

The Hawk's Cry



Dr. Kimberly Anderson, Principal

Ms. Julissa Forbes, Assistant Principal STEAM Blended Learning Academy and MTSS/504
Mr. Lawrence Gwyn, Assistant Principal Traditional Learning Academy and Assessment

Volume 5, Issue 6

Henry County Middle School Title 1 Newsletter

May 2015

**School Hours for
2014-2015
8:55am—4:05pm**

Calendar

Recurring Events:

Zaxby's Spirit Night -
1st & 2nd Monday's of each
month

School Council - 2nd
Thursday of each month @
4:30 p.m. in the Media
Center

PTO - 3rd Thursday of
each month @ 6:00 p.m. in
Cafeteria

iMOM - 2nd Friday of each
month @ 8:15 a.m. in the
Media Center

All Pro Dad - 4th Friday of
each month @ 8:00 a.m. in
the Media Center (3rd Friday
if it's a holiday)

May

5th - Field Day (6th Grade)

6th - Field Day (7th Grade)

7th - Field Day (8th Grade)

8th - iMoms Breakfast

13th - Athletic Award Day
Program @ 9:00am

14th - School Council

15th - Life 101: 9am - 4pm
(8th Grade Students)

Newsletter available in other
languages upon request.
Boletín de noticias disponible
en otros idiomas a petición.



Message from Dr. Anderson

Preparing for Next Year: STEM Blended Learning Academy & Humanities Learning Academy

STEM Blended Learning Academy

STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The Henry County Middle School **STEM Blended Learning Academy** will offer students the opportunity to focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics course content and practices that are integrated within all core subject areas. The focus will also be Technology Enabled Learning, which will allow for a combination of Online and Face-to-Face instruction, and Service-Based Project Learning.

The STEM team will:

- Consist of students with a high degree of interest in the STEM discipline areas
- Combine Online and Face-to-Face instruction
- Integrate Service-Based Project Learning
- Provide inquiry-based instruction with a focus on problem-solving, decision making, discovery, and a high degree of interactive involvement
- Promote an interdisciplinary teaching approach
- Expect students to work both independently and in group settings
- Include consistent application of STEM Standards of Practice across the curriculum

STEM Standards of Practice

1. Learn and apply rigorous science, technology, engineering, and mathematics content.
2. Integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics content.
3. Interpret and communicate information from science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
4. Engage in inquiry and logical reasoning.
5. Collaborate as a STEM Team.

Continued...

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Message from Dr. Anderson, *continued...*

Humanities Learning Academy

Humanities focus on integrating the Arts in English/Language Arts and Social Studies.

The Henry County Middle School **Humanities Learning Academy** will offer students the opportunity to focus integrating the Arts within all core subject areas. The focus will also be integrating the use of resources (Internet, computers, mobile devices, Learning Management Systems, and tablets, etc.) to provide a deep understanding of what students are learning.

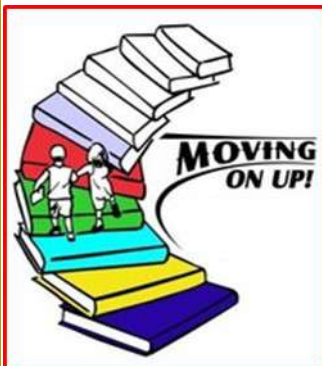
The Humanities team will:

- Consist of students with a high degree of interest in the Humanities discipline areas (English/Language Arts, Social Studies)
- Integrate technology
- Integrate Service-Based Project Learning
- Provide inquiry-based instruction with a focus on problem-solving, decision making, discovery and a high degree of interactive involvement
- Promote an interdisciplinary teaching approach
- Expect students to work both independently and in group settings
- Include consistent application of Humanities Standards of Practice across the curriculum

Humanities Standards of Practice

1. Learn and apply rigorous content.
2. Integrate the Arts in English/Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies content.
3. Interpret, communicate information and integrate technology.
4. Engage in inquiry and logical reasoning.
5. Collaborate as a Humanities Team.

School Transition: Why It Matters



Every year, millions of students transition from one grade to the next and sometimes that can mean transitioning to a whole new school. Whether a student is going from home to kindergarten or from middle school to high school, beginning a new school is a big change. Transitioning from one school to the next should be a process - not an event. If designed well, school transition programs help prepare students and families to develop skills, knowledge and relationships that help students successfully move from one setting to another. No matter your child's age, school transition activities help to set realistic expectations of school, relieve unnecessary anxiety, and pave the way for a rewarding school experience.

