

Ashe County Schools

# WEEKLY UPDATE



## Important Upcoming Dates



- ✓ April 17 - BRES Field Day
- ✓ April 18 - Good Friday Holiday
- ✓ April 21-22 - Spring Break
- ✓ April 28 - BOE Policy Meeting 3:00 p.m.



The ACS team and NCLGISA packed nearly 1,700 Easter dinners for families in Ashe and neighboring counties who were hardest hit by Hurricane Helene. See more on following page.

THROUGH  
**15**  
**APRIL**



# Leadership, Dedication, Excellence

The N.C. Association of School Administrators (NCASA) surprised superintendents from the 11 districts who sustained the most damage in Hurricane Helene with the 2025 Raymond Sarbaugh Leadership Award, named after NCASA's first executive director.

Our Superintendent, Dr. Eisa Cox, was honored to accept this award on behalf of our Ashe County Schools Administrative Team. "This recognition is a testament not to any one leader but to the dedication of our principals, directors, teachers, staff, and community partners who stepped up without hesitation," she said. "When our students, families, and community needed us most, our schools stood strong—not just as places of learning, but as pillars of support, comfort, and recovery."

[Read the full story here.](#)



## Giving Back

ACS is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve not only our Ashe County families but also those across Western NC who need it most. Thank you to NCLGISA and everyone who helped make Easter Meal boxes and deliveries possible!



See cover photo & our Facebook page for more details

# Best of the Year!

Thanks to all these incredible individuals for all the ways you go above and beyond every day to make a difference in your schools and in the lives of students!

**CONGRATS  
TO THIS  
YEAR'S  
DISTRICT  
WINNERS**

## Rookie of the Year



**Mason Wagoner**  
BRES PE Teacher

## Support/Supervisory Employee of the Year



**Summer Davis**  
ACMS Instructional  
Specialist

## Classified Employee of the Year



**Jennifer Hart**  
ACMS Office Staff

## Teacher of the Year



**Tania Rollins**  
ACMS 7th Grade ELA  
& Media Teacher

## BRES

**Sarah Mosrow**  
Support/Supervisory  
Employee of the Year  
**Jimmy Black**  
Classified Employee  
of the Year  
**Mason Wagoner**  
Rookie of the Year  
**Elizabeth Hatch**  
Teacher of the Year



## MVES

**Cynthia Harless**  
Support/Supervisory  
Employee of the Year  
**J. D. Walton**  
Classified Employee  
of the Year  
**Angie Douglas**  
Teacher of the Year



## WWES

**Fran Franca**  
Support/Supervisory  
Employee of the Year  
**Kathy Blackburn**  
Classified Employee  
of the Year  
**Brittany Alff**  
Teacher of the Year



## ACMS

**Summer Davis**  
Support/Supervisory  
Employee of the Year  
**Jennifer Hart**  
Classified Employee  
of the Year  
**Tania Rollins**  
Teacher of the Year



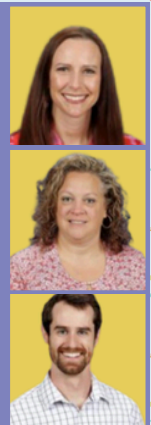
## ACHS

**Jennifer Crisco**  
Support/Supervisory  
Employee of the Year  
**Michelle Kitson**  
Classified Employee  
of the Year  
**Megan Colvard**  
Teacher of the Year



## AEC

**Jessica Yates**  
Support/Supervisory  
Employee of the Year  
**Stacey Jenkins**  
Classified Employee  
of the Year  
**Stefan Kunz**  
Teacher of the Year



**CONGRATS  
TO ALL THIS  
YEAR'S  
SCHOOL  
WINNERS**

# NCCAT CTE Recognition for Colvard

Congratulations to **Megan Colvard**, who has been nominated as the Ashe County Schools NCCAT CTE Teacher of the Year for 2025-2026!

An incredible educator since 2020, teaching Health Science and Biomedical Technology, Colvard also co-sponsors the HOSA CTSO. Her commitment to her students' success is unmatched—she consistently goes above and beyond to ensure they thrive, both inside and outside the classroom.

She will now compete for the Regional NCCAT Teacher of the Year, with the winner being announced in mid-June. We can't wait to see her shine!



