

Student Handbook 2021 - 2022



Mission

The mission of Ashe Early College is to offer a learner-centered educational experience that prepares students for college, career, and life through academic rigor, relevant coursework, and school, parent, and community relationships.

<u>Vision</u>

Ashe Early College is committed to providing a supportive academic environment where all students are expected to thrive academically and civically. This school will offer opportunities for first-generation college students, those at risk of dropping out, and those who would benefit from accelerated instruction. Increasing the number of students graduating with continued education attainment will lead to success in a global economy.

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Welcome

Welcome to Ashe Early College High School. The administration and staff are dedicated to providing a safe and orderly school climate and an environment that enhances the educational process.

The policies and procedures provided in the handbook are to make you aware of rules and regulations that will help you adjust to our school and become an integral part. It is our hope that you will become familiar with all that Ashe Early College has to offer and build memories that will last a lifetime.

Rules and regulations contained within this publication are not all-inclusive, and the administration reserves the right to address other disciplinary acts in a fair and equitable manner.

The administration also reserves the right to assess rules and regulations on an individual basis and act according to severity when appropriate.

No student at Ashe Early College will knowingly be discriminated against because of race, sex, or social standing.

ASHE EARLY COLLEGE FACULTY AND STAFF

Lindsey Williams **Stacey Jenkins** Jessica Yates Alma Jones **Brian** Armstrong Jim Ashley Hannah Betsch Stefan Kunz Todd Rivver

Principal Administrative Assistant School Counselor College Liaison Science Teacher Math Teacher History Teacher History Teacher **English Teacher**

WCC Instructors

Classes vary per semester

Band

Joshua Mitchell

Cafeteria

ACHS Cafeteria Staff Sherri Harless-Manager Jeana Phillips—Assistant Manager

Custodial

Zack Holman Betty Eller

lindsey.williams@ashe.k12.nc.us stacey.jenkins@ashe.k12.nc.us jessica.yates@ashe.k12.nc.us arjones943@wilkescc.edu brian.armstrong@ashe.k12.nc.us james.ashley@ashe.k12.nc.us hannah.betsch@ashe.k12.nc.us stefan.kunz@ashe.k12.nc.us todd.rivver@ashe.k12.nc.us

Health Services Robin Goss

JROTC

Lieutenant Colonel David Hollis—Chair Master Sergeant Chalk Wetmore

Physical Education

Ronnie Pruitt

Testing

Jessica Yates

BELL SCHEDULE

8:20-9:45	1st Block
10:00-11:25	2nd Block
11:30-12:45	Lunch and Learn
12:50-2:10	3rd Block
2:15-3:40	4th Block

EXPECTATIONS

Expectations of Ashe Early College

- Enhanced learning experience both on and off campus, including service learning opportunities (limited due to COVID-19)
- Quality instruction from specially-trained, highly-qualified staff
- Assessment of learning in traditional and non-traditional methods
- Access to a College Liaison
- An orientation program to acclimate all incoming students to the Ashe Early College approach to teaching and learning
- Student access to college courses based on scheduled course sequence
- Opportunities for students to earn college credit up to and/or including a two-year college transfer degree
- Grant funds to cover tuition costs for college courses during fall and spring semesters which are successfully passed the first time taken by a student
- Transportation provided to and from school

Expectations of Each Ashe Early College Student

- Commit to Ashe Early College for the 2021-2022 academic year
- Perform as an honors level student and produce high quality work
- Participate in all non-traditional learning experiences and assessments
- Participate in all Ashe Early College activities including individual assignments, group work, presentations, off-campus learning, service learning, job shadowing, university visits, and other learning opportunities (limited due to COVID-19 or not offered this year)
- Maintain high **academic** and **behavior** standards at all times
- Be a positive ambassador for the school
- Commit to excellent attendance and be on time for school and for all classes
- Comply with all Ashe Early College, Ashe County Schools, and Wilkes Community College policies and procedures
- Earn two-year associates degree and transfer to a four-year university or receive certification to enter the workforce

Expectations of Each Ashe Early College Parent/Guardian

- Be personally involved in and support your child's educational experience
- Attend scheduled parent/guardian meetings
- Ensure student attendance to all high school and college classes as well as off-campus learning activities
- Commit to all fees for Ashe Early College and Wilkes Community College
 - Ashe Early College Student Fees—\$32.00 per year; \$30 Chromebook fee
 - Wilkes Community College Activity Fees—\$15.00 per year for freshmen and sophomores/\$3.25 per credit hour for juniors, seniors, and super seniors for fall and spring semesters not to exceed \$32.50 per semester
- Update contact information as needed for emergency purposes

Students that are enrolled in courses at Ashe County High School are expected to

- Sign out through the Ashe Early College main office
- Walk to the front door of Ashe County High School to sign in
- Sign out after class in the Ashe County High School main office
- Walk to the main office of Ashe Early College and sign back in

BEHAVIOR

For a listing of rules and consequences—see pages 35-38

Academic Integrity Code

Ashe County Schools values the hard work, self-discipline, honesty, integrity, and mutual respect of all students. This code has been established to uphold these values. Cheating, collusion, lying, and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

The following offenses constitute violations of the Academic Integrity Code:

1. Cheating

Giving, taking, or presenting information or material that unethically or fraudulently <u>aids self or others on any work</u> to be considered in the determination of a grade or the completion of an academic requirement or the enhancement of one's record or academic career.

- Individual Cheating—To practice or attempt to practice dishonesty or deception in the taking of tests or in the preparation or submission of academic work purporting to be one's own; to copy or attempt to copy another person's test paper, or other graded work in a course; to use or to provide any notes or other prepared materials that a student is not permitted to consult during a testing period or to bring those materials into the testing area with the intent to use; to submit identical or near identical papers or coursework for credit in more than one course without permission of the instructor; to steal, deface, or <u>destroy any research materials or technology</u> that may deprive others of their use; to obstruct or interfere with another student's academic work; to retain, possess, or circulate previously used exams, copies of blank tests, or other assignments without the instructor's permission.
- Collusion—(action taken by two or more persons together to cheat) To allow another person to copy tests, papers, or other graded course work; to provide assistance to others in the preparation of graded course work without the express consent of the instructor. Failing to report that another student has used your work or another's work to commit violations of academic integrity, with or without consent. Questions related to homework or other assignments should be directed to the teacher/instructor.

2. Lying

Committing a forgery or giving a statement known to be false or dishonest, orally or in writing, for the purpose of, or having the effect of, protecting or improving one's grades in a course.

3. Plagiarizing

The act of willfully copying a sentence, several sentences, or a significant part of a sentence from any source, including internet sites, that has been written by someone other than the person submitting the paper, then neglecting to indicate that the material has been copied; also, copying from another writer by changing one or two words in the sentence, or to rearrange the order of the wording, or to paraphrase, or to summarize information and then neglect to furnish documentation. For all assignments, especially team or collaborative assignments, check with the teacher to find out what level of cooperation and/or sharing is permitted.

Consequences for Committing Acts of Academic Dishonesty

• <u>First offense in any course</u>—Student will receive a zero on the assignment, re-do the assignment, or complete an alternate assignment based on teacher, parent/guardian conference, receive a written reprimand, one day of ISS, and be placed on academic probation in that course for the remainder of the semester.

- <u>Second offense</u> in the SAME course—Student may receive a "F" in the course and one day of OSS (depending upon the number of days left in the semester, this may be ISS). Student will lose the privilege of being recognized with honors by any organization sponsored by the school.
- <u>Third cumulative offense</u> in any combination of courses—The principal will decide whether to require the student to participate in Credit Recovery or to retake the course at a later date. Student will lose the privilege of being recognized with honors by any organization sponsored by the school. Student must appear before the school's discipline committee, and the committee will decide whether additional action is needed.

*Depending upon the severity of the violation, additional consequences may be determined by the discipline committee. Example: Tampering with the school network/server or password protected files could result in criminal charges being filed.

Alcohol/Drugs

The use/possession of alcohol products, and/or illegal, legal or over-the-counter drugs is considered a threat to the safe and orderly operation of Ashe Early College. Students who use, have possession of, or are under the influence of any of the above will be dealt with in accordance with School Board Policy 4325. Also, the Ashe County Sheriff's Department will be involved in each incident when necessary and appropriate.

Assembly/Guest Speaker Conduct

Assemblies are held for the education and enjoyment of students and faculty. Give every courtesy to the speaker and to the program. It is the responsibility of each student to maintain high standards of conduct. All students will sit with Ashe Early College personnel and their peers on-and off-campus.

Bullying

Bullying is the persistent, repeated, consistent, intentional and always about hurt, embarrassment, humiliation, isolation and causing pain. Anyone can be bullied or harassed. Ashe County Schools, teachers, staff and administrators care about our students and are committed to providing an educational setting that is safe, secure and free from bullying and harassment. Students, parents, volunteers, visitors or others are also strongly encouraged to report any actual or suspected incidents of discrimination, harassment or bullying. Reports may be made anonymously using an online form that can be found at https://www.asheschools.org/Page/144.

