

Nighthawk News

Herbert Akins Rd MS Community Newsletter

Week of February 6, 2023

Our Vision: The Herbert Akins Road MS Learning Community collaborates to facilitate equitable outcomes and growth through social, emotional, and academic opportunities.

[Herbert Akins Road MS Website](#)

Check here for club information and weekly events taking place on our campus this week.

Weekly Updates for the Week of February 6, 2023

Nighthawks,

Your continued support is needed to ensure a safe and orderly environment where we can align our daily work to our vision above!
#NighthawksStickTogether.



This week's Nighthawk News has helpful information and something for everyone!

- Letter from School Board Chair Mahaffey and Superintendent Moore
- Positivity Project -Other People's Mindset
- Chromebook chargers for students
- Fundraiser to support purchasing our Midnight the Nighthawk mascot costume
- Student expectations for home athletic events
- Spring Athletic Tryout Information
- Talent Show

- Clothing Drive
- Book Club Drive
- Spirit Rock Rentals
- School Dance - February 24th (3:30-5:30 PM)
- Much more!

We are grateful and proud that our #NighthawksRise as #NighthawksStickTogether!

Anne Marie Adkins
Principal

Letter from Board Chair Mahaffey and Superintendent Moore

This has been a very trying week for students, staff and families at some of our schools. Many schools in our community were the targets of multiple threats communicated via social media. These events, combined with a firearm found in the possession of a student at one school, have created many challenges for us all.

When the actions of a few disrupt the safety and well-being of our entire community, it comes at quite a cost.

This week several schools were in lockdown, we had to summon law enforcement numerous times, and two schools were forced to dismiss early. Such incidents disrupt learning, create undue stress for families, burden emergency responders and law enforcement and bring additional costs to our taxpayers.

If we want to keep our community healthy and thriving, this simply cannot continue. We want to thank the students, staff, families, our security team and local law enforcement for their roles in keeping our schools safe and orderly while dealing with these senseless acts and threats. This type of collaboration and coordination is invaluable.

Yet we need more to happen. Much more. To ensure that our families feel safe sending their students to our schools, we must all work together.

We are calling on our community to partner with us to solve this problem. We will be looking at ways to work with local law enforcement agencies to devise better safety measures and with state lawmakers to see how we can strengthen laws that address perpetrators of these criminal acts.

In the meantime, regardless of whether you are a student, teacher, staff member, parent, grandparent, or a citizen with no direct ties to our schools, it is imperative to acknowledge that this problem belongs to all of us.

We ask your support in the following ways:

- Remind young people that bringing a weapon to school regardless of intent or making a threat against a school regardless of whether or not it's a hoax will result in dire consequences. Not only suspension, but prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

- Talk to your students about why such acts are criminal, and how committing them has the potential to destroy their lives.
- [Secure your firearms.](#) Always keep your guns locked in a gun safe that cannot be easily broken into or taken away.
- We ask private citizens, businesses, community organizations and communities of faith to seek ways to support local schools.
- We implore lawmakers to continue to collaborate around bolstering safety in our schools and communities.
- Report information about situations that cause concern at schools so that we can respond quickly and appropriately to protect their safety. Students, parents and citizens can report safety concerns to our anonymous tip line, (919) 856-1911.

There are no easy answers. We know this. But if we work together, we can take on this critical challenge and make positive change. So let's do this.

While it's top of mind for everyone, we want to remind you about what you can expect during a school lockdown.

Our school system has set emergency plans for each school and administrative site. In addition, each school has an Emergency Response Team that focuses on prevention and reaction to incidents and a Crisis Response Team that supports students and staff after an incident.

If there is a potential threat or unsafe situation to a school, the school may "go on lockdown" to protect students, staff, and visitors.

If a school goes into a "code red" lockdown, students are moved into safe areas, and all interior doors will be locked.

If a school goes into a "code yellow" lockdown, all outdoor activities will stop, and students will move into the building. We will lock outer doors and prohibit movement between buildings, but all other activities will continue.

A "code green" will be declared when the incident passes, ending the lockdown.

The school, in conjunction with law enforcement and WCPSS security, makes these decisions based on the specific situation at the school. Each situation is different; therefore, the decisions related to a lockdown will vary depending on the situation.

