

# Asheboro

## CITY SCHOOLS

2019-20 ISSUE





## District Achievements

### Letter to the Community



Dear ACS community,

Wow! What a year it has been! First, I want to thank you for your continued support of Asheboro City

Schools. During the 2019-2020 school year, I experienced the absolute elation of being named the district's superintendent and then the crash and fall of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year has been like no other in the 300-year history of public education. I am so incredibly pleased with the way our staff, students, and families have responded to all the changes that happened as a result of school closures last spring.

In the following pages, I'm excited to highlight and share many of our district accomplishments in the past year. In addition to our response efforts to the global pandemic, our Board approved the Race and Equity Policy which makes creating equitable practices one of the governing principles for our Board

and the district. Now more than ever, it's imperative we come together as a community to address these inequities.

We also wrapped up the largest capital improvement project to date - the 40,000 sq. ft. addition at Asheboro High School. Our facilities team also completed renovations to the original kitchens at Charles W. McCrary and Lindley Park Elementary Schools.

We were pleased to learn Asheboro City Schools had two top-performing schools in the state based on test score growth results from the previous year. Those schools included Balfour Elementary ranking in the top five percent, and Charles W. McCrary Elementary School ranking in the top 20 percent.

During the 2019-2020 school year, we also said goodbye to retiring 34-year veteran school board member, Mrs. Joyce Harrington. And we had the pleasure of welcoming our newest member to the board, Mr. Art Martinez.

Since March, many things have changed. We've made a strong and successful transition to remote

learning and teaching. We celebrated the Asheboro High School Class of 2020 with a non-traditional commencement ceremony that was both unique and memorable. And even today, we are operating school in a completely different way than we have ever had to do in the past. In spite of all these rapid changes, our team has remained committed to ensuring high-quality instruction. I am so proud of each person in Asheboro City Schools for showing up and giving their all this past school year. We have become stronger because of the challenges we have faced. So to each teacher, principal, custodian, Sodexo employee, instructional assistant, bus driver, facility and maintenance crew member, and central office staff - thank you.

To our community - thank you from the bottom of my heart for continuing to partner with us to support each student in Asheboro City Schools.

Sincerely,

Aaron Woody, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



## Top-Performing Schools

Last year four schools ranked in the top 50 percent of all schools across North Carolina based on test score growth results from the 2018-2019 school year. Those schools included Balfour Elementary School, ranking in the top five percent of schools statewide; Charles W. McCrary Elementary School ranking in the top 20 percent



of schools statewide; and Asheboro High School and North Asheboro Middle School, both ranking in the top 50 percent of schools statewide. When this information was released, Dr. Woody said, *"While we have much work ahead, these growth results across our school district are definitely worth lifting up. Congratulations to our schools, principals, teachers, and of course, our students!"*

Asheboro City Schools was also one of only four school districts in North Carolina to exceed growth on all eight North Carolina standards for Career and Technical Education (CTE). The eight performance indicators for the 2018-2019 school year included: Academic Attainment for Reading/Language Arts; Academic Attainment for Mathematics; Technical Attainment; Secondary School Completion; Student Graduation Rates; Secondary Placement; Non-Traditional Participation; and Non-Traditional Completion. This is testament to the incredible work of our district CTE program.



## Say Something Anonymous Reporting App

Asheboro City Schools officially launched the "Say Something" Anonymous Reporting System (SS-ARS) in March 2020 for students. The Say Something Anonymous Reporting App was deployed at our secondary schools, allowing youth and adults to securely submit



anonymous safety concerns – anytime, from anywhere – to help identify and intervene upon at-risk individuals before they hurt themselves or others. The SS-ARS enables school administrators and law enforcement to create effective interventions and to help prevent violence, suicide, bullying, self-harm and other forms of threatening behavior.

## New Partnership with Randolph Health to provide Future Blue Comet Onesies



Last February, we were pleased to form a new partnership with Randolph Health's Maternity Services. As a gift to all new families and newborn babies at our local health care facility, Asheboro City Schools agreed to provide a "Future Blue Comet" onesie. This small gift is one way we are able to connect new families to early learning and literacy.

## Kitchen Renovations

Two capital improvement projects completed during the 2019-2020 school year were renovations to the kitchens at Charles W. McCrary and Lindley Park elementary schools. Both schools were still operating in their original kitchens which were opened in 1952 (Lindley Park) and 1958 (Charles W. McCrary). Renovations were completed in January 2020.

