

Dear Haywood County,

This past week we celebrated I ❤️ HCS week. This week of events was planned, organized and carried out by a group of volunteers who have taken it upon themselves to promote Haywood County Schools. The PEP (Parents and Educators for Progress) committee was formed a few years ago to promote all of the positive things going on in HCS. I was so touched by all the displays around town, the community-wide pep rally and the pictures on social media showing support for our school system. Haywood County Schools is a great district, filled with so many wonderful students, teachers, administrators, assistants, bus drivers, food service personnel, and on and on the list goes. We are so very fortunate to have a public school system with so many opportunities for our students and their families. However, I have come to realize that not everyone finds public schools, or even our public schools to be the answer for them. But Haywood County Schools is really the foundation of this community. A community without a public school system is not, and cannot be a thriving community. As I drove around town and saw all the displays this week, I was so overwhelmed that this community celebrated with us- even those who do not have students in our schools. Haywood County Schools strives to bring this community together and to do its best to serve our students with a quality public education. We have approximately 3,000 students who enter our doors every day and they are getting a great education right here in Haywood County. And so I ask that after this week of celebration ends, and the window decorations come down, that this community continues to support and celebrate Haywood County Schools, not because of who does or does not go to school here, but because it is the most valuable resource this community has. Again, many heartfelt “thanks” to PEP, to this community and to everyone in Haywood County Schools.

Teresa Russell
Superintendent
Haywood County Schools