



Welcome!

The faculty and staff of Ashe County Middle School would like to welcome you to a new and exciting year. We have been recognized at the state and national level for being one of the best schools in North Carolina and a National School to Watch. We look

forward to working with you as a partner on our learning team.

We believe it is our responsibility to offer each student an educational program that will help him/her reach his/her highest potential. We believe the total child is involved in the learning experience. Our academic program, intramural program, character education, and athletics all reflect this belief.

The purpose of this handbook is to inform you of the procedures at ACMS. It is our experience that organization and routine procedures are essential to creating an environment where your child feels safe, secure, and ready to learn.

On behalf of the Ashe County Middle School faculty and staff, WELCOME. Have a happy and safe school year!

Ashe County Middle School Objectives

The Ashe County Middle School faculty and staff realize the uniqueness of the middle school student and believe it is our responsibility to provide opportunities that will enable each student to reach his/her potential both physically and intellectually. We believe in a comprehensive and challenging curriculum with a variety of learning experiences that build on basic skills.

An atmosphere that demonstrates a caring and supportive environment is essential. We believe all children can learn, and we believe our faculty must offer opportunities for students to grow in self-worth as well as knowledge. It is our goal to offer experiences which will assist the student in gaining the skills necessary to function in society, and to be a responsible citizen in the twenty-first century. It is the mission of Ashe County Middle School to create a safe and nurturing environment, to bridge the gap between elementary and high school, and to promote high expectations, community involvement, and opportunities for all students to succeed. Each student can be empowered with knowledge and confidence to become positive, productive citizens in a diverse, ever-changing society.

Ashe County Middle School and You

Ashe County Middle School is one of the finest facilities anywhere. Our community has worked hard to provide students with a safe, sound facility for middle school students. Pride and care are of utmost importance. Students must do their part to take care of the building and grounds. Damage to school property will not be

tolerated. Let's continue to make our middle school the most attractive school in the area.

Building Hours

Ashe County Middle School and Ashe County Board of Education assume the responsibility of students from the arrival of the first bus each morning until the last bus has departed. Office hours are 7:30 am until 4:00 pm.

Students are not to be dropped off at school before 7:30 am and must be picked up by 3:15 pm. This would not apply to students participating in before or after school enrichment programs or other school-sponsored activities.

Teaming and Your Child

Teaming has proven to be an essential part of any middle school. Here at Ashe County Middle School, each student will be placed on a team designed to meet his/her individual needs. The goal of each team is to develop appropriate procedures and skills for being productive while encouraging participation and creativity. Each team functions as a unit by sharing mutual schedules, teachers, and activities.

Academically Gifted

Ashe County Middle School offers the Academically Gifted student acceleration in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics. Teachers challenge and motivate students to explore individual interests and to exceed the curriculum. This is accomplished through our Honors classes. Students involved in this program, along with other high-achieving students, may be given the opportunity to participate in the honors program during high school.

Student placement with regards to Honors classes

Entering 7th and 8th graders will be evaluated and placed according to teacher recommendation, student performance, IQ scores, and end of year test scores.

Encore Classes

These courses enable students to expand on their academic classes and discover their particular abilities, talents, interests, and preferences. Health/PE is required in both 7th and 8th grade. ACMS Band is a semester elective for both grade levels, or students may choose band as a yearlong elective. Other Encore electives students may choose are: Art, Spanish, Chorus, Career Skills, Agriculture Education, and Tech Education/PLTW.

4-H Bulldog LEADS Afterschool Program

An after-school enrichment program is offered to all ACMS students. Individuals must be enrolled to receive academic assistance and participate in any athletic program or school-related activity. Students must sign in by 3:10 on the afterschool rosters everyday they choose to stay. There is a cost of \$40.00 prior to Labor Day and \$50.00; however, students must complete all forms before staying in Afterschool. Transportation is not provided.

Bulldog Afterschool Schedule Monday - Thursday:

3:15-3:25 Snack/Social Time
3:25-4:15 Academic Assistance/Homework Time
4:15-5:30 Clubs/Activities/Intramurals
5:30-6:00 Parent Pick-Up/Clean Up

No Bulldog Afterschool on Fridays.

*If interested in enrolling your child, contact ACMS at 384-3591 and ask for Mrs. Cox or speak with the Afterschool coordinator.

Top Dog Clinic

We are fortunate to have a school-based health center staffed with a full-time Registered Nurse & Medical Office Assistant, part-time Family/Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Mental Health Counselor, Nutritionist and other Health Educators as needed. Current hours are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday – Friday, but are subject to change. Students must be enrolled at ACMS to be allowed to use the services of the center during the school day. Teachers are required to make appointments for a student BEFORE they go to the clinic. The student is then responsible for bringing an excuse from the clinic to the teacher so they will not be counted absent from class. Students who abuse the privilege of going to the clinic will be referred through their Guidance Counselor by appointment only to the clinic. Our phone number is 336-384-1625 or you may call the middle school for more information.