In every lockdown, the priority is always and only the safety of the students and staff in the building.

The goal is to communicate the status of the lockdown and necessary instructions to parents as quickly as possible. To prioritize safety, a debrief of the day's event will come after the event has concluded.

We are so grateful for all the support our entire community has provided this week. Thank you for your commitment to improving safety for our schools and communities. With all of us working together, we will not give into fear and intimidation. We will not let those who would commit acts or threats of violence win.

We will succeed in continuing to build and maintain one of the most successful public school districts in one of the best places to live in the nation.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Mahaffey, Board Chair
Catty Q. Moore, Superintendent

Positivity Project - Other People Mindset - Cheering Others' Successes

Dear Families,

This week our school community will be focusing on the Other People Mindset of Cheering Others' Successes. This means when other people succeed, I am happy for them and cheer them on.

Being happy for other people when they succeed isn't always everyone's initial reaction. Often, it's easy to become jealous or envious of others' victories -- or even to experience schadenfreude, which is deriving pleasure from witnessing (or learning about) another person's misfortune. People who have these reactions to the success or misfortune of others are colloquially known as "haters." It's important to note that these are natural emotions and in small doses can be helpful in allowing us to see what we care about -- and motivate us to pursue those goals.

But making a commitment towards cheering on other people's successes can be a great way to improve our own health, happiness, and relationships. People can take active steps to be more genuinely happy for the achievements of others. Ways to do this include; telling others about the success of your modest friend; noticing when your reaction to a sibling's success is envy or jealousy -- and asking yourself why that is; reminding yourself that appreciating the excellence in another is a character strength; asking your successful teammates and classmates what they do to prepare for games or tests.

Being supportive of people who succeed is good for our mental, physical, and emotional well-being and when people cheer each other on it begins a reciprocal process that forges stronger relationships. Those relationships are the foundation for a strong culture in teams, schools, and businesses.

To practice and encourage the character strength of perspective with your child, please visit the Positivity Project's [P2 for Families](#) (password: P2), where together you will watch a video, read a quote, and talk about the answers to three questions.

Have a wonderful week!

School Messenger

If you are not receiving emails or text messages from the school when School Messenger (not Talking Points) messages are sent, then at some point in the past the email address and/or numbers from which texts come have been blocked. To unblock to receive messages, please see the following:

The district uses the SchoolMessenger notification service to send important information to families through phone calls, email, and text messages.

As a parent you can access your own information & set your communication preferences in School Messenger by going to <https://ao.schoolmessenger.com>

or by downloading the School Messenger app on your smartphone. You will need to make sure you have the correct preferences set to receive emails.

And finally you can text "YES" to 67587 to opt-in for text message updates.

EOG Testing Info/Tips - Did you know?

Did you know that a student's scores on ELA, Math, and 8th Grade Science End of Grade tests help determine their placement in classes at the next level and beyond?

It's been a few years since students have taken their EOGs and test scores have been reviewed at the level they will be utilized at the end of this school year.

We are entering the registration period for rising 9th graders and soon for our rising 7th and 8th graders. Last year's EOG scores are one data point that are used to determine class placement for the 2023-2024 school year. The high schools and our school will, however, review students' scores at the end of this school year and can make placement changes prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Chromebook Chargers

In an effort to help students remain accountable for their Chromebook chargers, please encourage your child to label their charger with first and last name, keep it at home whenever possible, and take good care of it. Students requiring a replacement charger due to loss or damage must report the issue to a Core teacher who will apply for a replacement. Replacement charger supplies are extremely limited, and students will only receive 1 charger replacement per school year. If you wish to purchase your own charger replacement, please search for a 45 watt USB-C charger meant for a Lenovo 300e Chromebook.

First Annual Nighthawk Talent Show

When

Friday, March 3rd, 4pm

Where

2275 Herbert Akins Road Fuquay-Varina, NC

More information

The 1st Annual Herbert Akins Road Middle School Talent Show will be after school on Friday, March 3, 2023!

If you are interested in participating in the talent show, please fill out [this form](#) and submit a signed parent permission slip. Please see your Homeroom Teacher for the permission slip & turn it in to your Homeroom Teacher by Friday, February 10th.

