

Ashe County Schools

WEEKLY UPDATE



WWES students enjoy
Wit & Wisdom activities that
boost literacy success.



THROUGH
11
SEPT

Important Upcoming Dates



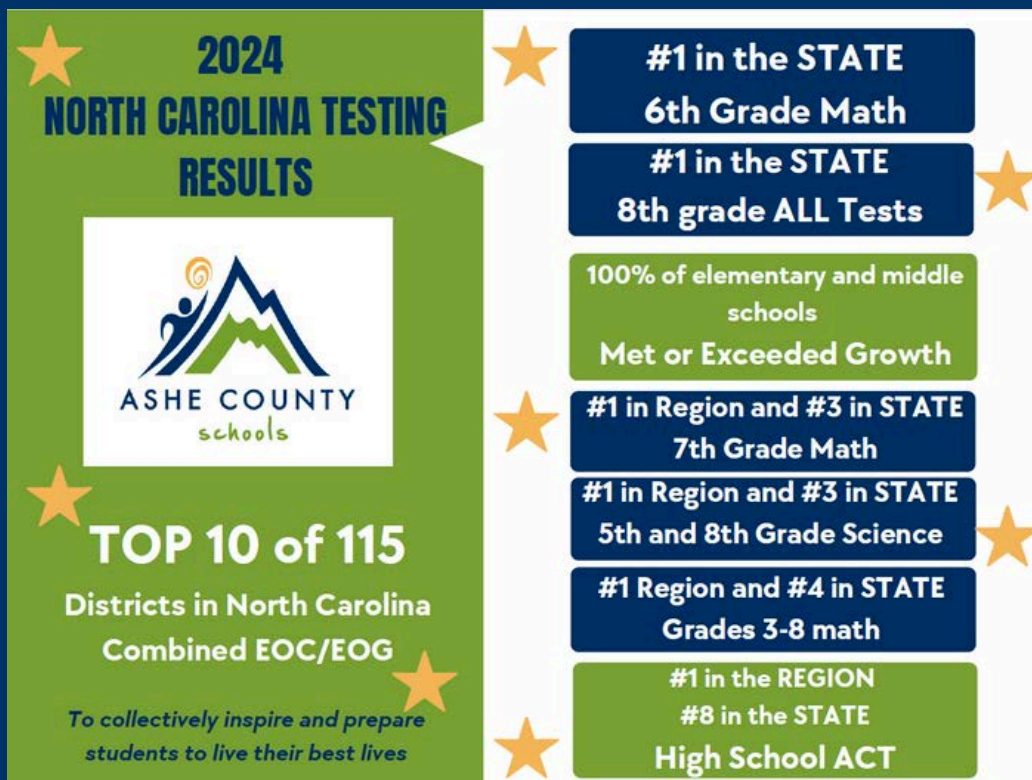
- ✓ **Sept. 16-** Dinner of Excellence 5:30 p.m. at Hidden Pastures
- ✓ **Sept. 29** - Homecoming Parade
- ✓ **Oct. 3** - BRES and MVES Fall Festivals
- ✓ **Oct. 4** - ACHS Varsity Football Homecoming
- ✓ **Oct. 15** - WWES Fall Festival

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES

Ashe County Schools Receives Top 10 Ranking in North Carolina for 2023-24 Academic Year

Ashe County Schools is thrilled to announce outstanding performance in the 2023-24 North Carolina End-of-Course (EOC) and End-of-Grade (EOG) assessments. The district has earned a prestigious TOP 10, ranking 9th of 115 school districts statewide, showcasing dedication to academic excellence.

In addition to these remarkable rankings, **100% of elementary and middle schools in Ashe County met or exceeded academic growth expectations.** This achievement highlights the district's ongoing commitment to fostering educational progress. Notably, **Ashe County Middle School ranks in the top 3% of all schools in North Carolina for academic growth and the Graduation Rate for Ashe County Schools has climbed to 88.89%**, the highest in Ashe County Schools' history, surpassing the State of North Carolina.



"These results reflect the dedication and hard work of our students, teachers, and all staff. Ashe County Schools is committed to providing a high-quality education that prepares our students for success, and these rankings are a testament to our collective efforts. The love, time, and care our teachers and staff pour into each student are the true foundations of these accomplishments, ensuring every child feels supported and valued on their educational journey. And we are thankful to our parents and community for being true partners in this effort."

- Dr. Eisa Cox, Superintendent



Shout Outs



Congratulations to these Westwood Elementary School educators! Each was awarded a \$500 winning grant by Modern Subaru of Boone.

