

August 2023



Featuring  
**COLUMBUS COUNTY**  
and  
**WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS**

*A Special Publication of The News Reporter*



# Whiteville City Schools

EVERYONE COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESS OF ALL STUDENTS

Dear Community,

Welcome to the start of the 2023-2024 school year! On behalf of an extremely dedicated staff led by the Whiteville City Schools Board of Education, I extend our sincerest invitation to join with us as we invest in the inquisitive young minds that have been entrusted to our school family. Together, we renew our dedication that “Everyone is committed to the success of ALL students,” and we will cultivate profound talents in ALL students that will help them positively impact the world.

We begin the school year with new leadership in key positions, which some might perceive as a challenge. However, these new team players come with energy, enthusiasm, and valuable experiences, and they join other talented veteran educators to continue the implementation of our district’s strategic plan. We ALL are educators regardless of our roles, and students are depending on us to lead them in their quest for a life of learning. I have personally witnessed the positive culture that is a pillar of this great school system. Where a positive culture exists, challenges cannot survive; they will yield to growth and opportunity.

Our goals for this year will center around increasing student performance in every aspect of the school experience. Graduates will be skilled to compete successfully whether they decide to attend the college or university of their choice, commit to a career in the military, or go directly into the workforce. We want to engage with our community partners at more robust levels. Without strong community relationships, students cannot reach their maximum potential.

Our most valued partners are parents and families. Your input is needed and appreciated. Likewise, we want to increase our school-business partnerships to offer learning opportunities through apprenticeships and build a strong pool of workforce candidates.

Regardless of your level of involvement, you are personally invited to our schools, offices, and their events. Your input is needed to help us grow and serve our students more effectively. Personally, I want to thank everyone for supporting the transition for my family and me as I assume the role of superintendent. Let’s have a wonderful school year!



**Jonathan Williams**  
**Superintendent**

Jonathan Williams, Superintendent  
Whiteville City Schools  
107 W. Walter St.  
Whiteville, NC 28472  
jwilliams@whiteville.k12.nc.us  
910-642-4116



## Whiteville Primary

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, and Staff,  
As we embark on this new academic year together, I want to extend my warmest greetings and a heartfelt welcome to all of you.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to the wonderful educators, staff members, parents, and students who have already welcomed me with open arms. Your support and enthusiasm have made my transition to Whiteville Primary an exceptional experience.



My primary goal is to foster a positive and nurturing learning environment where each student feels valued, empowered, and motivated to excel. I firmly believe that every child possesses unique talents and abilities, and it is our responsibility as educators to nurture those gifts and help them reach their full potential.

Collaboration is essential for the success of our school community. I encourage open communication and constructive feedback from parents, guardians, and students. Throughout the school year, we will focus on not only academic excellence but also character development and social-emotional growth. We will promote kindness, empathy, and respect, ensuring that Whiteville Primary remains a place where everyone feels like they belong.

I look forward to meeting each one of you in person at our open house Thursday, Aug. 24, from 2-6 p.m. and working closely with our dedicated staff to provide the best possible educational experience for our students. Together, we will build on the successes of the past and create an even brighter future.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas to share. Let us make this academic year a memorable and transformative journey for our students!

Wishing you all a fantastic start to the school year! Welcome back Wolfcubs!

Ashlee White,  
Principal



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# Edgewood Elementary

Dear Edgewood Elementary Families,

I am delighted to be a part of the Edgewood family and serve as your principal for the third, fourth and fifth grade students in the Whiteville City Schools district. The dedicated, talented and extraordinary staff members will continue to put students first at EES and work diligently to ensure their success. I am committed to embracing the positive traditions and practices that are already in place at Edgewood Elementary School while working diligently to ensure increased success for the future. I am excited to reunite with the students that previously transitioned from Whiteville Primary School and the incoming third graders that I transitioned with this school



year.

"Do the Right Thing" is an expectation that I apply to myself, the students and the adults that support those students in the classroom, on our campus and in students' homes. I believe all children should receive an exemplary education in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning. Students should receive all the support that can be provided by the adults in their life to ensure that they reach their maximum potential as a student and as a young person. Some of the supports available to students at Edgewood Elementary School include:

- Full-time Nurse, School Counselor, and multiple instructional support staff to provide academic, social-emotional and behavioral support
- 1:1 Technology Program, which provides each student with daily access to a chromebook and various digital educational supports
- Daily Encore Classes that include Music, Physical Education, Art, Science Lab, Character Education, Technology Skills and Media
- Enrichment Opportunities with the Annual Science Fair, Daily School Broadcast Program and Ongoing Student Leadership
- 21st Century Tutoring After School Program
- Afterschool Programs such as the EES Chorus and Junior FFA
- Comprehensive Academically & Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Program
- An Indoor Sensory Path and recently installed Playground Equipment

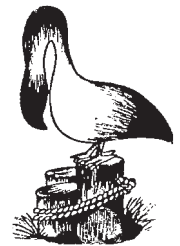
Together we can help our children excel and provide them with an education that is second to none. I am excited about all we will accomplish together for our children and look forward to celebrating our collective success this school year.

Please be on the lookout in your mailbox for postcards coming soon with class assignments and plan to join us during our open house Thursday, Aug. 24, from 2-6 p.m. It's a Great Day to Be a WOLFIE!

**Pam Sutton**  
Principal



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# Central Middle

Hornet Family,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I am challenging each of you to set your expectations high and to focus on gaining new knowledge and skills. Together we must be committed to continuous improvement so we can lift Central to new levels of excellence.



Please join us for our open house Thursday, Aug. 24, between 4 and 7 p.m. During this time you can get your schedule, meet your teachers, and get to know the campus of Central Middle School!

Central Middle School Information:

- Please follow our "Central Middle School" Facebook Page.
- Check out our website at [cms.whiteville.k12.nc.us](https://cms.whiteville.k12.nc.us).
- 7:30 a.m. is the earliest drop-off in the morning.
- 8 a.m. is the tardy bell. Any student arriving after 8 a.m.

will have to be signed in by their parent.

- 3:05 p.m. is dismissal for car, walking and bus students.

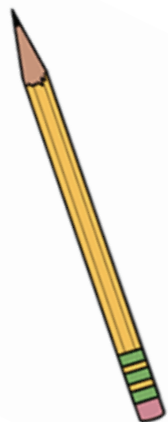
Our dedicated teachers and staff have been hard at work preparing for a successful school year. We are excited to welcome Shanequa Collier to our administrative team as assistant principal. Steve Clontz will continue to work at both CMS and WHS as an assistant principal. Together the three of us will work to help students become productive and respectful citizens.

