

# AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS STAFF NEWSLETTER

MARCH  
31  
2023

The spring season is officially here. As we close out March and head into April, we will be preparing for our Spring Break which runs from April 8 through April 17. We are now in the final push of the year and have less than 45 days of school remaining. This is a busy time of year as we prepare for our end of year SOL testing and other culminating activities. To me the year has flown by and I can hardly believe we are in April. I know for many it has been a long push since the Christmas Holiday break but we are getting close to the end of the year. I encourage you to keep pushing through, June will be here before you know it.

As the weather begins to warm, it is important for us to enforce the student dress code. Historically, during the spring season, students begin to push the limits of the dress code and wear clothing that is not appropriate for school. I encourage you talk with your students about wearing clothing that is appropriate for school. I also ask that our employees remember that we need to dress in a professional manner. Please ensure you are setting an appropriate example for your students.

March was a busy month for ACPs staff, students, and families.

- The school division held Future Opportunities Nights at each of our elementary schools in order to give parents and students insight into the programs that are available to our students in middle school and high school.
- Amherst County Public Schools continued its dominance at the State Archery Tournament. Several students placed in the top 10 of the state and Elon Elementary School won the State Title for the elementary school division.
- The spring sports season has begun and our teams are off to a good start.
- Our Band and Show Choir students are in their performance season and have won many recognitions in their competitions.
- The ACHS Theatre team performed Sister Act with opening night on March 30. They performed March 30, March 31, and their final showing is tomorrow, April 1.
- Finally, I held a Community Leaders Breakfast on March 8 and had over 60 community members participate.

I want to congratulate all of our students and sponsors/coaches for a job well done thus far and we are looking forward to great spring season.

We experienced a very mild winter and only missed two days of school due to inclement weather. When we develop our school calendar, we build in time to account for inclement weather. Since we did not experience a typical winter, the Amherst County School Board has approved a calendar revision that will make April 17 an additional day of Spring Break and May 26 (ACHS Graduation) a teacher workday with no school for students. The Amherst County School Board will consider additional calendar adjustments at the April 6 school board meeting.

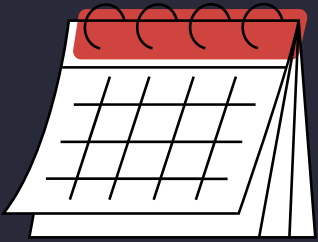
As we start the final nine weeks of the year, I want to thank you for everything you have done for your students. Let us remember that we are all on the same team (Team Amherst) and have the same objective which is to provide the best education possible for our students. Let us continue to strive toward that goal and ensure our students are receiving the instruction and attention they need to be successful in school and in life. Thank you again for all you do. Keep it together for one more week and then enjoy your spring break.

Sincerely,

*William*



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**Spring Break**

**April 10-17**



**Kindergarten Registration**

**April 26-27**

## Calendar Changes!

**April 17** has been changed from an instructional day to a **Holiday** for all students and staff



**May 26** has been changed from an instructional day to a **Teacher Work Day** for staff and there is no school for students

[Click Here to View the Revised 2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

2023-2024

# SCHOOL OPERATIONAL BUDGET

The school board approved the recommended budget as presented at the School Board retreat to include a minimum of a 7% pay increase for all employees, an additional 1% increase for transportation, moving custodians to the grounds pay table, resulting in an additional 1-3% average increase, and a total 15% increase for child nutrition staff.

Dr. Wells presented the budget to the Amherst County Board of Supervisors on March 21. The Board of Supervisors will now hold a public hearing on the County Budget in April and approval of the budget will be on the agenda for their first meeting in May.

The main thing to consider with our budget is the state has not approved a budget as of yet. We built our budget off of the Governor's proposed budget and anticipate funding to be at that level or higher. However, we will not have any final numbers until the General Assembly passes and the Governor signs the state budget.

# THANK YOU, MR. GRIESER!



ACPS would like to thank Mr. John Grieser for the time that he served on the Amherst County School Board. Mr. Grieser served on the Board from January 1, 2020, through March 13, 2023. ACPS appreciates his dedication to Every Child, Every Day. Thank you, Mr. Grieser!

#TeamAmherst

## Thank You

Spring activities are underway! Spring brings a variety of events taking place at our schools, such as the arts, performances, athletics, etc... Let's #ShowUp and support our students!



Follow Dr. Wells on Twitter!





The Education Foundation hosted a Program Showcase Luncheon at ACHS in March to highlight the great work of their organization and several programs for students. Guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and tours of the CTE classrooms then caught a glimpse of the ACHS theatre in rehearsal!



The Education Foundation relies on individual donors, businesses, and community partners to continue our mission of providing resources to classrooms and teachers in Amherst County Public Schools that enhance the learning experience through innovation and creativity. Thank You!



