

# CALENDAR

## Wednesday, May 30

• Class of 2016 Selection Committee meets, 4 to 6:30pm

## Thursday, May 31

• AMS Sports Banquet at AMS at 6pm  
• Class of 2016 Selection Committee meets, 4 to 6:30 pm

## Sunday, June 3

• WES - 6th Grade Cap and Gown Pictures at WES, 1:30 to 4pm

## Monday, June 4

• Class of 2016 Notification of Placement  
• MES Pre-K Program  
• WES End of Year Awards Night at AMS Gymnasium, 6pm  
• WES "Passing the Torch" with AMS & WPS at WES Gymnasium, 9am

## Tuesday, June 5

• ACEC Awards Day at Lockhart-Taylor Center  
• AMS 8th Grade Recognition at AMS, 6pm  
• MES Kindergarten Program  
• PPES Kindergarten Graduation at 9am  
• PPES Main Event, Grades 3 - 6  
• WES Donuts for Dads at 7:30am  
• WES Field Day at 8am  
• WES - Ms. Shaw's 4th Grade Star Showcase at Little Theatre, 6pm

## Wednesday, June 6

• WES Awards Day at 1:10pm  
• MES 6th Grade Graduation at 6pm  
• PPES Main Event, Grades K - 2  
• PPES 6th Grade Awards Day at 9am  
• WES - 4th Grade Field Trip to Lazy 5 Ranch  
• WES - 5th Grade Field Trip to NASCAR Hall of Fame  
• WES 6th Grade Graduation at AMS Gymnasium, 6pm

## Thursday, June 7

• ANTHS Awards Day  
• Class of 2016 Appeal Committee Meets  
• Early Dismissal  
- WPS and WES will dismiss at 12:30pm  
- AES, LES, MES, and PPES will dismiss at 1pm  
- AMS, AHS, ANTHS, and ACEC will dismiss at 1:30pm

## LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS!!

## Friday, June 8

• ANTHS Senior Awards Night  
• Class of 2016 Appeal Committee Meets

## Saturday, June 9

• Class of 2012 Graduation Commencement at AHS Stadium, 7:45am



# Inside Your Anson County Schools

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**Board of Education** Marilynn Bennett, Lisa G. Davis, Bobbie Little, Michael Livingston, Beulah Pratt, Rob Rollins, Russell Sikes, George Truman, Daniel Wilson

**Superintendent of Schools** Gregory A. Firn, Ed. D.

**Deputy Superintendent of Schools** Michael Freeman

Greetings,

Welcome to our May-June edition of "Inside Your Anson County Schools." This edition features many important information items about transitions related to the upcoming summer recess.

The Anson County Schools Commencement exercises for all graduating seniors in the Class of 2012 will take place on Saturday, June 9th beginning at 8:30 a.m. Admission to this event is by ticket only. Commencement information is presented here, including the changes and format used for the district commencement exercises. For further information or specific questions, please contact any of our high schools.

This edition also includes the Class of 2012 scholarship award winners. The gracious and generous support of businesses, civic organizations, service clubs and families are listed along with their student scholarship selection.

We encourage our returning students to review their summer reading lists as well as support the programming and efforts of the Hampton B. Allen Library to provide additional opportunities for students to enjoy the pleasure of reading throughout the summer months.

The Anson County Schools will again extend learning this summer through our summer science program utilizing the Henry "Punky" Morton Rotary Planetarium and Science Center.

In all, we are pleased with the work accomplished this year, the achievements, the breakthrough performance and most of all the learning we celebrate at Commencement.

As the instructional year winds down, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for our community, our parents, staff and students. In the days ahead, we say goodbye to our graduates and welcome our 8th graders to high school, as well as 6th graders to middle school. Please know in the months ahead our staff will also be preparing for each of our returning students to continue their learning journey. By the way, our instructional year resumes August 27 - not that far off.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Anson County Schools.

All means All!

