

Ashe County Schools


WEEKLY UPDATE



Beginning teachers—in their first, second or third year—enjoyed a special dinner at Timber Rivers in Lansing. We are grateful for the passion, energy and commitment that all our teachers put into our students' success.

THROUGH
21
MAY

Important Upcoming Dates

- ✓ **May 22** - AEC Freshmen Awards, 8:30 am
AEC Sophomore Awards, 1:00 pm
- ✓ **May 26** - Memorial Day Holiday 
- ✓ **May 28** - ACHS Senior Awards/Scholarships, 9:00 am
- ✓ **May 30 & June 2, 3, 4 & 6** - WWES Awards
- ✓ **June 3** - Best of the Best Dinner, Timber Rivers, 5:30 pm
- ✓ **June 4 & 6** - BRES Awards
- ✓ **June 4 & 5** - MVES Awards
- ✓ **June 5 & 6** - ACMS Awards
- ✓ **June 6** - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL; EARLY DISMISSAL
 AEC Graduation, 2 pm
ACHS Graduation, 7 pm



Board
Meeting



Superintendent Spotlight: Dr. Cox Earns Top Regional Honor

Ashe County Schools proudly announces that Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox has been named the 2026 Region 7 Superintendent of the Year by the Northwest Regional Educational Service Alliance (NWRESA). This prestigious honor places Dr. Cox among the eight finalists for the A. Craig Phillips North Carolina Superintendent of the Year Award, which recognizes exceptional leadership and enduring contributions to public education across the state.

Dr. Terry Worrell, NWRESA Director, presented Dr. Cox with her award at the May 5 BOE meeting.

[Click here for more](#)



“It is an incredible honor to be recognized by my peers in Region 7,”

Dr. Cox said. “This award is a reflection of the outstanding team I work with every day—the educators, students, families, and community members of Ashe County. I am proud to lead in a district that believes in the power of public education and works together every day to champion opportunities for all students.

- Dr. Eisa Cox, Superintendent

Community Tees Off for Education

The annual Ashe County Schools Endowment Golf Tournament at Mountain Aire Golf Club brought together 25 teams, 35+ sponsors, and numerous volunteers. With strong community support, the event successfully raised funds to enhance classroom innovation and student learning opportunities.



[Read More >>](#)

CONGRATS

More Best of the Year Employees!

In addition to last issue's recognitions, we proudly congratulate these winners:

DUSTIN FARMER, ACHS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



"I am truly humbled to be recognized in this way," said Mr. Farmer. "This award reflects the hard work of our students, teachers, and staff. I'm incredibly grateful to serve the place that shaped who I am."

- Dustin Farmer

CHARLES JOHNSON, BRES EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN EDUCATOR OF EXCELLENCE



"I'm truly honored to be named EC Teacher of the Year. Working with my students and watching them grow—both in the classroom and in the community—is incredibly rewarding. Every day, they remind me to find joy in the little things and to appreciate the simple moments. I'm also grateful for the support of my colleagues, who inspire me daily."

- Charles Johnson

Congrats!

Kunz Earns GEAR UP Innovation Honor



"Teaching in the Digital Media Lab has pushed me to grow and embrace problem solving. I'm grateful for the support from GEAR UP and ACS."

- Stefan Kunz

Stefan Kunz, History and English teacher at Ashe Early College, has been named the GEAR UP Ashe County Innovator of the Year!