# #ShowUp Day!

On Friday, March 17,  
Amherst County Public  
Schools hosted its second  
#ShowUp Day of the school  
year! Students and staff  
participated in fun activities  
throughout the day to  
celebrate. Thank you to  
everyone for Showing Up  
and making this day such a  
great success!

#TeamAmherst  
#ShowUpAmherst



On March 8, Dr. Wells hosted a Community Leaders Breakfast at Sweet Briar College! Attendees enjoyed breakfast and a discussion regarding community engagement, career and technical education, workforce solutions, and how we can build a better community for our children, families and local businesses.

**#TeamAmherst**  
**#ShowUpAmherst**



During the March 9 Regular School Board Meeting, Dr. Wells and the School Board presented Glad/Clorox with a resolution to nominate them to the VSBA Business Honor Roll. ACPS wanted to show their appreciation for the company's ongoing support of our community's school division. Their work has aided this community in focusing on the goal of providing the best public schools we can for Every Child, Every Day.

**#TeamAmherst**  
**#ShowUpAmherst**



**CONGRATULATIONS to our archers who competed in the state tournament! Elon Elementary finished with the State Championship for elementary! All of our schools did very well with season bests and top shooters ranking in the top 10 in the state!!**



**AMAZING!**

Good job!



For Elementary Schools:

Elon placed **FIRST** in Bullseye with a terrific score of 2966.

Central placed **THIRD** with an amazing 2906.

Top 10 male shooters:

Jase Owen (Elon) 2nd - 262

Brooks Cam 4th (Elon) - 261

Brycen Sanders 6th (CES) - 260

Robert Hamilton 7th (Elon) - 257

Wyatt Terwilliger 8th (Elon) - 255

Mason Hurt 10th (CES) - 251

Top 10 female shooters:

Carissa Rice 1st (Elon) - 270

Paisley Pugh 3rd (CES) - 261

Abby Webster 4th (CES) - 260

Madelyn Wade 5th (Elon) - 258

Eliza Payne 10th (Elon) - 247

For middle schools:

Amherst Middle School placed **FOURTH** with a season best 3197!

Top 10 male shooters:

Logan Burch 2nd (AMS) - 288

Austin Hendley 4th (AMS) - 286

High School:

Amherst County High School placed **THIRD** with a 3270!

Top 10 male shooters:

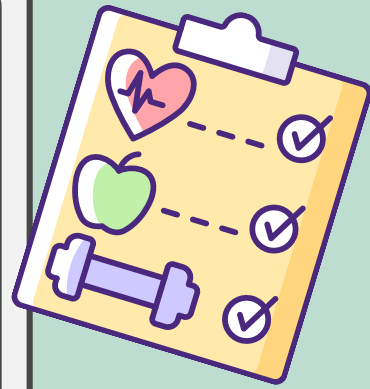
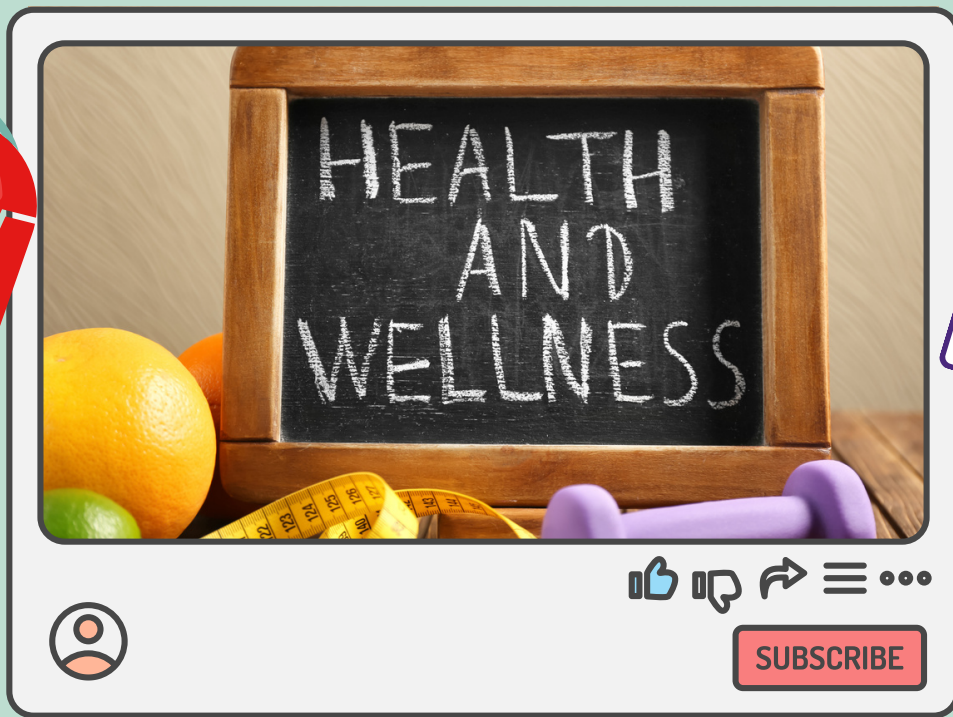
Jesse Smith 4th - 286

Tim Casey 8th - 282

Mark Cash 9th - 281

Top 10 female shooters:

Abby Stecker tied for 8th - 282



As we move into the spring season we prepare not only for warmer weather, but allergies as well. Allergies can develop at any age and everyone reacts to allergens differently. Please see the links below to access information from Anthem regarding understanding and managing your allergies!



