

Ashe County Schools

BOARD NOTES



WEEK
ENDING
09
FEBRUARY

BOE Meeting Highlights

- ✓ State BETA Convention winners
- ✓ School Nurses Scholarship
- ✓ \$300K School Safety Grant
- ✓ School Mental Health Support
- ✓ SAR Dept. of Justice Grant
- ✓ 2024-25 School Calendar



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Big Events in the Planning Phase

- 4th Annual Back to School Blast - Saturday, August 10
- 1st Annual “Best of the Best” Dinner for Students - TBD
- Uniting Our Stakeholders for Student Success: A strategic plan update, review and vision for the future - TBD



More news ...

Dr. Eisa Cox, Dr. Caleb Marsh, Dean of the WCC Ashe Campus, and Todd McNeill, County Commission Chair are participating in the Hunt Institute ElevateNC Cohort on higher education. The goal is to create collaborative opportunities and facilitate important conversations about how local governments, school systems and community colleges can better work together to ensure student success!



Ashe County Commissioners approved an additional \$6 million in funding for the new middle school building project. The added funding will help to save project scope, including an auxiliary gymnasium.



This week, Amy Walker, Tim Armentrout and Eisa Cox met with Allison Kemp-Sullivan to review technology in the new middle school.

Safety Assessment and Response (SAR)

The U.S. Department of Justice STOP School Violence Grant is in its third year (of four years total). Student Services Director Jamie Little updated the board on the work done thus far, as well as remaining future work.

At Ashe County Schools, SAR is a process that includes:

- ✓ An established safety assessment process for responding to student threats, including a process for conducting mental health referrals when needed
- ✓ Multidisciplinary threat assessment and intervention teams, comprised of school staff members (including teachers, social workers, and administrators)
- ✓ Efforts to bolster broader mental health and Social and Emotional Learning capacities at ACS

The evaluation provides an understanding of how SAR improves safety *and the perceptions* of safety in our schools. Surveys across the four-year grant period are tracking numbers like those shown below.

RESULTS: The percentage of students who felt **Very Safe** or **Safe** in the following locations, by school year:

Felt “very safe” or “safe”	SY21-22	SY23-24
The hallways at your school?	93%	?
The bathrooms at your school?	89%	?
At school events?	94%	?
On the school bus?	90%	?
In your classroom?	96%	?

[See Full Report](#)



Money for our Schools

Join Carolina West Wireless’s Communication 4 Education program or renew your school selection **by March 25, 2024!** This ensures that 3% of your monthly bill is donated to the school of your choice — at no cost to you! Tell other CWW customers, too.

\$ + School Nurses Scholarship + \$



ACS nurses have joined together to create a scholarship for an Ashe County student who will be continuing his or her education in the nursing field.

This pay-it-forward plan came to School Nurse Regan Perry over the summer, as she thought about helping one of our very own students who wanted to go into the healthcare field. “One scholarship I received helped my parents and me to fulfill my dream of being a nurse, and I wanted to help someone else,” she said.

Perry shared the idea with ACS school nurses, past and present, and with the health occupation teachers. She presented the opportunity for each to contribute to this scholarship to help Ashe County students reach their dreams. “As we open this scholarship,” Perry said, “we want the students to know that they’re supported by their very own school nurses and health occupation teachers, past and present. We are here to help them succeed.”

ready, set, app!

an NCBCE initiative sponsored by Lenovo

HANA

HOWARD

County: Ashe

Meet our Intern!

What is something you enjoy?

During my free time, I enjoy reading, playing with my dog, watching TV shows/movies, and playing video games!

What are you most looking forward to in RSA?

I am looking forward to meeting my fellow interns and teams during the competition and to see what the teams have accomplished!

ACS senior Hana Howard has been selected by the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE) as an intern. She'll be working with the Ready, Set, App! team to develop a mobile app that assists students in solving a problem in their school or community.

ACS Job Openings

Know someone who may be a good fit for these ACS job opportunities? If so, please share [this link](#) to let them know!

- Principal/Asst. Principal
- JROTC Instructors
- Bus Drivers/Sub Bus Drivers
- Afterschool Group Leader
- Substitute Teacher
- Cafeteria Assistant Sub
- Custodian

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Sports Highlights



Wrestling Victories

What a season! In January, our ACHS Huskies wrestled their way to a fourth straight Conference Championship!

More wins and highlights next issue!



