

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - FEBRUARY 28, 2023

A MESSAGE FROM DR. WELLS

We have completed another month of school as February is coming to a close. We have three more months of school left before the end of the year. Although the end is getting near, we have a tremendous amount of work left to do. Our goal is to provide the best education possible to your students. In order for us to do that we need them attending school and being focused when they are in class. These next three months are vital to your students' academic success as we begin to review and prepare for the end of year SOL testing.

The past couple of months have been difficult for us as we have dealt with the deaths of students and a staff member. The incident on the Rockfish River in December resulted in the loss of three of our students: Myson Sylvester, 12 grade ACHS, Christopher Doss, 11th grade ACHS, and Jasiah Davis, 6th grade AMS. The body of another 12 year old juvenile who did not attend ACPS was recovered last week. We were also notified that a juvenile who formerly attended CES and AMS before transferring to Lynchburg was a victim of a gunshot wound last Friday and succumbed to her injuries while at the hospital. We also suffered the loss of Mr. Keith Coley, an employee in our maintenance department. Keith passed away unexpectedly on February 19, 2023. Please keep the families, friends, staff members, and students in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to work through the loss of our students and Mr. Coley.

We have experienced an increase in long term suspensions at our middle schools and high school due to students being in possession of and/or under the influence of alcohol, THC Vapes, and THC gummies. Although the state of Virginia legalized marijuana consumption/possession for those over 21 years of age in their own households, it is still illegal for anyone under 21 to use or possess marijuana. It is also illegal for an adult or juvenile to possess alcohol or drugs on school property.

Besides the legal and disciplinary implications, the main concern for me are the medical complications. Many of the THC and marijuana based vapes and gummies are not regulated and may contain materials that could be fatal, to include Fentanyl. Although we have not had any fentanyl related cases in our schools, we have had to call the rescue squad to transport students to the hospital for being under the influence of and having severe reactions to THC on at least three occasions since Christmas. This is not just a problem here in Amherst County, school superintendents from across the state indicate they are having the same concerns we are having. Last month a school division in Northern Virginia had a student die from taking a drug he thought was "safe" but contained Fentanyl. Please speak with your students about the risks associated with using THC based and other drugs. If you or your student need support in dealing with an addiction, please seek help. The last thing any of us want is to lose one of our parents or students due to a negative interaction with an illegal substance.

The winter weather continues to evade us this year. We have had conditions that are more in line with spring than winter and I hope you have been able to enjoy the warm weather. We still have the opportunity for winter weather through mid-March so don't give up hope yet but the opportunities are will diminish the closer we get to April.

Now that we are closer to spring we have to be on the lookout for severe weather as well. We will notify families and staff if there is a need to alter our schedules based on severe/inclement weather as soon as possible.

In closing, I want to thank all of our families and community members for your support of our students. It takes our families, community, and schools to provide our students with the skill sets they need to be successful in life after high school. By working together, we can overcome any obstacle that is in our path.

Sincerely,

William



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, March 10

Teacher Work Day-No School for Students

Friday, March 24

Grading Period Ends

Monday, March 27

Teacher Work Day-No School for Students

Friday, March 31

Report Cards

ENGAGE VIRGINIA

Amherst County Public Schools is providing K-12 students with free coaching support through a program called ENGAGE Virginia. This program is designed to help students be their best by helping them stay on track in school and navigate life's challenges. You can learn more about this program and sign up at registerva.graduationalliance.com.

When you sign up, your family will get connected to a personal Academic Success Coach who works with both students and parents to:

- Help students create an education plan to catch up on or stay on track with assignments
- Provide resources to strengthen math and reading skills
- Answer questions about technical and teacher access
- Coach students on time management, study skills, and post-graduate plans

If you have any questions, you can reach out to the ENGAGE Virginia team by emailing ENGAGEVA@graduationalliance.com or calling 804.548.4844.

ENGAGE Virginia

Helping students be their best, stay on track in school and navigate life's challenges!





FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES NIGHT



In an ever-changing, increasingly complex world, it's more important than ever that Amherst County Public Schools students are prepared with the technical, academic, and employability skills needed to bring forth new knowledge, solve problems, and make sense of information so a better future can be created for themselves and their community. Come out and learn about all the different pathways available for our students.

