

The ABCs of BHT



**B. H. Tharrington Primary School
Parent/Student Handbook
2025-2026**

315 Culbert Street
Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030
(336) 789-9046

www.tharringtonschool.org

Welcome to BH Tharrington Primary School...home of the BHT Cubs! At BH Tharrington Primary, our priority is to empower EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY! We are committed to providing a challenging, supportive, and safe learning environment with innovative opportunities for all students. We foster a love of learning in our student-centered classrooms and strive to help each child discover their fullest potential. Along with our rigorous curriculum, we teach 21st-century leadership and life skills. All students are leaders at our school!

The primary years are a vital time to build the foundations for learning, and our outstanding staff welcomes parents/guardians and community members to partner with us in this journey. This handbook offers you information to help ensure the success of your child. Please contact our school at [336-789-9046](tel:336-789-9046) with any questions or concerns.

? Suggestions, questions, or concerns about your child? ?



Contact the
classroom teacher



Contact the
school's principal or assistant principal



Contact the
Central Office



Contact the
Superintendent



Contact the
Board of Education

Question answered?



When your question isn't answered,
move to the next appropriate contact.

Question answered?



When your question is answered, keep in touch with the classroom teacher as needed.
Begin with the classroom teacher for subsequent suggestions, questions, or concerns.

A

Absences: When a student is absent, a written excuse must be presented to the child's teacher. Please send the written excuse in the child's take-home folder. A parent may also send a message to the teacher via Canvas explaining the absence. Policy 4400 allows up to five days for a written excuse to be submitted. After that, the absence will be considered unexcused.

Attendance: Attendance is a top priority! School starts each day at 7:50 a.m. and ends at 2:35 p.m. (Pre-K Students will be dismissed at 2:20 p.m.) K-2 students may be dropped off as early as 7:15 a.m. in the car rider line; however, students will not be permitted into the classrooms until 7:35 a.m. Pre-K students should be walked to the front entrance of the school beginning at 7:15 a.m. After 7:50 a.m., students will be considered tardy and must check in at the front office. Students are expected to be at school on time and to remain at school until dismissed. In order to be counted present for the day, a student must arrive at school before 11:00 a.m. A student leaving early from school must attend until 11:00 a.m. in order to be counted present for the day.

Athletic Pass: All students in Mount Airy City Schools are admitted to all regular-season athletic events for free with a valid pass/ID card. If a student does not present their pass/ID card, regular season admission prices will apply. Please note: Students in 8th grade and below must be accompanied by an adult to enter athletic events.

B

Breakfast: A free breakfast is served daily beginning at 7:20 a.m. and ending at 7:50 a.m. Students should go through the serving line in the cafeteria prior to the tardy bell in order to receive a free breakfast.

Bus: The riding of any school bus is considered a privilege. Please discuss with your child the necessity of good behavior while riding the bus. Misbehavior could lead to suspension from riding the bus. For more details about bus transportation and procedures, you may refer to our [MACS Student Code of Conduct](#).

C

Canvas: Canvas is a learning management system used by students and families at BHT. Teachers and Administration use Canvas as a primary means of communication with families to send curriculum and logistical updates. Parents/Guardians should create an observer Canvas account using your child's pairing code. These codes will become available at the start of the school year. Please inquire with your child's classroom teacher if you have further questions.

Classroom Celebrations: There will be designated celebrations throughout the year. Families will be notified of the times and may be asked to assist. Birthday celebrations are not permitted at school; however, families may send a special snack to share with the class after lunch. Foods for celebrations should be purchased from a store (not homemade) to ensure safety and security. Please check with your child's teacher about any possible food allergies in your child's classroom.

Conferences: Communication is important. Parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled once during the fall semester and student-led conferences will be scheduled for the spring. Additional conferences are available upon request.

