Ashe County Schools

WEEKLY UPDATE

ASHE COUNTY schools



At BRES, families enjoyed Leadership Night, with food and the students' Seussical performance

WEEK ENDING **28 MARCH**

Important Upcoming Dates

- **March 29 - April 5** - Good Friday Holiday/ Spring Break
- **April 4-5** - Spring Break Workshops WCC Ashe Campus
- April 8- BOE Meeting - Arts Council 5 p.m. closed; 6p.m. open
- **April 11** - ACHS Hiring Fair, 9:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
- **April 11** - ACHS Military Ball
- **April 13** - Spring Fest Art Festival, Early Learning Center, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **April 18** - WWES Art Night
- **April 19** - Special Olympics

Shout Outs

CONGRATULATIONS to Ashe County High School Culinary instructor **Debbie Sturgill** for a well-deserved recognition on Saturday! She received the Educator of Excellence Award at the NC ProStart Program's ceremony in Durham. The award recognizes educators who demonstrate excellence in the classroom, as well as passion, commitment and creativity in all aspects of the ProStart program to help students make the most of the opportunities the program offers. Ashe CTE is so proud of Mrs. Sturgill and the strong Culinary program she has built at ACHS.





CONGRATULATIONS to **Olivia Johnson**, 3rd grade teacher at Mountain View Elementary! She has been awarded the 'Color My World' grant in partnership with Appalachian State University! Mrs. Johnson will receive LEGOs, books, and other colorful hands-on materials for students to learn more about the world!

More Shout Outs

CONGRATULATIONS to ACMS, for receiving a re-designation as a School to Watch® by the North Carolina Association for Middle Level Education.



(L-R): ACMS Instructional Specialist Summer Davis, ACMS Principal Dr. Susan Mochen and ACMS School Counselor Tammi Harvey.

This honor recognizes the school for demonstrating academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structures that support the success of students. As one of the first schools in the state to be named such back in 2003, ACMS proudly carries on that tradition. Principal Dr. Susan Mochen shared, "There are so many wonderful things going on 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."

CONGRATULATIONS to ACHS junior, Felipe M., who was selected by Mr. Kris Wagoner as CTE student of the month for March. An excellent student, Felipe helps lead his Carpentry 2 Honors class. "He works hard on assignments and projects and has a love for the building trades," Wagoner said. "Felipe also takes pride in all of his projects, is willing to help other students that may be struggling in the classroom and shop, and takes responsibility for his work. His future is very bright and promising due to his self-discipline to work hard and learn." Thanks to Rick Woodie, Parker Tie Co, and DeWalt for this wonderful opportunity for our students at ACHS.



Enjoy Your ...



