

Principal Message, November 2, 2025



Hello Cougars,

Thank you to all the caregivers who joined us for school events this week! It was wonderful to see families celebrating our 4th graders' learning, supporting our Kindergarten students, and being part of the excitement and learning happening throughout the building.

This is an exciting week for Apex Elementary as we complete our biggest fundraiser of the year! Every dollar raised goes directly back to our students. One of the most impactful ways our PTA supports our school is by funding three planning days each year for every teaching team. These days allow teachers to collaborate deeply, reflect on student learning, and strengthen instruction. This time together not only improves our practice—it also helps us retain incredible educators who feel supported and valued.

Thank you for supporting our PTA and contributing in any way you can to this important event. Your partnership truly makes a difference for our students and staff.

With gratitude,
Kristin Small
Principal

Reminders:

Report absences to your child's teacher and attendance308@wcpss.net

[25-26 Traditional School Calendar](#)

Upcoming Dates

10/31 End of Quarter 1

11/3 Fall Picture Re-Take Day

11/3-11/7 Fun Run Spirit Week - See details below

11/4 Teacher Workday - No School

11/7 Fun Run and After Party, Q1 Report Cards go home

11/10 Food Lion Guiding Stars Event

11/11 Veterans Day - No School

11/18 PreK-2 Donuts with Grownups 8-8:45 AM

11/20 3-5 Donuts with Grownups 8-8:45 AM

11/26-11/28 Thanksgiving Holiday Break - No School

Color Run Spirit Days

November 3: Monochrome Monday - Dress in your class color!

November 4: No School

November 5: Dream in Color Wednesday - Wear bright PJs!

November 6: Tie-Dye Thursday

November 7: Color Run Friday - Wear your Color Run T-Shirt

[Flyer](#)

Fall Picture Retakes

Fall Picture retakes are on Monday, November 3rd. Notify your child's teacher if you would like your child to retake their picture.

Food Lion Guiding Stars Night for Apex Elementary Families

Monday, November 10

5-7 PM

Food Lion has organized an exciting event just for our Apex Elementary families. Come learn about eating healthy, participate in a fun scavenger hunt together, and win prizes. The class that has the most attendance for this event will earn a gift card for their teacher!

[Learn more here.](#)

Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy

WYWLA is excited to begin recruiting for our next incoming group of 2026-2027 Outstanding Women Leaders at Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy (WYWLA)!

Each year, WYWLA welcomes new students in Grades 6-12 to join our amazing community of staff, students, and leaders. WYWLA is a single-gender, early college magnet school focused on academic access, rigor, acceleration, and leadership development. The magnet theme of Leadership is woven into all aspects of our school.

WYWLA offers a supportive, challenging environment where girls grow into confident, compassionate, and capable leaders. See the helpful links below.

[WYWLA Website](#)

[WYWLA Magnet Page](#)

[WYWLA Prospective Family Letter \(Rising 6th\)](#) *Also Attached

[WYWLA Prospective Family Website](#)

[WYWLA Tour Dates](#)

[WYWLA Tour Sign Ups](#)

How to be marked “Present” at School

There has been a change in our attendance policy that I want to bring to your attention. Infinite Campus tracks student attendance by minutes, and students must be present for at least 180 minutes to be counted as present for the day.

This means that the earliest a student can be checked out is 12:45 p.m. — any checkout before that time will result in the student being marked absent.

Reminder: If your child has an appointment that requires an early dismissal, please submit a doctor's note so the tardy or absence can be marked as excused.

PTA Newsletter

Make sure you have read this week's PTA Newsletter for important upcoming events!

[PTA Newsletter linked here](#)

Repeat Announcements

Quarter 1 Report Cards and Conferences

Quarter 1 report cards will come home on November 7. Please review these with your child, sign and return the report card folder. Look out for information from your child's teacher about Quarter 1 parent/teacher conferences. We want to meet with all families to discuss each child's progress in Quarter 1.

Lunch Volunteers

If you are an **approved WCPSS volunteer**, please sign up to help us in the cafeteria here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AAAAE2EA7F5CF8-58693147-lunch>

After School Options at Apex ES

YMCA

EARLY ARRIVALS & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

<https://www.ymcatriangle.org/programs/school-programs>

Early arrival care and after-school care are provided for students at Apex Elementary by the Kraft Family YMCA. Information and applications are available by contacting the Kraft Family YMCA at 919-657-9622. Students who are not signed up to participate in the YMCA early arrival program may not be on campus before 8:50 AM.

Gear Shifters After School Enrichment

STEM-based afterschool enrichment program.

