

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
HPS BOARD OF EDUCATION
FALL / OCTOBER 2021

TOP TEN

1

Hickory Career & Arts Magnet High School achieves 100% Graduation Rate for 2021



"Students are prepared and with knowledge to go forward," said Principal Eric Puryear. "The past year was a challenge--but this faculty team jumped right in and asked-- 'What can we do to make sure each student is successful?'"

The HCAM Faculty

"They never sacrificed rigor. We never gave grades away. We worked with the entire families--making sure our students had what they needed--from food to one-to-one help. And we are deeply proud to say--100% graduated!"

--Eric Puryear, Principal of HCAM

2

Longview Teacher Recognized by UNC-G for exemplary unit of study



3rd grade teacher Lora Snider was recognized by UNC-Greensboro for an exemplary unit of study supporting English Learners, "Folktales and Traditional Tales from Our World." As one of 5 winners in the state, Lora's high-impact unit is featured on UNC-G's teacher education platform in a showcase of award-winning exemplars.

3

Hickory High Teacher's Presentation featured in NC Foreign Language Assn.



Heidi Rice provided a presentation that was included as part of the NC / American Association of Teachers of French / Top 10 session at the North Carolina Foreign Language Association conference.

Rice

4

Southwest Primary honored by Burlington Stores & Adopt A Classroom

Southwest received \$5,000 for distribution to the teachers--and use in their classrooms.



5

More than 50 students inducted into Northview Middle's BETA Club!

In order to be eligible for Beta Club, students must maintain all grades above an 85 in three consecutive 9 weeks, which is quite a feat in a pandemic! Congratulations, Northview Betas!



6

Jenkins Elementary Leaders to Speak at State Level

This team will present at NCPAPA's Fall Instructional Symposium, "Achieving Results Through Collective Efficacy", scheduled for November 18-19, 2021 at The Carolina Hotel - Pinehurst Resort. Session Title: Collective Voice is Our Choice. (L-R) Melissa McNally, Mary Rose Grimes, Allison Johnson and Dr. Calandra Davis.



7

Grandview Middle Math 1 Expands

Grandview has two Math I courses (with nearly 60 students) this school year and academic excellence in the expectation.

8

Oakwood Pre-K Receives Diversity Materials

Pre-K Teacher, Crystal Lail received Donors Choose Funding for "Diversity Materials for Diverse PreK Students." Materials included a doll house and diverse dolls, a bureau for dress up clothes, multicultural paint, construction paper, playdough and other classroom manipulatives.



9

Viewmont Elementary to host Augustine Tutors from Patrick Beaver Learning Resource Center (More details to come)!

10

HPS--district news at large:

- **HPS will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Hechinger Report, an education publication from Columbia University--national audience. The focus is with our excellent Literacy Programs--getting our students to read. Visits to Southwest and Viewmont.**

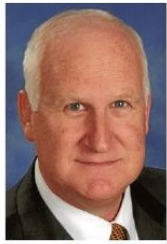


Congrats on new positions with HPS!

MORNING BRIEFING

School system hires director of operations, maintenance

HICKORY – Hickory Public Schools announces that Anthony “Tony” Cox has been selected as the director of operations and maintenance for the school district, effective immediately.



Cox

Reporting directly to HPS Superintendent Bryan Taylor, Cox will be responsible for the district’s facility operations, maintenance, construction, and renovation, including all buildings and improvements, grounds, utilities, equipment and mechanical/electrical systems.

While developing strategy for improvement in such areas as emergency response and energy management plans, Cox will develop and monitor the annual budget for assigned departments as he covers energy conservation, inspection reports and securing production in accordance with local/state/federal guidelines.

Cox’s background includes 39 years of operations management experience founded upon a 22-year military career in the U.S. Navy’s Civil Engineer Corps.

He served 12 tours of naval duty while managing large base and region-wide support services, facilities, construction, environmental and energy programs across seven states, Europe and the Pacific and Indian oceans. Cox also led as the Emergency Response Incident commander, earning multiple Navy Productivity Awards.