April 1-5

Stay Up to Date



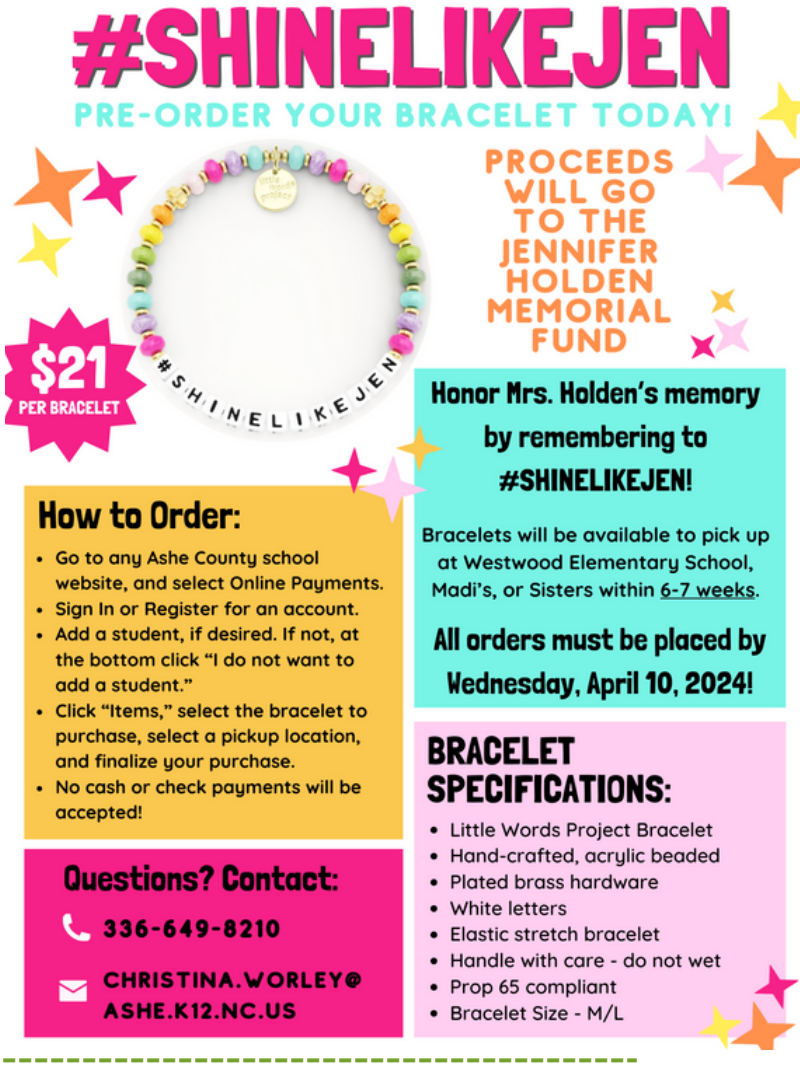
View the current newsletter and archived issues **HERE**.

Bracelets Honor Jennifer Holden

Westwood Elementary is selling #SHINELIKEJEN bracelets to honor Jennifer's memory.

Proceeds will go to the Jennifer Holden Memorial Fund! Bracelets are $21 and can be ordered through any Ashe County School's online payment portal through April 10.

The bracelets can be picked up at Westwood, Madi's, and Sisters on Main in 6-7 weeks from April 10.



Steady Progress = Continuous Benefits

Textbook fairs, monthly meetings and school visits to other counties. Networking with colleagues, planning, training, reviewing and feedback. These things and more are part of the 3-year process of adopting and implementing a successful English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum for Ashe County K-8 students.

As states and districts revamp their approaches to reading education, Ashe County Schools and others are using a course grounded in reading research, called **LETRS,** or Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling. Teachers have learned research-based instructional methods to help students improve reading skills. LETRS provides educators with the knowledge of how the brain learns to read, lesson plan development, and evidence-based practices so that students have a strong foundation to build upon as they become skilled readers. Students benefit from:

- Knowledge-building curriculums
- Strong Social Studies and Science integration
- Robust vocabulary and writing instruction
- Rigorous grade level text sets







Julie Taylor, ACS Director of K-12 Curriculum and Federal Programs, and Casey Smith, K-5 Curriculum Coordinator, share a big THANKS to these schools that generously hosted ELA curriculum observational visits: Freedom Trail Elementary in Avery County; Fallston Elementary and Casar Elementary in Cleveland County; and Fairview School in Jackson County. “These visits allowed us to get a “feel” for the curricula that we are considering adopting based on what we’ve learned in the LETRS course,” said Smith.

Taylor and Smith also congratulate teachers on the LETRS units they’ve completed so far, leaving one more unit to go! The LETRS newsletter below includes pictures from some of professional development sessions and provides teachers with updated resources and links.

