

August 2022

Back-to-School

Featuring
COLUMBUS COUNTY
and
WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS



A Supplement to The News Reporter



WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS



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Whiteville, North Carolina 28472
Telephone: 910.642-4116 Fax: 910.642-0564
www.whiteville.k12.nc.us

Marc A. Whichard, EdD
Superintendent

"EVERYONE COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESS OF ALL STUDENTS"

August 9, 2022

Dear Parents, Student, and members of the Whiteville Community:

Whiteville City Schools has concluded a successful year of worldly challenges during the 2021-2022 school year. Our commitment to our stakeholders remains stronger than ever. I am proud of the achievements that our District has made for our students. Whiteville City Schools ranks number one in the Sandhills Region for Teacher Working Conditions and in the top ten for school districts statewide for the lowest teacher turnover.

In the academic arena, we have made tremendous strides in closing achievement gaps and lost instructional time due to the pandemic. In a good number of content areas, our students are scoring proficient at higher rates than in the five previous years. Our District has made significant investments in facility, campus, and athletic improvements that will continue throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

One notable area of focus for this year will be an enhanced focus on campus safety and security. Our staff and students are our most precious resources and we intend to keep them as safe as possible. All Whiteville City School campuses will have a dedicated School Resource Officer and all exterior doors to buildings that are consistently used for student and staff traffic will have electronic locking mechanisms.

As a servant leader for our educational community, I will continue to work to ensure that we earn the trust of our stakeholders. Whiteville City Schools will be the system of choice for our community, as we provide a high quality, safe, transparent, caring and nurturing education.

I plan to continue to be highly visible and accessible to our entire community, whether at sporting events, general school functions, in classrooms or out in the community. Please feel free to call, email, or just stop by to chat . . . my door will always be open to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marc A. Whichard'.



Marc A. Whichard
Ed.D, Superintendent

Whiteville Primary

Dear parents and students:

"Children are the priority. Change is the reality. Collaboration is the strategy."

(By: Judith Billings)



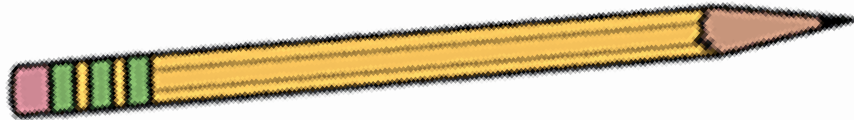
On behalf of the Whiteville Primary School family, it is truly a joy and an honor to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year! As I begin my seventh year as principal at WPS, I will work diligently with our children, community, staff and families to provide exceptional experiences for all children. Our children deserve the very best education! The staff is excited to hear the sounds of laughter and learning in their classrooms and the buildings.

We desire the best for every child, and we look forward to partnering with you to help our children be their best. Success isn't accidental. It is the result of a focused team effort, and everyone has a part to play if we are to achieve our goals and reach our potential. Students ... come to school expecting to learn and willing to work hard. Our staff will provide the quality instruction that you deserve and that your parents expect. Parents ... encourage your children often and have regular conversations with them about school and their work. Parental involvement shows children that school is important and that you are committed to their success. I encourage you to volunteer your time and abilities, visit often and communicate regularly with your child's teacher. Together, we can accomplish great things!

Kimberly L. Ward,
Principal



Whiteville Primary School students celebrate the 100th day of school.



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- ✓ Full Scholarships available
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Edgewood Elementary

Dear Parents and Families,

We are excited for a wonderful new school year! Our Open House will be Thursday, Aug. 25; that evening, students and families will get a glimpse of our out-of-this-world space theme that will inspire our Wolfies to "Reach for the Stars" in 2022-2023!



Last year, we celebrated Edgewood's 65th Anniversary and we are continuing to build on that strong legacy. We will be kicking off our year with all students reading Catanese's "The Thief and the Beanstalk" to join together in our love of reading. In October, our new playground — complete with ninja obstacle course, a rope climbing tower, and swings — will be installed, and we can't wait to see our students playing on their new equipment!

