April 2024

MRS.TEETS' JOURNALISM CLASS

Vol. 1 Issue 6

VISIONARY VOICES: A CONVERSATION WITH DR. KENNETH SPELLS

Written by Anthony Floyd, Jr.



Dr.Kenneth Spells (pictured) with HCHS Journalism student, Anthony Floyd, Jr.

Introducing Dr. Kenneth Spells, a figure whose name resonates within the corridors of education, revered for his unwavering dedication to fostering student success. Today marks a milestone as I, Anthony Floyd, have had the distinct honor of engaging in Dr. Spells' inaugural in-depth interview. What transpired was not merely a conventional question-and-answer session; it transcended into a profound symposium of ideas and perspectives.

Dr. Kenneth Spells is a distinguished figure in the field of education, currently serving as the Superintendent of Hoke County School District since January 3rd, 2024. With a career spanning over 25 years, Dr. Spells has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to enhancing student achievement and fostering community engagement. His extensive experience encompasses roles as a superintendent, assistant superintendent, elementary principal, middle school assistant principal, social studies teacher, adjunct professor, and head boys varsity basketball coach. Dr. Spells' educational journey is marked by his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Maryville University, along with a Masters and Specialist in Education Administration from Eastern Illinois University. His foundational knowledge stems from a Bachelor of Science in History and Physical Education from Fayetteville State University. A member of both the North Carolina Association of School Administrators and the American Association of School Administrators, Dr. Spells' leadership is characterized by resilience, readiness, and an unwavering dedication to educational excellence.

Continued on the next page.

In the captivating span of 43 minutes, I probed Dr. Spells with every inquiry imaginable, and in return, he graciously imparted wisdom and insights that left an indelible mark upon my consciousness. His responses were informative but reflective of a profound depth of thought and a genuine commitment to his vocation.

I am elated to present to you "A Conversation With Dr. Kenneth Spells" a interview that delves deep into the recesses of Dr. Spells' remarkable journey, illuminating his visionary approach to education and his resolute dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders. Prepare to be enthralled as we embark on a journey to explore the profound thoughts and experiences of a leader whose passion for educational excellence knows no bounds. Join us as we delve into the narrative of a trailblazer devoted to sculpting brighter futures for generations to come.

Anthony Floyd: I want to express my gratitude for this opportunity. I understand your busy schedule, and as a student of Hoke High, I deeply appreciate your dedication. Your hard work does not go unnoticed.

Dr. Spells: I'm always available for students.

Floyd: Your commitment is truly admirable. First question: As new and returning students enter the upcoming school year, what are your specific goals and priorities for our school? How do you plan to enhance academic programs, extracurricular activities, and the overall student experience? What is your vision for Hoke County High School during the 2024-2025 school year?

Dr. Spells: My vision is to create a competitive and prestigious high school where students feel proud. We aim to strengthen academic programs to ensure students are well-prepared for college or the workforce. Additionally, we want to provide diverse extracurricular opportunities so that every student can pursue their interests. Ultimately, I want Hoke High to be a place where students have the resources and support to achieve their dreams, whether it's in academia, the arts, or any other field.

Floyd: Your clarity in articulating these goals is impressive. It's refreshing to hear such a comprehensive vision for our school.

Dr. Spells: Thank you.

Floyd: Regarding teacher shortages impacting the district, what long-term strategies is the administration implementing to recruit and retain qualified educators, and how are these shortages affecting the quality of education provided to students in Hoke County?

Dr. Spells: Our approach involves creating a supportive work environment where every staff member feels valued and heard. We prioritize listening to our educators and ensuring clear communication. Additionally, we provide professional development and mentorship to support new teachers. Ultimately, our goal is to attract and retain talented educators who are dedicated to our students' success.

Floyd: Your commitment to supporting teachers is evident. Providing a nurturing environment is crucial for both educators and students.

Dr. Spells: Absolutely.

Continued on the next page.

Floyd: As someone who transitioned from teaching to a superintendent role, do you have any advice for aspiring educators or individuals looking to advance in their careers?