School Student Health Services

The following *screenings* will be done during the school year: vision, hearing, and blood pressure for all seventh graders.

Policy on the Administration of Medication

No medications are allowed at school without physician AND parent written authorization. This includes PRESCRIPTION and OVER-THE-COUNTER medications. It is preferred that all medications be given at home. Students are not permitted to SELF-CARRY medications. The only exceptions for self-medications are emergency medications such as inhalers, epi-pens, or glucagons. Students should not bring their medication to school. Parents/guardians must present the medications to school administration or counselors. Also, teachers and office staff cannot accept medications. Medications will be sent home if these guidelines are not followed. Parents will also be given a MEDICATION INFORMATION LETTER that describes medication procedures in more detail. The school nurse is Tammy Craine, R.N. and can be contacted at 336-384-4500.

Emergency Procedure

Emergency procedures are in place to cover any emergencies that may arise. Fire drills will be conducted monthly, and other drills will be conducted as necessary. Students should move quickly, quietly, and in an orderly single file manner during all emergency procedures.

Visitors

All visitors to Ashe County Middle School must check in at the office. Visitors will be issued visitor passes for the duration of their stay on campus.

Volunteers

Community participation is an essential part of a good school. The staff at Ashe County Middle School welcomes and encourages volunteers to assist in the overall school program. Any person wishing to volunteer will need to meet with the principal or assistant principal. Passes will be issued to all volunteers.

PTO Advisory Committee

Ashe County Middle School is supported by the Parent Teacher Organization. The organization works together with the faculty, staff, and administration at ACMS to support the needs of the school. The Advisory Committee is elected by the members-at-large to conduct business concerning school improvement. For more information contact the principal, assistant principal or PTO president.

Students' Check-In-Out Procedure

If a student must leave school for any purpose, he/she must be signed out in the office by a parent or guardian. This procedure is designed to ensure that students do not leave the premises with anyone other than the parent or guardian. Students arriving to school late or returning from an appointment must sign in at the receptionist's desk to receive a note to be admitted to class.

Lockers

Lockers are the property of Ashe County Middle School and will be assigned to each student for his/her convenience. Students are expected to take care of their lockers and should keep them clean and organized in order for them to open and close properly. Students must not change lockers without permission or use another student's locker. Locker decorations are not allowed, and locks for lockers are not permitted. Students must understand that the lockers are the property of the school and can be inspected or searched at any time by the principal, assistant principal or School Resource Officer (SRO). School authorities may request the assistance of additional law enforcement officials if illegal or dangerous items are suspected.

Book Bags

Book bags may be used to carry school materials to and from school but may not be carried from class to class or left in a classroom unless arrangements have been made with staff to accommodate a student's academic/physical need.

Ashe County Middle School Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is an important factor in the educational development of the student as well as a desirable habit for young adults to develop as they prepare to enter the areas of higher education and work. A student must attend at least 3.5 hours per day in order to be counted present for that day. Recognizing attendance is

primarily the responsibility of the students and parents (G.S. 115C-378). The Ashe County Board of Education has adopted the following policy for grades 7-8.

The compulsory attendance law requires that the parent, custodian, or guardian of children under 16 notify the school of the reason for each known absence. **The absence will be coded unexcused unless the written notification takes place within three (3) days of the absence. Because classroom attendance is vital to student academic success, the Ashe County Board of Education has determined a limit of fifteen (15) absences per year in grades 7-8 in order to receive a passing grade in that class.**

The parent will be contacted by a letter or phone message when the child has accumulated **three (3) unexcused** absences, again at **six (6) unexcused** absences, and then at **ten (10) absences regardless of whether they are excused or unexcused**. After the 10th unexcused absence, a decision on the next steps of action will be made by the principal, after which the district attorney and/or the juvenile intake counselor may be notified. **When a student has accumulated ten absences, excused or unexcused, a medical excuse will be needed in order for any additional absences to be excused.**

Written documentation is required for all absences; therefore, a student must present a written statement from the parent/guardian as to the reason(s) for the absence. Determination as to whether the absence(s) is excused or unexcused will be made by the principal or assistant principal. This determination will be made according to the seven (7) legitimate reasons; these reasons for absences are:

- Illness or injury
- Quarantine
- Death in the immediate family (mother, father, siblings (also half and step), grandparents)
- Medical or dental appointments
- Court or administrative proceedings (court ordered)*
- Religious observances*

Work missed must be made up within three (3) days under the teacher's direction. It is the responsibility of the parent and student to see that all work is made up and submitted within the time limit.

