

Ashe County Schools

WEEKLY UPDATE



MVES students celebrate
"Minions Day"!



WEEK
ENDING
29
FEBRUARY

Important Upcoming Dates



- ✓ **Feb. 26 - March 1** - Be Pro Be Proud Mobile Workshop at ACHS
- ✓ **March 1 - Lady Huskies - 6PM**
ACHS Band Performance 7PM
- ✓ **March 4** - Battle of the Books
Middle school, 8:30 a.m.
Elementary, 12:00 p.m.
- ✓ **March 4** - Monthly Board Meeting
- ✓ **March 6** - WWES School Visit
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
- ✓ **March 10** - Winter Athletic Awards
- ✓ **March 11-12** - Young at Art
submissions due

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES

On Wednesday, I had the honor of leading a session for female superintendents in NC alongside Rhonda Schumer, Superintendent of Franklin County.

On Wednesday and Thursday, NC Superintendents and Community College Presidents met in Greensboro to collaborate and learn around pathways to postsecondary opportunities for all students. Ashe County Schools was also praised for our data processes and strategic plan goals to ensure that all students have a plan. This has led to one of the strongest FASFA follow-up processes in the State.

Weekly LETRS News



Check out the resources in **this issue of LETRS News**. And thank you, teachers, for your hard work and dedication!

Youth Art Exhibit Reminder!



Have students interested in Ashe County Arts Council's **“Young at Art” Youth Art Exhibit**? The non-competitive exhibit is open to all Ashe County students from ages 5 to 18. Art must be original and delivered to the Arts Center between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on either March 11 or March 12. Limit: two submissions per student. The exhibit will run March 14 - April 22, 2024.

[Get More Details](#)

Update: K-8 ELA Adoption

Building a strong English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum that is framed around research *and* meets students' needs requires teamwork. ACS staffers have been focusing on adopting the best one for our students — with opportunities for teachers, parents, students and community leaders to give input on two ELA curriculum options.

- ✓ ELA curriculum samples have been delivered to all schools. Grade levels, teams, and individual teachers are reviewing the materials. Teachers who requested piloting materials are also using those with students.
- ✓ ELA Adoption Open House sessions have been held in January and February, with more scheduled in March. Attendees have opportunity to review the curriculum and leave comments. Samples are also available at family night events.
- ✓ Visits to school districts that have firmly implemented both curriculum choices are coming up in March, as is a professional development session — *Maximizing Literacy Instruction in an Effective System of Support* — for ACS administrators. Teachers can also request Q & A sessions with vendors.
- ✓ Prerequisite work should be under review for all stakeholders. [Click here](#) (reference Slide 22 for prerequisite).

Both ELA adoptions address the Language strand of Scarborough's Rope and will deepen vocabulary, content knowledge, and comprehension through reading, speaking, and writing.

Julie Taylor, ACS Director of K-12 Curriculum and Federal Programs, and Casey Smith, K-5 Curriculum Coordinator, ask teachers to take time to review, evaluate and dig deep into both adoptions to determine what is best for their students and our district as a whole. “We are all in this together,” they said, “with the end game being literate students who graduate and are ready for the post-secondary world.”



Career Accelerator Camps Opp

Teachers, if you're interested in Career Accelerator Summer Camp Designer/Teacher job information, please see below:

Camp Dates:

June 10-14

June 17-21

June 24-28

- ✓ Read [this job description](#) to ensure you qualify and meet the job requirements.
- ✓ Read [this infographic](#) with pertinent camp info.
- ✓ Attend an information session with Julie Taylor prior to applying. Date to be determined.
- ✓ In addition to the above, you must submit a 5-minute or less video promoting your camp idea. Submit to *both* roy.putman@ashe.k12.nc.us and julie.taylor@ashe.k12.nc.us no later than **March 24, 2024**.

Camps must be career-oriented, not solely hobby-based.

Great WCC opportunity for 7th-8th graders

Here's an awesome Spring Break opportunity for all 7th and 8th-grade public school students from Wilkes, Ashe, or Alleghany counties: The Ashe Campus of Wilkes Community College is offering Spring Break workshops. Students may sign up for one workshop in either Cosmetology, Horticulture or Electronics. These sessions will be held on **April 4-5**, last from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and include lunch. Spaces are limited and on a first-come first-served basis.

