

CALENDAR

- Wednesday, December 5**
• WES PTA Meeting, 6pm
- Thursday, December 6**
• Wadesboro Christmas Parade, 4pm
Early Release:
- WPS & WES dismiss at 12:30pm
- AES, LES, MES & PPES dismiss at 1pm
- ACEC, AHS, AMS & ANTHS dismiss at 1:30pm
- Friday, December 14**
• ACEC Variety Show, Lockhart-Taylor Ingram Room
- Saturday, December 15**
• JROTC Military Ball, Lockhart-Taylor Ingram Room
- Monday, December 17**
• Regular Board of Education Meeting, 5:30pm at Charles Riddle Staff Development Center at Central Office - 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Meeting begins at 5:30pm with Closed Session immediately following the opening of the meeting. Open Session begins at 6:30pm.
- Tuesday, December 18**
• MES PTA and Christmas Program, 6pm
- Thursday, December 20**
• Early Release
- WPS & WES dismiss at 12:30pm
- AES, LES, MES & PPES dismiss at 1pm
- ACEC, AHS, AMS & ANTHS dismiss at 1:30pm
- Friday, December 21**
• No School.
Annual Leave Day for staff
- December 24 - 26**
• Holiday, Christmas Break
- December 27 - 31**
• No School.
Annual Leave Days for staff
- Monday, January 9**
• WES S.I.T. Meeting, 5:15pm
• WES PTA, 6pm
• Parental Involvement Family Math Night
- Wednesday, January 11**
• MES S.I.T. Meeting
- Thursday, January 12**
• AES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm
• PPES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm, Media Center
- Wednesday, January 18**
• AMS S.I.T. Meeting, 4 to 5pm
- Monday, January 23**
• WES Terrific Kids & Awards Night, 6pm
- Thursday, January 26**
• AES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm
• PPES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm, Media Center
• Media Center
• Wadesboro Spelling Bee, 3:30pm, held at WPS
- Wednesday, February 1**
• WPS Group Pictures,
- Thursday, February 2**
• MES Group Pictures, Pictures are Pre-Paid
• AES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm
• PPES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm, Media Center
- Friday, February 3**
• WES Class Picture Day
- Monday, February 6**
• WES S.I.T. Meeting, 5:15pm
• WES PTA, 6pm
- Tuesday, February 7**
• WPS S.I.T. Meeting at 5:45pm
• MES Reading Night
• WPS PTA Meeting at 6:30pm
• MES Family Involvement Night - Title I, 4pm
• MES PTA, 6pm
- Wednesday, February 8**
• MES S.I.T. Meeting
- Thursday, February 9**
• AES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm
• PPES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm, Media Center
- Monday, February 13**
• Co-Teaching Parent Meeting, 5 to 6:30pm, at SDC
- Wednesday, February 15**
• AMS S.I.T. Meeting, 4 to 5pm
- Thursday, February 16**
• Secondary Schools Conferences
Early Release
- WPS & WES dismiss at 12:30pm
- AES, LES, MES & PPES dismiss at 1pm
- ACEC, AHS, AMS & ANTHS dismiss at 1:30pm
Secondary School Parent/Teacher Conferences begin at 2pm and end at 7pm
• AES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm
• PPES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm, Media Center
- Friday, February 17**
• LES Group Pictures
- Thursday, February 23**
• AES Group Pictures
• AES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm
• PPES S.I.T. Meeting, 3 to 4pm, Media Center



Inside Your Anson County Schools

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Board of Education Marilyn Bennett, Lisa G. Davis, Carol Ann Gibson, Bobbie Little, Frank Liles, Beulah Pratt, Russell Sikes, George Truman, Mike Turner
Superintendent of Schools Gregory A. Firm, Ed. D.
Deputy Superintendent of Schools Michael Freeman

Greetings,
Welcome to our winter edition of "Inside Your Anson County Schools." This edition features many important information items, events and activities from schools, departments and programs.
Our priorities continue to focus on student achievement and overall learning improvement as we fully implement new standards, new curriculum and new assessments. I can say with confidence that our staff design and facilitate daily instructional strategies to ensure each student is successful.
My confidence is based on proven success. For example, please consider the following improvements made over the past five years:
• Our Graduation rate has improved from 64.3% to 78.9%
• 3rd grade Reading proficiency has improved from 38.4% to 65.9%
• 4th grade Reading proficiency has improved from 40% to 70%
• 5th grade Reading proficiency has improved from 40% to 64.9%
• 6th grade Reading proficiency has improved from 41% to 71%
• 5th grade Science proficiency has improved from 27% to 55%
• 7th graders scoring a 3 or 4 on Algebra I End of Course Test has improved from 11% to 97%
• High school Biology students scoring a 3 or 4 on End of Course Test has improved from 32% to 70%
Though we have much work still to do, student achievement is on the rise in every school, every classroom, and in every grade level.
As we prepare for 2013, we know the future is uncertain. Yet, what we do know is that our students can and will continue to learn to high standards. Our staff will continue to work as hard as humanly possible. Our entire school system will stay focused on the work at hand and not be distracted by the unknowns. With your assistance, support and encouragement, the Anson County Schools will meet or exceed the high expectations that our parents, community and Board of Education has set in motion.
We sincerely and genuinely appreciate our community, our parents, staff and students. To that end, please consider downloading the Anson County Schools touch app for your iPhone or Android, smart phone. You can find it under ParentLink. This tool will allow any citizen to follow for a particular school, or the entire school system. Our best hope is that each citizen will become more aware, better informed, and even more supportive of students and staff with the easy to use application.
I would be remiss if I didn't extend a heartfelt *Thank You* for your continued support of the Anson County Schools. May your holiday season be filled with much joy,
Gregory A. Firm, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