In addition to the rigorous instruction students receive in reading, math, science and social studies, we are proud of the many things that set Edgewood apart, including;

- High Academic Achievement and Small Class Sizes
- Daily Encore Classes: Music, PE, Art, Science Lab, Character Education, Technology Skills and Media
- 1:1 Technology Program (Chromebooks for all Students)
- Enrichment Opportunities: Science Fair, School Broadcast Program, Student Leadership
- Afterschool Clubs: Chorus, Junior FFA, Battle of the Books, Science Olympiad, Girls on the Run
- 21st Century Tutoring After School Program
- Daily Access to School Library
- Partnership with NC Museum of Science at Whiteville
- Comprehensive Academically & Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Program
- Full-time Nurse, School Counselor, and Variety of Student Support Staff
- Sensory Path and New Playground Equipment

It is extremely important to me that all students feel safe and supported in their school environment so they can grow as students and as young ladies and men. The Edgewood teachers, staff, and I will be working closely with you this year to challenge and inspire your child to achieve their goals. Please contact your child's teacher or me any time you have a question or concern so we can work together to make this a great year for each of our students.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of your child.

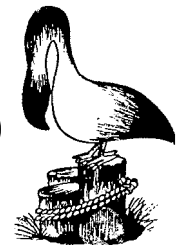
Rachel Smith
Principal



Edgewood Elementary School students walk in a parade celebrating the school's anniversary.



The Original
**DALE'S
SEAFOOD**
of Whiteville

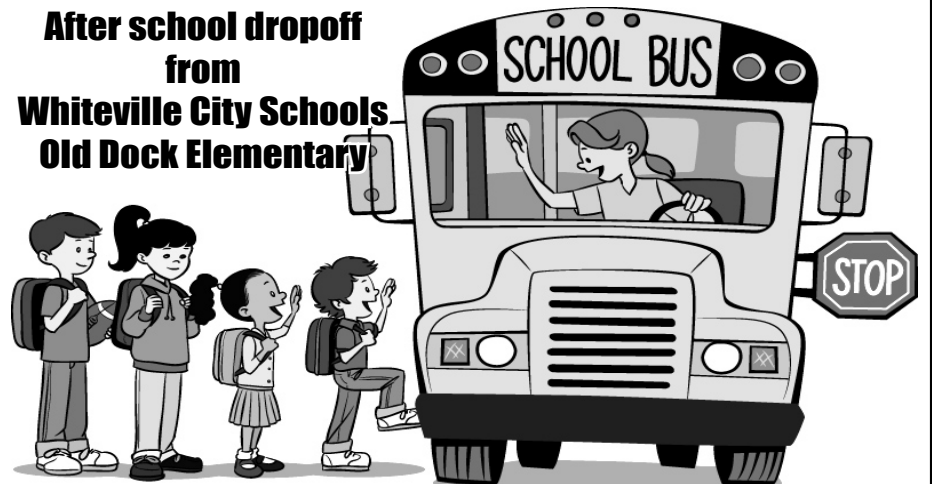


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Old Dock Elementary**



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Reserve a space for
your child Today
and feel confident in
knowing they are in
the Best of Hands!

References available.

1779 New Britton Hwy East,
Whiteville, N.C.

642-5319



Edgewood Elementary School Wolfie Steppers.

Central Middle

Welcome to Central Middle School! We hope that you are as excited as we are about the beginning of a new school year. Our faculty and staff are eager to work with you in a variety of settings to ensure a successful school experience. Our goal is to be student centered and data driven, so you can be successful academically in a safe, caring, and orderly school that provides support for every student.



Beginning today, you have an excellent opportunity to lay the foundation for strong academic and cocurricular success, as well as experience a sense of school spirit not found in any other area middle school. We hope you will identify goals, commit to demanding strategies and fulfill all your responsibilities to ensure a positive, meaningful year. Take advantage of the many opportunities offered for a

well-rounded education. Don't ever be hesitant to ask questions or solicit assistance from any staff member.

Our goals are to encourage students to take learning seriously and provide a safe and orderly environment to ensure that learning can take place. We expect students to perform at their highest academic potential, to conduct themselves at the highest level of ethical and moral behavior, and to respect themselves and others at all times. Finally, we act "in loco parentis" while you are involved in any activity affiliated with Central Middle School. That means we act in place of your parents to make wise and prudent decisions concerning your health, safety and welfare within the educational environment. While we may not always make the same decisions as your parents, we will always be focused on your safety and academic interests.

