



# CISNWNC & Mattie C. Stewart Foundation partner to bring Choice Bus

The Choice Bus visited Ashe County Middle School on October 31<sup>st</sup> when around 330 students participated in a 25-minute interactive presentation designed to show the relevancy of education to career choices and lifetime earning potential. Midway through the presentation, a full scale replica of a prison cell was revealed as a surprise in the back half of the bus. During the presentation, the Choice Bus staff led students through discussions about the importance of education, choosing friends wisely, being respectful to others, and having a career interest.

Some of the facts that the students learned included the difference between incomes of those who drop out of high school and those who graduate. They also learned about the earning potential of high school and college graduates. The students were able to view firsthand the results of choices via video testimonials and statistics about completing their education. Most of the students seemed very receptive and seemed to enjoy the Choice Bus experience. Some students also made thank you cards for the Choice Bus staff as well.

The Choice Bus travels nationally and shares their mission across the country. It was able to come to ACMS through their partnership with Communities In Schools of Northwest North Carolina, which is an affiliate of the state and national CIS offices. The Choice Bus is a project of The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation.



Site Coordinator Fawn Roark



Principal Dustin Farmer (center), Representative Jonathan Jordan (left) & Former Administrator Phil Howell (left) visit the Choice Bus.

CISNWNC Executive Assistant Jordyn Mundy hands out Choice Bus cards to students. (above)

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## Special points of interest

- We can come speak to your business, civic organization, club, or church!
- We can help you volunteer and have various ways you can help at our school to meet needs.
- We love to collaborate!

# Reality of Money gives a taste of Real Life to ACMS Students

Communities In Schools of Northwest North Carolina partnered with Ashe County Middle Schools CTE Coordinator Mandy Lovell and the State Employee Credit Union to help with Reality of Money that came to ACMS. The entire 8th grade was able to experience a virtual month in a few hours as they were assigned a career and an income along with all of the monthly bills that most families face. Many community volunteers were on hand to help the program take place from volunteers working at tables to let the students know of the payments due that represented real life needs from electricity to insurance to groceries to child care.

Here are some of the comments made by students during or after the simulation:

- “Do I have to have healthcare? I just want to live my life.”
- “I’m going to have to live with my parents.”
- “I don’t want kids. I just want a dog.”
- “Can I just live with my friend?”
- “So if I want to wear Gucci, can I do that and make my wife go to the thrift store?”
- “Man I’m lucky I don’t have kids.”
- “Where can I get food stamps?”
- “My life was perfect when I didn’t have a wife and kids.”

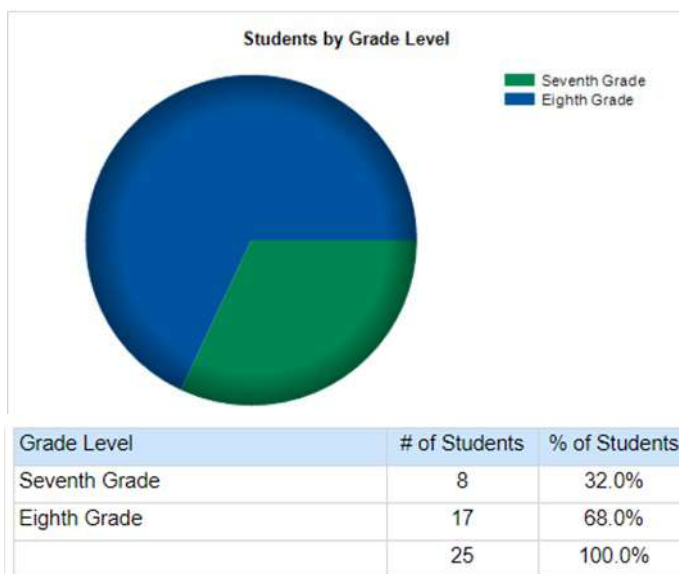


Far left: Amy Walker and Jamie Little of Ashe County Schools work with Clerk of Court Pam Barlow at a Help Table. (middle) Ms. Roark and Superintendent Phyllis Yates help a student at the insurance table; (top) Executive Assistant Jordyn Mundy of CIS gives students good and bad surprise news.

## Site Coordinator Update:

Site coordinators work in the schools to provide the coordination and delivery of student based services at their designated school site. This includes providing weekly or twice monthly check-ins to see how the students on their caseload are progressing on their goals. Some students have mentors to help them progress on their various goals. Ms. Roark has 25 students on her caseload at ACMS that she meets with on a regular basis. Student referrals can come from family members, school staff, and others.

At Ashe County Middle School, the site coordinator also helps with the Shoes for Kids program, school supplies area, and more. She also works with local agencies and partners to ensure that students are surrounded with a community of support, empowering them to achieve in school and life.



# Parent Share College Week Held at ACMS

October was CFNC's (College Foundation of North Carolina) College Application month and parents were invited to share their college experiences with our students at ACMS. Parents talked to students about their college experience including what they majored in, some of the things they thought they did well, and wished they had known, etc. This was a great way for parents to get involved at ACMS and make an impact on the future of our students as it is never too early to start thinking about college. CFNC and several colleges sent information and items for the students to have during our Parent College Presentation Week at ACMS.