## Race and Equity Policy



One of the district's greatest successes this year, was the approval of Board Policy 1705, titled Race and Equity. This policy was approved by the Asheboro City Board of Education as a Governing Principle (Section 1000). The Race and Equity policy provides guidance about how the district creates equitable opportunities and practices for all students and stakeholders. Prior to the policy's approval, the district Equity Team worked to create a district-wide equity plan and practical steps to ensure equity from academics to operations. In March 2020, the Asheboro City Board of Education approved the policy which is a testament to the priorities of the Board and district in ensuring ALL students have the chance to be successful in and out of the classroom.

## Asheboro High School Completes 40,000 sq. ft. Addition

In November 2018, the district broke ground on the addition at Asheboro High School. Approximately 20 months later (August 2020), the project was completed touting 15-18 new classrooms (many spaces provide flexible learning), a new band room, and expanded common spaces for students to study individually or collaboratively with their peers. The state-of-the-art addition also ensures enhanced safety, as all students are now under one roof. The final phase of the three-pronged project includes a complete renovation to the existing high school building. As it stands now, Phase III is to begin towards the end of the 2020-2021 school year. We'd be remiss if we didn't thank our Randolph County Commissioners for funding our building projects.





## ACS Responds to Global Pandemic

The 2019-2020 school year was like none other in the 300-year history of public education. In January 2020, word began quickly spreading about a new coronavirus, that was taking the lives of people across Asia and Europe. The virus eventually made it to American soil where the first cases were reported on the west coast. Slowly, the virus began making its way east and on March 3, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services reported the first case of COVID-19 on Tuesday, March 3.

Just two weeks later, on March 14, 2020, North Carolina Governor, Roy Cooper, announced the closing of all North Carolina schools in response to the growing concern for COVID-19. Even before this announcement was made, Asheboro City Schools had already begun communicating, planning, and developing procedures in order to keep the safety of staff and students our number one priority. The district began putting together planning teams to address things like remote learning, child nutrition, facilities and cleaning procedures, transportation, and athletics. With each passing day, we learned more and more information causing us to change course and recalibrate minute to minute, hour to hour, and day to day.

"This situation has been incredibly unique - challenging district leaders to completely reinvent teaching

and learning. It forced us out of our comfort zones and caused us to have to make radical changes to our well-established practices and procedures," said Dr. Woody. District leaders have had to account for a number of other barriers facing children in our community. "Asheboro City Schools is not just a learning community - we also provide essential wrap-around services for kids and families across our service area," he added.

While challenging and unprecedented, we are proud of the small victories realized last school year. In the next entries, we share how we swiftly took action and revolutionized instructional and operational practices during this ongoing global pandemic.

### Revolutionizing Teaching and Learning

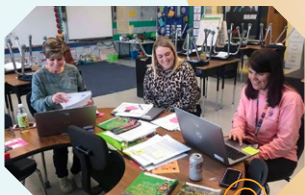
In a matter of days, the Asheboro City Schools Curriculum and Instruction Team (including teachers, Instructional Facilitators (IFs), and Media Specialists) revolutionized the way we deliver instruction to students across our service area. After Governor Cooper's announcement to close schools, teachers worked to ensure remote learning packets would be available for each student to pick up on Monday, March 16. In addition to instructional packets, teachers began

teleconferencing and meeting with their classes virtually to provide and support meaningful and engaging instruction.

### School Nutrition

The district began delivering meals to students beginning Monday, March 16 - the very first day students were not in school. Guidelines were provided by the US Department of Agriculture about how the district could serve meals in order to keep students, staff, and the community at-large safe. It was determined the best way to ensure the maximum number of students received meals was to pack meals at two locations (Donna Lee Loflin and South Asheboro Middle schools), load them on yellow school buses, and have them distributed on regular bus routes throughout the Asheboro City Schools service area. To make this happen required a number of staff and volunteers. The district was overwhelmed by the support from classified and certified staff who volunteered to ride buses and deliver meals on a daily basis for the first several weeks. Just before the district's planned Spring Break, mobile meal deliveries and food distribution sites condensed to two days per week, but multiple meals were provided with each meal packet.

From March to October, Asheboro City Schools provided close to 600,000 meals to children aged 0-18 across Asheboro.



