

Ashe County Schools

WEEKLY UPDATE

back to
school

Important Upcoming Dates

- ✓ Sept. 1 - Labor Day Holiday, schools and offices closed

Happy
★ Labor Day ★

- ✓ Sept. 2 - BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- ✓ Sports and activities are in full-swing!



*First day smiles at
Ashe County Middle School!*

THROUGH
29
AUG



Great participation!!!

Community Conversation on Youth, Technology & Mental Health



Ashe County Schools invites all parents, students and community members to a timely and vital community event focused on how technology, screen time, and social pressures are impacting the mental health of our youth. The evening will also include interactive tech stations, resources, tools, door prizes and refreshments!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. SCOTT ST. CLAIR

Pediatrician and youth advocate, diving into the groundbreaking research from *The Anxious Generation* to share real strategies families can use NOW.

[Get Details](#)



ADDITIONAL FEATURED SPEAKERS & TOPICS:

Charlene Zorn, Parent Advocate

Jennifer Greene, Director of AppHealthCare

Dr. Eisa Cox, Superintendent of Ashe County Schools

Jared Schaefer, FBI Special Agent



Learn about **Yondr Pouches** at Ashe County High School and Ashe Early College: a new initiative to limit phone distractions and promote healthier learning environments.

Gain **practical tools and strategies** to help students develop healthy relationships with technology and stay safe online.



Tuesday, August 26 | 6:00 p.m.



Ashe County High School

Filling Summer Learning Gaps

This [EdNC article](#) spotlights the Summer Literacy Initiative—church-based camps offering rural 1st–3rd graders instruction, enrichment, meals, and family support. ACS Curriculum Coordinator Casey Smith praised West Jefferson UMC’s camp for strong teaching, Literacy Plan alignment, and family engagement transforming summer learning.



ACMS Welcomes New Assistant Principal

Ashe County Schools is excited to announce **Mr. Aaron Butt** as the new Assistant Principal of Ashe County Middle School, effective July 1, 2025.

Mr. Butt brings with him 17 years of experience in education, including nine years teaching English (grades 6–12) at Fork Union Military Academy in Central Virginia and eight years serving as Associate Head of School at Oak Hill Academy in Mouth of Wilson, Virginia.

He holds both a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision from the University of Virginia.

Mr. Butt lives in Mouth of Wilson, Virginia, with his wife Nicole and their three children: Elijah, Lydia, and Jude. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time outdoors—running, fishing, canoeing, camping, gardening, and foraging for wild mushrooms.



"It is a privilege to join the incredible team at Ashe County Middle School. I am excited at the opportunity to serve this community and invest in the growth of our young people."
- Aaron Butt

"We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Butt to our leadership team. His extensive experience and genuine passion for student success make him a valuable addition to Ashe County Middle School."
- Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox

Prepping for a Successful Year

At their annual Admin Retreat, ACS leaders reflected, planned, and prepared for the year, focusing on strategy, professional learning, effective teaching, The Anxious Generation, and school-opening essentials.



Our elementary teachers strengthened their skills and packed their toolkits, too! [More HERE.](#)

Learning Never Stops

Before the school year kicked off, our teachers participated in some powerful professional development opportunities designed to strengthen instruction and student success. Our new teachers joined educators from across the region at Appalachian State University's Beginning Teacher Summit! It was a full day of inspiration with dynamic speakers, engaging breakout sessions, panel discussions, and plenty of food and swag! Special shoutout to Olivia Johnson, 3rd grade teacher at MVES. She facilitated not one, but TWO breakout sessions!



During its Beginning Teacher Summit, Ashe County Schools proudly welcomed our newest educators—for two days filled with connection, inspiration and preparation for the school year ahead! Our BTs got to know each other, learned about Ashe County Schools and built confidence for their first week in the classroom.

