2025-2026 Student & Family Handbook

320 Etowah School Road
Etowah, NC 28729

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Office Hours: 7:20 am - 4:15pm

School Starts at 8:00am School Dismisses at 3:00pm

www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/eto
https://twitter.com/etowahallstars
https://www.facebook.com/EtowahElementary

#wherethestarsshine #shinebrightertogether

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Welcome

Thank you for entrusting your child to our care here at Etowah Elementary School. We work closely with our Etowah families in order to maintain a positive learning environment where children are safe, nurtured, and valued. All children at Etowah will be treated with dignity and respect, and all children will be given great opportunities to excel both academically and socially.

Our school recognizes the unique abilities, talents, backgrounds, cultures, and needs of each individual, be that individual child or adult. At Etowah, we envision a school that provides a safe, orderly environment and the optimal conditions for each individual to explore and develop his/her abilities and talents to the fullest. You can expect this school year to be filled with wonderful, engaging, and rich learning experiences for your son or daughter.

Etowah is an environment that provides opportunities for staff and faculty to grow and develop talents through staff development, community involvement, and through collaboration so that they cultivate their own interests and abilities, thus providing a model for our students to do the same.

The end result is that we want our students to become happy, well-adjusted, self-sufficient, self-disciplined, productive members of our society. Our vision for our school is to produce a body of caring, responsible, competent community members. The vision is fulfilled by embracing diversity, providing instruction which addresses all learning styles, and encouraging parent involvement.

Please read the information in this handbook and discuss it with your child. It provides a guide for us all as we strive to maintain focus on our vision statement: “Children who attend Etowah Elementary School will succeed as lifelong learners.”

Etowah Elementary Mission Statement

The staff at Etowah Elementary will provide students the opportunity to become life-long learners. We will respect the whole child and nurture his/her potential in a safe environment.

Etowah Elementary Beliefs

- Student learning is the chief priority of the school.
- Each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs.
- Teachers, administrators, parents and the community share the responsibility for advancing the school's mission.
- Exceptional students are provided with appropriate special services and resources.
- A safe and nurturing environment promotes student learning.
- Students learn in different ways and will be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning.

Communicating with the school

- Please advise the school of any telephone, email, physical address, or other vital information changes. We need this information as soon as possible so that we may have effective communication between school and home. If you call to add/remove any information, you will be asked three identifying questions to verify we are speaking to an approved person.
- If you have custody papers for your student, be sure they are on file with us. We cannot enforce agreements without court documents and must follow what is on the birth certificate without other legal documentation. Please note that we cannot discuss your child with anyone other than the parent/legal guardian. *If you would like for a teacher to be able to communicate with a grandparent, babysitter, etc, you must sign a release of information form so that we can do so.*
- If your student is having a problem in school, please schedule a conference with the student's teacher. Please give the teacher an opportunity to assist you with solving the problem. If you need additional assistance, please contact the principal or counselor.
- Conferences should be scheduled before or after school, or during a teacher's planning period. Schedule conferences in advance when possible.
- Sometimes the teacher may be able to return your phone call during their planning time. Please do not request that a teacher leave the class to take a phone call. Leave a message and the teacher will return your call as soon as time is available. Teachers are expected to return calls within 24 workday hours (not in the evenings or over the weekends/holidays).
- Please extend the courtesy of making an appointment to speak with school staff.
- Work with your student on responsibility for carrying messages back and forth between you and his/her teacher and getting information home such as school memos, school notices, teacher notes and other important communications. All students will be given a Red Communication Folder.

Safety and Security

Student safety is a paramount concern of parents and teachers. For this reason, all visitors must enter the school at the OFFICE ENTRANCE.

1. ***All visitors must present ID and sign in at the office to receive a visitor's badge.*** Teachers are required to ask that anyone who comes to their door without a badge return to the office for proper sign-in.
2. Please have the courtesy of making an appointment if you plan to visit during the instructional day.

3. If you plan to join your child for lunch, please notify the teacher by sending a note to the teacher. This will help us plan to have enough food ready each day.
4. All interior and exterior doors will be kept closed and locked at all times. For our students' safety, we ask everyone to please enter the office.
5. If you are separated, divorced or are a legal guardian, a copy of the court order concerning custody of the child must be on file with the school. We cannot enforce agreements without court documents and must follow what is on the birth certificate/enrollment documents without other legal documentation.
6. Etowah Elementary will cooperate with law enforcement agencies, emergency services, and the Department of Social Services as required.

Emergency drills

Safety of our students and staff is Dr. Childers' top priority for us here at Etowah Elementary. We work closely with local emergency services to create a safe learning environment. Our local officers enjoy visiting our students at Etowah. We have multiple safety procedures that are regularly reviewed by our staff.

- Fire drills are held once a month - and within the first 10 days of school.
- A Statewide Tornado drill is held in March.
- Bus evacuation drills are held at the beginning of each school year.
- School safety drills and emergency procedure drills will take place periodically.

School Attendance

Attendance at Etowah Elementary has been declining, which is not a positive trend! We will be focusing on improving attendance as a school wide goal this year.

Good attendance is essential to the academic success of students. HCPS Attendance Policy 4400 states that "Elementary students may only have a maximum combined total of fourteen (14) excused and unexcused absences in a school year" to be considered for promotion to the next grade.

Attendance at school is important every day of the school year. For a child to do their best, he/she must be present at school. Please do not schedule vacations during the school year. Vacations are not lawful absences.

To plan an educational experience, you must have pre-approval from the principal and students must complete an educational component. These are subject to Dr. Childers' approval and they are limited at Etowah to 2 days per school year.

When your child has a fever, or is ill, we certainly do not expect him or her to attend school, but please make every effort to have your child in school each day when possible.

Please do not send your child to school with a temperature of 100 degrees fahrenheit or higher. Please do not send your child to school after giving them fever-reducing medications to lower a fever. Remember that a child must be fever free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours before returning to school. If you have given your child fever reducing medication, they should not attend school until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever - reducing medications. See Student Health & Medications for more health information.

If your child has a chronic illness or is hospitalized for an extended period of time, please submit medical verification to the principal.

What to Do if Your Child is Absent:

- Parents must provide the school with a written note identifying the reason for the absence within three (3) days of their child returning to school. If we do not receive a

note explaining the child's absence then it will be coded as unlawful - or unexcused. The note should be dated and specify the reason for the absence.

- Notes can be sent via email to the classroom teacher, via the student's folder when they return to school, or through School-wide communication (such as the ClassDojo). It is not necessary to call the office if your child will be absent - as notification must be made in writing.
- You **will** receive a phone call from the Student Information System if your child is marked absent from school. These calls are automatically generated.
- You **will** receive written letters after your child misses 3, 6, and 10 days of school informing you of the importance of attendance. These letters are generated by the Student Information System (PowerSchool) and will be signed by the principal and sent to parents/guardians.

Attendance Violations:

An unlawful absence is defined as a student's willful absence from school without the knowledge of the parent or guardian, or the student's absence for any reason other than illness or injury, quarantine, death in the immediate family, medical or dental appointments, court or administrative proceedings, or religious observances.