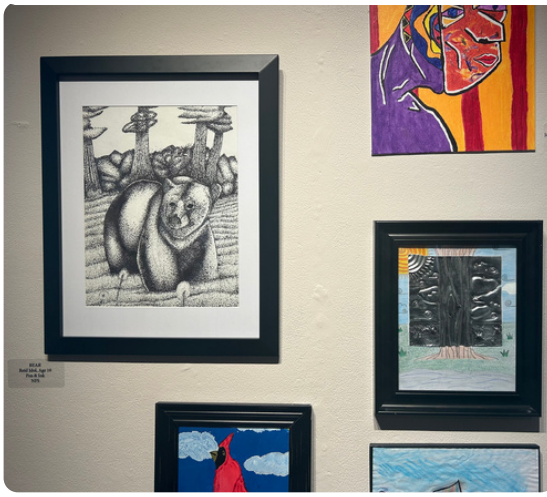
View it HERE

Arts Enrich Education

During Arts in Education month, we're sending a huge shout out to our ACS art teachers and student teachers! After a long afternoon of volunteering in the Ashe County Arts Center, the dedicated group of educators below installed over 100 works of student art for the Center's annual youth exhibit, **Young at Art**.















On March 15, the Arts Center hosted an opening reception for Young at Art, celebrating our art educators and the creative work of our K-12 students. **Stop by to view the exhibit before it closes on April 22.**

Look What's Coming Up

ACHS Hiring Fair

The ACHS Hiring Fair **on April 11** is for all businesses and employers who want to:

- Showcase full, part-time and summer employment opportunities
- Share the education and skill requirements to enter their field/industry
- Provide information on the goods and services they offer the community and the types of jobs related to their business
- Network with ACHS and AEC students, staff and other businesses in the community
- Have fun and engage with the future of Ashe County

If you have friends or family that are interested in being an exhibitor, please share the linked form below. The event will be a good representation of all that Ashe County has to offer our students.



Date: April 11

Location: ACHS

Time: 9:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Click for Form

SpringFest Arts Festival

Mark your calendar for **April 13th**! That's the date of the annual hands-on arts and crafts fair sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Festival and Ashe County art teachers. This FREE event is open to the public and will include a clay station, face painting, magic show, balloon animals, food and fun!

Get Details



Healthy Husky Hearts for All Athletes

Student athletes in grades 7-12 can get a FREE heart screening on **May 17** at Ashe County High School. This includes:

- **Cardiac screening and EKG review by a cardiologist**
- **Sports physical by a local physician**
- **Weight, vision and blood pressure checks**
- **Concussion screening**
- **Free Heart of a Husky T-shirt**
- **Snacks and drinks**

APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED.
Get materials and information
from your school office or coach.



Select Your People of the Year!

ACS staffers, it's time to nominate and vote for the 2024-25 **Teacher of the Year**; **Support Staff/Supervisory Employee of the Year**; and **Classified Employee of the Year.**

Nominations will open on March 22, 2024, at the school level and end on March 29, 2024, at 5:00 PM. All staff members at each school will have the opportunity to nominate and select a winner in each category below. Nominees must receive at least 51% of the vote at their school.



Click below for more details on the process, eligibility, voting period and prizes for each category:

Teacher of the Year

Classified Employee of the Year

Support Staff/ Supervisory Employee of the Year

School Highlights

Blue Ridge Elementary celebrated outstanding readers with a Staff vs. 6th Grade basketball game.

The sixth graders showed up strong, the cheerleaders had great cheers and the basketball players showed off their skills! The audience got to have a few hula hoop breaks after each quarter!

During halftime, Battle of the Books teams, Math Counts team, Soil and Water contest winners, and Million Word Readers were recognized! And students were randomly selected to slime Mr. Reedy and Mrs. Mossow!













School Highlights

BRES kindergartners made cards and treat bags for residents of Ashe Family Care Homes, while third graders enjoyed some sunshine in art class and created incredible sunprints!











Third grade classes also enjoyed a lunch at Makotos in Boone to try new cuisine after watching a show in Wilkesboro about having a Growth Mindset!









Students who sold $100 or more in raffle tickets for a recent fundraiser were awarded an Ice Cream Party! 🍨 The money raised went to help support the events funded by the BRES H.E.A.T (hospitality, events, action team).