Gregory A. Firn, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools

## 2012 Scholarship Night Recipients

**A.C.T./Woodlawn/Faison Alumni Association Scholarship** Rasheed Leak

**Alpha Eta Chapter of Alpha Pi Chi Sorority** Alexis Gatewood, Ravin Brown, Nyasia Clark

**Anson County NC Retired School Personnel** Michaela Cash

**Anson County Auxiliary Scholarships** Summer Honeycutt

**Anson Women's League** Amber Teal, Natalie White

**Delta Kappa Gamma** Bethany Lee

**Distinguished Rotarian Scholarship** Michaela Cash,

**Eloise C. Rywak** Morgan Kendall,

**Farm Bureau** Amber Teal, Morgan Kendall, Jessica Webb

**Hank Drake Scholarship** Andrew Kendall

**Henry Little Scholarship** Amber Teal

**Hornwood, Inc.** Cory Jordan, Kema Williams

**Jeff Johnson Christian Athletic Scholarship** Seth Gulleddge

**Jeff Johnson Scholastic Scholarship** (Keith) Neal Huntley

**John Goins Memorial** Kailee Cole, Amber Teal

**Larry Crandell Scholarship** Jessica Webb

**Mary Beth Lear Memorial Scholarship** Brandon Lear

**Morven Chapter of Las Amigas Scholarship** Jasmine Sturdivant, Mauricia Copeland

**NAACP Scholarship** Deon Chapman

**Natalie Renee Braswell Memorial Scholarship** Linda Vue, Jessica Beachum, Amber Teal, Natalie White

**National Association of University Women** Amber Smith

**NC Division of Veteran Affairs** Melinda Loftis

**NC National of Guard Association Educational Foundation** Melinda Loftis

**Pee Dee Electric Scholarship** Jack Butler, Linda Vue, Kailee Cole

**Rotary Scholarship** Mary Kate Sewell, Kailee Cole, Seth Ricketts

**State Employee Credit Union "People Helping People"** Michaela Cash

**Tom Little** Seth Ricketts

**Wadesboro Civitan Club** Shia Vang, Linda Vue, Elizabeth Horne

**Wingate University Scholarships** Timothy Kelly, Melinda Loftis, Morgan Kendall, Devin Smith,

Haylee Davidson, Seth Ricketts

**Woodmen of the World** Linda Vue

**Young Rotarian Scholarship** Deon Chapman, Andrew Kendall

**Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Scholarship** Shia Vang

## Commencement

**A message from Dr. Gregory Firn, Superintendent of Anson County Schools:** *Two years ago planning began for a unified commencement featuring graduating seniors from Anson High, New Tech, and then Anson Academy as well as the graduating 5th year seniors from Early College. A commencement committee consisting of principals from each school, the AHS commencement coordinator, Ms. Kandie Sparger, and I discussed several areas related to commencement exercises. Central to each of these discussions and ultimate changes is the "All means all" commitment.*

*These changes include:*

### STAGE, SEATING, AND SOUND

The first significant decision was to rent an elevated stage for better viewing and safety. Using the stage involved changing the direction of seating. To utilize the entire seating capacity of the stadium the stage location was changed from the center of the field facing the press box to the field house end zone. In addition to the elevated stage, a professional audio system is used to ensure that adequate sound and volume for music, speeches, and announcement of names is heard for the entire stadium. This change allows more parents and guests to attend. *A photo of the stage arrangement (from last year's Commencement) is shown on page 8 of this edition of The Express.*

### STUDENT SPEAKERS

A decision was made to eliminate a Commencement speaker and have a student from each school represent their school. The theme or prompt for each student speech focuses on the district's vision of "All means all" for an important reason - they began together and now end together. This year's theme is *"The Legacy Continues... We Are Anson."*

### SENIOR AWARD NIGHT

Each school may honor their seniors in their school's tradition at a separate awards night scheduled by their school. This was decided to ensure that each school would be able to spend time recognizing student achievement, contribution, and accomplishments unique to their school and student body.

### UNIFIED SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

A dedicated scholarship night for all seniors receiving a scholarship was decided to allow for scholarship presenters to attend one evening event to honor their scholarship recipient. Additionally, this dedicated evening is intended to showcase the collective as well as individual accomplishment, achievement, and awards of the district's graduating seniors.

### COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPATION

Three critical changes to the actual commencement exercises were also made. One was implemented last year, the second is being implemented this year, and the third will be implemented next year.

#### Honor Graduates (the first change)

The decision last year was to have all students march and sit in alphabetic order rather than in block seating with Honor Graduates being announced by their principal as they received their diplomas. This change was contentious with some parents. As was explained this is a unified commencement and honor students from all schools will be recognized. For example:

- Honor graduates are recognized in multiple ways - names are noted in the program, they wear honor cords, and group photos are submitted to the press.
- Honor graduates are recognized as individuals and no longer as a block of students.

#### Commencement Speakers (the second change)

The decision to shift from the Valedictorian as the class speaker to an open contest for all eligible seniors was made to expand participation in commencement exercises. Each school is following the same process for selection. The decision was based on several reasons including:

- Ombudsman does not have a Valedictorian and therefore is excluded from participating;
- Calculating academic honors is based exclusively on Grade Point Average (GPA) but is only one (1) of five (5) categories of district honors;
- GPA in and of itself is not reflective of speaking and presentation skills, nor does the highest GPA indicate that a student is representative of the graduating class;
- Auditioning for commencement speaker provides an opportunity for three (3) additional students to participate without the weighted 3.5 GPA; and
- Valedictorians will be announced and asked to stand be recognized before each school begins their commencement by their school principal.

#### Staff Participation (the third change)

The decision to include staff and faculty in the commencement exercises will be implemented next year (Class of 2013). All staff and faculty will have the option to participate by leading the procession at the beginning of the commencement exercises. Staff and faculty will wear appropriate regalia commensurate with their earned college degrees.

*Every effort has and will continue to be made to make the commencement exercises honoring to each graduating student and family irrespective of the school, their class rank or grade point average. The unified commencement and district scholarship night as well as the school specific activities are each an effort to celebrate the accomplishments, achievements, and contributions of each graduating senior.*

*Concerns, criticism, and conflict associated with a unified commencement are expected. Last year much effort was made to address each concern, question, or issue culminating with a commencement exercise that accomplished two important goals...1) each senior was recognized, and 2) the school system came together to honor each graduate.*

*We are anticipating the commencement exercises this year to be an event of honor, respect, and celebration for each student and their family. Dr. Gregory Firn*

## Own the Night Teen Summer Reading

**At Hampton B. Allen Library**  
**Thursdays 2 - 4pm**  
**Ages 13 to 17**

June 21.....Pee Dee Wildlife/Nightlife

June 28.....NC Zoo "Big comes in all sizes"

July 12....We work at NIGHT

July 19.....We work at NIGHT II

July 26.....Self Defense

August 2.....Find the Crypt - Fun Day



## Summer Reading Program at Hampton B. Allen Library

**10am - Noon**

June 21.....Wild Life

June 28.....NC Zoo

July 12...Joy the Clown

July 19.....Drum Man

July 24..Ronald McDonald

July 26.....Karate Kid

August 2.....Fun Time

## Children's Hour Every Tuesday at 10am

Hampton B. Allen Library  
120 South Greene Street  
Wadesboro, NC 28170  
704-694-5177  
Donnie K. Lewis  
Children's Librarian

