

HPS "GOOD NEWS"

Communications Department / HPS Board of Education

9-28-2020



BEGINNING TOY

Seirah Suddreth, who just started her second year of teaching at Jenkins Elementary, is the **HPS Beginning Teacher of the Year!**

A 2019 graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne University, Ms. Suddreth believes building positive relationships with students will make a difference in every aspect. Congrats!

NEW FLAG

HCAM recently received a new flag and the JROTC of Hickory High came out to help guide the HCAM team on proper protocol in raising the flag. It was the perfect day for this activity--as it was also the anniversary of 9/11.



OPEN HOUSE!

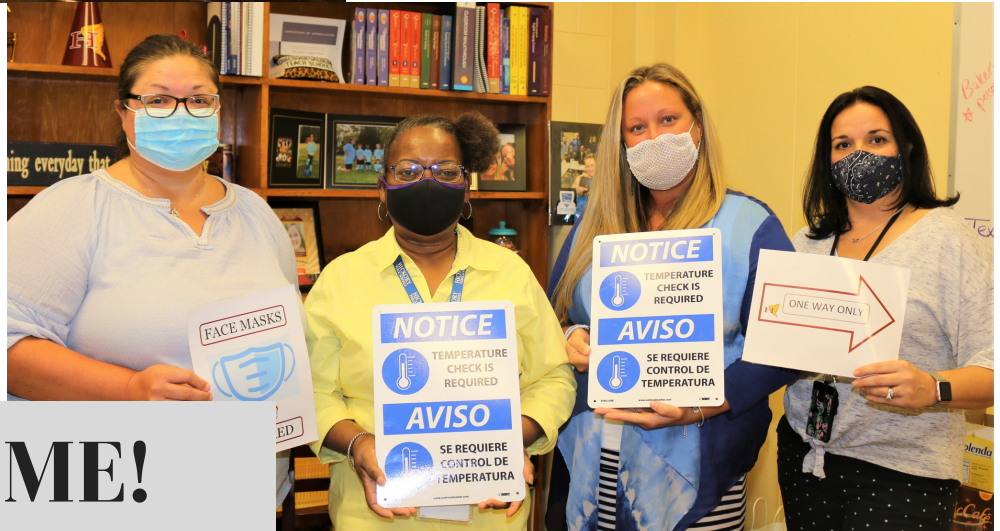
Kindergarten students were provided the opportunity to visit the schools and meet their teachers during advance "small-group" settings. It was an exciting day for kinders and their family members!

GETTING IT DONE!



An Oakwood Elementary two-teacher team shared about their first experience with a virtual open house. According to the team, Dorothy Dalton and Laura Marvin, fifth grade teachers, approximately 90 percent of their families and students participated in their Open House held totally online. "Everyone was enthusiastic during the noon meeting," said Dalton. "We could see their faces light-up as we reviewed the daily schedules and some of the exciting curriculum lesson plans in store for our students."

Hickory High admin team worked hard to welcome students back to school via Plan B! According to Principal Tuttle, teachers are working diligently to ensure "rigor & focus" are consistently provided to all students--creating excellence in education at HHS!



PREP TIME!



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Meredith Clay shares the newest forms of art displayed at Southwest Primary! These welcoming illustrations were completed by Hip Hip Hoowray in Conover. The funding for the art was awarded through a grant with the HPS Education Foundation.



MIKE JOHNSON- NOMINATED FOR "GIVING FROM THE HEART"

Mike Johnson of Mike Johnson's Hickory Toyota has been nominated by Hickory Public Schools for his outstanding service to the children and employees of our district. United Way's "Giving from the Heart" award is bestowed annually to a community member who gives to others in the community. From hosting "Kids' Cook" events to funding multiple grants for teachers, Mr. Johnson continues to seek ways that he can help HPS! In fact, his most recent gift will fund school water fountains to refill students' water bottles.

