



Connecting With Your WCPSS Schools Is Rewarding



Back to School

WCPSS welcomes thousand of new and returning students to school for 2010-11. How the community can help make the trip to school safe for our students.



See Spot Read

Athens Drive Public Library hosts a reading program that brings in man's best friend to increase literacy for young readers.

**Pull Out
and Save!**



Class of 2010

More than 8,200 high school students received diplomas over the summer in 21 different graduation ceremonies.



**Look inside to see
what your schools
have to offer!**



**WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

Visit the WCPSS website: www.wcpss.net

WCPSS Basic Facts

- **Projected Enrollment:** 143,432 students; WCPSS remains the largest school district in the state and the 18th largest in the nation
- **Number of Schools:** 163, including 103 elementary, 32 middle, 24 high, and 4 special/optional schools
- **108 schools operate on a traditional calendar** (61 elementary schools, 21 middle schools, 22 high schools, 4 special/optional schools)
- **49 schools operate on a year-round calendar** (40 elementary schools, 9 middle schools)
- **5 schools operate on a modified year-round calendar** (2 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 1 high school)
- **1 school operates on Wake Technical Community College's calendar** (Wake Early College of Health and Sciences High School)
- **Operating Budget (2009-10):** Approximately \$1.2 billion, with 88 percent going to schools (people, supplies, training), 7 percent to auxiliary services, 2 percent to instructional services, 1 percent to administrative services, 1 percent to technology services, and 1 percent to organizational development, communications, area superintendents and the Wake County Board of Education
- **Funding Sources:** 62 percent from the state, 31 percent from local sources, and 7 percent from federal sources

K-9s Lend an Ear to Beginning Readers



Most patrons don't expect to come across a canine curling up to a book when they visit the library. The very idea of a dog enjoying a good, page-turning story among the well-stocked bookshelves, computer stations, and quiet buzz of a typical library can seem more like a work of fiction rather than reality. But it's not such a strange sight here in Wake County where the See Spot Read literacy program is flourishing. See Spot Read is a read-aloud program for dogs and beginning readers. The goal of the program is to make reading fun by encouraging young children to read to therapy dogs in a comfortable setting.

"I think it's very unique to walk into a library and see a dog or any pet," says Athens Drive librarian Kerri-Ann Ruthven. "But then I think there's something about reading to a dog that there is no pressure. The dog isn't going to interrupt you, or correct you, or look at you if you mispronounce a word. They're good listeners."

Athens Drive Library, one of several different See Spot Read locations, hosts the program each month. Four dogs have been certified as reading companions at the Athens Drive location and faithfully show up to hear from readers while enjoying back rubs and head patting at the same time. Athens Drive High School senior Hannah Gardner participates in the program as a volunteer. She brings her six-year-old black Labrador retriever named Mandy to the Athens Drive Library for story time. Hannah has personally trained Mandy as a therapy dog for her high school graduation project.

"Mandy loves the kids. She'll just lay back, her tail will be wagging, and it never stops," describes Hannah. "I think it's important for me to do this, because when I was little, I actually read to my dog, and I thought it was a very easy-going environment to learn."

See Spot Read founder Rebecca Hirschfield says the reading program has grown to include more than 50 active volunteers at various schools, libraries and community centers in Wake County. She and Freddie, her shepherd/hound mix, started the program in 2008.

"There is that special bond between humans and dogs that makes this program work," explains Hirschfield. "It is kind of magical to connect with animals like that."

Part of the magic that Hirschfield describes is due to the dogs' temperaments.

"It takes a fairly laid-back and well-trained dog to be in contact with these kids for an hour. When they are reading to the dogs, a lot of kids take it very seriously and will turn the book so the dog can see the pictures. It's important that the dog stay engaged so that the child feels the dog is really listening."

Athens Drive Library is located inside Athens Drive High School. The facility serves the community and the high school through a unique partnership between the Wake County Public School System and the Wake County Public Library System. Visitors interested in meeting Mandy and the other Athens Drive pooches can visit during the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

To learn how to participate in See Spot Read, visit <http://seespotread.com/>.





More Than 8,200 Students in Class of 2010

The Wake County Public School System awarded diplomas to 8,223 students in 21 different graduation ceremonies this summer. This year, WCPSS high schools held graduation ceremonies at the Raleigh Convention Center, the Progress Energy Center and in Holiday Gym at Broughton High. Most schools had a graduating class of 300 to 500 seniors, with three having 500 or more seniors. Wakefield High had 621 graduates.

Health and Sciences, the WCPSS's first early college high school. There were 54 Wake Early College graduates in the Class of 2010 including 19 who have earned two-year college degrees in addition to completing their high school requirements.