School Highlights

Mountain View Elementary held its annual March Madness Tournament in PE. The teams always have educational themes, and this year's was North Carolina colleges. After reaching out to the state's colleges and universities to inquire about posters or pennants that could be used to decorate the gym for the tournament, each of these sent pennants: Gardner Webb University, Pitt Community College, East Carolina University, Catawba College, Wilkes Community College, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Pembroke, UNC Wilmington, University of Mount Olive, Western Carolina University, NC State University, St Andrews University, Mars Hill University, Campbell University, Chowan University, Brevard College, and Queens University.

MVES is appreciative of these items, which help share the importance of higher education. The students always enjoy participating in this event and having an opportunity to play against the teachers in the final round!











School Highlights

MVES third graders learned about figurative language and celebrated with Dress Like An Idiom Day. Their creativity was impressive!

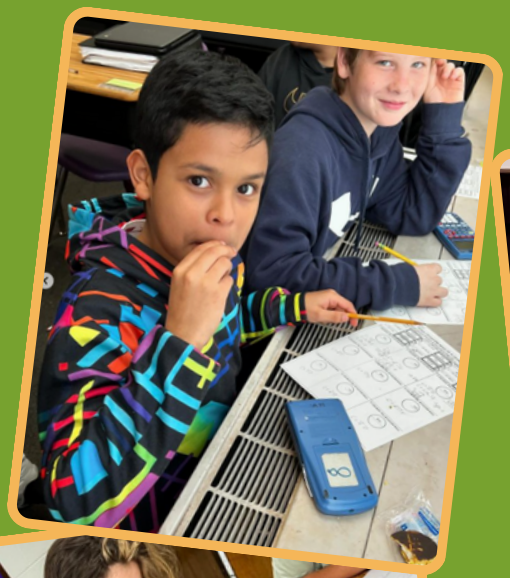




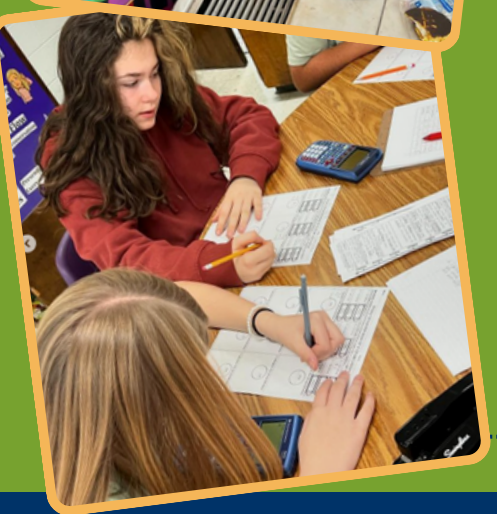




Sixth graders celebrated Pi Day with pie and learned how to find the circumference of a circle!









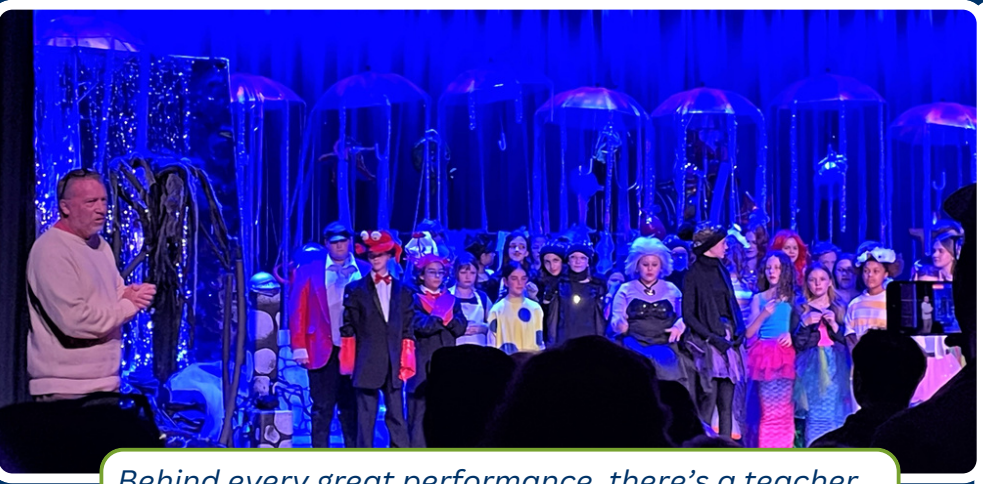
STEM Night on March 21 was an evening of hands-on activities for our families. Parents and children worked together on activities.