Wednesdays, 4 PM - 5 PM, starting October 22

[Gear Shifters Flyer](#)

Lucky Elephant Yoga and Wellness

We're excited to bring "Let's Play Yoga!" to our students through Lucky Elephant Yoga & Wellness, a playful, movement-based program designed just for kids. Led by certified instructors, these fun sessions use yoga poses, games, and mindfulness activities to support focus, self-esteem, balance, and well-being. Classes will take place from 4:00–5:00 pm on Tuesdays in the Music room. Please make sure your student brings a healthy afterschool snack. Pick up will be at 5:00 in the carpool loop. All mats and materials are provided, and we look forward to offering students this fun and meaningful after-school experience. Click on this link for registration:

<https://forms.gle/VDFpgR1v8dbYcS6V9>

Rock Solid Warrior

After School Pick Up - Ninja Warrior

[Rock Solid Warrior Flyer](#)

[Rock Solid Warrior \(more information\)](#)

Principal Message, October 19, 2025



Hello Cougars,

It has been a busy two weeks at Apex Elementary School.

October is Disability History and Awareness Month! We want to give a big shoutout to our amazing Special Educators, IAs, Related Service Providers, and support staff who care for and support all of our students with disabilities. We're so lucky to have you in our Cougar family!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Math Night—and a special thanks to Ms. Jill Shea for organizing!

Our students loved the Number Drummer assembly last week—thank you to our PTA for bringing this fun mix of math and music to Apex!

It was great seeing so many students getting some morning exercise and connecting with friends during our walk to school event.

Kristin Small, Principal

Reminders:

Report absences to your child's teacher and **attendance308@wcpss.net**

[25-26 Traditional School Calendar](#)

Upcoming Dates

10/20 Teacher Workday - No School

10/23 PTA Meeting 5:30 PM

10/31 End of Quarter 1

11/3 Fall Picture Re-Take Day

11/3-11/7 Fun Run Spirit Week - See details below

11/4 Teacher Workday - No School

11/7 Fun Run and After Party, Q1 Report Cards go home

11/11 Veterans Day - No School

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11/20 3-5 Donuts with Grownups 8-8:45 AM

11/26-11/28 Thanksgiving Holiday Break - No School

Behavior Intervention Monitoring Assessment

In our continuing efforts to support the well-being of all our students, we will be administering a universal screener of social, emotional & behavioral health. Our district is using the Behavior Intervention Monitoring Assessment System-2 (BIMAS-2) research-based screening tool. We believe this will help all of our students thrive academically by identifying students who may benefit from additional social and emotional supports and interventions, much like some students benefit from additional academic supports and interventions. To learn more, see the attached document (English and Spanish versions are attached). If you do not want your child to participate, please complete the opt-out form by 10/26/25.

[BIMAS Screener Info and Opt Out Spanish Copy](#)

[BIMAS Screener Info and Opt Out English Copy](#)

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November 7: Color Run Friday - Wear your Color Run T-Shirt

[Flyer](#)

Kindergarten Information Session

WCPSS is holding virtual information sessions for families of rising Kindergarten students. The virtual sessions will be held on:

October 29, 6-7 PM (English)

October 29, 7-8 PM (Spanish)

November 14, 10-11 AM (English)

Register today to attend the session you would like to attend, and a Google Meet link will be sent prior to the event.

[Registration Link](#)

Repeat Announcements

Lunch Volunteers

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Rock Solid Warrior

After School Pick Up - Ninja Warrior

[Rock Solid Warrior Flyer](#)

[Rock Solid Warrior \(more information\)](#)

Principal Message, October 3, 2025



Hello Cougars,

We are excited to kick off our Book Fair next week—come support our school and our readers!

October also marks the start of Bully Prevention Week and Disability Awareness Month. Throughout the month, our students will engage in activities and discussions that promote kindness, respect, and inclusion. Together, we are building a school community where every child feels safe, valued, and supported.

Kristin Small, Principal

Upcoming Dates

10/6-10/10 Fall Book Fair

10/6 World Day of Bullying Prevention - Wear Blue

10/7 Bee Kind Day

10/8 Peace Out to Bullying, Walk to School Day

10/9 Color the World with Kindness (k-red, 1-orange, 2-yellow, 3-Green, 4-Blue, 5-purple)

10/9 Family Math Night

10/10 PJ Day, Cultural Arts Number Drummer Event sponsored by the PTA

10/13 Indigenous People Day, Teacher Workday (no school)

10/15 Sit, Stay, Read with Ms. Wilson at 7:30 PM (virtual)

10/14-10/17 National School Lunch Week

PTA Newsletter

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Book Fair Hours

October 6-10

The book fair is open daily 8:50 AM - 3:30 PM

On Thursday October 9, the Book Fair is open 8:50 AM - 7 PM

Parents can come shop during the day at any time. If you want to shop during the day with your child, please check with teachers so students are not missing important lessons.

Pet-Tober

Check out how Ms. Wilson is encouraging reading and writing in the media center this month! What challenge can your child take on during Pet-tober?

