



# HEART4SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER



***"The influence of a good teacher can never be erased."***

## **Angela McNeal**

I don't know who originally said this, but an internet search will lead you to journals, t-shirts, and tumblers inscribed with this quote. It seems many agree with this sentiment!

We know teachers do much more than "teach academics". They help shape our characters, motivate us to do and be our best, and encourage us to be problem solvers. They make learning fun and encourage life-long learning, following dreams, and developing gifts and skills.

Their jobs are complicated and complex. They are "on" every minute of the school day managing and monitoring classrooms, redirecting behaviors and working to ensure that every student understands the lessons being taught. They worry about the children who come to school hungry and the families with physical needs. They spend many hours outside of the classroom preparing lessons, communicating with parents, grading and documenting student progress.

Would it surprise you to learn that the profession of teaching tied with nursing as the most stressful occupation in America? When teachers were surveyed by Gallup Poll, 46% reported high levels of daily stress. And this was BEFORE Covid-19.

Surveys are showing that a high percentage of teachers are considering leaving the profession after this year. The number of education majors in college institutions continues to decline.

Our teachers and administrators need our support and encouragement more than ever! Check out the next few pages to learn more about needs and opportunities to influence the life of a teacher. Your care and compassion can never be erased!

## What's going on?

**APRIL 20**  
Heart4Schools Training  
York Baptist Association

**APRIL 27**  
Heart4Schools Training  
Chester Association

**APRIL 26**  
The Power of Connection  
Virtual Training

**MAY 3-7**  
Teacher Appreciation Week

**MAY 25**  
Heart4Schools Training  
Pickens/Twelve Mile Association

**JUNE 17**  
Heart4Schools Training  
North Augusta FBC

**SEPTEMBER 9**  
Heart4schools Training:  
Serving Schools in a Post  
Pandemic World  
Guest Speaker: Reggie McNeal  
Columbia, SC



## Teacher Retention at a Crisis Level

- A report by the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement has determined the state has lost close to **700** teachers in the last four months.
- This same report shows **170** educators have left their jobs every month since October.
- A survey by SC for Education shows that **39%** of teachers do not intend to return to their positions next year.
- Pre-Covid: During the 2017-2018 school year, **25%** of first year teachers left their position during or at the end of the school year and no longer teach in SC schools.
- About **1/3** of all new teachers nationwide leave education within the first 5 years of their career.
- Since 2010, enrollment in teacher preparation programs nationwide has declined by more than **1/3**. (Center for American Progress).

## What Can We Do?

### Provide Support and Encouragement!

- Pray for your schools.
- Pray for teachers and administrators.
- Let teachers know you support and appreciate them.
- Lift one load of worry by providing weekend backpacks of food for hungry students.
- Commit to work with a student for 30 minutes a week to help students get back on track.
- Write notes of appreciation
- Provide special treats throughout the year.
- Give them a "duty free" lunch once a week.

Visit [www.heart4schools.org](http://www.heart4schools.org) for a list of ways to serve during a Pandemic.



# TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK



A+

May 3 - 7

## WAYS TO BLESS OUR TEACHERS

Special treats in the teacher lounge

A gift bag with chocolate, fun pens, Post-its, lotion

A \$5 or \$10 gift card to a local coffee or lunch restaurant

A plant or flower for each teacher's desk

Teacher Appreciation Meal with a party theme

Personal handwritten notes of appreciation

Coffee truck for a special treat before or after school

Kona Ice after school

Food Truck for lunch with volunteers to greet teachers

Ask your principal! They may have a special idea that they need help pulling off!!

## Ministry Spotlight: Radius Church, Lexington, SC

Kim Lyle, Connection Coordinator

We realized that our school nurses have worked extra hard especially this past year in keeping all of our kiddos safe. We wanted to employ our people to show them some love, so we set up our Christmas tree in our lobby (in February) with ornaments representing each local school. Folks could grab an ornament and then treat those school nurses to something over the next few weeks. It was a huge success as many of our folks went above and beyond in making sure that the school nurses felt loved, seen and appreciated! It has been really fun to see their creativity and care for the nurses that are working so hard. And perhaps the best part is that we asked our people to deliver the treats themselves! For weeks school nurses across the area got goodies delivered to them at their school.



*Serving  
School Nurses*

## You are invited to a virtual conference!

**This conference is for anyone teaching vulnerable children, whether you are a Reading Buddy, Good News Club leader or Sunday School Teacher.**

### *The Power of Connection Virtual Conference*

April 29th 6-8pm



Join us as Rhonda Littleton, Serve Team Foster Care Liaison, leads this trauma informed training. The focus will be on learning more about the complex needs of vulnerable children and how to connect with them. Click on the link below for more information and to register.

<https://www.sbcworkspace.com/Pub/Event/Register/55233293>



## Earth Day

The South Carolina Department of Education has asked Heart4Schools to help them with a joint project with The South Carolina Floodwater Commission. They are launching an effort to plant 3 million tree seeds on April 22nd. This is the largest single-day tree planting event in American history.

Many community groups are being asked to participate. Schools have been invited (but not mandated) to take part in this special day and educational resources are being provided for teachers in each district. If your school is participating, this would be a great opportunity to partner with them and help get this project accomplished.

If you would like more information, email [Angelamcneal@scbaptist.org](mailto:Angelamcneal@scbaptist.org).

## *Save the date!*



### Heart4Schools Fall Training Serving Schools in a Post Pandemic World

Led by Reggie McNeal in Columbia, SC

**We are inviting ALL churches in a school partnership to attend as we "Reboot, Refocus, and Recharge" our plans to reenter schools Post-Covid. Registration information will be coming soon!**