Communication and collaboration are key to a successful school year. We would love for parents to be connected to ClassDoJo, Facebook and your child's PowerSchool account. You are encouraged to attend social events, meetings, and athletic games. Middle school is such an exciting time because the addition of the band, cheerleaders, athletes and clubs means that school spirit soars!

Please know that the health and safety of our students and staff is a priority. We will work to provide a secure and healthy school. I am looking forward to a successful school year! My door is always open to you, so please feel free to come see me. By working together we can make this the best year yet!

Let's Go, Hornets!

**Katherine Hyatt,**  
*Principal*



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# Whiteville High

Whiteville Wolfpack Students, Parents and Community Members,

Welcome back to another spirited year at Whiteville High School! As the administration, we are excited to extend our warmest greetings and enthusiasm as we kick off the upcoming academic year together.



We hope that your summer break has been both enjoyable and rejuvenating, providing you with the necessary rest and energy to embark on this exciting new chapter of your educational journey. Whether you are returning students, eagerly awaiting the familiarity of our hallways, or new members of our esteemed Wolfpack family, we are thrilled to have you join our community.

Whiteville High School stands as a beacon of excellence, fostering an environment that promotes academic achievement, personal growth, and character development. Our dedicated team of educators and staff members is committed to guiding and supporting you as you navigate through your educational pursuits, personal passions, and extracurricular endeavors.

In the spirit of our Wolfpack values—unity, integrity, and resilience—we encourage you to approach this year with a sense of determination, open-mindedness, and a hunger for knowledge. Embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, knowing that you have the support of a strong network of teachers, administrators, and fellow students who believe in your potential and are here to help you succeed.

As members of the Wolfpack, we encourage you to actively engage in the vibrant school community that surrounds you. Embrace the multitude of clubs, organizations, and athletic teams available, as they provide opportunities for you to explore your interests, develop leadership skills, and forge lifelong friendships. Take advantage of the resources and support systems at your disposal, such as our administrators, dedicated counselors, mentors, coaches and academic advisors, who are eager to assist you on your individual path to success.

Parents and guardians, we extend our sincere gratitude for your unwavering support and partnership. Your involvement and engagement play a crucial role in your child's educational journey. We encourage you to maintain open lines of communication with our teachers and administrators, attend school events, and actively participate in the various opportunities provided to strengthen the bonds between home and school.

Together, let us make this a year filled with growth, achievement, and unforgettable memories. Remember, within the halls of Whiteville High School, the potential for greatness lies within each of you. We look forward to witnessing your accomplishments and celebrating your victories throughout the year.

Upcoming events: Freshman Orientation Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., open house Aug. 24, from 4-7 p.m.

GO PACK!

Ronna Gore,  
Principal



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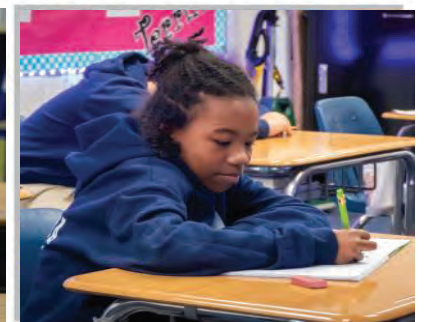


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## NORTH WHITEVILLE ACADEMY

310 South Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue  
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472  
Telephone: 910.914-4161 Fax: 910.914-4164  
www.nwa.whiteville.k12.nc.us  
April Corbett, Principal



Welcome to North Whiteville Academy!

Welcome to another "GREAT" year at NWA! It is truly a privilege to serve this school community, where every staff member builds positive relationships with students and families. North Whiteville Academy serves grades 7-12. Our school is rich in tradition, and we strive to bring out the best in our students daily. We also strive to create an environment where each student receives the attention necessary to achieve success, and our students work very hard to demonstrate responsibility in all they do.



We are so fortunate to have a dedicated staff that is committed to academic excellence and the development of the whole child. Our goal is to work collaboratively to provide an inclusive, safe, respectful, and nurturing learning environment that empowers our students to be productive members of this community. Support services are put into place to assist students obtain a high school diploma and transition into the community college setting or workforce.

It takes a village to raise a child; therefore, we encourage our parents to play a positive role in the educational process. When positive partnerships are formed between the home, school, and community, our students are successful. A couple of key points for your student to be successful:

- Your student should come to school expecting to learn and willing to work.
- Attending school regularly will keep your student on track.

We look forward to a productive year! Parents, you should have received your letters from me by now of your individual appointments. Our open house will be Thursday, Aug. 24, from 1-3 p.m. Please feel free to stop by or call me with your comments or concerns. I welcome the opportunity to work with you.

April Corbett  
Principal



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# ‘Where I’m at, I love’ — Meares-Howard is the 2022 WCS Teacher of the Year

By **JOSEPH WILLIAMS**  
josephwilliams@nrcolumbus.com

At its Back to School Breakfast on Aug. 24, 2022, then Superintendent Marc Whichard announced Amber Meares-Howard as the Whiteville City Schools Teacher of the Year.

In an interview after the event with *The News Reporter*, Meares-Howard said that it was nice not only for her but for her school to be recognized. Students at North Whiteville Academy, where she teaches high school English, are “often labeled ‘the bad kids,’” she said, “but my kids aren’t bad; my kids just need us.”

It is essential, Meares-Howard said, to “make those connections, build those relationships” in order to have the greatest impact possible on her students.

“A lot of those kids just need to know somebody cares about them,” she said.

In a statement read at the breakfast by Whichard, Principal April Corbett wrote that Meares-Howard “has worked tirelessly ever since [she came to NWA] to promote student success both in and outside of the classroom.”

In addition to teaching her students to be “creative thinkers and writers,” Meares-Howard “not only nurtures the development of her students but recognizes the importance of students having the proper resources to be successful,” Corbett wrote.

To that end, over the past three years, Meares-Howard has applied for and received over \$1,000 in grants for school supplies for her coworkers and pupils.

Out of her eight years of teaching experience, six and a half of those were at North Whiteville Academy. And her dedication to the school shows.

In fact, she half-jokingly mentioned that when she got married, she told



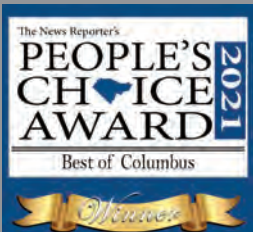
Staff photo by Joseph Williams

Amber Meares-Howard, the Whiteville City Schools 2022 Teacher of the Year

her husband she was unwilling to move away from Whiteville, where her students are. “Where I’m at, I love,” Meares-Howard said. “I love those kids so much.”

