



KABOOM! Partners with Peachland-Polkton Elementary to Build New Playground

KABOOM! envisions a world where safe and amazing places to play exist for every child in America so that kids can grow up happy and healthy.

Children today are growing up in more challenging environments with fewer opportunities for unstructured play and limited access to nature, combating increased screen time and other societal pressures that may negatively affect their physical and mental health. In response, it is critical for Peachland-Polkton Elementary School, Blue Cross NC, and KABOOM! to protect and create spaces where every kid can grow, play, and thrive.

This new playspace with Peachland-Polkton Elementary School and Blue Cross NC is part of a nationwide effort led by KABOOM! to ensure children from all communities get the chance to play on a playground, something that should be part of every child’s life. Their work is to ensure every kid can experience the numerous physical, social, and mental health benefits of play regardless of background or where they live.

Community members led the creation of the playground, from design to installation. In May, kids from Peachland-Polkton Elementary School shared drawings of their dream playspaces with project organizers. These ideas were integrated into the new playground design. This project represents progress in ensuring every kid has a place to play, providing a state-of-the-art playground for 1,500 children to enjoy each year.

The Peachland-Polkton PTO is a dedicated group of parents, caregivers, and community members committed to supporting the students, staff, and families of Peachland-Polkton Elementary School. Located in a rural, low-income area of Anson

County, the school serves over 450 students, many of whom face barriers to safe and enriching play outside of school.

The PTO believes every child deserves a joyful, supportive environment where they can grow academically, socially, and emotionally, and play is a vital part of that. Through strong partnerships and grassroots efforts, the PTO works to bridge opportunity gaps by creating programs, events, and resources that foster equity, engagement, and school pride.

This new playspace, made possible in collaboration with Blue Cross NC and KABOOM!, reflects the community’s vision for a healthier and more inclusive future. Designed with direct input from students and built by the hands of volunteers, it represents more than just a playground—it’s a symbol of what’s possible when a community comes together to invest in its children.

“With Peachland-Polkton Elementary School being the only elementary school in western Anson County, it is important that our children have adequate amenities to play safely, giving them a place to simply be children,” said Sen. Dave Craven. “We are extremely grateful for this partnership with KABOOM!. This will have a huge impact on our community for years to come.”

KABOOM! continues to make progress on its 25 in 5 Initiative to End Playspace Inequity through new partnerships with a goal of accelerating efforts in 25 municipal systems toward achieving their mission at scale across the United States.

To learn how partners can join KABOOM! in their efforts to end playspace inequity, visit kaboom.org/25-in-5.

Wadesboro Elementary School Announces Attendance Initiative for 2025–2026

School emphasizes “Every Student Can Be a Success at WES” vision

Hello Wadesboro Elementary parents and community. Welcome to what will be an exciting and successful school year for your students. I hope you and your family had a wonderful summer break. The entire WES staff has been working hard to ensure our school is ready to provide an excellent learning experience for all students. Our school vision this year is “Every Student Can Be a Success at WES”

In order to maximize instructional time, please help us support teaching and learning by adhering to the following. Daily and consistent student attendance is vital to student success. Our school will be promoting student attendance through our ATTENDANCE MATTERS schoolwide initiative. We want to share with all stakeholders the foundational laws, policies, and principles Wadesboro Elementary School will be using to support student attendance:

- NC State Law Requires Student Attendance: ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter_115c/Article_26.pdf
- Anson County Schools Procedure for Monitoring and Reporting Attendance: www.ansonschools.org
- Anson County Schools Code of Conduct Board Policy regarding Attendance

Attendance in school and participation in class are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life. Regular attendance by every student is mandatory. The State of North Carolina requires that every child in the State between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16 attend school. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily.


Please do everything you can to make sure that your student is attending school every day. Excessive absences and tardiness are significant causes of learning loss. Once a student has accumulated 10 unexcused absences per state law and board policy, the school principal or designee will refer the parent or guardian to the courts for violation of the NC Compulsory Attendance requirement. Parents are urged to communicate and work with us so we can avoid violations of the state attendance policy. Per Anson County Schools attendance policy, all school doctor’s notes must be faxed or emailed directly from the doctor’s office no more than one day after a student’s absence. All attendance notes for WES student absences should be emailed to wesattendance@ansonschools.org or faxed to (704) 694-5816.


Students are expected to arrive at school between 7:00 a.m. and 7:25 a.m. All car riders should be dropped off and picked up in the side parking lot, located on the left side if facing the school. The parking lot in front of the school is reserved for buses only from 7:00 to 7:40. A member of the school staff will be on hand to supervise students beginning at 7:00 a.m. Students are tardy after 7:30 a.m. and must be walked into the building and signed in by a parent. Please make a special effort to have your child at school on time so that class can begin promptly at 7:30.

No one should park or pull into the front parking lot of the school from 1:55 p.m. until dismissal. This time is reserved for buses only. Requests for dismissal during the school day must be presented to the office for approval at the beginning of the school day. Parents or guardians must come to the office and sign a dismissal document before a child will be released from school. A parent who requests early dismissal must pick up the child prior to 2:00 p.m. Our front doors will be locked at 2:00 p.m. Non-WES staff members will not be allowed in the hallways during student dismissal from 2:00 to 2:40 p.m.


We know that great things are going to continue to happen at WES during the 2025–2026 school year. We look forward to working with our students, parents, and community to support student success. For more information about Wadesboro Elementary School, please visit our website at www.ansonschools.org/WES. Keep up with the great things happening by following us on Facebook at facebook.com/WadesboroElementary.

10 KEYS TO SUCCESS AT WES







A Tiger never shows disrespect by talking back, making gestures, or comments.




A Tiger always says please and thank you, always showing kindness and appreciation.




A Tiger is a part of our family and a family supports each other at all times.




A Tiger moves from one task to another quickly, quietly, and orderly.




A Tiger respects the comments, opinions, and concerns of others and responds, even when disagreeing, in a courteous manner.




A Tiger always makes eye contact and looks at someone when they are speaking.




A Tiger is always honest and tells the truth no matter the situation.



A Tiger follows every teacher and staff member’s classroom rules and protocols.



A Tiger walks in line with their arms at their sides and moves quickly.



A Tiger leaves every classroom and area of WES cleaner and better than when they arrived. We take pride and responsibility for our school.

2025–2026 Outstanding Educators

Anson County Schools is proud to recognize and celebrate our outstanding educators who have gone above and beyond in their dedication to student success.

Pictured from left are:

- **Zach Scoggins** – Anson High School, CTE Teacher of the Year
- **Taylor Bearden** – Ansonville Elementary School, Beginning Teacher of the Year
- **Melinda Robinson** – Anson Early College High School, Teacher of the Year
- **Dr. Heather Gerald** – Wadesboro Primary School, Principal of the Year
- **Alyssa Martini** – Peachland-Polkton Elementary School, Runner-Up, Teacher of the Year

Each of these individuals exemplifies excellence in education, inspiring both their students and colleagues through their passion, leadership, and commitment. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and grateful for the lasting impact they make in our schools and community.