



# Amherst County Public Schools Family Newsletter

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August 31, 2023

## A Message from the Superintendent

Hello Team Amherst:

The 2023-2024 school year has begun and, as of today, the students have been back in school for two weeks. I want to thank you all for a great opening of school. As I visited the schools over the past two weeks, I have been pleased to see all of the energy and positive interactions between our staff and students. As part of the Team Amherst approach, I am asking you to help us continue to foster positive relationships among our students, families, and the community. ACPS wants to ENGAGE with you. We are asking you to ENGAGE with us as well.

We realize that it takes all of us working together and moving in the same direction to meet the needs of our students. We need to partner and ENGAGE with each other to ensure our students are able to be contributing members of society upon graduation. I am excited about the opportunities to build positive, ENGAGING relationships between the school division, our families, and our community. As part of our desire to ENGAGE with the community, ACPS and our Show Up Amherst partners will be hosting a Community Tailgate on Friday September 1, 2023 from 5:30 – 7:00 at ACHS prior to the home football game. Students, their families, and members of the community are invited to attend. We will be serving hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, cookies, and drinks. This is a free event and we are looking forward to ENGAGING with you at the tailgate.

Our schools are open and we are seeking family and community engagement in our schools. Families and the community can ENGAGE with ACPS by ensuring your students are prepared for the school day; contacting your students' teacher if you have questions or concerns; volunteering in our schools; and showing up for school events.

Our schools are currently scheduling their "Back to School" events. Amelon Elementary was eager to host and held their Back to School event on August 22. The rest of the schools will be hosting their events in September. The Back to School events are designed to provide an opportunity for our families and the community to visit the schools and meet with school staff. We encourage our families and the community to attend these events to ENGAGE with our schools and start building those positive relationships that we both seek.

On September 29, 2023 ACPS will hold our first Show UP Day for the 2023-2024 school year. The Show Up Day is part of our #ShowUpAmherst initiative and is part of our character education program. Show Up Amherst is designed to emphasize the importance of being present for school physically and mentally. Each school in the division will hold an event designed to encourage students to show up to school. After the initial Show Up Day, schools will have days throughout the year in which students will receive some type of incentive for being present that day. The days will not be pre-announced so students will not know which day the school will be holding additional Show UP days.

This year ACPS will have a major focus on student attendance. We realize that instructional time lost during the pandemic has had a negative effect on our students. Most will agree that students learn best when they receive quality in-person instruction. We are asking you to do everything within your power to have your children attend school daily. We cannot teach them if they are not in school.

The school division staff has been working with the Amherst County Administration and the Amherst County Board of Supervisors to fund the Amherst County High School renovation and construction project. I am glad to say that the Amherst County Board of Supervisors agreed to fund the project as requested. We are planning a ceremonial groundbreaking for 1:00 PM September 29, 2023 and anticipate construction beginning around November 1, 2023. We are looking forward to the many benefits of this project and ACPS is grateful for the support of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors, our families, and community.

There are times when families and the community may have questions or concerns regarding decisions made at the school or division level. I encourage you to contact the principal of the respective school or my office (434-946-9387 or [acpssuperintendent@amherst.k12.va.us](mailto:acpssuperintendent@amherst.k12.va.us)) if you have any questions or concerns. Lately, there has been a societal trend of going on social media and posting information or conducting forums regarding local, state, or national issues. The problem we face is much of the information being shared is inaccurate, half-truths, or rumors. With issues regarding our schools, we ask that you consider the impact spreading rumor and gossip has on all of those involved. We would much rather have our families and community members contact us directly to discuss any questions or concerns you may have and we will do our best to give you an informative response.

In order for our school division and our community to continue to grow and prosper we all need to work together. We ask that our families and community ENGAGE with us and join "Team Amherst" as we work to provide our students with the educational opportunities they need to be successful upon graduation. If we come together and work as one team with a common goal, there is nothing that can stand in our way. This is an exciting time for Amherst County Public Schools and I thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

*William*



## Upcoming Events

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September 1

#ShowUpAmherst Community Tailgate

September 4

Labor Day (No school for students or staff)

