ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Learn. Discover. Thrive.

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Cougar Call Draft

Marilee Woodard <marilee.woodard@acsgmail.net> Fri, Mar 14, 2025 at 5:22 PM
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Happy Pi Day, Cougars! There is so much good news to celebrate across Asheville City Schools. From students engaging in hands-on learning in our classrooms, to finding their voice through leadership opportunities, and staff receiving special awards and recognitions, we are so proud of our Cougar Crew coming together to fulfill the promise of public education. Here are just a few of the inspiring things that have been happening across our district. Before we dive in, Superintendent Dr. Maggie Fehrman has important news and updates to share. **GO COUGARS!**



News and Updates from Dr. Maggie Fehrman

Watch Dr. Maggie's latest news and updates! (Video length: approx. 15 minutes)

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Strategic Planning

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. Over the past 5-8 years, ACS has experienced significant change and transition, including superintendent changes, COVID-19 and most recently the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene. Now more than ever, Asheville City Schools will need to chart a path forward to address both immediate short-term challenges and a long-term vision for schooling in Asheville. We invite you to be part of this crucial process as we collectively shape the future of Asheville City Schools. Keep an eye on our social media and website for upcoming Strategic Planning Community Events and Listening Sessions. Click the link below to learn more.

Strategic Planning for Asheville City Schools



Board of Education Recap

REGULAR SESSION MONDAY, MARCH 10TH

The ACS Board of Education held a Regular Session on Monday, March 10th. Hall Fletcher Elementary students proudly demonstrated their achievements, featuring a dynamic drumming performance infused with Social-Emotional Learning, captivating art displays, and a thrilling demonstration of their state-qualifying robotics team. We also celebrated the outstanding achievements of our dedicated ACS staff. We also celebrated our outstanding ACS staff and witnessed the strong advocacy of the Asheville City Association of Educators. We're incredibly proud of our Cougar Crew's unified support for our public schools.

The next Board of Education Regular Session will take place on April 21st beginning at 5:00PM. To stay informed of board of education updates, you can subscribe to our Diligent platform or click the links below.









Happy π Day!

Today, the spirit of Pi filled Asheville City Schools! Students, staff, and families united in celebrating this remarkable mathematical constant, a symbol of the boundless possibilities of learning. Our students embarked on a journey of discovery, delving into Pi-themed activities that highlighted its significance across math, science, and more. A special highlight was Claxton Elementary's school-wide celebration, where parents and families were immersed in grade-level student presentations and participated in student-led lessons within each math classroom. And, of course, no Pi Day is complete without a delicious slice of pie!



Senior Spotlights

We are so proud of the exceptional graduating seniors of Asheville City Schools. You've reached a milestone that deserves to be celebrated with joy and pride. As you prepare to embark on your next chapter, we want to take a moment to honor the memories you've made and the impact you've had on our community!

We're creating a special senior spotlight on our social media platforms, and we want YOU to be a part of it! Share your favorite high school memories, the clubs and activities that shaped your experience, and the people who made your journey special. Let us know what exciting plans you have for the future, whether it's travel, further education, or career aspirations.

Click the link below to fill out our senior spotlight form and let us showcase your achievements and celebrate your transition into the next phase of your life. This is your moment to shine, Cougars! Let's make this graduation season one to remember.

Click Here to Submit a Senior Spotlight!



Congratulations, LeVette Campbell!

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR

In recognition of her exceptional service, LeVette Campbell has been named ACS School Social Worker of the Year! LeVette, our Lead School Social Worker, exemplifies the heart of our community. Her team's response in the aftermath of hurricane Helene was immediate and impactful. LeVette played a key role in establishing our Community Resource Center which distributed essential supplies to our students and families. Later, she and her team brought holiday cheer to over 1,000 students through gift and food donations. We are so grateful for LeVette's dedication to the students and families of Asheville City Schools and congratulate her on this well-deserved honor.



Ecology Week at Lucy S. Herring Elementary

This week, Lucy S. Herring Elementary transformed into a hub of ecological exploration! While environmental stewardship is woven into their curriculum year-round, students delved into special projects during Ecology Week. They planted seeds, explored microbiomes, and represented diverse ecosystems through creative presentations and grade-level costumes. We're incredibly proud of their passion for our planet and their hands-on learning!



Alumni Spotlight : Glen Vinson Jr.

Cougars go on to do amazing things! Meet Glen Vinson Jr., Asheville High Class of 1999, and Associate Vice President of Student Affairs at Howard University. During his time at ACS, Glen excelled in football and was an active member of numerous honor societies and the theater program. His experiences at AHS, particularly on the football team, instilled invaluable skills like teamwork and discipline, which laid the groundwork for his success. Recently, Glen returned to ACS with 50 Howard University students, who spent their Spring Break volunteering in our schools, providing tutoring, classroom support, and college insights to our high schoolers. Thank you, Glen, for your inspiring visit and for connecting our students with the possibilities of higher education!



Basketweaving at Claxton Elementary

Claxton Elementary's 4th graders are weaving together history and art! Students are learning the intricate craft of basketweaving with TAPAS Artist Lark Stallsmith. They've journeyed through the history and cultural significance of baskets, while also gaining hands-on experience with various natural fibers. We're grateful to the Asheville City Schools Foundation for bringing these enriching artistic experiences to our classrooms through their TAPAS Program! To learn more about the Asheville City Schools Foundation and to support their work, click here.



Congratulations, Marta Alcalá!

ROTARY CLUB 'PEOPLE OF ACTION' AWARD

On Thursday, March 6th, Marta Alcalá was recognized at the Rotary Club of Asheville's People of Action Gala for her work with Marvelous Math Club. Marvelous Math is an after-school club located in the Pisgah View Neighborhood that provides fun and engaging after-school and summer learning opportunities for elementary-aged students. This award was presented to Marta for outstanding achievement in embodying a "service above self" mindset in our local region. Service above self is the Rotary Club's motto. Congratulations for this outstanding achievement, Marta!



Students Against Violence Everywhere Club

This week, our high school SAVE Club made a powerful statement about school safety. During lunch, they empowered their peers to sign the Sandy Hook Promise, pledging to report potential threats to trusted adults. This "See Something, Say Something" initiative reinforces our commitment to a safe and violence-free Cougar Community. Thank you, SAVE Club, for your vital work in promoting awareness and safeguarding our Cougar Community.



Clawsome Cougar Awards!

Our Cougar Crew is the heart of Asheville City Schools, collaborating with students and families to ensure that every child thrives and reaches their full potential. We want to celebrate their dedication by recognizing staff who exemplify our Three Promises: *Creating a Sense of Belonging, Engaging in Challenging Learning, and Making Every Second Count.* Click the link below to nominate a deserving staff member today!

Nominate a Clawsome Cougar!

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



Our Promise

YOU BELONG *HERE*

CHALLENGING AND *RELEVANT*

EVERY SECOND *COUNTS*