

An in-depth look inside
Pitt County's public schools,
programs & activities

inspire

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Education is everywhere you look.

There are hundreds of wonderful things happening in the Pitt County School System each day, but too often community stakeholders and visitors never hear anything about them. Whether it is the enthusiasm of our youngest learners or the dedication of the older students, one trip through the halls of a Pitt County school can inspire anyone.

With that in mind, it is my pleasure to present to you *Inspire: Education is everywhere you look.*, the district's first ever publication highlighting each of the county's public schools and the programs and activities that are offered in them. This magazine offers a snapshot of Pitt County's 35 schools that include six high schools, seven middle schools, six K-8 schools, and 16 elementary schools. Pitt County Schools also features a pre-kindergarten educational center and pre-kindergarten classes in 14 of our schools.

We are one of the 20 largest school systems in the state, and the total enrollment of 23,670 continues to grow annually. Pitt County is among the fastest growing areas in the state and a hub for new business and development, so the growth trend doesn't seem to be slowing down anytime soon. As new faces enter the county, we want them to have a better understanding of what the public school system can offer their children. This magazine is one tool we can offer to accomplish that.

This is a school system where the vision of molding individuals to become productive and contributing members of society is shared by all. We have dedicated professionals who work directly with our kids in schools each day or play their part from the district level. Each holds high expectations and maintains a commitment to creating lifelong learners who will be prepared to succeed in the 21st Century. Thank you for taking time to get a closer look at our schools. I hope you will find this resource valuable.



kindest regards,
 Brock Letchworth
 Public Information Officer
 Pitt County Schools





“The Ayden-Grifton school community is that village which works together to help students achieve their potential.”

— Karen Gardner, teacher & parent

Two terrific communities come together to form one sensational high school in southern Pitt County. Since opening its doors in 1971, Ayden-Grifton High School has served students from Ayden and Grifton in Littlefield, a small area located between the two towns. Ayden-Grifton is the smallest of the district’s six high schools, but a smaller enrollment allows for better relationships between students and staff and more individualized instruction geared toward personal needs, school officials say.

The home of the Chargers currently serves about 675 kids, each of whom has numerous educational and extracurricular opportunities available to them. Teaching and learning at the school focuses on an array of content areas spanning from traditional courses to unique offerings such as agricultural education and a renowned automotive technology class. Students also are encouraged to accelerate their learning and gain college credit while at the high school. Currently, seven Advanced Placement courses are offered as well as virtual classes for a broad assortment of subjects. Many juniors and seniors from Ayden-Grifton enroll in classes at nearby Pitt Community College through the Career and College Promise.

School officials also pride them-

selves on maintaining the latest technology in every classroom. Two-thirds of the school’s classrooms are now 1:1 with regards to technology, meaning there is a computing device for every student. Additionally, each classroom is equipped with a projector and an interactive white board to enhance the quality lessons planned by the school’s teachers.

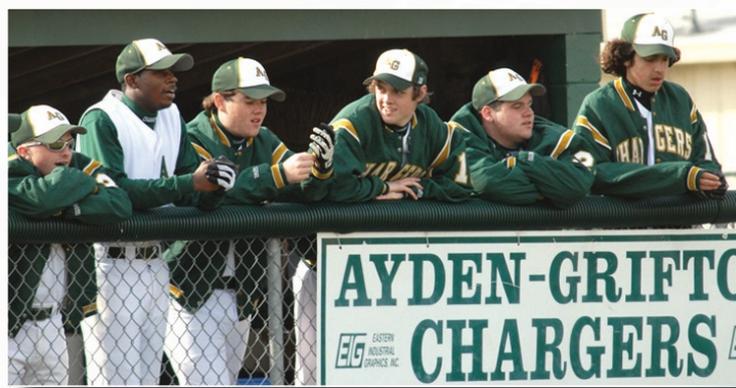
The high school receives considerable community support as well. The town of Ayden sponsors grants each year for the school and members of churches from the Ayden and Grifton communities volunteer their time to provide mentoring and support. Students also give back in a variety of ways. The Key Club, affiliated with the local Kiwanis Club, completes service projects that benefit many in the community, while students in the Family and Consumer Science classes often work with students at nearby Ayden Elementary School and local day care centers. Some students also volunteer their time at nursing homes in the area.