# SPD&A

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# CITY STUDENTS DRESS CODE

*Policy Code: 4316*

The Whiteville City Board of Education believes a safe and disciplined learning environment is the first requirement of a high performing school. The implementation of school uniforms will help minimize disruptive behavior, promote respect for oneself and others, build school/community spirit, and, more significantly, help to maintain high academic standards by enhancing the instructional program. The wearing of uniforms will promote the quick identification of intruders on campus. Uniforms will also allow students to focus more acutely on learning by eliminating the distractions of fashion and style. School administration will enforce the policy to ensure the safety of the students and compliance with the dress code policy set forth by the Whiteville City Schools Board of Education.

## A. IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Students are required to wear uniforms, which began with the 2009-10 school year.

## B. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

School officials will communicate information concerning the uniform policy to students, parents, teachers, and the community. This information will include general guidelines for implementation and will be achieved by using one or more of the following: newsletters, parent forums, PTA meetings, School Improvement Team meetings, TV and radio announcements, newspaper, Whiteville City Schools social media, phone, flyers, and posters.

## C. GENERAL STUDENT APPEARANCE

In addition to being required to wear school uniforms, all students are to be groomed and dressed appropriately for school and school activities. A student's dress and/or appearance shall:

1. Support, not disrupt, the learning environment;
2. Constitute no threat to health or safety;
3. Be tasteful and unable to

be construed as provocative or obscene;

4. Reflect practices of good hygiene and cleanliness.

## D. RELIGIOUS BELIEFS - MEDICAL REASONS

Reasonable consideration shall be made for those students who, because of a sincerely held religious belief or medical reason, request a waiver of a particular guideline for dress or appearance. The waiver request shall be made in writing from the parent or guardian and approved by the principal. In considering a waiver request, the principal may request additional documentation from medical officials and/or religious leaders.

## E. SPECIAL ACTIVITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodation shall be made by the principal for students involved in special duties, activities, or projects approved by the school. This may include, but is not limited to athletics, career and technical education, physical education classes, special events, or any other activities that require non-conforming dress on a school campus during a school-sponsored event. In the case of athletics, this includes "spirit-wear" (e.g., Wolfpack t-shirts or athletic team shirts) which shall be worn over regulation uniform shirts/blouses.

## F. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Parents and/or guardians who have concerns about the affordability of a school uniform should contact the principal. The principal and/or school social worker will assist the family with identifying community resources that may be able to help procure the required school uniforms. The

school system will not be responsible for funding uniforms for any students.

## G. SCHOOL UNIFORM

The principal will implement the school uniform and appearance policy in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate. Good judgment in considering issues such as age, developmental stages, and body type are expected of all students, parents, and guardians in the selection of school attire and appearance. The manner of a student's wear of the school uniform shall be neat, clean, properly fitted, age-appropriate and suitable for the learning environment.

## 1. SHIRTS/BLOUSES

- a. Interim Superintendent



on two days during a week rather than one. Principals will collaborate with student groups and faculty members to designate those special occasions."

b. Students must wear plain long or short-sleeved golf/polo or woven shirts with a collar. Long-sleeved, button-up shirts will not be worn over the approved uniform shirts.

c. With the exception of school-approved logos, shirts may have no insignias, logos, labels, words or pictures.

d. Shirts must be appropriately sized.

e. Shirts shall be long enough to cover the midriff when sitting or standing. Shirts must cover the chest and back so the chest and the back of the body are not exposed.

f. Undergarments may not be visible at any time. However, students may wear plain white or school color T-shirts under shirts which may be visible at the neckline of the collar.

g. See-through or mesh tops that will reveal the body or will reveal undergarments are prohibited.

h. Clothing shall be worn appropriately (not inside-out or backwards; no rolled up pant legs, etc.) at all times.

## 2. LIGHTWEIGHT JACKETS/COATS/OVERCOATS

Students may wear sweaters, vests, light jackets, or sweatshirts over school uniforms when appropriate as determined by the school administration. Hooded jackets are permitted, but hoods may not be worn in the building as this

is considered headgear.

## 3. DRESS PANTS, SHORTS, SKORTS, JUMPERS, CAPRI LENGTH PANTS, DRESSES

a. Solid khaki, dark navy, or black are the only permissible colors for these uniform items.

b. No denim material or rivets allowed on pants.

c. Must be free of graphics and embroidery. With the exception of small labels, they may not have insignias, logos, words, or pictures.

d. Shorts, skirts, skorts and jumpers shall be modest and of sufficient length of no more than four (4) inches above the knee.

e. No pants or shorts with enlarged pockets. Pockets must not be of the "cargo" type and must not include zippers, buttons, Velcro closures, straps, or snaps. Pants are limited to no more than two front and two rear pockets. Watch pockets are not considered a pocket.

f. Clothing must be appropriately sized. No baggy or sagging pants or shorts are allowed. No "low rise" clothing is allowed. Pants must not be worn with the waistband below the hipbone. Joggers are not permitted as uniform attire.

g. Garments cannot have frays and must be hemmed and not dragging the floor.

h. Garments that do not fit properly will not be tolerated, including oversized, undersized, and skintight garments. Form-fitting spandex material, nylon, denim, corduroy, and sweat pants are prohibited (including leggings and "jeggings").

i. Pants must have zippers, buttons or snaps with the exception of Pre-K through Grade 2 students.

J. Skirts are limited to no more than four pockets.

k. Garments may not have more than two slits and the slits cannot exceed four inches above the knee.

l. Capri pants are allowed but cannot be hip huggers, cannot

Continued on page 10

dent Danny McPherson wrote to *The News Reporter* Aug. 9: "Effective this school year, students have the flexibility to wear Polo shirts of any solid color. Schools will also have the opportunity on specific, designated occasions-as approved by the principal-to wear 'school spirit shirts'



# Dress code

Continued from page 9

be skin tight, and the manufactured slit at the bottom of the Capri pant cannot be above the knee.

m. Pants may not have a slit that exceeds four inches from the bottom of the pant leg.

n. Pants may not be rolled up in a cuff to simulate Capri pants or shorts.

o. One-piece jump suits are not allowed.

## 4. BELTS

a. Students in grades 3 through 12 must wear belts if the garment was manufactured with belt loops. Belts must be with a plain belt buckle that is not over two inches. All belts must be appropriately buckled.

b. Pre-K through Grade 5 students are not required to wear a belt.

c. Graphics, metal decorations (spikes and studs), or labels are unacceptable on all belts and belt buckles.

d. Belts must be an appropriate length and not hang below the straddle.

