



# Inside Your Anson County Schools

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## Letter from the Superintendent

Anson County Students, Parents, and Community Members:

On behalf of the Anson County Board of Education and all ACS staff members I would like to extend greetings as we begin the 2015-16 school year. I want to thank those of you who have been involved in helping a child or several children learn during the summer months and previous years. Each of you plays a vital role in the success of our community, schools, and each child served by ACS.

Our staff has continued working throughout the summer as we prepare to open each school on August 24, 2015. We are set and ready to provide each child enrolled in our schools a solid education. We are fortunate to have added several new teachers who have decided to begin or continue their educational careers by serving children in Anson County. We also have a large number of veteran staff members who have agreed to return to ACS and continue with their commitment of serving as an educator in Anson County.

Our journey of partnering as a team will be continuous and exciting. My staff and I will be available to provide support and guidance to you ensuring that each ACS student has the opportunity to learn while acquiring skills and knowledge necessary to become successful and responsible citizens. Learning opportunities should be embraced as one would accept a treasured gift. Teachers and other ACS staff will be prepared to present the gift of learning to our students based on research proven practices and well-planned lessons that appropriately engage students. When students accept the gift of learning they will have this special gift forever.

Support from every community member is needed as our students accept the gift of learning and internalize knowledge one lesson at the time during the 2015-16 school term. Community members can support us by being an encourager for each student, reading with a child, listening to a student read, providing resources such as supplies and tutoring a child. We are all teachers, so let's accept the responsibility of educating our children as they prepare to be the workforce and leaders in our world.

As North Carolina continues to face difficult budget challenges we must remain strong and steady as educators and community members to provide our children with a bright future that can be attained as a result of learning. Anyone can promote a negative outlook - yet those with wisdom and strong character can always find the positive in challenging times. We will find the positive so our children will benefit as we move forward.

Sincerely, Michael H. Freeman, Ed.S.

## New Grading Scale for All Anson County Schools

In October 2014 the State Board agreed and approved a standard 10-point grading scale to begin with the 2015-16 school year. This scale will not include "pluses" or "minuses" and it will be applied for coursework beginning with the 2015-16 school year for students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. There will not be any attempt to retroactively alter grades from prior years.

Under the new scale grades and grade point average calculations will be applied as follows:

<b>A</b>	90-100 =	<b>4.0</b>
<b>B</b>	80-89 =	<b>3.0</b>
<b>C</b>	70-79 =	<b>2.0</b>
<b>D</b>	60-69 =	<b>1.0</b>
<b>F</b>	< 59 =	<b>0.0</b>

In addition to the grade scale change, another change is beginning in the 2015-16 school year. New standards for quality points will take effect for the ninth graders in the fall of 2015-16 and all students entering high school after that year.

The new quality points standard will provide an additional .5 quality point to Honors courses and a 1.0 additional quality point to Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate courses, community colleges courses, or four year university or college courses taken in high school. This eliminates discrepancies between AP/IB and community college or college/university courses and quality points and provides the same additional quality point to all college-level coursework.

## ACS Superintendent Announces Blended Services Approach at Anson High School and Anson New Technology High Schools

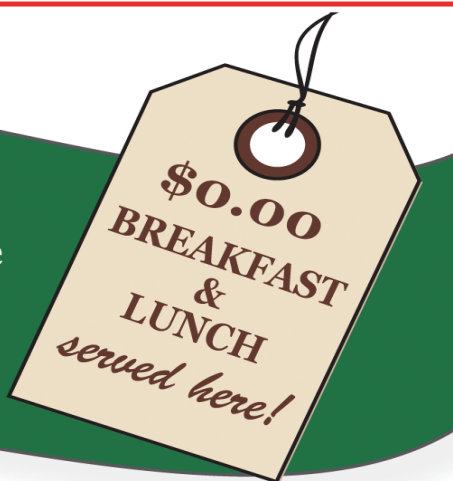
Anson County Schools Superintendent Michael Freeman is very excited about and pleased to announce the Blended Service Model that will be followed to provide educational opportunities for all students attending AHS and ANTHS. In utilizing the Blended Services Model, each student will have the benefit of earning their education by tapping into resources available at each school as they begin sharing the same campus on August 24, 2015, when the 2015-16 school year begins. Superintendent Freeman and his team did a lot of planning prior to the Anson County Board of Education approving his recommendation to locate these two unique high schools on the same campus at 96 Anson High Road in Wadesboro, North Carolina.

