Students work hard during the school day, and teachers pour out their energy and expertise to provide instruction and enrichment. Despite these solid efforts, some students need the added attention of mentors and tutors to achieve hoped-for benefits.

In support of Catawba County’s K-64 initiative, the library has created the Homework Helpers program to connect high school students to opportunities to act as mentors and role models to elementary age students who can benefit from help with their homework after school.

Last year, over 25 volunteers served as Homework Helpers at the Main Library in Newton, offering more than 792 tutoring sessions from July 2018 through May of 2019. Part of the help these older students provided was assisting younger children with math, science, and writing lessons. However, the majority of time was spent supporting children with reading comprehension by helping them work through some language basics. Participants in the Homework Helpers program have reported more success in school, increased self-confidence, and a greater desire to learn.

Some of the teen volunteers have shared how much they enjoyed the experience of helping a young student be more successful in school. One student remarked that her experience working with the kids has reinforced her goal to become a teacher.

During the 2018-19 fiscal year, the library enjoyed help from over 150 volunteers systemwide. In total, they contributed more than 4,340 hours of time to enhance existing resources and services.

Expectedly, the need for library volunteers — and Homework Helpers in particular — is constant. The work itself is gratifying, but it can also satisfy school service requirements and help build a strong résumé for college admissions. If you would like to have a positive impact on elementary or middle school students, or if you are a student 15 or older who needs volunteer hours, we hope that you will consider joining us at the library to help our community connect, explore, and grow.

For details, simply contact any library branch in person or by phone, and the staff will lead you through the volunteering guidelines.

Your presence and your commitment will change lives. We guarantee it.

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Children / Teens / Families

Preschool: Ready to Learn Storytime

Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays at 10 am (no class September 2)

Songs, sensory play, crafts, and stories designed to prepare your preschooler to learn. Ideal for children 3-5, but all are welcome.

PAWS to Read

Thursday, September 12; Tuesday, Sept 17; and Tuesday, September 24 at 6 pm

Children are invited to read to one of our trained therapy dogs. Call for an appointment.

Grandparents’ Afternoon Tea

Thursday, September 5 at 4:30 pm

Children are invited to bring their grandparents (or another special adult) for refreshments, activities, and a craft to make together.

Storytime Ballet: Swan Lake

Saturday, September 7 at 11:15 am

Join the Hickory Ballet and Performing Arts for an interactive experience that shows how stories – including this one about a princess turned into a swan – are told through dance. An activity tied to the ballet will follow. Open to all ages and families.

STEAM: Trees

Tuesday, September 10 at 4:30 pm

Take a closer look at leaves and learn about tree identification as we discover the science behind these impressive plants.

Mindfulness & Yoga for Kids

Thursday, September 19 at 4:30 pm

Autumn Hight, certified instructor for PLAYfitness by Stretch-n-Grow, will lead us in gentle stretches. Kids will also create breathing buddies and calming glitter jars to take home. Registration required.

Homemade Scrubs

Monday, September 23 at 5:30 pm

Program presented in Spanish

Looking to make easy, inexpensive exfoliating scrubs? Let us help! You’ll learn to make a simple DIY scrub that your skin will love. We’ll share tips and recipes. Registration required.

Tolkien Trivia

Wednesday, September 25 at 4:30 pm

Teens are invited to test their knowledge of Middle Earth and author J.R.R. Tolkien’s works like The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings as we celebrate Tolkien Week. You may win a prize!

Adults / Career / Tech

Zumba

Mondays at 6 pm (no class September 2)

Kick off your week with this dance/movement activity that’s too much fun to call exercise. Appropriate for every skill and ability level and open to ages 14+ (parental signature required for teens under 18).

Tai Chi

Thursdays at 6 pm (no class September 12 or 19)

This graceful martial art has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety while increasing flexibility and balance. Suitable for all fitness levels, open to ages 14 and up (parental signature required for teens under 18).

WorkLife Wednesday: Résumé Tune-up

Wednesday, September 4 from 10 am-2 pm

Whether you need to create a résumé from scratch or update the one you already have, book your 30-minute, individual session by calling 828.465.8665.

Microsoft Word Advanced

Thursday, September 12 at 5 pm

This workshop will show users how to use mail merge, add and manipulate images, make comments, and track changes. Basic Word skills are necessary. Registration required.

Southern Pens Book Club

Saturday, September 14 at 10 am

This month’s read is The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson. October’s selection will be There There by Tommy Orange. All are welcome.

