

Ashe County Schools

WEEKLY UPDATE



Photo by
James Reed

Husky varsity player Ian G. in action at a recent game. See more sports news and pics on following pages.

THROUGH
26
SEPT



Important Upcoming Dates

- ✓ **Sept. 29** - Homecoming Parade
- ✓ **Oct. 3** - BRES and MVES Fall Festivals
- ✓ **Oct. 4** - ACHS Varsity Football Homecoming
- ✓ **Oct. 7** - BOE Meeting
- ✓ **Oct. 15** - WWES Fall Festival
- ✓ **Oct. 16** - Early Release Day; Teacher Workday



Best of the Year



*A special event on Sept. 16 recognized
ACS teachers and staffers
voted Best of the Year for 2024-25.*

Principal of the Year: Lindsey Williams, AEC

Teacher of the Year: Jim Ashley, AEC

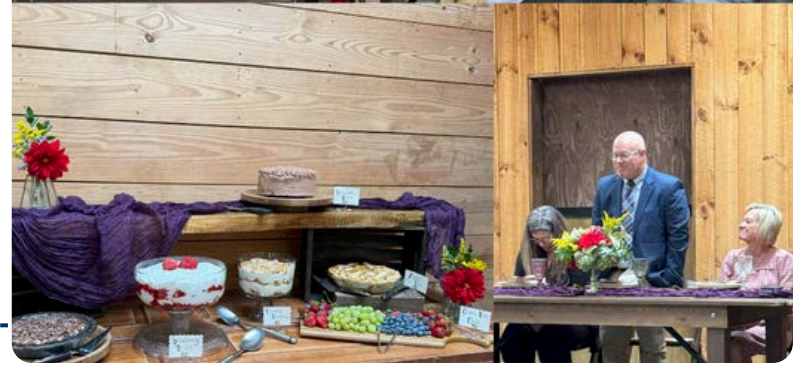
Support Staff of the Year: Mandy Keziah, WWES

CTE Teacher of the Year: Roxane Gilbert, ACHS

*Classified Employee of the Year: Tim Walton, ACHS
(Unable to attend):*

Rookie of the Year: Andy Cerillo, WWES

*Exceptional Children Educator of Excellence:
Fran Franca, WWES*



A dinner at beautiful Hidden Pastures Farm recognized these amazing people who do so much for our students. In attendance were honorees and family members, as well as Ashe County Schools BOE members; Superintendent, Dr. Eisa Cox; Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Susan Mochen; ACS directors; and principals from the honorees' schools. Congratulations to these outstanding individuals, who represent the very best of our community.



BOE Student Representatives

Ashe County Schools values input from our students. We were excited to welcome three students to our Board of Education meeting in September: Sarah McClure, the student body president of Ashe Early College; Addison Dollar, vice president of AEC (serving as an alternate); and Carson Pruitt, student body president of ACHS. These students will serve as advisors to the Board for the 2024-25 school year.

This is the first time that students have served as representatives on the Board of Education. Superintendent Cox explained that although the students are not voting members, they do have the opportunity to provide student voice for the BOE and feedback, as appropriate.

Pruitt said, “I’m excited that you’ve allowed us to be here, to share our voices and to kind of be your eyes and ears in the school system itself, as a student with a student’s mind.”



Finance Rockstars



(L-R): Amanda Coldiron, Finance Officer; Laken Lyall, Asst. Finance Officer; Kahryn Blevins, Payroll & Benefits Specialist; and Elaine May and Tonya Greer, Accounting Specialists.

Our Central Support Services Finance team was recognized at the September Board Meeting. It was in large part thanks to these dedicated individuals that Ashe County Schools was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting — for the 12th consecutive year — from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). We appreciate you!

Endowment Fund Grant Winners

Congratulations!



The Ashe County Board of Education Endowment Fund is a nonprofit organization that enables new and innovative approaches to learning that are not supported through the traditional funding of public education. Each year, ACS teachers can apply for grants to enhance learning opportunities. Grant winners for the 2024-25 school year were recognized at the recent BOE meeting.

Congratulations, Winners!

