

Congratulations,

CLASS OF

2026!

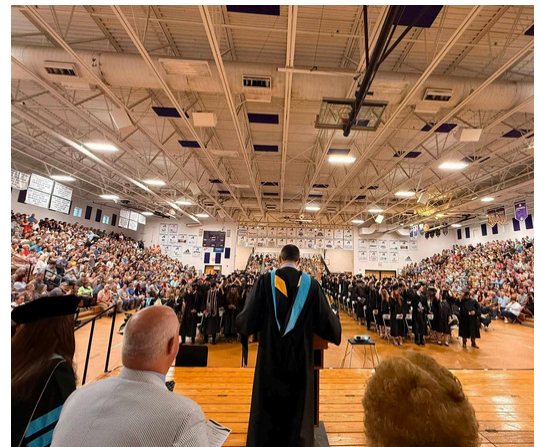


asheschools.org

SCHOOL YEAR WRAP-UP | JUNE 2026

STEPPING INTO THEIR BRIGHT TOMORROWS

More than 200 students completed their educational journeys with Ashe County Schools during commencement ceremonies on June 12. We proudly congratulate the graduates of Ashe County High School and Ashe Early College High as they begin new chapters in the workforce, military, and higher education. Their hard work and accomplishments have prepared them well, and we are confident the Class of 2026 will make a positive impact wherever life takes them. [Hear from our seniors.](#)



PRINCIPALS EARN HONORS

Sherrie Hines, principal of Ashe County Middle School, and Mitchell Reedy, principal of Blue Ridge Elementary School, successfully completed the prestigious Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program through the North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals' Association. This rigorous year of workshops and coaching focuses on continuous growth and school improvement. We congratulate these leaders on this truly outstanding achievement! [Read more.](#)

BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER: ACMS PROGRESS



Community and construction partners, along with school leaders celebrated a milestone at the new Ashe County Middle School with a "Topping Out" ceremony. Guests signed the final structural beam before it was placed, marking progress on a school that will serve generations of students and provide learning and growth opportunities. [See more.](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON BEST OF 2026

Congratulations to our 2026 Best of the Year winners! Nominated by their peers, recipients were selected for excellence in leadership, teaching, service, and support. We celebrate the lasting impact these outstanding educators and staff make on students and schools every day. [Read about the winners.](#)

Scott Grubb, Principal of the Year
Kendra Wineberg, Teacher of the Year
Emilee Worley, Rookie of the Year
Sara Lambert, Supervisory/Support of the Year
Tabitha Mahaffey, Classified Employee of the Year
Cori Richardson, Exceptional Children Educator of Excellence
*In addition, **Stefan Kunz** was named the district's NCCAT CTE Teacher of the Year*



GROWING GREAT EDUCATORS

Ashe County Schools recently celebrated 38 Beginning Teachers. The dinner honored teachers in their first to third years, including 12 who completed the NC New Teacher Support Program through Appalachian State University. Congratulations to [these educators](#) who continue to shape student success!



SALUTING TOP SENIORS

The top graduates of 2026 were celebrated at the 3rd Annual Superintendent's Best of the Best Dinner at Timber Rivers. Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox, Board of Education members, school leaders, and families honored seven Ashe Early College and 11 Ashe County High School seniors.

Recognized for academic and extracurricular excellence, these outstanding students have earned impressive scholarship offers and are preparing for exciting journeys ahead. [Read more.](#)



BIG THANKS, REAL IMPACT

As the 2025-26 year wrapped, we honored some of the amazing professionals who help keep our schools thriving. A massive thank you to our **teachers, principals, assistant principals, media coordinators, nurses, administrative staff, bus drivers, cafeteria crews, and afterschool professionals.** We deeply appreciate their hard work and commitment to excellence.

[See all the kudos on our Facebook page.](#)



Thank you to St. Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council, who recently donated \$1,325 to Ashe County Schools in support of Exceptional Children services. The gift will help boost the outstanding work of Director Terry Richardson and EC educators who help students thrive every day.

[Read the full article here.](#) (Photo credit: Jesse Campbell/Ashe Post & Times)



TEAM UP, TEE OFF AND GIVE BACK

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Endowment Fund Golf Tournament on Friday, Sept. 11, at Jefferson Landing. This annual event combines a fun day on the course with an opportunity to support Ashe County students and schools. Teams will compete in a Captain's Choice format with shotgun starts at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Explore sponsorship opportunities, and help make a difference for local students while enjoying a great day of golf!

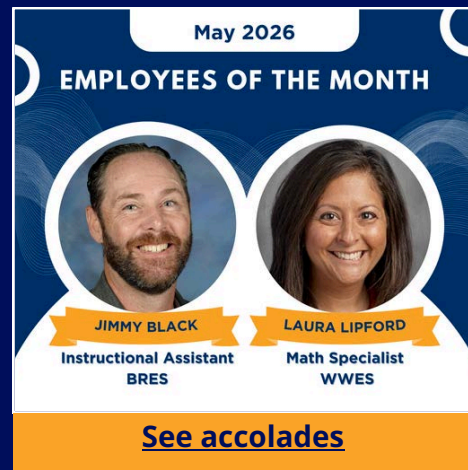
[Get more details, see sponsorship options and register here.](#)



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to these outstanding Employees of the Month! In April, we celebrated Kennedy Houck (Mountain View Elementary), a nurturing teacher making a remarkable first-year difference, alongside Dwayne Pennington (Ashe County High), a dedicated custodian keeping our facilities pristine. In May, we honored Jimmy Black (Blue Ridge Elementary), an instructional assistant whose positive energy radiates in first grade, and Laura Lipford (Westwood Elementary), a student-centered math specialist driving growth.

Thank you to these employees for their exemplary hard work and dedication to our students and staff.



BIG SMILES, GOLD MEDALS

It's one of the BEST days of the school year! Our amazing student-athletes brought incredible heart and determination to the annual Special Olympics. From emotional school sendoffs to the Husky Band's high-energy welcome, the day overflowed with medals, high fives, and proud smiles. Cheered on by families, peers, dedicated ACS staff, and supportive community members, our Olympians didn't just play; they built true confidence and lifelong friendships while deeply inspiring us all.

[Check out the photos and videos from the event!](#)

LEARNING IN ACTION

Our students enjoyed experiencing history and nature through community events. At the Ashe County Courthouse, our Salute to America beautifully celebrated 250 years of U.S. history through powerful student reflections. **[See more here including pictures and videos.](#)**

Meanwhile, fifth graders from our elementary schools enjoyed interactive discovery at the Ag Expo, exploring farm safety, equipment, and animals at the Ashe County Agriculture Campus. **[See them learning firsthand.](#)**





IMPORTANT DATES

June 30 – July Board of Education Meeting

July 4 – Independence Day; offices closed Monday, July 6

August 8 – Back 2 School Blast

August 10-14 – Required Teacher Workdays
(Convocation for ACS employees on Aug. 14)

August 17 – First Day Back for Students

WE'RE MAKING IT A HEALTHY & NUTRITIOUS SUMMER

Our FREE Summer Meal Program for Ashe County kids and teens (18 and under) kicked off Monday, June 15! This provides free breakfast AND lunch to kids in our community.

Locations: Mountain View Elementary and Westwood Elementary

[See more information, including times and dates](#) - English
[Vea más información, incluyendo fechas y horarios](#) - Espanol

Questions? Call the Child Nutrition Office at 336.246.7175

[See other Ashe County Food Resources here.](#)



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

MORE ON OUR
SOCIAL MEDIA



Congratulations



Ashe Early College
CLASS OF 2026



Courtesy of Zach Colburn