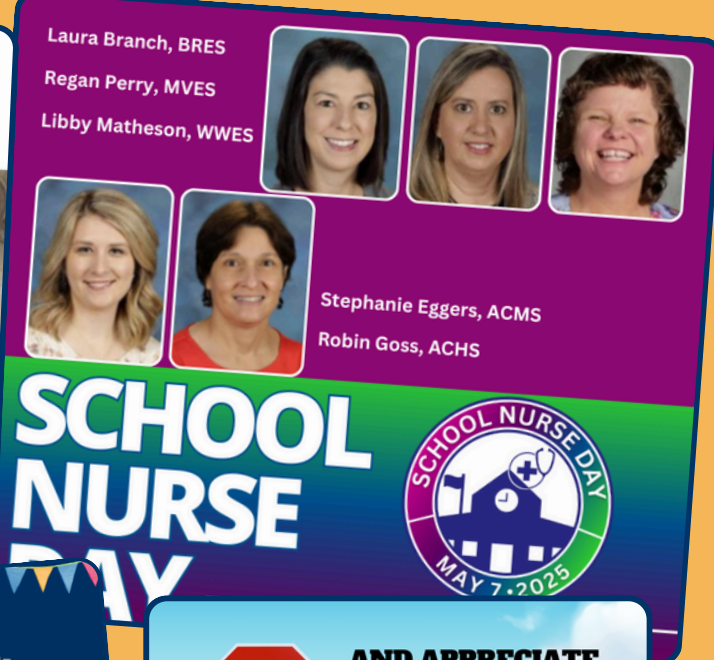
Since joining Ashe County Schools in 2016, Mr. Kunz has expanded his role to include Adobe-based CTE courses, bringing creativity and innovation to the classroom. His recognition also serves as a nomination for the 2025 GEAR UP Innovator of the Year, sponsored by Appalachian State. He'll interview for the regional award in June and be honored alongside other county winners at the GEAR UP conference. Congratulations and good luck, Mr. Kunz!

Well-deserved Recognitions

Appreciation Days were a great opportunity to recognize some very special employees for their contributions to the success of our schools and students!



On **Administrative Professionals Day**, our amazing pros received personalized T-SHIRTS just for them! **THANK YOU** for being the everyday heroes behind the scenes.
(Left): At BRES, Michelle Goodman and Cindy Lewis were all smiles showing off their new gear. And at ACMS (right), Ashley Calhoun, Jacki Miller and Jennifer Hart were ready for their close-up.



School Nurse Day, Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week, School Bus Driver Appreciation Day and School Lunch Hero Day also provided opportunity for staff, students and families to share their thanks for the MVPs helping keep students healthy and fed, as well as those behind the wheel and during afterschool hours.





Celebrating Teachers

During Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5–9), our educators were showered with sweet treats and heartfelt thanks from students, families, and staff. And a special thank you to Ashe County Farm Bureau for generously providing Chick-fil-A to staff at every school and our district office.




**TEACHING IS A
WORK OF HEART**

 **THANK YOU, TEACHERS
AND SUPPORT STAFF** 

Through your dedication, excellence and heart, you inspire students, shape bright futures and serve as role models in our schools and communities.

Your impact reaches far beyond the classroom, and we honor and celebrate all that you do.

– ASHE COUNTY SCHOOLS CENTRAL SUPPORT SERVICES
AND THE ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
MAY 5-9

Save the Dates for Next School Year

The calendar for the 2025-26 school year can now be found on our website.



**ACS 2025-26
School Calendar**

May Employees of the Month

Congratulations to our employees selected as May's cream of the crop:
Alan Church, BRES Custodian and **Jennifer Treva**, EC Teacher at ACHS!

Congratulations!

Their colleagues had some generous praise for Church and Treva:

"Alan is an extremely hard worker. He always shows up with a smile and is willing to take on any task. Our custodial staff has been short-handed all year, and Alan has been left alone all day numerous times this year. He never complains or gripes about anything."

"Alan is always willing to do what he can to help and does it with a smile. He has tried to pick up where we have been short a custodial person at BRES."

"I can't think of another individual who works as hard as Jennifer does to advocate for our students! She goes above and beyond to make sure they all get what they need."

"Jennifer has gone above and beyond this year, filling in when we are down two teachers. She has managed not only her classes but three others, as well. She is amazing."

Ashe County Schools

May 2025

Employees of the Month



Alan Church
BRES Custodian



Jennifer Treva
ACHS EC Teacher

Employees, the [Nomination Form](#) opens again in June. Nominate any employee you believe has gone above and beyond, sharing why you think they deserve the recognition.

Thank you again to Church and Treva for everything you do to embody the spirit of ACS!