Parent Speaker Kendra Perkins

Parent speakers who attended Wilkes Community College, Caldwell Community College, Appalachian State University, East Tennessee State University, Campbell University, Pfeiffer University, and more came to ACMS to speak during the special event. Parent Share College Presentation Week was sponsored by Communities In Schools of Northwest North Carolina, GEAR UP, and Ashe County Middle School Career and Technical Education Program.



Student Host Mattie M. and Speaker Matt Rumpf

## Communities In Schools of NWNC, ACMS Admin, and Community Partners Bring Encouraging Boost of Appreciation to Teachers and Staff

Teachers and staff work every day to make a difference in the lives of ACMS students. Communities In Schools of Northwest North Carolina has teamed up with school administration and community partners to provide a surprise gesture of appreciation with Teacher Room Service Delivery .

Staff have been surprised several times this school year to find a room service card where they could order their choice of a drink and snack. Their order was filled and brought to them in the afternoon. Often notes of appreciation have been in the bags with the mission of encouraging our staff at ACMS to keep up their great work.

This collaboration is just one of many the many that Communities In Schools of Northwest North Carolina has made to provide services to ACMS. Partners have included Forest Ridge Assisted Living, Ashe County Middle Schools PTO, and ACMS Administration.



Pictured from left to right are some of Ashe County Middle School's wonderful cafeteria staff are: Christine Richardson, Mary Jane Cox, Darlene May, Ann Eldreth, Roxanne Roten, and CISNWNC Site Coordinator Fawn Roark. Not pictured: Brittany Walters.

## CISNWNC Upcoming Events

CISNWNC is excited to be partnering with the Southwest Dairy Farmers Alliance to bring the Mobile Dairy Classroom to ACMS in March. During 2017, the Mobile Dairy Classrooms made presentations to over 640,000 people at fairs, festivals, livestock shows, and school settings. This will be a great opportunity for our students.

CISNWNC is working with ACMS CTE Program to bring parent speakers into the Career and Technical Education classes in February to talk about their careers and experiences. The CTE College Parent month seemed to be a great experience for all involved last year.

The Snack Attack program is planned to kick off this spring to make snack items available in the afternoon for the whole school on Fridays. This will be an extra food item available for students before the long weekends.

The Annual Lip Sync Battle for CISNWNC is taking place again this year on Feb. 19th at 6 p.m. at the Stone Center. This event benefits CIS site schools including ACMS. Community members and teams compete against one another in a lip sync battle where the audience determines the winner. Admission is free.

## Local Lifelong Farmers Visit Classroom

Mrs. Church recently asked Ms. Roark if she knew of any farmers who could come visit her classroom to talk about the life of a farmer because of the class reading *A Day No Pigs Would Die*. After a few calls and emails, local farmer Kim Furches and her father, Tommy Barlow, were booked to come to Mrs. Church's class. Mrs. Furches said that she purchased the book online so she could read it before she came to the classroom with her dad, who has farmed for many years.

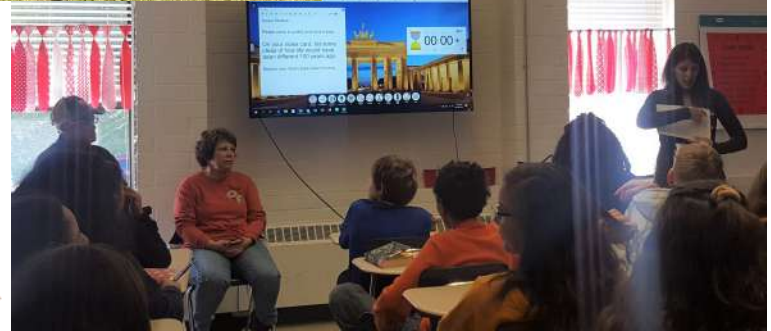
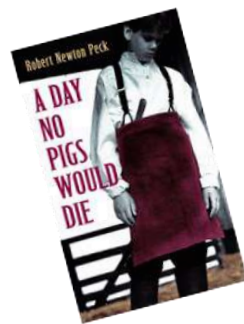
"It's always a good day when I get to hang out with my favorite farmer and share about my heritage with farm life - past, present, future," Mrs. Furches said. "What an awesome opportunity provided by Mrs. Joanna Church at ACMS and Fawn Roark (CIS). My Daddy and I enjoyed our visit immensely! And, *A Day No Pigs Would Die* will remain one of my most loved books."

Mrs. Furches and her dad brought two miniature donkeys with them to the school



where the students were able to see the new baby donkey and mother. If the students wanted to, they were able to pet the donkeys with the help of Mr. Barlow.

Mrs. Church was also very pleased that the farmers were able to visit. "The students always love having guests at school, but having Mrs. Furches and Mr. Barlow was an extra special treat because of how well they interacted with the kids," she explained. "I have no doubt their visit will be a treasured memory for many of our students."