Excessive absences will result in assigned afterschool tutoring or ASD.

Exceptions to Attendance Policy Regulations

Absences from class due to school-sponsored activities will not be counted against the student; however, assignments missed must be made up.

Absences from classes due to late buses will not be counted against the student.

Absences from school due to no bus service during inclement weather will be counted as excused; however, the three (3) day policy for documenting the absence will

apply.

Educational Opportunity

If a student has accumulated less than seven (7) absences for the year, the principal may approve **one pre-arranged trip of up to three days**. This would be considered an educational opportunity. **A request must be submitted in writing to the principal or assistant principal at least two weeks prior to the trip for it to be considered for approval.** A submission does not mean it will automatically be approved. If approved, a one page journal writing will be submitted upon return from the trip to the data manager. (No absences for prearranged educational opportunity will be granted during the three weeks prior to end-of-grade tests.)

Tardy Policy

The Ashe County Board of Education recognizes that regular school attendance plays a significant role in the academic performance of all students. It is a reasonable expectation that in order for learning to occur, each student must arrive to school on time. Students who are tardy excessively fall behind in academic achievement. A student who is continually tardy not only places his/her own learning in jeopardy, but also interrupts the learning of other students. Teachers take roll each morning and students are considered tardy if they are not in the classroom when the bell rings OR if a student leaves before the end of the instructional day. Students will have three school days to provide a written excuse for the tardy. The following procedures will be followed for frequent and excessive tardiness at Ashe County Middle School:

* After **3** tardies the classroom teacher will contact the parent or guardian of the student to address the tardies and provide possible solutions and educate parents or guardians of possible consequences of continued tardiness. The teacher will also confer with the student and the student will be assigned to After School Detention.

* After **4** tardies the school counselor will confer with the student as well as contact the parent or guardian.

* After **5** tardies, an administrator or designee will confer with the student as well as contact the parent or guardian.

* After **6 unexcused or 10 accumulated** tardies, an in-person parent/guardian conference will be scheduled and the student will be assigned **1** day of In School Suspension.

* After **10 unexcused or 15 accumulated** tardies both the parent/guardian and the student will be referred to mediation to establish an agreement.

* If the mediation agreement is not upheld and tardiness continues, the parent/guardian will be referred to the Ashe County Schools Student Services Department.

Promotion and Retention

North Carolina has new requirements for students in grades 7 and 8 to be promoted. These requirements are called the **Student Accountability Standards** because students and their parents have a great deal of

responsibility for student success in school.

Grade 7: In addition to meeting grade level expectations for classroom performance, students must also demonstrate proficiency by scoring Level III or above on end-of-grade tests in both reading and mathematics. Although not required for promotion to grade 8, students should demonstrate proficiency in writing. Students who fail to demonstrate proficiency in writing shall be provided intervention and assistance during the next school year.

Grade 8: In addition to meeting grade level expectations for classroom performance, students must demonstrate proficiency by scoring Level III or above on end-of-grade tests in reading, mathematics, and science. Students at grade 8 shall make satisfactory progress in writing as demonstrated by writing samples collected and evaluated throughout the academic year on local writing assessments. Students who fail to demonstrate proficiency shall be provided intervention and assistance. Writing samples shall be used by teacher(s) at grade 8 to determine if students demonstrate adequate progress for promotion to the next grade.

Questions concerning promotion

If you have any questions about the promotion and writing requirements, please talk with your teacher, guidance counselor, or administration. They are all available and willing to talk with you. Please note that the principal has the final authority over grade placement.

Report Cards/Progress Reports

Report cards will be issued every nine weeks. Progress reports will be sent home mid-way through each grading period. Parents are encouraged to attend scheduled conferences to discuss student progress. Progress reports and report cards will be sent home for parents' signature. Computerized report forms with the following grading scale will be used:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| A (90-100) | B (89-80) |
| C (79-70) | D (69-60) |
| F Not passing (Below 60) | |

Homework

Homework serves the purpose of independent practice; Therefore, it should not be a substitute for good teaching, but should enhance classroom instruction. **Homework is required and will be consistent with the needs and instructional level of the individual child.**

Take-Home Tuesday

Communication between the school and home is essential for the progress of young adolescents. Each Tuesday, students will be given papers and notes to take to parents to be read and signed. Parents are encouraged to check planners on a regular basis. Teams may choose to vary this procedure as the year progresses. This is an excellent way for the team of teachers and parents to communicate in a routine manner. **Parents are encouraged to check this information regularly** so that they are informed of

special events at school, as well as their child's progress.