Payroll Expertise Spotlight



Kahryn Blevins, ACS Payroll & Benefits Specialist, recently served as a panelist for a NCASBO "Ask the Expert" webinar. She shared her knowledge on payroll practices with school finance professionals from across North Carolina.

Congratulations, Mrs. Blevins, and thank you for representing ACS so well!



ECU Graduate!

Congratulations to ACHS Science Teacher **BJ Lewis** on earning his Master of School Administration from ECU!

A 2004 ACHS graduate, Lewis has served Ashe County Schools for 12 years. He began teaching in Jones County after earning a Biology degree from ASU in 2008, then returned home in 2013 after his twins were born. His journey reflects a deep commitment to family, education, and community.



Lewis and wife, Valerie with their kids: Emmy and Theryn (WWES 6th grade twins), and Cicero (ACHS freshman).

Lewis shared two quotes that capture his passion for education:

“In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.” – Baba Dioum
“Students don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”
– John C. Maxwell

NC State Graduate!



Congratulations to **Dr. Jennifer Crisco**, ACHS Assistant Principal, on earning her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from NC State University!

Dr. Crisco joined ACS in March 2023 and has been a dedicated leader at ACHS ever since. With a B.S. in Education, an MSA, and now an Ed.D. all from NC State, her commitment to education is truly inspiring.

“I look forward to applying what I have learned through my Ed.D program to lead and support the staff, students, and families at ACHS.”

Families + Schools = Stronger Online Safety



Ashe County Schools works diligently to secure the devices, systems, and networks our students use each day at school. But online safety doesn't stop at the school doors—we encourage all parents and guardians to actively monitor and guide their student's internet use at home.

Our social media campaign, **“Empowering Parents, Protecting Students,”** has been sharing digital safety tips that parents can put into practice, as well as free, helpful online resources. Whether parents just want the basics or need more advanced tools, there's something for every family—including the best recommended parental control options for different types of cellular devices and for specific apps. **Check out these resources.**

**Empowering Parents,
Protecting Students**



Online safety starts at home



**SEE MORE TIPS
ON OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE**



Cafeteria All-Stars!



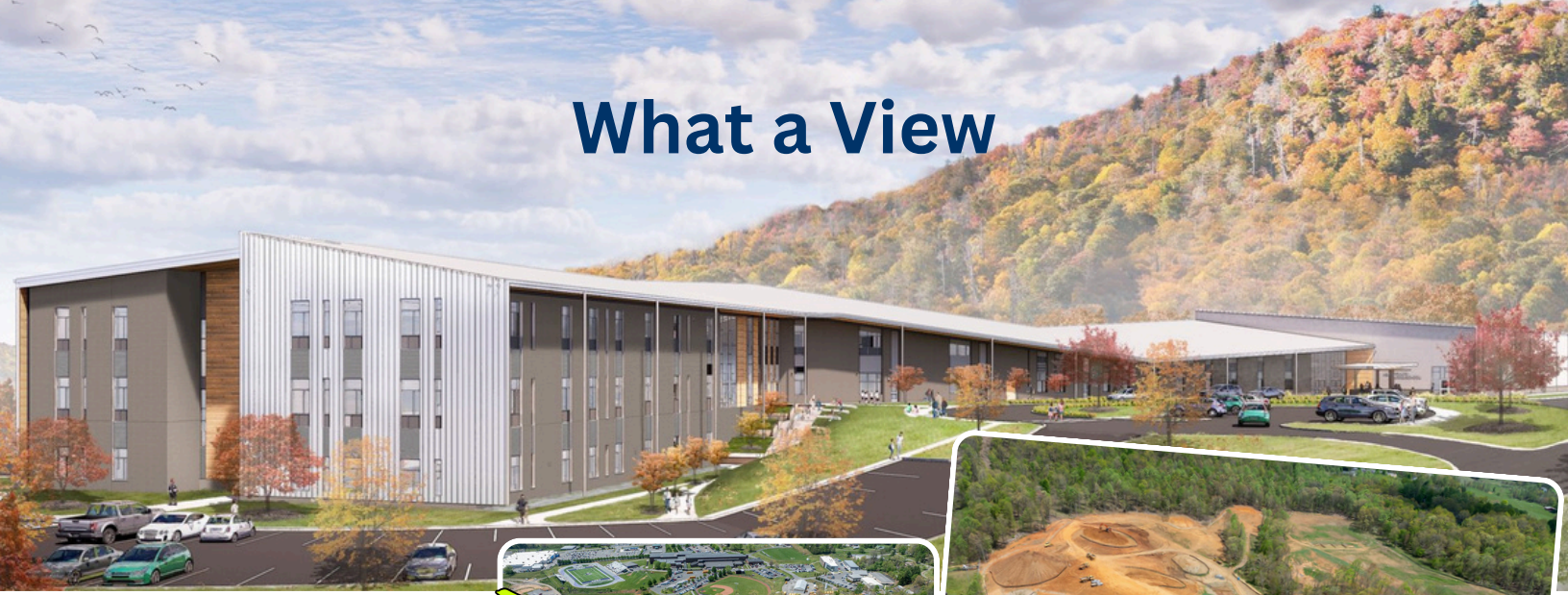
*Pictured L-R: Marie, Crystal, Alberta, Jodi, Kim and Rita.
Not pictured: Joan*