According to NC General Statute (GS:115C-378e), if unlawful absences (10 in all) cannot be justified, the principal is required to investigate and further notify the District Attorney for suspected truancy or file a complaint with the juvenile intake counselor.

Students with ten or more unexcused absences can be referred to our county's attendance interventionist, which could lead to a criminal summons for attendance violation. Administration will be in contact with a student's family if this policy applies.

You can monitor your student's attendance and more by using PowerSchool. PowerSchool can be accessed either by visiting https://hcps.powerschool.com/public/ or by using the PowerSchool for Parents App available for your mobile device.

There is a strong correlation between elementary school attendance and high school success.

Tardies:

Our car rider line is open for student drop off between 7:20 and 7:55 each morning. Students arriving at school after 7:55, may not make it to their classroom for attendance at 8:00 and therefore they may be marked tardy. If your child arrives after the cafeteria doors have closed at 7:58, they must report to the office with a parent or guardian to be signed in for admittance to class. Instruction starts at 8:00am. Tardiness costs your student valuable educational instruction. Tardies also interrupt the learning process for other students. Be considerate of other students' education. Excessive tardies may result in a referral to the Henderson County Public Schools' attendance interventionist and required conferences.

Early Pick-up (Checking Out Early):

Students leaving early must be signed out from the office and be dismissed only to a parent/guardian or approved adult as determined by the student's information sheet upon enrollment or legal documents/court orders.

Photo ID is required for any early pickup, every time. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must bring their license or a valid ID to be scanned in order to check out a student through our Ident-a-Kid system. This procedure is for your child's protection – please keep information updated to facilitate this process, especially in the event of an emergency situation or early weather related

school closings. Students will not be called to the office prior to your arrival as we must check ID before calling the child to the office.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are requested not to pick up a child before the regular dismissal time. This is an interruption of the educational process, not only for your child, but other children as well. If a child is not in attendance for at least half of the instructional minutes for the day, he/she is marked absent for the entire day. However, any portion of the day a child can attend is to their benefit. Please provide verification for medical appointments.

There will be no sign outs after 2:40 each day. Please schedule appointments after school when possible. If appointments must be during the school day, please try to schedule them at the very beginning of the day, or as close to the end of the day as possible, so your child can be in school as much as possible.

Excessive checkouts, may result in a referral to the Henderson County Public Schools' attendance interventionist and required conferences.

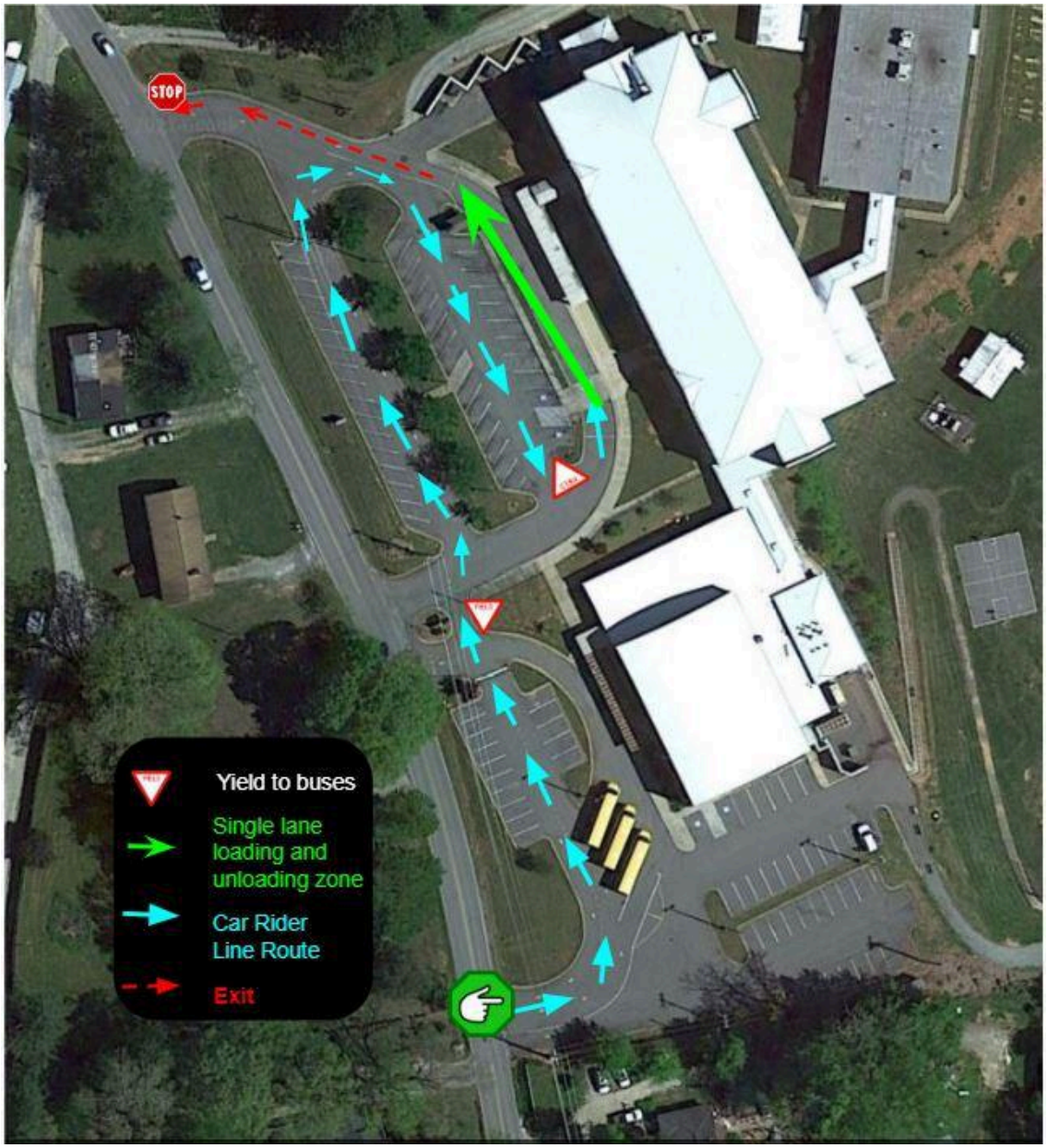
Arrival process

Please plan your departure time from home so that you will be able to have your student in the building no later than 7:55. Car riders should plan to be at school between 7:20 a.m. and 7:55 a.m. Students not enrolled in the PSAM program MAY NOT be dropped off at school before 7:20 am. All doors will be locked until 7:20 am. Students arriving before 7:20 a.m. will need to enroll in PSAM. (See Child Care - PSAM/PSPM).

Car riders should unload from the passenger side of vehicles by the curb in the front of the building, between the front office door and the cafeteria (we say, "walk on the stars" on the sidewalk) and not from the parking lot. Please see the car rider map image.