## 5. SHOES

a. Shoes shall be worn at all times. As needed, shoes shall conform to special class requirements such as P.E. classes, JROTC, science labs, and any other classes as deemed necessary by the teacher and the principal.

b. Shoes and boots that have laces shall be laced and tied.

c. No bedroom shoes shall be allowed.

d. "Flip-flop" style shoes or "athletic slides" are not allowed. Sandals with a back are permitted in Grades K-2. Sandals in Grades 3-12 are at administrative discretion.

e. Shoes may not be altered in any way from the manufactured design, style, or functionality.

f. Shoelaces must match, and any straps must be secured.

g. Knee-high boots that lace up over the pant leg are prohibited.

h. Shoes with spiked heels are prohibited.

## 6. SOCKS

a. Both socks must match.

b. Socks must be worn in a manner that does not undermine the integrity of the uni-

form.

c. Socks must be one solid color.

d. Socks may not be worn over pant legs.

e. Students may wear solid colored panty hose, tights, or knee-high stockings.

## 7. JEWELRY

a. Students may not wear large pendants or medallions. Jewelry designed to be worn around the neck must be worn beneath the shirt/blouse of the uniform at all times.

b. No adornment is allowed that reasonably could be perceived as, or used as, a weapon. This includes, but is not limited to chains, spikes, and certain belt buckles.

c. Only school activity buttons, approved by the principal are permitted to be worn on a student's school uniform, purse, book bag, or any other article of clothing or personal article.

d. Heavy chains, spiked accessories, excessively large earrings or other heavy jewelry are not allowed.

## 8. HATS/SUN-GLASSES/HEAD-GEAR

a. Neither headwear nor sunglasses shall be worn inside school buildings. Head sweatbands are considered headwear for purposes of this school uniform policy.

b. No bandanas shall be allowed as an article of clothing and shall not be in the possession of any student. Bandanas will be confiscated and may be submitted to law enforcement officials as possible evidence of gang-related activity. School officials will not return bandanas or other items that may be determined to have gang-related purposes upon confiscation.

c. Hats, do-rags, skull caps, scarves, sweat bands, head bands or other items that may be seen as a disruption to the school setting are prohibited

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in school during the regular school day.

## 9. OTHER CLOTHING ITEMS OR ACCESSORIES

a. No gang-related clothing, accessories, symbols or intimidating manner of dress, as identified by local law enforcement agencies, are allowed.

b. Clothing shall not promote alcohol, tobacco, or drug use.

## 10. OTHER UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS



a. Students are expected to be dressed in compliance with the standards for uniforms as established by this policy at all times while school is in session.

b. Students who are taking classes that require a special dress code (such as JROTC or career and technical education

internships) may wear that uniform to other classes.

c. Students who are issued uniforms by the school which are used to represent the school in athletic contests approved by the Principal or other school sponsored activities may be allowed to wear team uniforms as directed by coaches.

d. Students who take a class at another school must wear the uniform shirt/blouse/top of their home school.

e. Clothing designed for school athletic events (i.e. cheerleader outfits, etc.) that does not meet the above guidelines shall not be worn during the instructional day unless appropriate additional garments are worn with the outfit.

f. Attire for special school-related events must be prior-approved by school-based administration as presented by the event coordinator/coach/advisor.

## 11. PERSONAL APPEARANCE

a. Combs and other hair grooming items cannot be visible in the hair.

b. Piercings cannot present a health hazard or cause a disruption to the school environment.

c. No visible tattoos.

## 12. MISCELLANEOUS

a. Any item that is worn to school must not undermine the integrity of the Uniform Policy, serve as a disruption to the educational process, or present a health hazard to an individual or his/her peers.

## H. ENFORCEMENT

The Principal shall ensure that the policy is enforced in a consistent manner and require the student and the student's parent or guardian to take appropriate action to remedy situations de-

termined to be in conflict with this policy. Disciplinary action shall be taken for violation of the School Uniform Policy in accordance with the Violations & Consequence section of the Whiteville City Schools Parent/Student Information Guide. Appropriate disciplinary actions for violations shall

include the following:

## First Offense:

A first offense shall be considered a Level I violation of the Parent/Student Information Guide. Students shall be informed that they have violated the policy. They shall be given the opportunity to change into acceptable clothing by using available clothes at school or by calling a parent/guardian to bring clothes. Parents must be informed in writing of the violation.

## Second Offense:

A second infraction of the policy shall be considered a Level II violation of the Parent/Student Information Guide and consequences shall be within the scope of that document. These may include up to assignment to the Re-Direct Center. Parents must be informed in writing of the violation.

## Third (and additional) Offenses:

A third infraction of the uniform policy shall be considered a Level III violation of the Parent/Student Information Guide and consequences shall be within the scope of that document. These may include up to referral to the Alternative Learning Program. Parents must be informed in writing of the violation.

Disciplinary action may vary when a student has a record of other student conduct violations during the current school year. Students who do not comply with the School Uniform Policy also may be excluded from participating in certain school programs, including graduation ceremonies. Copies of the School Uniform Policy shall be made available to students and parents.

Students new to Whiteville City Schools shall be given a two-week grace period from the date of enrollment to obtain and wear the proper school uniforms.

## I. ANNUAL REVIEW

This policy may be reviewed annually and revised as necessary by the Board of Education.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -390, -391

Cross References: School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315)



Happy Back to School!

We are very excited to see students return on the 28th.

Each June, after the last student has graduated and the buses roll for the final time, the task for those of us in education is to reflect on our efforts during the previous school year and determine what should be our focus in the upcoming school year.

Near the end of 22-23, we gave surveys to students and parents enquiring about their experience with the district, schools, and teachers. Over 1,700 students took the survey and close to 1,000 parents responded. Looking at the data, we saw many positives. But we also saw a strong need to engage more students in the classroom and more parents in our schools.

I spent two days over the summer with every principal, assistant principal, and instructional leader in the district. We had meaningful discussions about the importance of engagement. We determined that increasing engagement with all stakeholders will be a primary focus during the upcoming school year. The focus on engagement will start with the classroom, where teachers will be given tools to ensure that students are not just passively learning, but are actively learning the material through dynamic lessons that are rigorous and interesting to students. This process began last year with the full implementation of blended learning, but we have plans to increase the interest levels and curricular alignment across all classes. Our goal is to have every student interested in school and grow as learners. We don't plan to stop our quest to improve engagement until every student wakes up every morning looking forward to the school day.

