CougarCall!

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024



It's so great to be back, Cougar Crew! From exciting new faces to the return of familiar smiles, the energy and enthusiasm across our district have set the tone for a remarkable year ahead. We can't wait to see all the amazing things our ACS community will accomplish together, but most importantly, we can't wait to watch our students ignite their passions, discover their talents, and thrive. In Asheville City Schools, ***we belong***.

Here are just a few of the spectacular things that have been happening across our district, and a summary of the topics that our Board of Education will be deliberating at the upcoming Work and Closed Session meeting on Monday, September 9th. Before we dive in, Superintendent Dr. Maggie Fehrman has some exciting news to share! **GO COUGARS!**



Hello and Updates from Dr. Maggie Fehrman!



Welcome Back! First Day of School

What a fantastic start to the new school year in Asheville City Schools! We've kicked off this year with so much energy, creativity, and connection. Thank you to everyone—students, staff and educators, families, and community partners—for giving this year such a memorable start. For more photos from the first day of school at each campus, check out our **Facebook album here**!



Cougar Crew Convocation

WE ARE CREW. Asheville City Schools Cougar Crew is the heartbeat of our community. As leaders and learners, we cultivate a deep sense of belonging so we can accomplish more than we think possible. We are crew and celebrate diversity as the cornerstone of our culture where each person is seen, heard, and loved for who they are and the gifts and talents they bring. As crew, we collaborate and share responsibility to positively impact our well-being and reach our achievement goals.

On August 20th, ACS welcomed educators and staff back at our annual Convocation featuring keynote speaker Dr. Brandi Hinnant-Crawford, and hosted by our very own ACS students! Thank you so much to Dr. Hinnant-Crawford, Copland Rudolph and the Asheville City Schools Foundation, the ACAE, and students Selah, Tristan, Sebla, Silas, Pepper, Ke'Hova,

and Anders for kicking off the 2024-2025 school year on such a joyful and inspiring note!



Principal of the Year: Carrie Buchanan

ACS is extremely proud to announce Hall Fletcher Elementary's Carrie Buchanan as our Principal of the Year! Principal Buchanan was chosen in recognition of her exceptional leadership, dedication to student success, and commitment to building a school community that is grounded in a strong sense of belonging.

"*Principal Buchanan is a reflective servant leader who puts what is best for the students at the forefront of her decisions. Her warm and welcoming leadership style has created a culture where all staff feel seen, heard, and valued. Principal Buchanan sets high expectations for her students and staff to ensure that every interaction is meaningful. It is an honor to recognize her.*" - Superintendent Dr. Maggie Fehrman

"*Carrie Buchanan creates an incredible environment of trust and professional dedication because of her authenticity, expertise, and ability to connect with everyone in the room. She is laser focused on increasing outcomes for students and advancing equity through high expectations, rigor, and most importantly, love. Professionally, she's one of my favorite*

people to collaborate with because she's such a top notch educator. I'm so thrilled my children are in her care. They love her just as much as I do!." - ACS Parent Brian Randall

CONGRATULATIONS, PRINCIPAL BUCHANAN! Read the **full press release here**.



Back to School Staff Tailgate at AHS & SILSA

After a full week preparing classrooms and finalizing every last detail before the school year began, our educators and staff celebrated at our Cougar Crew Tailgate hosted by ACS before the Asheville High Football game on August 23rd! We even had special appearances by our talented cheerleaders and drumline! We love the opportunity to create new traditions that celebrate the spirit of our district and bring our education community closer together. We're already looking forward to next year's Tailgate!



School Consolidation Feasibility Study Survey

The Asheville City and Buncombe County School System Consolidation Feasibility Surveys are Open Now!

What do you think about a possible merger between ACS and BCS? Make your voice heard by completing the **online survey available here**, or by attending one of the drop-in community meetings (the first meeting is this coming Monday, September 9th). Whether you are a student, parent or guardian, community member, or staff member, your input is crucial in shaping the future of our public schools and the final report that will be presented to the NC State Legislature in 2025.

SCHOOL SYSTEM
CONSOLIDATION
Feasibility Study

Beginning this coming Monday, September 9th, there will be nine community meetings hosted throughout the county, including one virtual session. You can drop in at the location and time that works best for you. It will take 30 minutes or less to participate. For the full list of meetings dates, times, and locations, please visit the **Buncombe Co. website here**. Please encourage friends and family to share their perspectives too!



Board of Education Work & Closed Session

The ACS Board of Education will hold a Work and Closed Session meeting this coming Monday, September 9th at 5:00 PM. Work, Regular, and Open Session Board Meetings will have a Spanish Speaking Interpreter. The following topics are a summary of what our board plans to discuss and deliberate. For an all-inclusive list of agenda topics, please click the "view the agenda" button below. To view the recording of the meeting, click the "watch the livestream" button below.

POSSIBLE ACTION/CONSENT ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING:

Student Releases to Buncombe County 2024-2025 - *Tanya Presha, Academic and Program Support Coordinator*

Facility Assessment and Planning - *April Dockery, Chief of Operations*

Policies Second/Final Read (Including School Safety, Title IX, Pregnant and Parenting Students and Employees, and more) - *Dr. Kim Dechant, Chief of Staff*

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Review of Contracts and MOUs - *Dr. Kim Dechant, Chief of Staff*

Consolidation Study Updates and Community Input Meetings - *Dr. Maggie Fehrman*

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Reading Data - *Shannon Baggett, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction*

ACAE Presentation - *Timothy Loyd, ACAE President*

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board of Education will conclude Monday's meeting with a closed session to prevent the disclosure of privileged and confidential personnel information, and to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege.


view the
agenda.

subscribe
for board
updates.


watch the
livestream.



CLAWsome Cougar Prize Patrol

Asheville City Schools has some of the best educators and staff that one can find. We want to recognize the outstanding passion and dedication of our fellow ACS colleagues each and every day, which is why we are proud to announce the creation of the CLAWsome Prize Patrol!

Please complete this easy, brief **Google Form** to nominate an ACS crew member who has gone above and beyond and/or has demonstrated traits that reflect our Three Promises (Sense of Belonging, Challenging and Relevant Content, Making Every Second Count). Please share this form and nominate a crew member at your school TODAY. ACS staff and families are invited to submit nominations!





Lucy S. Herring Construction Celebration

What a wonderful day at Lucy S. Herring Elementary School amidst a sea of yellow Minion construction hats!

LSH staff and students kicked off the new year last Friday morning by creating construction hats and capturing a school-wide picture with our construction and maintenance heroes! To top it all off, LSH hosted a delicious cookout for our Vannoy construction workers, April Dockery and her Operations team, and our Maintenance Department. Staff brought an array of sides, making it a true community event.

Students and educators also presented heartfelt thank you letters to Superintendent Dr. Maggie Fehrman, Dr. Kim Dechant, and our Board of Education to show their appreciation for staying in the school building during renovations this year (speaking of renovations, check out our social media pages for an exciting progress report from Principal Jamerson). Thank you to everyone who made last Friday so special. Here's to a great year ahead at LSH!





Who to Call: ACS Services Directory

Exciting news! Our updated ACS Services Directory is now live, making it easier than ever to connect with our dedicated department leads and support staff. Whether you're looking for a familiar face or you have a request for support, this handy tool has all the info you need. Check it out by **clicking here** and connect with the team working hard to make this school year the best one yet!