September 18

Interim Report Distribution

2023-2024 School Calendar

# SHOWUP AMHERST

## After School & Extracurricular Activities

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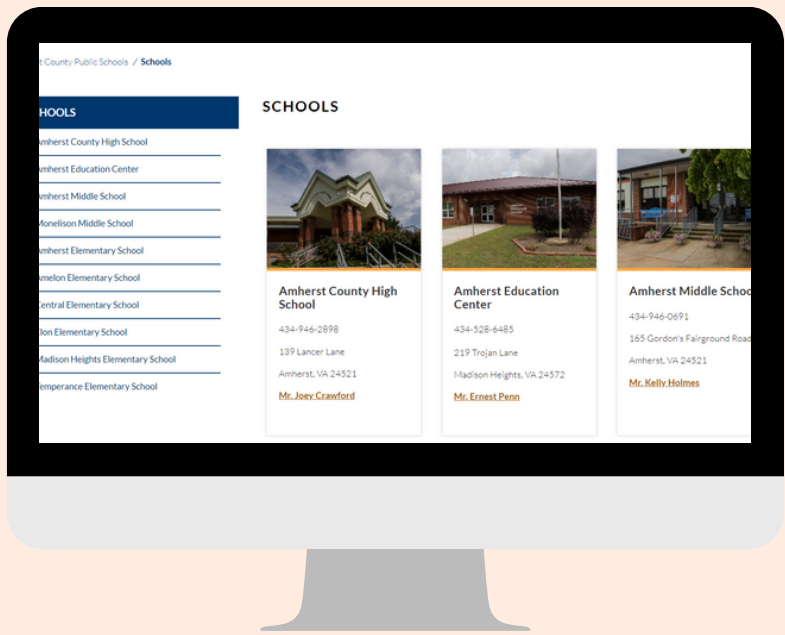
Our students and staff are actively involved in a variety of extracurricular activities throughout the division. Please show your support for our students and staff by attending events, participating, or volunteering!



**HAVE YOU HEARD?**  
**ACPS CHANGED**  
**THEIR BACKGROUND**  
**CHECK POLICY.**  
**BACKGROUND CHECKS AND**  
**FINGERPRINTS ARE NOW**  
**REQUIRED EVERY 5 YEARS.**  
**PLEASE CALL HUMAN**  
**RESOURCES IF YOU HAVE ANY**  
**QUESTIONS AT 434-946-9376**

## Background Checks

Effective August 2022, Amherst County Public Schools changed their requirement for volunteers to be fingerprinted from every 10 years to every 5 years. If you have not had your fingerprints done since 2018 and would like to continue to volunteer or attend field trips, you will need to visit Human Resources. Please call 434-946-9376, and we can help you.



## School Websites

Our school websites are a great source of information! Click the computer to the left for more information!

# Join Team Amherst

## PROFESSIONAL:

Secondary English Teacher

Secondary Social Studies

Secondary Science Teacher

Elementary Teacher

Part-time Speech Language Pathologist

## CLASSIFIED:

Instructional Assistant - SPED

Custodian

Bus Driver

Bus Assistant

Questions?

Contact HR @

434-946-9376 or

[hr@amherst.k12.va.us](mailto:hr@amherst.k12.va.us)



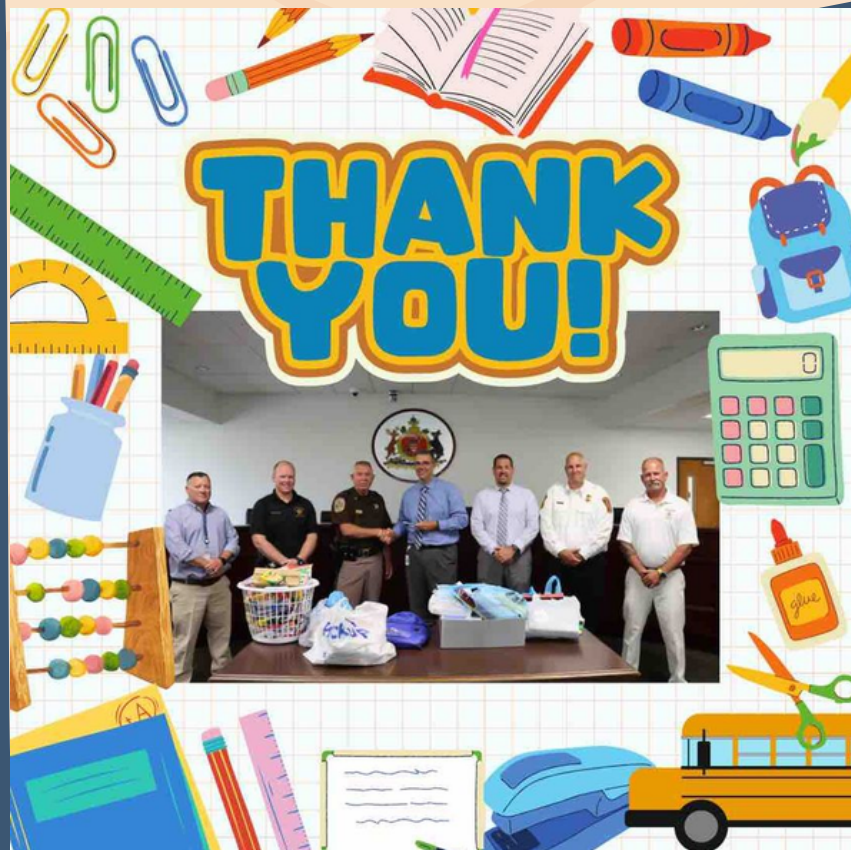
## JOIN THE ACPS FAMILY!