[Pet-Tober Details \(English\)](#)

[Pet-Tober Details \(Spanish\)](#)

Communication Updates

School communication was a key topic at our Parent Advisory meeting this week. We are currently gathering feedback from families and will be making adjustments to improve our communication practices. Stay tuned for more updates!

In the meantime, our **Friday Family Communications** will shift to an **every-other-week schedule** and will be sent on **Sundays at 2:00 PM**.

The next Family Communication will be sent on **Sunday, October 19**.

Talking Points

Several families have noted difficulty with Talking Points. If you have the Talking Points app, you no longer receive text messages. There are two options for receiving notifications.

- If you want texts, log out of the app first and delete it. You will then start getting text messages once everything syncs.
- If you have the app, you will not get text messages. You can set up push notifications in your phone to get notifications from the app. Here is an article about it

<https://intercom.help/talkingpoints/en/articles/10073773-how-can-i-change-my-notifications-settings-families>

Kindergarten Registration Opens October 15!

We are less than a month away from the start of Kindergarten registration! Rising K families can join the Office of Early Learning along with the Office of Student Assignment and the Office of Magnet Programs to learn more about enrolling with Wake County Public Schools.

Kindergarten information session flyers:

[Flyer #1](#)

[Flyer #2](#)

Repeat Announcements

Lunch Volunteers

If you are an **approved WCPSS volunteer**, please sign up to help us in the cafeteria here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AAAAE2EA7F5CF8-58693147-lunch>

Math Night

Thursday, October 9

5-7 PM

Math games will be set up in classrooms throughout the school. Come travel to different classrooms to play games together. We will have food trucks on site.

[Spanish Flyer](#)

[English Flyer](#)

Bully Prevention Week

October 6 - 10

During Bully Prevention Week, we'll celebrate kindness, respect, and inclusion as we work together to create a safe and welcoming school for everyone. Let's encourage our students to spread positivity every day!

[English Flyer Linked Here](#)

[Spanish Flyer Linked Here](#)

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After School Pick Up - Ninja Warrior

[Rock Solid Warrior Flyer](#)

[Rock Solid Warrior \(more information\)](#)

Principal Message, September 26, 2025



Hello Cougars,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Open House last week! We are already halfway through the first quarter, and interim reports are coming home today. Please take some time to review these with your child, and don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. Working together is the best way to ensure the success of all our students.

This week, we will celebrate Custodial Appreciation Week. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated custodial team that keeps our building clean, safe, and welcoming all year long. Please join me in showing them our gratitude.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kristin Small, Principal

Upcoming Dates

9/29 School Picture Day

9/30 AIG and Talent Development Information Session

10/2 Custodial Appreciation Day

10/6-10/10 Fall Book Fair

10/6 World Day of Bullying Prevention - Wear Blue

10/7 Bee Kind Day

10/8 Peace Out to Bullying

10/9 Color the World with Kindness (k-red, 1-orange, 2-yellow, 3-Green, 4-Blue, 5-purple)

10/9 Family Math Night

10/10 PJ Day

Lunch Volunteers

This school year, visitors can start eating lunch with their own children on September 22. We are also opening up the opportunity for approved WCPSS volunteers to support during lunch in the cafeteria. Volunteers will circulate the cafeteria to assist students and lend a hand with clean-up afterward. This extra support makes a big difference for our staff and helps keep lunchtime running smoothly. If you're interested, please sign up using the link below. Thank you for partnering with us to make lunchtime a positive experience for all!

If you are an **approved WCPSS volunteer**, please sign up to help us in the cafeteria here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AAAAE2EA7F5CF8-58693147-lunch>

Math Night

October 9

5-7 PM

Come enjoy dinner from on-site food trucks, meet other Apex ES families, and play math games together.

[Spanish Flyer](#)

[English Flyer](#)

Bully Prevention Week

October 6 - 10

During Bully Prevention Week, we'll celebrate kindness, respect, and inclusion as we work together to create a safe and welcoming school for everyone. Let's encourage our students to spread positivity every day!

[English Flyer Linked Here](#)

[Spanish Flyer Linked Here](#)

School Picture Day - September 29

More information here:

 102133 Apex Elementary School FALL1 476639 Run 1.pdf

 476639-1 QR.pdf

Magnet and Early College Fair

Magnet Fair and Kindergarten Kickoff

Saturday, November 1

9 AM-12 PM

Southeast Raleigh High School

Magnet/YR Application period: October 15-January 22

wcpss.schoolmint.com

You can find more information here:

 [Copy of Magnet and Early College Fair 2025.pdf](#)

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[Rock Solid Warrior \(more information\)](#)

Principal Message, September 19, 2025



Hello Cougars,

Happy Friday! We've had another wonderful week of learning and growing together. I loved getting into classrooms and seeing so much great learning in action. Our 5th graders were investigating volume with popcorn, our 3rd graders have been creating realistic art through observational drawings, and our Kindergarteners are becoming more and more independent each day. It's inspiring to watch our students grow in confidence and skills.