“Ayden-Grifton High School is a place where students and staff truly care about each other,” Ayden-Grifton teacher and parent Karen Gardner said. “It is like one big home. A quote says ‘It takes a village to raise a child.’ The Ayden-Grifton school community is that village which works together to help students achieve their potential.”

Another educational program that stands out at Ayden-Grifton is Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID). This program is aimed at preparing and encouraging students in the academic middle to go to a four-year college. AVID specifically targets students whose family members have never attended college, while focusing on study skills and individual needs.

Ayden-Grifton offers a variety of clubs and organizations. They include Link Crew, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Future Business Leaders of America, Future Farmers of America, and JROTC among others.

The school also offers several varsity and junior varsity sports. The Chargers compete in baseball, basketball, football, cheerleading, soccer, wrestling, volleyball, tennis, track and field, and golf as part of the Eastern Carolina 2-A Conference.





Ayden Elementary School

Students from one of Pitt County's most strategically located communities for residential and commercial development get their start at Ayden Elementary School. More than 700 kids attend the K-5 school known for its hard-working staff and consistent collaborations with parents and local organizations. Since its construction in 1956, Ayden Elementary has grown with the Ayden community around it, and neither is showing signs of slowing down anytime soon.

Leading Ayden Elementary toward its mission of empowering students to learn through a safe and caring environment is an effective mixture of young and experienced workers in the school. Each does his or her part to facilitate the important conditions for successful learning and help Ayden's Angels meet high expectations. Just last year, Ayden Elementary students exceeded their expected growth during end-of-grade tests, and school leaders have implemented several research-based strategies in accordance with the school improvement plan to continue that success in future years. Top performing students are recognized regularly during the school's Terrific Kids Assembly, and

students requiring additional support are never left behind due to dedicated remediation specialists.

"Our family has been thrilled with our experience," Ayden Elementary parent Kelly Baxter said. "Although Ayden Elementary has over 700 students, it still has a small school feel. The staff knows the children, and they work hard to make sure every child feels like they are part of the Ayden family. The administration and faculty is top notch. We could not have made a better decision regarding our children's education than to start them at Ayden Elementary School."

Ayden Elementary focuses heavily on building school and home connections. The school's active Parent-Teacher

Association frequently holds meetings that incorporate educational activities for parents and students from all cultures while also providing childcare to assist those in need. Communications with parents are also sent in various formats in an effort to ensure they receive the messages.

Additionally, the school receives tremendous support from local organizations and the faith community. Donations over the years have helped the school purchase uniforms and school supplies for children in need, while one local church also frequently provides identified students with nutritious food to take home for the weekends as part of the "Backpack Pals" program.



"Our family has been thrilled with our experience."

— Kelly Baxter, parent



Ayden Middle School

Ayden Middle School, home of the Knights, serves kids in grades 6-8 who reside in Ayden and its immediate surroundings. The school, which opened in 1982, prides itself on providing a collaborative learning environment which works to ensure individual student success with the challenges of education and life.

At less than 400 students, Ayden Middle is the district's smallest traditional middle school, but the smaller enrollment has provided educators with an opportunity to work more closely with each student and meet their individual needs. Parents rave about the quality of instruction students receive and the nurturing environment at the school.

"There are so many reasons why I think Ayden Middle is a great school," Ayden Middle

parent Tiffany Crumpler said. "Every morning, my child is greeted with a smile and a good morning from the principal. Rain or shine, he and other staff members are waiting to show all of the students that they are happy that they attend Ayden Middle. From the teachers who go the extra mile for students to the bus drivers who put safety first and always make sure all students respect one another, students are in good hands when they attend Ayden Middle School."

In addition to the traditional academic opportunities, students at Ayden Middle have several other options available to enhance their lives. The school offers band, chorus, orchestra, art, Spanish, physical education, and computer skills courses while also providing classes for the academically gifted and support for English as a Second Language students.



Ayden Middle students may also compete on the school's Battle of the Books or Math Counts teams. In 2013, the Math Counts team was one of only 240 in the nation to earn Gold Level status during competition, while the Ayden Middle

Black History Quiz Bowl team took home first place in the 2013 Greenville Community Black History Quiz Bowl. From an athletics standpoint, Ayden Middle offers football, basketball, cheerleading, baseball, softball, and volleyball.



“Being a K-8 school, students, staff, and families build a strong bond and work hard to make sure that students are always successful.”