- Allow your student to get out of the car only when you are in one of the designated unloading spaces (between the front office door and the cafeteria door - note the stars on the sidewalk).
- The first car should pull all the way forward (to the yellow line) to allow for an efficient drop off.
- Students should be dropped off between the front office door and the cafeteria door (note the "stars" on the sidewalk).
- Be ready to unload immediately. Money, instructions, signing papers, etc. should be taken care of BEFORE you arrive in the drop off area. Dr. Childers does encourage you to have positive interactions ("have a great day"; "I love you"; a "secret signal") during drop off to make everyone's day be the best that it can be.
- Adults should remain seated in their vehicle to allow for an efficient drop off. If your child needs assistance requiring you to exit your vehicle, please park and walk your child across the car rider line to the stars on the sidewalk.
- Help your student gain experience and independence by walking to class alone as soon as possible. Adults monitoring the doors and hallways will assist them.
- Please ensure that your child moves quickly "to the stars" on the sidewalk - and ensure that you see them "on the stars" before you move your vehicle.
- Breakfast will be available. Students who wish to eat breakfast should arrive by 7:40 in order to eat breakfast and get to class for instruction beginning at 8:00am.
- Visitor parking is limited. Do NOT park in the bus parking lot. It is UNLAWFUL for cars to be in the bus parking/loading area. All students should enter through the front doors for safety and security reasons.

Car Rider Map



Dismissal process

We all want our children to attend schools which are safe and orderly. At Etowah Elementary we enjoy this kind of environment because of diligence and a no-nonsense attitude about safety. We have been very successful at maintaining an outstanding safety record.

It will be necessary for you to establish with your child's teacher the method of regular transportation your child will take home. Should you need to change the way your child will go home, please send a note to school, or you can call or message the office. Teachers will not make a transportation change without a written statement from the office or parent (note, Class Dojo message, email, etc.). See Communicating Transportation Changes.

In order to continue to make sure that your child is safe during afternoon dismissal, please note the following expectations and procedures. If your child is picked up from school by someone other than yourself, please inform them of our policy.

Please refrain from using cell phones in the car rider line. These dismissal procedures have been developed to provide student safety at car rider dismissal. Your continued cooperation is appreciated to keep our students safe. Please see the "car rider map" image.

- Vehicles should enter campus near the gym/bus parking lot **no earlier than 2:00pm.**
- Vehicles will line up along the car rider route, stopping at the yield signs on the map above. This ensures that the fire lane is clear until 2:45pm. Vehicles should park as close together as possible to ensure that traffic doesn't back up onto Etowah School Road.
- Once the line has reached the bus parking lot, cars will form 2 lines, as well as begin to loop behind the buses. Staff will be available at 2:55 to assist with directing vehicles.
- At 2:45, the first cars can pull through the car rider line into the "Loading Zone." The first vehicle should pull all the way to the yellow line to allow the most efficient pick up process.
- Cars should pull as far forward as possible - to make 8 spots for pickup.
- Car Tags should be placed in the driver's side window or attached to the rearview mirror.
- The Car Tag Number must be visible to staff. It is used to signal your child for pickup.
- If anyone arrives to pick up a student without a car tag, they will be asked to park and come into the front office with their ID to proceed with the dismissal.
- Students will be called in groups of 8. Once all cars have come to a complete stop, students will be directed to load. The next group of students is already lined up ready for loading.
- Once your student(s) has been loaded AND the car in front of you has left, you may leave the campus in a slow and safe manner.
- ALL parents/drivers are required to remain in their vehicle and proceed through the single-file car line.
- Cell phones should not be used while moving in the car line to limit distractions.
- This is a school zone. Drivers should be alert, focused, and mindful of everything around them.
- If you need to assist your child, please pull to the dumpster area to assist your child.
- There will be no sign outs in the last 20 minutes of the school day unless there is an emergency. We ask that you only do this in emergencies as it can cause disruptions to our dismissal procedures, and students may already be in transition.
- Parents who walk into the building for end-of-the school day dismissal, will need an ID.
- All students should be picked up by 3:20. Please plan on arriving by then to pick up students. After the first weeks of school, our car rider line takes an average of 15 minutes total for all of our car riders. Parents arriving at 3:20, will need to sign their child out from the office. Parents needing supervision for their child after 3:20, should check into PSPM.

Bus Transportation

Riding a school bus is a privilege - not a right. At Etowah, we strive for all students to have a safe and enjoyable experience not only while they are on campus but also when riding a bus. We want to ensure students and parents understand our expectations of students when being transported on our buses. All bus riders are under the authority of the bus driver. They must obey the driver and the bus rules. School bus misbehavior will be reported to the principal and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken - including short-term and long-term suspension from the bus.

Bus Rider Safety & Responsibility Training

During the first 10 days of the school year, all students will participate in bus rider safety and responsibility training. This also includes practicing bus evacuation drills. All students will participate in this training/drills because of field trips - even if students are car riders. This training will include the following information:

1. SAFETY is the utmost concern on our buses. The bus driver may assign seats if necessary. Cameras are used on the bus for periodic monitoring of bus activity.
2. All school rules and expectations continue to apply on the bus. Additional rules are listed below. See School Bus Rules below.
3. SEAT BELTS - Two of our buses are equipped with seat belts. All passengers are required to wear seat belts until the bus comes to a complete stop. Students may only remove seat belts when they have arrived at their designated stop or if directed by the driver. Students who do not comply will be suspended from the bus.
4. Students must get off at the same place each day. If you need to permanently change your stop, contact the school office in advance so we can adjust the route.
5. Our buses run at near-full capacity and students have assigned seats. When students are having “spend-the night” or “go-home-with-each-other” plans, both students must turn notes in TO THE OFFICE in the morning for verification and approval based on bus capacity. It is possible that we don’t have extra seats, so consider having students be car riders or parents meeting after school hours. Thanks for your understanding.
6. If misbehavior on the bus continues after the driver has taken corrective measures, the principal will be notified by the driver. The student may receive a warning or may be suspended from riding the bus for one or more days. Suspensions of longer periods of time may become necessary if bus behaviors are repeated or severe. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide transportation during the suspension period. Staying out of school during a suspension period is an unlawful absence.

School Bus Rules

- All school rules and expectations continue to apply on the bus.
- Listen and follow all directions from the bus driver/adults. The driver must be able to focus on driving safely.
- Riders must stay in their seats, with their backs to the seatback, bottoms on the seat, feet down on (or towards) the floor at all times for their safety. Seatbelts must be worn at all times (if available).
- Keep all belongings in your backpack. (Water bottles should be emptied before loading the bus.)
- Keep your whole body (hands, feet, head) and all items to yourself - inside the bus - and out of the aisles.
- Be courteous and kind to others (or be quiet). No profane language/profanity, offensive talk or unkind communications at all.
- Level 1 talking (whisper) with your seat buddy to keep the overall noise level low is permitted. Students may not yell, scream, sing, or communicate with other riders across

the bus. If the noise is a distraction to the driver, the bus will be placed on Level 0 (no talking).
- Do not eat or drink on the bus. We need to keep the bus clean.
- Do not vandalize or cause damage to any part of the bus.
- Students should sit in their assigned seat only, unless given permission from the driver/adult in charge to change seats.
- Level 0 (No talking) when the bus is stopped at the railroad tracks and/or when the bus is backing up.