[Understanding  
your Allergies](#)

[Managing your  
Allergy  
Symptoms](#)





# Life comes with challenges. **Your Assistance Program is here to help.**

Your Assistance Program can help you reduce stress, improve mental health, and make life easier by connecting you to the right information, resources, and referrals.

All services are free, confidential, and available to you and your family members. This includes access to short-term counseling and the wide range of services listed below:

## **Mental Health Sessions**

Manage stress, anxiety, and depression, resolve conflict, improve relationships, overcome substance abuse, and address any personal issues.

## **Life Coaching**

Reach personal and professional goals, manage life transitions, overcome obstacles, strengthen relationships, and build balance.

## **Financial Consultation**

Build financial wellness related to budgeting, buying a home, paying off debt, managing taxes, preventing identity theft, and saving for retirement or tuition.

## **Legal Consultation**

Get help with personal legal matters including estate planning, wills, real estate, bankruptcy, divorce, custody, and more.

## **Work-Life Resources and Referrals**

Obtain information and referrals when seeking childcare, adoption, special needs support, eldercare, housing, transportation, education, and pet care.

## **Personal Assistant**

Save time with referrals for travel and entertainment, seeking professional services, cleaning services, home food delivery, and managing everyday tasks.

## **Medical Advocacy**

Get help navigating insurance, obtaining doctor referrals, securing medical equipment or transportation, and planning for transitional care and discharge.

## **Member Portal and App**

These digital tools enable you to access your benefits 24/7/365 with online requests and chat options. They also provide easy access to thousands of articles, webinars, podcasts, and tools covering total well-being.



**Contact AllOne Health**

**Call: 866-216-1996**

Visit: [allonehealth.com/support](https://allonehealth.com/support)

Code: amhco



The Amherst County Public Schools Education Foundation, Inc. hosts the

# 20th Annual Captain's Choice

# Golf Tournament

## Friday, June 16th

### Winton Golf Course

AM Flight: 8am

PM Flight: 1pm

Lunch for both flights at NOON

**\$90 per player includes:**

Lunch & On-Course Snacks/Drinks

Golf Cart

One Mulligan per player

Great Sponsor Swag!

**REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!**

To register, contact the  
Education Foundation at  
434-316-3900, email  
[educationfoundation@amherst.k12.va.us](mailto:educationfoundation@amherst.k12.va.us)  
or **REGISTER ONLINE** at  
[www.ACPSEducationFoundation.org](http://www.ACPSEducationFoundation.org)

**GREAT PRIZES IN EACH FLIGHT!**

***Swing for a great cause and  
support Amherst County  
Public Schools!***

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### **\$2,000 Platinum TITLE**

##### **Sponsor**

Title sponsor recognition!

Golf tournament entry for EIGHT players!

Large sponsor sign at golf tournament registration

Winter luncheon attendance

Exposure at all annual events

Public recognition in newspaper twice  
per year

#### **\$1,000 Gold Sponsor**

Golf tournament entry for FOUR players!

Large sponsor sign at golf tournament registration

Exposure at all annual events

Public recognition in newspaper twice per year

#### **\$500 Silver Sponsor**

Small sponsor sign at golf tournament registration

Hole sponsor sign on the course

Exposure at all annual events

#### **\$250 Bronze Sponsor**

Small sponsor sign at golf tournament registration

Hole sponsor sign at golf tournament

#### **\$200 Hole-in-One Sponsor**

Sponsor the designated \$5,000 Hole-in-One on the

course (selected by Winton management)

Small sponsor sign at designated hole

#### **\$200 Longest Drive Sponsor**

Sponsor the designated Longest Drive prize hole

(selected by Winton management)

Small sponsor sign at designated hole

#### **\$100 Hole Sponsor**

Hole sponsor sign on the course

#### **\$50 Green Sponsor**

A green sponsor sign in honor or memory of a  
teacher, bus driver, etc.



**WINTON**  
F A R M





# 4 Simple Ways



## TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY



### SPRING INTO SERVICE

Part of being a good citizen is community service. Here are four simple and inexpensive ways to give back to your community.

### BE KIND & HELP A NEIGHBOR

Something as simple as saying hello, smiling, or holding the door for someone can make a positive difference in your community. These simple acts can create a positive ripple effect in our community.