We hope to see you all on Wednesday for our Open House. This is a great opportunity to connect with staff, learn more about the skills and knowledge your child will gain this school year, and how you can help at home.

Wishing you a restful weekend with your families!

Kristin Small, Principal

Upcoming Dates

9/22 Building is open to visitors and volunteers

9/23 Teacher Workday - No School for Students

9/24

5:15-5:45 PM AIG Information Session

5:15-5:45 PM Reach to Achieve Session for 3rd Grade families

6-7 PM K-5 Curriculum Night/Open House

9/26 Wacky Tacky Spirit Day for attendance awareness, Q1 Interim Reports sent home

9/29 School Picture Day

9/30 AIG and Talent Development Information Session

10/2 Custodial Appreciation Day

Kindergarten Dental Screening

Kindergarten families, please read the notice linked below about upcoming dental screenings. It includes information about how to opt out.

 [Parent Screening Notice-2025 .docx](#)

4th & 5th Grade Specials

We are excited to share that our 4th- and 5th-grade students will have the chance to participate in student-choice clubs this school year! Clubs will meet on Fridays during full school weeks (5-day weeks).

This month, students completed a survey to share their interests. Based on those results, they will be placed in clubs that give them the opportunity to explore new topics and activities. Clubs will be led by our specialists and support staff, and some may also invite parent volunteers to join in the fun.

Students will have the opportunity to experience three different clubs this school year - we will have a fall, winter, and spring session.

Lunch Volunteers

This school year, visitors can start eating lunch with their own children on September 22. We are also opening up the opportunity for approved WCPSS volunteers to support during lunch in the cafeteria. Volunteers will circulate the cafeteria to assist students and lend a hand with clean-up afterward. This extra support makes a big difference for our staff and helps keep lunchtime running smoothly. If you're interested, please sign up using the link below. Thank you for partnering with us to make lunchtime a positive experience for all!

If you are an **approved WCPSS volunteer**, please sign up to help us in the cafeteria here:

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School Picture Day - September 29

More information here:

 [102133 Apex Elementary School FALL1 476639 Run 1.pdf](#)

 [476639-1 QR.pdf](#)

Open House - September 24

Our K-5 Curriculum Night will be held on **Wednesday, September 24, from 6:00-7:00 PM.**

During this event, parents will:

- Learn what students will be studying in their grade level this year.
- Gain strategies to support literacy, math, and social-emotional growth at home.
- Receive information about ways to get involved with our PTA.

This evening is designed as an **informational session for adults**. Children who attend should remain with their parents and join them in the classrooms.

Event Details:

5:15-5:45 PM Read To Achieve session for 3rd Grade families (more information to come)

5:15-5:45 PM AIG Information Session for Families

6-6:25 PM Session 1

6:30-6:55 PM Session 2

*Sessions will occur in your child's classroom. Each session will have the same content.

Read to Achieve Family Night

September 24

5:15-5:45 PM

Join us for a Read to Achieve Family Night to learn about North Carolina's Read to Achieve law and what it means for your child. We will explain how reading is assessed in K-3, what the results mean, and the different ways students can show proficiency by the end of third grade. Come find out how we can work together to support every child's reading success.

AIG Information Session for Parents

We invite all parents and guardians interested in accelerated learning opportunities to attend an upcoming AIG (Academically or Intellectually Gifted) Information Session. This meeting will provide an overview of the AIG program as well as other accelerated opportunities offered at Apex Elementary.

Meeting Date/Time: **Wednesday September 24th 5:15-5:45 PM**

Location: **Media Center**

AIG Fall Semester Nomination Window

Email bbussey@wcpss.net for student nominations. Deadline: October 06, 2025

Teachers, Parents or Students may nominate:

- High achieving 4th, 5th grade students who are not already identified
- High achieving 4th, 5th grade students who wish to add a second area of identification

- High achieving 3rd, 4th, 5th grade students who are new to Wake County Public School

Principal Message, September 12, 2025



Hello Cougars,

I hope you all had a wonderful week!

September 15–October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic Americans. At Apex ES, we are proud to have 127 students with Hispanic heritage, and we look forward to honoring and learning together throughout the month.