#AsheProud

(Pictured at back, L-R): Laura Lipford, Erin Hayes, Marley Eller, Martie Latham, WWES Principal Scott Grubb, Erica Goodman, Courtney Elliott and Sheila Howell, representative from Modern Subaru of Boone.



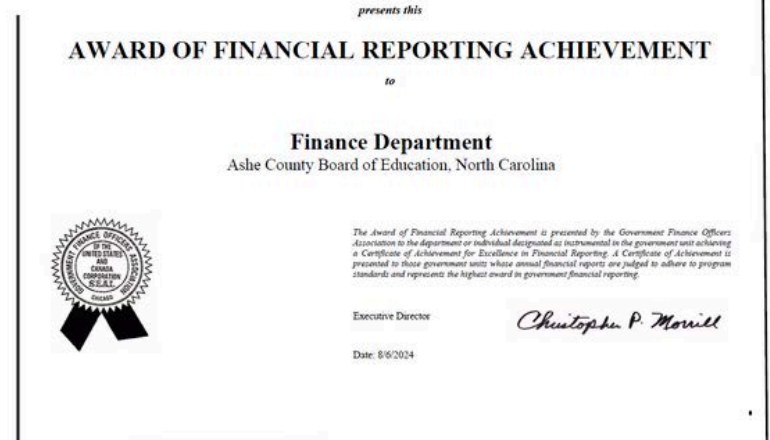
Financial Reporting Award for Ashe County Schools

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** to Ashe County Board of Education for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Judged by an impartial panel, the report met the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment.



The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada



REGULAR SCHOOL YEAR

200 PARTICIPANTS

Additionally serving up
to 50 middle school
students this year

100% MET THE GRANT
REQUIREMENT OF 90
HOURS ATTENDED
THROUGH THE YEAR

SURVEY RESULTS

80% OF
TEACHER-TO-STUDENT
SURVEYS SHOWED
STUDENT GROWTH
SINCE PROGRAM
PARTICIPATION

95% OF PARENTS SAID
THEIR CHILDREN
ENJOYED THE PROGRAM
AND WOULD
RECOMMEND IT TO
OTHERS

Our ACS Afterschool
Program is currently
tuition-free, and 2024-25
is shaping up to be
another GREAT year!

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



PROVIDES

Homework support
Enrichment activities
Help with food services
and other local services

VISITS FROM

- Park Rangers
- Bee Keepers
- Local Authorities
- Paramedics & more

CHARITABLE DRIVES

Soldier's
Angels

Winter
Coat
Drives

SUMMER AFTERSCHOOL

TRIPS

Library
State Parks
Research Farms
Museum of Ashe
Ashe Arts Kids Gallery Crawl
New River

CLUBS

Art
History
Reading/Writing
Sports
Garden/Nature
Music
STEM
Drama

100
participants
(average
of 75/day)

EVENTS

Library Read Challenge
Kids Olympic Phys. Ed.
Plays
Learning about Nutrition

NEWS

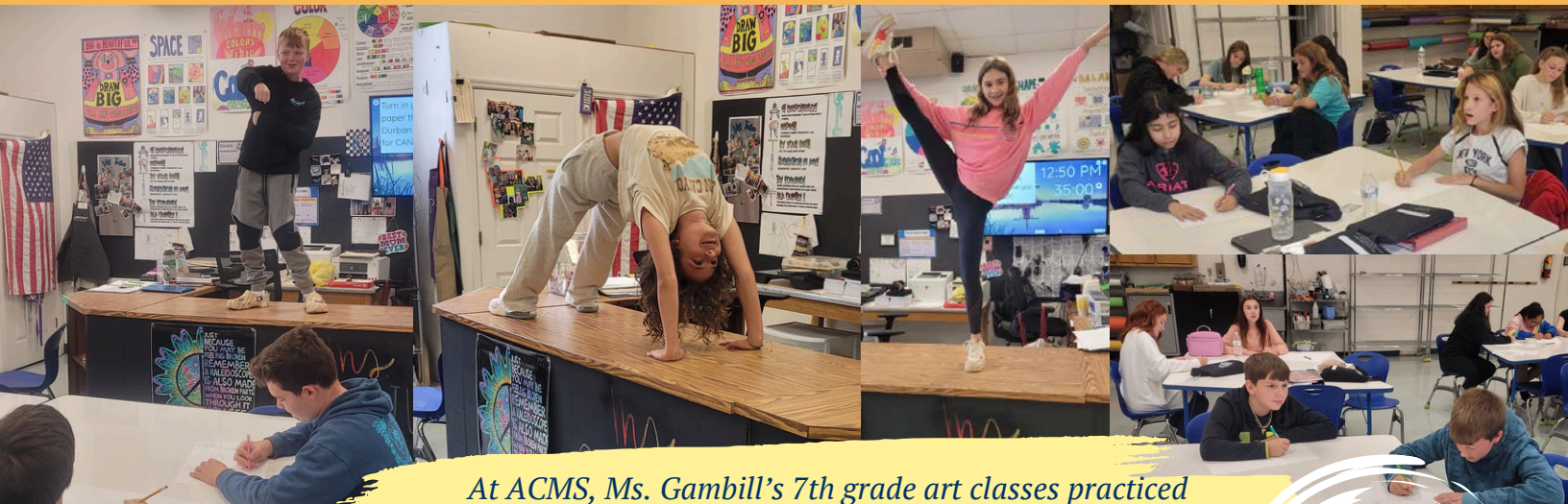
21st Century Learning
Center Grant will help
expand the program,
including adding a social
worker for afterschool
needs, tutoring services and
more