LOOKING AHEAD

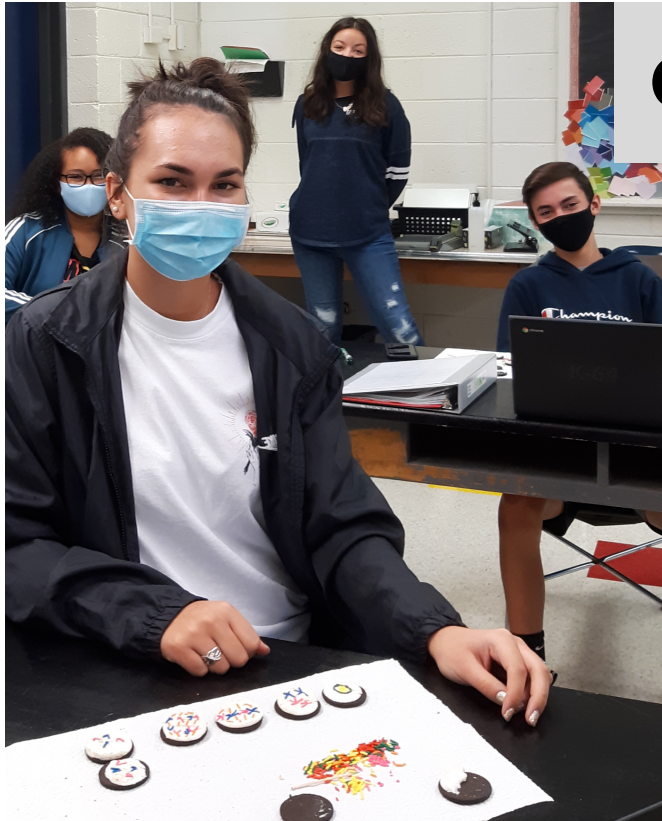
Hickory High sophomore, Rico Walker, received offers from four universities to play football upon high school graduation. Those four institutions of higher education with strong athletic programs include University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; University of South Carolina; Mississippi State University; and Virginia Tech (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University). Way to go!



UNITED WAY

The HPS United Way Annual Campaign is gearing up for the district kick-off! Between this week and next--the nine schools and the admin building will begin their campaign drive to support the local United Way--and the organization's outstanding local service. Coach Jody Weatherman at HHS joins his fellow reps for the 2020-21 campaign! Additional Reps include: Cindy Clark, Hillary Simmons, Denise Knowles, Mary Rose Grimes, Karen Lester, Shirley Vang, Michelle Gilleland, Mary Lee Tosky, Dr. Tashna Morris & Beverly Snowden.

OREOS & SPRINKLES?



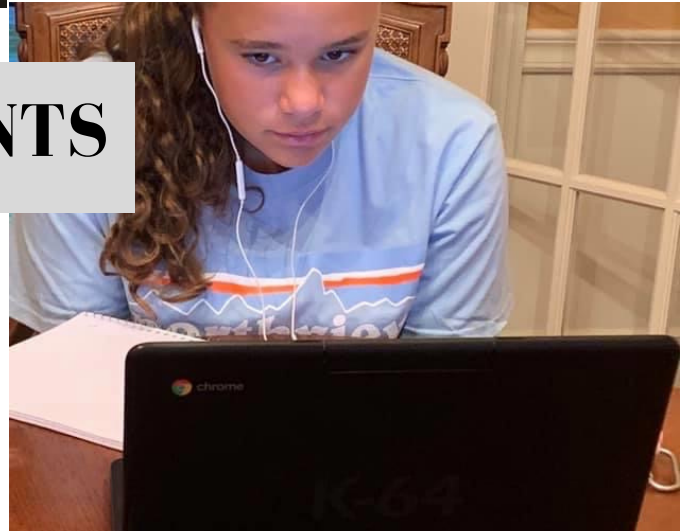
Ms. Starring's Biology classes at HCAM are underway!