Dr. Spells: Seize opportunities when they arise, be prepared, and always strive to do your best. My journey involved facing challenges, but perseverance and continuous learning were key. Additionally, seeking mentorship and asking questions can greatly contribute to professional growth.

Floyd: Your journey is inspiring, and your advice resonates with aspiring professionals. Thank you for sharing your insights. How do you plan to ensure fairness and equal opportunities for students, considering the diverse backgrounds they come from? How will you address inclusivity within our school district?

Dr. Spells: I aim to establish a student advisory panel to facilitate open dialogue and address concerns. By actively involving students in decision-making processes, we can ensure inclusivity and fairness. Additionally, I prioritize creating a supportive environment where every student feels valued and respected.

Floyd: Your commitment to inclusivity is commendable. Empowering students to voice their opinions is essential for fostering a sense of belonging. Many students, including myself, have faced personal challenges affecting our academic performance. How will you support mental health services and other resources to create a healthier learning environment at Hoke County High School?

Dr. Spells: We are committed to providing comprehensive support for students' mental health needs. This includes professional development for staff, implementing effective strategies to identify and support struggling students, and ensuring accessible resources for mental health services.

Floyd: Your dedication to prioritizing students' well-being is evident. Providing adequate mental health support is crucial for creating a nurturing learning environment.

*LINKS ARE CASE SENSITIVE

Read the FULL interview HERE: https://bit.ly/3Qro8LU

In conclusion, it becomes abundantly clear that Spells' unwavering dedication to the field of education is not merely a profession but a profound calling. With a fervent belief in the power of inclusivity and excellence, Dr. Spells articulates a vision for Hoke County High School that transcends the conventional boundaries of academia.

His commitment to providing students with the same opportunities he was fortunate to have underscores a deep-seated belief in the transformative power of education. Through a delicate balance of preparation, education, and opportunity, Dr. Spells envisions a school community where every individual, regardless of background or circumstance, is empowered to soar to new heights.

We are left with a profound sense of optimism for the future of Hoke County High School under Dr. Spells' visionary leadership. Let us stand together in anticipation of the remarkable journey ahead, where each student's potential is not just realized but celebrated. Join us as we witness the dawn of a new era in educational excellence, guided by Dr. Spells' unwavering commitment to shaping tomorrow's leaders.



PUPPET PLAYTIME WITH CHILDREN'S LIT!

Written by Vicky Ugarte

On Thursday, April 18th, Theater students of Ms. Demeter's Intermediate Theater class took a day to perform puppet shows for students at Rockfish Elementary, Sandy Grove Elementary, and West Hoke Elementary. Students created characters and acted out the puppet shows based on children's literature such as: "Green Eggs and Ham", "The Lorax", and "The Cat and the Hat".













With the Guidance of Ms.Demeter, students performed in the theatre production of "Peter and the Starcatcher" at HCHS on Apri 26th & 27th. (Photos by Mr.Fernandez Studio)









In Dr. England's Project Management course, students are empowered to develop advanced project management skills through project-based learning. By exploring concepts of quality, communication, risk, procurement, and stakeholder management, students are inspired to think beyond the classroom and apply their knowledge in real-world situations. Upon successfully completing the course, students are presented with credentials that could be transferred to a university for up to 3 college hours/credits, opening up possibilities for their future careers.

Congratulations to our future entrepreneurs! We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to and donated towards making this event a resounding success for our students.













Business headshots were taken for students courtesy of Team Flo Photography, LLC.









Congratulations CTE Concentrator Platinum WorkKeys Recipients!

As students prepare to transition into the workforce, it's important to recognize that they have various paths ahead—whether they choose to enter the job market immediately after high school, work part-time while continuing their education, or pursue higher education first. The WorkKeys assessment system plays a crucial role in this transition, assisting employers in selecting, hiring, training, developing, and retaining a quality workforce. By providing a standardized measure of skills, it eliminates the uncertainty in evaluating individuals' qualifications for positions within their organizations.