While each school has their own unique qualities and opportunities that define the program offerings for their students; each school also has similar services that support student learning. Listed below are examples of Blended Services to be provided:

- **Course Offerings** Students may be cross enrolled by selecting needed class offerings at either AHS or ANTHS to fulfill their course of study while earning high school units required for graduation, while forming the foundation for success in college or the work force. Students from both schools are now eligible to enroll in Career Technical Education Courses.
- **School Counseling** A team of school counselors from both schools will support the students. In addition to the full time counselors based at AHS and ANTHS, additional school counselors from Anson Academy and Anson County Early College will support students.
- **Child & Family Support Team** A full time School Nurse and Social Worker will serve students at both schools which are new services for ANTHS.
- **Transportation** All middle and high school students will continue riding the same buses.
- **Clerical Support** A team of clerical staff will serve all students from the main office on campus to process attendance transactions, receptionist services, message center, distribution of student resources, facilitating school pictures, scheduling events, supporting the emergency response team, and general student support needs.
- **School Resources Officers** One SRO will be on campus full time while a second SRO will be on campus a portion of time to support both schools.
- **Athletics** Students from both schools will be eligible to participate in athletics as one Bearcat Team.
- **Media Services** Students from both schools will now have the support of a fully equipped high school media center.
- **Child Nutrition** Nutritious breakfast and lunches will be served to all students enrolled at both schools free of charge. Students will have multiple opportunities to enjoy a meal in the cafeteria dining area or while on the go with our "second chance" meal option.
- **Testing & Assessment** A testing and assessment department located on campus will coordinate services for both schools in collaboration with other school staff.
- **Focused Learning Lab** A Focused Learning Lab service will be provided for any student from AHS or ANTHS who may need additional guidance on how to be successful in the school setting.
- **Driver Education Program** AHS and ANTHS students will learn safe driving skills in the same classrooms after school hours.
- **School Administration** Both AHS Principal Chris Stinson and ANTHS Principal Diomya Pratt will be advocating for students services to support all students on campus, while both will be supported by Assistant Principal James Wall.

Mr. Freeman and his team are very excited about this approach to offering services while two schools are based on the same campus. Realizing that each day will bring about rewards and challenges, the ACS – AHS – ANTHS (AAA) Team will cultivate a spirit of harmony as a new school blended family is created by housing the two schools in one location. As you can see, students on campus will share much more than parking lots and hallways – they will share resources to enhance their educational opportunities. Perhaps one of the most special positives is the chance for students to build lifelong friends with children they have known since kindergarten.

**HAVE YOU HEARD?**  
Breakfast and lunch are provided to all students at no charge



Our district participates in the Community Eligibility Provision. Through this provision, all students are eligible to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost.

We hope that this will increase participation in our school's breakfast and lunch programs where we serve nutritionally-balanced meals daily. A healthy diet has been shown to improve academic success.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Visit our website at [www.ansonschools.org](http://www.ansonschools.org) for a supply list for your child's school!

## KEEP UP WITH YOUR SCHOOL ONLINE...

Anson Schools....[ansonschools.org](http://ansonschools.org)

Anson Academy....[aca.ansonschools.org](http://aca.ansonschools.org)

Anson Early College....[acec.ansonschools.org](http://acec.ansonschools.org)

Anson High School....[ahs.ansonschools.org](http://ahs.ansonschools.org)

Anson Middle School....[ams.ansonschools.org](http://ams.ansonschools.org)

Anson New Tech....[anths.ansonschools.org](http://anths.ansonschools.org)

Ansonville Elementary....[aes.ansonschools.org](http://aes.ansonschools.org)

Lilesville Elementary....[les.ansonschools.org](http://les.ansonschools.org)

Morven Elementary....[mes.ansonschools.org](http://mes.ansonschools.org)

Peachland-Polkton....[ppes.ansonschools.org](http://ppes.ansonschools.org)

Wadesboro Elementary....[wes.ansonschools.org](http://wes.ansonschools.org)

Wadesboro Primary....[wps.ansonschools.org](http://wps.ansonschools.org)

**Our Mission** "We will ensure that all students acquire skills and knowledge necessary to be successful and responsible citizens."