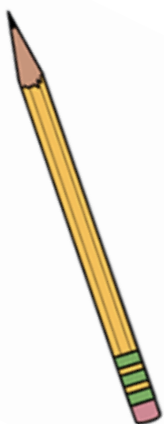
Jes Sealey,
Principal



Students of Central Middle School display their artwork.



Central Middle School softball teammates.



Full Menu & Salad Bar Available

Have a great year!

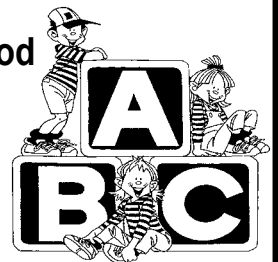
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- NC Certified Teachers in Early Childhood
- Licensed for 6 weeks - 13 years old
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4881 Chadbourn Hwy
WHITEVILLE
654-4810

Operating Hours: 6:30 am - 6:30 pm

**Quality Enhanced 5 Star Facilities
COVID-19 Upgraded Sanitation Environment**

Whiteville High

Welcome to Whiteville High School,

We hope that you are as excited as we are about the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. Our faculty and staff are eager to work with you in a variety of settings to ensure a successful school experience. New opportunities await you as Wolf-pack Country continues to offer a broad, rigorous curriculum. Our goal is to be student-centered and data driven, so you can be successful academically in a safe, caring, and orderly school that provides support for every student.



Beginning today, you have an excellent opportunity to lay the foundation for strong academic and co-curricular success, as well as experience a sense of school spirit not found in any other area high school. We hope you will identify goals, commit to demanding strategies, and fulfill all your responsibilities to ensure a positive, meaningful year. We challenge you to take advantage of the many opportunities offered for a well-rounded education. Don't ever be hesitant to ask questions or solicit assistance from any staff member.

Our goals are to encourage students to take learning seriously and provide a safe and orderly environment to ensure that learning can take place. We expect students to perform at their highest academic potential, to conduct themselves in the highest level of behavior possible, and to respect themselves and others at all times.

Best Wishes for a successful school year!

Michael Hobbs,
Principal

Upcoming events: Aug. 25 - open house from 2-5 p.m. for parents and students; Aug. 29 - first day of school, homeroom schedule all week; Sept. 6 - regular schedule with 10-minute homeroom; and Sept. 12 -Pack Power schedule starts.



Area high schools participate in Celebrate the Arts.



WHS graduation ceremony at Legion Stadium



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is

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Classical Charter Schools of Whiteville

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910.641.4042

North Whiteville Academy

310 South Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue
Whiteville NC 28472

Phone (910) 914-4161 Fax (910) 914-4164
<http://nwa.whiteville.k12.nc.us>

Welcome to North Whiteville Academy!

The year is going to be "GREAT" as we continue to provide academic experiences for our students that are rigorous and relevant and build relationships. The NWA staff is dedicated to educating the "whole child." We understand that in order to make students successful in the classroom, we must first recognize and meet their emotional, social and physical needs through a caring and supportive environment. We encourage students to take ownership in their learning and challenge themselves to reach their maximum potential.



Support services are put into place to assist students to obtain a high school diploma and transition into the community college setting or workforce.

We believe it takes the entire community: students, parents, faculty and outside agencies working together to produce life-long learners and successful problem solvers in the 21st century. Therefore, we encourage our parents to play a positive role in the educational process. When positive partnerships are formed between the home and school, our students are successful. We will do our best to ensure they have a fulfilling, happy and safe year.

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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community quality child care for infants
through twelve year olds.*

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we offer an exciting program
for school age children.*

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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 re-

sponsible 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. Solid white, royal "Wolfpack" blue, black, red, or yellow are the only



permissible colors for shirts and/or blouses.

- 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.

LIGHT-WEIGHT JACKETS/COATS/OVERCOATS

Students may wear sweaters, vests, light jackets, or sweat-shirts 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 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.

Continued on page 9

Dress code

Continued from page 8

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- I 2 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 uniform.