In other wrestling news, ACMS Bulldogs saw all 12 wrestlers finish in the top four, and the team took home a third place finish out of eight teams in the Blue Ridge Athletic Conference Tournament last month!

Lady Huskies beat Cougars 66-55



The ACHS ladies basketball team outscored Alexander Central — which hadn't lost at home all year — on their home court. Lady Huskies Head Coach Brianna Ashley said, "The win was a total team effort. The energy on the court and on the bench was the best it has been all year."



Paige Overcash scored over 1000 career points in a game win over Hibriten!



School Highlights

Ashe Early College BETA State Winners

These outstanding AEC students competed and placed as winners across a variety of subjects and skills in this year's BETA State Convention.

- Fiber Arts: **Rayanna Wilson**
- Digital Art: **Sydney Perry**
- Jewelry: **Sophia Farjardo**
- Math: **William Stone** - 3rd place
- Spanish: **Angel Padilla Calix** - 4th
- Social Studies: **Luke Bergin** - 5th



Spelling Bee Champs

And the winner is ... Brodie M., an MVES third grader! He won top prize out of 16 participants in the Feb. 8 Spelling Bee held at Westwood Elementary. Congratulations to Brodie and first runner-up, David B., an ACMS eighth grader. A big THANKS to all who helped with the event.



Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox, Mountain View Principal David Blackburn, Board Member Dianne Eldreth with winner, Brodie M.



(At left): First runner-up, ACMS eighth grader David B.



Shout out to Ashe Early College sophomore, Michelle T., who designed this year's T-shirt.



ACHS Band Banquet & Winners

Ashe County High held its first annual awards banquet this month, sponsored by the band boosters. In addition to delicious food, various students received awards presented by Band Director Parker Dula.

- Most Improved 2024: **Lany Elliott and Hanna Madrigal**
- Underclassman Outstanding Marching Musician: **Luke Wallace and Zoey Lane**
- Upperclassman Outstanding Marching Musician: **Sofia Fajardo and Karli Ellison**
- Service to the Band Award: **Riley Gore**
Husky Vanguard Honor Musician 2023: **Eli Coldiron**



Messages of Appreciation

Here's a meaningful way to encourage *any* ACS employee this month. Simply fill out **this form** by Feb. 23 if you'd like to send a message of appreciation.

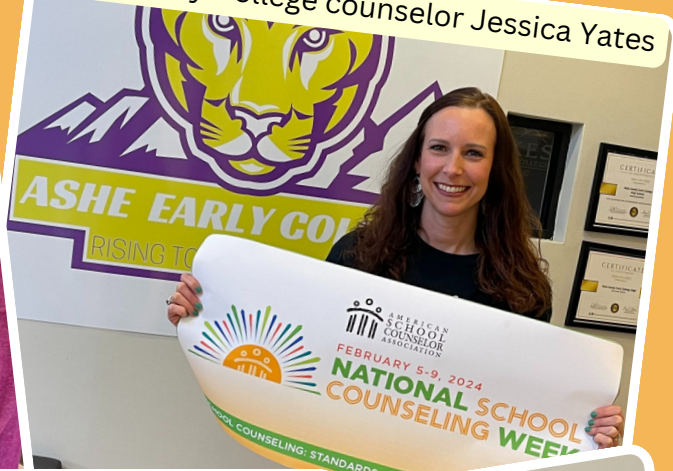
School Counselor Appreciation Week

Throughout this week, students, parents, principals, peers and the Central Services Support team took opportunities to show appreciation for our school counselors. From artwork, certificates and other gifts to kind messages on social media and in person, ACS counselors and their support personnel certainly deserved all the accolades they received.

(L-R): ACHS counselors Lucy Phipps, Kelly Fletcher, Elizabeth Dunbar (Assessment Support and Counseling Center Coordinator) and Meghann Roberts-Clawson



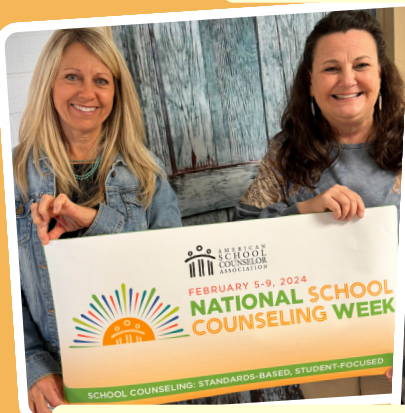
Ashe Early College counselor Jessica Yates