All reports should be investigated in accordance with policy 1710/4021/7230, Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedures, and reported to one of the school officials identified in that policy. Students, parents and school personnel may refer to Ashe County Board Policy 1720 at http://www.ashe.kl2.nc.us/board/index.html or pick up a copy of the policy at the Ashe County Board of Education or in any school office.

Bullying or Harassing Behavior Defined

- **Direct Acts** (both physical and verbal)—Physical attacks of any type and/or threats of physical attacks including but not limited to any unwanted physical touching, contact, or assault (punching, hitting, choking, biting, spitting, cornering); deliberately impeding or blocking of movements; or any intimidating interference with normal work or movement including sexual harassment, whether physical or verbal.
- Indirect Acts (emotional and/or passive-aggressive behaviors)—Including but not limited to repeated acts of deliberately excluding, rejecting, isolating, ranking, or rating an individual; hateful looks, mean gestures, nasty notes, or graffiti; starting and/or spreading hurtful rumors about someone (including social media); manipulating peer relationships; forcing someone to relinquish money and/or food; demanding servitude; stealing/taking things; deliberately setting up someone to get him/her in trouble; and destruction of property (clothing, books, book bags, etc.).

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying involves the use of electronic information and communication technologies such as email, cell phone, pager, text, or instant messages, to publish defamatory personal websites, defamatory online personal polling websites, etc., to support conscious, willful, deliberate, repeated, and/or hostile behavior by one or more people to harm others. These behaviors include but are not limited to sending or posting cruel or harmful messages or freedom of expression under the Fifth Amendment, students may be disciplined for website postings that materially and substantially disrupt the educational process or that contain threats which endanger the health, safety, and well-being of others, including district personnel or staff members. In most cases, the system cannot address electronic communications that have occurred off campus during non-school hours. Parents/guardians are encouraged to monitor and assist students with dealing with such communications through the proper authorities.

It is the duty of all school staff to maintain good order and discipline, report and intervene in all acts of bullying, and provide other information about related behaviors, school safety, and discipline problems. It is the expectation that students will not position themselves to be a part of or encourage acts of bullying in any form. Students who assist with bullying indirectly will also face disciplinary actions.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

Parent/Guardian is required to pickup their child's cell phone/electronic device on each and every violation. On the day that the cell phone/electronic device is confiscated it may only be picked up after 3:40 or as the child is checked out early from school. During the school day, cell phones/electronic devices may be used during the designated times or as specifically authorized by a teacher during his/her class for educational purposes:

- Before school
- Breaks
- Lunch
- After dismissal bell

Student devices must be connected to Ashe Early College student network. Taking pictures or videoing students or faculty/staff is prohibited without consent of the person or persons involved.

Dress Code

Ashe Early College administration and faculty will enforce Board Policy 4316 which addresses student dress.

The purpose of the dress code is to ensure that a student's dress and appearance promote a positive learning environment, does not disrupt the learning of others or the general operation of the school, and does not create a safety hazard. Both research and experience have shown that student conduct, identification with the school purposes and activities, personal pride and self-respect, and even the level of learning responses of students are all related to personal appearance and mode of dress. Maintaining a positive learning environment and ensuring the health and safety of each student are high priorities of the Ashe Early College. Clothing or accessories that are disruptive, potentially injurious, or that creates a question regarding a student's health and safety, will not be allowed. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be required to change the clothing or accessories in question.

If a student has to be sent to the office because of a dress code infraction, instructional time is interrupted for the student, the teacher, and the other students in the class. Furthermore, additional time is lost for the student if the administration determines that the clothing must be changed and the student must change into available clothing or wait in a designated area for a parent to bring the change of clothing. It is vital that students understand that time out of class will be regarded as <u>unexcused</u>.

The school administrator or designee has the authority and the responsibility to determine what clothing or accessories are disruptive to the school environment or injurious to a student's health and safety. Cooperation among school personnel, parents (or other legal guardians), and students is essential in the implementation and enforcement of school regulations, including this dress code. Decisions regarding a student's clothing or accessories will be made in accordance with the following guidelines.

1. Headgear (including hats)

No headgear or sunglasses will be worn in the building, except those worn for obvious or established reasons.

2. Shirts/blouses/tops

- No halter-tops, strapless tops, spaghetti straps (less than 1").
- Blouses/shirts/tops that expose any portion of the waist, hips, or midriff are not allowed. Other blouses/shirts not appropriate for school include but are not limited to, low-cut, see through (top underneath must meet dress code), or backless tops.
- Males are not to wear tank tops unless an undershirt is worn underneath.

3. Short skirts/Dresses/Pants

- All skirts and dresses must be worn no shorter than mid-thigh.
- No holes in clothing showing skin above mid-thigh.
- Shorts, skirts, or pants must be worn securely around the waist with no bagging or sagging.
- The waistline of shorts/skirts/pants must be worn on or above the hips with no underwear showing and may not be worn rolled at the waist.
- Leggings, yoga pants and stretch pants may be worn; however, the student's shirt/top MUST cover private parts front and back. Fabric must not be see through (i.e. tights and pantyhose).

4. Footwear

Health regulations and safety factors require that shoes be worn at all times. Bedroom slippers are not allowed.

5. Undergarments

Undergarments must not be visible when moving, standing, bending or sitting.

6. Words/Symbols

No student's clothing shall display words or symbols that advocate or depict violence, drugs, alcohol, sexual implications gang affiliation, or other illegal activity expressively or implied. Clothing may not use or depict hate speech targeting groups based **on race**, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected group.

7. Jewelry/Accessories

Jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons are not permitted at school. This includes but is not limited to spiked rings, spiked bracelets, two or three finger rings that are connected, and bulky chains worn around the neck or waist, or attached to another item (such as a billfold).

8. Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy may be made by school administration on an individual basis for a *bona fide* religious, medical, or appropriate reason. School may designate special dress days at the direction of the principal.

9. Other Inappropriate Dress

Any student's dress/appearance not specifically prohibited in this policy but which school administration deems disruptive to the learning process will not be allowed. To ensure student health and safety, the school administrator may adopt and implement additional dress and appearance regulations for certain curriculum areas, such as science labs.

10. Applicability to School Sponsored Trips and Events

This policy applies to all school sponsored trips and events on-or off-campus.

NOTE: If a student is in violation of the dress code he/she will be asked to change into other clothes; however, the school will not provide clothing due to varying sizes. He/she would also receive an absence to go home to change. Students' clothing will be returned to them at the end of the school day.

Adopted: November 1, 2004 Amended: June 4, 2007 Amended: June 29, 2017

Dance Code

All debts must be cleared before purchasing a ticket. Any student who has been suspended (OSS) and/or who has more than 2 instances of (ISS) or who has over 9 tardies or 3 instances of lunch detention during the current school year, will not be allowed to attend dances. To ensure that the dance is an evening that everyone enjoys, please obey all rules and regulations. The Ashe Early College dress code will be enforced; however, girls will be allowed to wear dresses that are strapless or that have spaghetti straps. Students should remember that dresses above mid-thigh or dresses that expose cleavage are not appropriate for this function. Students who do not follow the dress code will not be admitted, even with a ticket. Refunds will not be given.

Zero Tolerance

Since the dance is a school-sponsored event, all rules and regulations of Ashe County Schools Code of Student Conduct will be followed. Ashe Early College prohibits the use, possession, transmission, or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any substance capable of modifying mood or behavior. Absolutely no alcohol, tobacco (including vapes), or drugs of any nature are permitted at the dance. Anyone perceived to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or or other mood-modifying substances will be referred to a police officer on duty, and the parent/guardian will be contacted, and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Dancing

Dancing must remain appropriate to the school environment. Lewd, suggestive or dangerous dancing will be stopped and those participating will be removed from the dance area. Students must remain in a standing position at all times while dancing (face-to-face). Dancing may not be sexual in nature (example—grinding or twerking). Students are responsible for the behavior of any invited guest.

Harassment/Hazing

No one should be subjected to harassment/hazing at school or any school related event for any reason. Acts of harassment, hazing, hostility, or defamation, whether verbal, written, or physical, will not be tolerated and constitutes grounds for disciplinary action (see Bullying on pages 6 and 7).

Ashe Early College prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, etc. This incorporates any sign, symbol, picture, gestures, etc.

Infractions

1. Student Disruptions

No student shall use passive resistance, noise, threat, fear, intimidation, coercion, force, violence, or any other form of conduct that intentionally causes the disruption of any lawful function or process of the school, nor shall any student urge any other student to engage in such conduct. The use of electronic technologies to instigate any disruption at school will be dealt with according to the discretion of the principal and/or law enforcement, and may result in charges being filed.

2. Bomb Threat or Hoax

No student shall, by any means of communication, make a report, knowing or having reason to know the report is false, that there is located on school premises a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting, or burning.

3. Verbal Abuse/Disrespect

Verbal or written action that prevents an orderly and peaceful learning environment is prohibited. Students must respect each other and respond to verbal and written directions given by all school personnel. Cursing or using vulgar remarks or gestures is specifically prohibited.