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 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 determined 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)

Parents/Guardians:
Welcome back!

"We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist ... using technologies that haven't been invented ... in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet."—Richard Riley, former Secretary of Education



I often think of this quote, but especially at the start of a new school year. We begin this year fully recovered from the pandemic and free from the disruptions and obstacles that have occurred constantly over the past many months. We have struggled and fought our way through difficult times for our schools, students and families, and we are excited to begin this year with a focus on preparing our students for the future.

Our world is changing at a rate that would have seemed unimaginable just 20 years ago, or 10 years ago, or even before the pandemic. Schools must change too if we are to help students maximize their potential and become prepared for success in school, work and life. The world that today's students will inherit is very difficult to predict in its requirements for successful careers and lives, but there are some things upon which many experts agree. Basic skills are important, but they are just the beginning. In a world where information is at the fingertips of every single person, simply knowing information is no longer enough to achieve success.

Tomorrow's adults will need the ability to analyze information, and assess it for accuracy and relevancy, and will also need the ability to think critically and creatively, and have the capability to take information and make connections, draw conclusions, and create new ideas. They will need to be effective communicators, be persistent, and have the ability to collaborate and be an effective part of a team. Future adults will need the ability to cope with uncertainty, to be agile thinkers and, now more than ever, will need the ability to use technology as a means to communicate, analyze and fully participate in a digital world that is constantly shifting, expanding and changing. Technology will be essential as our children navigate careers and lives, and the last two years have only served to accelerate the role of technology in our world.

The question that we all must answer is, how do we prepare students for this dynamic but uncertain future that is impossible to predict?

The focus of much of our instructional efforts coming out of the pandemic has been on "Blended Learning." Blended learning has many facets, but at its core it combines technology with teacher-led instruction to create learning activities that are more personalized, more collaborative and provides students with more choices regarding how to learn concepts and demonstrate mastery. Effective blended learning looks more like a modern workplace than a classroom, and this is by design. We can help prepare our students for the future by providing them with opportunities to thrive in a technology-rich environment similar to what they will experience after graduation. We can also give them real-world experiences that tie to careers that will exist now and in the future. Our Teacher Cadet program will promote students entering an education career; this will strengthen our schools and our communities. We have added courses in HVAC, Fire Safety and Technology. Our strong arts programs, athletic programs and extracurricular activities help develop skills that were once considered "extra" but current research tells us that skills learned in these areas are essential to success in the future.

We believe that the best way to prepare for a rapidly changing world is to utilize every possible opportunity to cultivate the individual talents of students and ensure our students reach their full potential in every way possible. We have the best schools and the best people who wake up every morning ready to meet this awesome challenge for all of our children. We ask for your support and assistance as we prepare our students for a world that exists today, tomorrow and in the future.

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

Greetings East Columbus Family and Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to offer you a gracious and warm welcome. We are excited to start off the 2022-2023 school year and look forward to the success it will bring. We are gearing up to provide every student with an educational experience that is meaningful and filled with opportunity for academic and personal growth. We will help each student recognize and celebrate their successes while providing support for improvement. To this end, we will strive to provide a safe and warm learning environment where our teachers can teach and our students can learn.



We encourage every student to take full advantage of the opportunities that East Columbus Jr-Sr High School offers. Athletics, student organizations, Career and Technical Education courses, our Arts programs, JROTC, clubs, and College and Career Promise (CCP) courses through Southeastern Community College are just a few of the amazing choices presented to our students.

East Columbus Jr-Sr High School is an integral component of our community, and we need each community that we represent to be a valued participant in the ongoing conversation for school improvement. Subsequently, you are encouraged to participate actively in your child's education. We pledge to build strong partnerships with you that are built on trust, respect and shared responsibility. We are charged with providing a solid and sound education for all our children, which guides our decision making. To make the most appropriate and informed decisions, we need you to be a part of the conversation.

As we celebrate the 30 years that East Columbus has served the students of eastern Columbus County, we want to take this opportunity to renew our commitment to continued school improvement, parent and community engagement, school safety and providing support and guidance to the students that we serve.