Take care,

Kristin Small, Principal

Upcoming Dates

9/19 Superhero Spirit Day for Attendance Awareness

9/22 Building is open to visitors and volunteers

9/23 Teacher Workday - No School for Students

9/24 *Time Adjustment*****

5:15-5:45 PM AIG Information Session

5:15-5:45 PM Reach to Achieve Session for 3rd Grade families

6-7 PM K-5 Curriculum Night/Open House

9/26 Wacky Tacky Spirit Day for attendance awareness

9/29 School Picture Day

Scheduling an Appointment

During the school day, our staff is busy making sure all of our children are getting a world-class education. If you would like to meet with a staff member, please contact us to schedule an appointment. We will always do our best to assist if you stop by unexpectedly, but we cannot guarantee availability without prior notice.

Snacks and Treats in the Cafeteria

I want to share a quick reminder about snacks and treats at school. Families can place limits on student lunch accounts to help manage how many snacks students can purchase. Without a limit, it's not unusual for a child to buy several treats in one day—which often means skipping their meal and getting a big sugar rush instead.

Our family handbook also encourages sending a healthier option for birthday celebrations rather than sugary treats. We know this is a culture shift, and we haven't enforced it strictly, but we'd love your support in moving toward healthier choices. Simple options like popcorn or popsicles can make celebrations fun without adding quite so much sugar.

This helps keep our students healthier and makes it easier for our teachers to support focused, happy learners throughout the day.

Thank you for partnering with us in caring for our kids.

School Volunteers

School volunteers and visitors will be permitted to begin school visits on Monday, September 22 and we look forward to having you in the building.

If you have not already done so, please take the time to complete the WCPSS Volunteer Approval process to ensure that you can serve as a school volunteer and chaperone field trips. Even if you do not plan to volunteer this school year, it would be beneficial to submit your application, in case there comes a time when you would like to visit or volunteer your time in your child's classroom.

What is the procedure for volunteering?

To volunteer, parents must register per the instructions below:

New Volunteers

Anyone who plans to volunteer for the 2025-26 school year must register using the [WCPSS volunteer system](#). Click “*Create New Account*” and complete the required fields. This registration can be completed anywhere. You do not have to be on a WCPSS campus.

Returning Volunteers

If you were an approved volunteer for the 2024-25 school year, you simply have to renew your volunteer registration. This must be done by October 1, 2025. To do so, visit your [MyVolunteer](#) account and follow the steps for volunteer renewal. If this is not done by the October 1 deadline, you must follow the steps above to register as a new volunteer.

If you have any issues during the renewal process, contact the MyVolunteer customer support team at 877-272-0266 or customer care@mycrc.com.

Registration Process for WCPSS Employees Who Want to Volunteer

Although WCPSS employees are not required to undergo a criminal record check to volunteer, they must still register. To complete the volunteer registration process, select the “Current Staff of WCPSS” link on [MyVolunteer](#) and use your WCPSS email address.

If you have any questions about the volunteer system, please contact our assistant principal, Mr. Wesley Clark, at wclark@wcpss.net.

School Picture Day - September 29

More information here:

 102133 Apex Elementary School FALL1 476639 Run 1.pdf

 476639-1 QR.pdf

Hispanic Heritage Month Opportunities

See below for an opportunity for families and staff to come together to celebrate Hispanic Heritage.

 (ENG) Final HHM Flyer .png

 (SPA) Final HHM Flyer .png

Jump Rope Club 2025

We are so excited to be partnering with the Cary YMCA and the Super Skippers to offer a free jump rope club for 4th and 5th graders. This club will take place after school from 3:45-4:45pm, once a month, on the Mondays listed below. Please fill out this [google form](#) if you are interested in having

your child participate. More details will be shared via email once your child is confirmed to be in the club. Space is limited to 25 students. Please make sure your student can attend at least 7 out of 9 sessions and your child has a way to be picked up at the school at 4:45pm before signing up. Sign up will close on 9/26 or before if 25 students sign up. Please reach out to Alison Bowman through Talking Points or email at abowman@wcpss.net if you have any questions.

Club Dates (first Monday of the month):

October 6

November 3

December 1

January 5

February 2

March 2

April 13 (not the first Monday of the month due to a teacher workday)

May 4

June 1

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6-6:25 PM Session 1

6:30-6:55 PM Session 2

*Sessions will occur in your child's classroom. Each session will have the same content.

Read to Achieve Family Night

September 24

5:15-5:45 PM

Join us for a Read to Achieve Family Night to learn about North Carolina's Read to Achieve law and what it means for your child. We will explain how reading is assessed in K-3, what the results mean, and the different ways students can show proficiency by the end of third grade. Come find out how we can work together to support every child's reading success.

AIG Information Session for Parents

We invite all parents and guardians interested in accelerated learning opportunities to attend an upcoming AIG (Academically or Intellectually Gifted) Information Session. This meeting will provide an overview of the AIG program as well as other accelerated opportunities offered at Apex Elementary.