4. Physical Contact

Students are to show respect for one another and **NOT** engage in any type of antagonistic physical contact. A student who is attacked may use reasonable force **ONLY** to an extent to free himself/herself from the attack and notify school authorities. A student who exceeds this reasonable force may be disciplined even though he/she may not have provoked the fight. Administration will determine the aggressor and administer appropriate consequences. **Horseplay and**

any

physical contact beyond holding hands is prohibited.

School Buses

The driver of a school bus shall work closely with school bus supervisor of the school to foster and develop a positive attitude toward riding a school bus. All students who ride a school bus shall be assigned to a seat by the school bus driver. Seat assignment shall be completed by the end of the second full week of school. All cases of misconduct on a school bus shall be reported by the bus driver to the school bus supervisor or school principal on a standard bus misconduct form.

The following procedures shall be followed in handling cases of misconduct on school buses. All infractions must be documented in writing.

Bus discipline is divided into two categories. Category I addresses general misconduct and Category II addresses severe misconduct. Consequences for students who are guilty of Category I misconduct are listed and/or such additional consequences as the principal or designated administrator may determine.

Some of Category I offenses include behavior and language.

Following are the consequences for infractions of the rules by a student rider:
1st Infraction Driver warning or administrative conference
2nd Infraction Referral to principal, parent contact, possible intervention strategies
3rd Infraction Suspension from riding the bus for 3 to 5 days (principal's discretion)

Category II Offenses

- Weapons—refer to Ashe County School Board Policy 4300.
- **Controlled Substance**—No student rider shall possess, use, or be under the influence of any illicit drugs on a bus or bus parking area—refer to School Board Policy 4325.
- Tobacco-No student shall use tobacco products on or around the bus or bus parking lot.
- Fighting—No student rider shall provoke or engage in a fight or cause personal injury or discomfort to another.
- Physical Intimacy—No student will engage in any type of intimate contact with another student.
- Gross Disrespect—No student shall show disrespect to another student or driver by use of vulgar or profane language, indecent exposure, etc.
- Safety Equipment—No student shall tamper with emergency exits, misuse equipment, or deface a bus in any manner.
- Willful Disobedience—No student shall willfully fail to comply with any request by school personnel or the driver regarding safety on the bus and protection of other persons or property.
- **Bus Privileges**—No student shall ride his/her assigned bus or any other school bus within the system after the school bus supervisor has suspended riding privileges.

Following are the consequences for Category II Offences:

1st Infraction Driver warning or administrative conference

2nd Infraction Referral to principal, parent contact, possible intervention strategies

3rd Infraction Suspension from riding the bus for 3 to 5 days (principal's discretion)

4th Infraction Suspension from riding the bus for 5 to 10 days (principal's discretion)

5th Infraction Suspension from riding the bus for 10 to 15 days (principal's discretion)

6th Infraction Permanent suspension of bus riding privileges for the current school year

Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products (Including Vapes)

In support of Ashe County Board of Education's commitment, as well as state and federal laws, employees, students, and visitors are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco product in any school building, school vehicle, or on the school grounds at anytime:

- At any school-related activity including athletic events
- At any time when the student is subject to the supervision of school personnel including school trips

for the purposes of this policy, tobacco products is defined to include cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. Tobacco use includes smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products. All tobacco products and paraphernalia will be disposed of if confiscated on school grounds or at any school activity and <u>will not</u> be returned to any student or parent.

Theft/Damage to Property

No student shall steal or possess stolen property. No student shall damage any school property or private property while under school jurisdiction. A police report will be filed on all damages, and students or parents will be held accountable for restitution.

ATTENDANCE & TARDY POLICIES

Grades 9-12 Attendance Policy

The Ashe County Board of Education believes attendance is an important factor in the educational development of the student as well as a desirable habit for young adults to develop as they prepare to enter the areas of higher education and work. Any student who misses over 6 days, excused or unexcused, in a class during a semester will automatically lose credit for the course and will receive an "FF" to indicate an overage in absences in that course. If a student is able to maintain a passing grade in a course in which they have over 6 total absences, they may qualify to appeal the loss of credit to the attendance waiver committee. It will be the student's responsibility to complete the waiver form and submit all necessary paperwork by the deadline. Students must attend the waiver hearing. Waivers will be granted or denied based on the necessity of the absences (confirmed by relevant notes from doctors and parents) along with student attitude and overall classroom performance. If a student's absences cannot be accounted for or if the student has demonstrated a poor attitude and work ethic in class, waivers will be rejected and the student will fail the course.

Appeal Process

Any student who is denied the opportunity to earn credit for any course shall have a right to appeal to the school's attendance committee. Any appeal to the attendance committee must be submitted in writing to the principal no later than 5 school days after the student and the parent/guardian receives notice of the total number of absences. The notice of a request for appeal must state the reason the student should be allowed the opportunity to be promoted to the next grade without making up work or attending the number of days allowed. The parent/guardian must comply with all meeting requirements. Written documents in support of the student/parent statement must be attached to the notice of request for appeal. If the school attendance team determines that it cannot decide the matter in the student's favor based upon the written records, the attendance team shall arrange a time for a hearing at the convenience of the team members and the student/ parent, which shall be no more than 10 school days after the team makes that determination. The school attendance team can decide to:

- Allow the student the opportunity to earn credit for the course for the semester by meeting the requirements or presenting documentation that supports excusing the absences
- Deny the student the opportunity to earn credit for the course for the semester
- If the decision of the attendance committee is adverse to the student, the student and the parent/guardian can appeal within 5 days of notification

Written documentation is required for all absences; therefore, a student must present a doctor's note or a written statement from parent/guardian as to the reasons for absences within 3 days of returning to school or it will not be accepted and coded unexcused. Determination as to whether the absences are excused or unexcused will be made by the principal or designee. Students are expected to make-up missed assignments as a result of absences and will be responsible for arranging a make-up schedule with their teachers. Students may be asked to attend tutorial sessions during or after school.

Legitimate Reasons for Absences:

- 1. Illness and injury
- 2. Quarantine
- 3. Death in the immediate family
- 4. Medical or dental appointments
- 5. Court or administrative proceedings (court ordered)
- 6. Religious observances
- 7. Educational Opportunity
- 8. Special emergencies as determined by the principal

Excused Absences

While attendance is required, there shall be no penalty for 6 excused absences per Ashe Early College class per semester and 4 per Wilkes Community College cohort course (or a year-long class meeting on an A/B schedule), provided that all class work is made up within 3 days to the satisfaction of the teacher of each class missed.

Consecutive Absences

After the 3rd consecutive absence, the principal will contact the parent. The principal, a social worker, and/or school counselor may also make a home visit. After the 6th consecutive absence, any student age 16 or over will be dropped from the school's enrollment unless the school has been notified of the student's need to be absent for more than 6 consecutive days.

School Releases and Educational Opportunities

School releases do not count as absences. Since students are not counted absent for a school release, they are responsible for completing assignments or responding appropriately to any information given in the class missed. Classroom teachers will provide appropriate timeframes to students for making up assignments due to school releases. A student will be considered released from school for the following:

- Ashe Early College related activities
- Late bus
- No bus service because of limited routes

Educational opportunities are excused absences pre-approved by the principal. If a student has accumulated less than 3 absences for the year, one trip of up to 3 days may be approved. Requests must be submitted in writing to the principal 1 week prior to the trip. These 3 days do count in the total days missed for the semester.

Tardy Policy

The Ashe County Board of Education recognizes that regular school attendance plays a significant role in the academic performance of all students—School Board Policy 4400. It is a reasonable expectation that in order for learning to occur, each student must arrive to school on time. Students who are tardy excessively fall behind in academic achievement. A student who is continually tardy not only places his/her own learning in jeopardy, but also interrupts the learning of other students. Teachers take attendance each morning, and students are considered tardy if they are not in homeroom or in the classroom when the bell rings OR if a student leaves before the end of the instructional day. Students will have three school days to provide a written excuse for the tardy. Written excuses will be accepted up to 6 unexcused tardies or 10 accumulated tardies. After 6 unexcused tardies or 10 accumulated tardies, a medical excuse will be required. The following procedures will be followed for frequent and excessive tardiness in Ashe County Schools:

Grades 9-12

The following procedures are followed as tardies are accumulated in each class.

• After 3 tardies, the classroom teacher will contact the parent/guardian of the student to address the tardies, and provide possible solutions and educate parents/guardians of possible consequences of continued tardiness. The student will serve 1 afternoon ASD.

- After <u>6 unexcused</u> tardies, a student, teacher, administrator conference will be scheduled. An agreement will be developed by the administration and the student that includes steps that will be taken if the tardiness continues. The student will receive a referral to the office. The student will serve three afternoons of ASD, and if applicable, driving privileges will be suspended for 5 days.
- After <u>9 tardies</u>, the student will receive a referral to the office, one day of ISS, and, if applicable, driving privileges will be suspended for 10 days, and the student and parent will be referred to court mediation.
- If additional tardies are received, the student will receive a referral to the office, 2 days of ISS, and, if applicable, driving privileges will be suspended for the reminder of the semester.