Consequences for Bus Misbehavior
Dr. Childers will have the final decision on what consequences will be given to any and all misbehavior on the bus. Below is a list of possible consequences:

- Student Conference/Warning
- Bus cleaning assignments/restitution practices
- Telephone call and/or meeting with parents
- Short-term suspension from the bus (1 - 3 days)
- Long-term suspension from the bus (5 - 10 days)
- Revoking bus riding privileges for the rest of the year.

Child Care - PSAM/PSPM

PSAM is morning child care from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. PSPM is our after school child care program which will operate from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on regular school days in our cafeteria. You may pick up a registration form in the office or on the HCPS Child Care website at http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/child-care/about/#. A child must be registered to attend. Parents pay a fee for each child who attends. Pre-registration is required. Information is available on the HCPS website (parent tab then childcare link. Drop-in care is not permitted. Reservations must be made and paid for on the Friday before the week it's needed. The PSAM/PM phone number at Etowah is 890-1115

Communicating Transportation Changes

Send a note to the school if your student's after-school transportation situation changes. Be specific as to what your arrangements are for your student.

1. Parents/Guardians MUST communicate transportation changes directly to the office. (We will not believe students.)
2. Should you need to make a short-term change to your student's afternoon transportation, there are 3 methods for communicating:
    a. Send a written note to school with your child communicating the change in your child's red folder that includes your child's name, date, is signed by you and includes a phone number.
    b. Complete this form to communicate the change **before 12:30p.m**. Entries go directly to office staff who will communicate the transportation change to the classroom teacher and student.
    c. send a ClassDoJo chat **by 12:30pm** to Tracey Simmons, Rebecca Richardson, **AND** the Classroom teacher. Including all 3 staff members ensures that if someone is absent, another staff person should still receive the message.

3. **All transportation changes must be made before 12:30p.m.**
4. If your student is going home with another student, all parties involved will need to send notes. The notes should be sent to the office in the morning for verification. Bus transportation may not be available - so plan ahead!
5. If you have custody papers for your child, be sure they are on file with us. We cannot enforce agreements without court documents. Authorized parents/guardians will be issued car rider signs. Authorized parents/guardians may distribute the car rider signs to whomever they give authority to pick up their child at regular dismissal.

Scheduled Early Dismissal Days
School will dismiss on designated days (December 19, 2025 and May 22, 2026) at 12:00pm for staff meetings and professional development. These dates can be found on the school calendar which is subject to change based on inclement weather. Visit the HCPS website to access updated school calendars www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org At the beginning of the year, an early dismissal form will be sent home. The mode of transportation that you select on the "Early Dismissal" form will be the way your child is sent home. Arrangements should be made in advance as indicated on this form. PSPM does not operate on early dismissal days. The school office will not accept incoming calls during emergency dismissal times. However, teachers will verify your dismissal plans in advance of these scheduled days.

Emergency Early Dismissal Days

School closings and emergency dismissals are announced on local radio and TV stations, an automated telephone system, on the HCPS website, and on HCPS social media. It is essential that you update your phone numbers with the school should they change throughout the year.

Please rely on these resources and do not call the school for dismissal information. At the beginning of the year, an early dismissal form will be sent home. The mode of transportation that you select on the "Early Dismissal" form will be the way your child is sent home Arrangements should be made in advance indicated on this form. Do not plan on calling the school or having your student call you, as our phone lines are needed for emergency information. PSPM does not operate on early dismissal days. However, teachers will attempt to contact you to verify your dismissal plans through ClassDojo, email or phone call. If contact cannot be made to verify dismissal plans, your child will be sent home the way in which you indicated on the initial early dismissal form. If a form was never submitted, they will be sent home the way they were brought to school (example: if they rode the bus to school that morning, they will ride the bus home that afternoon).

Behavior Expectations, Rules and Procedures at Etowah Elementary

Everyone has the right to be treated with dignity, courtesy, and respect. Every student has the right to learn in a positive classroom environment, while every teacher has the right to teach without behavioral disruptions. We hold all students to high behavior expectations.

At Etowah, we base our behavior expectations off of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports model. This helps all students to be recognized for the positive things that they do each and every day. This program consists of clearly defined expectations which are consistently and fairly enforced throughout the building. Individual and class incentives are used to reward students who exhibit good behavior. Interventions such as verbal warnings, checklists, buddy room, mediation, taking away privileges, parent contact and/or conference, and out of school suspensions may be used with students who do not follow the expectations.

The Henderson County Public Schools Student Code of Conduct applies to everyone on the Etowah Elementary School campus, as well as while on trips with Etowah Elementary school

and events/contests/activities related to Etowah Elementary School. Printed copies of the Code of Conduct are available in the office. It is also available at http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/administrative-services/student-code-of-conduct/

While not a comprehensive list, the following MUST NOT BE PRACTICED AT ANY TIME: use of any tobacco, vapes, drugs, alcohol; defacing, destroying, or vandalizing school property; running in the halls or buildings; fighting or aggressive behavior; bullying; the buying, trading or selling of items during the school day; stealing; tardiness; gambling; cheating; disrespectful/disruptive behavior; or disrespectful language. No items or behaviors that could cause potential harm, danger, or disruption of the educational process are allowed.

PROHIBITED ITEMS (not allowed at school): medication of any kind (medication must be given by the office staff or school nurse with proper forms completed by parent/physician); knives, razor type or sharp instruments; weapons or ammunition of any kind; alcohol, tobacco, drugs, vapes; lighters, flint starters, matches, incinerators, fireworks, explosives, etc.

No toys, including toy guns, knives, ammunition, etc. are to be brought to school. See the Henderson County Public Schools Student Code of Conduct at http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/administrative-services/student-code-of-conduct/ for further information on this policy.

Students are to report problems with other students immediately and are expected not to retaliate. Everyone has the right to due process.

Any student participating in a disruption - regardless of who started the argument, fight, etc. - will be subject to consequences.

Parents will be contacted regarding repeated or major problems.

Report it, Don't ignore it

When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior they send the message that it is not acceptable. Research shows this can stop bullying behavior over time. Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help kids prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy.

- I will not bully.
- I will help the bullied.
- I will speak up for the bullied.

It's important to report bullying incidents or safety concerns that may happen at the school, on the bus, or on social media. Please start with the teacher, but incidents and concerns can be reported to the administration and our school counselor, on the report bullying website, or the district reporting app.

  - Great resource for parents: www.stopbullying.gov
  - Report it, Don't Ignore It: http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/report/

Bullying

According to www.stopybullying.gov, "bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time." The website goes on to say, "in order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen

more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose."

It is important to note that not every disagreement or incidence of hurt feelings is the result of bullying. Many times, especially in young children, the issue is not bullying, but a relationship problem where those involved need to learn how best to communicate, how to work through problems, how to be kind to each other, how to disagree respectfully, and/or how to reconcile. This is our goal at Etowah Elementary to help each child learn these skills so that they are better equipped to handle situations that may arise in their future. We work on these skills through self-reflection, classroom meetings, guidance lessons with our school counselor, small group (short-term) mediation, small counseling groups (multiple months), social skills instruction, mediation with an administrator, through individual counselor problem-solving sessions, conferences with parent(s)/guardian(s), etc.