- 16th** - 8th Grade Formal - 5:00pm until 8:00pm in the New Gym
- 19th** - HCMS Title I School-wide Plan, Parent Involvement Plan, School-Parent Compact and Title I Budget INPUT Meeting@ 6:00pm
- 21st** - Henry County Title I Parent Engagement Leadership Team Meeting @ 10:00am—11:30am OR 5:00pm—6:00pm at Henry Co. Board of Education
- 22nd** - 8th Grade Final Exams; All Pro Dad
- 25th** - Memorial Day (NO SCHOOL)
- 26th - 28th** - Georgia Milestones Retest
- 26th - 29th** - 6th and 7th Grades Final Exams (NO BOOK BAGS)
- 27th** - 8th Grade Picnic at school 1:30pm - 3:30pm; 7th Grade Awards Day Ceremony @ 9:00am; 6th Grade Awards Day Ceremony @ 10:45am
- May 28th** - 8th Grade Final Exams; 8th Grade Moving On Ceremony Rehearsal during school hours
- May 29th** - Last Day of School; 8th Grade Moving On Ceremony @ 10:00am

- **Please do not forget to submit your Spring Parental Involvement Survey!!!**
- **Parents of STEAM Academy Students – Please also submit your Personalized Learning Parent Survey**


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School Transition: Why It Matters, *continued...*

Middle School Transition

Middle school can be a whirlwind of social, emotional, and physical changes that can overwhelm your child. If not prepared with the skills needed to cope with these changes, a student's academic achievement, future aspirations, and feelings of self-worth can suffer. Here are a few tips on how you can help prepare your child for a successful middle school transition:

- » Take a tour of the school with your child and help them map out a route to each class.
- » Meet your child's teacher and other school staff and ask them what your child can expect in their first few weeks of school.
- » Ask for the upcoming school calendar and encourage your child to make note of school events and activities that might interest them.

High School Transition

It is very common for students to feel a great sense of apprehension upon transitioning from middle school to high school. During this time, there is a misconception that parents should be less involved than they were in elementary or middle school. However, your involvement is crucial in order for your new high school student to be off to a good start. Here are a few ways that you can do your part in supporting your child's successful transition into high school:

- » Help them develop responsibility by teaching them the importance of setting goals and holding themselves accountable.
- » Be aware of what assessments and classes your child will be expected to take and help them stay on track.
- » Nurture their independence by encouraging them to venture outside of their comfort zone by exploring extracurricular activities.

For more information about how you can help with your child's school transition, visit the GA Dept. of Education School Transition page at

<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/School-Transition.aspx>



What's Happening at HCMS?



Earn Points for HCMS with Recycle Bank



Our school participates in donating points to Recycle Bank to earn money for our school. Students are to:

1. Register for recycle bank
2. Take quizzes and read short articles to get points.
3. Donate to Henry County Middle School's recycle grant.

Visit <https://www.recyclebank.com/> for more information and to register.

Register Your Kroger Plus Card to Help HCMS



Register your Kroger rewards Card online at

www.krogercommunityrewards.com by clicking on Enroll. Then by using your organization name and/or NPO number (56909), you can link your Kroger Plus Cards to your organization. Every time a member shops for groceries and swipes their card, your organization automatically starts earning a rebate. Kroger will pay up to \$375,000 on a quarterly basis to participating organizations based on their percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending of all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.



Media Center Memos



Please collect Box Tops for Education and bring or send them to the Media Center.

Media Specialist – Traci Williams, email: traciwilliams@henry.k12.ga.us

You can follow the Media Center on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HCMSMediaCenter>



From the Teachers' Desk

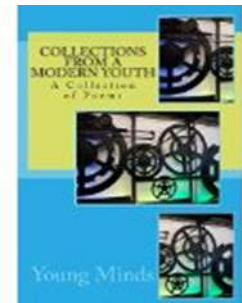


Parent/ Student Conferences

We encourage parents and students to conference with teachers about student progress, needs or concerns. Parent/student conference days to have such meetings are held on Mondays or Fridays accordingly: 6th Grade from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., 7th Grade from 12:35 a.m. – 1:35 p.m. and 8th Grade from 1:50 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. To request a conference, please contact one of your child's academic teachers or counselor. Our counselors are Ms. King and Ms. Leix. To schedule a conference on an alternate day before or after school, please contact teachers directly.

Congratulations to the 8th Graders of the Empire of Hawks on Publishing Their First Book of Poems!

Ms. Parken's 8th grade students' book of poems, *Collections from a Modern Youth: A Collection of Poems* is available for purchase on Amazon.com. http://www.amazon.com/Collections-From-Modern-Youth-Collection/dp/1507825633/ref=tmm_pap_title_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1426016483&sr=8-1



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Iris S. Davis
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Email: iris.davis@henry.k12.ga.us
Telephone: 770.957.3945, ext. 140
Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday: 10:30am to 6:30pm
 Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: 8:15am to 4:15pm

Every Day Counts at HCMS

What Our Families Need to Know:

- All attendance notes should be brought on the 1st day back to the Attendance Secretary in the Front Office
- Reasons for Excused absences are listed on pages 4-6 of the County Handbook
- All check-ins, check-outs, and absences are marked unexcused until an excuse is received
- Only 5 handwritten notes will be accepted for absences during the school year
- 5 unexcused absences will result in enrollment in the HCMS attendance program
- 8 unexcused absences will result in referral to the Social Worker

Historical Numbers

8 th grade absences	Grad. Rate	HCMS #'s	Will Not Make It
0 absences	78.73%	135	29
1-5 absences	74.69%	394	100
6-10 absences	64.66%	121	43
11-14 absences	52.33%	39	17
15 or more absences	30.89%	37	26

Historical numbers include excused, unexcused, and out-of-school suspensions.