These "hands-on" experiments are happening with students in the classroom working in groups with the students on Zoom.

They especially enjoyed learning about Mitosis using oreos and sprinkles.

TECH-WIZ STUDENTS

While COVID-19 has been difficult, to say the least, we recognize that our students (and teachers & parents) have all become incredibly tech-savvy! We are constantly amazed with the outstanding achievements during the remote-learning!



JROTC LEADERS

Congratulations to these three students who have been selected as the new leaders for the HHS JROTC!

Robert Moose, Samuel McDaniel, and Samantha Valdez will lead the Cadets in outstanding service as they perform excellence in citizenship and military protocol.



Our Cadet Battalion Leadership

Robert Moose Battalion Commander Cadet Major	Samuel McDaniel Battalion CSM Cadet CSM	Samantha Valdez Battalion XO Cadet 1LT
---	--	---



SRO RECOGNIZED



**Congrats to Bryson Grier —
Hickory's Young Professionals:
Top Ten Under 40!**

Officer Grier, 29, is currently the School Resource Officer at Hickory High School, as an employee of the Hickory Police Department. He aims to spread the message of “goodness, hope and service!” Congrats!

RADIO time for nutrition & buses!

WHKY First Talk with Hal Row recently interviewed two key employees at HPS (left) Kristen Bealler, director of child nutrition and Renric Pope, transportation coordinator. Listen to their interview!

<https://t.co/hZ7KRcx3GH?amp=1>



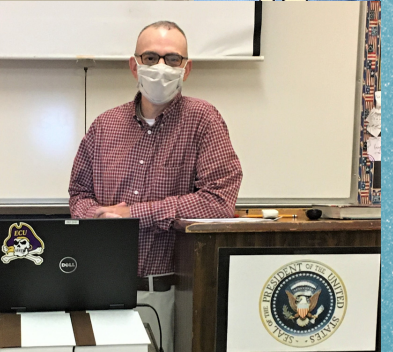
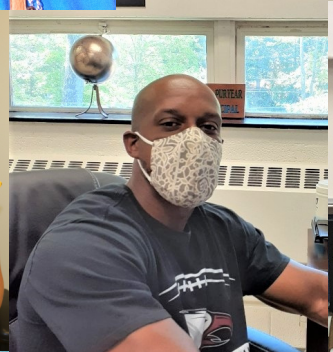
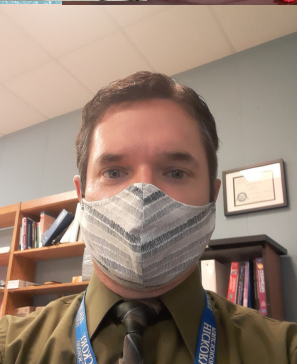
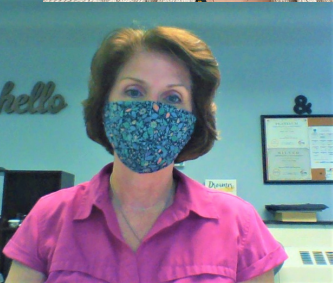
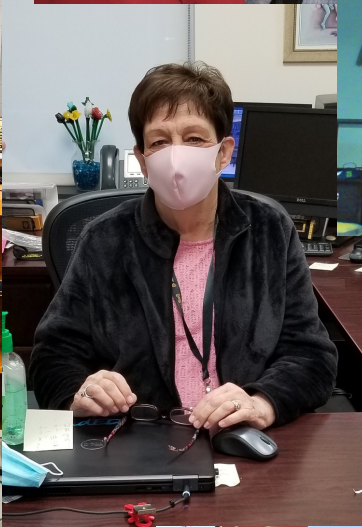
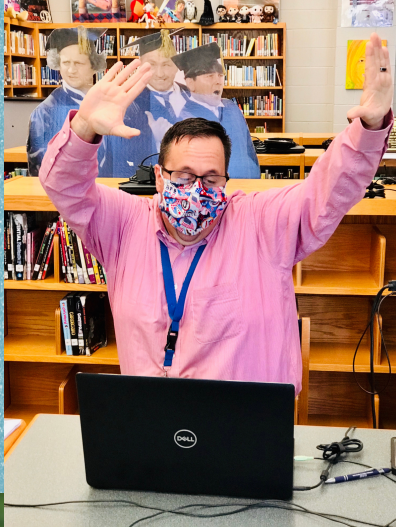
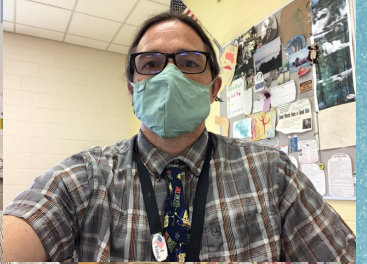
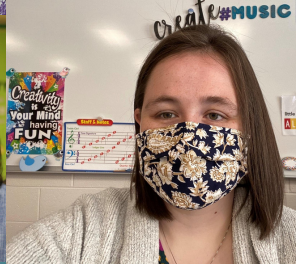
Making the Grade!

