



Anson County Schools

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Greetings,

Welcome to our August edition of "Inside Your Anson County Schools." This edition features many important information about the opening of school – just around the corner – classes begin Thursday the 25th of August.

We're very excited about starting the 2011-2012 instructional school year. We welcome, with great anticipation, the Class of 2024 (entering Kindergartners) as well as our seniors, the graduating Class of 2012, for their final year in our school system.

We also welcome new staff to the Anson County Schools and the greater Anson County community. Along with our returning staff, we are excited and enthusiastic about a tremendous year of teacher, learning, and achievement for and by each learner.

Our staff has worked very hard over the summer recess in preparation of creating learning experiences to ensure that each learner meets or exceeds local, state, and national learning standards.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the tremendous support we receive daily from the citizens of Anson County; albeit from our business partners, faith partners, or civic partners. Our students, staff, and parents are indeed grateful for these partnerships.

As our schools will soon be full of life, energy, and enthusiasm, we are fully aware that they reflect the citizens of Anson County. Our commitment is your commitment. Our expectations are your expectations. Our results are your results. Together we can and will make the enduring difference in the lives of young people.

On behalf of all Anson County staff, thank you for your continuing support of the Anson County Schools. This is going to be great year of learning, discovery, and adventure.

All means All,
Gregory A. Firn, EdD, Superintendent of Schools

MAKE YOUR DAY "All Means All"

No one has the right to interfere with the Learning, Safety, or Well-Being of Others

The Make Your Day program exists to provide a consistent campus management system for all classes. It demonstrates that teachers, students and parents hold high expectations for all and is a cooperative management system, not merely a discipline plan. MAKE YOUR DAY centers on one rule: NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH THE LEARNING, SAFETY, or WELL-BEING OF OTHERS.

Make Your Day has two expectations: 1) Do what is expected; and 2) Do your best.

Our program encourages students to take responsibility for their own actions, including behavior as well as academic performances.

Emphasis is placed on the importance of each student working to his/her own ability level. The program allows all students to make mistakes without cumulative, punitive action. It provides time for thought and direction. Effort is expected and students are given frequent positive feedback.

The program teaches students to make decisions that develop critical thinking skills. Students are taught school wide behavioral and academic expectations and how these expectations are monitored, measured.

The foundation of MAKE YOUR DAY is that ALL students are capable of success and that making appropriate choices at school will generate students' success.

Students and parents in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade will learn more about Make Your Day in the first days of school.

For Questions about Make Your Day – contact your school principal.

Anson County School Uniform Survey

Anson County Schools conducted a Dress Policy Survey of Anson High School and Anson Middle School students, staff, and parents during May and June 2011. The purpose of this survey was to receive feedback on the standardized dress policy and promote a dialogue between stakeholders and the District.

The surveyed issues included perceptions of the impact of the standardized dress policy on the school climate, enforcement, compliance, and possible impact of changing the dress policy.

The survey was available to students, staff and parents online and paper copies were made available upon request.

Students, school staff, and parents overall had negative views of the dress policy. Issues ranged from how the policy is enforced to the nature of the standardized dress policy. The survey data revealed the following findings:

Students

- More than half of students do not see uniforms as being helpful.
- 78% of students thought the dress policy was too strict.
- One-third of students have been spoken to about not complying with the dress policy 3 or more times this year.
- Most students felt they were responsible for making sure they are dressed appropriately for school.
- Over 70% of students wanted the dress policy changed to allow for more flexibility in clothing options. Students further stated that changing the dress policy would improve attendance, behavior, and learning.

School Staff

- Only 1% of school staff felt the dress policy was always enforced; however, over half of school staff thought the dress policy was not strict enough.
- Over 80% of staff felt teachers and administrators share the enforcement responsibilities.
- Over 50% of staff said student behavior would improve if the dress policy was changed; however, staff responses were split as to what those changes should be.

Parents

- 56% of parents thought the dress policy was too strict.
- Parents felt the dress policy should allow for more flexibility in clothing choice.

Students, school staff, and parents were asked to bring forth any ideas they might have for changing the dress policy and provide any additional comments. Below are some common themes.

Students

- Allow more clothing choices and options.
- Fridays can become casual days or dress down days.
- Add jeans and t-shirts to the dress policy.
- Students are in favor of general clothing guidelines but not a uniform.
- Students want to dress casually and comfortably.

School Staff

- Prefer for students to be appropriately dressed without a uniform policy.
- Simplify the dress policy and enforce it with more consistency.

Parents

- More opportunities to wear regular clothing.
- Allowing t-shirt and jeans.