Planners

Organization is an essential skill for successful students and workers. To help them stay organized, students at ACMS will be issued a planner at the beginning of the year. They are expected to write down assignments from each class daily as well as teachers will write notes and comments in the planner to share with parents. Teachers will ask students to **have their planner signed by a parent or guardian at least once a week.** Students who lose their planners may purchase a new one in the office for \$5.00.

Textbooks

Textbooks issued are property of Ashe County Schools. They should be used with care and returned in good condition. Students will be charged a fine for lost, stolen, or damaged books.

School Activities

Ashe County Middle School will offer a variety of activities for students during the school year. Participation in school events is encouraged. Special incentives will be offered for students who have exemplary behavior, attendance, or academic performance. The following are examples of activities:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Career Day | Science Fair |
| Field Day | Spelling Bee |
| Battle of the Books | Sports |
| Dances/Socials | Field trips |
| Intramurals | CASE Club |
| Science Olympiad | Envirothon |

There will be at four (4) dances/socials during the year. Other activities may be added during the school year.

Athletics

Fall Sports: Volleyball, Football, Cheerleading, Soccer
Winter Sports: Basketball, Wrestling, Cheerleading
Spring Sports: Softball, Baseball, Track

Ashe County Middle School Eligibility Rules for Athletics:

- Have 85% daily attendance during the previous semester (76.5 days present/per semester).
- You cannot be 15 years old on or before October 15th of eligible year; the school must have on file legal proof of the birth year.
- You must have a physical by a licensed physician or physician assistant on file with the school prior to start of activity; these physicals are good for 365 days.
- You must meet promotion standards set forth by the local LEA.
- You must pass two (2) required core classes **and** pass one (1) less than the required number of encore classes; the previous semester's grades decide if you are eligible to play in the current semester.
- If a student is assigned ISS or OSS, that student will

not play or practice on that day.

- Upon receiving the third (3rd) ISS or OSS assignment, you will receive a suspension from activities which you are involved.
- Each sequential ISS or OSS will result in a suspension from that particular sport.
- If you receive a day of After-School Detention (ASD), you will need to stay that day or the next day ASD is held. If this is not completed, you will serve additional ASD. After School Detention occurs from 3:15 pm until 4:15 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; if practice occurs after that time, you may still practice.
- Absences are as follows:
Excused absence must be documented by administration or by a coach for you to play or practice.
Unexcused absences (full day or over 1/2 day) results in no playing or practicing on that day.

Intramurals

The main purpose of intramurals is to provide activities that focus on cooperation rather than competition. Our goal is to provide a variety of activities to promote a high level of success among our students without emphasis on athletic competition. Intramurals will allow students the opportunity to explore a variety of activities that promote a positive release of energy, encourage the "team" concept, and encourage good sportsmanship and cooperation.

Counseling Department

The Counseling Department at Ashe County Middle School offers developmental services for every student. Our school counselors are specially trained to help children solve many kinds of problems at school and home. Our counselors are a part of the school team because children can experience problems or changes in their daily lives that can affect them emotionally, physically, and academically. Helping students find solutions to their problems or adjusting to middle school changes is very important so they are able to grow and develop in a positive manner. Counselors are available for individual counseling, small group counseling, and classroom presentations. Our counselors consult with parents and teachers on ways to help students find success in school or home. The department is also able to provide referral sources to community agencies as well as collaborate with the school social worker, school psychologist, and other staff members to help ensure that personal and academic needs are met for all students. Students, parents, teachers, or other staff members may make referrals to the counselors.

Media Center

The Media Program is designed to support and enhance classroom instruction and build a life-long love of reading. The media center is open to students from 8:15 am until 3:15 pm. Students may also visit the media center with their classes at scheduled times. School supplies are available for sale in the media center.

Students may check out a maximum of three books/magazines for a period of two weeks. Books may be renewed for an additional two weeks. An overdue fine of five cents per day is assessed with a maximum amount not to exceed \$3.00. At the time of checkout, a card is placed in the back of the book indicating the due date. If the card is lost, the student will be charged \$1.00 for replacement. The individual student is responsible for full replacement costs of lost or damaged books. Students are encouraged to use the media center as much as possible for research and learning.

Internet Usage

Computers with access to the Internet are available in the computer labs, media center, and classrooms. Students may not access the Internet at school without parental permission. An Acceptable Use Agreement for Student Internet Users must be signed by both student and parent. These forms are available in the media center or from the tech coordinator. If a student misuses the Internet, these privileges will be revoked.

Telephones

Phones are located in the school office and in each classroom. Student use is strictly limited to emergencies and should be time sensitive. Student calls should be made from the phones in the classroom with teacher supervision.