Retiring as a commander for the Navy, Cox discovered service to education as his next career move, accumulating 16 years as an education executive for public schools in North and South Carolina. As the deputy superintendent and chief operating officer for Rock Hill Schools (South Carolina) for 10 years, he also served as the district’s chief finance officer, operating

a \$172 million operating budget. Prior to joining Rock Hill, Cox served as assistant superintendent for operations with Burke County Public Schools and with Catawba County Public Schools.

A native of Greer, South Carolina, Cox earned his Bachelor of Science (graduating cum laude) in civil engineering from Clemson University. He also earned two post-graduate degrees, with a Master of Science in environmental health engineering from the University of Texas (Austin) and a Master of Arts in strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

Cox has served as the president of the Catawba and Central Piedmont chapters of the National Society of Professional Engineers and as state director for the S.C. Society of Professional Engineers. He is a member of several professional organizations and participates in local civic service including Kiwanis and the American Legion.

Married to Lisa, they are residents of Hickory and the parents of two adult daughters.

“After driving to work in South Carolina for a decade, this opportunity to serve our hometown with Hickory Public Schools offers me the chance to help make a difference for our children – so they can do their best for a world that I know needs them. I possess a passion for supporting teachers and principals while helping to engage our community. I am very excited about joining Hickory Public Schools, a district with a sterling reputation,” Cox said.

“We are looking forward to Tony Cox joining Hickory Public Schools,” said Superintendent Taylor. “He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge that we believe will enhance our district in multiple ways.”



MORNING BRIEFING

New assistant principal hired for Grandview Middle

HICKORY – Hickory Public Schools announces the hiring of Kelly Ann Somers as the new assistant principal for Grandview Middle School, effective immediately.



Somers

Prior to joining Hickory Public Schools, Somers served as the career development coordinator for Gaston County Schools. In that role, she taught career awareness to middle school students, assisted in class placement and the monitoring of reports for middle school students. Additionally, she served as a spokesperson for three middle schools in the Gaston community.

Additional service to public education includes 16 years with the Lincoln County Schools Career-Technical Education (CTE) Department where Somers instructed business management, budget analysis, small business entrepreneurship, career management, accounting, personal finance, and digital communications in the workforce.

Instructing in the business curriculum was a natural career transition for Somers as her previous career journey included serving in sales – both as a district sales manager and a national sales manager. While serving New South Athletic Company followed by sales with International Furniture, Somers organized training seminars, increased sales, and was actively involved in strategic planning and executed special events.

Earning a Master of Arts in School Administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Somers also earned a Bachelor of Science in Applied Communication, with a minor in psychology, while focusing on a double concentration in interpersonal and organizational communication.

Among her many classroom achievements, Somers led her students to be recognized both regionally and nationally with her support as the advisor to Future Business Leaders. She was also recognized with the Regional Advisor Award.

Somers loves to spend time with her two boys, JonCole, 17, and Cooper, 14. A native of Lincolnton, Somers is passionate about outdoor activities. She was a Carolina Panthers TopCats Cheerleader from 1997-2003.

“Ms. Somers is going to be a great addition to the Grandview community,” said Tyrone Corlew, principal of Grandview Middle. “She has already begun the process of building relationships with our students, staff and the Grandview community. She is willing to jump in and collaborate wherever she is needed. Ms. Somers is definitely a person who is willing to grow and learn from everyone around her as well as having the ability to help others around her to grow.”

“I am so happy to be a part of Hickory Public Schools, and I look forward to all the opportunities this wonderful community has to offer. I feel honored to be a part of the Grandview Middle School Team; Go Eagles!” said Somers.

Hiring News (contin.)

MORNING BRIEFING

Executive assistant to HPS superintendent named

HICKORY – Hickory Public Schools has announced the selection of Angela “Angel” Holland to serve as the executive assistant to the superintendent, Bryan Taylor, and as clerk to the HPS Board of Education, effective immediately.

As an employee of Hickory Public Schools for nearly seven years, Holland has served as finance assistant to the HPS Finance Department. In her new role, Holland will provide numerous duties of administrative support for the superintendent and the board of education as well as the support of analytical and appropriate communication with internal and community groups.