Why is The WorkKeys important to high school students?

- Enables you to see the importance of your courses
- Shows prospective employers concrete proof of your skills
- Increases the chances you will be hired after graduation
- Improves your success in entry-level and subsequent jobs
- Enables you to rank above other job applicants who do not have needed skills

WorkKeys questions feature everyday workplace problems. In each case, the basic skills needed to answer the questions are the same as those needed to perform actual job tasks, such as solving a legal question, setting up a computer, or scheduling employee vacations. Each test measures a range of skill levels, from the lowest level for which employers are willing to test up to the point at which specialized training is needed. Individuals who score at certain levels on three WorkKeys assessments- Applied Mathematics (AM), Reading for Information (RI), and Locating Information (LI)- will qualify for a Career Readiness Certificate (CRC).

What are the CRC Levels and average scores needed to qualify?

- Platinum 6's and above
- Gold 5's and above
- Silver 4's and above
- Bronze 3's and above



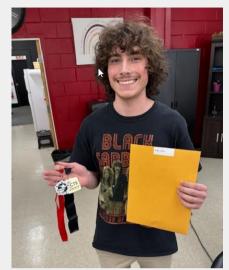
Written by: Dana Chavis, Executive Director, Career & Technical Education



The next page will feature HCHS platinum WorkKeys recipients.

















Top L-R: Idaizia Williams, Colton Wright Middle L-R: Melaney Hartsfield, Emily Mejia Pena, Jaxon Herron

Bottom L-R: Aysha Thompson, ZyQuon Brown



HCHS Art Students currently have an exhibit on display at the Media Center. The exhibit will be available to view until May 10th. The opening reception took place on April 18th.

















OUR VERY OWN AUTHOR!

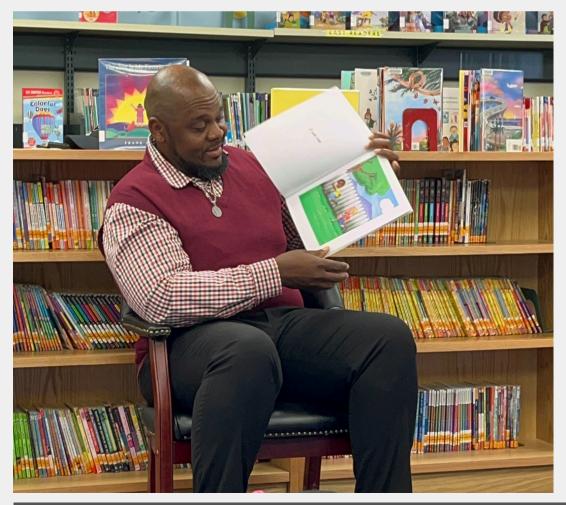
By Jairus Smith

On April 13th, HCHS staff Terraine Francois, held a free book-reading event for children at the Hoke County Public Library. Francois wanted to create a fun reading event for hoke county children to enjoy.

Francois read three books; all of which were authored by him. The books that were read were 'Terraine's First Day of School', 'I Can Exercise', and 'Terraine and the New Kid'. Francois said, "I must say I'm super excited about reading and talking to some amazing children. My goal is to create a memorable storytelling event for children ages one through nine."