We would like to invite you to come to our Open House on Thursday, Aug. 25, from 6:30-8 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet our faculty and staff, discover more about the programs that we offer, receive 2022-2023 enrollment information and tour the campus and classrooms.

Jamie Faulk
Principal



East Columbus High School graduation ceremony.



Moana Jr. dress rehearsal at ECJSHS.

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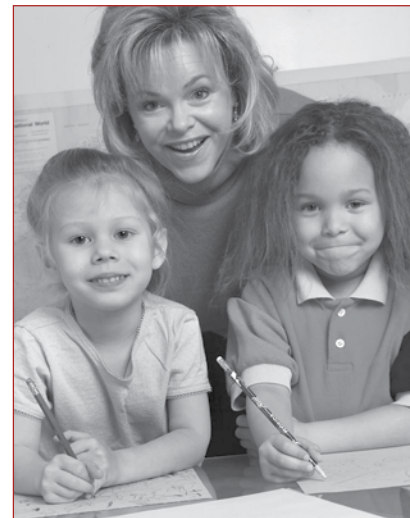
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South Columbus High

As the 2022-23 school year rapidly approaches, I would like to take a moment to commend the students, faculty and stakeholders at South Columbus High School for their commitment to excellence. It is the dedication and commitment of our stakeholders that continually make South Columbus High School successful. It is important that we continue to work together to ensure our students receive a high-quality education and are prepared to enter the world as productive citizens. With the support of our community, staff and students, we will continue to challenge our students to reach their maximum potential on their way to becoming tomorrow's leaders. The faculty and staff are preparing for a new and exciting school year. Our Freshman Bootcamp on Aug. 16-17 was an opportunity for freshmen to be introduced to the many exciting opportunities that are provided in high school, meet teachers and staff and receive schedules. The official start to school will be on Monday, Aug. 29. As we look forward to the start of school, 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



South Columbus High School graduation.



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West Columbus High

Dear Viking family,

As we enter this new school year, I would like to express to you that my deepest desire is to ensure that each student has a very successful school year. I am honored and feel privileged to be your principal this school year. For all students returning to West Columbus High School, welcome back! For those of you who are new to West Columbus High School, I welcome you to a close-knit and proud family that will take you to the next level in your education.



The faculty and staff at West Columbus High School are very excited to support you in accomplishing all your academic goals. Always remember that you are in charge of your learning. We have amazing teachers at West Columbus High School who will provide you with everything you need to grow socially and academically. We need your commitment to your education to ensure that you produce nothing short of excellence. The routines and study habits you put in place this school year will dictate your success. I charge each of you to put systems in place at home and in school to guide

you as you strive for excellence.

This year, I encourage you to rally around the theme of "Excellence is the Expectation." To show excellence means that one possesses qualities to a high degree. Every one of you already holds qualities of excellence. You will be challenged with showing that excellence at West Columbus High School. Excellence should be visible every day in the classroom, as well as through your participation in athletics, clubs or extracurricular activities. You will determine the degree to which the expectation of excellence is achieved through all of your endeavors. When you stare in the face of adversity, whether it be staying up late to make last minute additions to a project, studying for an upcoming exam, completing daily homework, remaining fully engaged in class or juggling responsibilities outside of school, remember to show nothing but excellence. Through your commitment to excellence and your education, you will quickly see that the sky's the limit.

To all of our proud parents and caregivers, I invite you to model and partner with us throughout the school year as we instill excellence into our students. Research shows that students will have the greatest possibility for success if support structures are in place at home. Let's make this school year the best ever. If there is ever anything you need, please do not hesitate to stop by my office.

Once a Viking, Always a Viking!

Ronna Gore,
Principal



WCHS varsity cheerleaders perform at Mini Cheer Camp in August.



WCHS youth sports club.

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WHS ribbon cutting ceremony in March



Acme Delco Elementary

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2022–2023 School Year at Acme Delco Elementary School! We are very excited to see all our students return to campus. After a very successful 2021–2022 school year, we are eager to see our students and share in their education 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 grow our students academically with a 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. 25, 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 and 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 wellbeing is our main priority.

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. 29 for what I'm sure will be a fantastic year here at Acme Delco Elementary School!

