Popsicle Playdate on Sunday 8/27. Turnout was great!
- Thanks to our Hawk Dads for their service! A branch of the PTA, Hawk Dads do morning car duty every Thursday and Friday (as well as the first couple days this year!). We appreciate this so much, as well as providing more time for our staff to work with students!
- Morning car riders have been doing GREAT! The line has been completely eliminated by 7:38-7:40 each day! This is really great, as there should be no traffic reasons for tardies, at least on any regular basis. Please remember that Kindergarteners started this week, so there will be more cars. Please also remember that earlier (7:15-7:30) is better.
- **Hawk Ridge achieved an “A+NG” rating for the 2016-17 school year from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction!** Hawk Ridge also exceeded expectations for academic growth, which includes reading (K-5), math (4-5), and science (5th only). This is the highest rating that can be achieved. The “+NG” recognizes that HRES had no gaps between student subgroups higher than those at the state level. Great work to our students, staff, and families in 2016-17.

Family Calendar:

Mon, 9/4	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY!!!—No School
Tues, 9/5	Day 6; Reading 3D testing window opens (grades K-3, through 10/3/17)
Wed, 9/6	Day 7; COGAT (TD) testing for 2nds;
Thur, 9/7	Day 8; Hawk Dads car duty; COGAT (TD) testing for 2nds; PTA Dine & Dash-Nothing But Noodles (Stonecrest), 4-8:00pm;
Fri, 9/8	Day 9; COGAT (TD) testing for 2nds; Hawk Dads car duty;
Tues, 9/12	Day 11; BOG-(Beginning of Grade Test)-3 rd Grade, School Leadership Team, 5:30-7:00 (Open Public Meeting, all invited), Media Center; Mecklenburg County Primary Elections (HRES is a polling place);
Thur, 9/14	Day 13; Fall Picture Day! (flyers home on 9/5); Hawk Dads car duty; Curriculum Night, 5:30—7:30 (PTA Mtg 5:30, Session 1-5:50-6:30, Session 2 6:35-7:15)
Fri, 9/15	Day 14; Hawk Dads car duty;
Mon, 9/18	Day 15; Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts visit HRES classrooms;
Tues, 9/19	Hearing Screenings, Kinder and 1 st ; Boy/Girl Scout Roundup, 6-7:30 pm
Thur, 9/21	Teacher Workday (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
Fri, 9/22	Teacher Workday (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
Fri, 9/29	1 st Qu Progress Reports Home

Further Down the Road...

Thur, 10/5	Field Day, Grades K-1-2 (8:30-10:30am)
Fri, 10/6	Field Day, Grades 3-4-5 (8:30-10:30am)

PTA Updates

Parents, remember to:

-Go to **Pay4SchoolStuff.com** to purchase classroom required items by September 23. To create a new account go to Pay4SchoolStuff.com > click 'Log In' > click 'Create Parent Account'

-**Create a Konstella account** at www.konstella.com/cd/okMuYY to stay up-to-date on all PTA-related communications including announcements, events, sign ups and classroom activities.

So Much DRAMA...

Drama club will be holding auditions for the 2017-2018 season on September 18th, 19th, and 20th. Auditions are open to any third, fourth, or fifth grade student. The drama department is also accepting applications for stage crew from fourth and fifth grade students. All necessary audition forms, requirements, and sign-up times can be found at www.hawkridgemusic.weebly.com under the drama tab. Anyone needing a hard copy of the form can receive one from Ms. Faulhaber or the front office. Forms are due **no later than September 15th.** Please send questions to a.faulhaber@cms.k12.nc.us

PL (Personalized Learning) Beginning-of-Year Surveys

Hawk Ridge Elementary is a CMS Personalized Learning School. To gauge our progress and inform our continued improvement, we offer these surveys to our parents and students twice yearly. They are brief and anonymous, and open through 9/29/17.

Parents: <http://bit.ly/plcmsparents1718>

Students: <http://bit.ly/plcmsstudents1718>

Car Rider Line Expectations:

1. SAFETY IS ALWAYS OUR FIRST PRIORITY!
2. No student drop-offs before 7:15; Hawk Ridge staffers don't officially begin work until then.
3. Please, **No Cell Phone usage while in car rider line.** We need ALL attention on students and safety.
4. Obey the crossing guard, and ALWAYS cross at the marked crosswalk.
5. When cars are advancing, pull to the last available spot.
6. Unloading/Loading: Students should always load and unload on the right side (curb side). Please arrange car seats appropriately.
7. No "Park and walks"; if you drive onto campus, you should unload/load using the staffed car rider line during arrival (7:15-7:45) and dismissal (2:40-3:00+/-). Exception: If you are signing into the office as an official visitor with a pre-arranged conference with a staff member.
8. Dismissal numbers: All car riders and walkers must register your children in the office, and receive a dismissal number. Anyone picking up your child should have this number. Help your children to learn their number.
With our substantial enrollment and many new families, we appreciate everyone's understanding and compliance as we work to maximize student safety and dismissal efficiency.

Correct Contact Information:

Please make sure your child's teacher and the office staff have updated contact information at all times. We will be distributing this newsletter and other important information through Connect-5, which draws from your contact information in PowerSchool. Any office staffer can help you update your information as phones and addresses change. We will also be distributing Parent Portal letters this week so that parents can verify their demographics and other important information at all times.

Hearing Screening Announcement

Kindergarten, 1st grade students and students who are **new to CMS** will participate in a **hearing screening** during the month of September 2017 unless the school is notified in writing by September 11th, 2017.

If a student does not pass the hearing screening after two attempts, a "Consent for Hearing Evaluation" permission form will be sent to the parent with a deadline for return.