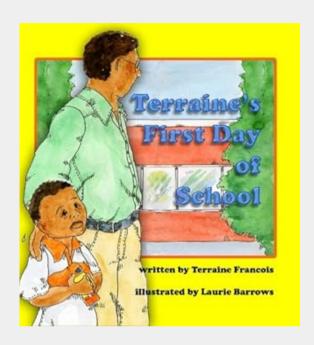


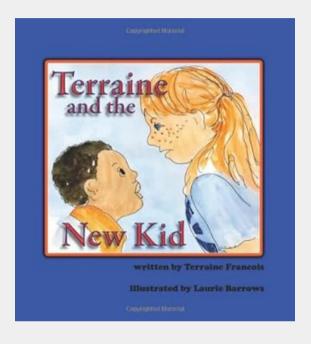


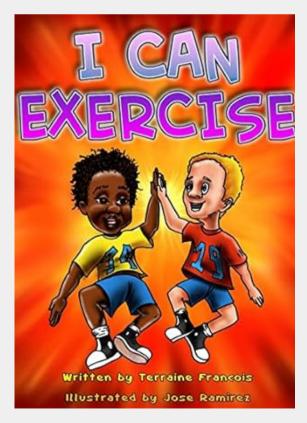


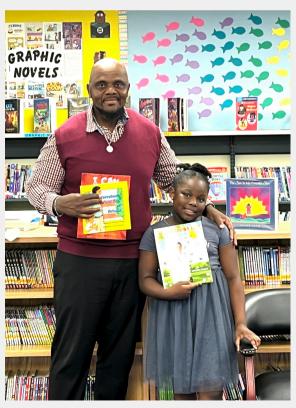


Books Written by Mr. Terraine Francois:









For more information about Mr. Francois' speaking and writing engagements, please visit <u>www.Spinspirations.com</u>

The Contemporary Law and Justice class, under the guidance of Mrs. Cummings, visited the Hoke County District Attorney's office and the Hoke County Courthouse for a field trip. During the visit, students had the privilege to engage in discussions with Hoke County District Attorney Michael Hardin, Judge Kevin Bridges, and Judge Stephen Bibey. The trip was organized by the DA administrative assistants Ms. Christine Caulder and Sam Beebe to ensure that students from Hoke County High School received an informative and positive tour. The students were able to observe court proceedings related to various cases including drug charges, robbery, hit and run, and domestic cases.







This month, our Public Safety students (right) received expert training in the art of fingerprint retrieval. This training will prepare them for the challenges of a career in law enforcement, where attention to detail and a commitment to justice are essential. Our students are well-equipped to make a positive impact in our community.

We are proud of their dedication and hard work in pursuing their passion for serving others.







ANIME ARTISTS

By Leilani Neives

At Hoke High, there is an Anime club. This club does activities that are either related to Anime or Japanese culture. For example, they spent a club meeting learning how to use chopsticks and some people have even learned a bit of Japanese! The person who runs the club makes sure the members interact with each other and the activities are fun for them. In some instances, they learn life lessons as well as cooking tips!











HFTC Members honored our Bus drivers by gifting them flower bouquets created by the Horticulture students.



Students in Ms.Arrington's Horticulture class worked hard to cultivate vegetables and flowers for their annual plant sale. The plant sale took place on Saturday, April 27th.









FUTURE TEACHERS GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Hoke Future Teachers Club members have been working hard to raise funds through 50/50 raffles in order to donate to their community. HFTC used these funds to donate items to the WHMS Media Center. The items will be used in a "Creativity Corner" and are an SEL initiative. A special thanks to Gary Brigman (Athletic Director) for allowing HFTC to raise funds at athletic events!



Above: Mrs. Ashley Teets (HFTC Advisor), Haley Martinez., Mr.James Courdway (WHMS Media Coordinator), Alyssa Meeks, & Haley Nelson.

Right: HFTC Members enjoy coffee and time together at Somethings Brewing Coffee Shop.

Top Row: Haley Martinez, Henderson Teets, and Alyssa Meeks.
Bottom Row: Alexis Benson and Haley Nelson



The Young Men of Value recently visited UNC Pembroke to solidify their understanding of the college experience. We heartily appreciate UNCP for hosting our future leaders.

