3-D Basics

Tuesday, September 17 at 4 pm

Learn the foundations of 3-D printing: what it is, how it works, and where you can find resources to get, create, and share 3-D printable files.

Advanced Gardener: Mushrooms

Tuesday, September 17 at 5:30 pm

Join Dr. George Place, Cooperative Extension director, for a presentation about foraging and cultivating mushrooms. Become a confident mushroom hunter and discover how easy it is to grow your own mushrooms.

Windows 10 Tips and Tricks

Wednesday, September 18 at 11 am

This workshop will show you tips and tricks to help you get comfortable using the interface. Learn to customize the Start menu, find the Quick Access menu, have Cortana give you directions and set reminders, and much more.

Black History Discussion Group

Wednesday, September 18 at 4 pm

To learn more about black history throughout the year, we’re gathering regularly to discuss various topics. This month, we’ll be talking with local historian and documentarian Richard Eller about the 1964 Ridgeview football team, known as The Untouchables. Bring your curiosity and your understanding – all are welcome. Light refreshments served.

Meditation Group

Friday, September 20 at 11 am

Meditation is the intentional practice of cultivating mindfulness. It’s shown to reduce stress, lessen anxiety, lengthen attention span, increase imagination and creativity, reduce chronic pain, and increase patience. If you’ve been waiting for a chance to dip your toe into meditation, this is your pool.

Piece of Cake Book Club

Tuesday, September 24 at 3 pm

PoCBC meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Whisk & Barrel in downtown Newton. September’s selection is Educated by Tara Westover. October’s pick is Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury.

Cypress Resumé

Tuesday, September 24 at 5 pm

Cypress Resumé is a free, easy-to-use resumé builder. This class will guide you through a three-step process to get you started on creating a professional, high-quality resumé.

Google Drive

Wednesday, September 25 at 11 am

Learn to store, create, and share information using Google Drive, Google’s web-based storage and syncing service. An email address is required to participate.

Make Tiny Folk Art

Friday, September 27 at 3 pm

To get in the spirit for folk art (the Foothills Folk Art Festival is slated for Saturday, October 5 in Newton), we’ll use folk art motifs to create tiny works of art using paints, stencils, and mixed media options. Ages 12 and up. Supplies provided. Registration required.
Children / Teens / Families

STEAM Stations: Art STEAM
Saturday, September 14 at 11 am
STEAM Stations is a time to explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math in fun, hands-on-activities. This month, we’ll focus on art by creating milk magic, sunprints, and more. Recommended for kids 5 and up, but all are welcome.

“Ask a Master Gardener” @ the Library
Now it’s easy to get professional gardening recommendations anytime. Just submit your questions to an “Ask a Master Gardener” question box at the library.

Adults / Career / Tech
Books Between Friends Book Club + Finding Great Books in the Digital World
Tuesday, September 24 at 6 pm
September’s read is runaway bestseller Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens, and all are invited. Before book club begins, we’ll offer a 10-minute overview of popular digital resources for book lovers, for including sites like Hoopla, Libby, the NC Digital Library, and Goodreads. Find your next great read!

“Ask a Master Gardener” @ the Library
Now it’s easy to get professional gardening recommendations anytime. Just submit your questions to an “Ask a Master Gardener” question box at the library.

Children / Teens / Families

STEAM Stations: Little Bits
STEAM Stations is a time to explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math in fun, hands-on-activities. This month, we’ll focus on art by creating milk magic, sunprints, and more. Recommended for kids 5 and up, but all are welcome.

Yoga for All Ages
Saturday, September 21 at 11 am
Great for beginners, families, and advanced students! Please bring your own mat or towel.

Storytime Ballet: Swan Lake
Saturday, September 28 at 11:30 am
Join the Hickory Ballet and Performing Arts for an interactive experience that shows how stories — including this one about a princess turned into a swan — are told through dance. An activity tied to the ballet will follow. Open to all ages and families.
Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library Meeting
Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 pm
Help the library fulfill its mission by planning and participating in efforts to raise funds and increase access to high-quality programming and materials. New members are encouraged.

Piano Recital by Joyce O’Neal
Tuesday, September 24 at 6 pm
Expect to hear well-known piano compositions and pianistic surprises! As part of her recital series, local resident Joyce O’Neal will present works by Beethoven, Debussy, Ravel, Walter Piston, and George Gershwin. Sponsored by the Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library.