Our Present Students

# of Absences	2014-15 students
0 abs.	135 = 19%
1-5 abs.	394 = 54%
6-10 abs.	121 = 17%
11-15 abs.	39 = 5%
15 or more abs.	37 = 5%

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Parent Resource Page



Title I Spring Parental Involvement Survey is available!

Please visit the school's website www.henry.k12.ga.us/hcm to take it online or complete and return the paper survey to your child's teacher or the Parent Resource Room-rm.103 by May 1, 2015.

We need YOUR input-Please Join Us!

HCMS Title I School-wide Plan, Parent Involvement Plan, School-Parent Compact and Title I Budget INPUT Meeting

Please join HCMS for a meeting to share the 2014-2015 parent survey results and gather your input on Henry County Middle School's 2015-2016 Title I School-wide Plan, Parent Involvement Plan, and Title I Budget.

What is a School-wide Plan?

A School-wide Plan is a comprehensive reform strategy designed to upgrade the entire educational program in a Title I School. This plan will guide your School-wide Program for the entire school year.

Where: Henry County Middle School Cafeteria

When: May 19, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Henry County Title I Parent Engagement Leadership Team Meeting

We will seek your input on our Title I Consolidated LEA School Improvement Plan, the Title I Parent Policy, Survey and District Budget.

DATE: May 21, 2015

TIME: 10:00am—11:30am OR 5:00pm—6:00pm (you only have to attend 1 session)

LOCATION: Henry County Board of Education—Board Room, 33 N. Zack Hinton Pkwy, McDonough, GA

To confirm your attendance, please contact:

Sheryl Matthews

Title I Parent Engagement Specialist

sheryl.matthews@henry.k12.ga.us

(770) 957-6601 Ext. 102

Title I Spring Parental Involvement Survey is available!



Please visit the school's website www.henry.k12.ga.us/hcm to take it online or complete and return the paper survey to the main office, your child's teacher or the Parent Resource Room-rm.103.

Many Thanks to our HCMS Volunteers!

The Volunteer

The Volunteer is one with a heart so sincere
 No task too large, no task too small,
 Who will help with anything at all.
 Who will be there in the morning light,
 Or help in the dark of night.
 The Volunteer, our extra hand,
 On whose future our Children Stand.
 Never anyone so dear
 As a Henry County Middle School Volunteer!

We want to extend a huge thank you to each and every parent, grandparent, aunt and uncle, sibling, relative and positive adult who took time out of your lives to touch the lives of our students this year. Your commitment and dedication mean so much! We could not do this without you!

It's Always a Great Time to Get Involved and Engaged

The following are some ways you can get involved and increase your presence in your child's school throughout next school year:

Parent Task Force – Work with the school to develop the School-Parent Compact and Parent

Involvement Plan and provide input throughout the year.

iMOM and All Pro Dad Leader/ Co-Leader – Lead or assist with our monthly Parent-Student breakfasts.

School Council – Work with the principal and school leadership team to improve our school.

Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) – Get involved in and informed about what is happening at our school; provide support for educational and recreational needs; and promote open communication between the administration, teachers, and parents.

Membership donation is only \$5.00 per year

The F.I.R.M. (Fathers Involved Really Matter) – Volunteer to monitor the hallways of the school while promoting a safe and positive learning environment for students.

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The F.I.R.M. (Fathers Involved Really Matters)



Henry County Middle School is in need of positive males in our community to serve as a presence during the school day to promote a safe and positive learning environment for our students! If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering as a hall monitor or cafeteria monitor at HCMS, please contact Ms. Jenkins at 770-957-3945 ext.218 or Adaesha.jenkins@henry.k12.ga.us.



iMOM May 8th @ 8:15am in Media Center

iMOM morning is a simple idea with a profound impact that can really strengthen a mom's relationship with her children. iMOM exists for you, to inspire you to love your family well. iMOM is your chance to connect with your children over a fun, casual breakfast at their school. It's an opportunity to spend time with your child and other moms and kids, as you discuss interesting topics and participate in fun learning activities! For more info on iMOM, visit imom.com or visit our Parent Resource Room- rm.103.

To receive iMOM reminders, text: **@hcmsi to 81010**



May 22nd @ 8:00am in Media Center

All Pro Dad's Day is a simple idea with a profound impact. It's a one-hour monthly breakfast held before school where fathers and their children meet with other dads and kids in the HCMS Media Center. During this time, they discuss a wide range of family topics and participate in fun learning activities, all while creating fun memories and strengthening their relationship. For more about All Pro Dad's Day, please visit Allprodad.com or visit our Parent Resource Room- rm.103.

To receive All Pro Dad reminders, text: **@3e4032 to 81010**



Partners in Education



Many Thanks to the Following Businesses and Organizations for Becoming an HCMS Community Partner! If You Are Interested in Becoming a Henry County Middle School Community Partner, Please Contact Adaesha Jenkins @ (770) 957-3945 or Adaesha.jenkins@henry.k12.ga.us

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