

Ashe County Schools

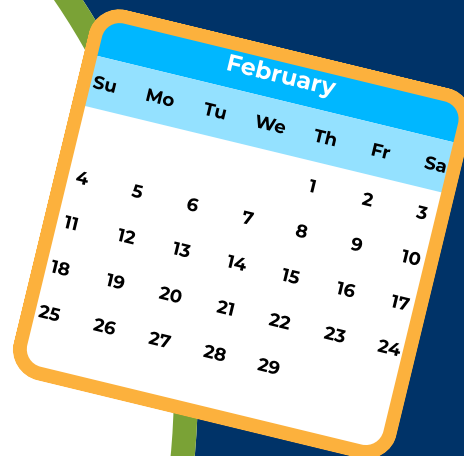
WEEKLY UPDATE



WEEK OF
JAN. 29 - FEB. 2
2024

Important Upcoming Dates

- ✓ **Jan. 30 - Feb. 1**
Leader in Me Symposium for school teams
in Charlotte
- ✓ **Feb 2 - ACMS School Visit**
9:00 a.m.
- ✓ **Feb. 5 - BOE Meeting 6:00 p.m.**
- ✓ **Feb. 14 - PreK School Visit**
9:00 a.m.
- ✓ **Feb. 21 & 22 - ELA Adoption Open House (Annex)**
4:00 - 7:00 p.m., both evenings
- ✓ **Feb. 23 - ELA Adoption Open House (Annex)**
11:00 - 2:00 p.m.



More upcoming dates

CLICK

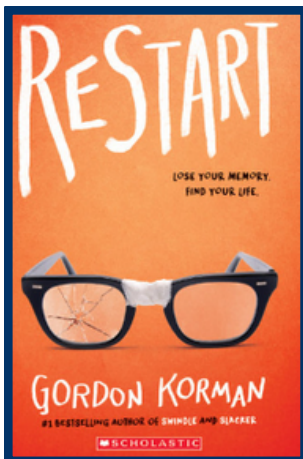
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Inclement Weather Report...

- As you know, we have missed quite a few days/hours due to inclement weather. To qualify for the early start, we must miss 8 days of instruction in four of the past 10 years. This year, we have had 8 unplanned non-student days missed due to inclement weather, eight 2-hour delays, and 7 remote instruction days. The remote instruction days do not count toward the 8 days of instruction lost. Click on the Inclement Weather Report link above to see the spreadsheet informing our calendar.

More news ...

- **Grant for the new middle school - Amanda Coldiron** and I worked on the \$12 million grant for the new middle school. We are awaiting a few more pieces of information and should have the grant completed to obtain signatures from Todd McNeill and Josh Roten. I will share the grant with the entire Board.
- We were awarded \$300,000 for the Center of Safer Schools Grant. We have important safety upgrades including LED School Bus Stop Arms, Camera System Upgrades, Door Locks and Sensors, Walkie Talkies, and AED replacement batteries among other items.



School Highlights



Throughout the month of January, ACMS did a school-wide read with the book, *Restart*, by Gordon Korman. Goals included reading together to share a common experience and using that experience to build community and a love of reading.

LETRS Spotlight

Casey Smith and **Stephanie Baker** have been working hard to ensure that all of our elementary teachers are well-supported as they complete the LETRS training and implement best practices in their classrooms.

Teachers, you've reached the **75% completion mark** and have done an amazing job taking advantage of remote days and optional teacher workdays for LETRS coursework and collaboration.

View the weekly **ACS LETRS** newsletter for details and links to great resources!

[More LETRS News](#)

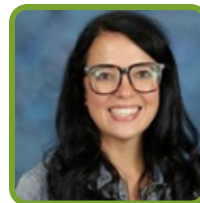
Science PD Opportunity



Center for Inquiry-Based Learning Presents: A fun, turn-key approach to tackling the new science standards!

- **Date:** February 22, 2024 (Registration closes February 5)
- **Location:** Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Ext. Center, 455 Research Drive, Mills River, NC 28759
- **Cost:** FREE! (Substitute and mileage will be reimbursed from the Science House)
- **Grade Level(s):** K-8
- **Schedule:**
9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Elementary workshop
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Catered lunch
2:30 - 3:00 p.m. Middle School workshop

[Register Here](#)



Wineberg to Speak at NCCAT

Congratulations to ACMS 8th Grade ELA & Social Studies teacher, **Kendra Wineberg!** She has been selected as a Secondary Literacy Learning Leader for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT).

Wineberg will be speaking at NCCAT February 27-29 and April 22-24 in Cullowhee.

We are very proud of her work, dedication to secondary literacy and leadership.

LOOK What's Happening in Afterschool

Winter Fun

With an outpouring of responses, over 40 Afterschool participants sent back their bingo cards, along with pictures of our awesome kids having fun in the snow!



Stellar Numbers

The Afterschool Program has met its second installment of 70% average daily attendance, with 87% exceeding the first requirement of 45 hours. 180 students are currently enrolled (with around 30 on the waitlist).

Giving Back

NOVEMBER

SHIPPED OVER 5 LBS. OF LEFT-OVER HALLOWEEN CANDY AND CARDS FROM OUR STUDENTS TO OPERATION TROOP SHOEBOX FOR MILITARY MEMBERS OVERSEAS.

