



October 2017 <http://k12albemarle.org/henley>

Message from the principal...

I love getting the chance to think about the learning work that we have done over the course of the first nine weeks and assessing our progress toward our three School Improvement Goals:

- Our Students with Disabilities and Economically Disadvantaged students not on grade level will achieve 1.5 years of growth.
- All students will be visible in our school community and report having an adult connection in the building who knows them.
- All students will have, at minimum, two quality p-based (passion, project, and/or problem) learning experiences (as evidenced by products shared at EXPO)

We have instituted structures to make gains toward all three of our goals. We use our students' baseline assessment data to set targets for achievement. We use teacher teams to monitor students' academic, social, and emotional progress and we will meet as a team at the nine-week mark to ensure that all students are making adequate progress toward mastery of grade level standards.

We continue to strengthen our implementation of the Advisory to foster strong relationships and build community. We will be asking teachers, students, and parents to gauge our progress at the quarterly point. We will assemble a group of students to help us better understand the results.

Finally, we are making progress toward creating a student-led, authentic EXPO night where students can demonstrate their learning. We will communicate more information in the coming weeks.

We have loved getting to know your children, we enjoy all that they share with us, and we appreciate their contribution to the Henley School Community. As a principal, I am looking for more input on your child's experience at Henley and how we can harness what we do well and improve what we can do better. If you have thoughts around this, please don't hesitate to contact me directly. I will also be reaching out to capture the students' voices.

Enjoy these next nine weeks. They will likely go as quickly as the first and we will be halfway through the year before we know it.

## PICK UP and DROP -OFF

We are working with ACPS Transportation Department and hope for a smoother parent pick-up process very soon; until then, please follow these simple tips for alleviating the traffic

jams and safety issues that arise when so many parents and students are in one place at one time:

- Do not speed or make sudden movements with your vehicle.
- When you are in the pick-up line in the loop, please move forward as spaces in front of you become available.
- Do not block the roadway into the parking areas.
- Be mindful of students in the parking lot. Try to designate an area with your child for pick up.

## GOING HOME WITH ANOTHER STUDENT OR LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY?

Here's what you need to do...

A school-approved Bus Pass is required if you intend to ride a bus that is different from the bus to which you are assigned.

To get a Bus Pass, bring a signed note from a parent or guardian giving you permission to ride that bus, and give this note to **the administrator on duty in the cafeteria during lunch**. Bus passes are honored only if there is space available on the bus that you intend to ride. **Please note: At this time, buses 28, 31, 92, 93, 106, 130, 147, 155, and 192 are full.**

A written note is required when a student needs to leave school early. Students should bring the note to the main office when they arrive at school. An Early Release will be given to the student for 5 minutes before pick up time. This allows the student to leave class, go to their locker, and be waiting in the office when parents arrive.

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

You may schedule a conference with one or all of your child's teachers by calling Jean Smartt in the school counseling office at 823-5040. Our conferences are held at 8:45am in the teacher's classroom. Please plan to arrive at Henley by 8:40 (There's a lot of traffic in the morning) so you have time to sign in and get to the teacher's classroom. School begins at 9:04 so it is important that conferences begin promptly at 8:45.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

We know that school attendance and academic achievement are inseparable. As we conclude a successful first marking period, we want to remind parents of the procedure when students are unable to attend school. We are aware of the many circumstances that may prevent student attendance. Nonetheless, to ensure the safety of our students we must maintain accurate attendance records. **So please call Mrs. Smartt in the Guidance office to notify the school when your child is absent or arriving late.** When available, please provide a doctor's note. We appreciate your efforts.

## HOMWORK REQUESTS

As we approach flu season when many children miss school due to illness, we wanted to make you aware of the procedure to obtain your child's homework. All teachers should be posting daily homework assignments to their BlackBoard pages. Your child should check those pages first to see his/her assignments. If you don't find the information that you need there, please e-mail teachers directly to request the work by 10:00 am. Teachers will e-mail you the homework if possible. If there are handouts, books, etc. that need to be picked up, teachers will bring those items to the Guidance Office for pick up by 3:00 on the day you requested homework. If you do not have access to e-mail, please call the Guidance Office and they will contact teachers with the homework request.



## COUNSELORS' CORNER

Congratulations on the successful completion of the first quarter! The school year began with school counselors helping new students transition to Henley and supporting returning students as they transitioned to the next grade level. We hosted a pizza party for over 50 students new to our area and we all enjoyed getting to know one another. We will gather again soon for a donut social to check in with our newest hornets!

