

Ansonville Elementary Celebrates Exciting Summer Improvements for Students

While students have been enjoying their summer break, exciting things have been happening at Ansonville Elementary as the school continues to invest in opportunities to enrich learning, encourage health and wellness and inspire literacy.

One of the most anticipated additions was completed in June with the construction of a Gaga Pit, an exciting new feature for the school's playground. Although the name may be unfamiliar to many, a Gaga Pit is an enclosed, usually six- or eight-sided play area designed for Gaga Ball, a fast-paced game that is somewhat similar to dodgeball - but is played with the ball kept at or near ground level.

Players enter the pit and use their hands to hit a soft ball along the ground, attempting to make contact with another player's legs below the knee while avoiding being hit themselves. Because the game takes place in a relatively small enclosed area and involves constant movement, players are frequently running, dodging, jumping and changing direction.

Gaga Ball provides more than just another playground activity. The game encourages physical activity while helping students develop coordination, balance, agility, quick reactions and spatial awareness. Games are generally short, allowing students to rotate in and out quickly, and the simple rules make it easy for children with different ages, experience levels and athletic abilities to participate. This helps create an active and inclusive form of recreation in which students can exercise, socialize and have fun together.

The vision for Ansonville Elementary's Gaga Pit began in December when the school's PTO and community came together with a shared goal of creating a new recreational space for students. Through the combined efforts of the PTO, community members and school supporters, that vision has now become a reality. The new Gaga Pit is an example of what can be accomplished when the community works together with students as the focus.

Readers to Leaders Campaign

The summer has also brought exciting news for the school's ongoing Readers to Leaders campaign. This year the campaign will focus on developing engaging classroom libraries and placing real books directly into students' hands. Classroom libraries increase students' daily access to high-interest books, encourage independent reading and help foster a lifelong love of reading.

The campaign received an inspiring boost during the week of July 20 when Ansonville Elementary welcomed a special summer visitor, Miss Lake Tillery Emma Curlee. As part of her commitment to promoting community literacy, Curlee donated books for the school's classroom library initiative.

With new opportunities for active play and an expanded commitment to literacy, Ansonville Elementary is preparing to welcome students back for another exciting year of learning, growth and community partnership.



Anson High School Prepares for New Year with Busy Summer

Football, marching band, majorettes and volleyball programs prepare for fall as major new technology comes to athletic facilities

The hallways may have been quieter during summer break, but Anson High School has been anything but idle. Students involved in athletics, majorettes and the marching band have spent part of their summer preparing for the 2026-2027 school year, while several major improvements to the school's athletic facilities will be ready for fans when competition begins this fall.

Bearcat Football Players Attend FCA Camp

Members of the Anson Bearcat football program traveled to Wingate University during the summer to participate in a Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Camp.

FCA is a nationwide organization that works with student-athletes and coaches, combining athletic development with an emphasis on leadership, character, teamwork and Christian faith. Camps bring athletes together outside their normal practice environment and provide opportunities for team building, personal development and fellowship.

For the Bearcats, the experience at Wingate provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships among teammates while developing leadership and character ahead of the 2026 football season. Time spent together at camp can also help players build the trust and communication that become important once a team takes the field in competition.

Marching Bearcats Prepare “Ele(mental)”

Back at Anson High School, members of the Anson Bearcat Marching Band have been putting in their own long summer hours during band camp.

The band is preparing its 2026 field production, titled "Ele(mental)." Band camp is an important part of preparations for marching season, giving musicians and auxiliary members concentrated time to learn music, marching fundamentals, formations and the coordinated movement that will eventually become the finished halftime production.

Unlike a concert performance, a marching band field show requires students to perform music while simultaneously remembering precise locations, movements and timing on the field. Much of the work necessary to bring those elements together begins during summer band camp.

Fans will have an opportunity to see the results of those preparations when the Marching Bearcats take the field during football season.

Volleyball Program Builds for the Present and Future

Anson High School's volleyball program also stayed active throughout the summer, with players training in preparation for the upcoming season.

The program's summer activities extended beyond the high school team. Bearcat volleyball players and coaches hosted camps for elementary and middle school students, introducing younger players to volleyball skills and giving them an opportunity to learn from the high school program.

The camps serve two purposes for Bearcat volleyball. Younger students have an opportunity to develop fundamentals and an interest in the sport before reaching high school, helping build the future of the program. At the same time, high school players gain experience teaching, encouraging and working with younger athletes - putting leadership skills into practice rather than simply talking about them.

Majorettes - Summer Practice, Friday Night Twirls

During the summer the AHS majorettes and AHS Feature Twirler worked tirelessly to hone their skills. Band camp for them began on Monday, August 10, but for Feature Twirler Elin Lockhart, her busy competition baton season didn't conclude until mid-July. After which she dove directly into her preseason football halftime preparation.

The girls are very excited to entertain their fans and fellow students while twirling the mighty Bearcats onto victory each Friday night! Come on out and see the show! And...Let's Go Cats!

Major Technology Upgrades Come to Athletic Facilities - Video Scoreboards

Fans returning to Anson High School athletic events this year will notice some major changes. The school has added new video display technology at both Bearcat Stadium and the high school gymnasium - substantial upgrades that bring features more commonly associated with larger athletic venues to the high school level.

The most visible addition is the new video board at Bearcat Stadium. Far more than a traditional scoreboard that simply displays the score, time and other basic game information, a video board can present graphics, announcements and other visual content on a large digital screen. The new board will become a prominent part of the stadium and represents a major upgrade to the experience of attending a Bearcat football game.

Anson High School's gymnasium has received its own new video board, bringing similar digital display capabilities indoors for volleyball, basketball and other events held in the facility. The addition gives the gym a significant technological upgrade and provides another way to make athletic events more engaging for students, families and other Bearcat supporters.

Also new in the gymnasium is a digital scorer's table. While still serving as the courtside location for scorekeepers and game personnel, the table incorporates a digital display that can show graphics and other visual information throughout an event. Combined with the new video board, it gives the gymnasium a much more modern game-day presentation.

These are significant improvements for a high school athletic program and represent a substantial investment in Anson High School's facilities. Together, the stadium video board, gymnasium video board and digital scorer's table provide technology that will change the look and feel of Bearcat athletic events and create new possibilities for the way games and school activities are presented to spectators.

The public will get its first football-season opportunity to see the new Bearcat Stadium video board in action when Anson plays its first home football game on Friday, August 21.

From athletes developing leadership and preparing for competition, to majorettes and musicians learning a new field production, to younger students getting an introduction to Bearcat volleyball...and more, the summer months have provided plenty of activity at Anson High School. With the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year approaching, those preparations will soon move from summer practices and camps to classrooms, playing fields, courts and Friday night performances.