— Amy Mitchell, Grifton Media Coordinator & Parent

When entering the town of Grifton, travelers are greeted with a sign proclaiming it is a “family town.” Nowhere is that feeling of family more evident than in Grifton School. The Pre-K-8 facility located in southern Pitt County serves nearly 575 kids from Grifton and its surrounding areas. Due in large part to the school’s small-town feel, Grifton’s students and staff form a bond that lasts well beyond the elementary and middle school years.

The home of the Bulldogs aims to create globally aware, lifelong learners who are independent, yet able to collaborate with others. Staff works to instill higher order thinking skills and technological awareness in students, while also focusing on the development of leadership skills to help students become morally responsible citizens.

Grifton has been effective in its approach as students met their expected growth on end-of-grade testing in 2012-13 and the school successfully implemented a leadership program that has been quite popular throughout the school. Parents credit the Pre-K-8

configuration and the staff’s familiarity with members of the community for the school’s progress.

“Many of the teachers know the younger kids long before they ever have them in their class because they have taught their older siblings,” Grifton parent Harriett Pridgen said. “Also, the younger students have the security of knowing that their older siblings are at the same school.”

Grifton students can enhance their education through encore classes such as Spanish, computer technology, band, chorus, visual art, and physical education. The school also provides an opportunity to participate in football, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, and cheerleading, along with some clubs and organizations.

“Being a K-8 school, students, staff, and families build a strong bond and work hard to make sure that students are always successful,” Grifton Media Coordinator and parent Amy Mitchell said. “This is a true family school, and we stand behind the vision to provide each student with all the needed skills to become a successful leader in the community that we love.”



7 Habits Leadership Program

Developing students who have the skills and self-confidence to succeed as leaders is a point of emphasis each day at Grifton School as part of a school-wide leadership program based on Sean Covey’s best-selling book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. The result has been improved academic achievement, an increased level of accountability and engagement, and fewer discipline referrals.

The leadership program focuses on seven principle-based leadership habits. They include being proactive, beginning with the end in mind, putting first things first, thinking win-win, seeking first to understand, then be understood, synergizing, and sharpening the saw. Students recite the habits each morning and teachers have integrated them into the core curriculum. Every classroom has been provided age-appropriate sets of the 7 Habits books to help with the process.

Students also participate in leadership teams. They include ambassadors who represent the school, buddy readers who help their struggling peers, the pride team that assists custodians with keeping the campus attractive, and the teacher support team that serves in a role similar to that of a teacher assistant.

Additionally, students compete for purple sticks that are rewarded to those who demonstrate leadership. Each time a class acquires 25 purple sticks, it is traded for a “Bulldog Bash.” Each Friday, the school also recognizes staff and students who have been positive leaders during the week. Other leadership-based initiatives include a door decorating contest and the annual leadership day.





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Career-Technical Education



Pitt County Schools Career-Technical Education, commonly known as CTE or vocational education, is provided in grades 6-12. It begins with middle school skill-based business courses and leads to specialized classroom instruction in grades 9-12. The mission of CTE is to empower all students to become successful citizens, workers, and leaders in a global economy.

Nearly every high school student takes at least one CTE course, and one in four students will take three or more courses in a single program. Program areas offered in Pitt County include agricultural edu-

cation, business and information technology education, family and consumer sciences, health occupations, marketing, and trade and industrial education.

Advisors work closely with students to help them complete interest inventories and guide them in the selection of courses. Schools also coordinate with local businesses and organizations to offer career fairs, and the district annually hosts Construction Career Days to give CTE students a chance to participate in hands-on activities related to specific program areas of their interest.

CTE programs are major contributors

to a school district's reputation as a prime supplier of skilled workers for the local community. During the 2012-13 school year, Pitt County was among the top 10 school districts in the state with more than 2,500 students who earned industry-recognized credentials. Credentialing is normally considered by business and industry to be a reliable predictor of success for entry-level employment. Such credentials include Adobe Web Communicator, Carolina Certified Plant Professional, Career Readiness Certificate, ServSafe, Nurse Aide, and OSHA 10-Hour among others.

Agricultural courses offered at participating high schools include agriscience applications, horticulture, and environmental and natural resources. Students can choose from a variety of business and information technology courses such as computer science, business law, business management, entrepreneurship, accounting, networking, commerce, and personal finance. Teen living, apparel development, culinary arts, interior design, and early childhood education are among the courses that are offered in the family and consumer sciences program.