## ACMS Case Club helps local senior citizens

Forest Ridge Assisted Living held a donation drive for senior citizens to receive at Christmas through Appalachian Senior Programs. ACMS Case Club along with CISNWNC gave items for these seniors and were happy to partner to make a difference in our community.



## Who is Communities In Schools of NWNK?

Communities In Schools is the nation's largest and most effective organization dedicated to keeping kids in school and helping them succeed in life. Communities In Schools of Northwest North Carolina has a site coordinator at Ashe County Middle School who works day to day helping bring community resources to meet needs of students and the school.

CISNWNK serves Ashe, Alexander, Alleghany, and Wilkes Counties. Currently in Ashe County, Ashe County Middle School has the only site coordinator; however, there are plans for expansion to our other schools. Last year, CISNWNK served over 15,000 students in our service area.

At Communities In Schools, we work hand-in-hand with schools, communities and families to surround our students with a caring network of support to help them stay in school and succeed in life. Working in more than 2,300 K-12 schools and community-based sites in the most challenged communities in 25 states and the District of Columbia, we have 3,800 trained professionals and 38,000 volunteers who help 1.5 million young people and their families every year.

### What is a site coordinator?

Communities In Schools trains and places highly qualified site coordinators and supporting staff directly into schools. Once there, our job is to connect students and their families to basic and critical community resources that are tailored to each student's specific needs. By providing students with a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, we create a safe place to learn and grow. We work to provide a strong start to a healthy future, a path toward marketable skills upon graduation and a chance to give back to peers and the community.

### Why do we do what we do?

The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

## CISNWNK Needs

**Food:** Currently we have a need for snacks for our afternoon "Snack Attack" program. Some of our students are quite hungry by the end of the day, and many do not get home until late. Others may not have a meal at home that night. Our "Snack Attack" program will kick off on Friday afternoons to see how students respond to the program. Peanut butter or cheese crackers, granola bars, and other individual wrapped snacks are needed.

**Volunteer Mentors:** Volunteers must go through an interview process, reference checks and background checks to serve as mentors. Volunteer applications are available at <http://cisnwnk.org/volunteer> and click on "Volunteer Form".

**Items:** Thanks to donations and a regional grant that CISNWNK received, we are pretty well stocked on school supplies. We can always use mechanical pencils for our students as well as towels for students who do not have one after swim class during PE.

**Donations:** If anyone wants to donate funds to CISNWNK, it can be done online at <http://cisnwnk.org/>

# CISNWNK Programs at ACMS

## Site Coordination

Site coordinators work with about 25 individual students throughout the year helping them set and reach their goals. The site coordinator works as an advocate and support for these students. Students are referred by teachers, principals, counselors or even a parent!

## Success Study Mentors

Volunteers from our community are paired with students to visit with them at school while helping with reading, math, or other study skills. Success Study Mentors visit the student once each week for about 25 minutes in the conference room or library.

## Friends of Youth

Friends of Youth is a one-on-one mentoring program for 7th and 8th graders. Volunteer mentors spend 2-4 hours each week with a child doing normal everyday activities. Monthly activities are also planned for all youth and mentors to enjoy as a group. Activities are fun and educational, as well as socially and culturally enriched.

## Stuff the Bus

School supplies! Each year CIS provides school supplies to students throughout the entire school year. Book bags, pencils, binders, paper, composition books, and more are provided.

**Communities In Schools of  
Northwest North Carolina**

*The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.*

*To partner with CISNWNC or to volunteer or help with student or school needs, please email [Fawn.Roark@ashe.k12.nc.us](mailto:Fawn.Roark@ashe.k12.nc.us) or call 336-384-3591.*

## ***A Word from our Executive Director***

As we move into the second half of the 2018-19 school year, we have been busy expanding our reach into the community by meeting with business leaders. Our sole purpose is to listen and learn what the community values as needs for students and families in Ashe County and the expectations they have from Communities In Schools.



Glendora Yarbrough

We have the tools to implement programs and services to students and a site coordinator who has the skills and passion to deliver; however, building a solid foundation within the community is key when it comes to sustaining our organization. We are pleased to have met with the Ashe County Schools Board, Ashe Memorial Hospital, Ashe Chamber of Commerce, First Baptist Church of West Jefferson, Forest Ridge Assisted Living, NC Cooperative Extension, Rotary, Skyline, Walmart, and several others. We want to hear from you, too. If you are interested in the wellbeing of children and families please contact me, Glendora Yarbrough, at [glendora@cisnwn.org](mailto:glendora@cisnwn.org) or 336-651-7830. Our plan is to serve families through our evidenced-based model, site coordination, as long as there is a need.

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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### ***Check out ACMS website for latest news and merchandise link***

Go to our school webpage at [www.asheschools.org/acms](http://www.asheschools.org/acms) to find out all the latest news and announcements. Also, new this year are brand new selections of Bulldog Merchandise. These items can be ordered by going to our school webpage and scrolling down til you see the graphics and link.