Cell Phones (Also Applies to Other Electronics):

Cell phones are permitted as long as they are powered off, this means "off" not silent or vibrate, and the cell phone is out of sight (not visible to anyone). If a student's cell phone or other electronics is in view or in use, the following consequences apply:

First time - The phone or other electronics is taken and After School Detention will be assigned. Parents will be able to pick up the phone/electronic from the office.

Second time - In-School Suspension will be issued by an Administrator. Parents will be able to pick up the phone /electronic in the office.

Additional: If further instances occur, the student's phone/electronics will be taken and parents must come pick it up from the office. Additional In-School Suspension will be assigned and students will be asked to leave their electronics at home.

Video Recording and Picture Taking

Students may not take pictures, videos or recordings of other students or faculty unless supervised by a faculty/staff member for instructional purposes. This also applies to buses and all school activities including field trips.

Social Media: We want to encourage parents/guardians to monitor your child's personal media site(s). The information on these sites is the responsibility of the

student/parents, and administration will issue discipline if it causes a disruption to the school day.

*****ACMS is not responsible for lost or stolen items including electronics.**

Child Nutrition Program

Ashe County Middle School has an excellent cafeteria. Each day we will provide nutritious meals with a variety of choices for students. According to research, students who eat a nutritious breakfast and lunch each day do better academically and athletically. We have an inviting cafeteria and a new point-of-sale computer system, which will provide complete confidentiality for free, reduced, or paying students. The system accommodates prepayment of meals, which will allow faster service to students.

Dress Code:

The dress code for Ashe County Middle School is set by Ashe County Board of Education Policy. Both research and experience have shown that student conduct, identification with the school purposes and activities, personal pride and self-respect, and even the level of learning responses of students are all related to personal appearance and mode of dress. The purpose of the dress code is to ensure that a student's dress and appearance promote a positive learning environment, does not disrupt the learning of others or the general operation of the school, and does not create a safety hazard. **Dress code also applies to all school functions (dances/socials, field trips, etc...).**

Decisions regarding a student's clothing or accessories will be made in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. **Headgear.** No headgear or sunglasses will be worn except those for obvious or established reasons. Hats/Hoodies not allowed inside the building.
2. **Shirts/Blouses/Tops.** Blouses/shirts must be designed and worn so that the tops of the shoulders are covered.
 - No halter-tops, strapless tops, spaghetti straps (less than 2"), tube tops, racer-back, or bare shoulder tops of any kind are allowed.
 - Blouses/shirts/tops that expose any portion of the waist, hips, or midriff are not allowed. Other blouses/shirts not appropriate for school include but are not limited to, low-cut, see through (top underneath must meet dress code), or backless tops.
 - Tops must be worn no more than 3" above the knee when worn with leggings or yoga pants.
 - Pajama tops or bottoms are not permitted.
 - Males are not to wear tank or muscle tops unless an undershirt is worn underneath.
3. **Shorts/Skirts/Dresses/Pants.** All shorts, skirts, and dresses must be **no shorter than 3" from the top of**

the knee cap, even if leggings are worn underneath.

- Inappropriate slits, holes, or tears are not permitted above mid-thigh.
 - Leggings are not considered pants and require a top to be worn no more than 3" above the knee.
 - Yoga pants and other types of spandex require a top to be worn no more than 3" above the knee.
 - Shorts, skirts, or pants must be worn securely around the waist with no bagging or sagging.
 - The waistline of shorts/skirts/pants must be worn on or above the hips with no underwear showing and may not be worn rolled at the waist.
 - Belts may not be excessive in length and should not be hanging from either side of the body.
 - Sheer covering over dresses/skirts of under laying garments must meet dress code (underneath layer must be no more than 3" above the knee).
 - Overalls must be fastened appropriately. A shirt of proper length and style must be worn under the overalls and underwear should not be visible while the student is standing or sitting.
 - Pajama or fleece bottoms are not allowed.
4. **Footwear.** Tennis shoes or soft bottom shoes are required during Health/PE. Health regulations and safety factors require that shoes be worn at all times.
 5. **Undergarments.** Undergarments must be worn and must not be visible while standing or sitting.
 6. **Swimsuits** for females are to be one piece. Males may wear a shirt while swimming.
 7. **Words/Symbols.** No student clothing shall display words or symbols that advocate or depict violence, drugs, alcohol, sexual implications, gang affiliation, or other illegal activity expressively or implied.
 8. **Jewelry/Accessories.** Jewelry or accessories that may be used as weapons are not permitted at school. This includes but is not limited to spiked rings, spiked bracelets, two or three finger rings that are connected, and bulky chains worn around the neck or waist, or hanging from the pocket. Sharp objects such as spikes are not allowed on clothing or book bags.
 9. **Other Inappropriate Dress.** Any student dress/appearance not specifically prohibited in this policy but which school administration deems disruptive to the learning process will not be allowed.