Northview Middle School Child Nutrition team snagged that coveted 100% rating on inspection day!

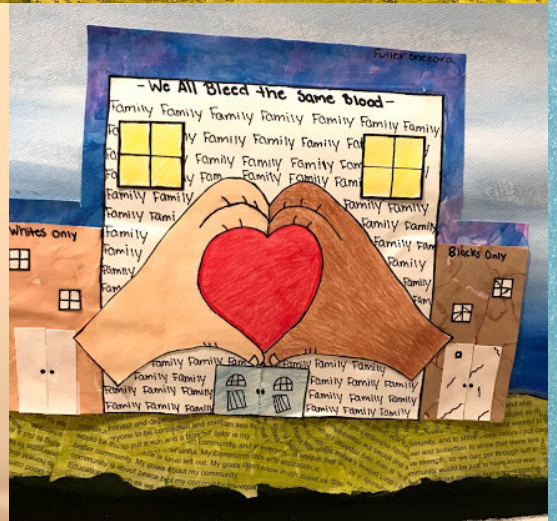
Congratulations!



MASKING UP! The EYES have it!



HPS ART STUDENTS
CREATED A
"NEIGHBORHOOD"
MURAL THAT
SYMBOLIZES THEIR
IDEAL COMMUNITY
THROUGH THE
VISUAL PORTRAYAL
OF IMPORTANT
COMMUNITY
VALUES. THE
MURAL IS
DISPLAYED AT THE
HICKORY MUSEUM
OF ART.



*Additional
Good News!*



Grandview: Outdoor classroom completed (Eagle Scout project) Bird houses installed; PTA is working on the grounds; \$7,500 PWC Innovation Lab grant (Lail); Art kits assembled and going home with students (Willard); School and finance/job skills instructional materials donations- DonorsChoose (Kyro); Media center furniture/supplies donation- DonorsChoose (Lail).

Hickory High: Our Band drumline was asked to perform for a virtual United Way event, and met three times in-person (masked) to prepare. We are very proud of these students for choosing to go above and beyond and come to campus to rehearse and perform for this event. Lowe's Hardware Licolnton store manager, Mr. Snehal Pandya, donated all of the necessary items to assist with the opening of our school for hybrid. His donation has a dollar value of about \$800! One of our parents made masks for the entire HHS community. That's about 130 masks. And HHS hired four alumni to teach with us this year! Our Principal rewarded teachers and staff with a Dippin' Dots treat for successfully completing four weeks of remote learning!

Jenkins: We have several teachers who have had DonorsChoose Projects funded. Grace City Church has been helping clean up our school grounds to make it more beautiful. Betsy Swann earned the status of Google Level 1 Certified Educator. Our 3rd Grade team was recognized by Modern Teacher. Their Google Classroom is being used as an exemplar.