Jennifer Miller (Science Teacher, ACHS)

Tonya Denny (Media Coordinator) & **Matthew Raisig** (Math Teacher), ACHS

Luke Eggers (Project Lead the Way, ACMS)

Cori Richardson (EC Teacher, ACMS)

Kelly Holleman (Media Coordinator, ACMS) & **ACMS Literacy Committee**

Kasey Jones (7th Grade Science Teacher, ACMS)

Rachel Bledsoe (8th ELA & Social Studies Teacher, ACMS)

Jonathan Greene (English Teacher, Ashe Early College)

Polly Bradley (Music Teacher, BRES)

Autumn Chamberlain (Social Worker, BRES, MVES, WWES)

Amanda Bloomer (School Counselor, WWES), **Julie Jones** (School Counselor, BRES)

& **Amy Tsolis** (School Counselor, MVES)

Colleen Dixon (Media Coordinator, MVES) & **Jorena Sparks** (Art Teacher, MVES)

India Souther and **Olivia Johnson** (3rd Grade Teachers, MVES)

\$2,000
educators
applied for
up to this
amount

\$20,000
awarded
for 2024-25
school year

\$132,000
total
awarded
since 2003

THOUSANDS
of Ashe
County students
impacted



Empowering Youth Leaders

Juniors and seniors can meet and learn from local leaders and explore their own leadership styles — while learning about entrepreneurship, county government and local industry. They will also participate in community service projects and add value to your community.



A Leadership Program for Ashe County's Juniors & Seniors

Empower youth to be responsible civic leaders by exposing them to their county's heritage, challenges, and future potential.

Scan QR code to Apply



Application Deadline

 **October 1, 2024**

Questions?
Contact Caleb Marsh
336-903-3116
ccmarsh636@wilkescc.edu

Program Highlights

- Leadership Styles ✓
- Interview & Etiquette Skills ✓
- Volunteer Opportunities ✓
- Local Government ✓
- Local Job Opportunities ✓

Scan QR code for More Details



Sponsored by:



Check out more info and, if interested, apply by Oct. 1, 2024!

- Learn more [HERE](#) (or scan the bottom QR code on graphic).
- Apply [HERE](#) (or scan the top QR code on graphic).



The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is a USDA-funded annual grant* aimed at increasing the variety and frequency of fruits and vegetables that students consume, while also fostering healthy eating habits for a lifetime. Questions? Email tammy.woods@ashe.k12.nc.us

* Grant duration is one year or until grant funds run out.

Fresh Eats ...

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is a USDA-funded annual grant* program. Our district implements this grant by providing free fresh fruits and/or vegetables to students in elementary schools where grants have been awarded. The purpose of the program is to increase the variety and frequency of fruits and vegetables that children consume and to positively influence their lifelong healthy eating habits. We are excited to announce that FFVP grants have been awarded to all three elementary schools and Pre-K!



Shout Outs



ACHS Culinary teacher, Debbie Sturgill will be providing some New Orleans style tasting opportunities this year as she implements concepts she learned at the National ProStart Professional Development event in New Orleans, Louisiana (sponsored by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation).



She participated in culinary labs hosted by the New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute, picked up a wealth of culinary knowledge for her ProStart competition team AND successfully passed her ProStart Professional Development Exam! We're very proud of Mrs. Sturgill and her hard work.

Connection Superheroes



We're celebrated **National IT Professionals Day** on Sept. 17.

THANK YOU to our tech experts who keep our computer systems running smoothly! They fix our devices when they break down, help us keep pace with ever-changing technology and ensure we don't have to go back to the old-fashioned way of doing things. It takes a solid set of skills and talents to fill their shoes!

Community Walk for Mental Health

School counselors Jessica Yates (AEC), Amanda Bloomer (WWES), Kristy Aldridge (ACMS), and Amy Tsois (MVES) participated in Ashe Mental Health Forum's "Out of the Darkness Community Walk" in Lansing. The event was a success, with many helping, walking and donating. Held during Suicide Prevention Month, this walk is another important way the organization raises awareness and empowers individuals in our community to seek and accept resources to strengthen their emotional wellbeing and mental health resilience.



EC Night Fosters Relationships

Ashe Early Learning Center kicked off EC Night with ice cream and conversation. Terry Richardson, Ashe County Schools Director of Exceptional Children's and Pre-K Programs, explained, "To continue to foster our relationships with families, last night was our first EC Community of Support Parent Night. The meeting was informative, collaborative and I appreciate the open dialogue between parents and staff."