Counseling: Our school counselor is Mrs. Shannon Pack. For more information on the services she provides, please contact Mrs. Pack at spack@mtairy.k12.nc.us

Custody: If custody has been granted to one parent through a court order or deed of separation, please advise the school and provide a copy of the custody order. It is the parents' responsibility to provide information to the school regarding custody changes that occur during the school year. Parents should settle child custody issues away from school.

D

Discipline: Students are expected to follow the [Mount Airy City Schools Student Code of Conduct](#). A copy of this is available on the Mount Airy City Schools website under the Students and Families section. A range of consequences has been developed to assist school officials in determining appropriate disciplinary consequences for student behavior.

Dismissal: We begin student dismissal at 2:35 p.m. each day for K-2 Students, and at 2:20 p.m. for Pre-K Students. Students who need to leave school prior to dismissal time must be signed out from the front office prior to 2:20 p.m. After that time, students will be expected to follow normal dismissal procedures.

Dual Language Immersion (DLI): Upon entering kindergarten, BHT students have the opportunity to participate in our Dual Language Immersion Program. For more information, contact our school.

E

Early Dismissal: On early dismissal days, students will dismiss at 12:35 am for K-2 Students, and at 12:20 pm for Pre-K Students. These dates can be found on the BHT website under About Us.

Expectations: At BHT, students follow the expectations outlined in the school-wide behavior [matrix](#). Students are expected to be safe, be respectful, be responsible, and be kind!

F

Family Trips: Students who have less than five unexcused absences and the principal's permission may be excused up to five days per school year for family trip(s). Before a student is excused from school for the trip, the parent/guardian must complete a ["Request for Family Trip" form](#) at least three days in advance and return the form to the office. A copy of this is available on the Mount Airy City Schools website under the Students and Families section. The first five days can be excused and missed assignments may be made up; however, any additional days missed for family trips during the school year will be unexcused.

G

Global Learning: BHT is proud to promote global learning for all students.

Both our Dual Language Immersion Program and Spanish special area class allow all students to obtain an appreciation and understanding of diverse cultures.

H

Hashtag: Follow @MACSchools on Facebook and Instagram. You can also check out what is happening in our school by following #theBHT, #MACSawesome.

Homework: Tharrington Primary School's homework policy and practices align with the Mount Airy City Schools Policy 3135 on homework. The purpose of homework is to practice skills or reinforce knowledge that has been learned in the classroom. The responsibility of homework is a shared venture between the parents, the teacher, and the students. Each is important in developing and building good study habits.

Daily reading helps a child's brain make connections between written and spoken words, as well as expand a child's vocabulary. This is critically important to a child's lifelong achievement. Students are expected to read or be read to for a minimum of 20 minutes per night. In addition to this reading, students may be expected to complete 10 minutes of skill-based practice, such as sight words, spelling, or math facts.

Routine and structure are important for children; we encourage parents to develop a homework routine, including a designated time and place in the home each night, free of distraction, where students can reinforce their learning through homework. Homework will not be assigned on weekends or during winter or spring breaks.

The staff at Tharrington Primary School understands and promotes the importance of unstructured play as essential to fostering the cognitive, social,

physical, and emotional well-being of children. Therefore, time spent on homework should be in addition to, and never a replacement for free play.



Illness/Injury: As recommended by state health and nutrition centers, any student who is currently running a fever of 100.4 degrees or more is not allowed to attend school that day. Students should be fever-free, without medication, for a period of 24 hours before returning.

According to guidance provided by The North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center, there is no value to excluding children from school for nits only. Children will only be sent home if live lice are seen. Students may return to school after the first treatment. Parents are asked to bring their child to school so the nurse can recheck for live lice. Mount Airy City Schools abide by guidance provided by the CDC, NASN (National Association of School Nurses), and AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics). These policies and procedures can be found at: <https://bit.ly/NASNLICE>

Any accident, which occurs during the school day, school, sponsored event, or athletic event, shall be reported immediately to the person in charge or to office personnel. In case of illness or injury, a member of the school staff will care for a child temporarily. School personnel will render first aid treatment only. If emergency medical treatment is necessary, every effort will be made to contact the parents/guardians. If they are not available, the child will be transported to the nearest appropriate medical facility.