Welcome back, Bobcats!

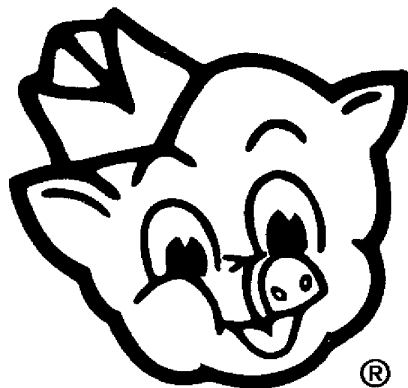
Kristie H. Leinthall,
Principal



Acme Delco Elementary School will hold a back-to-school open house Aug. 25.



Best Wishes on a Great School Year



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Chadbourn Elementary

Dear Families,

Are you looking for an amazing year full of success, fun and teamwork? Then look no further than CES! Welcome to a new school year of exciting teaching and learning. It is our pleasure to welcome our Chadbourn Elementary School families back for the 2022-2023 school year. We will continue to focus on providing our SUPERSTAR students with academic opportunities, a safe and nurturing learning environment and a culture of high expectations for every student.



We will focus on increased student growth, reducing student tardies and absences as well as cultivating data-driven team meetings. Please know that our first priority is to ensure that your child has a safe, healthy and supportive learning environment. Our school team will continue to foster an environment where every student that enters through the doors of SUPERSTAR Nation will receive a quality education.

If I can be of any assistance, please reach out and I will be happy to assist you in any manner. Best wishes for a happy and productive school year. We are #chadbournstrong!

Brian Freeman
Principal



Chadbourn Elementary students receive a big hug as they are welcomed back.

Good Luck To All The County Teachers & Students

*and shop
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Hallsboro/Artesia Elementary

Welcome Hallsboro/Artesia Parents, Guardians and Community Members:

As principal of Hallsboro/Artesia, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another productive school year. Our Panther staff is very excited to have students in classrooms and hallways filling them with energy, curiosity and an enthusiasm for learning. It is our mission to help every child feel welcomed, connected and valued. At Hallsboro/Artesia our fantastic teachers spend many hours planning and creating activities to engage our students in research-based best practices and diligently analyzing academic data, in order to cultivate student talents, maximize their potential and continuously develop goals for growth.

We hope that over the course of this school year you will find Columbus County Schools' website, our student handbook, and Facebook page helpful and informative. Teachers will be using Class Dojo, and Remind to share information with you about your child. The school will use Remind to send out text messages about buses and finally Messenger to deliver information on the telephone concerning school happenings.

It has been a privilege to serve as this school's principal for the last 15 years. I am honored to be a part of a school community where parents, teachers and students nurture one another and strive to build positive relationships which support academic and social growth. Please feel free to contact me at 910-646-3510 or jspaulding@columbus.k12.nc.us.

Once again, Welcome Back to "Panther" country! Let's make 2022-2023 our best year yet!

Josephine G. Spaulding
Principal



Career Day at Hallsboro/Artesia Elementary School.



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Nakina Middle

Dear Nakina Middle School Family,

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, students and community members. I aspire to continue the quest of building upon the exemplary tradition and commitment to superlative accomplishments in the upcoming year. We strive for academic excellence for all students in order to create well-rounded productive citizens in a global society. 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 a very exciting 2022-23 school year.

Go Mustangs!

Shonna Garrell,
Principal



Nakina Middle School students pitch in on a food drive.



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Old Dock Elementary

Dear families,

The staff and I would like to extend a warm welcome back to school. I hope that you have been able to enjoy the long, hot days of summer making sweet memories with your families and friends. With only a few days of summer vacation left, it is time to start preparing for the beginning of another amazing school year at Old Dock Elementary. I look forward to being part of this community and working with you to help your children reach their full potential and develop their individual talents.



As one of the newest members of this learning community, I have devoted many hours this summer to getting to know students, parents and staff. I believe that developing personal relationships is the best way to make a difference in the lives of others. All students need to feel valued and cared for in order to reach their maximum potential. It is the little things in life, such as sharing a friendly smile, extending a warm welcome to school or giving a high five, that set a positive tone for the day and make a big difference in a child's desire to attend school. The staff of Old Dock Elementary genuinely care about the wellbeing of the students. This school is more than a building where learning takes place. It is a place where children are empowered and equipped with the skills needed to reach their dreams. That is what makes it such a great place to be.