Courses available in the health occupations program include biomedical technology, nursing fundamentals, pharmacy tech, and health sciences, while the marketing program offers healthcare marketing, fashion merchandising, sports and entertainment marketing, and travel, tourism, and recreation marketing. Trade and industrial courses include automotive services, carpentry, cabinetmaking, masonry, public safety, firefighter technology, graphic communications, print advertising and design, and digital media.



Health Sciences Academy

Pitt County Schools plays a role in expanding the future health care workforce through the Health Sciences Academy, a partnership formed between the school system and several other organizations including Vidant Health, Pitt Community College, East Carolina University, Brody School of Medicine, the Eastern Area Health Education Center, and the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. The academy is a high school curriculum program that provides four-year health careers strands for students pursuing healthcare related careers after graduation.

The need for qualified healthcare professionals is growing each year, and that trend is likely to increase during the next couple of decades. The Pitt County Health Sciences Academy is a model education system that contributes to meeting the healthcare workforce needs by preparing students for healthcare careers.

Students participating in the Health Sciences Academy are able to make health career decisions suited to their individual needs, aptitudes, abilities, and career objectives. Additionally, they develop a pre-professional

and pre-technical foundation that supports successful pursuit of advanced education and entry-level employment in a health career. They also develop a foundation of basic skills and knowledge required for employment in healthcare and establish healthy lifestyle behaviors.

Some of the experiences of students in the academy include health careers leadership development, tours, shadowing, career fairs, mentors, paid internships and apprenticeships, and clinical experiences. Students also can participate in distance learning and demonstrations within the medical community, along with community/volunteer service programs and health care institutes.

Students in the Health Sciences Academy are allowed the freedom to select courses that will benefit them most as an individual and allow for individualized planning based on future career goals. It is highly recommended that students take Honors or AP courses or participate in dual enrollment courses if possible to prepare them for postsecondary education. Prior to graduation, all students are required to complete and pass six courses from a select list in order to graduate with academy honors.



contributed



contributed



“I can say that we found everything we wanted in a high school and more at D.H. Conley.”

— Mary Paramore, parent



D.H. Conley High School

2006 Worthington Rd. | Greenville, NC 27858 | (252) 756-3440

One of the fastest growing schools in Pitt County is D.H. Conley High School. D.H. Conley is the second largest high school in the district, serving more than 1,600 students in eastern and southeastern Pitt County. The school was constructed in 1970 and, since that time, it has required numerous additions to accommodate rapid residential growth in its attendance area.

Faculty and administration at D.H. Conley believe each student is a unique individual with special intellectual and physical abilities, as well as special emotional needs and cultural interests which must be fostered to the fullest potential. A collaborative effort at the school assists in making this happen while maintaining a sense of fairness, democracy, and individuality. Students are guided toward positive interactions with their peers, family, faculty, and community.

“Before our son entered high school we were, like many parents, very concerned about his transition to high school,” D.H. Conley parent Mary Paramore said. “Nolan plays sports and has very high academic goals; we wanted him to enjoy high school, but also wanted him to be ready academically to compete for entry into the college of his choice. Of course, it is also important to us for our son to be in a safe environment where learning

can take place. Today, I can say that we found everything we wanted in a high school and more at D.H. Conley.”

School officials maintain open communication and a good working relationship with the community, valuing the support and concerns of stakeholders in an effort to improve programs. The D.H. Conley Parent-Teacher-Student Association has thrived in recent



years, working to improve the quality of education for all students at the school. The PTSA provides mini grants for support materials that enrich and enhance the students’ education and classroom experience while also helping to recognize student efforts, improvements and achievements, and promoting teacher appreciation.

D.H. Conley also features a strong athletic booster organization that supports the numerous sports offered at the school. On an annual basis, the Vikings

boast successful individual and team performances in football, baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball, swimming, soccer, tennis, cross country, golf, wrestling, cheerleading, and track and field. The school is also moving forward with a lacrosse program.

“Our son’s experience with the Conley soccer and swim teams has been conducted by coaches who had professional approaches to sports education and are amazing role models in discipline and sportsmanship,” Paramore said.

Students can choose from nearly 40 different clubs or student organizations to supplement their educational experience. Offerings range from academic honor societies and vocational or career-oriented clubs to student leadership organizations such as the LINK Crew and Conley Crazies. The school also promotes philanthropy, and most student organizations sponsor some type of fundraising drive annually to benefit their school or community.