Mark your calendar: Auditions will take place after school the week of February 13-16.

Help us purchase our Midnight the Nighthawk Mascot Costume! - Athletic Booster Club

Hello Herbert Akins Middle School Families!

The HARMS Athletic Boosters are launching a big fundraiser on Monday that will run the next two weeks, culminating on Sunday, February 12th with SUPER BOWL LVIII!! From Monday, January 30 - Friday, February 3 we will collect donations to fill four themed baskets, which will be raffled off during the Super Bowl through a "squares lottery" where you can purchase squares February 6-10. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards buying our Nighthawk mascot costume!

This week, we are asking families to send donated items to the front office for the four themed baskets. There will be bins set up for each grade level. We so much appreciate your generosity and look forward to an awesome fundraiser.

Basket Themes (and example items):

6th Grade—FAMILY FUN (board, games, Amazon/Target/movie theater gift cards, tasty snacks, fuzzy blankets, fuzzy socks, scrapbook kits, puzzles, art supplies)

7th Grade—LET'S GET COOKING (cookbooks, Trader Joe's/Harris Teeter/Food Lion gift cards, baking, mixes, olive oils, spices, cooking tools, aprons, dish towels)

8th Grade—GRILL AND CHILL (rolling cooler, Cabelas/Dicks/Homegoods gift cards, grill tools, portable speaker, apron, hand towels, spice rubs, hot sauces, cookbooks)

Girls and Boys Basketball Games

When

Monday, Feb. 6th, 4pm

Where

1401 Avent Ferry Road Holly Springs, NC

More information

Please join us in cheering on our inaugural basketball teams at Holly Grove Middle School.

Home Athletic Events - Student Expectations

We encourage our Nighthawk students to stay after school to attend home athletic events and cheer for our athletic teams. However, we have noticed a need for expectations to be put in place based on our inaugural year experiences.

These expectations will be implemented this week as it is important we continue to provide a safe and orderly environment for everyone while on our school campus. We appreciate everyone's review and adhering to these expectations.

1. Students who stay after school for an athletic event will be allowed to stay after and attend a 30 minute staff supervised study hall. Students who do not utilize the study hall for quiet work time will be asked to notify their parent and leave campus.
2. Students will need to pre-purchase their ticket via Go Fan or have \$6 cash ready at the gate for entry to the event.
3. Once at the event, students may purchase concessions before the game, at half time of the game, or between games. Students may not enter and re-enter the game throughout play. This is the same expectation for restroom use
4. If a student is not sitting with a parent or adult spectator during game play, they will sit in the designated Nighthawk Nest Student Section during game play. Students will not leave the event during game play.
5. Spectators, including students and student athletes, are not to have food or drink in the gym. This damages the bleachers and gym floor.
6. All food and drink are to be consumed in the cafeteria. Students are expected to clean up after themselves and dispose of all trash in the proper containers.
7. Students are to keep their belongings with them at all times. No items should be left unattended in any areas.
8. The hallways outside of the gym and cafeteria should remain clear at all times. No lingering and/or consuming of food and beverages should take place in those areas.
9. Nighthawks will demonstrate the Positivity Projects' Other People Mindset at athletic events. This means only positive chants and cheers for our team and demonstration of good sportsmanship at all times.

10. Students who cannot follow directions or expectations while at an athletic event will be asked to contact a parent for pick up and will be removed from the game.

Girls and Boys Basketball Games

When

Thursday, Feb. 9th, 4pm

Where

2275 Herbert Akins Road Fuquay-Varina, NC

More information

Please join us in cheering on our inaugural basketball teams at home as they play Holly Ridge Middle School.

Nighthawks PTA Carolina Hurricanes Family Night

When

Thursday, Feb. 16th, 7pm

Where

1400 Edwards Mill Road Raleigh, NC

More information

You can buy tickets at [this link](#) for the Hurricanes game on February 16th!

We look forward to having our community come together for a fun night at the game! Seats are not expensive and Nighthawks will be together.

Spring Athletic Tryouts

Spring athletic tryouts will begin on **2/27/2023**. Please be sure to have all your required paperwork uploaded to dragonfly prior to tryouts.

