



Just as December was for looking back, January is for looking forward. 2021 had its unique challenges to fight through, but 2022 promises to be bigger and better than the past couple of years have been. We're facing the new year with a reinvigorated spirit that is, if nothing else, full of passion.

So, what do we have in store?

Family Literacy Nights are making their triumphant return! Schools around Murfreesboro and Rutherford County are lining up around the block to participate in our literacy lanes event, and we couldn't be more excited. These events bring the community together to ensure children and families have the books they need.

Our Adult Literacy program is continuing to grow as well. We're adding new classes and tutoring pairs thanks to the fantastic volunteers who signed up to help teach English and improve literacy skills. That's not all, though; we're working hard to add new programs and hope to bring those to fruition soon!

Lastly, but certainly not least, we have an amazing lineup of events. First up: Unplug & Read Month in February, during which we promote putting away the screens in favor of a book or two. In April, our Read To Bee spelling bee will see the best spellers from our local 6th grade classes compete for the title of Best Young Speller.

We'll kick off the summer with our annual RuCo Reading Invasion. It'll be a chance to get out of the house, head to somewhere peaceful and take a minute to read. Once school starts back up, our annual Reading in the Schools Day will take place in September, connecting students with the people in the community. And in November, our Celebrity Spelling Bee!

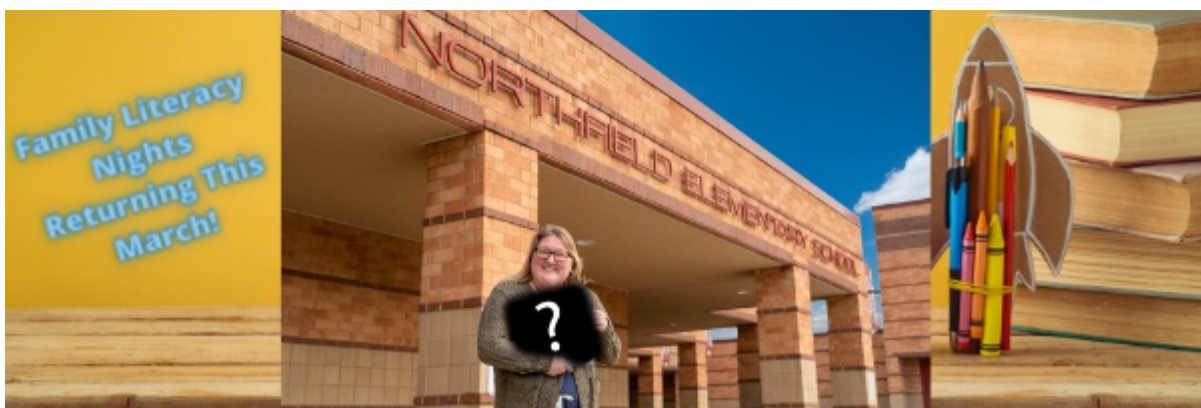
We look forward to taking on the new year with you and turning 2022 into the best year for literacy yet!

Thank you,
Jolene Radnoti and your friends at Read To Succeed



The Rutherford County One Book is here! We're inviting the community to read *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead and share your thoughts and feelings about the book with your friends, family, and everyone you meet! You can also share your opinions on our website or the One Book Facebook page.

Pulitzer Prize judges called the novel, "a spare and devastating exploration of abuse at a reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida that is ultimately a powerful tale of human perseverance, dignity, and redemption"



In 2021, our Family Literacy Nights turned into over 1,000 books handed out to children and families in Rutherford County. In 2022, we're hoping not just to surpass that number but to skyrocket past it! Katie Cundy, our Family Literacy Coordinator, said, "Last year was amazing, but this year is going to be even better. We have so many great events planned that will make a huge difference in so many lives!"

Starting in March, we have a whole slew of Family Literacy Events planned. So, stay tuned to our social media to see where our next Family Literacy Night will occur. We can't wait to get out there and share the love of literacy with everyone in our



MTSU saw a cohort of new teachers walk across the stage and receive their diplomas in December! We always look forward to seeing new teachers, not just because it's great to have more educators in our community, but because we get to help stock the classrooms of the new Rutherford County Schools and Murfreesboro City Schools teachers.

In total, we gave out 553 books to help kickstart classroom libraries! It's one of our very favorite things, and helping to get the new teachers started on the right foot is always a treat