



Welcome Back!!

Dear Henderson Mill Family,

It is hard to believe summer is over! I hope everyone had an opportunity to relax and recharge. We all needed to unwind from the 2020-2021 school year. I am looking forward to having our students back face-to-face this year. We have been preparing for the arrival of our students. Our teachers have already started setting up their classrooms and planning. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we are charged up and ready.

I am honored to move into my 4th year at Henderson Mill Elementary. I value the partnership between teachers, parents and administration and welcome the positive energy and dedication to our school and students. Whether you are a new or returning family, the Henderson Mill staff looks forward to growing with you and your family this year. We will continue maintaining high expectations, working collaboratively, and promoting continuous academic achievement. We will be moving full "STEAM" ahead this year to fill gaps in learning while making learning fun and engaging.

Henderson Mill is still busy connecting content to learning even during a pandemic. With excitement, I announce that we are one of three schools in the state of Georgia to be awarded the Creative School Arts Integration School of Excellence Award. This award recognizes schools where all students have access to arts integration in every subject and there is both rigor and relevance in the arts integration programming. This is the second year we have received this honor. Way to go Henderson Mill!! We also are the recipient of the Georgia Shape Grant. This \$6000 grant will be used to promote physical activity and nutrition at Henderson Mill. You will hear more about these activities soon. And finally, we have partnered with Captain Planet and their Project Giving Garden. Captain Planet has teamed up with Food Well Alliance and Atlanta Community Food Bank to cultivate, plant, and distribute fresh food from community gardens to Atlanta students and families hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis. Henderson Mill has been one of the host gardens this summer and we look forward to providing fresh food to our community.

This year we are excited to add additional staff to our Henderson Mill family. They are all highly qualified and bring the positivity and energy we all love at Henderson Mill. They have all been paired with a veteran staff member to ensure they feel welcomed and supported. Our staff has been preparing for the upcoming school year, and we are delighted to have your children back at school. My overall goal is to continue exposing our students to an educational environment that prioritizes a cross-curricular, critical thinking approach that incorporates STEAM into all content areas. We are moving full "STEAM" ahead into a great school year.

We are anxiously awaiting your arrival and the anticipation of starting a great school year. Again, it is an honor to serve as your leader! Please meet our new staff.

Cassandra Moore

Principal

Dr. Regina Blanton – Assistant Principal



I am elated to serve and support Henderson Mill Elementary as the Assistant Principals specifically supporting the dynamic principal, Mrs. Moore and my Superlative Colleagues. This school year, I desire a partnership with each of you. As a seasoned educator, I share the belief that administrators, teachers, parents, the community, and school staff all share imperative roles in providing academic growth to all learners by creating a collaborating learning community. I began my educational career as a PreK Teacher in 2000, I have successfully taught 1st grade through 5th grade, Gifted, and ESOL. My leadership experience includes being an Instructional Coach, IB Liaison, and Assistant Principal.

Crissy Johnson-Chandler – Special Education Teacher



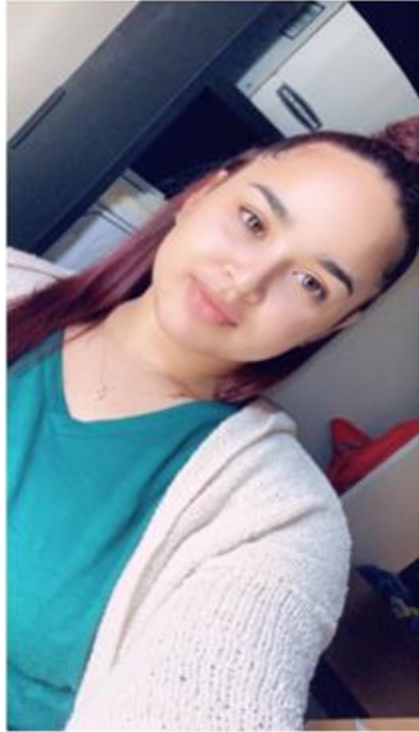
My name is Crissy Johnson-Chandler. This is my 1st year as an Interrelated Teacher at

Henderson Mill Elementary. I have over 10 years of elementary teaching experience. In my

spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, and cooking. I look forward to

teaching, learning, and growing throughout the school year!

Mia Anthony – STEM Science Teacher



Hello! My name is Mia Anthony born and raised on the southside of Atlanta. I graduated from Georgia Southern University with a Bachelors in Biology in 2017 and graduated from Grand Canyon University with a Masters in Elementary Education this past April. In my spare time, I enjoy many different things such as painting, reading, traveling internationally and working out. As of now I have no kids but two dogs that I considered my children for the time being names Simba and Mocha. I had the opportunity to conduct my student teaching here at Henderson Mill and am thrilled to officially join the HMES family as the Science/STEM teacher. I am eager to meet and collaborate with each one of you to make this a great year!