[Register Here](#)



APRIL 4-5

2024

SPRING BREAK WORKSHOPS

7th and 8th public school students in Wilkes, Ashe, or Alleghany counties are eligible to apply.
Limit of one course per student.
Lunch will be provided.

FREE!

APRIL 4 10AM-2PM

BECOME A BEAUTY QUEEN!

Pamper yourself with a day at the Wilkes Community Cosmetology program on the Ashe Campus! Learn about manicures, pedicures, and hair styles while receiving the services too!

CAN YOU DIG IT?

Learn how to plant and take care of your own blooming flower that you can take home at the end of class!

APRIL 5 10AM-2PM

APRIL 5 10AM-2PM

CREATE YOUR OWN STAR!

Learn soldering techniques to assemble your very own colorful flashing star with 20 flashing LED lights! Your star will light up in brilliant changing colors and create a random pattern. Take your star home with you at the end of class!



REGISTER HERE:



CONTACT FOR MORE INFO:

GEAR UP Coordinator: Lacey Kilby
lkilby157@wilkescc.edu



BIG Sports Wins!



At the NCHSAA State Wrestling Championship in Greensboro, Luke O. won the STATE CHAMPIONSHIP in the 144-pound weight class!

Lukus S. placed 6th in the 157-pound weight class. And Gabe S. was just a couple rounds away from placing in the state tournament and capped off a great sophomore season.



The Lady Huskies beat the Watauga Pioneers in overtime, 64-61, in front of a huge crowd on their home court, giving them at least a share of first place in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference. In an earlier game, Paige O. became the fifth basketball player in the school's history to record 1,000 points for her career. She's also the only lady Husky to record 1,000 kills in volleyball and 1,000 points in basketball.



More #AsheProud Moments



Congratulations to ACHS senior, Blake P. (at right), who signed with Brevard University to continue his football career.

ACHS Boys Basketball won their game against Millers Creek Christian Academy.

Emily H. placed 5th in the indoor track state tournament in the shot put. Sawyer G. placed 8th in the high jump at the same meet.



Congratulations to ACHS senior basketball point guard Bryce L. (left), who signed with Lees-McRae College to continue his basketball career.

Weekly Update is ONLINE

You can now find the current issue under “District Announcements” on the [ACS home page](#). Past issues will be archived [here](#).





School Highlights

At the Ashe Early Learning Center, Mrs. Sara and Ms. Carrie did a water study with our youngest learners, who had fun investigating. To see how water changes to ice and then evaporates, they made watercolor ice cubes and painted with them. The class also made a walking rainbow, watched how the colors mixed, then painted with that, too!





More School Highlights

Congratulations to ACHS FFA student Paige R. on her recent appointment to the Student Advisory Council for North Carolina with state Superintendent Catherine Truitt. Paige was one of only 10 students selected out of over 1,000 applications across the state.

Advisory council members meet monthly and serve a 2-year term that concludes at the end of their senior year of high school.

During that time, they hear from experts at NC Department of Public Instruction, State Board of Education, the General Assembly, and the Governor's Office. Paige will be representing 20 counties from the northwest region of North Carolina and attended her first meeting February 13th.

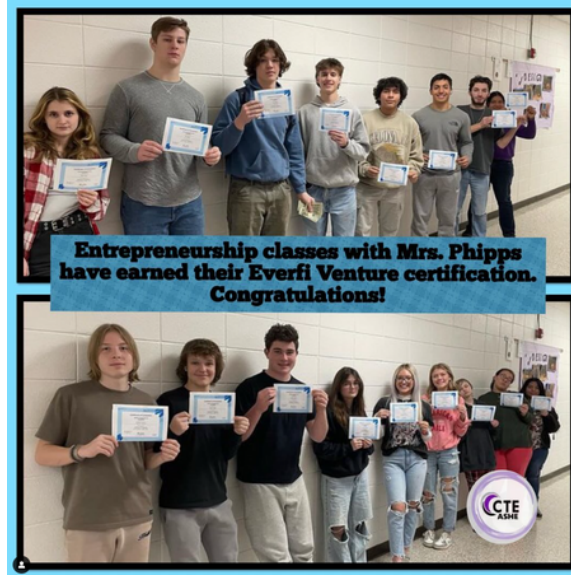


(Above): Congratulations to Westwood Elementary student, Quinton, for winning first place in the soil and water poster contest!