It is important that students always be in homeroom or in class when the tardy bell rings. The school reserves the right to place students in morning or afternoon detention or ISS for excessive tardies if students are tardy to class during the day. In grades 9-12, tardies will be counted per class. Please refer to School Board Policy 4400.

A cumulative semester total of tardies will be kept in the office. Discipline for tardies will be in accordance with the School Rules and Consequences table in this handbook (see pages 35-38). Tardies will result in loss of driving privileges.

Responsibility of the Teacher

- Period attendance must be done within the first 10 minutes of homeroom and of each period and recorded in PowerSchool.
- Teachers are to remind students of accumulating tardies and to turn in excuse notes and missing assignments resulting from absences.
- Tardies are considered a discipline problem and after every third unexcused tardy the student will be referred by the teacher and dealt with in accordance to the Ashe Early College Discipline Policy. Refer to the Discipline Chart in the back of this student handbook.
- In cooperation with the student's prompt and conscientious request to make up work, it is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to be available and to assist in a reasonable manner in this effort.

Arrival to School

Once a student arrives on school grounds they may not leave the premises without following proper procedure of signing out in the office. Some may feel that if they arrive on campus early that it is acceptable to leave if it is prior to the actual school day beginning; however, once a student arrives on campus he/she becomes the responsibility of the school and its staff. Parents/guardians have entrusted Ashe Early College with student care once on school grounds; therefore, the school must exercise its duty in keeping students as safe as possible within the confines of the Ashe Early College campus.

Late Arrival to School

Students arriving to school after 8:20 will need to:

- Present a note from a parent/guardian and receive a tardy pass from the office.
- Present a tardy pass to the classroom teacher when entering late.
- The tardy pass will state if the student is excused or unexcused.

Reminder-Students must be in the class at least one half the period in order to be considered present.

Early Dismissal

Students wishing to leave early must follow this procedure:

• Present a note from a parent/guardian and be signed out in the office.

- Ashe Early College administrative staff must approve a student leaving school.
- Sign out in the office when leaving.

Reminder—Students must be in a class at least one half of the period in order to be considered present.

Ashe Early College Attendance Policy for Wilkes Community College Courses

Class attendance is considered to be an important part of students' educational experiences. Students are responsible for attendance and are expected to be punctual and to attend every class session. Regardless of reasons for absences, students will be held accountable for all academic activities. Faculty members may require make-up assignments or tests to compensate for absences.

College Attendance Requirements

College instructors will issue attendance policies at the beginning of each course. For cohorted college courses during the freshman and sophomore years, students are only allowed to miss up to 4 days per college course. **Once absences exceed 4, students are dropped from college courses.** Students must notify the Ashe Early College principal if they are dropped from a college course for any reason! Students who fail to do so will be considered insubordinate and may face disciplinary action. If a student should neglect to turn in proper paperwork for dropping a class, they will receive an automatic "F" on their high school transcript, and this will affect their GPA. Wilkes Community College instructors set individual attendance requirements for each course at the junior, senior, and super senior levels.

Attendance policies will be clearly stated in each course syllabus. Students are responsible for knowing the attendance policy for each Wilkes Community College course.

SCHEDULES

Much attention is given to course selection and creating a master schedule that allows the best schedule possible for each student. Student schedules are created using a priority scale: NC high school diploma requirement, Wilkes Community College degree requirement, minimum course requirement for college admission, transfer university course requirement, and student selection. Students seeking to change or drop a high school course must first gain the approval of the principal and school courselor.

Course Prerequisites and Recommendation Prerequisites

Some courses require passing a prerequisite course. For example, a second level course may not be taken before successfully completing the first level of the course.

ACADEMICS

Academic Support

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to stay abreast of student progress throughout the year. If you have questions regarding progress in a high school class, please email or call the appropriate teacher or see the school counselor. If you have questions regarding college courses, please contact the college liaison at (336)846-1881. Ashe Early College provides academic support for students during the school day and after school, when available. Also, to assist students in college courses, they may utilize the Academic Support Center located at the Ashe Campus of Wilkes Community in room 306.

Academic Probation

Ashe Early College students are expected to successfully complete all scheduled college classes to meet the goal of completing their degree program. Dropping a college course is a serious decision with wide-ranging consequences: Ashe Early College has a comprehensive procedure in place to help students and their parents/guardians make the best decisions possible. Students will be placed on academic probation for dropping and/or failing college level courses. A student on academic probation may be reassigned to Ashe County High School for subsequent occurrences of dropping or failing classes. The principal and college liaison must approve the dropping of a college class. Only one drop is allowed for the entire school year unless due to extreme hardship.

Failing High School Classes

- Students failing high school classes required for grade promotion will be dropped from college classes in order to avoid retention.
- Students will lose campus privileges and be required to attend academic support periods (Smart Lunch or after school tutoring) that must be used to increase student achievement and/or address behavior.
- Students who fail more than two semesters may be dismissed from the Ashe Early College and placed at their traditional high school.

Grades/Classes	Behavior
3.5 weighted GPA	No infraction of OSS
No grade below 75 High School and Wilkes Community College courses count toward this requirement.	Student will be inducted on probation with one discipline infraction warranting ISS. Any further infractions of ISS will result in the student not being inducted in or removed from Beta Club. Students will <i>not</i> be inducted into Beta Club if they have one documented infraction of cheating or bullying.

Beta Club—11th and 12th Grades

College Textbooks

Students are responsible for returning college textbooks immediately following exams. Students are responsible for replacing any lost or damaged books. If a book has not been returned by the fifth day following the final class, the student will be billed for the missing textbook(s). No textbooks will be given out for the next semester until current semester textbooks have been returned or replaced.

Grading Policies

Grade Reporting and Assessment

Ashe Early College instructors assess learning in both traditional and non-traditional ways. Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning throughout the course. Assessment of student progress is made by observation of student work and class discussion, individual and group assignments such as homework and presentations, or projects, as well as formal assessments such as quizzes and tests. For more specific information regarding grading and assessment practices, please refer to the syllabus for each individual course.

High School End-of-Course Testing

Students must take all end-of-course (EOC) tests required by the State Board of Education. If required by the State Board, students who do not score at Level III or above on the first administration of an EOC test shall be retested—Board Policy 3460.

- EOC test: The EOC will count as the final exam. This score will count as 20% of the final grade.
- Non-EOC test: The teacher will give a common exam or NCFE (North Carolina Final Exam) that will count as 20% of the final grade.

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery specifically offers NC students the opportunity to personalize and accelerate their learning by earning course credit through a demonstration of mastery of course material. Please visit the school counselor for more information.

Promotion Standards

Students must have earned the indicated number of credits in order to be classified as follows:

Sophomore	6 units
Junior	13 units
Senior	20 units
Super Senior	28 Units

In order to graduate with a high school diploma from Ashe Early College, students must earn at least 28 units and meet all state and local requirements.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued at the end of each semester. Progress reports are sent home at the mid-term of each semester. In addition, high school teachers notify parents/guardians about students in danger of failure. The grading scale is as follows:

Grading Scale

Letter	Percentile	Honors	College
Α	90-100	4.5	5
В	80-89	3.5	4
С	70-79	2.5	3
D	60-69	1.5	2
F	0-59	0	0

All high school courses are assigned the same quality point value.

Class rank shall be based on quality points achieved.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Parents have the right to inspect and review educational records, to seek to attend educational meetings, and to have some control over the disclosure of information from education records. Parents should submit their request in writing to the principal. These rights transfer to the student when the student turns 18 or attends a postsecondary institution. Directory information (not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy) can be displayed by the school unless parents request it not be made public. Examples would include photographs, participation in clubs and sports. Directory information will not include student identification numbers or social security numbers. Reference Board Policy 4700 Student Records and FERPA Act, 20 USC§1232g, h, 34CFR Part 99.

Wilkes Community College—All students must submit the WCC Consent to Release form with parent/guardian information before the College Liaison can speak or meet with parent/guardian without the student present.

GPA Calculation

Grade point averages for high school courses will be calculated in accordance with standards set by the State Board of Education and in compliance with the NC Uniform Transcript rules. The calculations are based on a standardization of the following: 1) academic course level; 2) grading scales; and 3) the weighting of course grading. The class rank is based on a Weighted Grade Point Average in which a single quality point or weight is added to passing grades earned in courses.

Students must have achieved the above weighted GPA at the end of the spring semester of their senior year with no grade lower than a "C". Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with by administration on an individual basis.

Reporting of Class Rank

Class rank for all reporting purposes will be based on the Weighted Grade Point Average in accordance with the State Board guidelines.

Honor Rolls

• A Honor Roll—No grade less than A, no grade of unsatisfactory or incomplete

• A-B Honor Roll—No grade less than a B, no grade of unsatisfactory or incomplete

Honor roll will be computed on un-weighted grades (both high school and college) at the end of 2nd and 4th nine weeks grading period. Students who withdraw from a college course are not eligible for honor roll recognition during that semester.

