

AES Holds Third Annual Science Night

Balloon rockets, elephant toothpaste, roller coasters and fire could all be seen at Ansonville Elementary School's Third Annual Science Night on Monday, February 12. Organized by fourth through sixth grade science teacher Mr. Justin Jones, the gym became an oversized science lab filled with excited students, curious parents and community members. Everyone anxiously waited for students to showcase their science skills and knowledge.

Students in all grade levels actively participated in experiments or demonstrations based on their specific grade level standards or units of study. To add to the excitement, teams competed for the title of Science Night champions. The evening ended with a "bang" and echoed the fact that science at AES is truly EPIC!



Three AHS Students Earn Platinum, 14 Earn Gold!

The ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) is a "portable, evidence-based credential that certifies the essential skills for workplace success." Employers recognize this certificate as a prediction of workplace performance.

The NCRC is achievable at various levels. The ACT WorkKeys assessments measure essential skills required for success in the workplace. Along with this, relevant skills that can affect job performance by solving actual workplace problems. Anson High School seniors William Dagenhart, Imani Dunnom-Marant and Cydney Livingston earned Platinum Certification, while fourteen additional students earned Gold Certificates.

High school seniors across the state of North Carolina who are designated as Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators are required to take the ACT WorkKeys assessment. What is a CTE Concentrator? Students who pass four courses within a Career Cluster with one course being a second level course are designated as a CTE Concentrator. For instance, a student who enrolls and passes Core & Sustainable

Construction, Carpentry I, Carpentry II, and Career Management are designated as a CTE Concentrator in the Construction Cluster. Anson High School currently supports 10 of the CTE Career Clusters, which includes 14 different Career Pathways. In addition to these Career Pathways, students also have the opportunity to earn Career Credential Certificate programs through South Piedmont Community College in 8 different Career Certificate programs, aligned to our Career Pathways.

The ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate measures and certifies the essential work skills needed for success in jobs across industries and occupations. To employers, the ACT WorkKeys Certificate is an indicator that they have access to the most qualified labor pool in our area. The certificate demonstrates the applicant is skills proficient in the areas of problem solving, critical thinking, reasoning, and reading and using work-related text. Employers who support the ACT WorkKeys Certificate program understand that their organization gains benefit by hiring better quality employees, reduced employee turnover, shortened training period, increased performance ratings, improved employee morale, and error reductions.

The ACT WorkKeys assessment consists of three tests, Workplace Documents, Applied Math and Graphic Literacy. Workplace Documents requires students to read various documents such as emails, letters, contracts, etc. and answer questions that require students to find particular information or utilize critical thinking skills to analyze the document and provide a solution. Applied Mathematics requires students to solve basic math problems that are typically utilized in the workplace, such as percents, fractions and measurements. All math problems can be solved without the use of a calculator, however students are provided an approved calculator to assist them. The third test is Graphic Literacy. This tests the students visually using graphs, charts, spreadsheets and other visual designs that are utilized in the workplace. Questions require students to be able to analyze the graphs and charts to answer relative questions pertaining to the particular visual. ACT WorkKeys assessment is not just a school assessment for teens. Adults looking to set themselves apart from other candidates in their job search can take the same assessment.

Students graduate having earned this prestigious certificate, but how does it benefit them? Research studies show that companies who acknowledge or accept this certificate from job seeking candidates have benefited in various ways. Companies save money through reduction of training time for newly hired employees and improved retention and smaller turnover rate according to Boeing Aircraft. The higher level certificates have earned employees short-term and long-term higher wages and allows for more efficient pairing of skills for a more specialized jobs. Any company wishing to partner with ACT to learn more about how companies can benefit from accepting/requiring a NCRC, may contact ACT. www.act.org

The average results of North Carolina seniors that take the WorkKeys test include 47% score a Silver NCRC Certificate, 18% earn a Gold NCRC Certificate and less than 1% earn a Platinum NCRC Certificate. This year Anson High School had three students to become a part of that elite group of less than 1% in the state of North Carolina earning a Platinum NCRC Certificate. There were also the most gold certificates earned in a school year as well. The students earning these certificates include:

Gold: Taylor Austin, Noah Bacon, Emily Bolick, Tiffany Caple, Todd Cox, Abigail Dagenhart, Lauren Dutton, Amber Freeman, Alaina Johnson, Jaear McClendon, Christian Nix, Tajah Rivers, Tristan Ward and Sidnee Williams.

Platinum: William Dagenhart, Imani Dunnom-Marant and Cydney Livingston.

More Anson High School students in the future will be afforded the opportunity to earn this credential to proudly display on their resumes during their job search. Anson High CTE program benefits with growth and increased funding when state and federal goals are met and attained. By Steve Dutton is the CTE Administrator for Anson County Schools. CTE programs equip students with core academic skills and the ability to apply those skills to real-world situations in order to function in the workplace. Embedded within these CTE programs is where students learn requisite employability and technical skills that are valued and expected across all industries and positions. Within these programs, students have opportunities to practice and refine their skills through work experience, internships and other work-based learning platforms.

A student's Career and Technical Education Program of Study is a comprehensive, structured approach to prepare students for postsecondary education and career success. Anson County Schools, along with South Piedmont Community College, and our business, industry, government, civic and community partners, have worked collaboratively to develop CTE programs and pathway opportunities for our students that will continue to strive to increase our regions workforce talent pipeline, which in turn will fuel future economic development, business and industry expansion and growth, and job creation. All of these initiatives and efforts will lead to increased opportunities and an improved quality of life for Anson County citizens.

YCC Career Academies - the Next Step

Anson High School's Chris Stinson takes the YCC model to the next level during the 2018-2019 school year. The YCC Career Academies at AHS will allow the class of 2022 the opportunity to select a pathway from twelve choices. New pathway choices next year include; Agriculture, Audio Visual Technology, Hospitality & Tourism, and Marketing & Business among others!

Students will choose both a major and a minor, and these selections will guide their coursework studies during their four years at AHS. All incoming freshman will be enrolled in a Career Management course. This class will focus specifically on each pathway allowing students to educate themselves and their family before finalizing their pathway decision.

The partnership between Anson High School and South Piedmont Community College allows for dedicated, driven students to begin major and minor pathways while qualifying for college transfer courses. Students at Anson High School who take full advantage of this opportunity will graduate with as many as 40 college transfer credits.

Want to learn more? Visit us for the eighth grade open house at Anson High School on March 8, from 4 to 7 p.m.