FANTASTIC

Congratulations to the MVES cafeteria team for earning a **100% sanitation rating!** A perfect score is no small feat, and we're so proud of the hard work, attention to detail, and daily smiles this incredible crew brings while keeping our students well-fed.

What a View



Progress continues on the new
Ashe County Middle School.

(Above: Artist's rendering)



**GREAT
JOB!**



Our ACS maintenance team works hard to keep our facilities safe, up to code, and looking great for students and staff. Recently, teams from all of our schools pitched in to help complete a new flooring project at the Early Learning Center.

**SUN
MEALS**
North Carolina

Fueling Kids' Summer

Our **FREE Summer Meal Program** for Ashe County kids & teens (18 and under) kicks off **June 12** at our elementary schools and runs through Friday, **August 8**. Free breakfast AND lunch will be served up all summer long all summer long.

Find more info, dates and locations [HERE](#).



12,000-plus
nutritious meals served
last summer! And we're
ready to do it again.



Stronger Together



The 3rd Annual Pathways to Wellness event is right around the corner, happening Thursday, **June 12** at WCC's Ashe Campus (Poe Hall)!

Let's come together to grow, heal, and support wellness in our community after Helene.



Theme: "Rooted in Resilience"

- Uplifting sessions for all ages (students 16+)
- Free lite breakfast, lunch & snacks
- 100% FREE thanks to Vaya Health, BCBS of NC & WCC!
- Spots are limited!

Register now

Contact:

Harley Nefe at
hjnefe045@wilkescc.edu
or Becky Greer at
rcgreer213@wilkescc.edu



- 🌳 Keynote Address: Rooted in Resilience, with Dr. Denise Presnell, MSW, Ph.D.
- 🌳 Emotional Recovery After a Natural Disaster
- 🌳 Art of Resilience exhibition by local High Country artists
- 🌳 Leading through Crisis with Dr. Caleb Marsh, Ph.D.
- 🌳 Technology Health & Literacy with AppState's Clinical Psychology Doctoral Trainees
- 🌳 Online Safety 101 with Ashe County Sheriff's Office
- 🌳 Eating Your Way to Healthy with Elevation Health P.C.
- 🌳 Adult Art Session with Florence Thomas Art School

Local resource providers will be present to provide information on their services.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Pre-K students were all smiles as they got crafty with their Letterland vests! Not only did they have a blast, but they're also getting ready to rock their end-of-year celebration in style. Here are a few of their creations.



BRES



Big shoutout to 3rd grader, Camilla M., who took 1st place at the STATE LEVEL in the New River Soil & Water Conservation poster contest! Third graders explored art and history at Blowing Rock Art & History Museum, while 4th graders got crafty making jewelry. And 5th graders got hands-on with hydroponics & aquaponics, thanks to a visit from Baldwin Farm Fresh. Lansing Volunteer Fire Dept. brought fire safety to students, who had a blast!