Neisha Speights – EIP Teacher



I am ecstatic to join the Henderson Mill Elementary School Family! This year marks my 21st year of teaching. I began my journey in Prince William County Virginia. I taught for three years in Gwinnett County and am now walking in to my third year here in DeKalb.

My claim to fame are my two young adults. Chloe, a United States Airman in the Air Force, stationed in San Antonio, Texas and Josiah, a freshman at Xavier University in Louisiana, studying Social and Criminal Justice. Chloe and her husband, Kent, will be welcoming my first grandchild, Karter, in September.

My educational ideology is simple, “Build up’ our children with a strong foundation, so our community will not tumble”.

I am looking forward to working with you all to mold the Henderson Mill Change Agents of tomorrow.

Lauren Banks – 3rd Grade Teacher



Lauren Banks is entering the teaching profession after 13 years in dance as a dancer, choreographer, instructor, and director. She began Georgia State's Urban Accelerated Certification and Masters Program in January 2020 and received her P-5 Teaching Certificate and ESOL endorsement in December 2020. She is joining the Henderson Mill family after having spent a semester as a 1st grade long-term sub at Hightower Elementary in Doraville. Lauren loves dancing, hiking, drinking coffee, and snuggling puppies and is so thrilled to be joining the Henderson Mill family!

Hannah Wargowsky – 1st Grade Teacher



This is my 5th year teaching 1st grade and I am very excited for a great year! I grew up in Atlanta, but lived in many different places most recently in California. I went to school at The University of Georgia and received my Masters in Education from Loyola Marymount University. When I'm not in the classroom, you can probably find me cooking, doing yoga, walking my dog Junie or spending time with family. I am looking forward to being a part of the Henderson Mill community!

Brenda Robinson – EIP Teacher



My name is Brenda Robinson, and I am honored and excited to be a part of the Henderson Mill Elementary Family. This is my 13th year teaching. I am a southern girl. I grew up in Mobile, Alabama and I graduated from The University of Alabama. I am a huge BAMA fan....Roll Tide!! I enjoy spending time with my family and attending sports events.

As a teacher, my educational philosophy is that every child is capable of learning and is entitled to a good, quality education that encourages, uplifts, instills values and a sense of self-worth. I believe in education without limits. In other words, I do not believe in placing limits on children's ability to learn. My approach to teaching is to provide instruction that is rigorous and challenging that also allows students to have a voice in their education while assuring that they are taught basic fundamentals appropriate for lifelong success.

Hope Perry – 5th Grade Teacher



I am Hope Perry and I attended, played soccer, and eventually was the assistant soccer coach at Lagrange College. This will be my 6th year teaching but my 8th year in education. I have my Bachelors in Early Childhood, M.ED in Instruction & Curriculum, and my ED.S. in Teacher Leadership. I am originally from Columbus, Ga and have had some amazing opportunities to educate & teach in different states as well as countries. My husband is now an army veteran so traveling was a lifestyle for us, but we are excited to finally be back in Georgia and especially excited to be at HMES!

Kim Sablock – 2nd Grade Teacher



Hi I am Kim Sablock. This is my 27th year of teaching and I have taught all grades k-5. I completed a long term sub job at Henderson Mill last Spring. I am a single mom to three grown children, 2 girls and 1 boy. I have a 4 precious grandchildren, and I am delighted to be at HMES.

Suzi Howard – Art Teacher



Susan (Suzi) Howard is entering her 5th year of teaching art; this is her first year in Dekalb County. A working artist, Suzi carries out painting commissions, primarily in oil and acrylic, and enjoys exploring the myriad possibilities of abstraction. She also dabbles in the fiber arts, creating highly textured and colorful "boho" weavings. Suzi enjoys teaching students new art forms and helping them to discover their artistic voice. She admires childrens' art for its freedom and spontaneity, and she is always amazed at what her students teach her.

Heather O'Reilly - 2nd Grade Teacher



Hi! My Name is Heather O'Reilly. I just moved here from Tampa, FL where I taught at the same school for 19 years! I've taught every grade except Kindergarten, but 2nd has been my favorite! When I'm not teaching I enjoy baking, making crafts on my cricut and watching true crime stories on TV.

Sabrina Jones – 5th Grade Teacher



My name is Sabrina Jones and this will be my 4th year teaching! I received my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Indiana University. I then joined Teach For America and was placed in a high need school in Miami, FL. I taught 4th grade for three years and received my Master's Degree in Education and Social Change from the University of Miami. I am very excited to join the team at Henderson Mill!

Arlicia Sretchen – 2nd Grade Teacher



My name is Arlicia Sretchen. I'm excited to join the staff this year at Henderson Mill Elementary. I will be teaching 2nd grade. I've been teaching for a total of 4 years. I've taught 1st, 2nd and 5th grade. I received my Masters in Education from Mercer University and my undergrad in Psychology at Georgia State University. I am very passionate about teaching and I look forward to a fantastic school year!