

Submission Date: November 11, 2020

Release Date: For Immediate Release

Contact: J.D. Hardin, 770-957-6601 ext. 161, john.hardin@henry.k12.ga.us

(Release # 0030-11-2020)

Henry County Schools Observes Kindness Week November 9-13

Annual week culminates with special recognition for district's 'Blue Shirts'

HENRY COUNTY, GA – The second week of November is Kindness Week all across Georgia, and Henry County Schools is doing its part to observe this powerful week of positivity.

“Kindness Works! Pass It On” is the official slogan used by those taking an active role in the campaign for kindness. For many years now, the simple act has provided inspiration for school community members, as well as citizens across the community, county, and state to do good deeds, kind deeds for their fellow citizens.

The special week began back in 2004. It started small, but like the person it was organized in memory of, it has grown to involve and touch so many people in a positive way. Example after example can be found throughout the school system, and the mission carries on today stronger than ever.

In its earliest years, the celebration was a one-day effort. It quickly grew to incorporate an entire week of activities within schools and beyond. The current observance gained a boost when a formal designation came by way of State Representative Andy Welch, older brother of the movement’s inspiration, Hunter Welch. The big brother worked with the House of Representatives in 2012 on House Resolution 1302 to make an official week of the celebration every second week in November across the state of Georgia.

Kindness Week was formed locally as a way to honor and memorialize the son of Kit Welch and the late Buddy Welch. When Hunter tragically passed away in 2004, the Welch family and their friends committed to making sure Hunter’s passion for kindness was spread far and wide. Hunter would have celebrated his 28th birthday on November 5.

No matter the aim or scale of the act, being kind makes the largest of impacts and impressions. Letting people know that they matter and are special through random and planned acts of kindness is the goal for the week. While schools are operating on a hybrid learning model and the communities everywhere are adhering to various COVID-19 precautions, there are still ample opportunities to share kindness with friends, families, and more.

Kindness can even come in the form of honors and recognitions for individuals or groups who make a difference. The unofficial color of Kindness Week is blue, and there is a special group of employees in Henry County Schools who don the color blue each day for work. Our Facilities & Maintenance Department employees, or the ‘Blue Shirts’ as they are fondly known, have done a remarkable job in preparing our schools to be ready for teaching and learning and all the necessary modifications to ensure the safest of environments for students and staff. Henry County Schools will recognize this employee group on Friday, November 13, 2020, with Blue Shirt Day to honor them for their incredible support during this uncommon school year.



Press Release

Community members are encouraged to wear blue all this week, and especially on Friday, November 13 to honor this important group of employees in Henry County Schools.

You can find out more about Kindness Week and a school's individual activities by visiting their respective website as found through the Henry County Schools website. Kindness Works! Pass it on.

For more information on Henry County Schools, visit www.henry.k12.ga.us.

###