All counselors visited the classrooms to introduce themselves and give an overview of counseling services. Most importantly, the counselors explained how to access school counselors when needed. Ms. Lancaster, the sixth grade counselor, will continue meeting all of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

During the second quarter, counselors will be coordinating holiday assistance programs and meeting with students having academic difficulties. Good luck with the second quarter and please let us know if you have any questions and/or concerns!

<b>Ms. Kristy Lancaster</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> grade counselor</b>
<b>Ms. Kimberly Warnick</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> grade counselor</b>
<b>Mr. Brian Eberly</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor</b>
<b>Ms. Jean Smartt</b>	<b>School Counseling Secretary</b>
<b>Ms. Erin McGivern</b>	<b>UVA Counseling Intern</b>

School Counseling Intern, Erin McGivern, joins us for the school year

Hello Henley Hornets! I am so excited to be here and part of the Henley community this school year. I have met many Henley staff members so far and look forward to getting to know each of you. I am a native of Fairfax, Virginia and am finishing up my Master's in School Counseling at UVA's Curry School of Education. I completed my undergraduate degree at The University of South Carolina...back when the Gamecocks were actually good at football :). Please reach out with any questions or concerns and say hello at any time, I hope to assist Henley's students and staff as much as I possibly can during my time here. You can find me in the counseling department or Room 58 & 1/3. Thanks!

## Counseling Groups

The first rotation of counseling groups will begin the week of 10/30 and subsequent groups will follow throughout the school year. A needs assessment was given at the beginning of the school year, but please let your school counselor know if you would like your student to participate in a counseling group.

## High School Registration and Transition

**On January 10, the entire eighth grade class at Henley will be traveling to Western Albemarle High School in the afternoon.** Western counselors will meet with those students assigned to them next year and review the academic programs, while Western student leaders explain extracurricular programs and other facets of student life at Western. As of now, the program is to begin after 8th grade lunch at which time we will travel to the high school. Students should still be dropped off at Henley in the morning as they will be attending classes in the morning. While at Western our students will tour WAHS and attend a Curriculum Fair. We will walk over to WAHS and only take school buses if there is poor weather and will return part way through the last block of the day. Lastly, in the evening on **January 10**, there will be an orientation program for parents/guardians in the **WAHS auditorium at 6:30 p.m.** which will be followed by an open version of the curriculum fair at 7:00 p.m.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH

Eighth grade students will have the opportunity to see *A Christmas Carol* performed at the Blackfriars Theater in Staunton on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Be on the lookout for permission forms over the next few days. Contact your child's English teacher with any questions.

## CLINIC NEWS

Our first quarter of school has ended, as well as our summer! The cooler weather feels great, but with it comes our winter flu! A flu shot can keep you and your child from getting sick with the flu. The CDC found that by getting a flu shot reduced your risk of ending up at the doctor's office sick with flu by more than 60% last year. Other ways to help stay well are to wash your hands often, drink plenty of water, eat a healthy well balanced diet, exercise, and get plenty of sleep each night. When you are sick, you can decrease the chance of spreading germs by staying home from work, school, or other public places for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or elbow, then throw away the tissue, and wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Clean and disinfect surfaces at home, work, and school, especially when someone is ill. Get your flu shot.

## BOOK FAIR 2017

Our Scholastic Book Fair, held in September was a big success! We made close to two thousand dollars, half of which we are donating to hurricane relief efforts this year. Ms. Guerrant sends a big THANK YOU to all the parent volunteers who helped with the fair. We couldn't have done it without you.

### **PE SWEATSHIRT ORDERS**

Sweatshirt orders should be ready the week of Nov. 6. All checks will be cashed at that time. Thank you for your patience.

### **THANKSGIVING MEAL**

Child Nutrition has planned a Thanksgiving meal for November 16 in the school cafeteria. The menu for the day will be turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, stuffing, gravy, and cranberry sauce.

### **ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT**

Please be aware that the Asbestos Management Plan for Henley Middle School is located in the Main Office area. All State and Federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requirements are followed during asbestos removal. If you have any questions concerning existing asbestos in the school, or planned removal of asbestos, please do not hesitate

to call the Environmental Compliance Manager for Albemarle County Public Schools, at 434-975-9340.

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*THE HENLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER* is a publication of Albemarle County Public Schools. It is published quarterly and distributed to all Henley families.

#### **Our Vision:**

All learners believe in their power to embrace learning, to excel, and to own their future.

**Our Mission:** The core purpose of Albemarle County Public Schools is to establish a community of learners and learning, through rigor, relevance, and relationships, one student at a time.

[www.k12albemarle.org](http://www.k12albemarle.org)

**Excellence. Young People. Community. Respect.**