D.H. Conley operates on the Positive Behavior Support Matrix RAP, an acronym standing for responsibility, accountability, and professionalism. The school schedule also includes a RAP period that is the equivalent of home room and provides students with 30 minutes to receive tutoring in any subject. The period has proven to be popular with both students and parents who value the additional support.



Wintergreen Primary School

4710 County Home Rd. | Greenville, NC 27858 | (252) 353-5270

Hundreds of students from southeastern and portions of eastern Pitt County get their start at Wintergreen Primary School. Located directly beside Wintergreen Intermediate, Wintergreen Primary serves more than 750 kids in grades K-2. The school initiates the two schools' mission of providing a safe and secure learning environment and equipping students for the 21st century with the necessary skills to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, and productive citizens in a global society.

Wintergreen Primary teachers go above and beyond to ensure that each student feels appreciated while also instilling the importance of success in the classroom from the first moment that the children walk on campus.

"One of the things I am most impressed with regarding Wintergreen Primary is how personable the teachers are," Wintergreen Primary PTA President Amanda Black said. "There are more than 750 students in the school, and the teachers take the time to get to know as many of the students as possible. I remember about a month after my daughter had been in kindergarten, I volunteered in the media center for the book fair and was shocked that the teachers in the media center knew every single kindergartner by name after only seeing them a handful of times. That shows the teachers have so much respect for their students. For such a large school, it has a very intimate atmosphere."

It is not just the dedicated and caring staff that helps students at Wintergreen Primary. The kids also benefit from members of an extremely active Parent-Teacher Association who raise funds in numerous ways while also volunteering their time and garnering support from community stakeholders. Through the



years, the school has formed several partnerships with community businesses that provide incentives for Wintergreen Primary students.

Students who perform at a higher level are provided enrichment while at Wintergreen Primary, while those who require additional support also benefit from content specialists on site. Student success in various areas is recognized each nine weeks during student assemblies, and the school also utilizes a Positive Behavioral Intervention Support program to reward good behavior.



Wintergreen Intermediate School

4720 County Home Rd. | Greenville, NC 27858 | (252) 355-2411



"The teachers and staff are caring toward the children."

— Lorie Pittman,
Parent-Teacher Association President

Wintergreen Intermediate School sits just a short walk away from its primary feeder school, serving more than 700 students in grades 3-5 who live in southeastern and portions of eastern Pitt County. The home of the Gators was constructed in 1988, and it has grown by leaps and bounds since that time due to rapid residential growth in the surrounding areas.

Traditionally known for its strong leadership, high performing students, and tremendous parental support, Wintergreen Intermediate has developed a stellar reputation throughout the Pitt County School System. Parents praise numerous aspects of the school ranging from its clean and orderly environment to its dedication to excellence in academics.

"The teachers and staff are caring toward the children," Wintergreen Intermediate Parent-Teacher Association President Lorie Pittman said. "Although the school is very large, the staff knows the students that attend the school and we do not feel like our child is just another child in a

large group of children. The teachers and staff are supportive of parents, the teachers have the development and learning of children as one of their top priorities, and we feel that our child is safe there."

Every class at Wintergreen Intermediate is taught by a highly qualified teacher, and more than 30 percent of the school's teachers hold advanced degrees. Additionally, half of the teachers have more than 10 years of experience and the school's teacher turnover rate has traditionally been the lowest in the district. The continuity has annually produced stellar student work, earning Wintergreen Intermediate the title of School of Distinction in recent years and helping the school consistently exceed state averages for end-of-grade test scores in reading and math for grades 3-5.

Wintergreen's PTA is also among the most active in the district, supporting the school with multiple fundraisers and hundreds of hours of volunteer service. The group aims to make each child's potential a reality through school, family, and community collaborations.



G.R. Whitfield School

4839 School Rd. | Grimesland, NC 27837 | (252) 752-6614

G.R. Whitfield is one of the best examples of a traditional community school that can be found in any school district. Whitfield serves more than 500 K-8 students who live in the eastern portion of Pitt County. Through collaboration with parents, students, teachers, and the global community, Whitfield remains committed to its goal of providing students with authentic learning opportunities that promote critical thinking, problem solving, and clear communication skills necessary for lifelong success.