ParentLink Mobile App Available

- 1. Get the app from the App Store**
ON ANDROID
- Open the Google Play app store and search for "Anson County."
- Tap the "Install" button. You may be asked for your Google Play password.
ON iOS
- Go to the App Store and search for "Anson County."
- Tap on the "FREE" button. You may be asked for your Apple ID password.
- The app will download onto your home screen.
- Tap the icon to open the app.
- 2. Login for student info**
- After opening the app, tap the "Student Info" icon.
- Enter your user name and password. If you do not know your user name and password, you should contact your school.
- Once you have logged in, an icon with your name and an icon for each of your students will appear.
- 3. Customize the app**
- On the app home page, tap the "Settings" icon.
- Tap the "Follow schools" option
- Select the schools you care about most.
- Choose the type of information you care about from each school.
- You can find even more customization options under the Calendar, Facebook, and Twitter icons.

Four Board of Education Members Sworn In

Four Anson County Board of Education members were sworn into office on Wednesday, November 28 by Mr. Mark Hammonds, Clerk of Courts. Ms. Carol Ann Gibson, acting Health Department Director for the county, was re-elected to the District 7 seat; Mr. Frank Liles replaces Michael Livingston for District 6; Ms. Beulah Pratt was re-elected to the District 3 seat; and Mr. Mike Turner replaces Daniel Wilson for District 1.
The next Anson County Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, December 17 at the Board of Education office in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Closed Session immediately following the opening of the meeting. Open Session to the public will begin at 6:30 p.m.



Schools Partner with Thinkgate Performance System

To ensure that students in Anson County Schools meet and exceed state and national standards, the district partners with Thinkgate Performance System. Thinkgate, a cutting edge instructional improvement system, provides resources that drive the cycle of teaching and learning in all classrooms.
There are four major components: 1) Curriculum, Common Core and learning in all classrooms. 2) Instruction addresses how learning is mastered using high quality classroom practices. 3) Assessments measure the degree to which students have mastered the curriculum. 4) Data from assessments is used to personalize student learning opportunities by affording teachers the opportunity to review, reflect, and adjust teaching and learning.
The instructional documents housed in Thinkgate were written by Anson County teachers and ensure continuity across the district. These resources are accessible 24/7 and serve as the foundation for all lesson planning.
In accordance with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Balanced Assessment System, staff are required to assess student learning throughout the year. These formative assessments are developed and administered in Thinkgate, and provide timely and relevant data to determine gaps in student learning before end-of-course and end-of grade assessments.
Through a grade level or departmental team process, teachers use assessment data to make decisions regarding what interventions or accelerations are appropriate for students on an individual and small group basis. Standards may be retaught using different strategies or students may advance to a more challenging curriculum.
Teaching and learning in the 21st century has evolved into a process to guarantee the promise of a college and career ready future to all students in the Anson County School system. Our affiliation with Thinkgate is but one avenue to support this pledge.

Wadesboro Primary School Students Help the Needy

Students in Mrs. Rivers' class at Wadesboro Primary School have been learning how to be responsible and caring citizens. The students brought items and packed them into shoe boxes to be sent to needy children. This class project will enhance learning in the social studies content this year as students track the boxes and discover the final destination of each box.
Each student wrote a letter which was included in a box. They hope to get a response from the child who receives the box.



Students (left) at Wadesboro Primary School participated in a mock election during the week of October 29 to November 2nd.

The third grade at Wadesboro Primary School (right) put on an awesome show for at the recent PTA meeting. In the show they told the story of heroes from "tall tales."



Be an informed STAKEHOLDER.
Follow
Dr. Firm's Blog at
ansoncounty-schools.blogspot.com
Find a direct link on
the district's website at
ansonschools.org

Siyanna Webster Top Collector at MES

Siyanna Webster (below) has collected the most box tops this year at Morven Elementary School. So far, we have collected over \$400, and are looking forward to what the future will bring to our school.



MES Fall Festival

Morven Elementary hosted its annual Fall Festival on Saturday, November 3, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Parents and students participated in various activities, enjoyed the inflatable (complements of Holla), received fabulous prizes, and, of course, enjoyed good old-fashion hot dogs with all the trimmings. Thank you for your support.

MES Veteran's Day Celebration

Morven Elementary School held its annual Veteran's Day Celebration on Thursday, November 8th. Our theme was "Honoring All Who Served." Veterans of all branches of the military attended.

The program included presentations and performances by the second, third, fifth and sixth grades, the AHS JROTC Color Guard, and the AHS Band. Among our guests was Veteran Services Officer, Mr. Theodore Ward. The guest speaker was our very own Sergeant Gladys Watson Sellers, an MES fifth grade teacher. At the end of the program, guests were served lunch.
It was a privilege and an honor to serve those who served our country. Thank God for our veterans.

SPCC Career Cruiser Makes Visits to MES

In an effort to provide as many resources as possible to our parents and community members, Morven Elementary School has partnered with South Piedmont Community College to bring the Career Cruiser Mobile Classroom to its campus. The Cruiser's first visit was October 18th and we had a promising turn out.
The schedule is every other Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The next visit will be on Thursday, December 13th. The Mobile Classroom will be located in the staff parking lot.
For more information please contact Mrs. Sandra Harrell, Parent/Community Outreach Coordinator. We encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.