***Clothing will not be provided by the school. Students will be allowed to call parents and will be asked to sit in our Alternative Learning Lab (ALL) until appropriate clothing is obtained from parents. Refusal to comply with these regulations will be deemed as insubordination and will be handled as outlined in the discipline policy.**

Bus Misbehavior

Students shall not engage in any type of behavior that interferes with the safe and efficient operation of the school bus and/or safety of persons riding in the bus.

Students who willfully violate these rules will be dealt with according to Ashe County School Board Policy concerning bus conduct.

The following are the procedures used in bus conduct:

1. Parent(s) of students who refuse to cooperate with bus drivers, principals, and teachers will be notified of their child's misconduct.
2. If said student or students persist in causing trouble on the bus by refusing to cooperate, said student or students will be barred from riding a school bus for a period of one week, and parent(s) will be notified.
3. If said student or students continue to cause trouble on the bus after having been barred from riding the bus then the parent will be notified again. Said student or students could be denied the privilege of riding a public school bus for the remainder of the school year.
4. **Food** is not allowed on the bus.
5. Only **clear water** in a clear container will be allowed.
6. **Homework:** Books are the only school materials that may be out while on the bus. **No pencils, pens, paper, etc. are to be out while on the bus.**
7. **Electronic devices** – Electronic devices are allowed as long as they do not cause problems on the bus. If a problem arises because of an electronic device, the student will be asked to put it away. **If the student refuses to comply with the driver's request, the device will be taken by the driver and turned into the school bus supervisor.** Any loss of, or damage to, an electronic device used by students on the bus will not be the responsibility of the school system.
8. **Video recording, picture taking or voice recording on the bus is prohibited as stated in our county policy.**

Positive Behavior Intervention Support

Each student who attends school has the right to receive a good education. All students should have that opportunity. No student should infringe upon the rights of others to learn. Unfortunately, some students choose to misbehave and will be dealt with in accordance with our discipline policy.

ACMS has adopted the Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) discipline program. Positive Behavior Support is school-wide discipline with the emphasis on

proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. The PBIS program is based on the principle that we must teach and model appropriate behavior to children. The PBIS program emphasizes rewarding a child for modeling appropriate behavior rather than just punishing a child for misbehavior. The faculty and staff of ACMS have developed a positive behavior support plan which identifies areas within the school and lists desired student behaviors for each area. For your reference, the matrix is included on page 12 of this handbook. Once behaviors are taught and modeled by the staff, there will be consistent consequences for misbehavior. Interventions including, but not limited to, conferences, phone calls to parents, counseling, and isolation will be incorporated. Students who continue to violate the school-wide plan may be referred to the principal/assistant principal. Violation of county or state policy will result in the prescribed disciplinary actions which may include loss of field trips/reward activities. All students are encouraged to be familiar with the expectations and rules matrix and to comply with them. Students with habitual discipline problems will be dealt with through the juvenile court system after all steps have been taken to correct the behaviors.

After-School Detention (ASD) is designed to assist students who cannot voluntarily contribute to the educational classroom setting. Some reasons for being assigned to ASD could include (but are not limited to) failure to complete an assignment, refusing to work during class time, trying to complete other class assignments during a different class, sleeping in class, or interfering with others who are working. This detention class is after school from 3:15 pm until 4:15 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

Series of Other Corrective Actions by Teacher/Team:

- Lunch Detention/Silent Lunch
- Alternative Learning Lab (ALL)
- After-School Detention (ASD) **non-punitive**; for missed work, tests or tutoring

Administration

- In-School Suspension (ISS)
- Bus Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- Expulsion
-

If students cause a disruption while in ISS and are removed, automatic OSS will be issued.

Administration will make every effort to contact parents if a referral results in disciplinary action. **If multiple referrals occur with any student, charges may be filed and/or long term suspension may be issued.**

MINOR INFRACTIONS

For Class I Infractions, interventions should be attempted by the teacher/team before a parent contact

is made. After three interventions and a parent call, the teacher/team can write a discipline referral to request the assistance of administration.

Chewing gum is allowed during the school day; however, that is as long as faculty/staff **does not: see it, hear it, or find it.** In addition, if gum is causing a classroom disruption, teachers have the right to issue disciplinary consequences.

Classroom Disruption:

Disturbing or distracting from the normal instructional process will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, interrupting the class, provoking other students, or talking excessively.

Public Display of Affection:

Inappropriate public displays of affection are not allowed. Examples are, but not limited to, kissing, holding hands, hugging, or any inappropriate touching, gesture, etc.