ATHLETICS

Athletic Events

No animals except service animals allowed at any school-sponsored activity. Admission:

- Adults \$6
- Students \$6

Athletic Eligibility

To be eligible for athletic participation, a student must:

- Pass a minimum load of work during the preceding semester to be eligible at any time during the present semester. A minimum load is defined as <u>3 courses on the "block" format</u>. Students must also meet local promotion standards set by the LEA and/or the local school. A student, upon first entering 9th grade, is academically eligible for competition on high school teams.
- Meet all Ashe Early College and Wilkes Community College attendance policy requirements.
- Meet the age requirement as specified by NCHSAA. A student may participate in athletic contests during a school year if he/she will not become 19 years of age on or before August 31of the school year.
- Have a current physical examination (a physical examination is good for 365 days), a signed current parental permission form, a completed Gfellar -Waller checklist and a current EKG before being allowed to participate in athletics. In addition, an athlete must have a current drug testing consent form. An athlete should be covered by insurance. Ashe County Schools does purchase athletic insurance to help student athletes, but this a <u>secondary</u> <u>policy</u> only.
- Upon entrance into high school, a student has eight consecutive semesters of eligibility.

Athletic Department Regulations

Ashe Early College and the athletic department of Ashe County High School has adopted the following regulations concerning the conduct of all members of its interscholastic teams:

• Athletes must meet all NCHSAA eligibility requirements before being allowed to participate in any sport.

- Athletes are expected to practice good health and training habits. Use of tobacco, alcohol, and other controlled substances is forbidden.
- Profanity will not be tolerated at any time or place.
- Athletes are to be at practice everyday. Every practice is important; even if injured, an athlete can learn from observation.
- Athletes must travel to and from away games with their coaches. Exception to this policy may be made at the personal request of a parent/guardian.
- An athlete being placed in ISS may result in the athlete not participating in practice or a contest during the entire time the athlete is assigned to ISS. OSS will result in the athlete not participating in practice or a contest.
- Athletes are expected to abide by the general conduct codes.
- Athletes are expected to dress appropriately for school.
- Athletes are expected to have a good attendance record at school. Furthermore, no athlete will be allowed to actively participate in a practice session or play in a game on a day in which he/she has not been present in school (special exceptions-coach, principal, athletic director). Present is defined as 2 full periods.
- Insubordination, poor sportsmanship, violation of an individual coach's rule, or anti-social behavior exhibited by an athlete is considered detrimental to the team and to school spirit. The athlete shall receive no less than a reprimand and no more than a suspension for the season.
- It is the student-athlete's responsibility "to not use any form of social media...to be critical of teammates, coaches, game officials, school administrators, opponents, opposing schools or any other personnel involved in the athletic program."

Athletic Program Objectives

- To provide students with the opportunity to engage in competitive activities
- Achieve goals through self-discipline, sacrifice, and dedication
- Exemplify good sportsmanship as a means of learning good citizenship
- Work as a team member in order to achieve a goal, learning that cooperation and competition are not mutually exclusive concepts
- Experience both winning and losing, to understand that losing provides opportunities to learn, to set the stage for future winning, to understand that winning is not the only indicator that the team and individuals are working together to achieve the end result
- Engage in competitive experiences in an acceptable manner.
- Experience a feeling of self-worth and develop self-confidence
- Develop problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Learn new skills beyond those acquired in physical education classes and improve upon those already acquired
- Understand and practice the principles of sound health, safety, and physical fitness.

Ashe Early College offers students the opportunity to participate in the following sports.

FALL SPORTS SEASON

Footballo Women's Golf Men and Women's Cross Country Volleyball Women's Tennis Men's Varsity Soccer Men's JV Soccer Varsity Cheerleading JV Cheerleading

WINTER SPORTS SEASON

Women's Varsity Basketball Women's JV Basketball Men's Varsity Basketball Men's JV Basketball Wrestling Varsity Cheerleading JV Cheerleading Men and Women's Swimming Men and Women's Indoor Track





SPRING SPORTS SEASON

Varsity Baseball JV Baseball Women's Soccer Men's Tennis Men's Golf Men and Women's Track Varsity Softball JV Softball

RANDOM DRUG TESTING

The Board of Education recognized that drug and alcohol use by students results in a significant health and safety risk to students and the educational environment. The Random Student Drug Testing Policy 4326 and 4800 is intended to be a helpful part of the overall physical, mental, and health education of students. In addition to the alcohol and drug testing program, the school district will continue to utilize the school health curriculum and local community sub-stance abuse education and treatment providers, to teach students about the harmful effects of drug and alcohol use and to prevent students from using drugs and alcohol. All students in grades 9-12 who desire to participate in any of the following voluntary school activities or privileges must agree to participate in the random student drug testing program:

- Interscholastic athletics
- Extracurricular activities
- Campus driving and parking privileges

LUNCH & LEARN

Lunch & Learn is a privilege that has both rights and responsibilities. Lunch & Learn offers an extended single lunch period for one hour every day Monday-Friday unless scheduled otherwise. Students have the opportunity to eat lunch and participate in a variety of activities during their Lunch & Learn time. As young adults, students will be offered choices for when and where to eat on campus while taking advantage of academic activities (tutoring, makeup work, etc.) as well as extracurricular activities (clubs and service projects). The principal has the right to remove Lunch & Learn if students are not using this extended time properly.

Expectations

- School will remain clean and neat.
- Students will use time for academics such as tutoring or makeup work when their grades drop or teacher requires tutoring (any grade below 69 or missing work).
- Students will check-in with all their high school teachers at least twice a quarter during Lunch & Learn.
- Students will follow teacher expectations while eating lunch in classrooms.
- Students are allowed to eat in designated areas outside.
- Students are responsible for disposing of their own trash.
- Students are encouraged and expected to move to locations based on personal needs: tutoring, makeup work, cafeteria, Academic Support Center.
- Students will be allowed to leave Ashe Early College campus for lunch; however, students must get permission from their parent/guardian and sign out in the main office. Students are required to sign back in once they return from lunch and they must be on time for third block class.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

A comprehensive program of school counseling is provided to assist each AEC student with academic and career planning and/or personal/problem solving. The school counselor will assist students and plan a 4 or 5 year program of study. Services of the counseling program include:

- Senior—Financial Aid and Scholarships
- ACT and SAT
- Discussion groups/classroom programs
- Community work/business visitations
- PLAN/PSAT
- ACA 115

Counseling Department Calendars and Announcements

For the 2021-2022 school year, announcements will be posted on the counselor's webpage, scrolling announcements and bulletin board. Monthly calendars will be posted by the end of the current month. Information for announcements, scholarship opportunities, calendars, camps and programs may also be found on the school webpage.

Seeing Your Counselor

Mrs. Jessica Yates will assist in various roles at Ashe Early College including discussion groups and scholarships. In order to receive her assistance and to limit out of class time, we encourage students to make appointments whenever possible. Students may do this by leaving a note, sending an email, or by having a conversation with Mrs. Jones to arrange a time. In the event of an emergency, the student should check-in with the administrative assistant and be directed to available personnel. Conversations with the counselor will be kept confidential unless the student has indicated harm to self or others.

Parent Appointments

Parents may arrange appointments by calling 336-846-1881.

ASC Center—Assessment, Support & Counseling Center

Students who are struggling with difficulties such as depression, anxiety, or social stress may find that these challenges get in the way of their academic success. The ASC Center is a school-based mental health program offering on-site free services to students and families. Services include: individual treatment, crisis intervention, grief family therapy, and consultation. If you are interested in services, please contact Mrs. Yates and ask about making a referral to the ASC Program Coordinator.

NURSE'S OFFICE

AEC will share a nurse with Ashe County High School. Services provided may include: minor first aid, minimum physical assessment in the event of an illness, chronic health care maintenance, information and education about health care topics. Students should contact the Ashe Early College principal, administrative assistant or counselor to see the school nurse. Students may need to travel to Ashe County High School if deemed necessary.

Immunizations

NC Law requires all students grades K-12 to have a complete immunization record. If your child does not have a completed shot record already at school, please Bring it as soon as possible. A Request for School Health Record Information form will be sent home if any immunizations are found incomplete. Students must have their immunizations up to date to continue in school.

Health Screenings

Throughout the school year, students will be screened to assure they can see and hear. During the fall, 9th grade students will have a vision screening and in the spring a hearing screening. In addition, at anytime during the school year when a teacher may feel a student is having difficulty seeing or hearing in the classroom, they may request that a vision or hearing screening be done. A parent may request a vision or hearing screening as well.

Health Information Form

Each year health information forms will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. This information is essential in helping us prepare for the best care of students while they are at school. Please note any and all health conditions on the form and return it to school as soon as possible. The counselor must be notified if your child has any chronic illness. Physician documentation is required to implement a plan of care for a student while he/she is at school.