Most would agree that one of Whitfield's strongest assets is the support of its community. A strong Parent-Teacher Organization serves to strengthen, enhance, and support the educational and social environment of the school. Annual fundraisers such as pizza bingo consistently bring hundreds of people to the school for fel-

lowship and fun that support educational endeavors with the profits. For parents such as Peggy May, it is the nurturing environment that makes her proud to say her children are a part of the Cougar family.

"It's home," May said. "Whitfield gives my children a sense of belonging and security. There is a strong caring, nurturing nature that the faculty and staff possess. The students matter. The people that work there matter. Parents matter. All these factors create a positive learning experience. I have had two children at Whitfield starting with kindergarten back in 2002. My children have excelled academically and as citizens. And they are happy, so I'm happy."

In addition to the traditional core classes, physical education, general music, and art, the school also has band to enhance the lives of students and a pullout pro-



gram for academically and intellectually gifted instruction. Middle school students are offered clubs such as Beta Club, Student Government Association, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and athletics at Whitfield include football, cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, soccer, softball, and baseball.

Teachers at Whitfield suc-

ceed by engaging students with movement, utilizing more instructional technology, and guiding their students through higher order thinking. Approximately 40 percent of the school's teachers hold advanced degrees, while more than 60 percent of its teachers have more than 10 years of experience in the classroom.

2995 Mills Rd. | Greenville, NC 27858 | (252) 355-7071



Hope Middle School

Hope Middle School is one of Pitt County's newest schools, and it has quickly made a name for itself in the district. Since opening its doors as a traditional 6-8 middle school in 2006, Hope has seen its population swell to nearly 800 students living in sprouting residential areas on the southern and eastern outskirts of Greenville.

The home of the Mustangs features quality instruction and enrichment on a

daily basis as educators strive to mold independent learners, critical thinkers, effective communicators, and responsible citizens of the 21st Century. Academic success is fostered at Hope through high expectations and excellence in teaching in a safe and orderly environment.

"My family has been very happy with Hope Middle School," Hope parent Michele Fisher said. "As a parent of a sixth and seventh grader, we are pleased with the motivation and enthusiasm teachers offer to each and every child. The teachers and staff seem genuinely concerned and have the student's best interest at heart. The teachers strive for all students to learn and be the very best they can be. Education is put first. My children love the school and truly enjoy going each day, and for me that just brightens my heart."

The academic results at Hope are among the best in the state with students exceeding expected academic growth during end-of-grade testing in 2012-13 and surpassing state and district averages

for all tested subjects by a wide margin. Students are also afforded numerous opportunities to enhance their education. They include clubs and organizations, academic competitions, and encore classes such as band, chorus, visual art, Spanish, computer skills, and orchestra. Hope also features the district's only middle school creative dramatics class and one of a few outdoor classrooms in the school system.

Athletics at Hope have proven to be quite successful in the school's short history. The Mustangs are perennial championship contenders in football, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball, and cheerleading.

Teacher turnover at Hope is among the lowest in the district, and nearly 60 percent of Hope teachers have more than 10 years of classroom experience. Approximately 25 percent of the staff also holds advanced degrees and there are 12 National Board Certified Teachers at the school.





“Students, faculty, and the community have a commitment to success. Everyone has an integral role in this valuable educational experience.”

— Jeff Bowman, teacher & parent



For generations, people in southeastern Pitt County have been sending their children to Chicod School. The K-8 rural facility has been providing a quality education to all students since opening its doors as a K-12 school in 1929. Thanks to a strong partnership between the school and community, the home of the Hornets demonstrates a commitment to engaging and empowering every student to become a lifelong learner.

“Chicod School is a special place to learn due to its longevity in southern Pitt County,” said Jeff Bowman, a Chicod teacher and parent. “Students, faculty, and the community have a commitment to success. Everyone has an integral role in this valuable educational experience.”

Chicod’s enrollment includes nearly 1,000 students who walk into a school filled with highly qualified and dedicated educators each day. Nearly one-third of the Chicod instructional leaders have earned their National Board Certification, and the staff also boasts continuity with one of the school system’s lowest turnover rates. Additionally, more than 60 percent of the school’s teachers have been in the classroom for at least a decade.