School Highlights

Westwood Elementary students performed The Little Mermaid, which was a smashing success with audiences! Thank you to all the performers, their teachers and families, and those who helped prepare and worked behind the scenes. The talent, music, sets and costumes were amazing!





Behind every great performance, there's a teacher who inspires, motivates and encourages — like John Franca (above, left).





A great production takes great teamwork. These two students on the lighting crew and others helped behind the scenes to keep the show running smoothly.





School Highlights

At Annual Family Night, WWES students proudly shared their projects with families.













First graders enjoyed learning about force and motion. They made catapults with popsicle sticks, rubber bands and plastic spoons. Then they launched different size Pom Pom balls to see which ones went the most distance.

In 4th grade, students finished a novel study on Wonder and celebrated by completing a project, watching the movie, and tie-dying t-shirts with the Wonder colors.

Always choose kind!







School Highlights









ACMS 7th grader Caroline R., shared about her experiences as a cadet with the local branch of Civil Air Patrol. And Molly T., daughter of the balloon pilot, spoke about her favorite parts of balloon flight and how growing up in a ballooning family business has impacted her.

"Soar to New Heights" thematic day at Ashe County Middle School kicked off with a visit from Liberty Balloon Company and their hot air balloon from Rochester, NY. Captain Lee Teitsworth treated the middle school students and 6th graders from BRES to a presentation about balloon history, balloon construction and mechanics of flight. Students learned how weather, air mass, volume, and weight can affect a successful flight. They heard about how making good decisions (going up or not to fly) can be the difference between staying safe or injuring passengers or crew. Students also heard about the importance of being able to problem-solve and think on your feet.

A special shout out to our administrators, office staff, custodians, cafeteria staff, tech specialist, Encore team, ACMS PTO, Blue Ridge Energy Bright Ideas Grant, and all whose positive support and assistance made this an extraordinary experience for students.

School Highlights

Students had a wonderful time at the ACMS annual Powder Puff social. The score was 56 to 14, with the 8th graders winning!



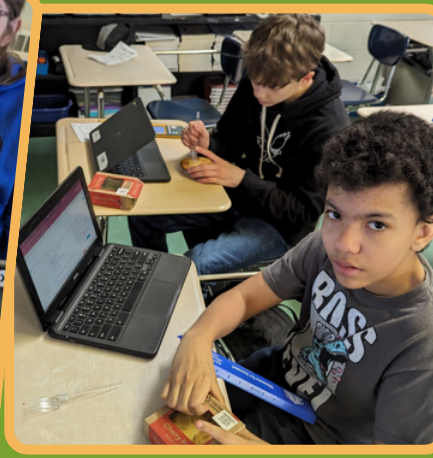






Using PI to solve problems finding surface area, volume and area was fun for 7th graders, who celebrated Pi Day with individual pies, thanks to the ACMS PTO .







Congratulations to ACMS Battle of the Books team, who placed second in the regional competition on March 22! Pictured with Kelly Holleman, ACMS Media Coordinator and team coach.





8th graders enjoyed doughnuts for meeting their AR point goals! And 7th graders competed in a scavenger hunt for prizes! ALWAYS REMEMBER: "Reading makes you well-rounded!"

School Highlights

Ashe Early College students enjoyed their prom and a wonderful night under the stars on March 23 at Summit on Cross Mountain.















ACHS
Save the Dates

Growing Educational Leaders

The ACS Central Services leadership team and principals, led by Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox and Director of Human Resources, Roy Putman, hosted outstanding @NCPFellows from Reich College of Education at Appalachian State University. The group is in its second year of the program and set to graduate in May. Congratulations on all your hard work! And thanks to Betsy Rosenbaum for your partnership!