Medications

Ashe County Schools Medication Board Policy 6125 requires that all medications given in the schools must be accompanied by a physician's order, this includes all prescription and nonprescription medications. Medications cannot be given without this written physician's order. Just having the medication bottle is not acceptable. If a student does require a medication to be taken at school, do not send the medication to school with the student. A parent/guardian must bring the medication to school and give to the counselor. If the counselor is not immediately available, please see the principal. Do not leave the medication with front office personnel or teachers. Students are not allowed to carry medications are registered with the counselor and stored and locked in a medication cabinet. All medications brought to school must be in the original container, properly labeled, and accompanied by a doctor's order. The counselor has a Physician's Authorization form that you can obtain and take to your physician to complete.

LIBRARY SERVICES

We believe that a strong library has a positive effect on student achievement and this is supported by state and national studies. Ashe Early College students will have the opportunity to utilize Ashe County Public Library. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner as outlined in this handbook.

COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY USE

Student Network/Internet Safety/Media Publishing Information

We are pleased to offer students of Ashe County Schools access to the district computer network resources, Internet access and communications. This tool has become a vital part of our instructional program and is used daily in classrooms throughout our system. Students and their parents/guardians should review this document and understand that the use of online (Internet) resources has become a standard method of delivery for instructional materials as well as required standardized tests. Therefore, students must have access to these resources for full participation in the educational process. Any questions or concerns about our computer network or access, should be referred to your schools' technology facilitator or principal. A copy of the Board policy regarding student access to networked informational resources (3225/7320) are available on Ashe County Schools district website at <u>www.asheschools.org</u>.

General Network Use

The network is provided for students' instructional use. Access to network services is a privilege and is given to students to use in a considerate and responsible manner. Students are expected to utilize good behavior on school computer networks in all areas of Ashe Early College and Wilkes Community College. As such, general school rules apply for behavior/communications, and users must comply with district standards and honor agreements they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will be private.

Damaged or Missing Technology Devices

Damaged or missing technology devices will be assessed by the IT department, and repair/replacement costs will be charged to the responsible student.

Internet Access and Communications

Access to Internet will enable students to use thousands of libraries and databases. Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. Filtering software is in place and eliminates most of the inappropriate material, but no filtering system is capable of blocking 100% of the inappropriate content available on the Internet. To assist in protecting our students, Internet safety as well as responsible use is taught to students at the third, sixth, and ninth grade levels, but teachers will expect responsible and ethical behavior while utilizing the Internet at all levels. We believe that the educational benefits to students from access to the Internet exceeds the disadvantages.

Internet Violations/Hazards That Could Result in Disciplinary or Legal Action

- Sending, receiving, displaying, or accessing defamatory, offensive, profane, sexually oriented, racially offensive, or illegal materials
- Using obscene language
- Sharing personal information on websites (full name, address, phone number, identifiable photos) without permission from a student, teacher, parent, or guardian
- Harassing, insulting, or attacking others
- Unauthorized access; damaging or modifying computers, computer systems, or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Invading the privacy of individuals or using others' passwords
- Intentionally wasting limited network resources (streaming content without permission)
- Employing the network for commercial purposes, financial gain, or fraud
- Attempting to access websites blocked by district policy including the use of proxy services, software, or websites. The use of keylogging devices/ software is prohibited.

Publishing to the Internet

Parents should be aware that their child's work may be considered for publication on the Internet, specifically on the school or teacher's website. Such publishing is to highlight exceptional projects and reward student achievements. Photos of students may also be published to school/county websites or Ashe

Early College social media accounts, illustrating student projects and achievements in educational events. To align with our policy, only the student's first name and last initial will be published. This includes Wilkes Community College courses as well.

Bring your own devices at your own risk. Ashe Early College will not be responsible for loss, damage, or theft of your devices.

Student devices must be connected to the student network at all times.

FEES

Ashe Early College

General fees for Ashe Early College will be \$32.00 per year. In addition to the yearly general fees, if a student participates in band, there will be a departmental fee of \$50.00 made payable to Ashe County High School. <u>Students are responsible for paying all assigned fees.</u> Fees (AEC and WCC) MUST be paid before any student can participate in ANY social clubs or events .

College Activity

Juniors, seniors, and super seniors enrolled in the fall and spring semesters will be responsible for college activity fees of \$3.25 per credit hour, not to exceed \$32.50 per semester.

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast and lunch is currently free for all students.

Parking

Student parking permits for Ashe Early College sophomores will be \$40.00 per year or \$20.00 if purchased after spring break. Parking tickets and violations will be \$20.00 each. Student parking permits for sophomores will be purchased from Ashe County High School. Juniors, seniors, and super seniors will purchase a student parking permit from Wilkes Community College.

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Debt List

At Ashe Early College we will have a student debt list. Students are placed on the debt list for any/all of the following reasons:

- Unpaid general fees
- Unpaid departmental fees
- Unpaid cafeteria charges
- Unpaid parking permits or parking tickets
- Lost or damaged books

*As stated previously, if a student gets free and reduced lunches and they get extras, they are responsible to pay for those. If not paid by the end of each semester, the charges go on the debt list. Also, if you have charges on your account at the end of the year and these are not paid, these charges will be carried over to the next school year. Students must be off the debt list to attend school dances, additional activities, get a parking pass (when student becomes eligible), or graduate.

Non-Sufficiently Funded (FSF) Checks

Due to the volume of uncollectible checks that the district receives, Ashe County Schools has contracted with the ChecXchange for the electronic collection of checks returned for insufficient funds (NFS). The district will gladly accept your checks; however, in the event your check is returned, your account will be debited electronically for the full amount and fees allowed by the state of North Carolina.

Please include the following on your check:

- Drivers License number
- Full name
- Street address
- Phone numbers

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OFFICE TELEPHONE USE

Announcements will be made at the beginning of each day during homeroom and made available to view on scrolling announcements. Any student or staff member who would like an announcement made should complete an announcement form and turn it in to administration to be reviewed. Other announcements will be made only on an emergency basis and with the approval of an administrator.

Office phones are for business use and are not to be used by students. In the event a student receives a call, he/she will be given the message at a designated time; students will be called from class only in emergencies. Students may use the office phone for "emergencies" only.

FIRE AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS

During fire drills, all students and staff are expected to leave the building quickly and quietly and return upon notification when it is safe to return to the building. Detailed instructions for drills are posted in all rooms. Teachers are responsible for making sure the students know the drill instructions.

Ashe Early College will follow lockdown drill procedures for Wilkes Community College.

No student shall deliberately "pull" or initiate a false fire alarm. This action shall be deemed as a serious safety infraction (NC General Statute §14-286).

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Ashe Early College students will follow the Ashe County Schools inclement weather schedule. Announcements will be sent by phone as well as posted on Ashe County Schools website and the Ashe Early College webpage.

LOCKERS/BACKPACKS/PERSONAL BAGS

At this time lockers are not available at Ashe Early College. Students are responsible for maintaining and taking care of all personal belongings. As such, students should not bring valuables or items of sentimental meaning if they are concerned about theft, loss, and/or damage. The school cannot accept responsibility for stolen money or other items/articles.

Prior arrangements for athletic bags will need to be made with the classroom teacher or administration.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found items should be brought to the administrative assistant in the office. Students who lose articles should inquire in the office to see if the item has been turned in.

DRIVER EDUCATION CLASSES

The Ashe County School System has contracted with North Carolina Driving School Inc., to provide Driver Education classes at no cost to the student. It is very important for students to sign up for Driver Education classes shortly after they reach 14 ½ years of age. Classes will be scheduled immediately after the regular school day, for three hours each day for 11 regular school days at Ashe County High School. After class work completion, students will be selected by class first and then by age, with the oldest student in each class selected first for six hours behind the wheel instruction. Please take advantage of this opportunity to attend Driver Education classes as early as possible. After completion of the Driver Education requirements, the student will need to request a copy of their transcript from the Ashe Early College administrative assistant. Also a parent/guardian should stop by Ashe County High School to obtain the Driving Eligibility Certificate, high school transcript, certified birth certificate, and Social Security card.

DRIVER'S LICENSE LAWS

Dropout Prevention

Pursuant to North Carolina law, students under 18 years of age must remain in school until they graduate and make adequate academic progress in order to maintain a NC driver's license. Adequate academic progress is defined as passing 70% of all classes. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the loss of eligibility for a permit or cancellation by the NC Department of Motor Vehicles of a driver's permit/license. A committee will meet to determine if adequate academic progress is being made. If so, a Driving Eligibility Certificate will be issued or the driver's permit/license can be restored upon payment of a designated fee to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Lose Control, Lose Your License

Pursuant to North Carolina law, public schools and community colleges must notify the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles whenever a student is given a suspension for more than 10 consecutive days or an assignment to an alternative educational setting for more then 10 consecutive days for any of the following reasons:

- Possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal controlled substance on school property
- Possession or use on school property of a weapon or firearm that resulted in disciplinary action under General Statute \$115C-391(d1) or that could have resulted in disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in a public school
- Physical assault on an instructor or other school personnel on school property
- The destruction of school property. The definition of school property is the physical premises of the school, school buses or other vehicles under the school's control or contract that are used to transport students, and school sponsored or school related activities that occur on or off the physical premises of the school.

