



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Halifax County, NC – February 12, 2024**  
*HCS Recognizes Staff & Students*

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Halifax County Schools (HCS) proudly announces the recognition of exceptional individuals whose dedication and commitment have significantly contributed to the success of their educational community.



HCS is delighted to honor Ms. Stephany Broadus as the January Employee of the Month. As a 4th/5th grade Math Teacher at Hollister Elementary Leadership Academy (HELA), Ms. Broadus exemplifies excellence in education. Her unwavering dedication to nurturing scholars, aligning with Common Core Standards, and bridging educational gaps has earned her colleagues and students' admiration. Principal Ms. Lorraine Johnson commends Ms. Broadus for her exceptional classroom leadership and willingness to mentor colleagues, stating that she consistently exceeds expectations. "I am thankful for this opportunity to represent HELA as Employee of the Month. I am very passionate about

education for my scholars and my team members. We have to excel as a team. Anytime I can share my wealth of knowledge, I am all for it. Through coaching and learning opportunities, we lead together. I look forward to steering the course as we prepare leaders for the future at HELA.



HCS January student of the month is Ke'Shoan Moody. Ke'Shoan is the son of Lakisha Whitaker and Edward Moody. Ke'Shoan is a 12th-grade student who attends the HCS Empowerment Zone. Ke'Shoan Moody excels in Social Studies, finding it to be his favorite subject due to its ability to teach him about the past while being easily understandable. Outside of academics, Ke'Shoan is passionate about sports, particularly basketball, football, and track. His advice to fellow students emphasizes consistency and focus, urging them to attend school regularly and remain dedicated to their studies without

succumbing to distractions. Ke'Shoan expresses surprise and gratitude at being selected as Student of the Month, feeling validated and appreciative that his efforts have been recognized.



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Despite his rigorous schedule, he maintains a spot on the honor roll and is a role model for his peers. Ms. Janice Jones, Empowerment Zone Lab Facilitator, praises Ke'Shoan's work ethic and resilience, highlighting his ability to overcome adversity gracefully. Ms. Sharon Arrington, HCS Empowerment Zone Coordinator, stated, “ Ke'Shoan has learned to face adversity, which has made him a better student overall. He handles tough situations with grace, which has developed him into a meek, mild, and respectful young man thirsty to have more in life beyond high school. Ke'Shoan shows his fellow man that he's thankful for any help rendered to him”.



February marks Career & Technical Education (CTE) Month, a time to recognize the invaluable contributions of CTE educators in preparing students for college and career success. HCS acknowledges the outstanding achievements of its CTE educators:

Schquetta Hawkins, Entrepreneurship/Financial Planning  
Derrick Lively, Middle School CTE (Business Exploration)  
Charisma Clements, Early Childhood Education  
Fred Lapitan, Middle School CTE (Health Sciences Exploration)  
Donald Ford, Horticulture  
Marites Jacintos, Health Sciences  
Angela Richardson, Computer Engineering  
Leon Abbott, HVAC  
Eric Parker, Sustainable Agriculture



February 5-9 is National School Counseling Week. National School Counseling Week focuses public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within the school systems. HCS recognized their school counselors for their tireless efforts in helping students succeed. Felicia Lewis, Delmeshia Jones, Jacqueline

Harper, LaQuisha Braswell, Quentin Rogers, Mary Stevenson, Tashaunna Hughes, Shronda Smith, Jessica Woodson.



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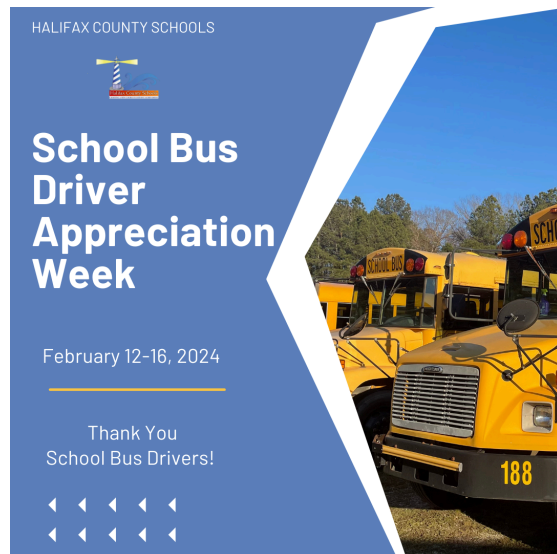


Halifax County Schools is proud to honor the invaluable contributions of their dedicated School Resource Officers (SROs) on School Resource Officers Appreciation Day, which is celebrated annually on February 15th.

SROs play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and security of our students, staff, and school community. Their unwavering commitment to fostering a safe and supportive learning

environment does not go unnoticed.

Halifax County Schools extends its most profound gratitude for the exemplary service to the following Officers (L-R): Jeffrey Way, Michael Squire, Daniel Jones, and Rodney Williams. Their professionalism, dedication, and compassion positively impact students' daily lives. Halifax County Schools extends their heartfelt appreciation to all SROs for their tireless efforts in keeping our schools safe and nurturing environments for learning and growth.



Halifax County Schools is proud to recognize the outstanding contributions of their dedicated school bus drivers during School Bus Driver Appreciation Week, celebrated from February 12th to February 16th.