The class of 2010 earned \$65 million in scholarships, had 991 students qualifying for the North Carolina Scholars program and more than 1,200 Honor

Society graduates.

The 8,223 graduates this year compares with 8,094 last year. Many students will go on to pursue two-year or four-year college degrees, join the military or enter the workforce. To read more about the graduating Class of 2010, visit: http://www.wcpss.net/news/2010_june2_graduation/

“Graduation is a tremendous accomplishment. We are proud of this year’s graduating class and all of their achievements! I also appreciate the hard work and dedicated effort of every teacher, administrator, family member and volunteer that helped make this moment possible for each of our graduates.”

*Donna Hargens
Interim Superintendent*



Enloe Magnet High had 579. Broughton High had 509. In addition, this was the first class of graduates from the Wake Early College of

Back-to-School Time: Please Drive Safely

This fall, the Wake County Public School System will welcome more than 143,432 students back to school. When school is back in session, it’s an exciting time for school-aged children. But this time of year also means that the community should be extra alert to the thousands of bus riders, walkers, and teen drivers on the road.

During the 2010-11 school year, more than 900 school buses will hit the road each day, transporting nearly 73,000 students to and from school. With student safety being a top priority, prevention and knowledge of state laws is the best response. Children and their parents, as well as educators and community members need to be informed about children and school buses.

In North Carolina, it is unlawful to pass a stopped school bus while the bus is displaying its mechanical stop sign and

flashing red lights and is stopped for the purpose of letting passengers on or off the bus. Flashing yellow lights on a school bus indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children, and motorists should slow down and prepare to stop. Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped, and children are getting on or off. Motorists are required to stop

their vehicles and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

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Safety Tips for Motorists

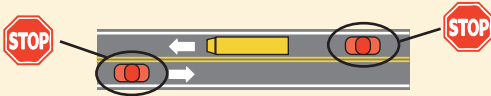
- Obey the posted speed limit. (Fines double in school zones.)
- Keep an eye on children gathered at bus stops.
- Slow down in school and residential areas.
- Watch for children who might dart across the street to catch the bus.
- Avoid distractions when you’re driving, such as eating or talking on a cell phone.
- Always stop for school buses.
- Allot extra travel time or adjust your route to account for bus schedules/traffic.

Back-to-School Time: Please Drive Safely

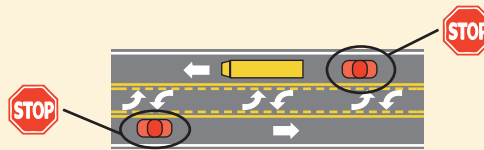
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School Bus Stop Law

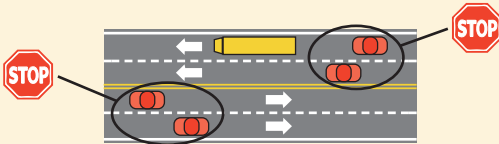
- 1. Two-lane roadway:** When a school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.



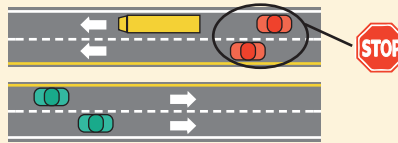
- 2. Two-lane roadway with a center turning lane:** When a school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.



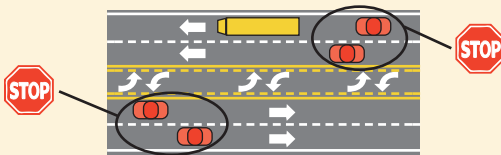
- 3. Four-lane roadway without a median separation:** When a school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.



- 4. Divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation:** When a school bus stops for passengers, all traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.



- 5. Roadway of four lanes or more with a center turning lane:** When a school bus stops for passengers, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.



Back to School

TRADITIONAL FIRST DAY

August 25

YEAR-ROUND FIRST DAY

July 9 (for tracks 1, 2, 3),
August 2 (for track 4)

MODIFIED FIRST DAY

July 26

WAKE EARLY COLLEGE FIRST DAY

August 10

This sign means you are near a crosswalk in a school zone.

When school is opening in the morning and closing in the afternoon, the area around the school is very busy and crowded. There will be many children using the crosswalk. Drivers must stop to allow people in the crosswalk to cross the street.



Contact WCPSS

Central Records (*transcripts*)
850-1682

Community Schools
Community Use (*facility rentals*)
850-1924

Lifelong Learning
(*adult continuing education*)
850-1830

Online Learning
713-0557

Customer Service
850-1600

Jobline
850-1800

Volunteer
858-3239



Want to hear from us more often?

You can be e-mailed timely WCPSS news and information by signing up for E-newsletters like Classroom Connection and School-Community News here: <http://www.wcpss.net/signup/newsletters/>.