

# THE CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2023

## PRINCIPAL'S PEN

With the first quarter of school quickly coming to a close, I marvel at how fast time has gone. We hit the ground running on August 9<sup>th</sup> and we haven't looked back. In August we received our Growth Data from our TCAP tests in the spring and we were beyond proud: Literacy-LEVEL 5, Literacy/Numeracy Combined-LEVEL 5 and Overall Composite LEVEL 4!!!!!! Students are learning and growing at high levels of excellence at Howard Connect Academy. This year, our goal is to achieve LEVEL 5 in all areas and be named a LEVEL 5 school of excellence. With the strong start to the 23-24 school year, we are on target to achieve our goals.

-Principal Miller

5

LITERACY SCHOOL

5

LITERACY/NUMERACY

4

OVERALL COMPOSITE

## BENCHMARKS

October 2-6 we will be taking our first Benchmark Assessments. Benchmarks specifically assess our learning in each subject area for the first Quarter. Benchmarks allow us to see our strengths and allow us time to adjust to ensure students have mastered all learning. STUDENTS MUST BRING THEIR SCHOOL CHROMEBOOK TO SCHOOL FULLY CHARGED EACH DAY OF TESTING. If your child needs a Chromebook charger, we have them for sale at the school office for \$20.00.

## STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

Join us Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm in Café Connect for our annual State of the School and Title 1 Parent information meeting. We will share our vision and focus areas for this year with our school community! Mark your calendars now! For those who cannot attend in person, we will also Zoom the meeting. Our Zoom information:

<https://hcde-org.zoom.us/j/5370489921?pwd=eFFEZnBzTTZEWEExtMVZNNmJlRld1dz09>

Meeting ID: 537 048 9921

Passcode: connect

## LANYARDS AND BADGES

On sale in the front office:

\$2.00 for a new lanyard

\$5.00 for a new lanyard, badge, and badge holder



## SWEATSHIRT SALE

Pre-orders for Howard Connect House Color sweatshirts are being taken until Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Sweatshirts are \$15.00. Place your order today to guarantee you'll have sweatshirts for the cool weather.

## CHEERLEADING and BASKETBALL

Both seasons are about to begin. Students interested in either sport should attend the in-school information meetings and bring home specific information. Reminder, that students interested in any sport must have a current physical on file.



## SCHOOL SAFETY

We take school safety very seriously at Howard Connect. Each newsletter we will inform parents of various safety measures we are taking to keep everyone in a safe and secure learning environment. For this newsletter:

- All students and staff have received detailed safety training on our "big 5" safety protocols and drills in August.
- We have established both an evacuation and reverse evacuation procedure with the staff and students and have completed 2 drills already this year.
- We have established a teacher led safety committee that will assess and reflect on each safety drill run as well as establish safety protocols for special events.

## DENTAL SEALANTS...FREE!

The Tennessee Department of Health has chosen Howard Connect to take part in the state health department's school-based dental prevention program. This program will be offered for FREE to all our students. The dental services will include screenings, sealants, and fluoride at no cost to our families. The dental professionals will be at Howard Connect when we return from Fall Break. If you are interested in taking advantage of this FREE dental service program, you must fill out the consent form sent home with each student.

**FALL BREAK OCTOBER 9-16<sup>TH</sup>  
SCHOOL CLOSED**

**SEE STUDENTS BACK ON OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**BEFORE and AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING**

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We offer several after school opportunities for students. Here is a list of programs/clubs available. If you would like more information about any of these, please send an email to our After School Programs Director, Mr. Grant at

[Grant\\_jackson@hced.org](mailto:Grant_jackson@hced.org).

STEP Academic Tutoring is Monday - Thursday from 3-5.

Monday - Girls Inc; 3-5

Tuesday - Art Club; 3-5

Wednesday - Robotics; 3-4:30

Thursday - Dungeons and Dragons; 3-5

## URBAN LEAGUE

We are thrilled to announce our partnership with Urban League again this year!

BEFORE SCHOOL Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 8:00 am

AFTER SCHOOL Monday - Thursday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Through Urban League's **before-school program** students will have access to academic support and homework help.

The **after-school program** will provide all registered students with a snack and bus transportation (within route established at the beginning of the year). Students will engage in a variety of hands-on learning, enrichment activities, STEAM explorations, wellness activities, developing interpersonal and social skills, and special opportunities for field experiences with community partners.

Details are currently being finalized for our weekly schedules, including our official start date, and will be shared with you all very soon! **RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW** by completing the application linked below.

Paper applications are available in the front office of Howard Connect Academy and should be returned to Tara Rollins. For more information contact Mrs. Rollins at (423) 322-1482 or email at [rollins\\_t@hced.org](mailto:rollins_t@hced.org).



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@howard\_connect



@howardconnect



## HOUSE SYSTEM

An exciting addition for us this school year is our House System. Our students belong to one of our five houses: **Authenticity** (orange), **Curiosity** (blue), **Collaboration** (purple), **Equity** (green), and **Joy** (yellow). Students are expected to wear their house color lanyards and badges each day as part of our House Reward program. Students meeting expectations are awarded digital coins that they can spend on various rewards as well as earn points for their Houses. Once a quarter we will have a House Party where students will compete in House Challenges for the honor of being named **HOUSE OF THE QUARTER!**



## FROM THE BOOK NOOK

If your student does not have a free Chattanooga Public Library card, a permission slip will be coming home this week. Return the signed form, and we will get your student a card, giving you all access to the many resources available through the public library. If you'd prefer to fill out the form digitally, [click here](#). To learn more, visit [chattlibrary.org](http://chattlibrary.org).

## Save the Date...PDOL NIGHT/CONFERENCE NIGHT

Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our first Parent Conference and Public Display of Learning evening. Save the date and join us from 4:00-6:30. Meet your child's designers, join your child as he/she leads the conference conversation and then check out your child's PBL project that will be on display. We will have food for all. You won't want to miss the evening!

## RECRUITING FOR 2024-2025

Howard Connect is a full School of Choice. Every student who comes to Howard Connect has to complete the school choice application and get a seat in order to come to Howard Connect. Applications for the 2024-2025 school year will be opening to rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders in November. If you know a current 5<sup>th</sup> grader who would like to get a seat at Howard Connect Academy be sure to let them know that application process opens in November.

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HAVE A GOOD  
*fall break*