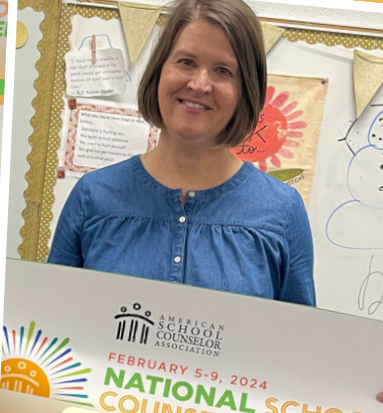
MVES counselor Amy Tsolis (at left) and with a "Kindness" poster decorated and presented to her by students



WWES counselor Amanda Bloomer received flowers and cards.



(L-R): ACMS counselors Tammi Harvey and Kristy Aldridge



BRES counselor Julie Jones



Celebrating CTE



Career and technical education, or CTE, directly prepares students for high-wage, high-skill and high-demand careers across a wide range of industries and occupations. This month, we're celebrating CTE students and instructors throughout the Ashe County Public School System, as well as the achievements and accomplishments of these programs nationwide!

Follow [ashe_cte on Instagram](#) for more highlights on our CTE instructors and students — like these.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Introducing...

TRAVIS EASON

— Carpentry & Electrical Teacher

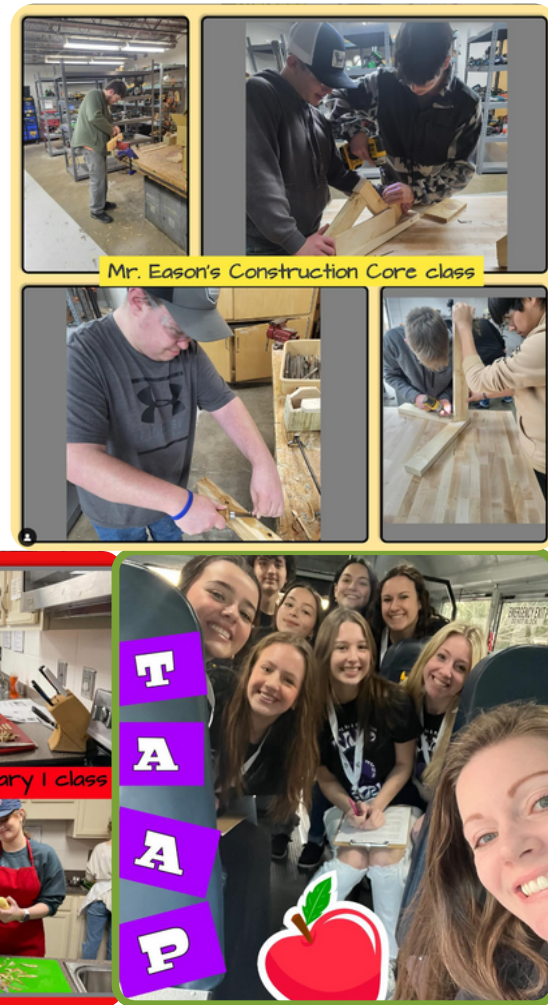


Teaches:
Construction Core
Electrical I & II

Education:
Wake Tech Community College,
24 years in the electrical field,
Owner, Excel Electric Service

Hobbies:
Coaching basketball, baseball,
& softball, relic hunting, &
spending time with family

ASHE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
Career & Technical Education



Save the Date: 2024 Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten registration opens **March 4** for the upcoming school year. Enrollment dates for ACS elementary schools are:

