

Carolyn Henderson  
Principal Hendersonville Elementary School

From a kindergarten assistant at Balfour Elementary School in 1990 to the principal of Hendersonville Elementary School in 2024, my career with HCPS has been marked by dynamic schools, inspiring leaders, creative and caring colleagues, supportive parents, and remarkable students.

I knew I wanted to be a teacher in first grade when I took over my teacher's chair at the horseshoe table. She had stepped away to speak with a student, and I picked up where she left off, continuing the reading lesson. I am not sure how long she watched me, but when I looked up and saw her smiling down at me with approval, I was hooked. As I progressed through our school system as a student, many teachers influenced and encouraged me to become an educator. The biggest question I faced when heading off to college was which level of education I would pursue: Should I be a secondary math teacher or teach all subjects in an elementary school? Elementary won out, as the desire to help young students fall in love with learning, just as I had, became my driving goal.

Some highlights of my career include being part of the staff that started two new schools—Clear Creek Elementary and the new Hillandale building—earning my National Board Certification in 2001, assisting others with pursuing their certification, earning a master's degree in elementary education, and mentoring many teachers along the way. My teaching experiences allowed me to work at Balfour, Clear Creek, and Hillandale Elementary Schools, and later, I served as the instructional coach for Hillandale, Atkinson, Bruce Drysdale, and Hendersonville Elementary Schools. Three years ago, I earned my master's in administration to continue working alongside the staff at Bruce Drysdale as their assistant principal.

Although I was named the new principal of Hendersonville Elementary two months ago and have had a very busy and short summer making the transition, I am still pinching myself. The most exciting part is knowing that I am in wonderful hands as I continue to learn and grow into the leader I am meant to be with the help of the HES family. Our school theme this year is "Leaders are Built Here." This is such an appropriate theme as the school moves into its second year of Leader in Me implementation, growing ourselves as leaders and inspiring our students to greatness.

With the support of the Henderson County Education Foundation, leaders are built throughout our district. Not only does the HCEF assist schools with their Leader in Me programs, but they also award scholarships to graduating seniors pursuing higher education goals and to adults working in the school system to achieve their goal of becoming teachers. As a new principal, I am particularly appreciative of the Spring Fund. The one thousand dollars that the Henderson County Education Foundation provides to every principal each year will enable me to meet critical needs for students and their families. Although a principal is one person, I do not stand alone. With the expertise and guidance of HCPS leadership, daily service alongside the amazing HES staff, and the support of the Henderson County Education Foundation, I feel incredibly fortunate and honored to be in this new role as the head Cubcat.



Meet the Teacher



First Day of School!



School photo - It's supposed to be a hard hat!



These are some of the Students of the Month for July



Some more Student of the Month recognitions for July