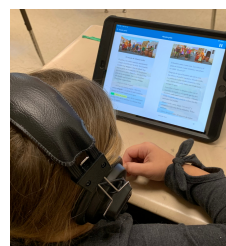
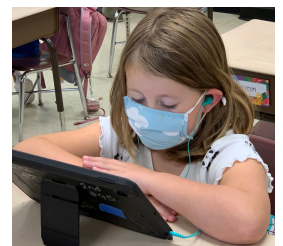
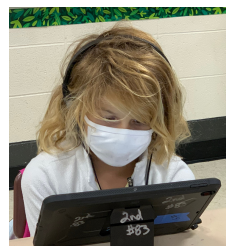
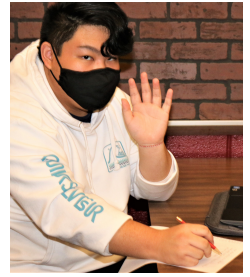
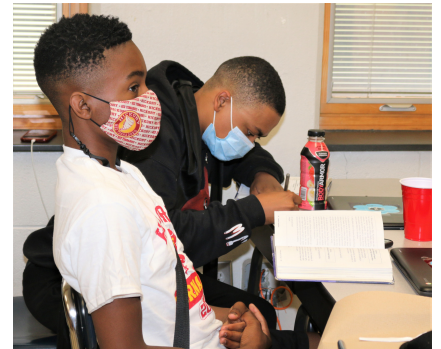
Holland

Prior to joining Hickory Public Schools, Holland served as legal assistant/paralegal for Sigmon, Clark, Mackie, Hanvey & Ferrell, P.A. for 18 years. As a North Carolina Certified Paralegal (effective 2006), Holland served the entire law firm with her primary assistance provided to Jeffrey T. Mackie, who previously served HPS as the board attorney. She served as a legal assistant to area law firms for a combined 25 years.

A native of Hickory and a graduate of St. Stephens High School, Holland was always interested in law and pursued becoming a legal assistant immediately upon high school graduation. Through her service to Hickory Public Schools, she has expanded her knowledge of finance and technology while assisting the district’s entire staff.

Married to Brian Holland, the Hollands are residents of Bethlehem and are the parents of five children with the youngest as a sophomore in high school.

“I am thrilled about this opportunity to grow professionally,” Holland said. “I also love working with the entire team at Hickory Public Schools. Our employees are very effective – very strong – at what they do. It’s been amazing to learn from my HPS colleagues as I’ve discovered the talent and dedication that goes on behind the scenes. I look forward to serving in this new capacity at the HPS Administrative Services Building.”





The Best of
the BEST!
Our HPS
PRINCIPALS!

HAPPY
NATIONAL
PRINCIPALS'
MONTH!

TOP (L-R): Terry Ashley,
Oakwood; Dr. Calandra
Davis, Jenkins; Jeff
Hodakowski, Viewmont; Eric
Puryear, HCAM; Andrea
Johnson, Longview; Rebecca
Tuttle, HHS; Erin Sigmon,
Southwest; Robert Brown,
Northview; Dr. Tyrone
Corlew, Grandview.

Be sure
to THANK
our HPS
Principals
this
month --
(& every
month)!



Fall High School Sports

(as of 10.25.21)

Football: Varsity team is currently 6-3

Men's Soccer: JV soccer went undefeated- Varsity Soccer has a chance to win the conference championship tonight and Sr Night is this Wed. at 7:00

Women's Golf: 2 golfers advanced to the state championship today and Tuesday at Pinehurst

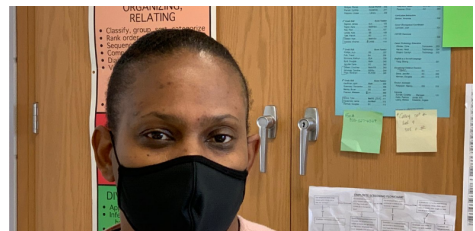
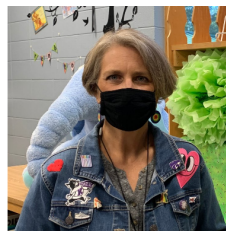
Women's Tennis: Our doubles team advanced to the state final tournament this Friday and Sat in Burlington

Volleyball: made the state play offs and won the first round match- play at West Rowan on Tuesday at 6:00

Cross Country: Regionals at Freedom HS this Saturday at 9

Cheerleading: Continue to promote school spirit at the games

HOMECOMING & Naming the field--David Elder Football Field



*Thank you to the
amazing HPS
United Way team!*