*Mrs. Colvard is pictured at top with Earl Pennington, ACS Director of CTE/Accountability, and at bottom with her students.*



*Thank you, APs! Your leadership and support and dedication is truly appreciated every day!*

*Brandon Bower, ACMS  
Jennifer Crisco, ACHS  
Amanda Halsey, WWES  
Brian Hampton, ACHS  
Cynthia Harless, MVES  
Sarah Mossow, BRES  
Travis Richardson, ACHS*



*Thank you, Media Specialists (a.k.a. School Librarians) for your vital role in students' success.*

*(Pictured L-R, at Read and Treat in West Jefferson):  
Mandy Keziah, WWES  
Tonya Denny, ACHS  
Colleen Dixon, MVES  
Kelly Holleman, ACMS  
Alisha Broce, BRES*

# AEC Heads to California

A graphic featuring three circular portraits of people. The top left portrait is of a woman with brown hair. The middle portrait shows a man and a woman smiling. The bottom right portrait is of a man with a beard. The text "Preparing Students for Careers in Digital Media" is placed next to the middle portrait. Below the portraits, a blue box contains two quotes in white text.

Preparing Students  
for Careers  
in Digital Media

*"This isn't just about software—it's about giving students real-world skills for today's digital economy," said Kunz*

*"Principal Williams added, "We're closing the digital divide and opening doors to new opportunities for our students."*

Lindsey Williams, AEC Principal, and Stefan Kunz, AEC CTE teacher, will showcase Ashe Early College's Digital Media Lab and Certificate Program at the NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference in San Francisco this July.

This innovative program equips students with industry certifications, preparing them for careers in digital media. With 100% of students in the first cohort earning certifications in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, AEC is setting a new standard for rural tech education.

## Leading with Purpose

Our incredible 7–12 School Counselors have been invested in ASCA training over the past two years, thanks to GEAR UP support!

They recently wrapped up their latest session at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in Buncombe County.

They're now using the model to strengthen programs, boost achievement and guide students for success beyond high school.



(Pictured: Jessica Yates (AEC), Kristy Aldridge (ACMS), Meghann Roberts-Clawson, Kelly Fletcher & Lucy Phipps (ACHS))

Another shoutout to Kristy Aldridge, for her dedication to Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)! Through her hard work and passion, Aldridge raised awareness and organized activities that showcased how SEL impacts every area of academic life. She was even recognized on their leaderboard!

# April Employees of the Month

To recognize the outstanding contributions of our ACS employees, TWO deserving individuals will be selected monthly as Employees of the Month. Congratulations to our April winners: ACMS Counselor **Kristy Aldridge** and Bus Driver **Shelby Dowell**.



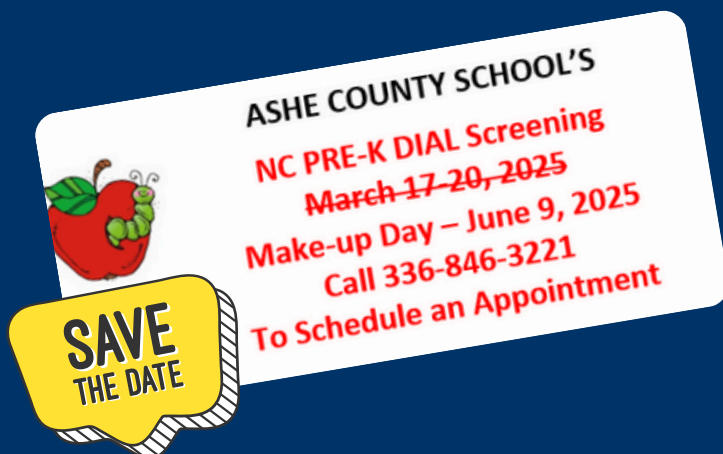
Employees, be watching for the **Nomination Form** to open again on May 1<sup>st</sup>! Nominate any employee you believe is worthy of this honor and share why you think they deserve the recognition. Winners will be announced via email to all schools, and they will also be celebrated on our Ashe County Schools social media and in our digital newsletter.

*Congratulations!*

## *Their peers had these things and more to say about April's winners:*

*"Kristy has been the only guidance counselor at Ashe County Middle School since December and has handled this with positivity and grace. She continues to serve two grade levels of students, guide teachers with student needs, push out new and ongoing initiatives, and continue communication with parents via remind messages and personal phone calls. She's always available to speak with students and teachers with an open-door policy. She is a tremendous help and asset to Ashe County Middle School."*

*"Shelby is an outstanding bus driver. She knows every student by name and as they get on the bus, you will always see her giving her kids a high five or telling them to have a great day as they exit. She is genuinely concerned for their well-being. She even shoveled a kid's driveway this year so they could safely walk to the bus. She has not missed a day of work that I know of in the last 3 years. She is uplifting and positive with everyone she sees."*



## Attention Ashe County Families:

If your child missed the Pre-K DIAL Screening, don't worry! We're holding a Make-up Day on Monday, June 9th. Click [HERE](#) for more details.



