School bells ring Monday for students
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ASHEBORO — The 2015-16 school year kicks off Monday morning for more than 23,000 local students.

Classes begin Monday for Asheboro City Schools and the Randolph County School System as well as Randolph County’s only public charter school, the Uwharrie Charter Academy. Asheboro’s projected enrollment is 4,700 and Randolph’s 17,600. Uwharrie, which operates independently of the two local school systems, has a projected enrollment of 725.

The start of another school year impacts students and their families along with the entire community with the return of the yellow school buses to streets and highways and increased activities at the schools. Motorists are advised by both school and law enforcement officials to heed laws regarding school buses picking up or discharging students and school zone speeds. Free breakfasts will continue to be available at all Randolph County School System elementary, middle and high schools. Lunches are costing 10 cents more for elementary students, rising from $2 to $2.10, and 15 cents extra for middle and high schoolers, from $2.10 to $2.25. Reduced-price lunches remain 40 cents.

Several city and county schools have new principals and assistant principals for the new school year.

Randolph has nine new principals and several new assistant principals at its 31 schools. Students at the Randolph Early College High School began their classes earlier this month, ninth-graders starting Aug. 5 and grades 10-12 on Aug. 10. April Thompson is that school’s new principal.

Other new principals for the school year include Archdale-Trinity Middle, Todd Beane; Braxton Craven, Brian Hodgin; Liberty Elementary, Kelli Harrell; Randleman Elementary, James Johnson; Seagrove Elementary, Jamie Armfield; Tabernacle Elementary, Ceretha Mitchell; Trindale Elementary, Todd Henderson, and Uwharrie Middle, Jeff Moss.

Additionally, the Randolph County Board of Education, at Monday night’s meeting, filled the last vacant assistant principal post for the new school year. Maryellen Gollnick was approved as assistant principal at Randleman Middle. She taught for Alamance-Burlington School System from 2003-12 and has been Exceptional Children Program facilitator at Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools’ McDougle Middle School since 2012.