Northview: Art students have turned lemons into lemonade... their white face masks are now works of fine art, expressions of their creativity and making faces smile. A 7th grade parent catered lunch for the entire staff just to express appreciation for the hard work everyone is doing during the strange, new year.

Oakwood: Holy Trinity donated back to school supplies for our in-person learning and remote instruction. Viewmont Baptist donated cleaning supplies. Mrs. Marvin was able to raise funds for chromebook mice through private donations for Hickory Public Students working remotely at Brown Penn Recreation Center. Our fifth graders are starting a virtual newscast for morning announcements.

Viewmont: 5th grade teacher & HPS Teacher of the Year, Anyea Gibson, just had a project funded through Donor's Choose.
Arrival and Dismissal are going well!

Southwest: First United Methodist Church donated a large quantity back to school supplies for in-person learning and remote instruction.

The McDuffies, a Southwest Primary Family, donated drinks, snacks, and school supplies to 6 Dual Language Immersion students. Enough for each student to enjoy.

The McDuffie Family donated \$100 to our PTA, and \$100 to each K-2 grade level totaling \$400 to the students of Southwest Primary School

Mrs. Khan had 2 Donors Choose Projects fully funded for online learning supplies and one for a math number talks lesson from Hand2Mind.

Mrs. Holt had 2 Donors Choose Projects fully funded for teaching resources and books to meet the needs of her students.

Mrs. Rollins had 2 Donors Choose Projects fully funded for instructional resources, student resources for at home learning, and multicultural supplies for student use.

PreK completed the Teaching Strategies Gold Certification for remote instruction

Anderson's online Angels have adopted all students in Mrs. Anderson's 2nd grade class and have sent water bottles, individual hand sanitizer and tissue boxes for each student. Some have even received letters of encouragement and books on their level.

Our School's SRO, Eddie Marlowe, was featured in the Hickory Daily Record as a Notable Neighbor.

PARENTS as TEACHERS-Recent Recognition--CONGRATULATIONS!:

"Congratulations on meeting model fidelity during these unprecedented times. Your affiliate has demonstrated an ability to adapt and continually serve families with the Parents as Teachers evidence-based model. Your dedication to your community is having a truly meaningful impact. Thank you for your resiliency. To support affiliates in achieving model fidelity for the 2020-2021 program year, PATNC set up this year's Performance Measures Report (PMR) with 2020-2021 APR measurement criteria. PATNC strongly encourages affiliates to review this year's PMR to improve program operation and service delivery in order to meet all PAT Essential Requirements." (From Robin Roberts, Implementation Support and International Initiatives)





CONGRATS TO TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR, RENRIC POPE-- WNNC RADIO'S HOMETOWN HERO!

Ms. Pope was nominated for Hometown Hero on WNNC--and she was selected to be mentioned in the radio station's on-air celebrations of Hometown Heroes! Congrats, Ms. Pope! You deserve this honor!

Ms. Renric Pope is the Transportation Coordinator for Hickory Public Schools. What this means--is that she is in charge of all HPS school bus transportation--taking on the leadership roles and decision-making.

She is on the front lines on a daily basis. This is NOT a leader who sits behind the desk and punches away at a computer---although she does quite a bit of that at nights and on the weekends.

Ms. Pope is someone who is with the bus drivers at early hours, even in freezing temperatures, long before daylight--filling in as a substitute driver and assuring safety at all times for the children of HPS.

There is no greater resource than our children, and Ms. Pope addresses their safe travels as her top priority. She is in the office every weekend, even holidays, problem-solving, making calls, checking on bus repairs, reviewing routes, and forecasting the ultimate needs for the coming weeks.

With the start of COVID-19, Ms. Pope collaborated with child nutrition and arranged all the bus deliveries of meals to students. She knew exactly where to make the stops and how to get the food to the children.

A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and a native of Hickory's Ridgeview community, Ms. Pope is the youngest of five siblings. She is the mother of two children, a daughter and a son--and she is the proud grandmother of one grandson.