- Amherst Elementary -March 2nd
- Central Elementary -March 9th
- Elon Elementary -March 14th
- Temperance Elementary -March 16th
- Amelon Elementary -March 21st
- Madison Heights Elementary -March 28th

5:30-7:00 PM
AT THE FOLLOWING
SCHOOLS

STUDENT
SHOWCASES

HANDS-ON
ACTIVITIES
FOR KIDS

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES NIGHT

In an ever-changing, increasingly complex world, it's more important than ever that Amherst County Public Schools students are prepared with the technical, academic, and employability skills needed to bring forth new knowledge, solve problems, and make sense of information so a better future can be created for themselves and their community. Join us for our future opportunities nights in March!



AMHERST COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**REMEMBER THE ACPS
SEAC MEETING IS
TONIGHT!**



*The Amherst County Special Education
Advisory Committee (SEAC) invites you to an*

Open House

**February 28, 2023
6:00 pm-7:00 pm
Monellson Middle School**

*Childcare is
available.
Join us for
some fun
activities!*

*Food
will be
provided!*

Find out:

- Information on ACPS Special Education Advisory Committee
- Find out how to become a member
- Local Agency Representatives will be there with info. on community support
- Services outside of school

3 Ways to RSVP

1. Scan the code
2. Contact Kelsey Dolan
@ 434-946-9341
kdolan@amherst.k12.va.us
3. Or go to
<https://forms.gle/wXyMwHh1DXVLF6CA8>



Amherst County
Public Schools

2023-2024



AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Proposed School Operational Budget

A SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING WAS HELD ON FEBRUARY 23, 2023 AT 6:00 PM, FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL OPERATIONAL BUDGET. THE PROPOSED BUDGET, BUDGET PRESENTATION, AND THE RECORDING OF THE MEETING CAN ALL BE ACCESSED AT THE AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEBSITE. DIRECT LINKS TO THE DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED BELOW FOR EASE OF ACCESS. A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL OPERATIONAL BUDGET WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 9, 2023 AT 6:00 PM AT THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES. ANYONE WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SCHOOL BOARD CONCERNING THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL OPERATIONAL BUDGET MAY DO SO AT THAT TIME.

[ACPS 2023-2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION](#)

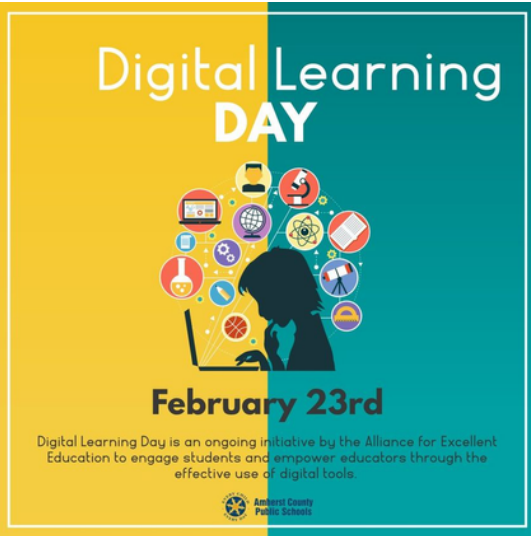
[ACPS FY24 PROPOSED BUDGET](#)

**[ACPS SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET FEBRUARY 23, 2023
\(MEETING RECORDING\)](#)**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
+ Math 24 ÷
- Competition ×



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MATH 24 COMPETITION WINNERS! ANIA THOMPSON, EIGHTH GRADER FROM MONELISON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ZANDER SIMPSON, FIFTH GRADER FROM TEMPERANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FINISHED IN FIRST PLACE AT THE TWO DIVISION LEVEL COMPETITIONS. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY MATHLETES!



ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF FEBRUARY, THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANNUALLY CELEBRATES DIGITAL LEARNING DAY! THIS DAY IS RECOGNIZED BY ALL4ED AS A WAY TO HIGHLIGHT HOW EDUCATORS CAN UTILIZE DIGITAL LEARNING TOOLS TO CREATE AUTHENTIC CONNECTIONS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS. DIGITAL TOOLS HELP US CLOSE LEARNING GAPS, BUILD CONNECTIONS, AND PROVIDE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO CONTENT. #DLDAY



IN FEBRUARY WE CELEBRATED SRO APPRECIATION DAY! WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO OUR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS AS THEY SERVE AND PROTECT OUR STUDENTS. OUR SRO'S ARE WONDERFUL ROLE MODELS WHO ENGAGE WITH STUDENTS, EDUCATE THROUGH PROGRAMS SUCH AS D.A.R.E. AND UPHOLD THE LAWS WHICH KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE. THANK YOU, SRO'S, FOR ALL YOU DO FOR ACPS! #TEAMAMHERST

SRO Appreciation Day
 February 15th

Thank you!