Meeting Date/Time: **Wednesday September 24th 5:15-5:45 PM**

Location: **Media Center**

AIG Fall Semester Nomination Window

Email bbussey@wcpss.net for student nominations. Deadline: October 06, 2025

Teachers, Parents or Students may nominate:

- High achieving 4th, 5th grade students who are not already identified
- High achieving 4th, 5th grade students who wish to add a second area of identification
- High achieving 3rd, 4th, 5th grade students who are new to Wake County Public School

Attendance Awareness Month - September

[Attendance Information \(Spanish\)](#)

[Attendance Information \(English\)](#)

Students have been challenged to create a poem, story, or essay sharing why they come to school, or why it is important to come to school every day. Students will be selected to read their piece on the morning announcements.

Friday Spirit Days

September 19: Superhero Day "You are CAPE-able to come to school every day."

September 26: Wacky Tacky Day "There is nothing tacky about being on time."

If you have questions or concerns about getting your child to school, please contact our School Social Worker, Melissa McCullen (mmccullen@wcpss.net).

Principal Message, September 5, 2025



Hello Cougars,

We now have 99 members of the PTA! Thank you so much for fulfilling my birthday wish! I encourage you all to join the PTA. Staff and parents must renew their membership each school year. Our PTA does so much for our school, and we appreciate your support.

It was a wonderful week to welcome our Kindergarten students. I love their excitement and how quickly they learn the routines of school.

I helped a Kindergarten student walk to class this morning. I said, "Hello, dear, what is your favorite thing about Kindergarten so far?" The child responded, "You mean Cougar, right? We are the Cougars, not the Deer." I truly have the best job in the world.

Take care,
Kristin Small, Principal

Upcoming Dates

9/12 Instructional Assistant Appreciation Day, Hat Spirit Day for Attendance Awareness

9/19 Superhero Spirit Day for Attendance Awareness

9/23 Teacher Workday - No School for Students

9/24 K-5 Curriculum Night

9/26 Wacky Tacky Spirit Day for attendance awareness



School Progress Reports

[Apex Elementary School Progress Report](#)

Wake County published its annual school progress reports this week. You can find the report for Apex Elementary linked above. We use this data and more to make decisions to improve our school.

Strengths:

- Above WCPSS and NC averages for the percentage of students proficient on EOGs
- 100% of teachers feel supported by parents/guardians
- 97% of staff say Apex Elementary is a good place to work and learn

Opportunities:

- Our student growth measures are below WCPSS and NC
- The percentage of K-2 students reaching reading benchmarks is slightly below the WCPSS average
- Science scores are slightly below WCPSS average

Open House - September 24

Our K-5 Curriculum Night will be held on **Wednesday, September 24, from 5:30-7:00 PM.**

During this event, parents will:

- Learn what students will be studying in their grade level this year.
- Gain strategies to support literacy, math, and social-emotional growth at home.

- Receive information about ways to get involved with our PTA.

This evening is designed as an **informational session for adults**. Children who attend should remain with their parents and join them in the classrooms.

Event Details:

5:15-5:45 PM Read To Achieve session for 3rd Grade families (more information to come)

6-6:25 PM Session 1

6:30-6:55 PM Session 2

*Sessions will occur in your child's classroom. Each session will have the same content.

Carpool

We appreciate everyone's patience as we have navigated and troubleshooted issues with our carpool system. As of today, we have fewer than ten students who are not appearing in our online dismissal system. We have been closely working with the platform developers and the WCPSS HelpDesk, and we hope to have this issue resolved next week.

Attendance Awareness Month - September

[Attendance Information \(Spanish\)](#)

[Attendance Information \(English\)](#)

Students have been challenged to create a poem, story, or essay sharing why they come to school, or why it is important to come to school every day. Students will be selected to read their piece on the morning announcements.

Friday Spirit Days

September 12: Hat Day "Head for success by arriving on time"

September 19: Superhero Day "You are CAPE-able to come to school every day."

September 26: Wacky Tacky Day "There is nothing tacky about being on time."

If you have questions or concerns about getting your child to school, please contact our School Social Worker, Melissa McCullen (mmccullen@wcpss.net).

2025 EOG Individual Student Reports (ISR)

Your child's ISR is now posted in Infinite Campus for all of last spring's EOGs. Follow [these directions](#) to locate your child's detailed results and reach out to Morgan Fisher (mfisher@wcpss.net) with questions on the reports and Griselda Hernandez-Cortez (ghernandezcortez@wcpss.net) with Infinite Campus questions.