Check our a visual recap of the trip here: https://bit.ly/YMOVUNCP



Photos by Monroe Digital Design & Animation

YMOV SUMMIT 2024

Submitted by Zachary Covington & Terraine Francois

On April 20, 2024, Hoke High School hosted an empowering summit for young men as part of the Young Men of Value Mentor Program. The event aimed to equip high school males with essential life skills and insights to navigate the challenges of adolescence and beyond. Throughout the day, attendees were treated to a series of engaging talks by esteemed speakers covering a diverse range of topics. From mastering personal finances to the importance of mentoring relationships, from strategies for coping with life's inevitable hardships to the transformative potential of becoming a game changer, each session provided valuable wisdom and inspiration. Moreover, the summit offered more than just knowledge-sharing; it was also a platform for recognizing and rewarding excellence. Attendees had the chance to win exciting door prizes and coveted cash prizes, adding an extra layer of excitement and motivation to the event. None of this would have been possible without the dedication and support of key figures. Dr. Benson, Principal of Hoke High School, played a pivotal role in facilitating the summit, demonstrating the school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded young men. Additionally, the invaluable guidance and mentorship provided by Mr. Covington, Mr. François, Mr. Little, and Mr. Monroe from the Young Men of Value Mentor Program ensured that the summit was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended.





AMOX





Check out a visual recap of the trip here: https://bit.ly/Summit24YMOV





















Students and staff participated in a safe viewing of the Solar Eclipse. Ms. Sherry Cummings donated over 150 glasses to students. Many teachers prepared lessons centered around this event with special snacks and treats (Moon Pies and Eclipse gum).

The next Solar Eclipse event will be in the year 2044!



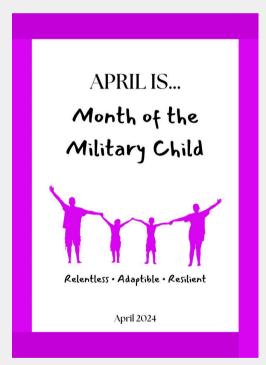




HCHS CELEBRATES THE "MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD"!

Written by Rosmeilyn Marte

Hoke County High School celebrated Military Child Spirit Week, honoring the children of military families and showcasing school spirit. The week-long event, which ran from April 15 to 19, featured a different theme each day. Monday kicked off with military hat day and Tuesday with Camo Day followed by Purple Up Day on Wednesday, Red, White, and Blue Day on Thursday, and culminating in Stars, Stripes, and Sparkle Day on Friday. Throughout the week, students and teachers alike showed their support for military families by participating in the themed days. Many wore purple on Wednesday to show solidarity with military children, while others donned red, white, and blue attire on Thursday to display their patriotism. The event aimed to raise awareness and appreciation for the sacrifices made by military families and their children. Hoke County High School has a significant population of military children, and the event provided an opportunity for the school community to come together and show support.











HAINES CITY HIGH SCHOOL DEFEATS HOKE COUNTY AJROTC

Submitted by Erik K. Anderson

On April 1st, Haines City High School defeated Hoke County AJROTC 963.7 to 802.4 in the 2024 National Air Rifle New Shooter League. Haines City High School was led by Dianelis Reyes who shot a 259.5. The remaining contributing members were Jaderis Moralesmorales, Yamila Mercadotorres, and Yzhar Delvalle. They are from Haines City, FL, and are coached by Jason M. Diaz. Overall Haines City High School is ranked thirty-sixth. They have a 4 - 3 record. Hoke County AJROTC was led by Miguel Sanchez Jimenez who shot a 236.7. The remaining contributing members were Hannah McCann, Alexander Robinson, and Tyler Stanley. Hoke County AJROTC is from Raeford, NC, and is coached by Harold Thacker. Overall Hoke County AJROTC is ranked forty-fifth. They have a 1 - 7 record. These two teams are competing in the National Air Rifle "New Shooter" League. Sponsored by Scopos, the league is a national team league exclusive to athletes in their first year of competition. Teams are from high schools and junior rifle clubs throughout the United States. Over 10 weeks each team competes in 8 games. Each week, each team is paired with another team with a near equal skill level. In each game the teams compete in what is known as a Three-Position Air Rifle match. The match is modeled after Olympic Rifle competitions but adapted to high school age athletes. Each athlete will shoots 10 shots in three different shooting positions, kneeling, prone, and standing. Each shot is worth a maximum of 10.9 points. The sum of points scored in the 30 shots is the athlete's total. The team score is comprised of the best four athletes from each team.