4-Year Old Preschool



Amherst County Public Schools
BRIGHT BEGINNINGS
CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Now Accepting Applications for 4-Year-Old Preschool

Amherst County Public Schools
BRIGHT BEGINNINGS
CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Ya se aceptan solicitudes para el preescolar de 4 años

About 4-Year-Old Preschool Programs

Families in Amherst County have opportunities to apply and be considered for two types of preschool programs. Each program is described below:

- Program 1:** Amherst County Public Schools Smart Start programs are free, full-day application based preschool programs that meet all Virginia State Standards for preschool education for your 4-year-old. There is no cost for breakfast, lunch, and snack. All school supplies are provided. Transportation is available. Preschool locations: Amelon Elementary School, Amherst Elementary School, Central Elementary School, and Madison Heights Elementary School.
- Program 2:** Four year olds who are found eligible for the Smart Start program may also be eligible for a free Mixed Delivery Pre-K, which is a grant-funded program, through Bright Beginnings Central Virginia, a Ready Regions Southside partner, that places children in preschool programs in private childcare centers located within Amherst County. A limited number of slots are available to eligible families. Before and after care options may be available. Transportation is not provided.



How to Apply

For online applications, please visit:
<https://bit.ly/3samkvf>

For in-person applications, please visit one of the following Locations:


- ACPS School Administration Office**
Monday-Friday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Address: 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA 24521
Phone: 434-946-9341
- Central Elementary School**
March 14, 2023 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. and 4:00-7:00 pm
- Madison Heights Elementary School**
March 21, 2023 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. and 4:00-7:00 pm

Income verification must be completed in-person within a week of submitting the application. You will need to provide the following:

- Proof of residency
- Most recent tax return, W-2 forms, or pay stubs for all parents/legal guardians of the child living in the household

Note: Verification of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs), or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) can also be provided instead of tax returns, W-2 forms, or pays stubs.


Parents will be notified of acceptance by May, 2023 for applications received between February-May 2023. Applications submitted after May 2023 will be notified once the application has been processed.



Acerca de los programas preescolares para niños de 4 años

Las familias del condado de Amherst tienen la oportunidad de solicitar y ser consideradas para dos tipos de programas preescolares. Cada programa se describe a continuación:

- Programa 1:** Los programas Smart Start de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Amherst son gratuitos; programas preescolares de día completo basados en solicitudes que cumplen con todas las Normas del Estado de Virginia para la educación preescolar de su hijo de 4 años. El desayuno, el almuerzo y la merienda son gratuitos. Se proporcionan todos los útiles escolares. Hay transporte disponible. Ubicaciones de preescolar: Amelon Elementary School, Amherst Elementary School, Central Elementary School y Madison Heights Elementary School.
- Programa 2:** Los niños de cuatro años que reúnen los requisitos para el programa Smart Start también pueden ser elegibles para un programa gratuito Mixed Delivery Pre-K, que es un programa financiado por subvenciones, a través de Bright Beginnings Central Virginia, un socio de Ready Regions Southside, que coloca a los niños en programas preescolares en guarderías privadas ubicadas dentro del condado de Amherst. Hay un número limitado de espacios disponibles para las familias elegibles. Puede haber opciones de cuidado antes y después del horario escolar. No se proporciona transporte.



Cómo solicitarlo

Para las solicitudes en línea, visite:
<https://bit.ly/3samkvf>

Para solicitudes en persona, visite uno de los siguientes lugares Ubicaciones:


- Oficina de Administración Escolar de ACPS
Lunes a viernes de 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Dirección: 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA 24521
Teléfono: 434-946-9341
- Escuela Primaria Central
14 de marzo de 2023 de 2:00 a 3:30 p.m. y de 4:00 a 7:00 p.m.
- Escuela primaria Madison Heights
21 de marzo, 2023 de 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. y 4:00-7:00 pm

Verificación de ingresos debe ser completado en persona dentro de una semana de presentar la solicitud. Usted tendrá que proporcionar lo siguiente:

- Prueba de residencia
- Declaración de impuestos más reciente, formularios W-2 o talones de pago de todos los padres/tutores legales del niño que viven en el hogar.

Nota: La verificación de TANF (Asistencia Temporal para Familias Necesitadas), SNAP (Programas Suplementarios de Asistencia Nutricional), o SSI (Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario) también se puede proporcionar en lugar de declaraciones de impuestos, formularios W-2, o talones de pago.