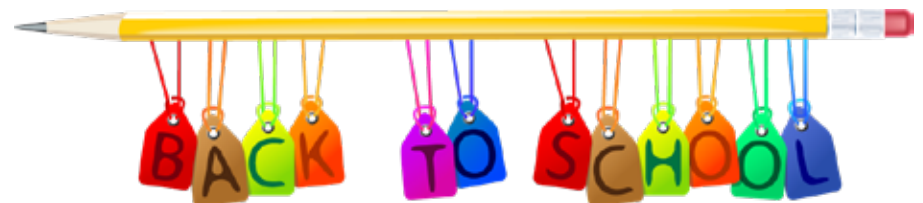
Please join us at Old Dock Elementary School Open House on Thursday, Aug. 25, from 4-6 p.m. Kona Ice will be on campus to help us celebrate new beginnings and new friendships. I can't wait to meet you and your child.

Sincerely,

Leslie Faulk
Principal



Old Dock Elementary students take a field trip.



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Tabor City School

The Tabor City School family would like to welcome all students and parents to the 2022–2023 school year. During the 2021–2022 school year, students at Tabor City Elementary and Tabor City Middle worked hard and they achieved tremendous success in their academic progress. We are excited to start a new journey this school year as Tabor City School.

The students and staff of Tabor City Elementary and Tabor City Middle have merged together this year to become Tabor City School, home of the COLTS. As Tabor City School, we will have the opportunity to develop new traditions and memories that will last a lifetime. This year as we come together as one team, it is our hope that all stakeholders will join us in our journey and help the students and staff celebrate the achievements that we will have during the 2022–2023 school year. I hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable summer.

If you have any questions about the upcoming school year, please contact us. We are excited about the 2022–2023 school year and look forward to seeing all students Monday, Aug. 29.

GO COLTS!

William Dale Norris
Principal



Tabor City Middle School cheerleaders were Waccamaw Middle School Conference Champions in 2022.



Children are like seeds... they need help to grow up well.

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West Columbus School

Dear Students and Parents,

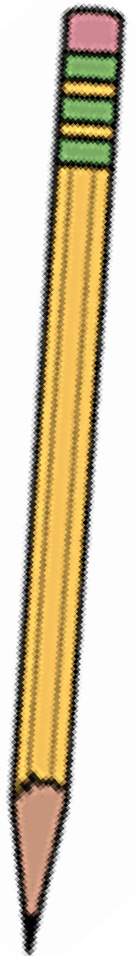
As the 2022-2023 school year draws near, I would like to thank the faculty, staff, students, parents and community for their continued support of West Columbus School. As the new principal of West Columbus School, I am excited to start a new chapter in my professional career and look forward to working with all stakeholders to make West Columbus School as great as it can possibly be. Although the beginning of this school year will look a little different, I assure you all the growing pains we may experience will be worthwhile when we move into a brand new state of the art building. Our students deserve the best, and our focus will be to provide your child with an effective educational program that will help them grow, prosper and achieve the level of educational aptitude that they are capable of reaching. 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 a new beginning. 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 all parents to participate in their child's education. By continuing to work together, we will ensure that all West Columbus School students receive a quality education and develop the skills they will need to succeed in their future educational endeavors. 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 cannot wait to see all the smiling faces that I look forward to greeting every morning on the 29th of August.

Sincerely,

Kelly Beck
Principal



West Columbus School students enjoy an outdoor activity.



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A Community Health Fair & Family Fun Day will be held **Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
The event will be held at **104 E. 7th Ave. in Chadbourn, N.C. 28431 (in the parking lot between Koonce Medicine Mart and Chadbourn Family Practice)**

- Will be having several give-aways: school supplies, vouchers for discounted sports physicals, & more!
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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 2022–2023 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 on Aug. 25 from 4–7 p.m. and on the first day of school, which will be Aug. 29.