## Community-Wide Remote Internet Access

From the onset of remote learning, the district was aware there would be barriers to internet access facing many ACS families. To address this need, the Technology and Innovation Team established Park and Learn locations at each of our schools and at many of our community partner agencies. Park and Learn locations remained open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. between March and August. We wish to express thanks to our community partners who allowed us to set-up Park and Learn locations at their sites.

- Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
- George Washington Carver Community Enrichment Center
- Sunset Avenue Church of God
- St. Luke's United Methodist Church
- Journey Church
- Rushwood Church
- Franklin Village Mobile Home Park
- Coleridge Road Apartments
- New Life Family Fellowship
- [Click here for more sites!](#)

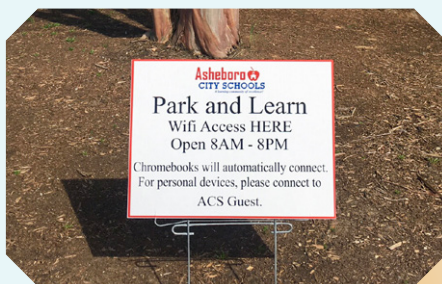
In partnership with the North Carolina Department of Information Technology, ACS created WiFi on Wheels which launched on Monday, May 18. This new initiative allowed the district to use activity buses equipped with mobile hotspots to be placed daily in various locations around the community to help families and students overcome internet access and transportation barriers. WiFi on Wheels activity buses were strategically placed in locations where people could easily access the FREE internet service.



## Partnerships to Combat COVID-19

If there is one thing we have learned during these unprecedented times is that our community partnerships are invaluable to the work we do in Asheboro City Schools. Prompted by a story on NPR, Asheboro High School Assistant Principal, Mr. Donnie Wright, contacted Asheboro Career and Technical Education (CTE) administrator, Sarah Beth Robbins, about using classroom 3D printers to make face shields for staff at Randolph Health. Asheboro High School's technology teachers, Michael Fleming, Tony Garner, and Scott Smith immediately responded and developed three prototypes to present to the Randolph Health team. The Asheboro CTE team was able to fulfill the hospital's need for face shields, supplying 50 sustainable face shields and components for staff members.

We are also grateful to the Prayer Pony Foundation and Trotter's Sewing who paired up to provide face coverings for Asheboro City Schools child nutrition workers in order to keep them safe during mobile meal deliveries and food distribution.



## As we look to the future...

The focus of our work since March has been dedicated to perfecting plans for safely reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Priority areas include strengthening our remote learning processes, social distancing students in our buildings and on school buses, and maintaining the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and families through proper cleaning and sanitation procedures.

As we reflect on the past school year, we believe this global pandemic has truly strengthened our entire Asheboro City Schools community. We wish for our community to know how dedicated our staff are. They have given of themselves and done whatever was necessary to meet the needs of our children. Our staff and volunteers are truly heroes in our eyes.





## Student Accomplishments

### Lindey Otero - NCSAA Women's State Wrestling Champion

Ms. Lindey Otero Corona was named Asheboro High School's first North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Girls Wrestling State Champion.



### Apprenticeship Randolph Students

In August of 2019, students from Asheboro High School made a three-year commitment as apprentices in the Apprenticeship Randolph program. The monetary value of this program is estimated at over \$120,000, including wages, tuition, fees, and books. Apprentices exit the program with a two-year degree, an industry-recognized journeyman's certificate, and no student debt. We're extremely proud of Noah Hutchens, an apprentice at Technimark studying Advanced Manufacturing, and Jonathan Ascencio who is completing his apprenticeship at Hubbell, also in Advance Manufacturing.

### Kyosha Lowery and the Give Back Project

During the summer of 2019, Asheboro High School alumni, Kyosha Lowery, started collecting items for the Give Back Project in which she solicited donations of hygiene products from businesses across Asheboro and Randolph County in order to make personal hygiene bags for students in need. As the project began to take off, more and more people began to donate, and Ms. Lowery was able to increase her initial goal of providing for 100 students to well over 300 students. The project gained steam throughout the fall months and in late November 2019, Ms. Lowery was recognized by United States Congressman, Mark Walker, with the Community Hero Award.