School Highlights



Pre-K students were so proud of the process art project they completed during #ArtsInEducationWeek! They used their fine motor skills to color the first letter of their names, which also reinforced letter recognition. Then, they glued items — including arms and legs — onto their letter. They wrapped up the activity by going on a letter hunt for more of their beginning letter, and glued those on, too! They were also engrossed in sculpting, painting and building.



At BRES, Mr. Johnson's class used bubbles and paint to create bubble prints. And 6th graders became archeologists, exploring ancient cave art and learning about how Stone Age people lived! First graders, along with the school's new kindergarten students, worked on a "creativity" sign for the art room. Meanwhile, 6th graders painted a barn quilt that will be auctioned off during the upcoming fall festival event.



School Highlights



BRES 4th graders enjoyed a field trip to the Museum of Ashe County History, where they learned about local history through hands on activities. They also tasted samples of apple butter and country ham, and took home heirloom seeds and coal pieces!



BRES

5th graders made a model of a working heart to learn how blood circulates! They also visited New River State Park for an Environmental Field Day, where they met meteorologists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and learned about beekeeping, fir trees, livestock, composting and more!



Kindergartners learned about caterpillars and studied them firsthand.



School Highlights



Kindergartners helped Ms. Houck make a great snack of applesauce and warm biscuits.

K classes also explored their five senses with popcorn. They had a blast listening to, tasting, smelling, touching and watching it pop!

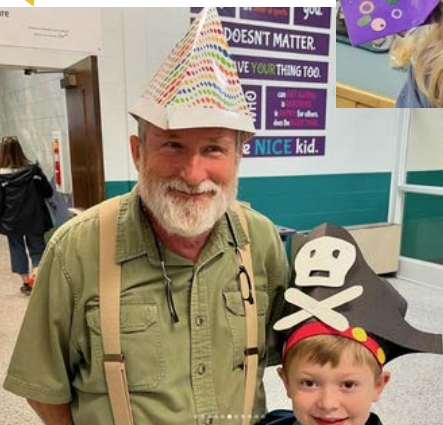
MVES students did an amazing job with the Dot Day Hat STEM Challenge! They created colorful headwear out of paper and/or recycled materials from around their homes — and added lots of dots, per the assignment. Custodian J.D. Walton even got in on the fun!



MVES

Second graders explored life cycle transformations by studying butterflies, ladybugs and bees. In Mrs. Dixon's STEM activity, they constructed the bee life cycle using Sphero Indi, a car-shaped robot that they programmed with mats representing each stage of the bee's life cycle.

Students in all grades showed off hats and outfits on "Minion Day" — a fun way to support the PTSO!



The afterschool knitting club is making great progress on their hats, too!



Visit from an Author!



Thank you to Ashe County Public Library and the On the Same Page Literary Festival for arranging a visit from author Robert Beatty for our BRES, MVES and WWES 4th -6th graders. Students were able to meet Mr. Beatty, learn about writing and ask great questions. They'll also receive a copy of his latest book that comes out next month!



WWES 4th graders learned how to write an informative paragraph, by using a Wit and Wisdom "painted essay" anchor chart. Fifth graders made lung models using recycled bottles, learning how the diaphragm works with the lungs to inhale and exhale.



WWES

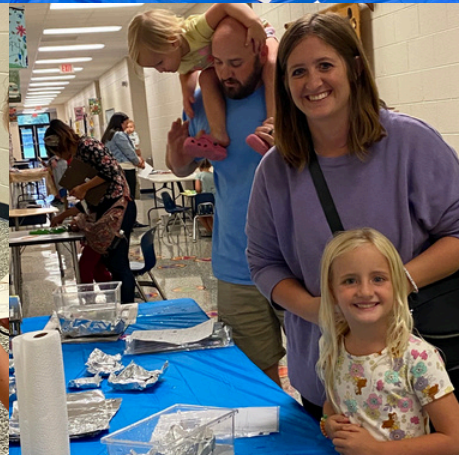
In the library, students learned about the Twin Towers and engineering.