Excessive Physical Contact:

Students should avoid all unnecessary physical contact, hugging, horseplaying, and/or roughhousing. Students should know it is best to keep your hands to yourself.

Showing or exhibiting disrespect for others:

Students are expected to show respect to other students, faculty, and staff at all times.

Unexcused Tardiness:

Students should learn the importance of being prompt upon arrival to school and being punctual to attend classes. After three (3) unexcused tardies, the student will be assigned ASD. After six (6) tardies, a student will be assigned 1 day ISS. See the complete policy listed under Tardy Policy.

Violation of dress code:

Because there is a direct correlation between dress, attitude, and achievement in school, Ashe County Middle School requires a student to dress in a manner which does not distract or disrupt the attention of the students from the instructional program. The violators will be asked to change clothes before reporting back to class. A student may need to call home for more appropriate clothing to be brought to school. (See Dress Code for full explanation.)

MAJOR INFRACTIONS

All Class II Infractions will be dealt with by the administration. If deemed appropriate, referrals will be made to the Ashe County Sheriff's Department.

Cheating or Plagiarism:

Students shall not cheat on tests or exams, nor copy the work of another student or person, nor assist a student in copying or cheating from his or her work or test, nor complete in a dishonest manner any type of academic assignment.

Cutting class and/or leaving school without permission:

Students shall be on campus and in their assigned classes unless they have been authorized to be elsewhere by faculty or staff.

Damage to school property:

No student will attempt to damage or deface any school property or contents of the same.

Disrespect to faculty/staff:

Students shall not cause or attempt to cause any (written, oral, or signed) threat to any school employee. Likewise, any threat of physical or bodily injury to principals, assistant principals, teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, student teachers, and other school personnel or visitor will be severely punished.

Failure to follow set routine:

Students shall comply with all directions of teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, student teachers, and any other school personnel during any period of the school day including, but not limited to, homework assignments, testing instructions, etc.

Fighting/Assault:

No student will intentionally cause bodily harm to another student by means including, but not limited to, fighting, hitting, pushing, shoving, etc.

Fireworks:

No student shall have an exploding firecracker or any material making a loud noise inside a building or on the school grounds or discharging of the same.

Food or Drink:

No food or drink is allowed in the classroom without the direct supervision of the classroom teacher. Vending machines are off limits until after school hours. Energy drinks or any type of Power Shots are not allowed at any time. **Clear water in a clear bottle/container is the only exception to this rule.**

Hazing, Bullying, or threatening another student:

Students shall not harass, threaten, or relay threatening or harassing remarks to any other student. This type of behavior **will not** be tolerated.

Inappropriate bus behavior:

Students should not engage in any type of behavior that interferes with the safe operation of the school bus. Riding the bus is a privilege and should be treated as such.

Personal items:

Students are not to bring to school items that are disruptive to the instructional day. Items include, but are not limited to, squirt guns, water balloons, toys, trading or collectable cards of any type, etc. Electronics are only allowed after school. If they are seen during the school day, they will be taken and discipline procedures will be followed. Lost or stolen items are not the responsibility of ACMS.

Profanity:

Students shall not use insulting, abusive, profane, obscene words, signs, or gestures at any time.

Tobacco:

According to the Ashe County Board of Education Policy, students shall not possess or use any tobacco products at school, on the school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity. **Per Ashe County Board Policy, this includes e-cigarettes which are considered a tobacco product.** Students will be asked to forfeit tobacco products in their possession, and all products will be disposed of properly.

Stealing:

Students should respect not only school property but also the personal property of others. Students shall not steal, rob, and attempt to destroy, or destroy any property or belongings of others.

Falsification:

No student shall falsify information presented to school personnel. This includes written statements or the creation of an untruth.

Insubordination (Non-compliance with directions):

Students shall comply with all lawful directions of teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, student teachers and any other authorized school personnel during any time in which they are subject to school authority.

Major disruption:

Students shall not cause disruption in the learning environment or encourage others to do the same.

Sexual harassment:

Students shall not direct sexual advances or other inappropriate oral, written, or physical contact of a sexual nature to another student. All students must have the privilege of being allowed to learn in an environment free of such inappropriate conduct.

SEVERE INFRACTIONS

Ashe County Middle School will follow the Ashe County Board of Education policy in administering discipline for behaviors which fall into the Class III category. The Ashe County Sheriff's Department will assist in certain situations.

Trespassing:

Any persons not enrolled in the school without authorized permission to be on the campus shall be instructed to leave the campus by authorized personnel.

Vandalism:

The defacing of buildings, buses, cars, walkways, bathrooms, etc. and/or the destroying of public or private property will not be tolerated.

