

Anson Middle School Teachers Bring Inspiration Home from Ron Clark Academy

Seven Anson Middle School educators traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, this summer for an intensive professional learning experience at the nationally recognized Ron Clark Academy, bringing home ideas that will begin making their way into the school during the 2026-2027 year.

Mrs. Wall, Mr. Laderas, Ms. Orellana, Mr. Hendricks, Mrs. Cafe, Ms. Beltran, and Ms. Thompson participated in the academy's Ignite the Classroom experience July 20-22. The trip was fully funded by Huntington Bank, allowing the Anson Middle School educators to participate at no cost to the school.

The Ron Clark Academy is a nonprofit middle school in Atlanta that has also become a demonstration school and professional development destination for educators from across the country and around the world. Founded by educators Ron Clark and Kim Bearden, the academy is particularly known for energetic and engaging teaching methods, high expectations for students and an emphasis on creating a strong and distinctive school culture.

During their visit, the Anson Middle School teachers were able to observe instructional techniques, participate in professional development and meet Clark, an acclaimed educator, author and speaker. The teachers explored strategies aimed at increasing student engagement, strengthening relationships between students and educators and creating a school environment that encourages academic achievement.

House System Coming to Anson Middle School

One of the most visible results of the trip will be something students throughout Anson Middle School can experience firsthand. The school plans to implement the Ron Clark Academy House System during the new school year as part of its Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative.

The House System divides the student body into smaller groups, or "houses," with students becoming members of a house community within the larger school. Rather than separating students by grade or academic ability, the system is designed to bring together students from different backgrounds and encourage them to develop relationships, work as a team and take pride in their school.

Throughout the year, houses can participate in activities and friendly competitions while students have opportunities to earn recognition for positive behavior, achievement, leadership, school spirit and other accomplishments. The goal is not simply competition. The system is intended to give students a stronger sense of identity and belonging while providing additional opportunities for encouragement, responsibility and leadership.

At Anson Middle School, the House System will complement PBIS, which focuses on teaching and reinforcing positive behavior rather than concentrating solely on discipline after problems occur. Together, the approaches are intended to promote teamwork, leadership, positive choices and a school culture in which every student feels that he or she is an important part of the community.

The seven educators who attended the Atlanta program will also be able to share the instructional ideas, resources and strategies they encountered with their colleagues at Anson Middle School. In that way, the benefits of the three-day experience can extend beyond the participating teachers and into classrooms throughout the school.

Anson Middle School expects the experience to have a lasting impact by strengthening classroom instruction, enriching school culture and fostering an environment where students, staff and the entire school community can thrive together.

The school expressed its appreciation to Huntington Bank for fully funding the professional development opportunity and investing in Anson Middle School educators and, ultimately, the students they serve.



Community Comes Together to Beautify Peachland-Polkton Elementary

With the beginning of a new school year just weeks away, members of the Peachland-Polkton Elementary School community rolled up their sleeves Saturday, August 1, to make sure students return to a campus ready to welcome them.

The PPES PTO sponsored a Campus Beautification Day that brought together PTO members, students, families, school staff and community volunteers for a day of work throughout the school grounds and building.

Volunteers tackled a variety of projects, pulling weeds, planting flowers and trimming shrubs to spruce up the landscaping. They also gave the school's entrance sign a fresh coat of paint and cleaned areas both inside and outside.

The projects may have ranged from planting flowers to cleaning, but all were undertaken with the same goal - creating an attractive and welcoming environment for students when they return to school.

A well-maintained campus can do more than improve the appearance of a school. It helps create a positive first impression for students and families and lets children know that their school is a place people value and take pride in. For returning students, the improvements will provide a fresh welcome as they begin another year, while children arriving



at PPES for the first time will be introduced to a school community that has worked to prepare for them.

The beautification day also demonstrated the important role families and community members can play in supporting their local school. By working alongside students and staff, volunteers contributed their time and effort to accomplish projects that will be enjoyed by the entire PPES community.

With the weeds pulled, shrubs trimmed, flowers planted, entrance sign freshly painted and plenty of cleaning completed, Peachland-Polkton Elementary is looking forward to opening its doors and welcoming students back for the 2026-2027 school year.



COMMUNITY SCHOOL NIGHT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9



Anson County Schools/Anson High School

COMMUNITY NIGHT

Friday, October 9, 2026



Anson County Schools and Anson High School are excited to invite you to our Annual Community Night! This special evening recognizes our K-6 students/schools, young athletes, cheerleaders, and performers while highlighting the pride and unity that make Anson County special.

EVENT DETAILS

- **Location:** Anson High School Stadium, 96 Anson High School Road, Wadesboro
- **Game:** Anson Bearcats vs. Mt. Pleasant Tigers
- **Date:** Friday, October 9, 2026
- **Schedule:** 6:15 p.m. Students report to the track
6:25 p.m. Track Walk and School Recognition
6:40 p.m. Meet at the 50 (Senior Fall Athletes, Senior Cheerleaders, Senior Band & Kindergartners). Senior and kindergarten students, as well as their parents, will receive more information in a separate letter about "Meet at the 50."
6:50 p.m. Band performs the National Anthem
7:00 p.m. Band performs the Fight Song and the football team runs out.

STUDENT ADMISSION & GUIDELINES

- **Elementary Students:** Will receive one free admission ticket through their school (for the student only).
- **Middle School Football Players & Cheerleaders:** Admitted free if wearing their jersey or cheer uniform.
- **Parks & Recreation Football Players:** If enrolled in an Anson County elementary school, they receive a ticket through their school and may also enter free in their jersey.
- **All Students Must Be Accompanied by an Adult 21 years or older.**

TRACK WALK & RECOGNITION

- Before the game at 6:15 p.m., students will line up by school on the track near the scoreboard and participate in the walk around the track to show Bearcat pride. One adult may accompany each elementary student during the walk.
- After the track walk, all students (except Kindergarten students) will go sit in the home bleachers with their school in designated seating sections to enjoy the game. Kindergarten students will move to the Highway 74 side goal post for "Meet at the 50".

AFTER "MEET AT THE 50"

- After "Meet at the 50", kindergarten students will go sit in a clearly marked section for their school in the home stands. Staff/volunteers will guide families to their sections. We encourage students and parents to stay for the game, cheer loudly, and celebrate our Bearcat community together!

ADULT ADMISSION & TICKETS

- Adults must pay regular admission.
- Arrive early — lines are usually long for this event!

Let's fill the stands, celebrate our students, and show our Bearcat Spirit!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

COMMUNITY Open House

OF THE NEW

ANSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

DATE
THURSDAY,
AUGUST 20, 2026

TIME
6:15 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

LOCATION
290 ANSON HIGH SCHOOL ROAD
WADESBORO, NC

ONE COMMUNITY. ONE MISSION. WE ARE ANSON!