Inclement Weather: There are times when weather conditions require school closure, delays, or early dismissals due to hazardous conditions. Whenever possible, the decision will be made by 5:00 a.m. via social media and through the

School Messenger phone system. Parents are encouraged to have arrangements in place in case of a closing, delay, or early dismissal.

Information: Please keep your child's information current with the office staff. This is very important in case of inclement weather or emergencies. Any phone number or address change should be communicated to the office for safety reasons.

J

JJ Jones Intermediate School: BHT serves students in pre-kindergarten through second grade. After this, our students transition to JJ Jones Intermediate School for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. To learn more, visit their website at www.jonesschool.org

K

Kindness Rocks: BHT is proud to showcase a garden of Kindness Rocks at the entrance of our school. Students are welcome to add inspirational rocks to the garden throughout the school year. This display reminds us all to be kind.

L

Literacy: Literacy is a top priority at BHT. Please join our efforts by reading with your child every night. Family Literacy Night and other events are scheduled throughout the year.

Lost and Found: Since coats, lunchboxes, and other personal items are most frequently lost or misplaced, please label students' belongings with their first and last names. Items that are unmarked will be turned into the school's Lost and

Found. Unclaimed articles will be turned over to charity after a reasonable time has elapsed. The school will not be responsible for lost valuables.

M

Medication: School personnel may administer medication to a child at school if the parents/guardians have completed the Request for Medication Form found [here](#). Please contact the school nurse, Mrs. Candace Wilmoth for more information at cwilmoth@mtairy.k12.nc.us

Menus: Menus are sent home monthly and are posted on the MACS website under the [School Nutrition Department](#). No restaurant/fast food or soft drinks are allowed in the cafeteria during meal service times.

N

Nutrition: Our School Nutrition Program provides nutritious meals for students. An online meal payment service is available at <http://lingconnect.com>. If you need assistance, please contact Carolyn Boggs, cafeteria manager, at 336-789-2888. Extra snacks are available for purchase in the cafeteria. If you would like to manage your child's extra purchases, please send in a written request so this can be noted on your child's account. (Ex: Please allow my child to purchase an extra snack from the cafeteria only on Fridays.)

For the 2025-2026 school year, BHT and Jones Intermediate Schools have qualified for the Community Eligibility Provision which will enable our K-5 students to continue to receive free school meals (breakfast and lunch).

O

Objects to Leave at Home: The only items that should be brought to school are those related to the instructional program. Toys, electronic devices, and other personal belongings are not permitted at school.

P

Parental Involvement: Your involvement in your child's education is vital to his/her success. We strive to create a shared responsibility with you as the parent in helping your child learn and meet their educational goals. There are many ways for you to be involved at BHT. We invite you to attend our school meetings and events such as parent conferences, musical performances, and Family Literacy Nights. There are also opportunities for you to volunteer at school through our Parent Lighthouse Team or assisting in classrooms in various ways. Please contact your child's teacher for more information about these opportunities.

Parent Lighthouse Team: We invite you to join our Parent Lighthouse Team. This partnership supports teachers and provides opportunities for students to ensure the best education possible. To join, please contact the Parent Lighthouse Team at bhttparentlighthouse@gmail.com

Principal/Assistant Principal: The top priority for the administrative team at BHT is to do what is best for students! Mrs. Chelsy Payne, principal, and Mrs. Eve Trotter, Assistant Principal, are always willing to assist students, families, staff, and community members in serving every student, every day! (Contact: cpayne@mtairy.k12.nc.us or etrotter@mtairy.k12.nc.us)

Q

Questions: If you have questions or concerns, please begin by contacting your child's teacher. If further assistance is needed, please notify the front office.

