

Ashe County Schools

WEEKLY UPDATE



More than 4,000 came out for
this year's Back 2 School Blast!

THROUGH
28
AUGUST

Important Upcoming Dates

- ✓ **Sept. 2** - Labor Day Holiday! Schools and offices closed
- ✓ **Sept 9** - BOE meeting
- ✓ **Sept 11**- EC Parent Meeting at AELC 5:30 p.m.
- ✓ **Sept 14** - WWES STEM/MATH Night 6-8 pm
- ✓ **Sept. 16**- Dinner of Excellence 5:30 p.m. at Hidden Pastures



**Welcome
Back! Have a
great school
year.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES

Groundbreaking Event

August 16 was a beautiful day to break ground on the new Ashe County Middle School, which will be located adjacent to the Ashe County High School. During the ceremony, Ashe County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Eisa Cox, and Board of Education Chairman, Josh Roten, made remarks. Additional speakers included North Carolina House Representative Ray Pickett; Ashe County Commission Chairman, Todd McNeill; David Bowers of Vannoy Construction, and Chad Roberson, architect with Clark Nexsen. Ashe County Board of Education members and ACS personnel were in attendance, as well as West Jefferson Mayor, Tom Hartman, along with members of the West Jefferson Board of Aldermen, town hall staffers and planning board members. Adjacent residential neighbors were also invited, and the event was open to the general public, many of whom were present for this exciting event.



Congratulations, Dr. Cox

The North Carolina School Superintendents' Association (NCSSA) has announced the selection of Dr. Eisa Cox, Superintendent of Ashe County Schools, as the recipient of the Dr. Brad Sneed Leadership Award. The award is presented in honor and recognition of a superintendent who has demonstrated a strong commitment to lifelong learning, unwavering integrity in leadership, and transformation of vision into action.

[Read more](#)



Milestone for BRES



"We are so excited to have Lighthouse Certification again. It takes the work of everyone to make this happen. We are proud of the continued growth of our young leaders at BRES. As a family, we work to make sure that we are focused on the 8 Habits not only for our own growth, but also to help others grow. Being able to help our students find their skills and leadership abilities in the traits that they already have, is the key to their own success. The unwavering dedication to Leader In Me, has brought our school closer together, and as we continue our journey, we hope to see the many great things that our student will be able to accomplish."

- BRES Principal Mitchell Reedy

Congratulations to Blue Ridge Elementary for receiving recertification as a Leader in Me School. The Lighthouse certification is a highly regarded standard, representing a significant benchmark. Franklin Covey awarded the recertification and described Lighthouse Schools like BRES as "maintaining high standards, pursuing continuous improvement and being inspiring leadership models for other schools to follow."

Good News Summer



Thanks to our Ashe County Afterschool Program staff and a 21st Century Learning Center



Grant, afterschool children at our three elementary schools and the middle school will have another unforgettable school year! The grant makes afterschool program **tuition-free to all participants this school year!** Students will take part in unique experiences and adventures — and make lasting friendships and memories while expanding their knowledge and developing interpersonal skills.

AppHealth department (in partnership with Ashe County Schools) has been awarded a grant for \$365,457 for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 for supporting school-based health center services and youth mental health.



“We are so thankful for this grant opportunity and AppHealth,” said Jamie Little, Ashe County Schools Director of Student Services. “Without these funds, we would be losing one school nurse position. We will also be able to expand mental health services with the addition of a new mental health provider.”



**Happy, Healthy Students
= Better Learners**

Learning Continues When School's Out

Students had the summer off, but things were busy districtwide! Letterland refresh trainings were held for teachers in grades PreK-3. These educators were provided new materials and refreshed on best instructional practices embedded within this engaging, spiraling phonics curriculum. Ashe County Schools has implemented Letterland, and our students have benefitted from it, for more than 20 years!

**Ashe County
Educators
are lifelong
learners!**



Many of our teachers also participated in Wit + Wisdom ELA curriculum training, as well as other professional development opportunities throughout the summer. PLCs (professional learning communities) provided opportunities for them to collaborate with their peers, ask questions regarding student learning and improve their teaching in math, science and other subjects — which benefits these educators and their students.



A team of district leaders, school administrators, and teachers also attended the Dufour PLC At Work Institute in Charlotte, NC. The Professional Learning Communities at Work® process is increasingly recognized as the most powerful strategy for sustained, substantive school improvement. This institute provides educators the knowledge and tools to implement this powerful process in their school or district. Ashe County teachers met in their PLCs to plan instruction and share strategies for this school year.

We're student-focused and giving 100% in continuous learning!

Welcome, Beginning Teachers!