JROTC DRILL AND RAIDER TEAMS ATTEND WEST HOKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S CAREER DAY

By Makayla Jennings

Hoke County High School JROTC Special Teams visited West Hoke Elementary to educate the students about the JROTC program. The Drill and Raider teams explained the awards and medals they can earn while on the team. In addition, they created a fun "push-up challenge" to engage the young students. Between the two teams, students stated that they were more interested in being a member of the Raiders. "The students liked doing push-up challenges and arm wrestling with the Raider members." One Drill team member explained.







Students from Ms.Kerstyna Scott's EKG class practiced their skills taking the blood pressure of students and staff. Ms.Scott is a professor at Sandhills Community college.

SILENT AUCTION HOSTED BY HCHS WIND ENSEMBLE

By Makayla Jennings

The Hoke County Wind Ensemble hosted a dinner and silent auction to raise funds for their upcoming trips. The event, which took place on March 28, 2024, was held at Hoke County High School in the MacDonald Cafeteria. Attendees enjoyed provided food, drinks, and entertainment while bidding on a variety of items.









NEW RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES AT THE HCHS MEDIA CENTER

By Amiera Rice

Librarian Mrs. Gibson has always had a passion for reading. She used to stay at libraries for hours to help escape reality. You could say she's always dreamed of being a Librarian!

The HCHS Media Center is committed to creating a love for literature and providing a sanctuary for those seeking to dive into the world of books. In more exciting news for gamers, new gaming consoles will be available for our new e-sports team! A fundraiser is scheduled to be held around May to help raise money to buy new games and equipment for the team. The Battle of the Books club is actively searching for new members for the Fall, relating to a notable increase in book checkouts by students. Additionally, the Media Center continues to be a resource for research, offering an extensive range of nonfiction textbooks and online material. Students in need of a quiet place to study will find that the Media Center's environment helps with proactive research and brainstorming.



Check out an E-book from HCHS Media Center!

https://bit.ly/3wjm6GR

Use your student ID number for the USERNAME and PASSWORD.

Check out an E-book from the Hoke County Public Library!

https://bit.ly/3y09BjW

Use your student ID number for the CARD NUMBER and the last four digits of your student ID number as your PIN. When picking your Library, choose "Sandhill Regional Library System".

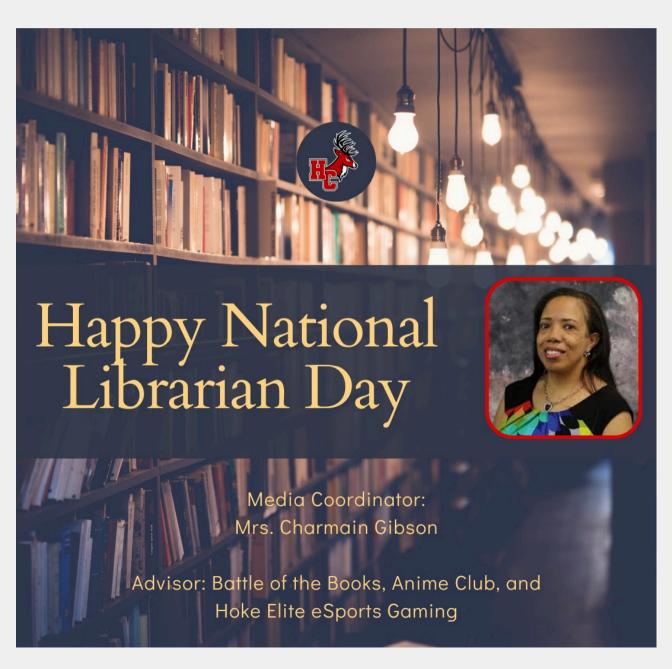






Staff Spotlight

We would like to take this opportunity to honor our exceptional Media Coordinator, Mrs. Charmain Gibson, for National Librarian Reading Day which took place on on April 4th! Mrs. Gibson's unwavering passion for reading and her commitment to instilling a love of literature in staff and students is truly inspiring. She tirelessly works to advise the Battle of the Books team and the Anime Club for AYPYN, and she has even reinstated the Hoke Elite eSports gaming team. Mrs. Gibson's dedication and hard work serve as a shining example to us all, and we are grateful for everything she does. Thank you, Mrs. Gibson, for your outstanding contributions!