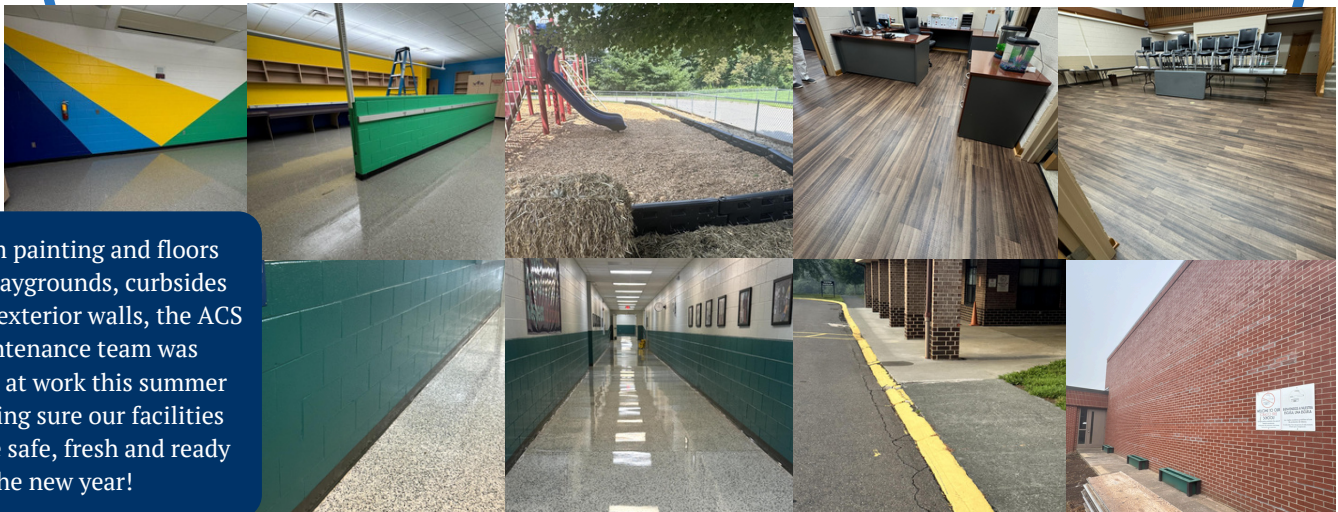


Record-Breaking Celebration

On August 9, more than 4,000 students, families, and community members came together for our biggest Back 2 School Blast yet! Once again, we partnered with the Ashe County Sheriff's Office to make sure every student started the year prepared, confident, and excited for what's ahead.



Shoutout to ACS Maintenance Team



Congratulations to **Greg Lyons**, our Assistant Director of Maintenance, who recently earned his Electrical Maintenance Certification! This achievement highlights Greg's expertise in maintaining electrical systems and equipment, and it adds a valuable level of skill to our Ashe Schools maintenance team. It also fulfills an important state requirement for our department to perform electrical work. Way to go, Greg!

Century Summer Camp Excitement

Students participating in our Century Summer Camp wrapped up their season with:

- An amazing performance of The Twelve Dancing Princesses, which showcased weeks of creativity, teamwork and dedication. Thank you to the incredible staff who poured their heart into this project and guided our students every step of the way.
- An epic day of Scottish fun at their Highland Games on Aug. 8. The event was held at Ashe Park, and families came out to cheer students in competitions that included Highland dancing, the caber toss, disc toss, relays and more. Students also enjoyed the Book Harvest “Books on Break” Fair, where they selected 5 FREE books to take home!

View **HERE** >>



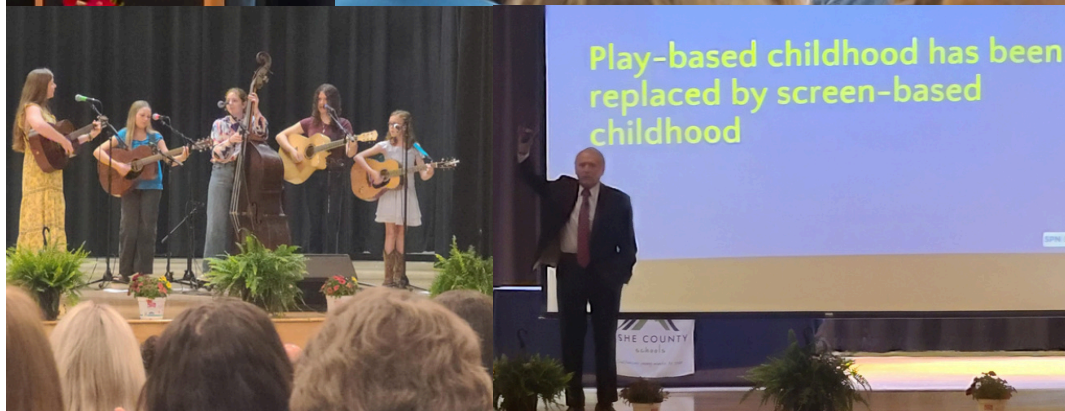
Every Moment Matters

ACS educators, administrators, BOE members, and district staff came together as one community on Aug. 11 to celebrate our shared commitment to giving 100% every single day and **making every moment matter**.



More Highlights

- A delicious breakfast
- Presentation of the colors by ACHS JROTC
- Performances by some of our talented students who are part of the Junior Appalachian Musicians (JAM) program
- Inspiring words from Teacher of the Year Tania Rollins, Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox, and BOE Chairman Josh Roten and others
- Our annual Pinning Ceremony, honoring nearly **770 years** of combined service to Ashe County Schools—and most importantly—to Ashe students



Dr. Bill Daggett, founder of the Successful Practices Network and creator of the Rigor/Relevance Framework, gave a powerful keynote speech. Dr. Daggett is a globally recognized leader in future-focused education reform and the author of 26 books about learning and education, textbooks, research reports, and journal articles. He has spent 30+ years inspiring schools, policymakers, and communities to equip every student for success in a rapidly changing world.



Opportunity Ahead

Juniors and seniors, the **Dick Miller Youth Leadership Program** is a chance to gain real-world skills, explore local government & job opportunities, and discover how YOUR unique strengths can help shape the future of Ashe County. **[APPLY HERE](#) by the Sept. 10 deadline!**

Lunch Menus & Info

Thanks to the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), ALL students will enjoy FREE breakfast and lunch for the entire 2025-26 school year — no applications needed! **Check out Lunch menus and more deliciousness [HERE](#).**



First Week of School Highlights