Amherst County Public Schools is hiring for the 2023-24 school year. We offer competitive salaries, a high quality mentor program, and a supportive work environment built on school, family, and community. Come join Team Amherst!

Amherst County Public Schools received a generous donation of \$1,500 and school supplies for our students. The division would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation for the generosity of the Amherst County Sheriff's Office, Amherst Fire Department, Monelison Volunteer Fire Department, and Amherst County Public Safety for their contribution. The funds and school supplies were collected during the First Responders Softball Tournament on August 20th. Their generosity shows the unwavering support and dedication they have for the education and well-being of the students in our community.

The \$1,500 donation, along with the school supplies, will directly benefit students in need by ensuring they have the tools and resources to succeed in the classroom. The collaboration between the Amherst County Sheriff's Office, Amherst Fire Department, Monelison Volunteer Fire Department and Amherst County Public Safety exemplifies the power of partnerships in creating positive change within our community. By working together, we can ensure that our youth receive the support they need to thrive academically and contribute positively to society.

Amherst County Public Schools wishes to thank Chief Tom Martin, Sheriff E.W. Viar, Chief Joey Malottt, Public Safety Director Bradley Beam, and Master Deputy S.W. Martin, as well as our community for their support of our schools and students!





# #SHOWUPAMHERST COMMUNITY TAILGATE

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

**COME OUT AND #SHOWUP FOR OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, FAMILIES, COMMUNITY AND EACH OTHER! JOIN US FOR A COOKOUT AT THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AT THE FRONT OF AMHERST COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL. HOTDOGS AND HAMBURGERS WILL BE PROVIDED. ENJOY FOOD AND TIME TOGETHER BEFORE THE BIG GAME! THIS IS A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT.**

**September 1, 2023**

**5:30-7:00 pm**

**Lancer Stadium**

**139 Lancer Lane**

**KICKOFF @ 7:00 PM**

If you would like to remain for the game and cheer on our Lancers, tickets can be purchased at the gate!

**SHOWUP**  
AMHERST



**Amherst County  
Public Schools**



# BECOME A *Volunteer*



Join Team Amherst and have a positive impact on the lives of students!

## Opportunities

- Greet students during arrival/dismissal
- Assist front office staff
- Monitor hallways
- Lunch duty coverage



These are just a few examples of opportunities in our schools. For more information on how to become a volunteer, please contact our offices or visit our website by scanning the QR code!



Questions? Please contact any of our schools you would like volunteer at! Or -  
Contact Brittany McNerney



434-946-9387



[bmcnerney@amherst.k12.va.us](mailto:bmcnerney@amherst.k12.va.us)



Amherst County  
Public Schools



Amherst County  
Lions Club



Amherst County  
Department of  
Recreation and  
Tourism

*Present*

# The 2023 Amherst County Wellness Fair

**Amherst County High School**

**Saturday, September 16, 2023 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**Join us for a day of fun and information!**

**Promote your health and well-being!**

## Featuring:

- 🌀 FREE Lunch for the First 400 Visitors
- 🌀 FREE Vision and Hearing Screening
- 🌀 FREE Blood Glucose Screening
- 🌀 FREE Adult COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic
- 🌀 FREE Performance by the Amherst Dance Academy

## Exhibitors Include:

- ▶ Blue Ridge Medical Center
- ▶ Centra Health
- ▶ Johnson Health Center
- ▶ Explore Nature By Nurture
- ▶ Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living
- ▶ And Many More!

Want to know more? Find us here:

→ [www.facebook.com/AmherstCountyLions](http://www.facebook.com/AmherstCountyLions) ←

→ [www.amherstcountylionsclub.com](http://www.amherstcountylionsclub.com) ←

→ [rldaviesphd@gmail.com](mailto:rldaviesphd@gmail.com) ←

# AMHERST COUNTY FAIR

Join us this October at the Annual Amherst County Fair for rides, food, games, and entertainment.