School Dress Code

Clothing should be appropriate and proper for school. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The school expects students to dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or any school sponsored event. Student dress code requirements reflect fair, equitable, and consistent practices for all students, while contributing to a safe and positive school climate.

We have a standard of dress for all individuals at Etowah Elementary. This aligns with the Student Code of Conduct for Henderson County Public Schools. Overall, students should wear clothing that fits well and is appropriate for the season/weather and must cover all private areas. Students shall not wear clothing that distract other students, interfere with the classroom participation of other students, or present a health or safety hazard. Students will be expected to wear jackets/coats/sweaters outside when it is very cold - we have extras for students to borrow if needed. This will be closely monitored in Kindergarten and 1st grade.

Etowah's dress code specifically includes the following:

- Overall, students should wear clothing that fits well and is appropriate for the season/weather and should cover all private areas. If you need assistance with obtaining clothing in appropriate sizes, please contact Mrs. Ingram, our counselor and we will assist you. We have resources available to.
- Clothing, piercings and accessories displaying profanity, violence, weapons, discriminatory messages, sexually suggestive phrases, phrases or symbols of alcohol, tobacco or drugs is unacceptable.
- Clothing worn to reveal underwear or cleavage, buttocks, or privates are unacceptable.
- Clothing that is transparent (or see-through mesh garments) are unacceptable by themselves (meaning not worn over other clothing).
- Clothing should fit reasonably well (not be excessively baggy/large when prohibited items could be concealed or too small/tight that pose a health risk).
- Shirts/tops must cover the shoulders (meaning no strapless tops); cover the chest, midsection and back including private areas (breasts) and underwear (no bras showing, but straps are okay) with opaque (non-see-through) fabric. No crop tops are allowed. Tank tops and spaghetti strap tops are okay. Keep in mind that bodies come in a variety of sizes and shapes - especially with children aged 4 - 12. For older students, this dress code is preparing you for middle school expectations.
- Bottoms (pants, shorts, skirts) must be worn at the waist, cover undergarments and private areas (genitals, and buttocks) with opaque (non-see-through) fabric and should be modest in length (examples of acceptable include: fingertip length, 3" inseam for older

students, covering the full pocket, or close to mid-thigh). When seated and standing, undergarments should not be exposed. Excessively short shorts/skirts are unacceptable. Excessively ripped/torn clothing that expose undergarments or the upper thigh are not permitted. (No high holes/rips). Pockets should not be longer than shorts. For older students, this dress code is preparing you for middle school expectations.

- Blankets, pajamas, and bedroom slippers are not permitted (except on Principal approved designed days).
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times on campus. Students need tennis shoes for PE or they will not be able to participate. All students have recess daily and we have mulch on the playgrounds - so be mindful. Closed toe shoes are recommended daily. No tennis shoes with wheels are allowed.
- Caps/hats and book bags must be put away during class or while in the building.
- Hoods should not be worn inside the building.
- Head coverings as an expression of sincere religious belief as determined in consultation with the recognized religious leader (e.g., hijabs or yarmulkes); or to accommodate a medical condition or disability-related issue (e.g., protective helmets).
- Be sure to mark your child's name on coats, hoodies.

As stated in the Code of Conduct, school administration and staff reserve the right to deem the appropriateness of students' attire. Students in violation will be asked to change into other clothing (we have a clothing closet at school) or to call home for other clothes to be brought to them.

Thank you for your contributions to the "Input for Updated Dress Code for Etowah Elementary" during the Summer of 2024. Results of the survey can be viewed here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1WU6G3YPryOE2bs9yUCbUt7IZbC6wsT1NguNgk-Ibok4/viewanalytics

Support Services

School Counseling Services

Short-term Individual and small group counseling are provided to students referred by teachers and/or parents. To refer, simply contact our school counselor. Upper-grade students may refer themselves for counseling. Issues addressed in counseling depend on the needs of the student. Examples include peer relationships, social skills, academic performance, self confidence, family issues, and emotional issues such as grief, anxiety, anger, and stress. Our counselor also presents classroom guidance lessons to all classes to support the cognitive, social-emotional, and career development of students. Our school counselor is not set up to provide long-term individual counseling or therapy, but he or she can provide referral for those services.

School Social Worker?

School Social Workers are trained mental health professionals with a degree in social work who provide services related to students' and/or family's social, emotional, and life adjustment to school and/or society. School Social Workers are the link between the home, school and community in providing direct as well as indirect services to students, families, and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and social success.

What can school social workers help with?

- Services to Students: Crisis Intervention, Social Skills, and Counseling.
- Services to Schools: Advocacy, Special Education, Behavior Management, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Homeless Education.

- Services to Families: Assisting families in connecting to community resources in Mental Health, Domestic Violence, and Basic Needs. Supporting families through Child Family Team Meetings.
- Service to School and Community: Mobilizing community resources, Advocate for support from community mental health agencies, an Advocate and participate as a Community Liaison.

Student Health

Please do not send your child to school if he/she has a fever (100.4 ℉ or higher), vomiting, diarrhea, live lice bugs, pinkeye, or other obvious illness.

A child must be fever free, without the use of fever-reducing medication, for 24 hours before returning to school.

We have basic first aid supplies for minor scratches and scrapes. Parents will be contacted to assume responsibility for decisions regarding serious injury or illness.

We do take temperature readings and in the event of a fever, you will be contacted to come for your child. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE ARE ABLE TO REACH SOMEONE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY; BE SURE WE HAVE CURRENT PHONE NUMBERS WHERE YOU CAN BE REACHED.

Head Lice can be a common problem in elementary school. Letters will be sent home to students of classrooms where cases of lice have been reported.

We have a wonderful school nurse who is shared with another school, so she is not always here. However, call the school and leave her a message if you have questions.

Students must be in compliance with all state laws with regard to immunizations and health assessments.

Make sure your child receives adequate sleep before bringing him/her to school. Children from 3 - 5 years of age are recommended to get 10 - 13 hours of sleep per 24 hour period (including naps). Children from 6 - 12 years of age are recommended to get 9 - 12 hours of sleep per 24 hours.

Medications

All medication(s) will be administered in the office - this includes prescription and non-prescription medicine. *Students are not allowed to have medications (including over-the-counter meds such as cough drops, hydrocortisone cream, allergy medication, tylenol, etc.) in their backpacks, pockets, or in their possession at any time, unless it is indicated in a health plan developed by our school nurse.* No medication should be sent to school with a student. The parent, or an adult, must bring required forms and medication to the office. The preferred time for drop off of medication is from 8:30am - 2:00pm.

"Over-the-Counter" Medicine: To administer over-the-counter (non-prescription) medicine, we must have an "Authorization for Administration of over-the-counter (otc) Medication form" filled out by a parent/guardian. Some medicines are kept on-hand in the event that they are needed (while supplies last) including: acetaminophen, ibuprofen, diphenhydramine (Benadryl), Bacitracin (topical antibiotic ointment), Hydrocortisone 1% cream, Calamine Lotion.