DECEMBER

COLLECTED OVER 30 COATS/JACKETS DURING OUR WINTER COAT DRIVE. GAVE THEM TO ASHE COUNTY REALLY CARES FOR DISTRIBUTION. SOME WENT TO STUDENTS IN NEED.

AND WE PARTNERED WITH THE ARC, RIVERVIEW AND SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK TO FIND FAMILY RESOURCES.

Coming Up

February: Sending Valentines to Forest Ridge and Ashe Services for Aging.



Spring: Starting our garden project and extending it into the summer.

Visits: Students will enjoy visits from park rangers, beekeepers, and librarians!



"We are currently developing our Summer Camp and have already started partnerships with App Health, NC Cooperative extension, several farms, and the public library. We're excited to meet all of our goals for this year and look forward to a successful summer."
~ Molly Dawes-Porter
ACS Afterschool Program Coordinator

Mid-year Parent Survey Results

88% of students complete their daily homework during Afterschool

90% of students enjoy the program

100% of parents feel that students are safe in the program

100% of parents would recommend the program to others



ACMS Re-designated as a School to Watch®



Ashe County Middle School has received a re-designation as a School to Watch® by the North Carolina Association of Middle Level Education (NCMLE) — for demonstrating academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structures that support the success of students.

In a letter to Principal Dr. Susan Mochen, the NCMLE stated: *“Based on Ashe County’s application and site visit, many strengths were noted, including student support to meet rigorous standards, small learning communities, and a diverse faculty and staff. We look forward to working with you again in three years during the re-designation cycle and anticipate seeing Ashe County’s further development of data drive practices and strengthening rigor with instructional practices.”*

“I am very proud to carry on the tradition of being a School to Watch, as we were one of the first in the state to be named such back in 2003,” Dr. Mochen shared. “There are so many wonderful things going on here at ACMS, including academic excellence, support for all students, an ingrained culture of trust amongst our staff, and high expectations for all. I am blessed to be part of such an amazing school.”

Superintendent Dr. Eisa M. Cox added, “We are very proud of the continued excellence that the students, teachers, and staff at Ashe County Middle School demonstrate to be honored with this prestigious award.”



Assistant Principal Accelerator Program Participants



**Congratulations to Westwood Elementary Principal Scott Grubb
and Ashe County Middle School Assistant Principal Sherrie Hines!**

Both Grubb and Hines have been selected to participate in the next cohort of the Assistant Principal Accelerator program — an exciting, enriching experience that will provide them with immense professional growth and preparation for the challenges they'll face in the principalship. The cohort is scheduled to kick-off in person on February 12.

Participants will be assigned to a small group that will primarily meet virtually in between each in-person meeting and throughout their first year as a principal. Follow-up activities will also be provided to accelerate participants' readiness to assume the leadership of their own schools.

In-person meetings will be held as 1.5-day sessions, arriving after lunch on the first day for an afternoon training and continuing for a full day the next day. Meetings are scheduled for:

- ✓ Meeting one: Feb. 12-13
- ✓ Meeting two: March 12-13
- ✓ Meeting three: April 20-30
- ✓ Meeting four: June 17-18

More Participant Info



Bus Garage News

With the continued goal of transporting Ashe County students to and from school as safely and efficiently as possible, district employees at the bus garage are in the midst of a large project — updating bus routes.

Director of Transportation Lisa Ashley explained that ACS uses a state-required, computer-assisted school bus routing and scheduling software, the Transportation Information Management System (TIMS). “We’re reviewing drivers’ routes with them individually, stop by stop and child by child,” Ashley said. “It’s vital to ensure student info and stop locations are accurate, as these constantly change.”

While TIMS has improved processes and serves as a kind of checks and balances, it’s the caring ACS bus drivers and employees who put heart into maintaining our students’ safety.



DID YOU KNOW?

33

ACS BUS
DRIVERS
TRANSPORT ...

1,498

STUDENTS TO
AND FROM
SCHOOL DAILY
OVER ...



2,575 Daily MILES
THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTY

New Middle School Update

The Clark Nexsen architectural team, the Vannoy team, owner representative, and key school and district personnel shared progress on the new middle school building, along with a cost and schedule update.

Get Full Scoop



ACHS Turf/Track Update

During this week’s Special Called Board Meeting, the Ashe County High School Turf and Track project was awarded to GeoSurfaces to install GreenFields’ PIVOT turf with a GeoFlo 15mm ShockPad and an 8-lane Mondo track surface. ACS will be the first school in North Carolina with this “state-of-the-art” turf. To see the full \$2,633,971 scope, click below.

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See Details Here

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Partnership Showcase

On Friday, Jan. 26, North Carolina House Representatives Jeffrey Elmore and Ray Pickett visited our PreK to learn more about early learning and our partnership with ApSeed. Dr. Cox, Terry Richardson, alongside ApSeed representatives spoke to a group — including Elmore and Pickett, Early Learning Center and Central office staffers, BOE members Josh Roten, Dianne Eldreth, and Janet Ward— about how this partnership is preparing children for kindergarten.

During the visit, PreK students showed participants letters, shapes, numbers, and colors they've learned using the educational apps on the interactive Seedling touchpads.