R

Recess: Weather permitting, students will go outside for recess each day for 30 minutes. For their safety, we ask that students not wear flip-flops to school. Athletic shoes or shoes that cover the back of the foot are best for outdoor play. Students are encouraged to bring a coat during seasons of cold weather.

Referral/Request for Evaluation: If a parent suspects their child may have a disability, parents should contact the student's teacher or other school personnel to *request* evaluations. An individualized education plan team, which includes the parent, will meet and complete a *Special Education Referral*.

Report Cards: We will send home report cards at the end of every nine weeks. A total of four report cards will be sent home throughout the year. Progress reports will be sent home between report card distributions. A parent or guardian is required to sign and return the progress report/report card within two school days.

S

Safety Drills: Safety drills such as fire, tornado, and lockdowns are conducted in accordance with federal, state, and MACS guidelines. The purpose of safety drills is to practice proper procedures in order to be prepared in the event of an emergency. In MACS, we utilize the Standard Response Protocol. Detailed information can be found at <https://bit.ly/MACS-Safety>

School Cash Online: We use a program called School Cash Online. This program allows you to make payments directly to BHT for school fees such as field trips, registrations, fundraisers, and more. Parents will need to make an account

by visiting mountairycityschools.schoolcashonline.com and clicking the word register. You may need your student's Student ID handy to create this account. If you do not have it, please reach out to your child's teacher and they can provide this information.

Sickness: Any student who is currently running a fever of 100 degrees or more is not allowed to attend school that day. Students should be fever-free, without medication, for a period of 24 hours before returning.

Spirit Days: Students and staff are encouraged to show their school spirit every Friday by wearing our school colors (navy and white)! To purchase a BHT t-shirt, please see someone in the front office or contact the Parent Lighthouse Team at bhtparentlighthouse@gmail.com

STEAM: STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. All students at BHT participate in the STEAM Program to promote innovation and problem-solving skills. For more information, contact our STEAM teacher, Mrs. Kandice Norman, at knorman@mtairy.k12.nc.us

T

Textbooks & Supplies: Through state and local funds, the school furnishes books and some supplies to students. This means that students have books for use during the school year. Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to take proper care of them. If books/supplies are lost or damaged, students/families will be expected to pay for them.

Title I: B.H. Tharrington is a Title I school, which means we receive federal Title I money to help provide instruction that meets the needs of all students. Because our school receives federal funds, we are held accountable by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA requires that our students meet specific goals to show

progress. This is determined by meeting Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) that are calculated by Mount Airy City Schools students' End-of-Grade (EOG) scores. As the parent of a child served in a Title I school, you have the right to be involved in your child's education. We encourage you to become an active participant. If you have specific questions or concerns about this involvement, you may contact your child's teacher or administrators.

Transportation Changes: Any change of transportation from what is normally used requires written notification from the parent. Please send a note in your child's take-home folder including the date of the transportation change. A parent may send a message to the teacher through Canvas indicating a change of transportation at least one day prior to the day of the change; teachers may not have the opportunity to check Canvas messages during the school day. In the event of an emergency, approval for a transportation change may be given by school administration.

U

Use of Technology: BHT is a "one-to-one" school which means that there is an iPad for every student to use every day at school. There are rules and expectations that must be followed when using these devices, and there are consequences for breaking the rules. Students may be subject to loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action in the event of intentional damage and/or violation of policies and guidelines. Students and families may be required to pay for loss or damage of the device, in addition to disciplinary action.

V

Visitors: All visitors should check in at the front office upon arrival to receive a visitor's badge. All visitors will be required to sign in at the office using a(n)

ID/driver's license. This includes signing out students. Oftentimes, students enjoy having visitors join them for lunch in our cafeteria. An adult plate can be purchased in our cafeteria for \$4.50. (Please remember no outside food is permitted.) Lunch visitors should join the student's class in the cafeteria, or take their student outside to the picnic shelter by the swings playground. If you choose to eat outside of the cafeteria, please notify a staff member before doing so and make sure that the student returns to the cafeteria by their assigned time to go back to the classroom.

