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Contact us any time – we know each  
and every one of our students!

## OUR RURAL 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.

### OUR RURAL LOCATION

- **School:** Ashe Early College (AEC) occupies a single hallway at the Ashe County campus of Wilkes Community College. We have four (4) classrooms.
- **Town:** West Jefferson is a hub for Ashe County tourism. The town slogan, “Everyone fits here,” says it all! The closest major cities are Asheville (2.5 hours) and Charlotte (2 hours).
- **County:** Ashe County fills the far northwest corner of rural North Carolina, in the heart of the Blue Ridge mountains bordering Tennessee to the west and Virginia to the north.

## OUR RURAL SCHOOL

### Culture...

The community at Ashe Early College High School (AEC) is 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 adulthood and supporting their every need and dream. 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 four or five years....** AEC partners with Wilkes Community College.

### By the numbers...

**Total students (grades 9-12): 126**  
**First-generation college student: 57%**  
**Students on Free-Reduced Lunch: 62%**  
Total staff: 8  
Teaching staff: 5  
Student to teacher ratio: 25:1  
Students of color: 19%  
Academically Gifted students: 43%

\*We are a NEW school! The Class of 2022 will be the 1st 4-year cohort

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Flex Fridays** – Regular classes take place Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, AEC focuses on whole-person development. All students participate in various experiential activities, such as visits to colleges and universities, attending local arts events, providing community services, pre-K partnership programs, bowling and other team building opportunities. **\*This program was on hold due to COVID-19.**

**Lunch & Learn** – Students select from a variety of enrichment activities, including study hall, tutoring, or club meetings. **\*This program is on hold due to COVID-19.**

**Academic Support Center** – 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.

**AEC welcomes visits from admissions representatives!**

Students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to participate.

## OUR WAY OF LEARNING

Ashe Early College has only **five (5) instructional/student services staff**, but collectively they have nearly **70 years of education 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

Only core classes are included in the cumulative high school GPA calculation. An "E" in the flags column of a transcript indicates that a course, for any number of reasons, 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	Honors pts	College pts
A	90-100	4.5	5
B	80-89	3.5	4
C	70-79	2.5	3
D	60-69	1.5	2
F	0-59	0	0

### Scheduling

**Students are scheduled for classes based on seats available. All students complete the same high school courses. Dual enrollment classes are based on availability.**

\*A grade of B or higher in Math III is required to move into dual enrollment Math IV in grade 12. A grade of C or higher in English II is required to move into dual enrollment English in grade 11.

### Student Activities

- Student clubs offered at AEC: Recycling, Gaming. Select students can be nominated to participate in Beta Club.
- AEC requires students to complete 30 hours of community service.

### Postsecondary Preparation

- Due to COVID-19, college visits have been on hold.

### Courses

AEC faculty embed 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 live college classes*.

#### High school classes offered:

- Honors Math I, II, III
- Honors Biology
- Physical Science
- Honors Earth Science
- Honors English I, II, III, IV
- Honors World History
- Honors Civics and Economics
- Health/P.E.\*

\*Taught by Ashe County High School teachers for AEC students.

### TYPICAL COURSE SEQUENCE

Order of coursework may vary based on class availability.

#### GRADE 9

- Honors English I
- Math I
- Physical Science
- Honors World History
- Health/PE
- Community College Courses

#### GRADE 10

- Honors English II
- Honors Math II
- Honors Biology
- Honors Civics & Economics
- Community College Courses

#### GRADE 11

- Dual Enrollment English
- Honors Math III
- Honors Earth Science
- Dual Enrollment US History
- Community College Courses

#### GRADE 12

- Honors English IV
- Dual Enrollment English
- Dual Enrollment Math
- Community College Courses