Parents of students being monitored for a history of hearing loss will also receive a consent form. Students cannot receive a **hearing evaluation** (a much more thorough exam) by the school's Audiologist without signed permission.

Hawk Ridge Cafeteria Behavioral Norms 2017-18:

We ask students to:

1. Enter quietly.
2. No talking while in serving line (trays through checkout).
3. Please help your child to learn their lunch #s!
4. Students are allowed 1 trip through the lunch line!!! (get everything the 1st time).
5. Students should raise hands if they need something from the lunch monitor.
6. Quiet 1st 10 minutes (so they'll actually eat, safety issue at points), and use inside voice after.
7. We use RED/GREEN/YELLOW "cup" system to signal volume levels for student tables. RED means silent; GREEN means normal voices; and YELLOW means caution: too much noise.
8. Assigned student table monitor(s) will clean floors, clear tables, and leave it in good condition for the next class.

We ask visiting family members:

1. Please refrain from coming to lunch for the first two weeks (three for Kinders), so that staff and students can establish and learn procedures.
2. Please sign into the office, receive a time-dated visitor badge.
3. Please meet your child's class as they enter the cafeteria at their appointed lunch time (don't go straight to classrooms).
4. Sit with your child at designated parent tables.
5. Only sit with your child (other students cannot accompany unless their family member is present).
6. Please say goodbyes at the cafeteria door (don't accompany back to class, unless pre-arranged with teacher).

September is Attendance Awareness Month!!!

Welcome back to another great year at Hawk Ridge Elementary!!! We pride in ourselves in not only our high level of academic performance, but also our continual parental support that is second to none!

One way to establish a great love of learning and academic foundation for success is to have an established morning and evening routine. We all know that getting up in the morning can be difficult for some, but a well-developed routine sets the tone for what is expected for the day.

Help us celebrate National Attendance Month by getting your child to school daily and on time. School attendance plays a critical role in academic success and ultimately, high school graduation.

Attendance Facts:

- Missing two days of school per month could put your child at risk of academic failure.
- Chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of the school year for any reason) marks the point at which students start to fall behind and are unlikely to catch up.

- By third grade, children who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are far less likely to read on grade level than their peers.
- The effects of chronic absenteeism are cumulative: for every year of chronic absence, a higher percentage of students drop out of school.

In order to ensure success in your child's learning, please be sure that he/she is here on time and ready to learn! The first bell rings at 7:15, and the tardy bell is at 7:45. Let's work together to help to make this a great year with students who are ready to learn!

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Mary Bleich, ~ sited from The United Way of the Central Carolinas

School Leadership Team

NC Law requires each school to have a School Leadership Team comprised of elected representatives of all stakeholder groups within the school; parents, teachers, administrators, other staff, etc. School Leadership Team meetings are public meetings, held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. This year's first meeting is Tuesday, September 12th at 5:30 in the media center.

Functions of the SLT include 1) Coordinating activities associated with the design and implementation of the School Improvement Plan (SIP), 2) Advancing policies and procedures that meet educational, safety, and parent involvement goals, and 3) encouraging, supporting, and creating opportunities for the involvement of parents and the community.

Yearbooks On Sale NOW!

Order your child's yearbook TODAY to ensure that he/she will receive a book full of memories to cherish for years to come. Please don't wait...we CANNOT order extras, so the ONLY way to ensure your child receives a copy is to pre-order from www.jostensyearbooks.com. The total cost for each book is \$15.00. Books will be delivered to your children at school near the end of the year.

WANTED: Your Adorable Hawk Ridge Photos!!

- Download the ReplayIt App to your device and upload pictures to Hawk Ridge Elementary (it's super easy).
- OR
- Go to replayit.com on your computer to upload pictures.

Please direct any questions to hawkridgeyearbook@gmail.com

Thank you so much!

Janet Wallace and Bonnie Welles, Yearbook

Nuts and Bolts:

- **Please remember that all early sign-outs must be before 2:00.** After 2:00, students must wait until regular dismissal time (2:45) to leave.
- **Tardies:** Classes begin promptly at 7:45; all students should be in class, ready to begin school at 7:45. Students arriving after 7:45 are tardy, and an adult must accompany and sign their child into the office.
- All visitors must sign into the office, and receive a dated pass before entering the building.

- Make sure to read the Student Handbook located in the front of your student's agenda. We'll spotlight areas of focus in each of the next few issues of Notes. After you read the handbook, make sure to sign the appropriate line on the acknowledgement page (page 8).
- **Reporting Absences:** If your child is absent, you can report the absence via our Attendance Line @ 704-849-3500. Just leave a message with your child's complete name and their teacher.
- **We need Media volunteers!** Our media center circulates a huge number of books, mainly because our students READ a huge number of books. If you have some time you can regularly dedicate to helping our circulation efforts, please e-mail our media volunteer coordinator, Stacey Rex, at <https://www.konstella.com/app/group/599f671ee4b0c3852c734beb/chats>, or at staceyrex@gmail.com.
- **Forgotten items:** water bottles, backpacks, homework, lunches, etc.—HRES is working to develop a sense of responsibility with our students. In addition, classroom interruptions can cost up to 8-9 minutes of lost instruction while students re-focus. For these and other reasons, we cannot disrupt instruction by calling into or delivering forgotten items of a non-emergency nature to classrooms (handbook, page 6). Parents are still welcome to meet their children for lunch (beginning week of 9/11 for 1st-5th, week of 9/18 for Kinders). If you feel you must leave something for your children, we do have a "drop zone" table outside the office. We will send an e-mail to the teacher that a student has an item there, but please know that teachers are not required to check e-mail during the instructional day. By way of information, water is always available at fountains, no student will ever be denied a lunch, and homework can usually be turned in late.

Have a great September! Go Hawks!