

Ashe County Schools

WEEKLY UPDATE



Mountain View students try out their eclipse glasses in preparation for the April 8 event.

WEEK
ENDING
12
APRIL

Important Upcoming Dates



- ✓ **SAVE The DATE: 1st Annual Ashe County Schools Best of the Best Dinner and Awards**
May 21, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- ✓ **April 18** - WWES Art Night
- ✓ **April 19** - Special Olympics;
ACMS Luau-themed Dance, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- ✓ **April 20** - ACHS Prom
- ✓ **April 22** - Dancing Drum Performances, MVES
8:30 and 9:45 a.m.
- ✓ **April 23 & 25** - ACMS Rising 7th Grade Family Nights
- ✓ **April 23** - BRES Kindergarten Screening
- ✓ **April 24** - WWES Kindergarten Screening
- ✓ **April 25** - MVES Kindergarten Screening



Shout Out



Congratulations to ACHS Health Science teacher **Roxane Gilbert**, who has been named the NCCAT Ashe County Schools CTE Teacher of the Year! She was chosen for this recognition by her peers and will now represent our district in a Regional CTE Teacher selection process.



Gilbert was presented the award by CTE Director Earl Pennington and ACHS Principal Dustin Farmer. She is also pictured with her Health Science II Honors class, who were present for the announcement.

Endowment Fund Grant Application is OPEN

ACS educators can apply for **up to \$2,000** to use for new and innovative approaches to learning that are not supported through traditional public education funding. Find all the information and application **[HERE](#)**. The deadline for applications is **May 3, 2024, by 5:00 p.m.** Send to Rhonda Smith at **rhonda.smith@ashe.k12.nc.us**, through school mail or hand deliver to her at the Central Support Services office.



WINNER

Grant winners will be notified after the June Board meeting.

What's Coming Up?

Hello

Spring!

Ashe County Middle School will be hosting an indoor yard sale open for the public. The event will be held in conjunction with the Donkey Drop fundraiser on May 11 (9am to noon).

Any Ashe County School employee may set up in the ACMS gym for \$10 per table.

Please email Rachel Bledsoe at Rachel.Bledsoe@ashe.k12.nc.us if you're interested in securing a table.

ACMS Indoor Yard Sale

ACS employees can set up a table in the ACMS gym!

DATE: May 11

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

COST: \$10

CONTACT:

rachel.bledsoe@ashe.k12.nc.us



Retirement Benefits Webinars



North Carolina
Total Retirement Plans
401k | 457

Are you an ACS employee nearing retirement? Take advantage of webinars offered by the NC Total Retirement Plans Team. Learn more about your retirement plan benefits and steps you can take for a more secure retirement. Find a list of these webinars hosted by the NC Plans and State Department. Get details and registration info at the link below.

[Get Details](#)

If you have questions, please contact Kahryn Blevins at kahryn.blevins@ashe.k12.nc.us



MVES Retirees Say Goodbye

Mountain View Elementary said goodbye to retirees Principal David Blackburn and Assistant Principal Jason Krider last month, after their many years of service to MVES students and families.



In bidding farewell to his role, Blackburn said, “Please know that I will always carry the memories and experiences of our time together in my heart and mind. There is no doubt that I learned more from you, our students and our families, than you learned from me, and for that I will be forever grateful. I wish you all the best! I know you will all continue to make a difference in the lives of our students and do whatever it takes to do right for all children. I can’t wait to see what you achieve.”



Krider echoed Blackburn’s sentiments. “This is a special place and will always be dear to my heart,” he said. “Words can’t express how grateful I am for my time here. You are a staff that is second to none. I have enjoyed the new relationships that I have formed here and look forward to seeing the great things that you will continue to do for kids. I’ll see many of you around as our kids grow up together. I’m excited to begin my next chapter in life, but I’ll miss you all dearly.”

NEW ROLES

Following the retirement of MVES Principal David Blackburn and Assistant Principal Jason Krider, and the untimely passing of Westwood Elementary Principal Jennifer Holden, ACS announces that the Board of Education has approved these hires.



Scott Grubb was approved to be the new Principal of WWES. Grubb’s 26 years of experience as an educator include time with Ashe, Alleghany, and Avery counties, teaching physical education and history, as well as coaching men’s basketball. He has served as Assistant Principal of WWES since August 2019 and served as the Interim Principal of WWES last fall during the illness of Jennifer Holden. He holds a Bachelor of Health and Physical Education from UNC Chapel Hill, as well as a Master of Athletic Administration and a leadership certificate in School Administration from Appalachian State University. He obtained his School Administrative/Principal licensure through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). Grubb is the husband of Jodi Grubb and father to Sydney Kate Short and Hallie Grubb.