Benefits of Art in Education



During Arts in Education Week, Sept. 9-13, we're celebrating the incredible impact the arts have on learning and growth! Art activities help students express themselves, build confidence and develop creativity and critical thinking skills that extend far beyond the classroom. A huge THANK YOU to all our dedicated art educators. Your hard work and commitment shapes minds, fuels imaginations and creates lifelong learners.



At ACMS, Ms. Gambill's 7th grade art classes practiced gesture drawing. Some students posed while others sketched quick drawings of them, and then students swapped places. They had fun with both tasks.

*See more pics
on our socials
and in next
newsletter*



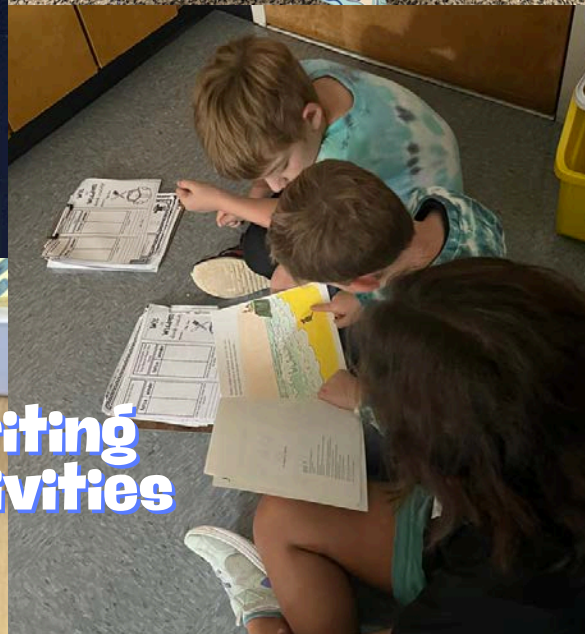
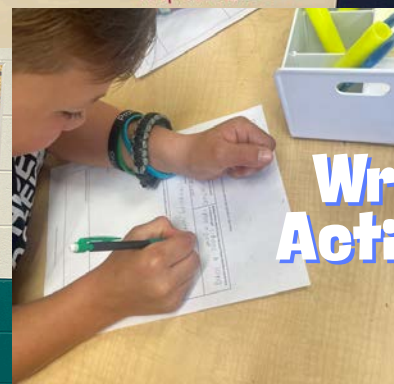
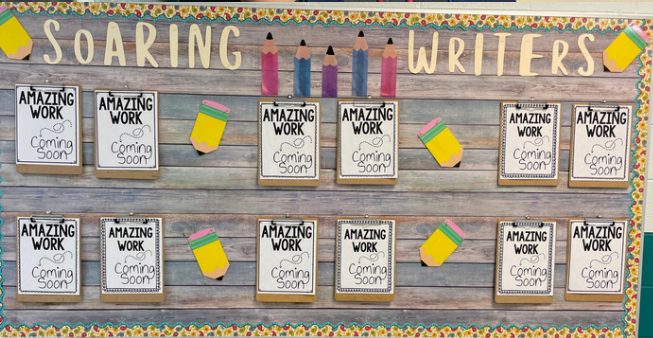
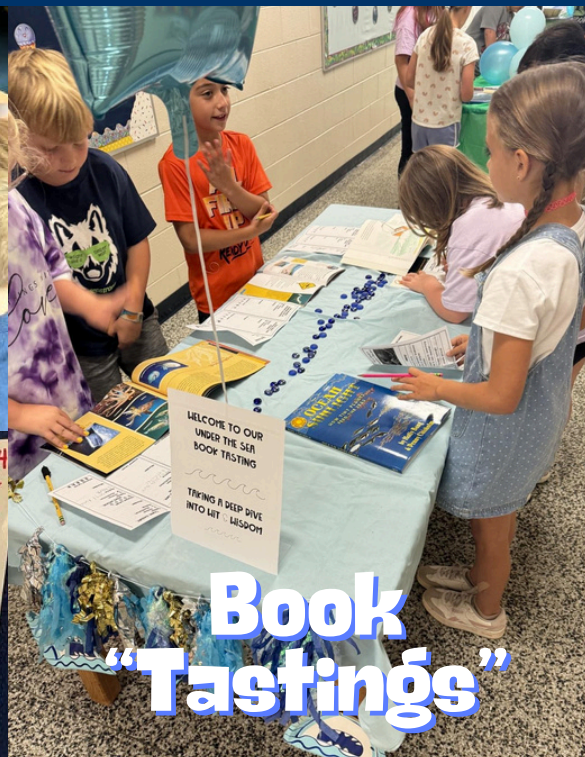
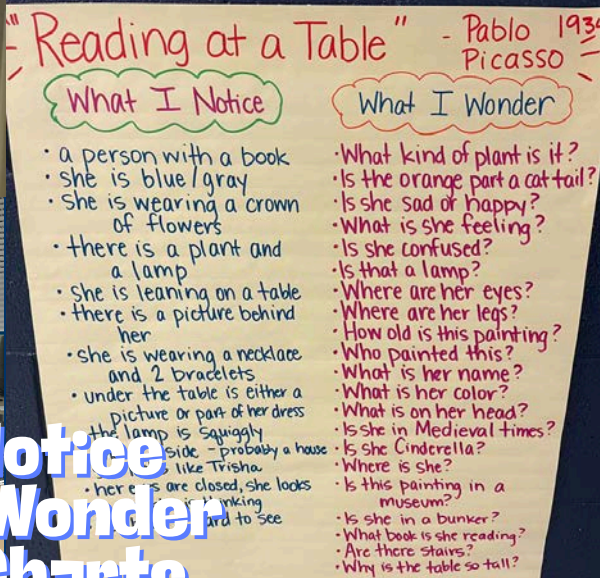
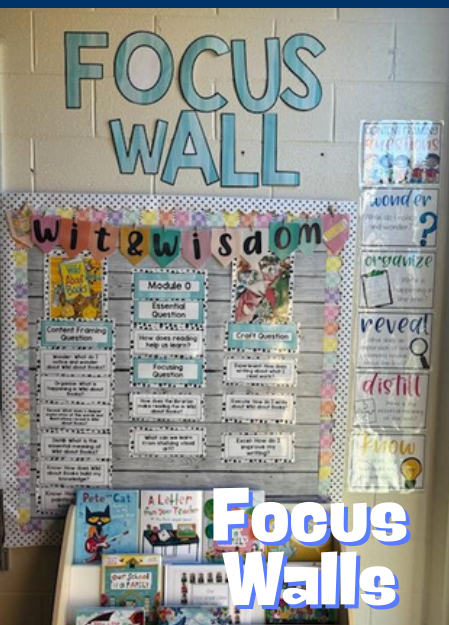
Young kindergarten artists at Mountain View Elementary made self-portraits, while those at Blue Ridge Elementary used three of their senses to make caterpillars on a leaf.

NATIONAL
**ARTS IN
EDUCATION WEEK**

Implementing Wit & Wisdom

Check out ways that our elementary schools are using wonderful Wit & Wisdom® lessons, a proven and engaging way to boost early literacy success. This top-rated K–8 English language arts curriculum helps students develop into skilled readers, writers and communicators by integrating knowledge from various subjects. Each lesson enhances comprehension with complex texts, builds shared knowledge and inspires a love for reading.

Here's a glimpse into some of the exciting lessons and activities students have enjoyed in the first few weeks of school.



Writing Activities

State Board of Education Honors PAEMST Finalists

Ms. Courtney Eller, former Ashe County Schools' STEM Innovator and current Ashe County Middle School science teacher was recognized at the September 5, 2024 State Board of Education meeting and the STEM Celebration luncheon at the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at NCState University as a 2024 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) NC finalist. The National winner will be announced at a later date. Congratulations to Ms. Eller!





College Info Opps Coming Up ...



ASHE COUNTY

CACRAO FAIR

SEPTEMBER 16TH

ACHS GYMNASIUM

SENIORS/PARENTS: 2:30-3:00
JUNIORS: 3:00-3:30

FREE TO ATTEND!

