



MEDIA ADVISORY

December 5-9, 2022

*A summary of events, activities and accolades occurring in
Cumberland County Schools (CCS)*

Nationally Renowned Children's Author to Lead CFA's Virtual Masterclass

This month, Cumberland Family Academy (CFA) continues its [Masterclasses for Today's Families](#) series with a special virtual presentation from Children's Author Dr. Kimberly Johnson titled "Building a Love for Literacy." The session will be streamed live on Cumberland County Schools' (CCS) [Facebook page](#) from 6-7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5. During Dr. Johnson's high-energy, interactive presentation, participants will receive timely tips to encourage literacy at home and learn how to utilize teachable moments to spark a love for reading and help students become better readers.

Two Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

The Cumberland County Board of Education will hold a Special Meeting pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.12(b)(2) beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 6 for the sole purpose of receiving Board training provided by the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA). This meeting is for training purposes only and no action will be taken; therefore, the meeting will not be live-streamed. There will be capacity-limited public seating available. The meeting will be held in Room 3 at the Educational Resource Center (ERC), located at 396 Elementary Drive, 28301.

The Auxiliary Services, Student Support Services, Finance, Curriculum and Personnel Committees of the Cumberland County Board of Education will hold meetings beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 6. The meeting will be open to the public via live-streaming available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CumberlandCoSch>, and there will also be capacity-limited seating available to members of the public.

Documents, attachments, and presentations to be considered or received by the Board of Education will be available for review by the public at the BoardDocs site, which may be accessed through a link appearing on the Cumberland County Schools homepage under BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE), at www.ccs.k12.nc.us. As these are Committee Meetings of the Board, there will be no public comment period, but public comments will again be shared at the Board's next regular meeting on Dec. 13. The meeting will be held in the Auditorium at ERC.

CCS Superintendent, Local Student Join Forces to Raise \$60K for Cancer Research

As the first National Superintendent Chair for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), Cumberland County Schools (CCS) Superintendent Dr. Marvin Connelly, Jr., is leading the charge to champion other educators

across the nation to partner with LLS in its mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

For Dr. Connelly, it's personal. [Read more ...](#)



County Commissioners Recognize Students' Work with Their High School Food Pantry

Gray's Creek High School students Natalie Ware (photo left) and Malika Jones (photo right) were recently recognized by the Cumberland County Commissioners for their involvement with the school's Bear Necessities Food Pantry. During the Nov. 21 meeting, both teens presented information to the Commissioners about the Pantry and its impact throughout the Gray's Creek community.



Elementary School Hosts First-Ever Pageant

Ferguson-Easley Elementary School recently hosted its first-ever Mr. &

Miss Ferguson-Easley Elementary Pageant. The winners were Fifth-grader Jae'on Jackson James and Fourth-grader Rykiah Reasonover. Both are pictured below with their principal, Eric McLaurin.



School Psychologist of the Year Chosen for 'Making A Difference' in the Lives of Students, Colleagues

CCS proudly announced its 2022-2023 School Psychologist of the Year during a celebratory gathering in the ERC auditorium on Dec. 2.

Dana Smith (pictured below), who has been a school psychologist for nine years, was surprised when she was announced as CCS' 2022-2023 School Psychologist of the Year. The announcement was made in front of the district's 29 psychologists, principals, district administrators and Cumberland County Board of Education members.

Smith, who serves students at Ben Martin, Cliffdale and Ponderosa elementary schools, was nominated for the honor by her peers because of her hard work and dedication to supporting the success of her students and colleagues.

"Dana's passion for children is evident as she advocates for the needs of all children," said Lisa Craver, the coordinator of CCS Psychological Services. "She seeks out opportunities for educating and empowering parents, school staff, and children. Regardless of the time it takes, Dana thoroughly gathers as much information as possible to help gain an understanding of the factors that affect a student's ability to positively interact with the curriculum. She cares for her colleagues just as much as she does the children."

Smith received a trophy award as the district honoree. In the spring, she hopes to be nominated by the North Carolina School Psychology Association for the Practitioner of the Year Award.



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Media will be provided a complete listing of school activities. No student or employee in the Cumberland County Schools shall, on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, marital status, or handicapping condition, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. This document is available in alternative format by contacting the Communications and Community Engagement Department of the Cumberland County Schools at 910-678-2303.

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