WWES STEM Night



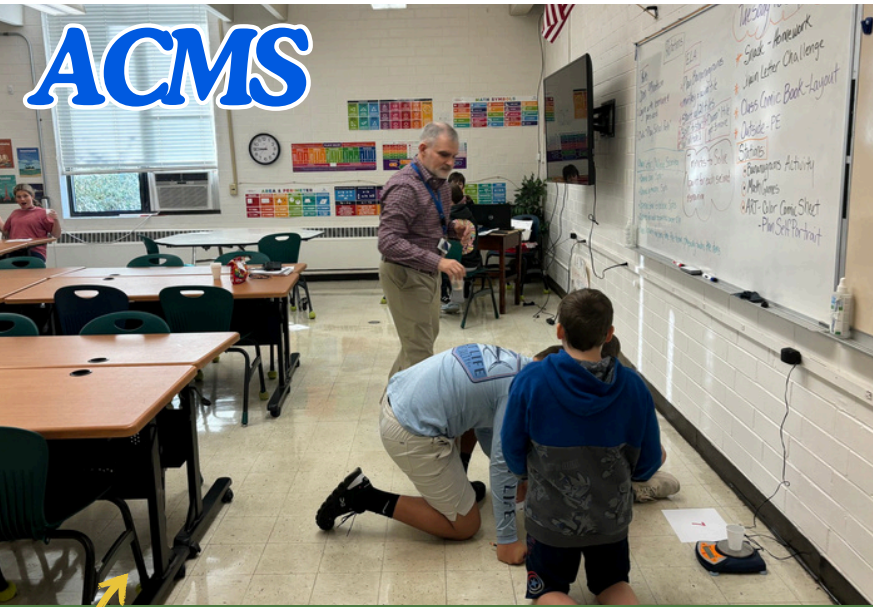
At WWES Math & STEM Night, families enjoyed scavenger hunts, snacks, building, math mats, an estimation station and other activities, as well as take-home kits!



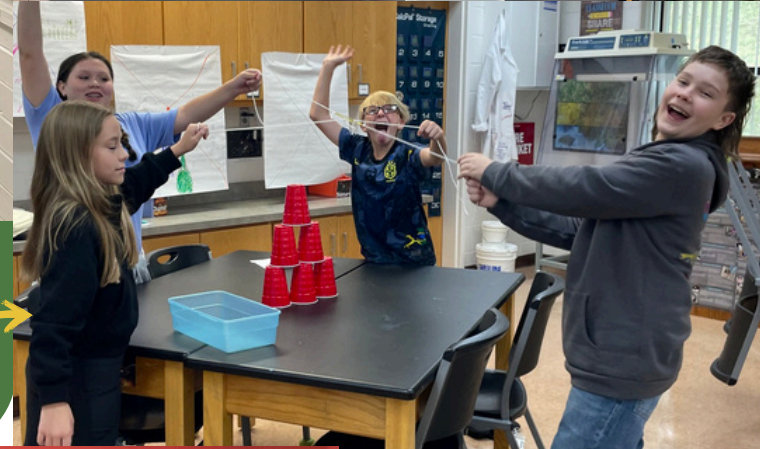


School Highlights

ACMS



Mr. Cerillo's math class was hard at work on the constant of proportionality, while science classes had fun with engaging science labs that sparked curiosity and enthusiasm across the board.



The Bulldogs took on West Wilkes in men's soccer and ladies' volleyball.

Photo credits:
Doug Goss



School Highlights **ACHS**



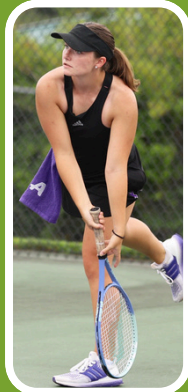
Pictured with their advisors, Roxane Gilbert & Megan Colvard, Nursing Fundamentals students worked at the ACHS Blood Drive Sept. 17! THANK YOU to the volunteers and donors who make this event possible each semester.



Look who made a guest appearance on the Husky Morning Show — Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox!



Husky team captains Bridger F., Caleb B., Bryce P. & Ian G., take the field.



(Above, L-R): Emmaline F, Zoey L. and Pablo B, represent ACHS on the golf course, tennis court and soccer field.

*Sports photo credits:
Doug Goss, James Reed and Zach Colburn*

AEC

An AEC crew cleaned Buck Mountain Circle and Ray Taylor Rd. And this group toured Wake Forest University on Sept. 20!