NEW ROLES



MVES welcomes **Jerry Graybeal** as Principal. His 35 years of education experience includes 11 years as a teacher and 24 as an administrator. Graybeal served the Florida school system for many years as a teacher, principal and secondary education director, and he has been an ACHS assistant principal for the past three years. He has an Associate of Science in Business Administration from Forsyth Technical Community College, a Bachelor of Science in Education from Appalachian State University and a Master of School Administration from Nova Southeastern University. He and his wife, Lisa, live in West Jefferson.

MVES also welcomes **Cynthia Harless** as Assistant Principal. She has served Ashe County Schools for 13 years, most recently as a Principal Fellow, and also as an Exceptional Children's (EC) teacher. Harless earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of School Administration from Appalachian State University. She lives in Lansing with her husband, Dillon, and their daughters, Maggie and Malorie.



Travis Richardson has been named Assistant Principal of ACHS. He has 24 years in education experience with Ashe County Schools and previously taught at both ACMS and Blue Ridge Elementary, where he served for two years as Assistant Principal. A graduate of Appalachian State University, Richardson holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of School Administration. He and his wife, Dawn, live in Lansing with their twin daughters, Bailey and Carlee.



Amanda Halsey has been selected as Assistant Principal for WWES. She joined Ashe County Schools eight years ago and has served as an EC teacher and Pre-K teacher. Halsey earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Education from Western Carolina University, and she also holds a Master of School Administration from Gardner-Webb University. She and her husband, Cory, live in Crumpler with their son, Colt.

"As we welcome our new school principals, we embrace a future filled with student-centered leadership. Their passion for education and commitment to fostering positive learning environments will undoubtedly inspire our students and teachers to reach new heights of achievement."

- Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox



School Highlights

Congratulations to the ACHS FFA team for placing FIRST in the Northwest Region at the NC FFA Agriculture Sales, Farm Management, and Marketing competition at the University of Mount Olive. This team also placed 16th overall in the state! This is the first team of this kind that Mr. Calhoun and Ashe FFA has fielded, so for a first time run, these students did exceptionally well. #AsheProud



ACHS CTE Construction Teacher Travis Eason and his electrical classes have been working hard on a new, but old, project recently — a small shed the carpentry students built a few years ago. Mr. Eason's classes turned the shed into a new project by installing LED wafer can lights, an exterior coach light, exterior GFCI outlets, and wired switches and receptacles inside. These young men learned about wiring methods, code compliance for residential wiring, and how to wire and install devices. Well done!



School Highlights

Huskies Catch Wins!



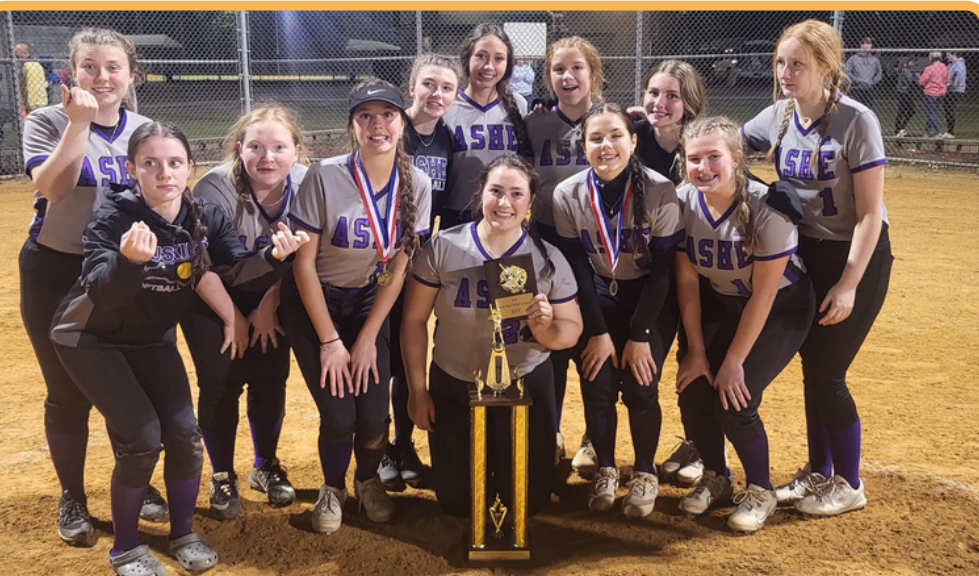
Congratulations to the ACHS Husky men, who made history with their signature win against rival Watauga Pioneers. It was also the first 4A baseball win in school history!



FINAL					
ASHE COUNTY	A	7	6	1	
WATAUGA	W	1	3	2	



Congratulations to the JV and Varsity Lady Huskies, who defeated Watauga High. JV won 8-1 and Varsity won 12-3!



FINAL				
ASHE COUNTY	A	12	14	1
WATAUGA	W	3	6	1



The JV team also won the tournament championship, with Isabella F., Nadilyn E. and Meleah L. making the all-tournament team! Meleah also won the tournament MVP!