Reminder: Technology Policy Update

Personal items (toys, trading cards, stuffed animals, fidgets) need to be kept at home, unless your child's teacher allows these items in their classroom for rewards, special occasions, etc. The only electronic device that should be brought to school are county assigned Chromebooks. If your student must bring communication devices to school (cell phones/smart watches), they should remain in their backpacks and/or airplane mode to not disturb the learning environment. [Apex ES Parent/Student Handbook](#)

Single Subject Acceleration (SSA) Testing for Families New to WCPSS

Welcome to WCPSS! Please click on [this link](#) if you are interested in learning more about accelerated opportunities for students who are new to WCPSS. Students who qualify for Single Subject Acceleration (SSA) take either math or reading (never both) at the next grade level while taking the remaining subjects at the current grade level. In the fall, these opportunities are only for families new to WCPSS. These same opportunities are offered annually in the spring for all families. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Bussey at bbussey@wcpss.net

New School Resource Officer From the Apex Police Department

Officer Hawkins is our new school resource officer from the Apex Police Department. Officer Hawkins will be at our school infrequently to start the year as the police department works to hire additional school resource officers, but you might see more of him as the year progresses. We appreciate Apex for its support in keeping our schools safe.



Principal Message, August 29, 2025



Hello Cougars,

The first week of school brought so much joy and energy into our building. I also know it was a full and tiring week for everyone—students, families, and staff alike. I hope this long weekend gives you a chance to rest, recharge, and enjoy time together.

Next week, we are especially excited to welcome our Kindergarteners for their very first week of school! It's always such a special milestone for our community.

September 2 is my birthday, and my wish is for 50 of our families to join the PTA this weekend. Let's make it happen! Together, we can strengthen our school community for our students. See below for details on how to join.

Take care,
Kristin Small, Principal

Upcoming Dates

9/2/25 First Day of School for all Kindergarten Students, Cheers and Tears for K families at 9:15, 1st day of school for Pre-K, SHARE program launch

9/5 Pre-K Family-School Partnership Day, College Spirit Day for Attendance Awareness Week

9/12 Instructional Assistant Appreciation Day

9/24 K-5 Curriculum Night

Carpool - Thank you

We appreciate your patience with carpool this week. We have had some technical difficulties that we are still in the process of resolving.

Procedures for all cars:

- When joining the carpool line, please enter the lane by turning right into the school parking lot. Cars that turn left prevent the school staff from seeing your carpool number. This results in students not being notified that their vehicle is on campus.
- Ensure that your carpool hangtag is displayed before joining the carpool line.
- Pull all the way up - even if you see your child at a cone
- Set your car seat or booster seat on the passenger side of your vehicle
- Adults remain in your vehicle at all times
- Teach your child to INDEPENDENTLY Enter & Exit your vehicle

Please DO NOT:

- Pull around or pass other vehicles
- Get out of your vehicle. If you need time to help your child with the car seat or seat belt, please pull forward and park

Walker Permission Form

[Student Walker Agreement Linked](#)

If your child walks or bikes from school, please be sure you have filled out our Walker Agreement Form.

Salem Village Walker Safety Update

If you are picking up your child, please cross over the parking lot exit to the grassy side (rock side) to meet them. This helps staff ensure each child connects with the correct parent and keeps students safe from running in front of cars exiting the lot.

Attendance Awareness Month - September

[Attendance Information \(Spanish\)](#)

[Attendance Information \(English\)](#)

September is Attendance Awareness Month. We are excited to see your child every day so they can learn as much as possible this school year. Good attendance will help your child do well in school, college, and their career. During the 24-25 school year, **55% of our students had satisfactory attendance**. Our school is committed to seeing **70% of our students achieve satisfactory attendance** (missing 8 days or less) this year. Any time missed in the classroom (excused or unexcused) is a lost opportunity to learn. If you have questions or concerns about getting your child to school, please contact our School Social Worker, Melissa McCullen (mmccullen@wcpss.net).



Join the PTA

One of the best ways to support our school is by joining the PTA. Joining the PTA does not mean that you have to attend meetings or volunteer; it links you to this important organization that does so much for our school. Please show your support by joining today!

[Link to Join the PTA Here](#)

Cheers and Tears

[Flyer Linked Here](#)

Greetings from the Apex Elementary PTA! Please join us for a "Cheers & Tears" Breakfast on Tuesday, September 2nd, at 9:15 am in the school cafeteria. This time will be used to meet & greet with other Kinder parents, hear a brief presentation from our School Counselors, and learn more about our PTA! We're looking forward to welcoming you all to Apex Elementary!

Amazon Wish Lists (corrected link)

[Amazon Wish List Link Here](#)

We are so grateful for your continued support with our school Amazon Wish Lists! Our Instructional Support Team has created a wish list for our PLC (meeting) Room as well as other instructional and teacher needs throughout our building. This list was previously shared in the last principal's message as a collaboration link, but below you will find a new link that allows you to view the items and purchase if you would like.

We truly appreciate your support for our Apex Elementary instructional and PLC needs!

School Meals

[School Meal Website](#)

Our school cafés are proud to serve tasty, nourishing meals that fuel learning every day! Families can find menus, nutrition details, payment options, and information about meal benefits on our website.