False alarms:

Students shall not activate any fire alarm unless authorized to do so by school employees or unless there

are reasonable grounds for the student to believe an actual emergency exists. At no time shall students communicate a false report concerning a bomb or any other explosive device.

Weapons:

Students shall not possess or conceal any weapon or instrument that could cause bodily harm or be used to threaten bodily injury such as, but not limited to, guns, knives, etc. The possession of weapons will be reported to the Ashe County Sheriff's Department; expulsion may occur.

Alcohol and other Illegal Substances:

Students shall not possess, use, sell, deliver, or distribute marijuana, narcotics, stimulants, depressants, prescription medicines, counterfeit forms of an illegal substance, alcoholic beverage, or any other unauthorized or illegal substance or drug paraphernalia. The Ashe County Board of Education Policy will be followed in all instances. The first offense will result in a minimum of five (5) days suspension. Law enforcement will be notified. Offenders must receive an assessment through a licensed substance abuse provider and agree to abide by their requests before returning to school. A second offense will result in suspension from Ashe County Schools.

The administration reserves the right to deal with these and other offenses as stated in Ashe County Board Policy with actions and consequences deemed appropriate in order to provide a safe and orderly environment.

CURRICULUM:**Seventh and Eighth Grade Common Core Language Arts:**

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Listening
- Viewing

These five strands will be met by covering the following:

1. Details
2. Main Idea
3. Cause and Effect
4. Facts and Opinions
5. Inferences and Conclusions
6. Compare and Contrast
7. Author's Influence--Tone, Attitude, and Purpose
8. Story Elements--Characters, Setting, Point of View, Plot, Conflict, Climax, Resolution
9. Poetry and Figurative Language--Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Hyperbole, Alliteration, Onomatopoeia
10. Vocabulary
11. Using Resources and Reference materials
12. Visual Information--Charts and Tables, Graphs, Maps, Diagrams, Labels, and Signs

Seventh and eighth grade students at Ashe County Middle

School will read:

- Drama
- Folktales/Mythology
- Newspapers
- Nonfiction
- Novels
- Poetry
- Short Stories
- Weekly/Monthly Magazines

Throughout the school year, teachers will teach the students strategies to improve reading skills development and comprehension strategies to improve understanding of written text.

Writing

Throughout the school year, students will be involved in writing in all subject areas. Teachers will focus on the steps of the writing process to prepare each student for the assessment.

Steps of the Writing Process:

1. Prewriting--Brainstorm to generate ideas for writing.
2. Drafting--Write a first draft based on prewriting experiences.
3. Revising--Revise rough drafts for content clarity.
4. Editing--Edit the revised draft(s) with a focus on conventions: grammar, complete sentences, spelling, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and handwriting.
5. Publishing--Publish a piece of revised and edited writing.

Seventh Grade Common Core Math Strands:

Number and Operations, Measurement, Geometry, Data Analysis and Probability, Algebra

COMPETENCY GOAL 1: The learner will understand and compute with rational numbers.

COMPETENCY GOAL 2: The learner will understand and use measurement involving two and three dimensional figures.

COMPETENCY GOAL 3: The learner will understand and use properties and relationships in geometry.

COMPETENCY GOAL 4: The learner will understand and use graphs and data analysis.

COMPETENCY GOAL 5: The learner will demonstrate an understanding of linear relations and fundamental algebraic concepts.

Eighth Grade Common Core Math Strands:

Number and Operations, Measurement, Geometry, Data Analysis and Probability, Algebra

COMPETENCY GOAL 1: The learner will understand

and compute with real numbers.

COMPETENCY GOAL 2: The learner will understand and use measurement concepts.

COMPETENCY GOAL 3: The learner will understand and use properties and relationships in geometry.

COMPETENCY GOAL 4: The learner will understand and use graphs and data analysis.

COMPETENCY GOAL 5: The learner will understand and use linear relations and functions.

Eighth Grade Science Essential Standards:

Eighth grade students are required to take an End-of-Grade test in Science.

The goal of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Science is to achieve scientific literacy as defined as “the knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts and processes required for scientific decision making, participation in civic and cultural affairs, and economic productivity.”

The tenets of scientific literacy include the ability to:

- Find or determine answers to questions derived from everyday experiences.
- Describe, explain, and predict natural phenomena
- Understand articles about science.
- Engage in non-technical conversation about the validity of conclusions.
- Pose explanations based on evidence derived from one’s own work.

The Middle School Science Program includes goals and objectives from Life, Physical, and Earth Science.

Testing At a Glance

7th grade

End of Grade Math Test

End of Grade Reading Test

Writing throughout the year

8th grade

End of Grade Math Test

End of Grade Reading Test

End of Grade Science Test

Writing throughout the year

**The
Best
Starts
Here!**

**Go
Bulldogs**