We will make efforts to engage parents and caretakers as well; one important step that we have taken to help parents more easily engage with schools is to change the structure of some of our teacher workday/conference days. On Oct. 13 and Feb. 16, schools will close so that teachers can hold conferences from noon-7 p.m. We want to make it easier for parents to come to our schools, and we want them to feel connected and welcomed. We want them to understand what their child is learning and help support our schools by having discussions and asking questions of their child. Our goal is to also have more opportunities for parents to visit the school and engage with staff.

Ultimately, our job is to empower students to responsibly engage in learning, maximize their potential, and become prepared for success. The world is changing so fast. The recent developments in areas of Artificial Intelligence show us that we are preparing students for a world where success may look very different than it does today. Many of the skills of the past generation may no longer be in demand five or ten years from now. The only skills that will never go out of style are those that are used during rigorous, engaging classroom activities- the ability to think flexibly, creatively, and critically, and the ability to cooperate and communicate. We believe those skills to be "future-proof," and our students can only master them by being engaged in the learning process. We hope that you, as stakeholders, will further engage with our district and schools as we work together to maximize the potential of every student every day.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. This is going to be a great school year!

Deanne Meadows, Ed.D, Superintendent  
Columbus County Schools  
817 Washington St.  
Whiteville, NC 28472  
deannemeadows@columbus.k12.nc.us  
910-642-5168 x 24049



**Deanne Meadows**  
**Ed.D, Superintendent**





# East Columbus Jr/Sr High

It is with great enthusiasm and honor that I introduce myself as Principal of East Columbus Jr/Sr High School.

I am an honors graduate of UNC Pembroke, where I earned a BA Degree in History with a concentration in Secondary Social Studies Education. I earned certification in AP US History from UNC Charlotte. I returned to UNCP and earned a Master of School Administration degree. In 2012, I was named the Young Alumnus of the Year for UNC Pembroke. I attended East Carolina University and earned a Doctorate of Educational Leadership degree; my dissertation focused on growth for at-risk students. In 2016, I was named to East Carolina University's 40 under 40. Most recently, I earned a Certificate in Online Learning from Duke University and a Certificate in Mental Health in the Workplace: Creating a Caring Culture, from Walden University.



My energy, strong work ethic, leadership skills, love for helping others, and passion for education have helped me in doing my very best in the career that I love. I have served as a public school administrator in North and South Carolina (AP up to assistant superintendent), as an educational consultant for a major corporation working with entities throughout the nation, as a vice president with a non-profit leading school turn-around, and as a senior education consultant working internationally. My dual experience of corporate and educational leadership, along with my global work in education, are unique and have best equipped me with innovative and progressive skills to help bring continuous improvement and growth to those I have been fortunate to serve and work with.

Changes in leadership bring forth a great deal of excitement and questions:

How will East Columbus Jr/Sr High School be successful and have a progressive future?

What are the challenges that must be addressed to move forward in doing this?

How will we honor our rich history and traditions while adding to this great legacy for the future?

What will be the vision, mission, and goals of the new administration?

As Principal, I must work with the district administration and school faculty/staff to address these questions and many others to ensure that East Columbus Jr/Sr High School is meeting the needs of all students, serving all stakeholders, and is known beyond state and national borders for our commitment to excellence, growth, diversity, and achievement.

My mission is to put all students at the forefront of all decision-making procedures to ensure that they are receiving an excellent education to help them be college and career ready in the future. I plan to ensure a positive learning community that will strengthen the development of lifelong skills and intellectual abilities for the current and future growth and success for all faculty/staff and students.

I am grateful to bring my experiences to Columbus County Schools, which I will soon call home, to serve the students, the educators, the parents, and the communities of East Columbus Jr/Sr High School. We will be known beyond state and national borders, and others will seek to emulate us in the future!

**Kenneth Bowen**  
Principal



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## South Columbus High

As we begin the 2023-2024 school year, I would like to take a moment to thank the South Columbus community, staff and students for their continued support. Due to the loyalty and commitment of our community, we are able to continue our journey towards success. Community support is instrumental to the success of our Stallions!



Now, more than ever, it is important that we work together to ensure our students receive a high-quality education and are prepared to enter the world as productive citizens. This year we are looking forward to challenging our students to reach even greater heights. With your support, we will challenge our students to become visionary leaders of the future. The 2023-24 school year will kick off with our annual Freshman orientation Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. We would like to invite all freshman and parents out to receive your schedules and meet the teachers. The first official day for students will be on Aug. 28. Remember, our doors are always open and we welcome all supporting stakeholders to join our Commitment to Excellence here at South Columbus High School.

**Adam Thompson**  
SCHS Principal



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## West Columbus High

Dear Students and Parents,

We are excited to welcome you to the start of a new school year at West Columbus High School. As we embark on this journey together, we want to express our commitment to providing an enriching and supportive educational experience.



Our dedicated faculty and staff have been hard at work preparing engaging curriculum that fosters both academic growth and personal development. We encourage you to take advantage of the resources available to you, from our highly qualified teachers to our well-equipped classrooms and extracurricular activities.

Communication between the school, students and parents is crucial for a successful year. We will keep you informed about important dates, events, and any changes through our regular messages, phone calls, and the school's website. We also encourage you to reach out to teachers, counselors, or administrators whenever you have questions or concerns.

We invite our incoming ninth grade students, parents, and guardians to join us for Freshman Orientation on Thursday, Aug. 24, from 6-7:30 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to establish positive communication with your teachers, staff, and administrators. Important information regarding curriculum, transportation, communication, and student and parent resources will be shared during this event. We also invite all other students, parents, and guardians to this Open House event.

This year, we aim to create a positive and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and empowered. Let's work together to uphold our school's values of respect, integrity, and excellence. We look forward to witnessing your growth and achievements throughout the year.

Please contact the school at 910-654-6111 and follow West Columbus High School on Facebook for information about upcoming events, important dates, and with any questions or messages.

Wishing you a fantastic and successful school year ahead!

Warm regards,

**John W. Browning,**  
*Principal*



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**BACK TO SCHOOL**

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Stay Focused  
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# Acme Delco Elementary

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year at Acme Delco Elementary School! We are very excited to see all our students return to campus. After a very successful 2022-2023 school year we are eager to see our students and share in their educational growth! We have missed our students and their smiles over the summer!



We have been busily preparing for our students and staff to return for a new and inspiring school year. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to grow our students academically and maintain our focus on how we, the staff of Acme Delco Elementary School, can make a positive difference in the lives of every child, every day!