This is your chance to speak to representatives from 25+ colleges/universities

For more info, contact jessica.yates@ashe.k12.nc.



Information Session 9/12, ACHS
9/13 Ashe Early College

GEAR UP
NC Appalachian Partnership

Sign Up Now

Unlock Your Potential

Pre-College Program

→ **9th Graders**

Scholar Development Initiative

- Fall campus seminar at UNC-A
- Summer Overnight session
- In-school meetings

For more info, see your school counselor or email karee.mackey@ashe.k12.nc.us

UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

Happening Now ...

FREE, online resource available to 8th – 11th graders this year! Tutors offer around-the-clock help with any subject, as well as bilingual support!

Log in at www.tutor.com/appstate

Username: Your powerschool ID

Password: gearup

(Change the password once you log in by clicking on the 'My Account' button.)

KICK OFF
the school
year right



Questions? Contact
Ashe County GEAR UP Coordinator:
karee.mackey@ashe.k12.nc.us



Collecting thru Halloween!

COAT & BLANKET Drive

Blue Ridge Elementary's Afterschool Community Outreach Club is holding its first annual coat and blanket drive. Please consider donating new or gently used items.

Collecting Sept. 3 - Oct. 31

Questions? Contact
kathy.eastridge@ashe.k12.nc.us
or call 336-877-7036



School Highlights

At MVES, Mrs. Rash's 1st graders completed a week-long Eric Carle author study. To celebrate the end of their study, they created their own Eric Carle inspired art pieces. Miss Osborne's 2nd graders made arrays as a hands-on way of learning multiplication, while in 3rd grade, students had fun making salt maps. And 4th graders in Mrs. Ashley's class measured and collected data after completing a Paper Chain STEM challenge.



School Highlights

At WWES, 1st graders finished their first Wit and Wisdom unit with a fun animal project. They used Pebble Go to read a nonfiction book about an animal from our core text Wild About Books. They learned a fun fact about their animal to include in their animal book puppet project.



Mrs. Shannon's 1st graders did an apple investigation. They described, measured and counted their apple seeds, but the best part was tasting! And 5th graders enjoyed a field trip for Environmental Field Day.



Investigating, observing


Name: Tilligan

Apple Investigation

Teachers: Use this sheet with the activity in your lesson plan!

The color of my apple is Red yellow

My apple is this many cubes tall: 3

This is what my apple looks like: 

My apple has this many seeds: 8

My apple tastes sweet





School Highlights

At ACMS, Mr. Lewis exercised the scientific minds of his 8th graders, with a collaborative lab that gave them a chance to "think like scientists" and discover "what might happen if..." It was fun fact-finding mission! Ms. Horton's Science classes enjoyed the "Scientist Sampling" in the media center to kick-off a research project on "world famous scientists." One station was an assembly line simulation honoring Henry Ford as a scientist/engineer and successful entrepreneur. Instead of building cars, students built cards broken down into specialized tasks, then worked together to 'construct' gratitude cards.



SCIENCE



National College Colors Day at Ashe Early College!

School Highlights

Ashe High and Ashe Early College students are participating in career internships and work based learning this semester. These future interns reported to the CTE offices last week for orientation sessions with Career Development Coordinator, Diane Sprague. They are seen here working on their resumes.



Future Teachers

Ashe County High School's Teaching as a Profession program (TaaP) has grown to 19 students this fall. The class, led by instructor Dr. Jessica Hall, visited first grade at Mountain View Elementary. TaaP students observed and viewed a new curriculum and got a real-world view of life in a classroom.



Congrats to student Lyndzi B., who designed this semester's winning T-shirt.





School Highlights

From football, volleyball, and tennis to soccer and cross country, our athletes are giving 100% and enjoying victories across the board!

- In volleyball, Lorali O. recorded her 1,000th career assist in August, and the Lady Huskies finished off the season sweep of Alleghany with a 3-0 victory on the road on Aug. 26.
- In football, the Huskies won their second game against North Wilkes High, with a final score of 24-0, and their third game against West Wilkes with a final score of 20-15.

More sports news to come!



Check out [these and other employment opportunities](#) and share with those who may be interested!

ACCELERATE YOUR INCOME BY
up to \$440 A WEEK
Paid once monthly

DRIVE A BUS FOR ASHE COUNTY SCHOOLS

- Training provided!
- Must be 18 years or older.

Start HERE Email wendy.baker@ashe.k12.nc.us or call 336-846-9103

ASHE COUNTY schools

Cafeteria Workers
NEEDED

asheschools.org

ASHE COUNTY schools