Language Learning with Mango
Monday, September 30 at 5:30 pm
We’ll show you how to access Mango with your library card, and you’ll be ready to learn any of 70+ languages at your own pace with easy-to-follow tutorials. Prepare for business trips, family vacations, or study abroad with practical, conversation-based lessons!

“Ask a Master Gardener” @ the Library
Now it’s easy to get professional gardening recommendations anytime. Just submit your questions to an “Ask a Master Gardener” question box at the library.

Songs, sensory play, crafts, and stories designed to prepare your preschooler to learn. Ideal for children 3-5, but all are welcome.

Grandparents Day Celebration
Thursday, September 19
Children are invited to bring their grandparents to celebrate National Grandparents Day. As a way to say thank you, kids will interview their grandparents and get to know them even better. After the interviews, children and grandparents will create a keepsake to help them always remember this special day. Light refreshments will be served.

Crafternoons: Foam Pumpkins
Thursday, September 19 at 4 pm
Are you ready for fall decor? Join us to get a jump on the season as we decorate mini foam pumpkins. They’re a perfect addition to make your fall table festive! Registration required.

Family Movie at the Library: Captain Marvel
Friday, September 20 at 3:30 pm
Join us for a fun afternoon! Captain Marvel is an extraterrestrial Kree warrior who finds herself caught in the middle of an intergalactic battle between her people and the Skrulls. Prepare for a family-friendly sci-fi adventure! Popcorn and a beverage will be served. PG-13.

TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting
Friday, September 27 at 4:30 pm
If you have thoughts about what you’d like to see at the library or have suggestions for books or teen programming, plan to attend our Teen Advisory Board informational meeting. You’ll get a voice in what happens at the library, and serving on the Board looks great on a college application or job resume. Open to teens 12-18.

Storytime Ballet: Swan Lake
Saturday, September 28 at 1 pm
Join the Hickory Ballet and Performing Arts for an interactive experience that shows how stories – including this one about a princess turned into a swan – are told through dance. An activity tied to the ballet will follow. Open to all ages and families.

Adults / Career / Tech
Comforting Classics: Coloring & Music
Monday, September 9 at 6 pm
To celebrate Classical Music Month, de-stress by listening to classical music and coloring. Perfect for children and adults.

Mountain View Book Buzz
Tuesday, September 10 at 6 pm
Join us this month for a discussion of Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich. All are welcome.

Catawba Songwriters
Tuesday, September 17 at 6 pm
Adults and teens are invited to share their musical talents while learning from one another. Bring a finished song or one that’s in progress to share with the group.

Digital Resources: Hoopla
Monday, September 30 at 6 pm
This computer class will introduce Hoopla, a free app that lets you download and stream movies, TV series, music, and ebooks. Patrons will learn how to set up a Hoopla account using their library card and email address so they can get started right away!

Cypress Resumé
Wednesday, September 11 at 10 am
Cypress Resume is a free, easy-to-use resume builder. This class will guide you through a three-step process to get you started on creating a professional, high-quality résumé.

Starting a Business in North Carolina
Tuesday, September 17 from 5-7:30 pm
Program presented in Spanish
This free seminar will provide information on practically everything you need to know about starting a business in North Carolina, including licenses, state requirements, financing, and grants. It’s presented by Prospera, a non-profit, economic development organization that provides free bilingual consulting support to minority and Hispanic business entrepreneurs.

Informational Seminar for Latin Families
Tuesday, September 24 from 5:30-7:30 pm
Program presented in Spanish
The Catawba County Library, in conjunction with the Catawba County Partnership for Children, is hosting a series of informational seminars for Latino families. This month, we’ll be sharing resources available for families with children from birth to age 5. Kids’ activities and light refreshments will be provided.

Stream Happily Ever After!
Thursday, September 26 at 4 pm
Are you ready to install your own cable or satellite TV cord? Join us as we explore popular streaming options that you can consider as alternatives.

Digital Book Club
Thursday, September 19 at noon
Join our digital book club meeting, customized for folks who read with the Overdrive and/ or Hoopla apps. Share your thoughts on the Catawba County Library Digital Book Club Goodreads group [https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/883104-digital-book-club]. Digital Book Club ‘meets’ quarterly on Goodreads. Our fourth quarter selection is The Museum of Modern Love by Heather Rose. We’ll have a closing discussion online on September 19 at noon and announce our next quarterly selection at that time as well.

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
All seven branches of the library will be closed on Monday, September 2.