

Library Cohort Graduates



Carole Birdsong



Carole Birdsong is currently a 3rd grade teacher at Barron Fundamental School. She has been a part of Hampton City Schools since 2003. She began her career in education as a part time library assistant and also served as an instructional assistant in 1st grade. She later worked as an Early Reading Intervention Assistant. She was fortunate to be a part of the Hampton First Steps Cohort which enabled her to earn her teaching license and Master's Degree in Elementary Education. Mrs. Birdsong is excited to begin her journey into a Hampton City Schools library in the fall of 2021! In her free time, Mrs. Birdsong enjoys reading mysteries and historical fiction. She is excited to be able to share her love of reading as well as the importance of being an independent seeker of information with her students.

Laurena Coates



Laurena Coates has been an educator with Hampton City Schools for 11 years. Her journey began as a volunteer who then became a substitute teacher putting her on the path to teacher licensure with a master's degree in elementary education and accolades as a teacher of the year. Laurena is excited to begin her journey as a librarian at Kecoughtan High School. Reading is the gateway to everything! Laurena is excited to share with students the joys of discovery through inquiry, reading print and digital materials. Laurena enjoys a wide range of reading topics but is partial to mysteries and thrillers.

Anne Crawley



Anne Crawley is currently a librarian at Smith Elementary School. Ms. Crawley has worked with children in many ways. She began her career working at the YMCA as a Site Director. She worked at Langley Air Force Base as a Program Assistant, the chapel at Fort Monroe as well as La Petite. The last twenty years have been spent as a Hampton City Schools teacher at Phillips Elementary School teaching second, third and fourth grade. In her current position she hopes to instill a lifelong enjoyment of books and the love of reading. Ms. Crawley enjoys spending time with her family, friends, traveling (pre-pandemic) and playing board games.

Lacey Whetsel



Lacey Whetsel is in her 8th year of teaching and with Hampton City Schools. She is currently one of the librarians at Andrews PreK-8. The first 7 years of her teaching career began at Forrest Elementary. Growing up, she always had her face buried in a book, so she hopes to pass along that love of reading to as many children as possible. Since being at Andrews, she has started the Gator News Show, which airs announcements live. Lacey hopes to continue developing the Gator News, especially once students return. She loves being a librarian and helping promote reading!

Jennifer Holmes



Jennifer Holmes is a former HCS Elementary School Teacher of the Year. She begins her 21st year of teaching and her first year of librarianship at Forrest Elementary, the same school where she began her career. Jennifer's favorite types of books are fantasy and science fiction. She looks forward to continuing her work as the production manager for the Ranger Report, Forrest's daily news program, as well as the Annual Talent Show. Jennifer's favorite thing about being a librarian is finding the perfect book for each child.