MIVES



Young engineers took STEM to new heights, with ramp challenges, rockets, drones, and even hot air balloons. May Play Day had 6th graders living their best lives with games, laughter, and sunshine!



WWES



WWES 1st graders are officially published authors. Shoutout to Mrs. Carter for rolling out the red carpet for an unforgettable book reading and signing event. First graders also mixed fun and learning at New River State Park. Meanwhile, 5th graders built their own food chains—weaving and all—while 6th graders dissected flowers to explore plant science up close.



ACMS



Ms. Richardson's class threw a heartfelt Muffins for Mothers celebration. The PE team hit the bullseye with their fun-filled archery unit. And look how much fun students had at their Blooms & Boots Western-Boho dance party! Career Day was a hit, too. Nearly 40 businesses gave students a hands-on look at future careers.





Dick Miller Youth Leadership Program 2025 Graduates



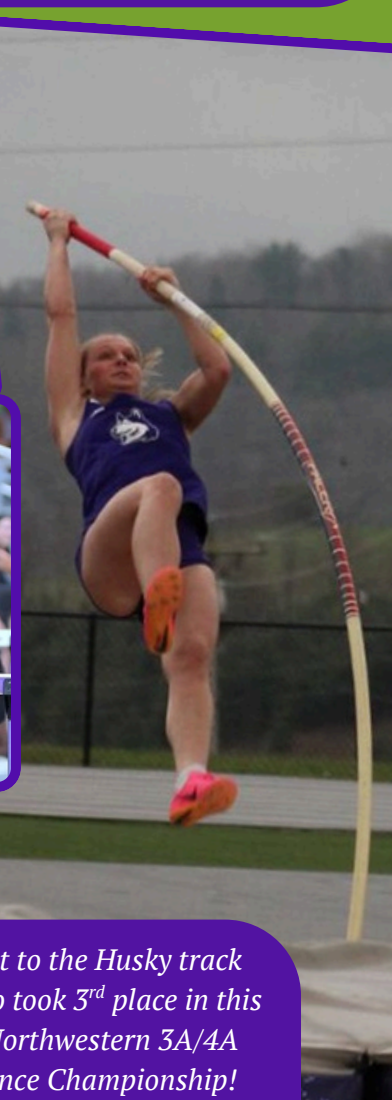
(L-R): Kaitlyn M., Addison D., Maleah L., John David L. and Emory T.



Congrats to our JROTC Raider team, who competed fiercely at their final Raider competition of the year, finishing 2nd overall out of seven Coed teams — and snagging 1st place in the Logistics Relay and Rope Bridge events!



Way to go, Carolina G. and Emory T. for being the very first recipients of the FAFSA Participation Scholarship!



Shoutout to the Husky track team, who took 3rd place in this year's Northwestern 3A/4A Conference Championship! And congrats to Gracie F. — 3A State Champion Pole Vaulter!

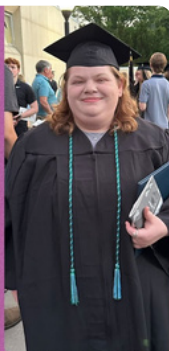
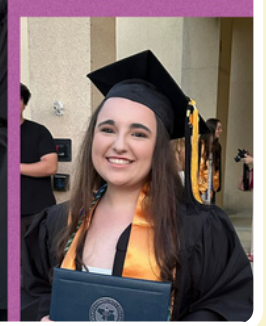
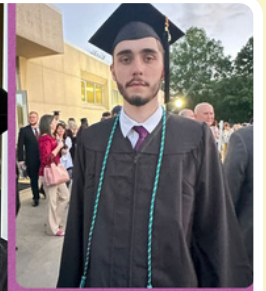


Proud of our culinary students who shined at the 2025 NC ProStart Invitational in Durham! They showcased their skills in culinary and restaurant management—way to represent!

AEC

CLASS OF 2025

AEC Seniors proudly shared their next steps
— from college commitments to career
plans! Click on the photo to see more.



Graduates, your hard work, dedication, and perseverance have paid off. As you step into this exciting next chapter, know that your Ashe County community is cheering you on every step of the way!