### Mr. Ron Dixon, 2019-2020 Principal of the Year



**M**r. Ron Dixon, principal of South Asheboro Middle School, was selected by his colleagues to be the 2019-2020

Asheboro City Schools Principal of the Year. Prior to joining Asheboro City Schools, Mr. Dixon served as principal at Bessemer Elementary School, and assistant principal at Jackson Middle School and Guilford Middle School. Mr. Dixon spent seven years as a choral director/general music teacher at three schools: Allen Middle, Peck Elementary, and Hunter Elementary. Mr. Dixon is a proven school leader with a track record for creating highly collaborative learning environments with a focus on instruction and student achievement. He represented the district in the Piedmont-Triad Region competition last fall. Congratulations Mr. Dixon!

### Danielle Hunter, 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year



**M**s. Danielle Hunter was named the 2019-2020 Asheboro City Schools Teacher of the Year in May 2019. She serves as

a first-grade teacher at Donna Lee Loflin Elementary and has taught there for 15 years. Ms. Hunter tutors students after school, coordinates Family Nights, has served as a Math Fair judge, taught summer academy, and led numerous after school clubs. To Ms. Hunter, teaching is more than a job. She states, *"teaching is my life. I can't go anywhere or do anything without thinking about how I can use something in my classroom."* After being named the district's Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Hunter addressed district staff at our annual Convocation event in August 2019 and competed in the regional competition for Teacher of the Year in the fall of 2019.

### Blake Brewer Named New AHS Head Football Coach



**W**e proudly announced Mr. Blake Brewer as the head football coach for the Asheboro High School Blue Comets in January

2020. Brewer is an Asheboro High School alumna, who has a heart for Asheboro students and a passion for Blue Comet athletics.

Brewer was born and raised in Asheboro, graduating from Asheboro High School in 2007. After graduating from East Carolina University in 2011, Brewer returned to his hometown to teach and coach at Asheboro High School. He has led the Blue Comet junior varsity football team since 2013. In 2015, the junior varsity football team finished second in their conference with an overall record of 6-3. The team finished first in their conference in 2016 with an overall record of 7-3. And in 2018, the JV team took first place in the conference with an overall record of 9-1. In addition to coaching football, he also serves as head coach for track and field and he teaches Physical Education.

### Welcoming Mr. Art Martinez to the Asheboro City Board of Education



**I**n April 2019, the Asheboro City Board of Education welcomed Mr. Art Martinez to fill the vacant board seat. For the first time

in the district's 115-year history, the swearing-in ceremony was held virtually with Randolph County Commissioner, Mr. Daryl Frye, officiating.

### Honoring Mrs. Joyce Harrington for 34 Years of Service to the Asheboro City Board of Education



**I**t was with heavy hearts that the Asheboro City Board of Education accepted the resignation of board member, Mrs.

Joyce Harrington, after 34 years of service in February 2020. Mrs. Harrington devoted her entire adult life to public education - first as a secondary English teacher, then as a community college instructor. She was first elected to the Asheboro City Board of Education in December 1985. Over the years, she focused her considerable intellect and her experience toward helping schools find new and effective ways to connect with students and raise achievement. She always believed education could change lives, and

she always had a sense of urgency to fulfill the board's mission to educate the next generation.

In her 34 years, Mrs. Harrington blazed the trail for a number of initiatives including: the Asheboro High School Zoo School; the elementary year-round school model; block-scheduling at Asheboro High School; the district's 1:1 technology initiative; the shift from teacher-centered to student-centered instruction; the creation of unique, small learning communities; the emphasis on Career and Technical Education; and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) programs.

The Board established a scholarship in Mrs. Harrington's name upon her retirement. The scholarship will be awarded to a deserving senior at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year. Gifts can be made to the scholarship by contacting the Asheboro City Schools Central Office by calling (336) 625-5104.



## Board of Education Members



**Michael B. Smith**  
(chair)



**Baxter Hammer**  
(vice chair)



**Gustavo Agudelo**



**Phillip R. Cheek**



**Linda Cranford**



**Gidget Kidd**



**Dr. Beth Knott**



**Art Martinez**



**Ryan Patton**



**Archie Priest Jr.**



**Gwen Williams**

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[www.asheboro.k12.nc.us](http://www.asheboro.k12.nc.us)

## Check out our social media!



ACSBlueComets



AsheboroSchools



[asheboro\\_city\\_schools](https://www.instagram.com/asheboro_city_schools)

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