No one worries about transportation because Ms. Pope takes on the worries herself---and responds with the best resolve. She is a gift to Hickory Public Schools and to our community. We are truly blessed to have such a strong and effective leader on our team--serving the school families.





Hickory's Bealler installed as President of North Carolina's School Nutrition

Kristen M. Bealler, who joined Hickory Public Schools as Child Nutrition Director last November 2019, is the new President of the School Nutrition Association (SNA) of North Carolina, an organization Bealler has served since 2009.

As President, Bealler will lead the state's promotion of healthful meals and nutrition education and she will work with membership in their commitment to advance strong nutrition for all students throughout North Carolina.

Strong nutrition provides students with the fuel they need to learn in the classroom, according to Bealler. "We realize that school meals may be the only nutritional meal some students receive—and we are doing all that we can to ensure these quality meals are provided to every child. School nutrition professionals strive to continually improve their knowledge and skills to administer, manage, deliver, and sustain successful school meal programs across North Carolina," said Bealler.

During her leadership role as SNA President, Bealler will work with membership to increase professional development opportunities and resources, increase efforts in educating policymakers on the complexity of school nutrition programs, and strengthen engagement, leadership and collaboration among all members, chapter affiliates, allied partners and other stakeholders.

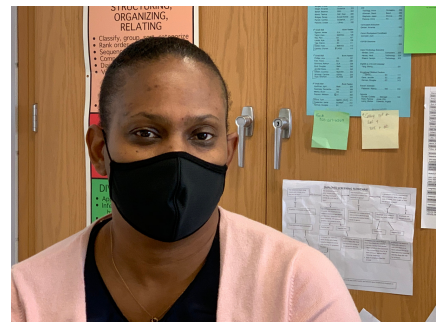
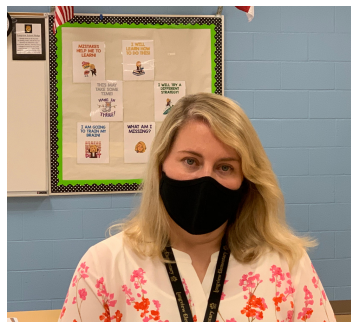
Prior to joining Hickory Public Schools, Bealler served as the Director of the Davidson County School Nutrition Program and as Director of the Stokes County School Nutrition Program. She also previously served as Area Supervisor for Wake County Public Schools, Field Supervisor for Cabarrus County Schools Child Nutrition Programs, and Environmental Public Health Sanitarian for Saint Louis County in Missouri.

During the closing of schools due to COVID-19, Bealler led the HPS Child Nutrition Team, from March 17 to September 11, in preparation of 310,800 meals for the children of Hickory Public Schools. Through this amazing achievement, a collaboration with the HPS Transportation Department, the nutritional meals were distributed to children via bus stop deliveries and drive-thru operations set-up at schools.

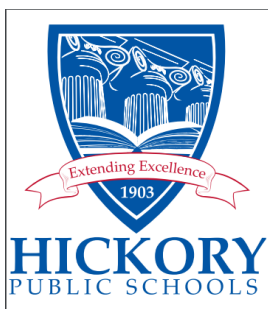
Congratulations to HPS Child Nutrition Director, Kristen Bealler, upon her installation as the new President of School Nutrition Association of North Carolina!

Give to Catawba County United Way!

For questions, contact your school's United Way Rep! HPS is now in "*campaign motion!*"



United Way Reps (top, L-R):
Hillary Simmons, Michelle Gilleland, Dr. Tashna Morris, Mary Rose Grimes, Mary Lee Tosky, Denise Knowles, Coach Jody Weatherman, Cindy Clark. (Not pictured: Karen Lester & Shirley Vang)



Good News submitted by each school's Communications Liaison &
Compiled by Beverly Snowden, HPS director of communications
September 28, 2020