Standardized dress policies are often implemented with goals of improving student achievement, behavior, attendance, and reducing economic burden on families. However, these policies often have less than the desired impact, and may actually present new issues stemming from policy enforcement.

The present survey findings revealed few positive views concerning the standardized dress policy. Students expressed predominantly negative views regarding the policy's impact in the classroom, feeling of safety, and attitude towards school, and getting ready for school. Parents concurred that the policy contributes to their children's attitudes towards school. From the staff's perspective, the policy has had a neutral or negative impact on a range of school environment factors, including policy enforcement.

More than 80% of the respondents expressed support for a change in the dress policy. Staff and parents expect the greatest impact of any school dress policy change to be on student behavior, with less impact on academic performance and attendance.

For detailed information about the AMS/AHS Standardized Dress Policy Survey go the Anson County School district website www.ansonschools.org.

Athletic Information

Admission Information

- Varsity Football \$6 (Richmond Game is \$7)
- All other high school athletic events will be \$5
- Middle School athletic events will be \$3

For more athletic information, please visit:

ahs.ansonschools.org
(for high school)

ams.ansonschools.org
(for middle school).

Booster Club Tickets for Sale

Summer is coming to a close and that means the Bearcat fall sport season is about to get underway! Our athletes are ready to begin their winning seasons and they need your help. Support athletics at Anson Middle School and Anson High School by purchasing Booster tickets.

This year fans can purchase a varsity football ticket for \$35 per person that will get you into Friday night home games and also allow you to park in the Booster lot. In addition, you can purchase a regular Booster membership which covers admission to home games for ALL other sports at both AMS and AHS. The cost is \$100 (4 passes) for each household/business. For those 55+, the membership cost is \$75 (2 passes).

Tickets can be purchased at Lacy's and at the ticket booth during home games. Checks should be made to the Anson County Booster Club.

Our athletes deserve no less than the very best! Do your part to help make that happen by supporting the Booster Club!

Communication

The Anson County School System is committed to engaging, promoting, and partnering with parents and community to ensure that all students meet or exceed state and community academic learning standards. This commitment is met, in part, through a comprehensive public engagement program intended to improve awareness, understanding, and support by all stakeholders in order to meet the mission of our public's schools.

We have two goals in this area:
1) Parents, students, and community know and understand grade level standards and assessments; and

2) Students and parents set academic goals to reach grade level standards and chart/monitor their own progress.

Please watch for information from your student's school for opportunities to attend school and school system forums, information sessions, and PTA/PTO or school Booster Club activities.

Standardized Dress Code for 2011-2012

There has been NO CHANGE to the Anson County Schools' Standardized Dress Code for the 2011-2012 school year. Students are expected to comply with the Standardized Dress Code for their school. The Board of Education, Administration, Staff and community expect our students to dress responsibly to ensure that the teaching and learning environment is safe and orderly. The Standardized Dress Code policy was designed to ensure that no one has the right to interfere with learning, safety and well-being of others.

The following are excerpts from the Standardized Dress Code policy. For specific details, please contact your student's school or program.

Shirts golf/polo style with a collar; be of solid school color; short or long sleeve; must be free of labels and graphics of any kind; and must be tucked in at all times.

Also Approved Shirts button-down collar dress shirts in school colors; it is expected that students wearing t-shirts that they are worn under approved shirts and in school colors.

Pants, Shorts, Skirts, Jumpers, Dresses, Skorts All bottom garments must be Khaki (tan) or Navy in color (no jeans); must be free of labels and graphics of any kind; must be worn at the hips; skirts and shorts cannot be shorter than the finger tip reach of the student with relaxed shoulders and arms fully extended toward the knee at the student's side; students in grades 4-12 are expected to wear belts that are visible. (See expectation for tucked in shirts.)

Hats/Sunglasses Hats, sunglasses, do-rags, sweat bands, and headgear or other items that may be seen as a disruption to the school setting are prohibited during the instructional day. (Exception: Students whose religious tenets require the wearing of garments and head coverings – see religious exemption policy.)

Students who fail to meet the expectations of the Standardized Dress Code policy will be provided an opportunity to correct the nonconformity including parental assistance. Students who repeatedly choose not to meet the Standardized Dress Code policy expectations will be subject to disciplinary action as defined in the Code of Student Conduct policies and procedures.

2011-2012 Meal Prices

Breakfast

- Breakfast at all schools is \$1
- Reduced price breakfast is 30¢

Lunch

- Elementary schools \$2.05
- Middle schools & High schools \$2.30
- Reduced price lunch at all schools is 40¢