School bus drivers are the unsung heroes of our educational system, ensuring the safe transportation of our students to and from school each day. Their commitment to safety, reliability, and professionalism is commendable and greatly appreciated.

HCS extends its deepest gratitude to our exceptional team of school bus drivers for their hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the

well-being of our students. Their positive impact on our school community is immeasurable. On behalf of Halifax County Schools, we thank our bus drivers for their invaluable service and dedication to the students and families of our district.



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**Honoring Previous Awardee**

In November and December, HCS recognized Mrs. Evelyn Hines and Mrs. Whitehead as Employees of the Month for their exceptional contributions to student welfare and support services.



Mrs. Evelyn Hines is an exemplary employee who exceeds expectations, providing exceptional care and education to our young learners. Her innate ability to cultivate a nurturing and stimulating environment is instrumental in the growth and development of our Pre-K students at Scotland Neck Elementary Leadership Academy. Frederica Higgs, a colleague, expresses immense enthusiasm and pride in nominating Mrs. Hines for Employee of the Month, highlighting her consistent dedication and unwavering passion, particularly during the absence of Mrs. Rose Williams, the Pre-K teacher. Mrs. Hines humbly acknowledges the honor of her nomination, emphasizing her willingness to assist wherever needed and her profound commitment to the well-being of the students.



Ms. Joyce Whitehead fulfills her role with dedication, providing essential support for students, families, and staff at Halifax County Schools. Her efforts encompass a wide range of needs, spanning social, emotional, academic, and physical aspects, ensuring the well-being of all involved. Loretta Carter commends Mrs. Whitehead's unwavering commitment, noting her willingness to go above and beyond to secure necessary services for individuals. Sharon Arrington, HCSEZ Coordinator, emphasizes Mrs. Whitehead's wealth of experience, enabling her to make informed decisions that positively impact children and families and foster student comfort and confidence when seeking assistance. Mrs. Whitehead expresses surprise and gratitude at being recognized as Employee of the Month, underscoring her passion for serving the school community and her appreciation for the opportunity to make a difference.





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Destinee Williams, the November Student of the Month, attends Pittman Elementary Leadership Academy. She is a standout 4th-grade student with a passion for mathematics. Daughter to Shawanda and James Williams, she thrives in the world of numbers, recognizing its ubiquitous presence in daily life. Alongside her academic pursuits, Destinee finds joy in reading, particularly enjoying Carla's Sandwich by Debbie Herman and Junie B. Jones books. Her hobbies include indulging in technology, reading, playing with her younger brother, and participating in dance and piano lessons. Her advice to peers is succinct: "Be a Leader and not a Follower! Be You!" Destinee expresses deep affection for her school, teachers, and friends, relishing her selection as Student of the Month as a testament to her hard work. Ms. Lee, her teacher, acknowledges Destinee's exceptional work ethic, punctuality, and active class participation, attributing her academic success and role-model behavior to these qualities. Additionally, Destinee's commitment to various extracurricular activities while maintaining high grades further distinguishes her as deserving of this recognition.



Halifax County Schools proudly announces Nasir Hedgepeth as the December Student of the Month. Nasir finds joy in mathematics, relishing its opportunity for deep thought and problem-solving. Alongside his academic pursuits, Nasir indulges in various hobbies, including drawing, reading, and sports. His advice to peers emphasizes perseverance, resilience, and the importance of discernment. Nasir reflects on his schooling experience with gratitude, recognizing its role in imparting knowledge and fostering personal growth, expressing delight in being selected as Student of the Month. Mrs. Loretta Carter and Ms. Sharon Arrington commend Nasir's exemplary conduct and dedication, citing his consistent completion of assignments, perfect attendance, and positive demeanor, highlighting his respectful nature, cooperativeness, and concern for others' well-being as qualities that make him a standout student.



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Halifax County Schools proudly announces that Mr. Srinivas Pannela has been named one of only eighteen educators nationwide to receive the prestigious LifeChanger of the Year Award.

Mr. Pannela's unwavering dedication to education and his profound impact on the lives of students and colleagues have earned him this esteemed recognition. His innovative teaching methods, compassionate mentorship, and commitment to student success exemplify the qualities of an exceptional educator.

Mr. Pannela said, "I want to thank the LifeChanger of the Year selection committee members especially for the honor. It means a lot to me. I will remember this moment and cherish it throughout my professional life. I couldn't believe it; there were hundreds of nominations. I'm thankful to the LifeChanger of the Year group. It's an honor and a special part of the national life group. This is the third national award, and I am proud to be part of Halifax County Schools."

As one of the select recipients of this esteemed award, Mr. Pannela joins an elite group of educators nationwide who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and made a positive difference in their communities. The LifeChanger of the Year Award celebrates educators who go above and beyond to inspire, motivate, and empower others. Mr. Pannela's dedication to his students and profession embodies the spirit of this award.

HCS extends its sincerest congratulations to all awardees for their remarkable contributions to the educational community. Superintendent Dr. Eric Cunningham expressed his pride in the accomplishments of both students and staff, stating, "The dedication and excellence demonstrated by our employees and students are a testament to the strength of our educational community. We commend their outstanding contributions and commitment to academic success."