If your child needs medication frequently, you should provide it for them to be kept in the office. We must also have the medicine in the original packaging - unopened. We must also have an "Authorization for Administration of over-the-counter (otc) Medication form" on file. No medication should be sent to school with a student. The parent, or an adult, must bring required forms and medication to the office. The preferred time for drop off of medication is from 8:30am - 2:00pm.

You may obtain this form from our school office, at Meet the Teacher, or by visiting http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/student-health/forms/

Prescription Medicine: To administer prescription medicine, we must have a "Medication Administration Authorization" form filled out by a parent/guardian that is also signed by a physician. We must also have the medicine in the original prescription bottle/packet with prescription label attached. No medication should be sent to school with a student. The parent, or an adult, must bring required forms and medication to the office. The preferred time for drop off of medication is from 8:30am - 2:00pm.

You may obtain this form from our school office, at Meet the Teacher, or by visiting http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/student-health/forms/

School Insurance

Accidents can happen anywhere, especially when children are playing. To assist parents with this problem, an inexpensive accidental insurance policy is offered. Insurance can be obtained by an enrollment form mailed to the company. Do not send insurance money to the school. Premiums are paid directly to the company. Insurance may be purchased at any time during the school year. You may find additional information on the HCPS website at http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/parents/

Personal Property

Personal property not needed for participation in a school activity should be kept at home. Students should not bring valuables to school. The school cannot be responsible for items lost. Electronic games, laser pointers, trading cards, toys, fidgets, and music players are not permitted in school. Electronic devices may only be brought to school with teacher permission, to be used for educational purposes. No toys should come to school except on "show and tell" day and only if specifically requested by the individual teacher.

Again, toys should not be brought to school (unless it is for a class assignment or show and tell). Not toy guns/weapons are never allowed on campus.

Student cell phones

Student use of cellular data/calls is **prohibited** during the school day (ie: phones, watches, tablets, etc) due to becoming unintended distractions. Students may only use the office phone. Students are discouraged from bringing cellphones to elementary school. On the rare occasion that students do bring them to school (such as part of a custody arrangement), students and parent(s)/guardian(s) must notify the teacher. Students will be assigned a storage space in the office for its safekeeping during the school day. **Phones must be turned off and turned in at the office each morning.** Students should remember to pick it up at the end of the school day as well. Cell phone use is prohibited on buses as well. Students may not have phones in their possession on the bus. Other wearable communication devices must be turned off or kept in backpacks at all times during the school day. Students in violation of this policy will have their phones taken by staff and turned into the office for their parents to pick up.

Office Phone

Students will be allowed to use the school phone in case of emergency (illness, injury). Early dismissals due to inclement weather need to be arranged before coming to school. Students will not be able to call in case of early dismissal, but parent(s)/guardian(s) can message Teachers via email or through ClassDojo. We will follow the early dismissal transportation information sheet that you will be asked to complete for the student's teacher. Students will not be called from class to talk on the phone except in the case of an emergency.

Personal Items

Be sure to mark your child's name on coats, lunch boxes, water bottles, and backpacks.

Birthdays and Holidays

- Please do not send party invitations to school to be distributed unless every child is to receive one. Hurt feelings are difficult to undo.
- Please do not bring gifts/flowers for your child. This interrupts the instructional day and is best handled at home.
- Each teacher may determine how he or she will handle birthday treats/events. Please contact your child's teacher for additional information. These must happen after lunch.
- Due to the increase in food allergies and food-borne illnesses, home-produced items are prohibited from being used as part of school-based parties and celebrations. Foods for these events must be commercially prepared, packaged, and labeled. Please coordinate celebrations involving snacks or food with your student's teacher. We recommend using the USDA Smart Snack guidelines found at https://goo.gl/7gj5nz.

Child Nutrition/ Food Service

Lunch Menus

Henderson County Public Schools lunch menus are posted online at: https://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=1534551653073&page=menus

Lunch Accounts

Each student will have a lunch account set up. Lunch money may be sent in daily; however, it is preferred that you send in larger amounts weekly or monthly, in advance. Regular phone calls, ClassDojo messages, and letters will be sent if your child owes money to the cafeteria.

Meals can be paid online at www.k12paymentcenter.com. Additionally, by creating an account you can see what your child purchases (such as if they buy ice cream, chips, cookies, or extras).

Please apply for free and/or reduced breakfast and lunch by going to www.lunchapplication.com, even if you don't think you will qualify, and even if your child will not eat school lunch. As a Title 1 School, we receive additional funds for students who qualify for free and/or reduced price breakfast and lunch.

All students are able to purchase extras in the cafeteria (such as ice cream, cookies, chips, etc.). Each teacher may limit such purchases to particular days of the week to help with lunch management. Additionally, parents may send in notes to the cafeteria manager to add to student accounts (such as "may only buy 1 extra per week" if you choose to do so).

Lunch boxes

Please be sure to put your name on or in your lunchboxes. Note that milk can be purchased if needed and it costs $.65. Even if your child would receive free lunch, getting just

milk is considered a supplemental purchase and your child will need cash, check, or money on their account. No energy drinks, soft drinks/soda/pop should come to school.

2025-2026 lunch and breakfast prices
Breakfast: $1.50 for full pay
Lunch: $3.50 for full pay.

Food Allergies
Please be sure to report all food allergies to your child's teacher who will inform the school nurse and child nutrition staff. Additional paperwork may be needed (such as an individual medical plan or a nutrition plan). These plans have to be updated yearly. Those forms are available at:
https://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?page=allergy&sid=1534551653073

Foods Sent to the Classrooms/School
Due to the increase in food allergies and food-borne illnesses, home-produced items are prohibited from being used as part of school-based parties and celebrations. Foods for these events must be commercially prepared, packaged, and labeled. Please coordinate celebrations involving snacks or food with your student's teacher. We recommend using the USDA Smart Snack guidelines found at https://goo.gl/7gj5nz.

Snacks
Students will have a snack time/opportunity on full days of school. Please send nutritious snacks – fruit, carrots, popcorn, crackers, etc. packed separately from their lunch each day. Each teacher handles the snack time in their own manner.
No energy drinks, soft drinks/soda/pop should come to school.

Lunch Visitors
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and siblings are encouraged to eat with us and enjoy time with your child, but please let your child's teacher know in advance if you plan to order a school lunch. We do ask that Kindergarten students learn the regular routines before parents/guardians/siblings join us for lunch. It typically takes 2 weeks for these routines to be established. Please note that our cafeteria staff can accept cash or checks in person. Credit cards are not accepted at school. Items purchased by visitors are not purchased by the meal, but rather as individual items. The exception to this is Thanksgiving and Christmas Adult Lunch meals will be $6.00 (as of 7/24/2025) and tickets must be reserved in advance for these meals.

Lost and Found

Our "Lost and found" is located outside the gym area. Students who have misplaced jackets, sweaters, shirts, etc. should always check their classrooms, their bus, and the lost and found for such items. Please clearly label all materials belonging to your student. This makes it easy to return the lost item.