The law will suspend a student's permit/license for one year. Students between the ages of 14-18 are subject to this law.

ASHE EARLY COLLEGE/WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DRIVING PRIVILEGES

Driving to school and parking on campus is considered a privilege not a right; therefore, to ensure student safety as well as safety of our visitors, faculty, and staff, high standards of conduct are expected of our student drivers as well as their passengers.

- All students seeking a parking pass must agree to be subject to participate in the Ashe Early College random drug test program.
- Understand that a student's vehicle may be searched by school administration or SRO if there are reasonable grounds to believe drugs, alcohol, stolen property, or other contraband may be present in the vehicle.
- Ashe Early College or Wilkes Community College will not be responsible for any loss or damage of vehicles or vehicle contents.
- All students are to register their vehicles at the beginning of each year or when license is issued and have a completed application on file before parking on campus.
- Vehicles parked on campus without a parking tag, parked illegally or parked in the visitor parking area may be towed at the discretion of Ashe Early College/Wilkes Community College without notice.
- Campus speed limit is 10 mph.
- Drivers are expected to adhere to all school and traffic rules while on campus.

- Parking tags are to be displayed hanging face side out from the rearview mirror.
- Students must park in assigned parking spaces only.
- Students are to enter the building upon arriving to school. The parking lot is an unauthorized area during the school day, and a student shall not return back to **ANY** vehicle without written permission from an administrator or school resource officer.
- Students are to report to their cars at the dismissal of school and leave immediately unless they are involved in extracurricular activities.
- Students are not to stand and socialize in the parking areas before or after school hours.
- Students are to yield right of way to yellow buses.

Long and short-term revocation of privileges for ALL student drivers may occur for the following reasons:

- Leaving campus without permission
- Transporting another student off campus without permission or without following correct procedure
- Loaning out a vehicle for another to leave without permission
- Careless or reckless driving
- Failure to obey traffic director/officer
- Excessive tardiness as defined and explained in the student handbook

Administrators hold the right to use revocation of privileges in lieu of any punishment listed in the student handbook.

Towing at the owners expense or the application of a wheel lock for ALL student drivers will occur for the following reasons:

- A student fails to register after ample chances and citations
- Repeated offenses of any expectation or rule
- Failure to pay driving citations

Registration for Ashe Early College Sophomore Drivers

- Parking permits are to be purchased before 8:10 a.m. or after 3:40 p.m. at Ashe County High School.
- A parking permit is \$40 per year or \$20 if purchased after spring break. Once parking permits are purchased, spots may not be switched.
- A complete application must have both parental and student driver signatures.
- All fees or debts from the prior semester(s) must be cleared before parking tags may be purchased or renewed.
- A lost tag may be replaced for a \$20 replacement fee for sophomore drivers.
- A valid North Carolina license must be shown at the time of registration.

Consequences for Ashe Early College Sophomore Drivers

Students will receive a minimal \$20 citation for the follow reasons:

- Failure to register their vehicle within the first 10 days of school or mid-year if applicable
- Parking in someone else's space
- Failure to properly display parking tag
- Parking in a staff or visitor space

<u>Registration for Ashe Early College Junior, Senior, and Super Senior</u> <u>Drivers</u>

- Must complete a Student Drug Test Consent Form (see AEC administrative assistant for form).
- Parking permits are to be purchased from Wilkes Community College during Lunch & Learn or during class breaks.
- Permit (includes college access fee) is \$20 per semester
- Vehicle tag number is required with purchase of parking permit.

The school is not responsible for any loss or damage of vehicles or vehicle contents. Any vehicle parked at the Ashe Early College campus is subject to search by school administrators or SRO. All student drivers must complete the appropriate Driving Privilege Form (located at the administrative assistant's desk) and obtain an WCC parking hang tag prior to driving on campus. Vehicles parked on campus without a parking tag, parked illegally, or parked in the visitor parking area may be towed at the discretion of the college without notice.

TRIPS

All trips will be classified in one of the following categories:

- School-sponsored trips/events—Students who are involved in school-sponsored trips or athletic events will not be counted absent from school; however, this will count as a Wilkes Community College absence. Students who follow guidelines set by Ashe Early College or the counseling department may make college visits and not be counted absent.
- Educational trips—If a student has accumulated less than 3 absences for the year, the principal may approve one pre-arranged trip of up to three days. This would be considered an educational opportunity. A request must be submitted in writing to the principal at least 1 week prior to the trip for it to be considered for approval. A submission does not mean it will automatically be approved. If approved, a one-page journal writing will be submitted upon return from the trip to the administrative assistant. No absences for pre-arranged educational opportunity will be granted during the three weeks prior to end-of-course tests.

Other trips-Days absent from school for trips not listed above will be counted as unexcused absences.

GRADUATION

Community Service

Students are responsible for completing 30 hours of community service by the second semester of their senior year. Students may download a Community Service form from the Ashe Early College webpage under the Students link or request a form from the counselor or administrative assistant in the office. Forms must be returned to the counselor to be recorded.

Honor Graduates

All graduation recognitions are determined at the end of the first semester of the students' final year. Ashe Early College will recognize as honor graduates all students that have a weighted Grade Point Average of 3.5 or higher to be calculated at the end of the 1st term of the Senior Year and verified just before graduation. Students graduating from Wilkes Community College will be identified according to WCC guidelines for honor graduate recognition.

For students receiving a diploma, we will recognize the honor graduates in the following manner:

Level I Students with weighted GPA of 4.25+

Level II Students with a weighted GPA of 4.0 to 4.249

Level III Students with a weighted GPA of 3.75 to 3.999

Students must have achieved the above weighted GPA at the end of the spring semester of their senior year with no grade lower than a "C". Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with by administration on an individual basis.

Cord Explanations

Gold CordA weighted GPA 4.25+ and no semester grade lower than a "C"Silver CordA weighted GPA of 4.0 to 4.249 and no semester grade lower than a "C"Purple CordA weighted GPA of 3.75 to 3.999 and no semester grade lower than a "C"Cords will be purchased through the office.

Cords, Sashes and Stoles

- **Band Cord** One black and one silver cord. The student must complete eight separate performance band courses. Courses do not have to be taken in consecutive semesters. The student must have a minimum of a 3.50 GPA.
- Beta Stole Gold collar with a Beta emblem. The student must be an active Beta member and exemplify the motto "Let us lead by serving others." Members must maintain a weighted GPA of 3.50 or higher, have no semester grade lower than a "C", and must have earned six or more Beta credits annually.

Graduation Marshals

- The weighting system used for the statewide electronic transcript will be used to calculate these honors.
- The weighted GPA will be calculated at the end of the 1st term of the junior year for all juniors. The marshals will be determined starting with the student having the highest weighted GPA and counting down the list until the appropriate number of students have been chosen.

Junior Marshals

The top 10% of the Junior class will be selected as Junior Marshals for the graduation ceremonies. The selection will be based on Weighted Grade Point Average calculated at the end of the first semester.

North Carolina High School Diploma Endorsements

Students in North Carolina Public Schools may receive one or more endorsements on their high school diploma. These endorsements indicate that students have completed specific course concentrations preparing them to be ready for college or career. The three endorsements available at Ashe Early College are:

- College/UNC Endorsement—indicating readiness for entry into a four-year university in the University of North Carolina System
- NC Academic Scholars Endorsement—indicating that students have completed a balanced and academically rigorous high school program preparing them for post-secondary education
- Global Languages Endorsement—indicating proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English

Recognition of Students with Endorsements

- Will be designated by State Board of Education as having achieved an endorsement
- Will receive a seal of recognition attached to their diplomas
- Will have their specific endorsements listed on their official academic transcript
- May receive special recognition at graduation exercises and other community events
- May be considered for scholarships or employment opportunities
- May use this special recognition in applying to post-secondary institutions

DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENTS







College/UNC

NC Academic Scholars

Global Languages

Credits	College/UNC	NC Academic	Global Language
4	English I, II, III, IV	English I, II, III, IV	English I, II, III, IV
4	Mathematics I, II, III and a fourth mathematics course that meets UNC system minimum admission requirements.	Mathematics I, II, III and a higher level mathematics course with Mathematics III as prerequisite	Mathematics I, II, III and a higher level mathematics course with Mathematics III as prerequisite) The student shall earn unweighted 2.5 GPA or above for the four English Language Arts courses.
3	Science (Physical Science, Life Science and one additional Science)	Science (Physics or Chemistry course, Biology, and an Earth/Environmental Science course)	Science (Earth Science, Biology, Physical Science)
4	Social Studies (World History, Civics & Economics, American Histo- ry I and American History II)	Social Studies (World History, Civics/Economics, American History I and American History II)	Social Studies (World History, Civics & Economics, American History I and American History II)
1	Health and Physical Education	Health and Physical Education	Health and Physical Education
World Language Specific to Endorsement	Two Units: World Language other than English	Two Units: World Language other than English	 The student shall establish proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English, using one of the options outlined below and in accordance with the guidelines developed by the NCDPI. Pass external exam approved by the NCDPI establishing "Intermediate Low" proficiency or higher per the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages proficiency scale. Complete a four-course sequence of study in the same world language, earning an overall unweighted GPA of 2.5 or above in those courses. Establish "Intermediate Low" proficiency or higher per the ACTFL proficiency scale using the Credit by Demonstrated Mastery policy described in GCS-M-001.

DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENTS



Electives Specific to Endorsement		TBD	
Advanced Placement/Honors Specific to Endorsement		TBD	
GPA Requirements or/and Other Specifications	GPA 2.5	GPA 3.5	GPA 2.5 Limited English Proficiency students shall com- plete all the requirements of the above standards "Developing" proficiency per the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment proficiency scale in all four domains on the most recent state identified English language proficiency test.

Graduation Ceremony Procedures

- Seniors are expected to attend all practices for graduation. Failure to practice may eliminate a student from participaton. In case of an emergency, permission to miss graduation practice must be granted by the principal.
- Seniors taking part in graduation exercises should wear the appropriate clothing. Students wearing tennis shoes, shorts, cut-off jeans, t-shirts, and any inappropriate clothing will not be allowed to march in the graduation line.
- Graduation is a formal occasion and should be carried out with dignity. This is expected of all Ashe Early College graduates.
- A cap and gown are required.

ASHE EARLY COLLEGE RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

The administration also reserves the right to assess rules and regulations on an individual basis and act according to severity when appropriate.

Infraction	Consequence 1	Consequence 2	Consequence 3	Consequence 4	Consequence 5
Being In An Unauthorized Area	Up to 1 day of ISS	1 day of ISS	2 days ISS	3 days ISS	1 day OSS
Inappropriate use of cell phone/electronic device	1 day ASD Parent/Guardian pickup	1 day ISS Parent/Guardian pickup	2 days ISS Parent/Guardian pickup	1 days OSS Parent/Guardian pickup Leave device in office during school hours	
Defacing of School Property/Littering	Up to 1 day of ISS & Restitution	1 day ISS & Restitution	2 days ISS & Restitution	Up to 1 day of OSS	2 days OSS
Dress Code	Warning Change of clothes	ASD Change of clothes	1 day ISS Change of clothes	2 days ISS Change of clothes	3 days ISS Change of clothes
Excessive Display of Affection	Up to ASD	1 day of ISS	2 days ISS	Up to 1 day of OSS	2 days OSS
Food/Drink in Unauthorized Areas	Warning	ASD	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	3 days ISS
Tardies (Per Class)	Upon 3rd unexcused tardy Teacher assign ASD	Upon 6th unexcused tardy Referral sent to office 3 afternoons ASD Driving privilege suspended 5 school days	Upon 9th unexcused tardy Referral sent to office 1 ISS and Driving privilege suspended 10 school days	Upon 12th unexcused tardy Referral sent to office 2 ISS and Driving privilege suspended remainder of semester	
Use of Profanity	ASD	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	1 day OSS	5 days OSS
Class Disruption	Up to 1 day of ISS	1 day of ISS	2 day ISS	Up to 1 day of OSS	2 days OSS

*For school bus infractions, please see pages 10 & 11

Infraction	Consequence 1	Consequence 2	Consequence 3	Consequence 4	Consequence 5
Leaving Class Without Permission	Up to 1 day of ISS	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	Up to 1 day of OSS	2 days OSS
Plagiarism	Up to 1 day ISS Zero on assignment Academic probation	2 days ISS Zero on assignment (if in same course see page 4)	3 days ISS Zero on assignment (if in same course see page 4)	1 day OSS Zero on assignment	2 days OSS Zero on assignment
*Possession/Use of Tobacco	1 day of ISS	2 days ISS	3 days ISS	1 day OSS	2 days OSS
Aggressive Behavior	Up to 3 days of OSS	"Co	nsequence– Adı	ministrative Dec	ision"
Cheating	Up to 1 day ISS Zero on assignment	2 days ISS Zero on Assignment	3 days ISS Zero on assignment	1 day OSS Zero on assignment	2 days OSS Zero on assignment
Skipping Class	Up to 1 day ISS	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	Up to 1 day OSS	2 days OSS
Disrespect of Faculty/Staff	Up to 1 day ISS	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	Up to 1 day OSS	2 days OSS
Falsification of Information	Up to 1 day ISS	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	Up to 1 day OSS	2 days OSS
Inappropriate Items on School Grounds	Up to 1 day ISS	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	Up to 1 day OSS	2 days OSS
Insubordination	Up to 1 day ISS	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	Up to 1 day OSS	2 days OSS
Leaving School Without Permission	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	3 days ISS	Up to 1 day OSS	2 days OSS
Misuse of School Technology	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	3 days ISS	Up to 1 day OSS	2 days OSS
Possession Of Student's Own Prescription Drug	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	Up to 1 day OSS	2 days OSS	3 days OSS
Skipping/ Leaving School	1 day ISS	2 days ISS	3 days ISS	Up to 1 day OSS	2 days OSS

Infraction	Consequence 1	Consequence 2	Consequence 3	Consequence 4	Consequence 5
Gang Activity	1 day ISS up to 5 days OSS Possible court action	1 day ISS up to 5 days OSS Possible court action	1 day ISS up to 10 days OSS Possible court action	1 day ISS up to 15 days OSS Possible court action	Long term suspension
Threat/False Threat	Up to 5 days OSS Possible court action	Up to 10 days OSS Possible court action	Up to 10 days OSS Possible court action	10 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	10 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
Assault	Up to 5 days OSS Possible court action	Up to 10 days OSS Possible court action	Up to 15 days OSS Possible court action	OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long	OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long
Endangering Others with Intent to Harm	Up to 10 days OSS Possible court action	Up to 10 days OSS Possible court action	Up to 15 days OSS Possible court action	Up to15 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	Up to 20 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
Fighting	Up to 10 days OSS Possible court action	Up to 10 days OSS Possible court action	Up to 15 days OSS Possible court action	Up to15 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	Up to 20 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
Possession of Another Person's Prescription Drug	1- 3 days OSS Possible court action	3 - 5 days OSS Possible court action	5-10 days OSS Possible court action	10 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	15 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
Gross Disrespect of Faculty/Staff	1- 3 days OSS Possible court action	3 - 5 days OSS Possible court action	5-10 days OSS Possible court action	10 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	15 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
Theft	Up to 3 days OSS Possible court action	3 - 5 days OSS Possible court action	5-10 days OSS Possible court action	10 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	20 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
Damage to Property/Vandalism	Up to 3 days of OSS Restitution	"Consequence– Administrative Decision"			,
Solicitation/Intent to Distribute or Sell	Up to 3 days of OSS	"Consequence– Administrative Decision"			3
Possessing/Sharing Explicit Viewing Material	Up to 3 days of OSS Charges may be filed	"Consequence- Administrative Decision"		,	

Infraction	Consequence 1	Consequence 2	Consequence 3	Consequence 4	Consequence 5
Harassment/Hazing	1-3 days OSS Possible court action	3-5 days OSS Possible court action	5-10 days OSS Possible court action	10 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	20 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
*Possession/ Use of Drugs/Paraphernalia Alcohol	5 days OSS Possible court action	10 days OSS Possible court action	15 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	20 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
Mutual Sexual Contact Between Two Students	5 days OSS Possible court action	10 days OSS Possible court action	15 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	20 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	20 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
Physical Contact with Teacher or Staff	5 days OSS Possible court action	10 days OSS Possible court action	15 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	20 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
School Disruption	5 days OSS Possible court action	10 days OSS Possible court action	15 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	20 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
Sexual Harassment	5 days OSS Possible court action	10 days OSS Possible court action	15 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	20 days OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension	OSS Possible court action Recommendation of long term suspension
*Possession of Weapon	Will follow Ashe County Board of Education policy for court action or expulsion				
*Bomb Threat	Will follow Ashe County Board of Education policy for court action or expulsion				
	Ashe Early College prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, etc. This incorporates any sign, symbols, picture, jestures, etc. ***Consequence-Administrative Decision***				

Lunch Detention may be used ASD—After School Detention 3:20-4:20 ISS—In School Suspension OSS—Out-of-School Suspension Field trips and social events subject to be revoked at administrative discretion.

Ashe Early College High School Handbook Agreement

This form must be signed by the student and his/her parent or guardian and returned to the administrative assistant.

Student Statement

I have read and understand the expectations and conditions set forth in this Student Handbook. I am aware that I will be held to these standards as a student of Ashe Early College High School.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Statement

I have read and understand the expectations of my student and the conditions set forth in this Student Handbook. I am aware that my student will be held to these standards as a student of Ashe Early College High School.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____