Los padres serán notificados de la aceptación en mayo de 2023 para solicitudes recibidas entre febrero y mayo de 2023. Las solicitudes presentadas después de mayo de 2023 serán notificadas una vez que la solicitud haya sido procesada.




3-Year Old Preschool



BRIGHT BEGINNINGS
CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Lyn-CAG
Child and Family Services

Now Accepting Applications for 3-Year-Old Preschool

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS
CENTRAL VIRGINIA


Lyn-CAG
Child and Family Services

Ya se aceptan solicitudes para el preescolar de 3 años

About 3-Year-Old Preschool Programs

Families in Amherst County have opportunities to apply and be considered for two types of preschool programs. Each program is described below:

- Program 1 Head Start:** Lyn-CAG Head Start works together with Amherst County Public Schools. The program is free; a full-day application-based preschool program that meets the National Head Start Standards for early learning and is licensed by the Virginia Department of Education. There is no cost for breakfast, lunch, and snacks. All school supplies are provided. Parents must bring their children and sign in and out of the program daily. Head Start location is at Madison Heights Elementary School.
- Program 2 Bright Beginnings:** Three year olds who are found eligible for the Head Start program may also be eligible for a free Mixed Delivery Pre-K, which is a grant-funded program, through Bright Beginnings Central Virginia, a Ready Regions Southside partner, that places children in preschool programs in private childcare centers located within Amherst County. A limited number of slots are available to eligible families. Before and after care options may be available. Transportation is not provided.



How to Apply

For in-person applications, please visit one of the following locations during our application events:

- Central Elementary School
March 14, 2023 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. and 4:00-7:00 pm
- Madison Heights Elementary School
March 21, 2023 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. and 4:00-7:00 pm

You can also contact Head Start or Bright Beginnings to ask additional questions or speak about another time to apply by contacting:

Head Start
YPaige@lynacg.org
434-849-7542

Bright Beginnings Central Virginia,
(A Ready Regions Southside partner):
<https://www.smartbeginningscv.org/>
434-455-6914 or 434-455-6921

Income verification must be completed in-person within a week of submitting the application. You will need to provide the following:

- Proof of residency
- Most recent tax return, W-2 forms, or pay stubs for all parents/legal guardians of the child living in the household


Note: Verification of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs), or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) can also be provided instead of tax returns, W-2 forms, or pays stubs.




Acerca de los programas preescolares para niños de 3 años

Las familias del condado de Amherst tienen la oportunidad de solicitar y ser consideradas para dos tipos de programas preescolares. Cada programa se describe a continuación:

- Programa 1 Head Start:** Lyn-CAG Head Start trabaja en conjunto con las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Amherst. El programa es gratuito; un programa preescolar de día completo basado en la aplicación que cumple con las Normas Nacionales de Head Start para el aprendizaje temprano y tiene licencia del Departamento de Educación de Virginia. El desayuno, el almuerzo y la merienda son gratuitos. Se proporciona todo el material escolar. Los padres deben traer a sus hijos y firmar la entrada y salida del programa diariamente. La ubicación de Head Start es en Madison Heights Elementary School.
- Programa 2 Bright Beginnings:** Los niños de tres años de edad que son elegibles para el programa Head Start también pueden ser elegibles para un programa gratuito Mixed Delivery Pre-K, que es un programa financiado por subvenciones a través del socio Ready Regions Southside de Bright Beginnings Virginia Central, que coloca a los niños en programas preescolares en guarderías privadas ubicadas dentro del Condado de Amherst. Hay un número limitado de espacios disponibles para las familias que cumplen los requisitos. Puede haber opciones de cuidado antes y después del horario escolar. No se proporciona transporte.



Cómo solicitarlo

Para solicitudes en persona, por favor visite uno de los siguientes lugares durante nuestros eventos de aplicación:

- Escuela Primaria Central
14 de marzo de 2023 de 2:00 a 3:30 p.m. y de 4:00 a 7:00 p.m.
- Escuela primaria Madison Heights
21 de marzo de 2023 de 2:00 a 3:30 p.m. y de 4:00 a 7:00 p.m.

También puede ponerse en contacto con Head Start o Bright Beginnings para hacer preguntas adicionales o hablar sobre otro tiempo para aplicar por contactando a:



Head Start:
YPaige@lynacg.org
434-849-7542

Bright Beginnings Virginia Central:
(Un socio de Ready Regions Southside)
<https://www.smartbeginningscv.org/>
434-455-6914 o 434-455-6921

La verificación de ingresos debe realizarse en persona dentro de una semana de presentar la solicitud. Deberá proporcionar lo siguiente:

- Prueba de residencia
- Declaración de impuestos más reciente, formularios W-2 o talones de pago de todos los padres/tutores legales del niño que viven en el hogar.