Student Records

Confidentiality and Access to Records
The Henderson County Public Schools comply with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1971 (FERPA), under which parents or otherwise authorized persons may inspect, review, and contest the accuracy of, and control access to student educational records. Student's educational records are made available within 45 days to the student's parent, eligible students (those 8 years of age or older), and school officials who have a legitimate educational

interest in seeing the records. Student educational records may be released to others only in accordance with stated legal guidelines. A copy of the complete policy pertaining to confidentiality and access to student records may be obtained at each Henderson County Public School and from the office of the Superintendent. Complaints regarding alleged failure to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may be brought to the attention of the Office of the Secretary, Department of Education, Washington, DC.

Student Grades and Progress Reports

Monitor your student's grades, attendance, assignments, and more using PowerSchool. PowerSchool can be accessed either by visiting https://hcps.powerschool.com/public/ or by using the PowerSchool for Parents App available for your mobile device.

1. Parents or guardians should routinely access student grades to keep abreast of their student's progress.
2. Report Cards and midterm progress reports will be available online during the school year. They will be emailed through PowerSchool. They will be password protected. The password will be your child's date of birth in the format: mm/dd/yyyy
3. If you need a paper copy, please request one from your child's teacher.
4. All parents are encouraged to conference with their child's teacher concerning academic progress. At least one conference is required each year.

Assessments

Students will participate in both local and state assessments. As a school community, we will work to help every child achieve success and meet standards. Accountability rests on three foundations: students, parents, and educators. Together we can succeed.

Yearbooks and School Pictures

1. Students will have two options for order yearbooks. They will be available for preorder in the fall and winter. Brochures will be sent home for the students with information ordering yearbooks directly from Lifetouch (as they have the current contract). We order limited extra yearbooks for later sales. The cost will be $20 for a Yearbook and personalization options are available online. Yearbooks will be distributed at the end of the school year.
2. Pictures are taken twice during the school year, once in the fall and a more customized picture in the spring. There is a makeup day for fall pictures. Information about various packages is given on the picture envelope. At present, fall pictures are scheduled for September 18, 2025 with makeups on November 6, 2025. Group/Classroom pictures are scheduled for February 26, 2026 along with individual spring pictures. Payments for pictures should be made to Lifetouch.

Parent and Community Involvement

Etowah Parent Engagement Policy

Convene an Annual Meeting:

Etowah Elementary hosts an open house and annual meeting during the first quarter of the school year. During this meeting, Etowah presents information about Title I funding and programs. This meeting will be held on August 21, 2025, parents and families were sent a notification letter about Etowah's Title I program which is also available on our school's website.

Offer Flexible Parent and Family Engagement Educational and Informational Activities:

Etowah Elementary will provide educational and informational activities and opportunities for families throughout the school year. These include, but are not limited to, academic engagement activities, information about student assessments (which will detail proficiency levels and expected student growth) and strategies families can use to help students succeed. Feedback from families will assist Etowah in different engagement activities to offer. Virtual events and/or recordings may be held and available at varying times to accommodate the needs of working families.

Involve Parents and Families in an Organized, Ongoing, and Timely Way:

Etowah Elementary will provide parent representation on the School Improvement Team, Parent Involvement Committee, and Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council. Parents and families will be included in decisions involving the School Improvement Plan, this Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and will be asked to serve on various school committees.

Provide Timely Information:

Individual teacher conferences will be scheduled at times convenient for families in the fall and spring for all students. For students having special or unique learning needs, additional meetings will be scheduled including MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) meetings, 504 meetings, and IEP (Individualized Education Program) meetings and PEP (Personalized Education Plans). Teacher newsletters, websites, social media, educational apps, report cards, progress reports, and standardized test results will all be used to keep families informed about school events and their child's educational needs and progress.

Provide for Family Comments:

Etowah Elementary will provide opportunities for family comments on the schoolwide plan through conferences, committees, the School Improvement Team, and surveys.

Etowah Elementary recognizes the importance of home and school communication, involvement, and collaboration for the success and well being of our students and encourages parents to communicate regularly with faculty and staff. A parent and family survey is available at: https://forms.gle/NrYek89ZtUxA1h559

Parent and Family Engagement Activities 2025-26
Traditionally, Etowah hosts a variety of parent and family engagement activities and events including the following:

● Meet the Teacher Event	August 7, 2025 from 3:30 - 5pm
● Annual Title I Informational Meeting & Open House	August 21, 2025 from 4:00pm - 6:00pm
● Elementary Night at WHHS Football Game	October 17, 2025 6:45pm
● Literacy Lunch and Learn	September 19, 2025 (30 min before or after lunch)
● Fall Book Fair	September 19-26, 2025
● Fall Conferences	most during Oct. 15 - 30, 20205
● Veteran's Day Program	November 10, 2025 at 8:30 am
● 1st Semester Growth Parades - K-2nd	January 16, 2026 1:15 - 1:45pm
● 1st Semester Growth Parades - 3rd - 5th	January 16, 2026 2:00 - 2:30pm
● Math Carnival	January 30, 2026 4:00 - 5:30pm

Title 1 Notification Letter

July 26, 2025

Dear Etowah Elementary School Parents and Families,

We hope that you and your family have a great start to this unprecedented school year. We are thrilled to have your child here at Etowah Elementary School! Our school is proud to be a Title I School, which means that we receive federal funds to help impact student learning. The amount of federal dollars that Title I schools receive is based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students. Our past enrollment showed 68% of our students fell into this category. The federal government determines percentages based on the number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. It is inherently valuable to our school that each family complete the free and reduced lunch form regardless of whether your family qualifies or not. Even if your child does not eat school meals, completing the application can help us. You may choose not to participate in the free and reduced lunch program, but qualifying will support the school. Forms are sent home at the beginning of the school year and are always available in our office. You can also apply online at lunchapplication.com.

We use our Title I funds in these capacities:

- To hire qualified tutors and other staff to facilitate instruction to small groups of students;
- To purchase educational materials and online subscriptions to support our curriculum;
- To expand the use of technology throughout our school;
- To provide professional development opportunities to teachers;
- To increase our media collection including spanish materials;

Title I schools are required to keep parents notified about what's going on in our school. Specifically, Title I schools must communicate about opportunities for parents to be involved in school and about your rights as a parent. Our school conducts a variety of Parent Engagement activities every year. These activities are planned with help from our parents and are designed to enhance our relationships with the school community. Please watch out for information about these events. We'd love for you to join us!

Finally, our school is proud of our teachers and we are pleased that federal guidelines require that we provide information about their education and qualifications. You have the right to the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met the state qualifications for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which the state qualifications have been waived;
- What baccalaureate degrees have been earned by the teacher, along with the field of study and any other certifications;
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications; and
- Whether your child has received four weeks or more of instruction by a non highly-qualified teacher.

You may request this information from the school or from Dr. Marsha Justice, Director of Elementary Education and Title I, at 828-697-4733.