W

Walking School Bus: Each fall and spring semester, students are invited to participate in BHT's Walking School Bus. With parent permission, students are dropped off on Friday mornings at a local business where staff and community volunteers will walk with them along the local greenway for a half mile before arriving at school. For more information, please contact Mr. Justin Combs at jcombs@mtairy.k12.nc.us.

Website: Please visit our school's website for more information, including upcoming events: www.tharringtonschool.org

X

eXtra-Curricular Activities: There are many extra-curricular activities available for children in our community through [Mount Airy Parks and Recreation](#), [Surry Arts Council](#), and [Mount Airy Public Library](#).

Y

Yearbooks: Yearbooks are published annually at BHT. Information about purchasing a yearbook will be sent home with students and will also be available in the front office.

Z

Zoo and/or Other Field Trips: During the school year, your child may be involved with a field trip for their grade level. Please sign and return the permission slip for your child to attend the field trip and submit payment through School Cash Online.

BHT School Calendar

Important Dates

These dates are subject to change, more specific information will be provided closer to events. Additional events for Pre K will be shared with those families from their teacher. The full Mount Airy City Schools Calendar can be found at (<https://www.mtairy.k12.nc.us/apps/pages/calendar>)

You can also subscribe to BHT's calendar to know when and where important events will take place. You can subscribe to the BHT calendar from the school website calendar by clicking "subscribe" and then selecting your method.

August

14th: BHT's Open House (4-6 p.m.)
18th & 19th: Kindergarten Staggered Days
21st and 22nd: Pre-K Staggered Days
25th-BHT Color Days Begin

September

1st-No School (holiday)
5th-BHT Color Days End
8th-Bear Card Fundraiser Begins
15th-BHT Fall Pictures
19th-Early Release Day
22nd-Bear Card Fundraiser Ends
25th-Parental Involvement Event 6:00 p.m.

October

6th-8th BHT Fire Safety House
9th- BHT Parent Conference Window Begins
10th-Teacher Workday
13th-Teacher Workday
15th-BHT Fall Picture Re-Takes

23rd-1st Grade Music Program (6:00 p.m.)

30th-Fall Classroom Celebration 1:00 p.m.

31st-Early Release Day; Candy Walk; Parent Conference Window Ends

November

11th-No School (holiday)

21st-BHT Holiday Pictures

26th-28th: No School

December

4th- Parental Involvement Event (Book Fair & Literacy Night) 6:00 p.m.

18th-2nd Grade Music Program 6:00 p.m.

19th-Winter Classroom Celebrations 1:00 p.m.

22nd-Winter Break Begins (no school)

January

5th-Students Return from Winter Break

19th-No School (holiday)

22nd-Class Group Pictures

February

12th-Rising Kindergarten Recruitment Event 6:00 p.m.

13th-16th: No School for students

March

9th-13th: Spring Break

16th: No School for Students

19th: PreK Conference Window Begins

19th: Parental Involvement Event 6:00 p.m.

26th: Music Program for kindergarten

27th: DLI Lottery 12:00 p.m.

April

2nd: BHT Spring Pictures, Spring Classroom Celebrations 1:00 p.m.

3rd-7th: No School for students

28th: Rising 3rd Grade Step Up Night at Jones 5:30 p.m.

30th: Early Release

May

1st: PreK Screening and Registration

14th: Kindergarten Awards Day & Student Led Conferences 8:30 a.m.

14th: PreK Graduation 6:00 p.m.

15th: 1st Grade Awards Day & Student Led Conferences 8:30 a.m.

18th: 2nd Grade Promotion Ceremony & Student Led Conferences at Jones 9 a.m.

19th: Pre-K Field Day

20th: K-2 Field Day

22nd: Last Day of School for Students; Early Release