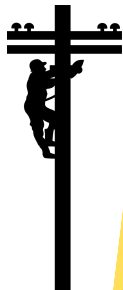
Wrapping Up CTE Month

What a great month for Ashe High CTE! Students in Entrepreneurship with Mrs. Phipps proudly share their Everfi Venture certifications. In this credential program, students develop a personalized plan for their individual business along with guidance for academic and career success — a great addition to their resumes!



Next, congratulations are in order for our Director of Ashe County CTE programs, Mr. Earl Pennington, who was honored this week as the Northwest CTE Administrator of the Year at the NCACTE Spring CTE Administrators Conference in Greensboro, NC. He's pictured at left with Karen Boyles, the Northwest North Carolina Regional CTE Coordinator.

And how cool is this? At ACHS, students are exploring hands-on training in the different skilled professions that the Be Pro Be Proud mobile workshop offers. What a great way to end CTE Month!



Professional Development for Teachers

Ashe County Schools' educators are always looking for ways to increase effectiveness and implement best practices and teaching methods in their classrooms. The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) helps them do that, providing opportunities for teachers to continue their intellectual and professional development.



Four ACS teachers recently attended a National Board Work Session at NCCAT in Cullowhee. (L-R): Martie Latham, 4th grade teacher at Westwood Elementary; Taylor Ashley, 2nd grade teacher at Westwood; Jill Baldwin, Literacy specialist at Mountain View Elementary; and Mandy Keziah, Media Specialist at Westwood.

Attention, Teachers: AIG Training

Please see the information below (and links to register) pertaining to AIG regional professional development. The training is once again being offered face-to-face and online.

Both training types lead to regional AIG certification upon completion. Some people choose to take the Praxis after this training to obtain state AIG licensure.



- ✓ **Online AIG Training - June 10-14**
with completion date of August 1.
- ✓ **In Person AIG Training - June 17-21**
Wilkes County Schools - Stone
Center, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A Good Meal is the Best Hug

Lunch Crew
News

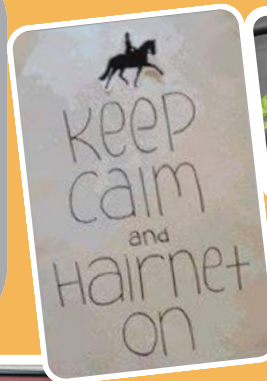
ACS Child Nutrition Director Tammy Woods describes the cafeteria as a common ground for all students. “Westwood Elementary’s cafeteria staff provides 300-400 meals twice daily,” she said, “and they make sure each person they come in contact with feels safe, seen and soothed with a hug of a good meal. And each one knows when they come back tomorrow, they’ll be met with that same sense of security.”

Providing that many meals a day to the most precious people in our community is no small job. Woods said these cafeteria workers could write the next best leadership book. “They’re successful multitaskers in a fast-paced environment,” she explained. “Their goal is serving each student and staff member individually.”

Planning, purchasing, preparing, serving and maintaining the facility at the upmost standards is no small task, either. What is routine can almost be viewed as mechanical. “In truth, it takes great habits and skills — and we all know how hard it is to develop those traits in ourselves,” Woods continued. “But putting heart in their process is what these cafeteria professionals do best.”

WWES FOOD FACTS MONTHLY AVERAGES

Meals	10,000
Sysco Grocery Cost	\$11,902
USDA Foods in Pounds	800
Cartons Pet Milk	11,306
WNC Ice Cream (items)	1,490



WWES Cafeteria Manager Patty Richardson (front, center).
(L-R): Deb Cox, Donna Faircloth, Tabitha Mahaffey and Annette Oliver. These ladies have 87 years of combined service!