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



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Columbus Career and College Academy

Dear CCCA Community,

We are pleased to welcome you to Columbus Career and College Academy for the 2022-2023 school year! You will have many opportunities to participate successfully in academic and extra-curricular activities. CCCA has already established a tradition of excellence; we know that you will take pride in being a part of our school, and our staff is dedicated to helping you make this a great experience.



At CCCA, we have a strong, rigorous academic program that prepares our students for post-graduation success. Graduates of CCCA have the opportunity to earn a college degree, industry certifications and trade certificates, all while earning a high school diploma. We have a strong SkillsUSA chapter with numerous achievements at the regional, state and national level. We also offer a variety of other extra-curricular activities for students to participate in that are unique to our school.

Students at CCCA have a unique experience in that our school is housed on the beautiful campus of Southeastern Community College. Our partnership with SCC allows our students to participate daily in activities unique to our school and the ability to seamlessly enroll in college level classes earning college credit.

We encourage you to follow us and SCC on Facebook to learn more about daily student life. Become involved in your student's education and if you have any questions, please contact us. We look forward to a great year!

Jeremiah Johnson
Principal



Ja-Niyah Frink is a broadcasting student at CCCA.

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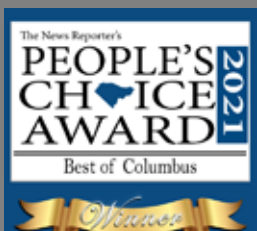
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COUNTY STUDENTS DRESS CODE

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 4 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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Topping Out Ceremony at Tabor City School

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- Licensed, Experienced, Caring Staff
- 5 Star Licensed Day Care Center



**STRIVING FOR A HIGHER
STANDARD OF QUALITY CARE!**

Misty Hardwick, Owner • Morgan Williams, Administrator/Director

1830 Prison Camp Road • Whiteville, NC • 640-2544
email: childcareprofessionals@aol.com

Good luck to all
students and teachers
in the county!



Sam's Pit Stop

WHITEVILLE - 2 Locations: 503 Jefferson Street & 1707 South Madison Street
BOLTON: 1128 Green Swamp Road • HALLSBORO: 4236 Sam Potts Hwy.
• LAKE WACCAMAW: Old Hwy. 74, across from post office
• CHADBURN: 101 Strawberry Blvd.



Topping Out Ceremony at West Columbus School

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 Aug. 29.



Wishing You a Safe and Successful School Year!



Janice Timothée, DMD, PC
900 Spivey Road • Whiteville, NC 28472
P. 910.642.4529

www.timotheeorthodontics.com



Butler's HVAC Service LLC

Whiteville, NC 28472 • 910-207-6000

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FALL HVAC TIPS

Now is the perfect time to tune up your air conditioner after a season of working overtime to keep you cool!



ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT

Don't forget to adjust your settings to reflect the cooler temperatures. Some have smart features that learn your habits and adjust the temperature accordingly.



CHANGE YOUR FILTER

You should change your filter every month or at the very least, once every three months. It takes more energy, and therefore more money, to run a unit with a clogged filter.



REMOVE OBSTRUCTIONS

Remove any plant growth or debris deposits that may have occurred during the summer with a brush or vacuum. Make sure there is a one-foot clearance at the front of the unit.



USE CEILING FANS

It's a great time of year to swap the air conditioning for ceiling fans! This will save money and energy and that means more money in your pocket.



SCHEDULE MAINTENANCE

Cut down on future repair costs by scheduling maintenance. A properly cared for machine can run 10% more efficiently and extends its life.





Advanced Pediatrics is committed to providing more than quality pediatric healthcare to the children of Columbus County and surrounding communities. We realize that our role goes beyond providing checkups, flu shots or treating children when they feel under the weather. We're here to make sure that children are healthy, so they can focus on their education.

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW!

Mon-Fri: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

910-641-8640



Jugta Kahai, MD,



Ashlee Pinion-Raby, FNP

PEDIATRIC SERVICES

- School Physicals
- Immunizations
- Well Child Checks
- Sports Physicals
- Acute & Chronic Conditions
- Sick Visits
- Behavioral Consultations

Advanced Pediatrics 
Columbus Regional Healthcare System