## WHEN

October 19-22

## WHERE

Sweet Briar Drive

## WEBSITE

[AmherstCountyFair.com](http://AmherstCountyFair.com)



PRESENTING SPONSOR



2023 VIRGINIA  
**WINE & GARLIC**  
FESTIVAL

[WWW.REBECWINERY.COM](http://WWW.REBECWINERY.COM)

WHEN & WHERE

OCTOBER 14-15  
2023

REBEC  
WINERY



CLIFFORD RURITAN CLUB'S ANNUAL  
**SORGHUM FESTIVAL**

OCTOBER 7, 2023 9AM TO 6PM

ONE DAY EVENT

[Click here for more information on the Wine & Garlic Festival!](#)



# Volunteers Needed

Volunteer to be part of a favorite Amherst County tradition.



OCTOBER  
19-22

## WE NEED HELP WITH:

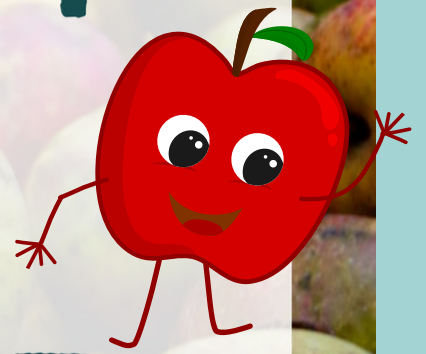
- Volunteer Check In
- Main and ADA Parking
- Main Gate
- Bounce House
- Golf Carts
- Trash
- And More



Register using the QR code above or by emailing [volunteer@amherstcountyfair.com](mailto:volunteer@amherstcountyfair.com)

 52ND ANNUAL 

# AMHERST APPLE HARVEST FESTIVAL



[Click here for  
more  
information!](#)

AMHERST COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  
139 LANCER LANE AMHERST, VA

OCTOBER 21ST 9AM-4PM  
OCTOBER 22ND 12PM-4PM

FOOD\*FUN\*ARTS&CRAFTS\*APPLE PIE  
PERFORMANCES\*PETTING ZOO\*RAFFLES\*CAR SHOW



# AMHERST COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

## Join Our

### COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOCUS GROUP

*We want to  
hear from you!*

**PLEASE #SHOWUP**

and share your feedback and thoughts with us. Please click the QR code to sign up or use the contact information below.

## QUESTIONS?



(434)946-2898 ext. 30243



smoehlenkamp@amherst.k12.va.us



139 Lancer Lane  
Amherst, VA 24521



<https://achs.amherst.k12.va.us/>

**LANCER PRIDE**



# VOLUNTEERS \*Needed\*

ACHS students want to participate in clubs! We need adult volunteers to sponsor after-school clubs for our students. Responsibilities include: supervision of students, offering guidance and support related to the club, and communication with administration about any concerns or questions that arise.

**JOIN US!**

**SHARE YOUR INTERESTS** ←

**BE AN AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB SPONSOR**

For more information contact Stephanie Moehlenkamp  
at [smoehlenkamp@amherst.k12.va.us](mailto:smoehlenkamp@amherst.k12.va.us) or (434)946-2898

# ACPS Parent Resource Centers

Did you know that a **Parent Resource Center** is offered to all parents at each of our elementary schools? These resource centers contain supplemental materials to be used at home to further meet student needs.

Since your elementary student is enrolled in Amherst County Public Schools you have access to these resources!

Materials range in difficulty and relate to various content areas in grades K-5. These materials include items, such as:

- thematic backpacks with books and activities
- board games to reinforce various reading and math concepts
- leveled books
- and many other interactive materials

Contact your child's school today to find out more about the **Parent Resource Center**!

In addition, we have many resources available on our webpage. Visit the ACPS webpage and search for "**Parent and Family Literacy Links**" or scan the QR code to check it out!



**SCAN ME**



# ACPS Padres Centros de recursos

¿Sabía usted que un **Centro de Recursos para Padres** se ofrece a todos los padres en cada una de nuestras escuelas primarias? Estos centros de recursos contienen materiales complementarios que se pueden utilizar en casa para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de los alumnos.

Dado que su estudiante de primaria está matriculado en las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Amherst, ¡tiene acceso a estos recursos!

Los materiales varían en dificultad y se relacionan con diversas áreas de contenido en los grados K-5. Estos materiales incluyen artículos, tales como:

- mochilas temáticas con libros y actividades
- juegos de mesa para reforzar diversos conceptos de lectura y matemáticas
- libros nivelados
- y muchos otros materiales interactivos

**Póngase en contacto con la escuela de su hijo hoy mismo para obtener más información sobre el Centro de Recursos para Padres.**

Además, tenemos muchos recursos disponibles en nuestra página web. Visite la página web de ACPS y busque "**Parent and Family Literacy Links**" o escanee el código ¡código QR para comprobarlo!



Escanéame

