

ASHE COUNTY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

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A High Country Community

Ashe County is an Appalachian mountain community, where traditions and values are longstanding, and where friends and visitors are warmly welcomed.

Proudly known for the Ashe County Cheese Plant, Ashe County has focused on local agriculture and livestock industries since its establishment around 1800. The area has also always been heavily mined for metals. Today, it is widely recognized for expansive Christmas tree production.

Most of our school families work in the following areas: agriculture and livestock, manufacturing (furniture, aviation, chemicals) construction, healthcare, and education. The community is a mix of multigenerational area residents and part-time residents from all over the world. Ashe County is home to families across a very wide socioeconomic spectrum.

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**PLEASE CONTACT US ANYTIME.
WE KNOW EACH & EVERY ONE OF
OUR STUDENTS.**

LOCATION

- **School:** Ashe Early College (AEC) occupies a single hallway at the Ashe County campus of Wilkes Community College.
- **Town:** West Jefferson is a hub for Ashe County tourism. The town slogan, “Everyone fits here,” says it all! The closest major cities are Charlotte (2 hr) and Asheville (2.5 hr).
- **County:** Ashe County fills the far northwest corner of rural North Carolina, in the heart of the Blue Ridge mountains bordering Tennessee and Virginia to the north.

OUR SCHOOL

CULTURE

The community at Ashe Early College High School is that of a close-knit family; our students and staff all know each other both in and outside of school.

At AEC, we believe in educating our students as if they were our own...coaching them into responsible adults and supporting their needs and dreams.

Due to its size and dedicated staff, AEC is able to offer a truly individualized educational experience for each and every student.

Ashe Early College provides all students the opportunity to earn both a High School Diploma and an Associate Degree in 4 to 5 years through a partnership with Wilkes Community College.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Flex Fridays: Regular classes take place Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, AEC focuses on whole-person development. Students participate in learning experience beyond the classroom, such as college visits, local arts events, community service projects, elementary partnership programs, outdoor exploration, and team building.

Instruction/Enrichment: Students select from a variety of enrichment activities, including study hall, tutoring and clubs. We also offer ACT Prep and counselor grade-level meetings during I/E.

Academic Support: AEC students have full access to the Academic Support Center at Wilkes Community College, which provides tutoring, writing support, and other academic services for students. We also offer high school math tutoring before school every day of the week and study hall during I/E.

BY THE NUMBERS

Total students: 154

First-generation college students: 78%

Free-Reduced Lunch: *N/A

Total Staff: 9

Teaching Staff: 5

Student to teacher ratio: 31:1

Students of color: 25%

Academically Gifted Students: 25%

**All student in Ashe Co. Schools will receive meals at no cost for the 25-26 school year.*

STUDENT LEARNING

Ashe Early College has only 8 instructional/student services staff, but collectively they have nearly 110 years of educational experience. Promoting dynamic, innovative instruction, AEC attracts some of the region's best educators.

AEC partners with Ashe County High School (located directly down the hill from AEC) to provide students with academic, extracurricular, and co-curricular opportunities not available at AEC directly.

Grading, GPA, and Rank

Core classes are included in the cumulative high school GPA calculation. (Classes such as Study Hall, for example, are not.)

An "E" in the flags column of a transcript indicates that a course has been excluded from the cumulative GPA.

Grading is on a 100-point scale, converted to a GPA on a 4-point scale. Class rank is based on weighted cumulative GPA.

Letter	Percentile	Honor Pts	College Pts
A	90 - 100	4.5	5
B	80 - 90	3.5	4
C	70 - 80	2.5	3
D	60 - 70	1.5	2
F	0 - 59	0	0

SCHEDULING

All students complete the same high school courses and several common dual enrollment classes.

Additional dual enrollment classes are determined by Associate Degree pathway and a student's 4-Year University Degree Plan.

**In order for students to take a college math course in 10th grade, they must score a Level 4/5 on the Math 3 EOC or meet the math benchmark on the Pre-ACT or PSAT*

Student Activities

- **Clubs offered at AEC:**
 - LifeSkills, Theater, Music, Student Council, Beta Club, Yearbook, Art, Gardening
- AEC provides lots of opportunities for students to complete community service hours.

Courses

The AEC faculty embeds college-level skills and instruction into all high school coursework. This amplifies AEC students' postsecondary readiness -they learn college skills in high school classes, while applying those skills real-time in college classes.

High School classes offered:

- Honors Math I, II, III
- Earth & Environmental Science
- Honors Biology
- Honors Physics
- Honors World History
- Honors American History
- Honors Civic Literacy
- Honors Economics and Personal Finance
- Honors English I, II, III, IV
- Health/P.E.
- Honors Adobe Digital Design I
- Honors Adobe Video Design I
- Honors Theatre

COURSE SEQUENCE

9th Grade

- Honors Math I
- Honors English I & Honors English II
- ACA-122
- 4-course WCC Certificate in Business Administration, Digital Media, or Criminal Justice
- additional college coursework & high school electives

10th Grade

- Honors Math 2 & Honors Math 3
- Honors English III & ENG-111
- Honors Biology
- Honors World History or HIS-111 & HIS-112
- SPA-111 & SPA-112
- additional college coursework & high school electives

11th Grade

- MAT-152 Stats or MAT-171 Pre-Calc
- Honors English IV or ENG-112
- Honors Physics or CHM-151/CHM-152
- Honors American History or HIS-131 & HIS-132
- Health/PE
- additional college coursework & high school electives

12th Grade

- ENG-231, ENG-232, ENG-241 or ENG-242
- Honors Civic Literacy
- Honors Economics & Personal Finance
- additional college coursework & high school electives