As you prepare for the start of school please add to your calendar our Back to School event on Thursday, Aug. 24, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Classroom rosters with teachers' names and room numbers will be posted to assist parents and students with locating their classroom. Parents and students will be able to meet teachers, visit classrooms, receive information regarding expectations, curriculum, and any additional supplies that you may need during this event. Food and Family Fun will be a part of this evening as well!

We encourage our students to have open minds, take risks, and foster their natural curiosity to learn continually! At Acme Delco Elementary School our students' academic, social, and emotional well-being is our main priority. We would like to challenge our students to "Charge" with excitement into the 2023-2024 school year and to "Roar" into academic success while experiencing a positive/fun school year!

Please feel free to contact the school at 910-655-2957 or follow Acme Delco Elementary School on Facebook for current information as well as send messages to address your questions.

We are looking forward to seeing our students on Aug. 28, for what I'm sure will be a fantastic year here at Acme Delco Elementary School! Go Bobcats!

*Welcome back, Bobcats!*

**Kristie H. Leinthal,**  
Principal



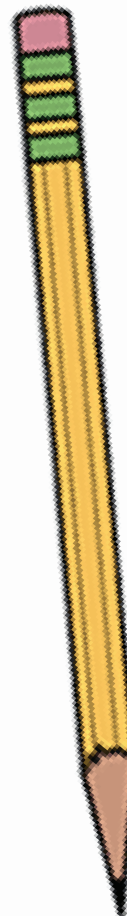
  
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## Chadbourn Elementary

Welcome Back to School!

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with excitement as we prepare to embark on a brand new academic year at Chadbourn Elementary School. As we eagerly await the sound of the school bell and the laughter of our students, I want to extend my warmest greetings to all returning students, as well as extend a heartfelt welcome to our new students and their families.



Over the summer, our dedicated team of educators has been diligently preparing for the upcoming academic year, ensuring that our classrooms are ready to inspire curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning. Our commitment to providing a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment remains steadfast, and we look forward to fostering an atmosphere where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

This academic year, we are excited to introduce new initiatives and programs to enrich your educational experience. We will continue to embrace innovative teaching methods and technology to enhance our curriculum, equipping our students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

In addition to our focus on academic excellence, we strongly believe in the importance of fostering a supportive and collaborative community. We encourage all students to actively participate in co-curricular activities, clubs, and sports, where they can develop leadership skills, friendships, and a sense of belonging.

To our parents and guardians, your support and involvement are vital to the success of our students. We invite you to be active partners in your child's education, and we welcome your feedback and ideas on how we can continually improve our school.

As we commence this new chapter together, let us remember that each of us plays a significant role in creating a positive and inclusive school culture. Let us treat one another with kindness, empathy and respect, celebrating our diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives.

Once again, I extend a warm welcome to all, and I am eagerly looking forward to an inspiring and successful academic year. Let us make this year at Chadbourn Elementary one filled with joy, growth, and countless memorable experiences.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Welcome back, and let's make this year extraordinary!

**Herman D. Bland**  
*Principal*



# Good Luck To All The County Teachers & Students

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## Hallsboro/Artesia Elementary

Welcome to a new school year! I want to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning families to the 2023-2024 school year.



I am so excited to become part of Hallsboro Artesia Elementary School as the principal. As I enter my 16th year in education, fifth year in leadership, and first year as principal at HAES, I understand the importance and embrace all opportunities to work together with educators, students, families, and the community. Hallsboro Artesia has a remarkable group of devoted staff members focused on providing an outstanding learning environment for all students. As part of the Panther family, I plan to keep top-quality teaching and the safety of students first and foremost. I am energized and deeply committed to making a positive difference in the lives of our students. We will continue to accomplish this together by setting high academic expectations for all children and providing supportive systems to ensure our goals for all students are reached. Furthermore, we will provide safe and inclusive classrooms that meet all students' diverse social and emotional needs by putting relationships first. Often, you will see me with students, staff members, and community members, cultivating these connections for the betterment of our future generation.

I look forward to becoming part of the family, community, students, and staff at Hallsboro Artesia with its longstanding and rich history. Please remember, we are partners, jointly dedicated to see your child(ren) grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually this year.

In the coming weeks, there are several opportunities for students and families prior to the start of school to visit HAES, meet with myself, and talk with our teachers. Please save the date for the Aug. 24 open house from 5-7 p.m. in the HAES classrooms.

**Kalee Hill**  
Principal



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# Nakina Middle

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Nakina Middle School, home of the Mustangs! I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of a school and community that is rich in academic and athletic excellence.



Nakina Middle School credits its success to the hard work and dedication of parents, teachers, staff, students, and community members.

At Nakina Middle school, we aspire to continue the quest of building upon the exemplary tradition and commitment to superlative accomplishments in the upcoming year. We empower students to responsibly engage in learning, maximize their potential, and become prepared for success. Students are provided with instruction that is both challenging and engaging in an effort to maximize student outcomes.

We strive to build a school culture that is focused on student growth, character development, and education of the whole child. The faculty and staff work diligently and are dedicated to accomplishing this mission. Our goal is to provide a safe and orderly environment, ensuring that this school year will be a happy and successful experience for all students. Our staff works closely with parents to instill the necessary academic, social, cultural, and developmental skills enabling them to become academically and socially proficient. We believe that when provided critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creative skills, all students will live a happy and productive life.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Nakina Middle School, I welcome all students to the 2023-24 school year.

**Shonna Garrell,**  
*Principal*



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## Old Dock Elementary

Dear parents and students,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! The summer has flown by and we are preparing for a year filled with new opportunities to learn and grow. We are continuing with our work of building strong and meaningful relationships while providing rigorous instruction. The staff and I are working diligently to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to help them excel and reach their maximum potential. In addition to providing academic support, we strive to provide a nurturing environment that is conducive to learning.



Our teachers devote many hours to creating and designing engaging lessons that challenge students to think critically. Although rigorous instruction is prioritized, we also focus on the whole child, providing social and emotional support to our students when needed. We realize that in order to teach a child, a child must feel safe and know that they are genuinely cared for by their educators. Every opportunity provided is another chance for our students to grow and flourish mentally, physically, and intellectually. To ensure a great start for each child, the staff and I have been reviewing data, collecting feedback, and reflecting on the previous year to make necessary changes to continuously improve and perfect our practices. We strive for each year to be better than the previous and each student to abound in success.