Nota: La verificación de TANF (Asistencia Temporal para Familias Necesitadas), SNAP (Programas Suplementarios de Asistencia Nutricional) o SSI (Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario) en lugar de declaraciones de impuestos, formularios W-2, o talones de pago.




Inscripción en el jardín de infancia

Curso escolar 2023-2024

Los días de inscripción para los niños del Condado de Amherst elegibles para inscribirse en kindergarten en las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Amherst para el año escolar 2023-2024 se llevarán a cabo en las fechas indicadas a continuación. Los niños tienen que tener 5 años de edad en o antes del 30 de septiembre de 2023, para poder inscribirse en kindergarten para el año escolar 2023-2024.

Los formularios de inscripción en línea se pueden completar en <https://ecollect.accelaschool.com/Amherst>. Por favor también concertar una cita en la escuela de su hijo para realizar la prueba de detección en persona en una de las fechas que se indican a continuación

La INSCRIPCIÓN será:

Miércoles, 26 de abril de 2023 Desde las 8:00 a 4:00 de la tarde.
Jueves, 27 de abril de 2023 Desde las 8:00 a 6:00 de la tarde.

**Todos los niños que ingresen en el jardín de infancia deben matricularse en la escuela de la zona de asistencia en la que residan.

Amelon Elementary School
Lea Gray, Principal
Número de teléfono: 528-6498

Amherst Elementary School
Amanda Cassise, Principal
Número de teléfono: 946-9704

Central Elementary School
Derek Adam, Principal
Número de teléfono: 946-9700

Elon Elementary School
Kimberly Anderson-Scott, Principal
Número de teléfono: 528-6496

Madison Heights Elementary School
Jeremy Hutchinson, Principal
Número de teléfono: 846-2151

Temperance Elementary School
Lantz Martin, Principal
Número de teléfono: 946-2811

Para encontrar su zona de asistencia, visite el sitio web de las Escuelas del Condado de Amherst (en Familias > Rutas de autobús)

www.amherst.k12.va.us

Antes de entrar en la escuela, será necesario proporcionar a la escuela lo siguiente:

- 1) Prueba de residencia (por ejemplo: factura de electricidad, agua o cable)
- 2) Certificado de nacimiento del niño
- 3) Formulario de salud de entrada a la escuela de la Commonwealth de Virginia (MCH 213 G) de su médico. Este formulario debe rellenarse en los 12 meses anteriores al primer día de colegio e incluir la cartilla de vacunación completa del niño y el chequeo de niño sano (Código de Virginia § 22.1-270).
- 4) Prueba de las vacunas obligatorias que se indican a continuación:
 - Cuatro DPT (1 DPT debe ser después del 4º cumpleaños)
 - Cuatro Polio (1 dosis debe ser después del 4º cumpleaños)
 - Dos MMR (la primera dosis debe ser después del primer cumpleaños)
 - Tres Hepatitis B
 - Dos vacunas contra la varicela o justificante médico de que el niño ha pasado la varicela
 - Dos o tres rotavirus
 - Dos Hepatitis A

Amherst County Public Schools

READ ACROSS AMERICA

Day



LET'S CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF READING

March 2nd, 2023

Schools are invited to participate in this special day through providing opportunities for students to celebrate literacy, such as:

- guest readers / student readers
- literacy games
- author/illustrator showcase
- special activities to target reading skills
- family engagement resources
- dress up days (books & characters)
- book drives
- ...and more!



Be sure to show up to see how
your school will celebrate
Read Across America Day!

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

As humans we have a basic need for love and belonging. One of the best ways we can meet this need in our children is to model using words of affirmation and help them develop positive self-talk.

Say something like one of these phrases to your child:
"You are...
loved.
powerful.
blessed."

"I can do hard things."

"I am strong and brave."

Try a call and response (you say the words and have your child repeat them to you.)
"I am enough"
"I am lovable"
"I am smart"
"I am capable"

"It's okay to make mistakes."

"It's okay to ask for help."

"I can make good choices."

"I am important."

"I believe in myself and my abilities."

"Today is going to be an awesome day."

Often we (and our children) say things to ourselves that are negative or hurtful. We can work to change this pattern through awareness and modeling for our children how to encourage ourselves with our words.

Adapted from pathway2success's *How to Teach Positive Self-Talk* & Counselor Chelsey's *5 Easy Ways to Encourage Positive Self-Talk in Your Students*