Track Tryouts will be 2/27 & 3/1 from 3:30-5:00 PM. Athletes need to wear comfortable running shoes and running wear and bring water bottle for tryouts. Practice will begin on 3/1.

Boys' Soccer Tryouts will be 2/27-3/1 from 3:30-5:00 PM. Practice will begin on 3/2. Athletes should bring a water bottle for tryouts.

Softball Tryouts will be 2/27-3/1 from 3:30-5:00 PM. Practice will begin on 3/2. Athletes should bring a water bottle for tryouts.

Athletic Physicals can be found here. <https://www.wcpss.net/Page/1465>

PLEASE USE THE REGISTRATION [LINK](#) FOR DRAGONFLY. NO PAPER COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF TRYOUTS.

How to use DragonFly instructions [CLICK HERE](#).

[DragonFly Tips and Tricks](#)

The Nighthawk Book Club is looking for help!

We are holding a book drive until 3/1/23. We are asking families to consider donating books, gently used and middle school appropriate so that we can share them with students who may need assistance with building their own library. We have also been gifted "Little Free Library: Take a book. Share a Book" houses. The plan is to have these placed in some of the neighborhoods that have students attending Herbert Akins Rd MS.

There will be a box in the cafeteria area that students and/or parents can drop off books. Please consider supporting the Nighthawk Flight Time Club in our journey to help promote literacy.

Thank you so much.

Mrs. Tirpak and Students

School Dance - February 24th - Click the video below for all of the information!



[NighthawksPTA on...](#)

twitter.com

📢 Tickets on sale NOW!! 📢 <https://t.co/dlr1WW2DwA>
pic.twitter.com/4DfMEDKjKV

Herbert Akins Rd. Middle School
PTA is hosting a...



Clothing Drive

Drop off: Mon-Fri February 6-10

Time: 7:45am - 3:30pm

*Donations can be dropped off in the marked bin in
front of the main building*

We are collecting **clean wearable** clothing (free of stains and tears).
These items will be used to stock the clothing closet for when a child
needs an outfit change while at school. Excess donations will be
donated to Note in the Pocket to benefit other Wake County school
children.

Items Needed:

Long and short sleeve shirts

Sweatshirts & sweatpants

Shorts (athletic shorts especially)

Socks & Underwear (new, in the package only please)

**ALL SIZES NEEDED RANGING FROM YOUTH LARGE
THROUGH ALL ADULT SIZES**

Nighthawk Spirit Rock - Pick your week to rent!

Nighthawk families, students and staff may rent and decorate the Spirit Rock to celebrate birthdays,
promote school activities, recognize accomplishments or just provide a shout out. Rentals are
weekly/proceeds are utilized for PTA programming.

Nighthawks Elective A Day/B Day Calendar

Apply for School Meals here.

Did you know that students must pay for breakfast and lunch this year?

Nighthawk After school Clubs - Get involved! Information for your student can be found by clicking here.



The flyer features three photographs on the left side: a student using a tablet, a woman in a lab coat with a microscope, and a group of people in a field trip setting. The logo at the top right consists of four stylized female faces in red above the text 'STEMblazers'. The text is organized into sections: 'Who We Are' (mission statement), 'Why Join?' (program description), 'Club Meetings' (schedule and contact), and 'Sign Up Here' (QR code and social media).

STEMblazers

Who We Are

We are a non-profit with a mission to reach 1 million girls and introduce them to STEM professionals and fields of study.

Why Join?

In our program we bring women from STEM fields to you and your friends to learn about their job - ask all your questions! We bring fun hands on activities and the snacks. Do you love field trips, we organize those too!

Club Meetings

Thursdays 3:30-4:30PM
Ms. Smith - Room 2505
msmith2@wcpss.net

January 19th, 26th
February 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd
March 2nd, 9th, 16th

Sign Up Here



<https://www.stemblozers.org/register/therbakins2022>


@stemblozers

Nighthawk Student Services Webiste

School Attendance & Communication

As we enter the winter months, please keep in mind the critical importance of communicating absences with your student's first period teacher. Sending an e-mail or a message through Talking Points is the difference between an excused and an unexcused absence and the absence being recognized by [WCPSS Board Policy](#). Communicating helps us better support your student and understand the challenges that impact their attendance. Remember, that your student can stay on track by accessing their work through Google Classroom or Canvas as they feel up to it.

