

Anson County Schools Announces Mr. Eric Howell as Director of Transportation

Anson County Schools is proud to announce Mr. Eric Howell as the district's new Director of Transportation. Mr. Howell brings more than 17 years of experience in Anson County Schools, along with extensive leadership experience in both education and community organizations. He began his career with the district in 2008 as Band Director at Anson Middle School, where he served until December 2025 before transitioning into the role of Instructional Coach. Throughout his time at Anson Middle School Mr. Howell also served in several leadership capacities, including School Improvement Team Chairperson. Mr. Howell earned a Master of School Administration from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, where he graduated with a 4.0 GPA. He also holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Wingate University and is licensed by the State of North Carolina as an educator and school administrator.

Superintendent Dr. Brian Ratliff stated, "Eric has been a valued member of the Anson County Schools family, and we are happy he has entered this new leadership role. His experience, work ethic, and devotion to our students, families and staff will serve our district well as he leads the Transportation Department."

Mr. Howell shared, "I am excited for the opportunity to serve Anson County Schools in a new capacity and to work alongside the dedicated employees of our Transportation Department. My goal is to build on the strong foundation already in place while continuing to improve communication, efficiency, and consistency across the department. Most importantly, we will remain focused on providing safe, reliable transportation for our students each day and supporting the drivers and staff who make that possible."

The Anson County School District looks forward to the leadership, experience, and dedication Mr. Howell will bring to the Transportation Department and is excited for the positive impact he will have on students, staff, and families.

Mr. Howell officially began his role with the Anson County Schools Transportation Department in July 2026.

Anson County Schools Welcomes Dr. Valerie O'Kelley as Director of Human Resources



Anson County Schools is proud to announce Dr. Valerie O'Kelley as the district's new Director of Human Resources.

O'Kelley brings more than 30 years of experience in public education and educational leadership across North and South Carolina. Most recently, she served as the Human Resources and Beginning Teacher Services Director for Cleveland County Schools, where she led districtwide recruitment and selection efforts, directed Title II federal programs, oversaw beginning teacher support, coordinated the district's evaluation systems, managed workers' compensation and substitute services, and ensured compliance with state personnel and educator effectiveness requirements.

Throughout her career, Dr. O'Kelley has served as an assistant superintendent, principal, assistant principal, adjunct professor, and high school English and drama teacher. Her career reflects a commitment to instructional excellence, strategic leadership, educator development, and student success.

Dr. O'Kelley earned a Doctor of Education in Educational Administration from South Carolina State University. She also holds an Educational Specialist degree and a Master of Education in Secondary Education (English) from Winthrop University, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Drama Education from South Carolina State University.

She holds licensure in both North Carolina and South Carolina as a Superintendent, Principal (K-12), Curriculum and Instruction leader, and Secondary English educator.

Superintendent Dr. Brian Ratliff stated, "We are excited to welcome Dr. O'Kelley to the Anson County Schools family. She brings a wealth of experience, a proven record of leadership, and a genuine passion for serving students, families and supporting educators, and partnering with families. We are confident she will make a meaningful impact on our students, staff, and community."

Dr. O'Kelley shared, "I believe strong school systems are built by investing in people. The teaching profession is unique because it is the one profession that shapes every other profession. As Director of Human Resources for Anson County Schools, I intend to place a true emphasis on the human in Human Resources - building meaningful relationships, supporting and developing our employees, and creating a culture where people feel valued, respected, and empowered to make a difference for our students."

The Anson County School District looks forward to the leadership, experience, and vision Dr. O'Kelley will bring to her new role and is excited for the positive difference she will make in the lives of students, staff, and families.

Dr. O'Kelley officially began her role with Anson County Schools in July 2026.

Anson High School Celebrates August Graduates

Kevin Hamilton and Jacob Lang recognized for perseverance and determination



Kevin Alexander Hamilton

Anson High School celebrated an important milestone on Wednesday, August 5, as two members of the Bearcat family completed their high school journeys and received their diplomas during the school's summer graduation ceremony.

Kevin Alexander Hamilton and Jacob Allen Lang were recognized for successfully completing the requirements necessary to graduate from Anson High School.

While most graduation ceremonies take place at the end of the traditional school year, earning a diploma is an achievement worth celebrating whenever that final requirement is completed. For Hamilton and Lang, the August ceremony marked the culmination of the work, perseverance and determination necessary to finish what they started and reach an important milestone in their lives.

The smaller summer ceremony also provided an opportunity to focus specifically on the accomplishments of the two graduates and the individual paths that brought them to graduation day.

During the ceremony, Anson High School Principal Chris Stinson encouraged Hamilton and Lang to take the same determination that helped them earn their diplomas and carry it with them into the next chapters of their lives.

Stinson also reminded the graduates about the importance of the people they choose to keep around them, encouraging them to surround themselves with family and others who will support and encourage them while also challenging them to become their best.

The diplomas Hamilton and Lang received represent more than the completion of their high school requirements. They also open the door to whatever comes next - whether that means continuing their education, entering the workforce, learning a trade, serving in the military or pursuing another path.

Anson High School expressed its pride in both graduates for reaching their goal and wished Hamilton and Lang continued success as they leave high school behind and begin the next stage of their journeys.



Anson County Schools

Kindergarten Staggered Entry 2026-2027

Ansonville, Lilesville, Morven, Peachland-Polkton & Wadesboro Primary

Kindergarten is such an exciting year. Children have the opportunity to learn many important things, but it can be a little overwhelming at first. To ensure a successful transition into Kindergarten, special small group orientation days will be scheduled for the first five days of school (August 24 – August 28). Kindergarten students will attend school on only one of the five orientation days according to their last name. Students may ride the bus to and from school on their orientation day. Regular school hours will be observed. During orientation, Kindergarten students will become familiar with their school and start learning daily routines. Teachers will assess your child's developmental readiness for Kindergarten on a one-on-one basis. The results of this assessment will be used to help teachers better meet the instructional needs of the students during the 2026-2027 school year.

Mon, Aug. 24

Last Names A - E

Tue, Aug. 25

Last Names F - J

Wed, Aug. 26

Last Names K - O

Thu, Aug. 27

Last Names P - Z

Fri, Aug. 28

Late Enrollees

Mon, Aug. 31

Kindergarten begins for all students.

SCHOOL MENUS

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SAT TEST

The SAT will be given at Anson High School on the following dates for the 2026-2027 school year:
SATURDAY, OCT. 3, 2026 & SATURDAY, NOV. 7, 2026
Please note that the SAT is now digital.



Jacob Allen Lang

2026-2027 Bell Schedule					
School	Morning Bus Unload	Late Arrival	Morning Bell	Shuttle Afternoon Release	Afternoon Dismissal
WPS	7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:30 AM		2:30 PM
WES	7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:30 AM		2:30 PM
AES	7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:30 AM		2:30 PM
MES	7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:30 AM		2:30 PM
PPES	7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:30 AM		2:30 PM
LES	7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:30 AM		2:30 PM
AHS	7:50 AM	8:10 AM	8:25 AM		3:25 PM
AMS	7:50 AM	8:10 AM	8:30 AM		3:30 PM
ACEC	7:50 AM	8:00 AM	8:15 AM	3:15 PM	3:15 PM
AXIS	8:15 AM	8:20 AM	8:25 AM	3:15 PM	3:15 PM