You could take it a step further and carry groceries in for a neighbor, or mow their lawn. Small gestures can make a big difference.

### VOLUNTEER

Volunteer for a local nonprofit organization. Use your talents to make a positive difference in someone's everyday life.



### TAKE CARE OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Plant a tree
- Join or start a Community Garden
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Organize a community clean-up
- Choose to bike or walk instead of driving



**GOOD NEWS**

### SPREAD GOOD NEWS

Look for the good happening and tell others about it. You will foster good relationships with others and you'll also brighten someone's day in the process.



Adapted from *10 Ways to Give Back to the Community Even With No Money* by Judy Ponio and *7 Ways to Give Back to the Community* by Foster Love



Blue Ridge Area  
**FOOD BANK**  
Everyone should have enough to eat.

A member of  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

How to ...

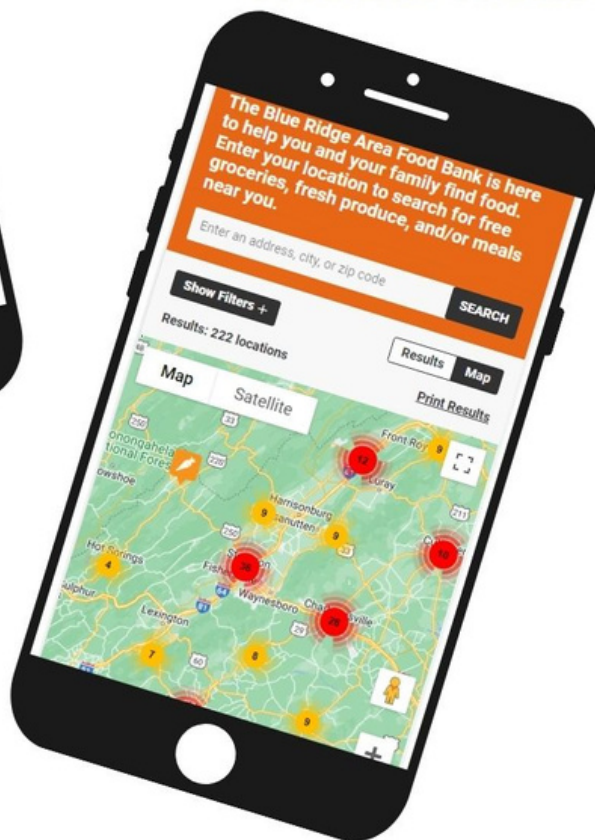
# FIND FOOD

1



Enter your location  
to search for free  
groceries, fresh  
produce, and/or  
meals near you.

2



3



Once you've picked a nearby food pantry,  
call them for details.



**CORN  
HOLE**

**Music  
Kickball  
Skills Training for  
Football Players &  
Cheerleaders**

**Hosted by Monelison Youth Football Association**

# **SUNDAY FUN DAY**

**April 16, 23, 30**

**May 7, 21**

**2PM - 5PM**

**FACE  
PAINTING**



**\$1 per person  
13 and under**

**Concession Available**

**Special guest:  
High School  
Football  
Players and  
Cheerleaders**

**Bruins Park 265 Trojan Rd, Madison Heights, VA 24572**

**Contact Donnie Byers - 665-0361 or Kathy Harris 941-1293**



# Amherst County's Annual **EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

**DATE:** April 1, 2023

**Time:** Event starts at 3:00 PM

**Egg Hunt promptly at 4:00 PM**

**LOCATION:** Coolwell Park,

**646 N Coolwell Rd, Amherst, VA**

**Rain  
or  
Shine**

Children 5th grade and under are invited to participate in Amherst County's Annual Egg Hunt beginning at 3:00 PM. (bring a BIG bag or basket to collect candy-filled plastic eggs. The children who find the golden eggs will get a special prize.

Sponsored by:

Amherst County Recreation, Tourism, & Cultural Development Department.

For further information call the Department at 434-946-9371 or visit us at

[www.countyofamherst.com](http://www.countyofamherst.com)





# **Amherst County Recreation & Tourism**

**Presents**



# **CONCERT IN THE PARK**

**Date: April 22, 2023**

**Time: 3:00 PM**

**Where: Coolwell Park  
Amphitheater**

**Fee: Free!**

**Featuring:**

**The Liberty University Trombone  
Ensemble  
and The Amherst County High School  
Sax Ensemble.**

**Food Truck & Vendors**

# **2023 SUMMER CAMP**

## **DATES**

**Week 1: June 26-29**

**Week 2: July 10-13**

**Week 3: July 17-20**

**Week 4: July 24-28**

**REGISTER  
NOW!**



**AGES 8-13**

**CAMPS ARE LOCATED IN  
AMHERST COUNTY**

**James  
River  
ASSOCIATION**