Nighthawks PTA Spirit Wear - Purchase throughout the school year

Spirit Wear is available to purchase throughout the school year. Please visit <https://1stplace.sale/107275> to purchase Spirit Wear.

Nighthawks PTA Snack Donation Sign Up Genius

Nighthawks PTA is currently collecting shelf stable snacks as part of our outreach activities to help our students and school community. [Please sign up](#) to donate any of the following items listed. You are welcome to send them in with your student to drop off in the main office. We appreciate your help and thank you for your support! - Nighthawks PTA

Join our Nighthawk PTA by clicking on this button!

Buy your Athletic Booster Club Pass here!

Purchase your Athletic Booster Club pass and membership to get free entry to all athletic home games this entire school year.

Nighthawks Athletic Booster Sponsorship Program



	NIGHTHAWKS ATHLETIC FAN	NIGHTHAWKS ATHLETIC CHAMP	NIGHTHAWKS ATHLETIC ALL STAR	NIGHTHAWKS ATHLETIC MYP
	\$250	\$500	\$1000	\$2000
Certificate of Appreciation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Business Booster Membership	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monthly Social Media Shoutouts		✓	✓	✓
Logo Banner on Exterior Fence and in Gym			✓	✓
Merchandise Table			✓	✓
Game Day Sponsorship Package*				✓

*Game Day Package Includes: Halftime Recognition on the field/court, Presentation of Signed Game Ball, & Thank you Instagram reel with footage from game day experience



Herbert Akins Rd Nighthawks PTA Business Sponsorship Opportunities

	Friend of the PTA	Nighthawk Supporter	Nighthawk Fan	Nighthawk Superfan
Donation Amount	\$150	\$500	\$1000	\$1500+
Framed and Personalized Certificate of Appreciation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Small Business Logo on "Business Sponsor" Page on PTA Website		✓	✓	✓
Medium Business Logo with Link to Business Website on "Business Sponsor" Page			✓	✓
Monthly "Shoutout" on Instagram and Facebook with Business Tagged			✓	✓
Mention at the bottom of Every PTA Instagram and Facebook Post			✓	✓
Exclusive Opportunity to Provide Marketing Table at select PTA events				✓
Business Logo on Top Banner of Homepage of PTA website				✓



Club Level \$5000

Club Level receives all benefits of the Nighthawk Superfan in addition to brand placement on official Nighthawks School Club T-shirts for the 2022-2023 school year and also social media thanks for supporting our club initiative



Herbert Akins Rd ...

docs.google.com

Sheet1 Herbert Akins Rd MS Student Dashboard 2022-23
Arrival/Dismissal, Attendance Expectations, School Procedures/
Expectations, Schedules, Restorative Practices, Parents/
Students, Technology Resources Request a Carpool/Walker Pass , <a href="https://d...



Herbert Akins Rd ...

www.nighthawkspta.org

School Announcements 2022-2023 School Supply List Mark Your Calendar
Pick Up - Students schedule, Fill out beginning of year sign-ups, Meet
teachers & Tour school Meet & Greet Track 1 - July 6th - Drop In 10:30
-12:00pm Meet & Greet Track 3 - July 6th - Drop In 1:00 - 3:00pm Meet &
Greet Track



Herbert Akins Rd ...

forms.gle

Nighthawk Families: If you are planning to utilize carpool at any time during
the school year, please fill out the carpool/walker pass request form below.
Once received, you and your student will receive a number. Carpool/Walker
tags will be distributed to students during their first week of face-to-face
instruction.



Community Comm...

drive.google.com

HARMS Track Change Request Form 2022-2023 Herbert Akins Road MS
Intro Letter 1.14.22.docx Herbert Akins Road MS Intro Letter
1.14.22.docx.pdf Middle School Program Planning Guide 2021-2022 Final
V1.pdf No files in this folder. Sign in to add files to this folder



Herbert Akins Road Middle School

 @HerbertAkinsMS

 2275 Herbert Akins Road, Fuqu...  (919) 694-8300

 wcpss.net/herbertakinsroadms