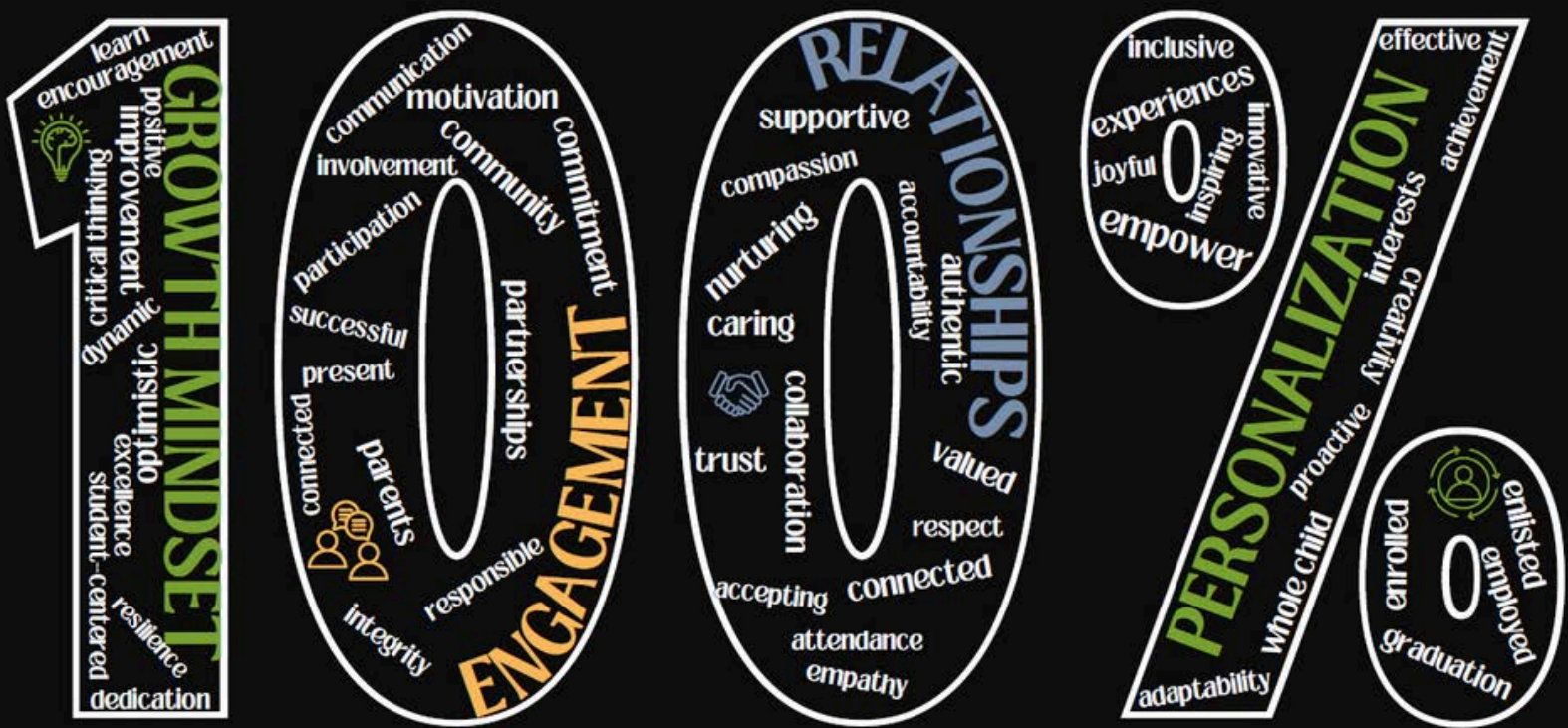
Ashe County Schools welcomes **10 brand new beginning teachers (BTs)!** At Appalachian State University's Beginning Teacher Summit in August, they and other ACS second-year and third-year BTs (pictured), learned about differentiation in the classroom and AI. Everyone left feeling motivated and excited to begin a new school year with our students!

Three beginning teachers — Olivia Johnson, Hannah Barker and Kristen Krider — presented at the conference, as did ACS Literacy Specialist, Jill Baldwin. Way to represent, Ashe County! We wish all our teachers a wonderful year.

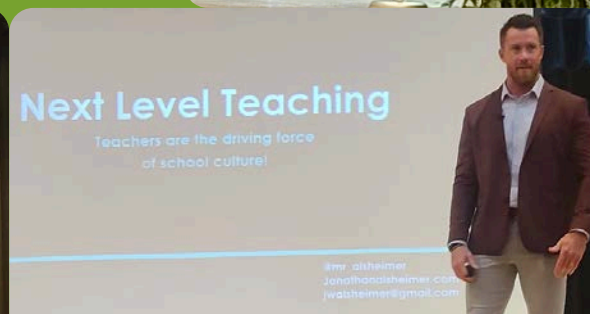
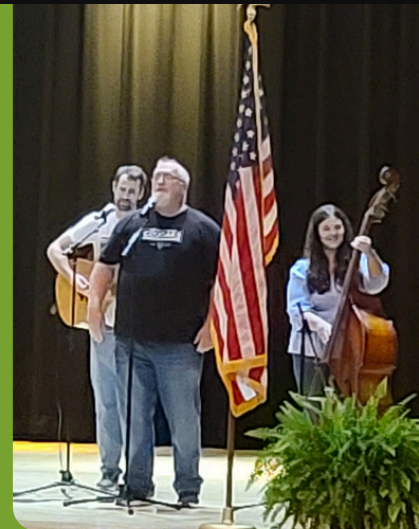
New Teacher Roster

