ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Learn. Discover. Thrive.

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COUGAR CALL! Friday, January 24th

Marilee Woodard <marilee.woodard@acsgmail.net> Fri, Jan 24, 2025 at 6:20 PM
To: ACS ALL-STAFF <acsall-staff@acsgmail.net>



Happy Friday, Cougars! We're incredibly proud of the vibrant community that makes Asheville City Schools so special. From our dedicated educators and staff to our passionate students and families, we're all working together to create a thriving learning environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging. Here are just a few amazing things happening in our district!



Strategic Planning Community Launch

FEBRUARY 1, ASHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Asheville City Schools is embarking on a journey to create a shared vision for our community: a strategic plan rooted in the strengths and passions of our students and the resources around us. Drawing inspiration from Helene's lessons, we're honoring the work our community has done while intentionally shaping a roadmap for lasting change.

Join us on February 1st, the first day of Black Heritage month, for the Screening of Black in Asheville, a documentary that brings together Asheville residents and historians to recount Asheville's Black history. This film, directed by Todd Gragg, takes us back to the Antebellum Period and demonstrates in accurate fashion what life was like for slaves in Asheville during the Civil War and through their transition to the Postbellum Period of Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and Black Code. The film will be followed by a Listening Session and Discussion.

This is our opportunity to create something different. Let's come together to invest in the students, educators, and future of Asheville City Schools. Click the link below to RSVP. If you'd like to learn more about our Strategic Plan, please visit our website.

Asheville City Schools 2025 Strategic Plan Community Launch: February 1st



Asheville City Schools Board of Education

ANNUAL RETREAT, JANUARY 23

The Asheville City Schools Board of Education has been hard at work! On Thursday, January 23rd, they held a Special Called Open Meeting for their annual board retreat. The purpose of this meeting was for new and returning members to participate in the required annual board training and discuss the agenda items listed below. No action was taken during this meeting. The next Regular Session Open Board Meeting will take place on February 10th.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- NCSBA (North Carolina School Board Association) Required New Board Member Training
- Board Norms
- Strategic Planning and Overview
- Department Overviews
- NC School Finance 101
- Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

You can subscribe for Asheville City Schools Board of Education updates via Diligent! Click the link below to review the full agenda from yesterday's meeting and subscribe. The next board meeting is scheduled for February 3rd and will be a Work Session.

ACS Board Retreat: Full Agenda 1/23/25



Sarah Thornburg, Chair

Rebecca Strimer, Vice Chair

Jesse Warren

George Seiburg

Liza Kelly

Amy Ray

Pepi Acebo



Rotary Club Teachers of Excellence Awards

Yesterday, the Rotary Club of Asheville hosted their 3rd Annual *Teachers of Excellence Awards Ceremony* that recognized seven Asheville City Schools educators. We are so proud of our staff who received awards for their exceptional teaching and commitment to public education. The Rotary Club of Asheville funds awards of $2,000 each to Teachers of Excellence. Over 40 teachers were nominated from both Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools. Each nominee and their nominator submitted essays that were reviewed by the selection committee consisting of Rotarians, previous Teachers of Excellence award winners, and the presidents of the Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools Foundations.

CONGRATULATIONS TEACHERS OF EXCELLENCE!

GABRIEL AL-SHAER
SOCIAL STUDIES, SILSA

SARAH DUFFER
EARTH SCIENCE AND AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, ASHEVILLE HIGH

HOPE WILLIS
6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES, ASHEVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

RODNEY WORKMAN
BAND DIRECTOR, ASHEVILLE HIGH

JESSE PITT
6TH GRADE COUNSELOR, ASHEVILLE MIDDLE

SAMANTHA AYCOCK
KINDERGARTEN, LUCY S. HERRING

MAIREAD SMITKA
2ND AND 3RD GRADE TEACHER, ISAAC DICKSON ELEMENTARY

Click Here to Watch the Teachers of Excellence Awards Ceremony



ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

TAPAS & Educator Grants

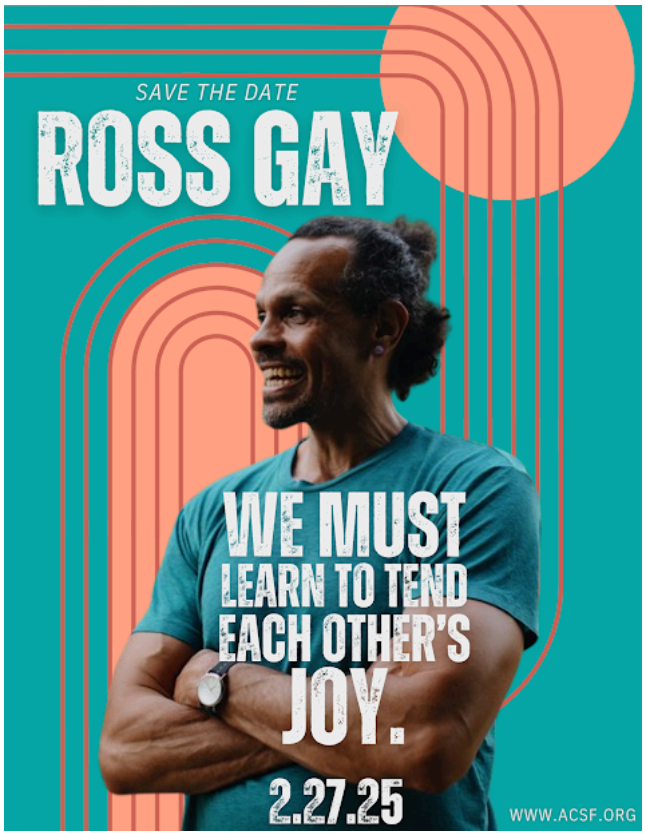
The Asheville City Schools Foundation's Educator Grants, Professional Development, and TAPAS (Teaching Artists Presenting in Asheville Schools) Applications have re-opened! Are you interested in funding an innovative idea for your classroom or ready to ignite creativity through an artist residency?

Apply Now! Applications Close on January 31st
ACSF Educator Grants and Professional Development Fund Application

ACSF TAPAS Educator Application

Last but not least, mark your calendars for the Asheville City Schools Foundation's annual event featuring Ross Gay! This event will coincide with a student writing and art contest that is sure to inspire.

Tickets go on sale February 1st!



To learn more about this event please visit acsf.og/events

Thanks for reading, Cougars! We hope you have a wonderful weekend!




Our Promise
YOU BELONG HERE
CHALLENGING AND RELEVANT
EVERY SECOND COUNTS