Our school is stronger with your support and commitment to involvement. We encourage you to be an active participant in your child's education. Parent and community volunteers are welcomed and appreciated. Research indicates parental involvement increases student achievement. Opportunities for volunteering include chaperoning and attending field trips, assisting with school events, being a member of the Old Dock Elementary School Parent Teacher Association, and helping around campus with educational activities. Complete a volunteer application so you can be part of our school family. Together, we can build a partnership that promotes the best interests of our students.

We will start the year with the Old Dock Back to School Bash Aug. 24 from 3-6 p.m. We will have various stations set up in the gym to provide parents with pertinent information about the upcoming school year.

Parents and children will have the opportunity to meet teachers and visit the classrooms. Come and join us for an amazing afternoon filled with food, music, and fun activities for the children. We look forward to partnering with you again this year.

**Leslie Faulk**  
*Principal*



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# Tabor City School



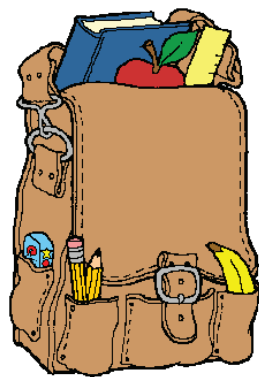
We would like to welcome the "COLTS" family back for the 2023-2024 school year. During the 2022-2023 school year our students worked hard and they achieved academic excellence in several areas. We know that our students will rise to and meet the challenges that the 2023-2024 school year may bring. This year students will start school in a new facility that will give them access to new opportunities to learn and grow. Our

move into the new building is very exciting and will provide students, staff, and community members with the opportunity to establish a new culture and traditions that will last for years to come.

We would like to invite all stakeholders and community members to join us for our ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday, Aug. 24, at 9 a.m. We will have an open house for all students and parents Thursday, Aug. 24, starting at 5:30 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m. Please come out and join us as we set new traditions and expectations for Tabor City School. As always, please contact us if you have any questions about the upcoming school year. I hope you are having a safe and enjoyable summer. We are excited about the start of a new school year, and we look forward to seeing all students Monday, Aug. 28, for the first day of school.

GO COLTS!

W. Dale Norris  
Principal



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## West Columbus School

As the 2023-2024 school year draws near, I would like to thank the faculty, staff, students, parents, and community for their continued support of West Columbus School. I am excited to start a new year and look forward to continuing our work with all stakeholders to make West Columbus School as great as it can possibly be. For this to be successful, we desperately need the unrelenting support of our stakeholders and community as a whole. Our community should be extremely proud of all the achievements and accomplishments of the past but should be equally as proud of playing a vital role in the future. An education is the foundation of a successful and meaningful life. Together, we will ensure each student is given the opportunity to not only continue their education but to be given the resources and tools needed to succeed in their future educational endeavors. It is my hope that each student at West Columbus School embraces the new school year with enthusiasm and seeks out the opportunities that will be offered to ensure success. This will allow our school to stand out and succeed in the educational arena. We have great plans for the upcoming school year and have worked diligently to ensure that this year will be one of the best years we have experienced. As we enter a new school year, I challenge the students to continue to display the characteristics that are required to achieve academic excellence. I also encourage the community and parents to rally around our school to help establish a greater sense of pride and togetherness in our community school. By joining together, we can ensure our future looks bright by doing our part to safeguard our most precious commodity, our students. As principal, I will work tirelessly to ensure that your son or daughter not only enjoys the upcoming school year but is also successful in their personal goals that make them the unique child they are today. I look forward to seeing you all at open house and greeting our students back to the 2023-24 school year on Aug. 28.



Kelly E. Beck,  
Principal



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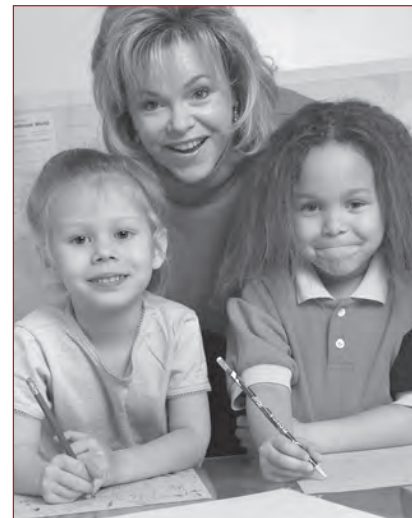
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They work tirelessly  
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will be bright for our greatest  
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## Williams Township

Dear Families of Williams Township School:

On behalf of the faculty and staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Williams Township School for the 2023-2024 school year! Our dedicated staff works very hard to meet the individual needs of all students and to maintain personal connections with their families. Our goal is to strengthen the partnership between all stakeholders in order to help your child gain the knowledge and skills necessary for his/her personal growth and development.



As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's growth and success and want you to know that we will keep you informed, address your concerns, ensure that your child has the tools necessary to be successful, and provide the highest quality education in a safe and supportive environment. Decisions are made daily in the best interest of our students to ensure their safety and provide you with a peace of mind.

We believe that collaboration and communication are key to a successful educational experience. We invite you to be a partner in our school by volunteering, joining the PTO and/or attending and supporting school events. Research shows that when parents/guardians participate and are involved in their child's education, there is a greater likelihood of academic success for the child.

We communicate with stakeholders in a variety of ways including Facebook, School Messenger, school website, written newsletters, Remind and the Columbus County Schools mobile app. The app has many features to enhance communication between schools and stakeholders and provides instant notifications from the district and school. The CCS Connect App is free and can be downloaded from the Android or Apple store.

Our mission is to actively involve faculty, staff, students, parents and community in our students' educational endeavors so that all students can become productive and successful citizens in a global society. We are excited about this school year and the great things happening at WTS. We look forward to seeing you at open house Thursday, Aug. 24, from 4-7 p.m. and on the first day of school, which will be Monday, Aug. 28.

Please feel free to call 910-653-3791 if you have any questions or concerns. You may also visit our website, Facebook, or CCS Connect App for any updates.

Go Aggies!!

**Wendell Duncan**  
Principal



## Have a wonderful school year!



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## Columbus Career and College Academy

Dear students, parents and staff,

As we stand on the threshold of a new school year, it is with great joy and enthusiasm that we extend a warm welcome to each and every member of the Columbus Career and College Academy community. The 2023-2024 academic year promises to be a journey filled with growth, discovery, and transformation, as we collectively embark on a mission to prepare our students to be lifelong learners, equipped to excel in both their careers and college pursuits.