Project Enlightenment

[Explore workshops offered for parents of young children](#)

Project Enlightenment offers in-person and virtual training sessions throughout the year for parents of young children. Most workshops are free of charge. Our knowledgeable staff take the mystery out of topics such as discipline, self-control, developmentally appropriate practices, and more. The first parent course is Sept. 8.

Let's Play Yoga

We're excited to bring "Let's Play Yoga!" to our students through Lucky Elephant Yoga & Wellness, a playful, movement-based program designed just for kids. Led by certified instructors, these fun sessions use yoga poses, games, and mindfulness activities to support focus, self-esteem, balance, and well-being. Classes will take place from 4:00–5:00 pm on Tuesdays in the Art room. Please make sure your student brings a healthy afterschool snack. Pick up will be at 5:00 PM at the front of the school. All mats and materials are provided, and we look forward to offering students this fun and meaningful after-school experience. Click on this link for registration: <https://forms.gle/VDFpgR1v8dbYcS6V9>

Rise and Roar: AES Parent Connection

Thursday, September 4th, 9:15 AM

AES Cafeteria

Come join other Apex Elementary Parents for a morning of connection, community, and sharing! The school year is easier and more fun when you have community! We will hear from school administration, divide up by grades so you can get to know other parents in your child's grade, and leave with some ideas of how to continue to build community at AES going forward!

Principal Message, August 22, 2025



Hello Cougars,

It was such a joy to see so many families at our *Meet the Teacher* event this week. Watching friends reconnect and new connections begin reminded me once again how special the Apex Elementary community truly is.

We are so excited to begin a new school year together—one filled with learning, growth, and memories yet to be made. I am grateful and honored to be part of this journey with you.

Take care,
Kristin Small, Principal

Upcoming Dates

8/25 First Day of School for 1-5 Grade Students, staggered entry for Kindergarten

8/28 Independence Day for 1-5th grade students

8/29 Kindergarten Meet the Teacher 8-8:45 AM

9/1 Labor Day Holiday - No School

9/2 First Day of School for all Kindergarten Students, Cheers and Tears for K families at 9:15 AM, first day of school for Pre-K

9/5 Pre-K Family-School Partnership Day

First Week Details

To ensure a smooth opening to the school year, please ensure your children have a good night sleep and are packed for school the night before. Each morning, we have a lot of friendly staff members to guide students toward their new classes. Parents can walk students to class for the first 3 days of school. On the 4th day, we will celebrate “Independence Day.” As a reminder, parents can begin eating lunch with their children starting September 22, so procedures can be well established first.

****New Absence Reporting Procedures****

To simplify reporting absences for your child this school year, parents will use this email address to report absences: **attendance308@wcpss.net**

This will streamline the process and allow for more timely and accurate coding of absences.

Strong school attendance is directly linked to success. Please leverage the already scheduled days off (Vacation, Holiday, Teacher Workdays) on the [25-26 Traditional School Calendar](#) as you plan your trips and events. We want your child to have full benefit of the great teaching happening every day at Apex Elementary!

Transportation

Ensuring that all our students arrive home safely in the afternoon is a top priority for us at Apex. Please complete the following [Google Form](#) to indicate how your child will go home each day. The mode of transportation that you indicate on this form should be the primary mode of transportation. If there are days when your child's mode of transportation changes, please notify your child's teacher and the front office.

Bus Transportation

Please be patient the first couple of weeks of school as routes get situated. The time you received for pick up/drop off is an approximation with a 10 minute window on either side of the time. Sign up for the "Here Comes the Bus" app in order to track your student's bus. Download the free app, enter in the WCPSS code of 67500, and then your student's ID number. Students in Grades K-1 must have a parent/guardian or designee at the afternoon bus stop to be released from the bus.

[Bus delay notification](#)

Let's Play Yoga

We're excited to bring "Let's Play Yoga!" to our students through Lucky Elephant Yoga & Wellness, a playful, movement-based program designed just for kids. Led by certified instructors, these fun sessions use yoga poses, games, and mindfulness activities to support focus, self-esteem, balance, and well-being. Classes will take place from 4:00–5:00 pm on Tuesdays in the Art room. Please make sure your student brings a healthy afterschool snack. Pick up will be at 5:00 PM at the front of the school. All mats and materials are

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Amazon Wish List for Staff

Each week, teams across our building meet in Professional Learning Communities to improve teaching and learning at Apex Elementary. Staff meet in our "PLC" room. We love to keep this room stocked with treats and need your help! You can find our Wish List linked below.

[Link to Amazon Wish List](#)

Peak Beginnings: Early Childhood Enrichment Program

Peak Beginnings is looking for students for their new class. The children in the new cohort need to have birthdays between Sept. 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023. Click the link below for more information.

[Peak Beginnings Flyer](#)