

Caswell Messenger

Message from Caswell County Schools Superintendent

March 23, 2021

Caswell County Schools Scholarship Fund, Creating a Legacy for Future Educators

As we move forward in the 2020-2021 School Year, in the midst of a pandemic, great things continue to happen in Caswell County Schools! One exciting, new opportunity that will soon be available to our BYSHS seniors is the development of the *Caswell County Schools Scholarship Fund*. The “Scholarship Fund” is the result of much discussion centered on the need for “growing our own” in the field of education. Yearly, through the CCS Scholarship Fund, at least two BYSHS seniors entering into the field of education after high school will have the opportunity to apply for a post-secondary scholarship up to \$1,000 each. The scholarship application stresses the intent to encourage future teachers to return to Caswell County Schools. How is this funded? The Caswell County Schools Board of Education and I are thankful to the Caswell County Board of Commissioners for providing the \$50,000 “seed money” for this scholarship legacy.

Once the \$50,000 was received, the Board of Education and I reviewed the most cost effective and productive opportunities available to provide ongoing educational scholarships for BYSHS seniors. Most importantly, how to create scholarship opportunities that would continue from year to year and promote teaching in Caswell County Schools. The result was to create a scholarship fund that allows ongoing contributions and uses the yearly earned interest to provide students scholarships who enter the field of education. By doing so, the \$50,000 “seed money” would provide senior scholarships with no end in sight! What a wonderful legacy to Caswell County Schools’ students for generations! What a wonderful opportunity to invest in our own students! What a wonderful opportunity for Caswell County!

The key to the ongoing success of a continuous educational scholarship was to set up a scholarship fund that would yield a high interest rate. In researching the interest rates at numerous banks as well as the Community Foundation of Dan River Region, it was clear that the higher yield of the money was from the Community Foundation. The Community Foundation of Dan River Region has the expertise and experience in the oversight of numerous scholarships and, with the high interest rate yield, was determined to be the best fit. In fact, based on the current interest rate, we should be able to provide at least two or more scholarships each year in hopes of even more! As the “seed money” grows each year, so will the number of yearly scholarships!

I encourage you to invest in our students and their desire to enter the field of education and return to Caswell County Schools. How can you contribute to the Caswell County Schools Scholarship Fund and support scholarships for BYSHS seniors entering the field of education? Links to the CCS Scholarship Fund are listed on the Caswell County Schools district webpage. The website will provide step-by-step instructions on how to make a donation that goes only to Caswell County Schools Scholarship Fund. No amount is too small. I encourage you to make a donation of \$5, \$10, \$20, or more. Contributions can be made “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone with acknowledgements sent to the contributor and the recipient. What a wonderful

birthday gift to a current or retired educator or staff member. What a thoughtful memorial to a favorite teacher, employee or alumni. We are proud to create this legacy for our future!

As we continue moving forward in the Caswell County Schools, below is an overview from our elementary director, Carol Boaz. This overview will be followed in the upcoming weeks by individual elementary school spotlights as well as the middle school and high school.

-Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent

Updates from CCS Elementary Director Carol Boaz

Caswell County Schools' teachers, principals, instructional support, and school leaders are excited to have Caswell County students back in school! We are pleased elementary students have returned 4 days per week. Throughout the month of March, each Monday a new group of elementary students returned to school excited to see their teachers. One principal described it as "There is an air of genuine excitement here." As students transitioned back, smiles were evident in everyone's eyes above the masks throughout symptom and temperature checks, then continued throughout the day. School staff has implemented well planned safety procedures following NC Department of Health and Human Services recommendations. We thank parents and families for being flexible, exuding patience and supporting the new car rider lines, symptom check questionnaires, adding masks to daily routines, and following new guidelines.

Teachers continue to look for ways to engage students. Students are participating in hands-on activities, special projects, and accessing individual learning opportunities virtually and in person. Elementary classrooms and schools celebrated Read Across America Week in March with students learning virtually and in-person. Each school and classroom held various activities such as author studies of famous authors in children's literature, viewing Dr. Seuss books, making green slime, wearing your favorite hat, showing off your silly socks, dressing as book characters, wearing green, and one principal even read to his puppy virtually for all students. Schoolwide excitement about reading was promoted.

Social emotional learning is being utilized at all schools to support students. As an example, one school integrated social emotional learning and Read Across America with a reading theme for each day. Topics included Reading is Amazing and So Are You, Reading is for Sharing, Reading is Relaxing, Reading is Active, and Reading Gives Us Super Powers. Schools are doing many varied and engaging things you will hear about over the next few weeks such as Yellow Tulip Project, schoolwide Kindness projects, and STEM opportunities. In addition to re-engaging students in hands-on activities, staff are working diligently to provide focused intervention and remediation to assist students. This Spring, schools will also recognize students with academic achievements such as Jr. BETA inductees. Please watch school websites for these and many other celebrations.

As a reminder, Kindergarten registration packets will be available in April at each elementary school. Please call the school your child will attend to make an appointment to pick up preschool registration packets. We look forward to continuing to serve the students and families of Caswell County.