Travis Eason - ACHS
Erica Goodman - WWES
Elaina Graham - BRES
Taylor Harkey - ACHS
Amanda Holbrook - MVES
Ashley Lamb - WWES
Tiffany Mash - WWES
Ana Ruiz - ACMS
Gabby Testerman - ACMS
Mason Wagoner - BRES





ACS employees kicked off the school year on Aug. 8 with a motivating convocation ceremony. After a delicious breakfast, they were treated to inspiring speeches by our Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox, ACS Teacher of the Year, Jim Ashley, and educator and keynote speaker Jonathan Alsheimer. Some of our wonderful Ashe County scholars presented the colors, led in the Pledge of Allegiance and were part of a presentation that reminded us all why we give 100% each day — our students' success! As a further reminder, all employees received a themed shirt, and those who reached years of service milestones were recognized. THANK YOU to everyone whose hard work made this another great convocation!





Back 2 School Blast!



More than 4,000 attended our annual Back 2 School Blast on Saturday, Aug. 10! THANKS to the generous outpouring of supplies and monetary donations from community churches, businesses and individuals, Ashe County students received needed school supplies to help them succeed in the year ahead.

Each year, we partner with the Ashe County Sheriff's Department for this event. In addition to receiving free school supplies, students and families enjoy food, games, face painting, free haircuts for students, a dunk tank, a K-9 demonstration and much more!

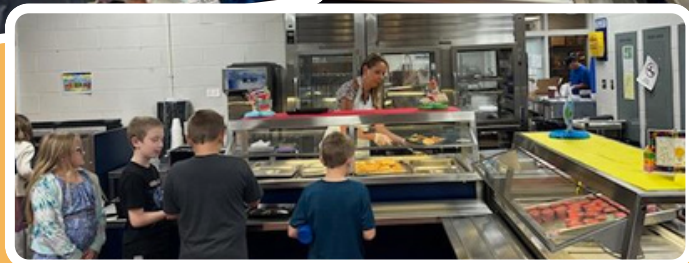
We are grateful for all the ways our community continues to support this event, as well as the hours of hard work our ACS employees put in — all to ensure our students kick off the school year motivated and with the supplies they need!



See our Facebook page for donor shout outs and more!

Into the New School Year

On the first day of school, Superintendent, Dr. Eisa Cox, enjoyed spending time with kindergartners and their families at Mountain View Elementary.



(Above): Dr. Cox, along with ACS Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Susan Mochen, were spotted at Blue Ridge Elementary School later that day helping in the cafeteria.

ACHS Football Kicks Off on New Field

Ashe County High School's new track and turf field is complete! It's the first field east of the Mississippi with GeoSurfaces Pivot turf, which provides our athletes with the ultimate performance for footing and surface contact release.



The field has one of the highest-performing, most durable surfaces with a real-grass feel.



Last Friday, the varsity Huskies enjoyed their first game of the season on the new field – with a 48-26 WIN over Wilkes Central! #AsheProud



Into the New School Year





Upcoming Opportunities

Virtual School Bus Driver Training

Upcoming Class Dates:

September 9-12, 2024
September 23-26, 2024
October 7-10, 2024
October 21-24, 2024
November 4-7, 2024
November 18-21, 2024
December 2-5, 2024
December 16-19, 2024

Classes consist of three virtual days 7:45-5:00 and an in person test on the fourth day

To register for a class, please contact wendy.baker@ashe.k12.nc.us with the following information:

Name | Email Address | Phone number
Date of class you wish to take



Ashe Youth Leadership Team

Crafting | Snacking | Connecting

Saturday September 7th, 2024
2 - 4 p.m.

Ashe Agriculture Center,
134 Government Cir #202



[SIGN UP HERE](#)

APPSTATE REICH COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Office of Field Experiences Presents

Student Teacher Seminar

[REGISTER HERE](#)

September 6, 2024
11:00-3:15

Audience:

- Pre-service teachers completing their clinical internship

Details:

- Virtual Event
- Three 1-hour break out sessions--you choose
- Various Educational Topics

Why Present:

- Share real-world experiences and innovative strategies
- Inspire and mentor the next generation of educators
- Bridge the gap between educational theory and practice
- Showcase best practices and successful methodologies

Use this QR to sign up to present!



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Attention Educators in NW NC
and App State Alumni!

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

FREE Workshops!

INTERESTED?

[CLICK HERE](#)

Click Link Above!

4 Saturday Workshops:

- 1) **September 14th**, Catawba County Schools; PD Session: "Intro to the National Board Process and Connecting with Resources"
- 2) **December 14th**, Wilkes County Schools; PD Session: "Three Types of Writing for the National Board Process"
- 3) **February 1st**, Wilkes County Schools; PD Session: "Panel of NBCTs and Video Tips"
- 4) **March 8th**, App State RCOE; PD Session: "Feedback from Peers and Mentors"

- 9am-2pm
- 2) Mentors will be onsite to assist you!
- 5) Free food & drinks provided!
- 6) Door Prizes will be given away at 10am and 1pm (\$50 gift cards provided by the NWRESA!!)
- 7) Open to anyone in the Public School Partnership or any App State Alumni for FREE!



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