At Columbus Career and College Academy, our vision is clear: to foster a community where education is more than just a process; it's a lifelong endeavor. We are committed to providing a supportive and innovative learning environment that nurtures not only academic excellence but also personal development and character building.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we are excited to introduce new programs, resources, and opportunities that will further enhance our students' learning experiences. Our dedicated faculty and staff are here to guide and inspire, helping each student recognize their potential and encouraging them to set ambitious goals for their future.

This academic year, we will continue to prioritize the values that define our institution: collaboration, perseverance, respect, and integrity. We believe that by cultivating these qualities, our students will be well prepared to navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities that come their way.

Parents, your partnership is invaluable to us. Your involvement in your child's education is instrumental in their success, and we encourage open communication between home and school. Together, we can provide the support system our students need to thrive.

As we set forth on this new chapter, let's remember that every day is a chance to learn, to grow, and to contribute positively to our community. Let's embrace the spirit of curiosity, resilience, and continuous improvement. Let's aim to make this school year a memorable and impactful one.

Once again, welcome back to Columbus Career and College Academy! Let's embark on this journey of lifelong learning together, empowering our students to graduate not only career and college-ready but also as compassionate, thoughtful, and engaged members of society.

**Christian Godwin**  
Principal



## Community Health Fair & Family Fun Day

### Save the Date Nov. 2

- Will be having several give aways: school supplies, vouchers for discounted sports physicals & more!
- Free food, entertainment, games, face painting, inflatables
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# COUNTY STUDENTS DRESS CODE

The board believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that will be conducive to learning. Generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by the student and his or her parents will be deemed acceptable. However, the board requires that appearance and clothing comply with the following board standards.

1. For sanitary and safety reasons and in accordance with State health regulations, all students are required to wear shoes/footwear to school. Specific footwear may be required for certain courses/classes. Slippers or bedroom shoes are prohibited.

2. Dress for special school sponsored activities that occur outside the regular school

day may be determined and regulated at the discretion of the principal.

3. Sunglasses, hats, hoods, and other headgear including kerchiefs, bandanas, and rags may not be worn inside

4. Jewelry and visible tattooing must not promote illegal drug, alcohol or tobacco use or be provocative, obscene or substantially disruptive.

Jewelry cannot include any



items that can be used as a weapon like spikes and chains attaching piercings.

5. Clothing which promotes illegal drug, alcohol or tobacco use or is provocative, obscene or substantially disruptive is prohibited (for information on gang-related attire, see policy 4328, Gang-Related Activity).

6. Clothing that is torn, cut, sliced or shredded from the

neck to four inches above the knee is prohibited.

7. Garments for the lower body section must fall to at least four inches above the kneecap when the student is standing erect. These garments include dresses, skirts, shorts and any other appropriate apparel. These garments must fit snugly around the waist to eliminate sagging.

8. Garments for the upper body section must cover the upper torso. These garments include shirts, blouses and any other appropriate apparel. The bottom of any top must cover the waistband of the lower body garment so no skin is showing. Tank tops and sleeveless shirts must reach the edge of the shoulder and top of the arm.

9. All undergarments must

be covered at all times.

Before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity shall be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code.

*Adopted: May 16, 2022*



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# I will make you proud' – County schools name teacher, principal of the year

By **DIANA MATTHEWS**  
dianamatthews@nrcolumbus.com

Columbus County Schools has recognized Stephanie Hammond of West Columbus High School with the Everlene Davis Teacher of the Year Award for 2023–2024.

Jamie Faulk of East Columbus Jr.-Sr. High School was given the CCS Principal of the Year Award. Both selections were revealed during a dinner for about 50 people at the school system's central office Tuesday, June 13.

## An advocate

"I will make you proud," Hammond said after accepting the award in front of the school board, fellow nominees, family members and administrators. She described herself as feeling "so humbled, and so honored."

Hammond teaches honors chemistry and physical science at WCHS and has also taught middle school language arts. She has taught in Columbus County since 2018 and was employed at Southeastern Community College before that. One thing Hammond ap-

preciates about her work is that, "Columbus County Schools supports me in being an advocate for my students," she told *The News Reporter*. "As an advocate, I am committed to equipping my students with the knowledge and skills that will assist them in developing strong and authentic personal voices."

## Speaking from experience

Faulk describes the job of a teacher in similar terms. About five years ago, as he embarked on his work as an administrator, he described his vision by saying that, "Our schools need dedicated, qualified school leaders who are advocates for the students, the teachers and the profession of education."

In an interview June 19, he said his 2018 statement is "just as true now, and even more."

Faulk spent 22 years as a classroom music teacher before earning a master's degree with certification to become a school administrator in 2018. He served as an intern at Acme Delco Elementary under the guidance of Janet Hedrick, then worked a year at Whiteville's Central Middle School



Staff photo by Diana Matthews

Stephanie Hammond and Jamie Faulk accepted their honors at a dinner on June 13.

Continued on page 27

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*Good luck to all  
students and teachers  
in the county!*



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• CHADBURN: 101 Strawberry Blvd.



# Principal

Continued from page 26  
before being made principal of ECJSHS.

"I'm honored and privileged to represent Columbus County Schools as principal of the year," Faulk said.

## Encouragement from judges

Staff members across the county school system's 12 campuses chose the nominees, who then created portfolios to submit to a committee of three educators from outside the county. The committee members also interviewed each nominee in person.

At the dinner, selection committee members LaMorris Smith of UNC Pembroke and Jessica Swencki of MyFutureNC complimented the school system on the quality of teachers represented, with Swencki saying that, "Great things are happening in Columbus County Schools."

All 14 teacher and principal nominees will serve on a superintendent's teacher advisory council during the coming school year, CCS Personnel Director Cassie Cartrette said.

# Teach Your Kids to Stay Off Drugs

*Start by simply talking to them. Have a calm discussion about the dangers of drug use, so they can feel comfortable asking questions without fearing anger or judgment. If you keep an open dialogue with your children, it's more likely they'll come to you for advice in the future.*

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Safeguard your prescription medications.  
Keep an open dialogue.**



**John Philip Stoll, R.Ph.**  
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# No School Supply Lists for Columbus County Schools

Columbus County Schools realizes rising costs have affected all of our families. As a result, schools will not be posting supply lists for the upcoming school year.

Parents are encouraged to purchase basic items that they feel will help their child's education such as pencils and paper. Other instructional supplies will be provided by schools. We hope that this decision will be helpful to all concerned.

We are excited about this coming year and look forward to seeing everyone at open houses and on the first day of school on Monday, Aug. 28.



# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!



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## USE CEILING FANS

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