Sincerely,

Amanda Childers, Principal

Etowah Home Promise for 2025-2026 **updated July 23, 2025**

The faculty and staff of Etowah Elementary promise to:

- ☐ create a safe, positive, learning environment.
- ☐ utilize various media formats to promote two-way communication to correspond positively with all parents/guardians throughout the school year (including email, phone calls, websites, folders, Class Dojo app, etc.).
- ☐ encourage daily attendance.
- ☐ support the partnership between home, school, and community.
- ☐ teach the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.
- ☐ provide an environment and learning opportunities that enhance a life-long love of learning.

Teacher: _____ Principal: _____

As a parent, I promise to:

- ☐ provide a quiet study area at home, encourage good study habits, and limit screen time. (Suggested practice: Turn off all devices for 20 minutes a day and have family conversation.)
- ☐ read to and with my child regularly.
- ☐ encourage my child to read daily.
- ☐ encourage physical activity.
- ☐ attend school functions, meetings, and programs.
- ☐ support the teacher's efforts to help my child succeed.
- ☐ establish an age appropriate bedtime routine.
- ☐ return "to be signed" documents.
- ☐ reinforce the value of school and the love of learning.
- ☐ send my child to school regularly and on time. I am aware of the Henderson County Public Schools attendance policy that states that students should have a maximum of 14 total absences in order to meet promotion standards.

Parent/Guardian: _____

As a student of Etowah Elementary, I promise to:

- ☐ be safe.
- ☐ Follow the All Star Code: Shine Bright (be respectful). Shine Right (be responsible). Shine Ready Be ready to learn)
- ☐ be a good listener.
- ☐ do my required assignments.
- ☐ read more and reduce my screen time (phone, TV. computer, video games, devices).
- ☐ be prepared for the school day.
- ☐ share my school day with my parents/guardians.
- ☐ do my best to attend school daily.
- ☐ tell trusted adults if I have any problems.

Student: _____

Parental Right to Know Letter

August 12, 2025

As a parent of a student at Etowah ElementarySchool, and part of our beginning of each school year notification, you have the right to know about the (1) professional qualifications and licensing criteria of the teachers who instruct your child, (2) information regarding student participation in mandatory State or local testing and affiliated policies, (3) language instruction and English learner identification protocols and services, and our assurance, that such information will occur in an understandable language and accessible format. This is a requirement for all public school units (PSUs) that receive Title I funds and allows you to request such information and receive a response in a timely manner. Below are additional details about the Parents Right-To Know information.

1. Professional Qualifications and Licensing Criteria of Teachers
    a. Etowah Elementary informs parents that they have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers, and our response will occur in a timely manner, including the following information and whether the student's teacher—
        i. has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction,
        ii. is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived, and
        iii. is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
    b. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
    c. Information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required; and
    d. Timely notice that your child has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the assigned grade level and subject area.
2. Testing Transparency and Information, Student Participation in Mandatory State or Local Testing, and Affiliated Policies
    a. Parents may request and receive a response in a timely manner, information regarding any State or local school policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated and affiliated procedures, or parental right to opt the child out of such assessment, where applicable.
    b. Etowah Elementary School shall make widely available through public means and notice,including by posting in a clear and accessible manner on our website each grade served with information on each assessment as required by the State and locally, to comply where such information is available and feasible to report, including—
        i. the subject matter assessed,
        ii. the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used,
        iii. the source of the requirement for the assessment, and
        iv. where such information is available—
            1. the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment and the schedule for the assessment; and
            2. the time and format for disseminating results.
3. Language Instruction and English Learner Identification Protocols and Services

a. Not later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year, Etowah Elementary School will inform parents of an English learner identified for participation in such a program with the following information—
    i. the reasons for the identification of their child as an English learner and in need of placement in a language instruction educational program,
    ii. the child's level of English proficiency, how such level was assessed, and the status of the child's academic achievement,
    iii. the methods of instruction used in the program in which their child is, or will be, participating and the methods of instruction used in other available programs, including how such programs differ in content, instructional goals, and the use of English and a native language in instruction,
    iv. how the program in which their child is, or will be, participating will meet the educational strengths and needs of their child,
    v. how such a program will specifically help their child learn English and meet academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation,
    vi. the specific exit requirements for the program, including the expected rate of transition from such program into classrooms that are not tailored for English learners and the expected rate of graduation from high school,
    vii. in the case of a child with a disability, how such programs and services meet the objectives of the individualized education program of the child, and
    viii. information pertaining to parental rights that includes written guidance
        1. detailing the right that parents have to have their child immediately removed from such program upon their request,
        2. detailing the options that parents have to decline to enroll their child in such a program or to choose another program or method of instruction, if available, and,
        3. assist parents in selecting various programs and methods of instruction if more than 1 program/method is offered.

b. Special Rule During the School Year—For those children identified as English learners during the current school year, Etowah Elementary School shall notify the children's parents during the first 2 weeks of the child being placed in a language instruction educational program.

c. Parent Participation—Etowah Elementary School shall implement an effective means of outreach to parents of English learners to inform such parents—
    i. how they can be involved in the education of their children; and
    ii. be active participants in assisting their children to—
        1. attain English proficiency,
        2. achieve high levels within a well-rounded education; and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students.
    iii. Etowah Elementary is committed to implementing an effective means of outreach to parents, which includes holding and sending notice of opportunities for regular meetings to formulate and respond to recommendations from parents of English Learners.

Please contact Amanda Childers at 828-891-6560 or aschilders@hcpsnc.org if you have additional requests, questions, or would like to receive more about this information. Thank you.

Amanda Childers, Principal

Ways to Help Our School

When you make purchases using your Ingles Advantage Card, Harris Teeter VIC Card, or as a Publix Partner those grocery stores will give back to the school a portion of those sales. Please be sure to link your cards to our school - Etowah Elementary! Remember to save your Scan your Box Tops! This is free money for our school!

Ingles Markets "Tools for Schools"
You must relink your card every year!
ttps://www.ingles-markets.com/tools-for-schools
Etowah Elementary School Code is 11037.
You can link your card online or send in your name and 12 digit card number to your child's teacher. Be on the lookout for a school wide challenge sheet coming home at the beginning of the year!

Harris Teeter "Together in Education"
Etowah Elementary School Code is 4416.
Link your card online, in the app, or at the cash register.
https://tie.harristeeter.com/together-in-education

Publix Partners

Simply sign up for Club Publix or log in to your existing account, click Publix Partners, and select Etowah Elementary School. Then, every time you shop at Publix, pay with the Publix app or enter your phone number at checkout.
https://www.publix.com/myaccount/register

Box Tops for Education
Use the Box Tops app to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online. From playground equipment to technology to library books, your school can use this money to help teachers and students get the supplies they need. If you don't want to scan your receipts, you can send them to school in an envelope and we can scan them for you at school. Receipts must be scanned within 14 days of purchase.
https://www.boxtops4education.com/

Ibotta is a rebate app that will give you rebates on purchases you make at select stores. This app doesn't provide money to the school, but Dr. Childers can get referral bonuses for everyone who signs up using the referral code: **haymvuy** and submits their first receipt. The earnings are used to purchase snacks for students who need them and teacher treats.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT YEAR TOGETHER!