



# Haycock Elementary

## Teachers Make the Difference

A week ago a new school year began and despite dreary morning weather, we successfully welcomed 785 students to the halls of Haycock. Enrollment has increased again this year, however we have the same number of classroom teachers as we ended school with in June. Class sizes overall are hovering around 25 students, except for our 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes which are all at or approaching 30.

This summer I found a quotation in a professional book that has stayed with me as we start a new school year. It reads, “A growing body of research finds that teacher expertise is one of the most important school factors influencing student achievement, far outweighing the lesser but generally positive influences of small schools and small class sizes.”

Reading this has helped me put what makes Haycock great into perspective. Haycock teachers and their expertise is what makes learning come alive at Haycock. Even though we’d love to have smaller class sizes, and a new facility that could accommodate our growing enrollment, one of the main reasons Haycock is exceptional is because of the expertise of its teachers.

We will continue building upon that expertise this year. The last five years we have had a focus on improving writing instruction. Now we feel we are in a successful place with writing and will begin to put our math instruction under the microscope. All teachers will be discussing math strategies as a part of multi-grade teams and will be sharing and exploring best practices in mathematics instruction. Of course, we are always working to improve instruction in all areas, but math will get special attention for the next few years.

We will also be strengthening our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) system. For the past two years we have been working on rewarding “STAR” behavior. Students know that STAR stands for Show you Care, Try your Best, Act Responsibly and Respect Everyone, and it’s an acronym that governs our behavioral expectations for the common areas in the school (hallway, cafeteria, recess, assemblies, and bathrooms). We will continue to look to reward those students who are demonstrating these behaviors.

Finally, we are going to begin to explore more seriously “service learning” opportunities for our Haycock students. This is different than traditional community service activities because it involves a student “learning” element, in addition to a reflection time to concentrate on the impact of the activity. FCPS has participation in service learning as one of its initiatives and will begin to document and assess 6<sup>th</sup> grade participation in service learning. Stay tuned to hear more about some service learning opportunities this year at Haycock.

I would like to conclude this article by welcoming back to Haycock our returning families and by sending a hearty welcome to our new families. Haycock is such a wonderful place and we’re happy that another school year is beginning.

# Don't Miss Back to School Night



Whatever you do, don't try to skip the general session, because there isn't one! For the past few years, we've eliminated the general session in order to give you more quality time with individual teachers.

Five minutes prior to the official start

time of the night, you will be allowed to venture directly to the teacher's classrooms. We will be welcoming you with a brief WHES news show and then the bulk of the remaining time will be spent with your child's classroom teacher.

Be sure to visit the cafeteria, which will have PTA information, and please remember this is a night for adults

only, not students. We do not have adults available to supervise children. We hope to see you for this important evening.

## September 29th

3rd-4th 6:00- 7:00

K-2 7:30- 8:30

## September 30th

5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:00

# Haycock Students Excel on SOLs

We are very proud of how our students performed on the state Standards of Learning (SOL) tests this spring. Two particular areas to note are that 100% of our students passed the 4th grade reading SOL and our 5th grade scores were excellent in every area.

While we realize that these scores are just one piece of the assessment puzzle

that we value at Haycock, they are something we are proud of and they speak to the instruction of Haycock teachers and the support of Haycock parents.

If you have any questions about these scores, or need more information, please contact Haycocks testing coordinator

(and AP), Kelly Sheers at [kelly.sheers@fcps.edu](mailto:kelly.sheers@fcps.edu).



**Percentage of Students at Each Grade Level and Test who Passed the SOL**

	Reading	Math	Writing	Science	History
<b>3rd</b>	96%	92%		94%	90%
<b>4th</b>	100%	92%			95%
<b>5th</b>	97.5%	97.5%	99%	99%	
<b>6th</b>	97%	96%			95%
<b>7th*</b>		100%			
<b>8th*</b>		100%			

\*\* Students participating in compacted math in 6th grade have the opportunity to complete the 7th or 8th grade math SOL.