



PRESS RELEASE

Halifax County, NC – October 5, 2021

Board Meeting Highlights

Employee of The Month- (Human Resource Development and Management)



Ms. Veronica Davis is being recognized as Employee of The Month for September 2021. Ms. Davis is responsible for the accurate and timely reporting of payroll data for all employees. She manages student data in PowerSchool, including enrollments, withdrawals, schedules, test scores, immunizations, and demographics. Additionally, she is responsible for operating office equipment, ensuring the supply closet is stocked, and screening the mail. Ms. Valerie Williams states that “Ms. Davis has an awesome personality. She works well with all our staff members, she is very patient, kind, and a hard worker. Though we're out for the summer or may leave early, she is always here dedicated and faithfully working and one of the first administrative employees here to start her day all over again. When there is an event, she is present and has the occasion in order.

Most of all, she demonstrates to us all how to be professional employees”. Superintendent Dr. Cunningham states, “we are so glad to have Ms. Davis a part of Halifax County Schools. Thank you for all of your hard work.” Ms. Davis states, “this award is especially dear to me because I was chosen by my peers, my coworkers, and the staff. Their positive attitude and willingness to work with me have helped to make my job easier. We are an efficient team. I love what I do and the people I work with. Knowing that you appreciate me and my work encourages me to do my best. All of us cannot do this alone.”

Student of The Month- (Student Achievement)



Scholar Lakyah Hendricks has been chosen as Halifax County School District Student of The Month. Mrs. Shoulars chose Lakyah Hendricks to be Student of the Month because she has adjusted very well to 3rd grade. She follows classroom rules, she's respectful, and she's responsible. Lakyah is a leader in my classroom and is always willing to lend a helping hand. She has served as Restroom Monitor, Classroom Assistant, and Hall Monitor. When her peers need assistance, she helps them with a smile. She's an awesome participant in class discussions and puts forth her very best effort to complete assignments promptly. Lakyah demonstrates what it means to have a growth mindset and be one of my 3rd Grade “Smart Cookies.” She doesn't give up, she works hard, and she strives for excellence. She is a model student in my class, and I'm very proud of her progress! Superintendent Dr. Cunningham states, “Congratulations to Lakyah for being Halifax County Schools Student of The Month. Continue to

Strive For Five!” Lakyah says, “math is my favorite subject because I like to work out subtraction math problems. I like to play with my siblings on the trampoline and hang out with my cousin. Advice for other students: Never give up, and if you believe you can achieve, you can! I feel good about being Student of the Month. My family is going to be happy and excited.”



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Mask Mandate- (Health and Wellness)

On October 4, 2021, the Halifax County School Board of Education approved a vote of 7-0 on the superintendent's recommendation for masks to be worn inside all Halifax County Schools buildings. Please adhere to the guidelines because safety is our number one priority. The Halifax County Board of Education will vote monthly on the mask mandate. The next board meeting will be held on November 8, 2021.

Enrollment rate- (Student Achievement)

Halifax County Schools are on the rise, and our culture is changing! We are excited to announce that we have met our projected enrollment target for the first time in five years. The enrollment forecast for the 2021-2022 school year indicates 98 more students are attending Halifax County Schools. The state projected an enrollment of 2,065 students. Halifax County Schools have a current enrollment of 2,163 students. We have been charting a new course for six years, and we are starting to see the results of our strategic plan. We are now experiencing the buds breaking through the soil, and we will only continue to grow from here. Students are returning to Halifax County Schools, and because of this growth, we did not have to eliminate any staff positions! Superintendent Dr. Cunningham states, “thanks to the overwhelming support of the families in Halifax County School District and the excellent staff, and a dedicated, hard-working leadership team. We are Halifax!”

Finance Highlight- (Fiscal Management and Resource Development)

Halifax County Schools received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting! The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Halifax County Schools Finance Department has recently had undergone an audit and will present audit findings at the November's board meeting.

Reading Apprenticeship- (Governance and Leadership Development)

Halifax County Schools would like to recognize the following teachers for participating in a virtual conversation about their experiences with reading in the content area. These individuals shared feedback and information that will be helpful to WestEd that will provide future professional learning and coaching for our teachers. Dr. McClain was very instrumental in identifying the nine teachers to participate.

Kenya Clemonts- Northwest Collegiate
Richard Auka- Northwest Collegiate
Edwin Sexton- Northwest Collegiate
Caroline York- Northwest Collegiate
Tracey Brinkley- Northwest Collegiate
Tomarra Hall- Southeast Collegiate
Jennifer Friend- Southeast Collegiate
David Shine- Southeast Collegiate
Latoya Payton- Inborden Elementary



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PPE Giveaway- (Health and Wellness)

Halifax County Schools received a generous donation of personal protection equipment from the Lutheran Disaster Services of the Carolinas, Commissioner Mary Perkins-Williams. We have a surplus of supplies and would like to give back to our community. If you are a part of the church community and your organization would like to receive supplies, please reach out to Darian Pressley.

National Principals Month- (Human Resource Development and Management)



October is National Principals Month. We would like to recognize our principals for their tireless dedication to their students and the schools they serve. These school leaders fight every day to give their students the best education. It is time to thank our principals who have overcome challenges from a pandemic to focus on

student learning, staff wellbeing, and community pride. Superintendent Dr. Cunningham states, “I’d like to take a moment to say thank you to our principals. I am exceptionally grateful to be associated with our team of principals. I can tell you it is substantial to see all the hard work, time away from families, and dedication to our students and staff that goes on behind the scenes. Please join me in thanking our outstanding group of principals. Pictured from Left to Right:

Jerome Williams- Halifax County Early College
Chastity Kinsey- Inborden Elementary Steam Academy
Brian Biles- William R. Davie STEM Academy
Angela Battle- Scotland Neck Elementary Leadership Academy
Marcus Jones- Aurelian Springs Global Institute of Learning
Linda Cooper- Enfield Middle STEAM Academy
POY Steve Hunter- Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy
Lykisa McCoy- Southeast Collegiate Prep Academy
Tonya Hedgepeth- Pittman Elementary Leadership Academy
Angela Sessoms- Everetts Elementary STEM Academy
Benjamin Eustice- Hollister Leadership Academy
Sharon Arrington- Empowerment Zone Coordinator