# Agriculture Expo a Blast for All



Fifth graders from all three ACS elementary schools headed to the Ashe County Ag Expo and had a blast hanging out with donkeys, horses, sheep, alpacas, goats, and more! They enjoyed a yummy lunch, soaked up some ag knowledge from the USDA presentation, and represented our schools with kindness and respect—we heard rave reviews about their great behavior!

We also spotted Tammy Woods, our Director of Child Nutrition, sharing fun information at our ACS booth. Huge thanks to everyone who made this field trip possible. Days like this make us #AsheProud!

SEE MORE GREAT  
PICS ON OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE



# EARLY LEARNING CENTER



*From working the checkout to stocking shelves, little learners had a blast while earning some fake money as grocery store pros! Then they invited teachers, staff, and high school interns to shop!*

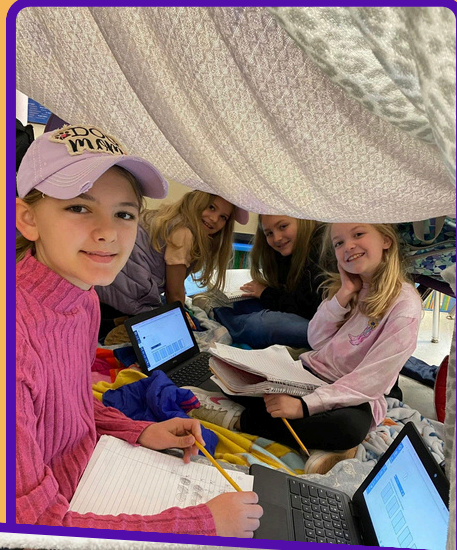
# BRES



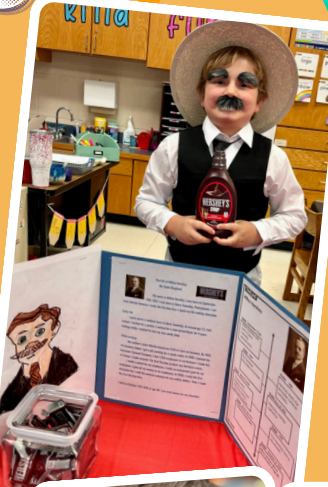
*Nearly 40 future Mountaineers got a special sneak peek at all the fun headed their way this fall—from meeting awesome teachers and diving into hands-on activities to story time and making new friends! Spring vibes were in full swing at the Spring Festival, where families enjoyed tasty treats, fun games, awesome prizes, theme baskets, a cake walk, horseback rides and SO much more! Huge thanks to everyone who helped make it a festival to remember. 3rd graders totally wowed with their solar system presentations, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade hatched a new fluffy friend, Blaze the chick!*

# MIVES

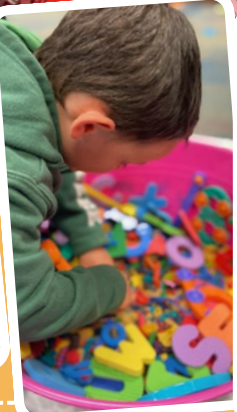
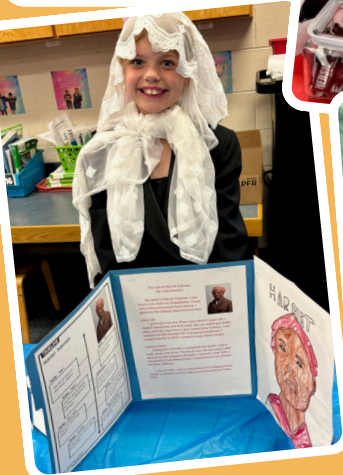
Future "Eagles" soared in for hands-on fun and a sneak peek at fall! After reading the book, *Hatchet*, students built shelters for their own survival stories. Meanwhile, kindergartners made furry friends at Lazy Five Ranch, and older students had a wild time at Zootastic Park!



# WWVES



Family Night was a hit! Students shined as historic figures, future Timberwolves explored, and Duke Energy Science Night sparked big fun. Plus, Westwood Ambassadors raised \$500 and sent heartfelt cards to California schools impacted by wildfires.



