

First Day of School

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
First Day of School	8/25	---	Traditional Calendar
Superintendents' Teacher Council (STAC)	9/6	4:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus – Computer Lab*
School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)	9/8	8:30 a.m.	Child Nutrition Annex
Board of Education Meeting	9/11	7:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus - A107*
Principals' Meeting	9/13	8:30 a.m.	Riverside Campus - A107*
Dropout Prevention Meeting	9/14	4:00 p.m.	(to be announced)
Assistant Principals' Academy Meeting	9/19	4:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus - A107*
Board of Education Meeting	9/25	7:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus - A107*

***Note Location**

Friday Update: This issue of the Friday Update begins Volume 4! The goal is to provide timely and succinct information for teachers and administrators all in one place. If you have a topic or issue that you would like covered, let us know. If you have an article to contribute, submit it to Diane Marks before noon each Friday. Have a great school year.

Convocation: Because of construction, we were not able to have the annual Convocation at Bunn High School. We moved to Louisburg Elementary, and because of limited space and parking, we had three Convocations! Traditionally after Convocation, we offer a barbecue luncheon. That was not possible this year. But, we wanted to show our appreciation to every staff member for all you do for children. So, we purchased FCS mugs. It's a small token of the Board's appreciation and ours.

Desegregation/NCLB: Yesterday, Mr. Boyd Sturges, school board attorney, informed me that Judge Fox will hear our motion on September 8th at 10:00 a.m. at the Federal Court House in Wilmington. As you may know, the board of education voted to recommend to Judge Fox that Franklin County Schools continue to follow the 2003 Consent Decree. Once Judge Fox makes a decision, we will inform you and the media and send letters home to all parents and guardians of Franklinton and Louisburg Elementary Schools. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Construction Update: Wow! There's a lot of construction going on at Louisburg and Bunn High Schools. Parking lots are torn up. Buildings have been demolished. New buildings and renovations have begun. LHS teachers, administrators, and students need our support, lots of patience, and a smile on our face.

Dress Code Posters: Each school received multiple copies of the new dress code poster; please post these in prominent areas throughout your building. If you would like print additional copies (8½ x 14 inches), please go to our website and print out additional copies.

Graduation Date and Times: 2007 high school graduation is scheduled for Saturday, June 9th at Louisburg College Auditorium. Bunn will graduate at 10:00 a.m., Franklinton at 2:00 p.m., and Louisburg at 6:00 p.m.

Grade Books: For the new school year, we need everyone to use the NCWise Grade Book – it's mandatory. Last year, the overwhelming majority of teachers used the electronic grade book, and we appreciate their effort and support. But ... there were a few holdouts ... please use the grade book. Welcome to the 21st century!

United Way: Congratulations! Last year, you surpassed the goal. You contributed \$22,056, and we received \$23,940 in teacher initiative grants. This year, our goal is \$25,000, and I know that we will have no problem reaching this goal. Dale Byrns will again chair the FCS United Way Campaign. He did a great job, and I appreciate his enthusiasm for the project. If you are interested in applying for a teacher initiative grant, go to the United Way website at www.uwfc.org. Grant applications are due September 21, 2006.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE – IT'S A SAFETY THING! If you don't have a badge, please contact Joy Thorne at 496-4159.

School Websites: I've received several emails from parents checking our main website and the school websites for supply lists and open house dates. The good news is that 8 out of 13 schools had updated websites.

Reading A to Z: Visit www.readingatoz.com. It's a website that you can use to add books to your book room. If you type in your email address, they will allow you to sample the materials. It's a subscription service that allows you to download leveled books, and you can copy them and place them in "six packs" in your bookroom. Thank you Crystal Williams for this wonderful resource.

Accountability/Testing Update: The Department of Public Instruction has published a draft guide for implementing the new high school exit standards that are now available. Principals have a copy of this guide. The new standards will apply to first-time 9th graders for the 2006-2007 school year and those who are following the Career Preparation, College Technical Preparation or College University Preparation track. These students will be required to earn a Level III on five EOCs (Algebra I, Biology, Civics and Economics, English I, and US History) and complete a graduation project. Students who do not achieve a Level III will be given a retest. If they are still unsuccessful, after "focused intervention" they will be given a second retest. The retesting, the interventions and the success of the graduation project are going to present new challenges to our schools and students. (Patty Jones)

NCWISE: During the first days of school, teachers and other staff are receiving training on the attendance module, grade book and security. This training is critical so that our data in NCWISE will be accurate and timely. Please work with your data manager on questions concerning NCWISE as she is your first resource for problems or help. A revised security agreement is being written that all users will be asked to review and sign. It is important that your password and access to NCWISE is kept secure. (Patty Jones)

C+I Update: We welcomed over 95 new teachers to our district with training during mid-August. Our new teachers will have ten days of orientation during the opening weeks of school. This year, our new teachers took part in break-out sessions by the elementary, middle, and high school levels. This enabled our new teachers to focus more on the specific aspects of the level they teach.

2006/2007 staff development for elementary teachers will be focused on the following: Balanced literacy with emphasis on Word Study (Kindergarten), Integrating Guided Reading and Word Study (Grades 1-3), Guided Reading (Grades 4-5), Math Investigations (Grades K-2) with an emphasis on hands-on activities, Math Investigations (Grades 3-5) emphasis on authentic problem solving, and K-5 teacher training on the new benchmark Guided Reading materials. New K-5 teachers will be trained in Empowering Writers. Elementary teachers in Grades 2 and 5 are piloting a planning guide. Also, there will be district-level study groups in writing, Guided Reading, and Math Investigations.

Middle school staff development will focus on the following: Reading Apprenticeship training which occurred prior to opening school; Empowering Writers training is scheduled this fall for all new teachers; and district-level math study groups will begin in September.

High school staff development will focus on the following: Freshman Seminar Training with a focus on Cornell note-taking, vocabulary, and summarizing; rubric training for the 10th grade writing test will be scheduled for the fall; and high school teachers will have the opportunity to participate in "Quality Teaching and Learning" (QTL) training this fall.

There are many more activities currently planned or are in the process of being planned. On behalf of the entire C & I staff, we would like to extend to you best wishes for a great school year. (Eddie Ingram)

**Have A Great Weekend,
Bert L'Homme,
Superintendent**