Sports



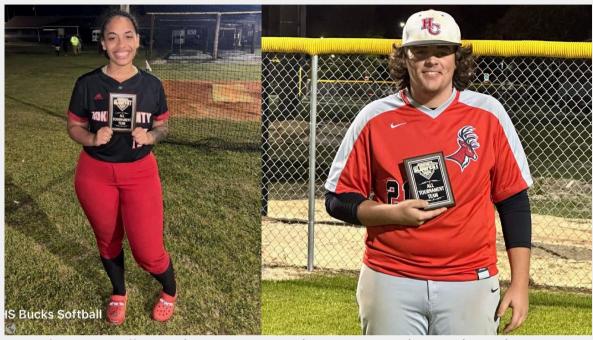
April 24th-28th, the Wrestling Bucks are headed to Vegas for the World Team qualifier!



Jekai Sedgwick 52Kg Jaylen Bethea 65kg Cedric Griffin 70kg



Sports



Adrianna Miller and Owen Autry (above) received awards at the 2024
Slugfest All-Tournament.



HCHS Track team at the starting line ready to go the distance with Pinecrest!



Track athletes cool-off between events!



Honor your favorite teacher during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6th-10th



Here's your opportunity!

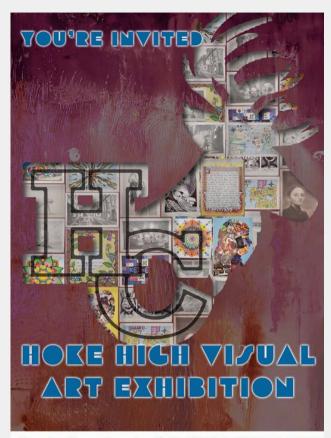
Write a note of appreciation and e-mail it to:

jessica@thenews-journal.com

Your note may be featured in our local newspaper, "The News-Journal"!







Opening Reception: April 18, 2024 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Exhibition: April 18-May 10 Media Center, HCHS Campus











SAVE THE DATE

THE INAUGURAL MMB

VENDOR FAIR

JUNE 8th

9:00AM -4:00PM \$40.00 VENDOR FEE

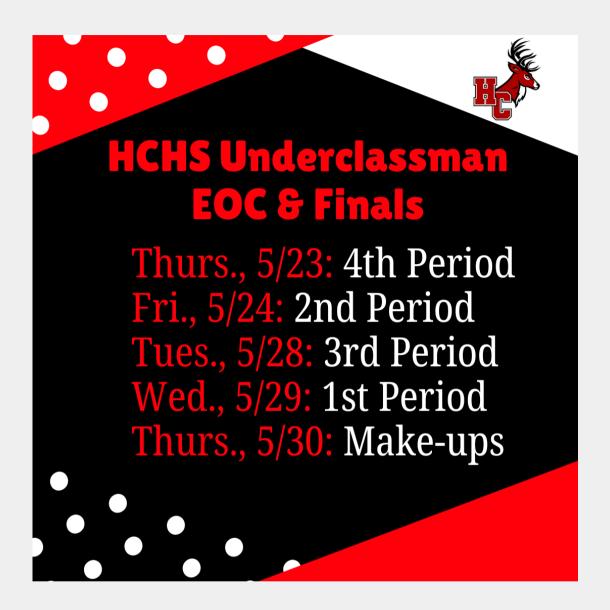


RAZ AUTRY STADIUM LOCATED ON THE CAMPUS OF HOKE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

> Contact: Latonya M. Benjamin 910-751-3112



ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE MIGHTY MARCHING BUCKS





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