VISIT  
OUR  
FACEBOOK  
PAGE FOR  
MORE  
SAMPLES

ACMS



8th grade artists wowed with large-scale animal portraits in monochrome—now on display at SECU! Plus, students and staff danced, drummed, and smiled big during an unforgettable visit from the African Dance Ensemble. Thank you, Ashe County Arts Council, for sponsoring this joy and inspiration!

ACHS

Shoutout to Emory T. for earning a prestigious FloSports scholarship—one of just six NCHSAA athletes honored statewide! Softball Senior Night was special for the Class of 2025, as the ladies were recognized for their leadership, dedication and hard work.

FFA students recently presented at Ashe County Cattleman's Association. And "Gordon Ramsey's Minions," our ACHS culinary team, earned 4th place and a silver medal at the NC Jr. Chef Cook-off!



READ MORE

### Baked Chicken Empanadas

Sauteed chicken and vegetable filling baked in a whole grain crust, accompanied by roasted sweet potato rounds, and a homemade bean dip and salsa verde



Ashe County High  
Gordon Ramsey's Minions  
Ashe County Schools

Jr. Chefs: Kiera B., Sylvia P. and John C.

- Adult Team Supervisor/Teacher: Debbie Sturgill
- School Nutrition Advisers: Tammy Woods





**CLICK HERE TO  
SEE TALENT IN  
ACTION!**

*Student Malea L. led App State's Upward Bound team, who snagged 2nd place at the NC State Scholars Bowl! New Beta Club members were inducted, Open Mic Night wowed the crowd, and Mrs. Yates' class prepped eggs for The Motherboard's Easter To Remember Community Egg Hunt!*

## Adventure & Success!

Attention, rising 9th & 10th graders — it's YOUR time to shine!

**Pick your FREE summer camp adventure:**

- Zipline Adventure | June 11–12
- Earn Your Wings | July 8–9
- Paint Your Passion | July 29–30

You can only choose ONE — so make it count! Deadline to register is May 9th — and spots go fast!

Sign up [HERE](#) and GEAR UP for success today!

**WILKES**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Wilkes • Ashe • Alleghany

**GEAR UP**  
NC Appalachian Partnership

# GEAR UP FOR SUCCESS!

**WILKES**  
**ART**  
GALLERY

**WILKES COUNTY**  
**AIRPORT**



**FREE! 2025 CAMPS FOR ALL  
PUBLIC SCHOOL RISING 9TH AND  
10TH GRADE STUDENTS IN WILKES,  
ASHE, AND ALLEGHANY COUNTIES**

**Zipline Adventure  
JUNE 11-12**

### Activities

- ✓ Ecosystem Exploration and Treetop Adventure
- ✓ Guided Zipline Tour at High Gravity Adventures
- ✓ Explore local careers
- ✓ College-level instruction on the WCC Campus
- ✓ Hear from local industry leaders

**Earn Your Wings!  
JULY 8-9**

### Activities

- ✓ Engineering activities with GE Aviation
- ✓ Private tour and info session at GE Aviation
- ✓ Field trip and tour at Wilkes County Airport
- ✓ Talk with a retired American Airlines pilot
- ✓ Fly in a plane!

**Paint Your Passion  
JULY 29-30**

### Activities

- ✓ Create a multi-media art project with Rob Gonzo at Wilkes Art Gallery!
- ✓ Meet local artists and hear about their career path
- ✓ Field trips to local art locales
- ✓ College-level instruction on the WCC campus

More Information 336-838-6204 [lkilby157@wilkescc.edu](mailto:lkilby157@wilkescc.edu)

Apply:





A collage of 15 photographs capturing various moments from a 'Let Me Win' event. The photos show students and staff participating in different activities. In the top left, two young boys are cheering with their arms raised, one wearing a yellow shirt and the other a black shirt. Next to them, a student in a wheelchair is being pushed by an adult. In the top right, a student in a wheelchair is being lifted by two adults. Below this, a student in a wheelchair is being pushed by an adult. In the middle left, a group of students are sitting in a hallway, some in wheelchairs. In the middle right, a student in a wheelchair is being pushed by an adult. In the bottom left, a student in a wheelchair is being pushed by an adult. In the bottom middle, three students are sitting on bleachers, smiling. In the bottom right, a student in a wheelchair is being pushed by an adult. The photos are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some overlapping.