- ✓ BRES - April 23
- ✓ WWES - April 24
- ✓ MVES - April 25

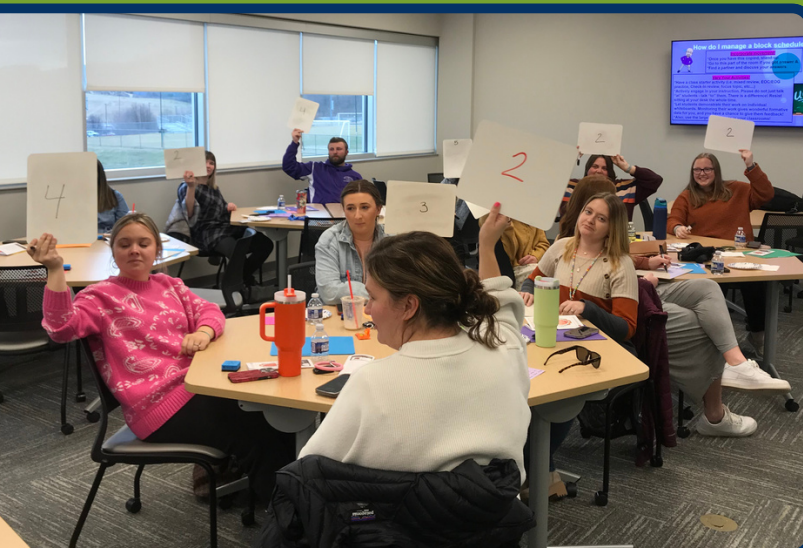
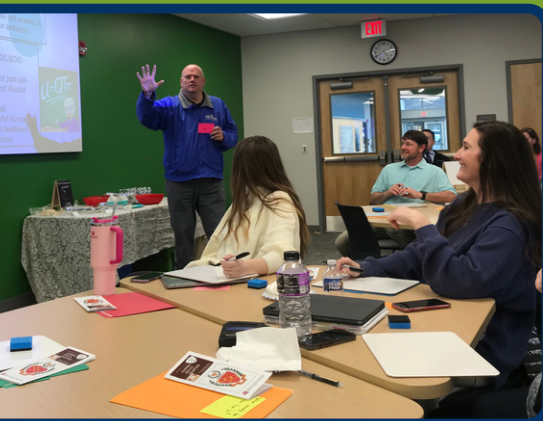


Support for Beginning Teachers

Ashe County Schools and Appalachian State University New Teacher Support Coaches, Julie Little and Karen Walker, partnered to provide our Beginning Teachers with a professional learning session on Inspiring Active Learners in the Classroom.

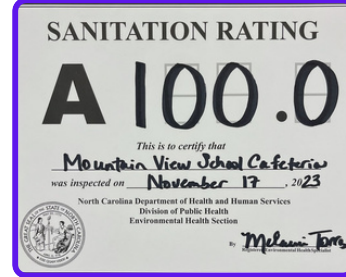
Danny Eldreth, an Ashe County Schools' highly accomplished mathematics teacher, shared strategies used in his classroom to promote active learning along with words of wisdom and encouragement. The Ashe County Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma provided a delicious spread of refreshments for the participants.

We are so proud of our beginning teachers and all they have accomplished thus far!



Lunch Crew News

ACS cafeteria workers power students' minds and well-being each day with nutritious meals. These meals are vital, as some young learners may not get energizing, healthy food outside of school hours. At Mountain View Elementary, six cafeteria workers prepare nearly 600 meals daily, feeding MVES students, as well as children at the Early Learning Center PreK and Learning Thru Play Child Development. That takes a lot of preparation and coordination, but these ladies are pros at serving up meals — and smiles.



MVES Food Facts/Monthly Averages.

- 14,000 meals
- \$17,000 Sysco Grocery cost
- 2,430 lbs. USDA Foods
- 15,175 cartons Pet Milk
- 1,600 items WNC ice cream

The MVES lunch crew has 80 years combined service feeding students!

Watch for more Lunch Crew News in coming weeks.



(L-R): Kim Osborne, Marie Hamm, Jodi Efrid, Crystal Howell, Manager Nita Absher and Jennifer Simcox keep it fun “disguised” as Mario brothers.



The MVES crew with Heather Cox (far right). She is Central Support Services Bookkeeper and fills in as needed.

More School Highlights



State Representative Ray Pickett had some great things to say after his recent visit to ACMS.

“Principal Susan Mochen provided an update on the excellent work that the faculty and staff are doing for Ashe County's young people,” Pickett said. “I was proud to hear about the great progress that the students are making in their studies. ACMS is thriving, with students earning exceptional test scores and teachers receiving a range of recognitions for their exemplary work. Go Bulldogs!”



Ashe, Lincoln, and Stanly County Pre-K Students Play to Learn and Asheville City Teachers Engage in LETRS®



Ashe PreK teachers and instructional assistants continue to rock LETRS with early learners. They're shown in the pink frames above, working on oral language, letter knowledge and writing skills in fun, meaningful ways during center play. Stephanie Baker, ACS Early Literacy Specialist, gives teachers and assistants a huge SHOUT OUT!

Important Upcoming Dates

- ✓ **February 26- March 1: Be Pro Be Proud at Ashe County High School**