Students at Chicod enhance their school experience through multiple opportunities ranging from extracurricular activities to career exploratory classes. The school provides band, orchestra, business education, and Spanish classes in addition to district staples such as art, physical education, general

music, and the academic and intellectually gifted classes. From an athletics standpoint, Chicod fields teams in football, volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, baseball, softball, and soccer. The school also affords students the chance to participate in clubs such as Beta Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Traditionally, Chicod is among the best in the district in terms of student performance. Just last year, students exceeded expected growth on the state’s end-of-grade assessments despite more rigorous standards and higher proficiency expectations. Additionally, the students at Chicod have demonstrated excellence in multiple other areas including district academic competitions and community service projects.



by the school and the Farmville community.”

Farmville Central relies on a veteran-laden group of teachers with nearly 70 percent of the staff having more than 10 years of experience in the classroom. The dedication of leadership and staff has helped the school raise its four-year cohort graduation rate 30 percentage points to 81.4 percent since 2009. Farmville Central students also met their expected growth on end-of-course testing in 2012-13 and scored above the district and state averages on English II exams.

The education of Farmville Central students is enhanced in a variety of ways. Students can choose from numerous clubs and organizations, ranging from traditional academic and vocational clubs to those aimed at promoting quality character traits and successful habits. Among those organizations is a Link Crew for upperclassmen to mentor younger students and the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program for motivated students determined to pursue a college education.

Students can also become more career ready through a variety of Career and Technical Education courses such as business education, family and consumer sciences, construction technology, automotive technology, and health occupations. There are also several visual and fine arts opportunities at the school including band, chorus, orchestra, visual art, dance, and drama.

Additionally, Farmville Central offers athletic teams for football, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, wrestling, golf, and track and field. The Jaguars compete in the Eastern Plains 2-A Conference where they have proven to be among the toughest in all sports during the past few years.

The final stop in the Pitt County School System for students from the western area of Pitt County is Farmville Central High School. Farmville Central serves nearly 900 students in grades 9-12 with a mission of educating them through excellence in teaching and setting high standards in a safe and orderly environment.

At Farmville Central, students are prepared for a multicultural, diverse, and technical global society in which they can be successful and contribute to making the world a more compassionate and productive place to live. Since opening its doors in 1971, the home of the Jaguars has also been the heart of the Farmville community where it is

common to find town officials and former students returning to support academic and athletic endeavors.

“Living in a small town has many advantages larger towns and cities do not,” Farmville Central parent Mary Tyson said. “Even though Farmville Central High School is a smaller school, the community gives it and its students a lot of support. They have a wonderful staff that truly cares about their students. From academics to sports, there is so much opportunity for student success. Both of my children have attended Farmville Central High School, one is currently a junior, and the other is graduating from East Carolina University’s nursing school in May. I attribute their success to the support given



“They have a wonderful staff that truly cares about their students. From academics to sports, there is so much opportunity for student success.”

— Mary Tyson, parent



H.B. Sugg School

3992 Grimmersburg St. | Farmville, NC 27828 | (252) 753-2671

When you walk through the doors of H.B. Sugg School, it does not take too long to get a sense of the nurturing environment that administrators, teachers, and staff have created there. Some of the nearly 500 K-2 students stroll quietly through the hallways, stopping only to hug teachers and wish them well along the way, while others dedicate themselves to work inside the classroom with caring teachers at their sides.

A true community school serving the entire town of Farmville and some surrounding areas, Sugg connects with Sam Bundy School where students transition for grades 3-5. The proximity allows siblings to be closer to one another and teachers from the various grade levels to have more opportunities for communication about the specific needs of the children who attend the schools. Sugg remains

committed to providing a safe and orderly environment and creating well-rounded, literate citizens by focusing on the academic, physical, social, emotional, and ethical development of every student.

"We are able to leverage community resources from right here in town to serve our students and families in Farmville," H.B. Sugg parent Betsy Flanagan said. "We are a great faith-based community with local businesses, firemen, and parents who invest in our schools and our kids through their service and volunteerism."

In an effort to enrich the education of Sugg students, the school offers music, art, and physical education to the K-2 population, while also utilizing the CARE Plan for reading intervention for first graders.

H.B. Sugg also features a strong Parent-Teacher Association,



and the school provides multiple sessions to promote parent involvement such as Curriculum Night, Math Family Night, Books & Bingo Night, Family Literacy Night, and Healthy Heart, Healthy Brain Week. In an effort to get more parents to attend, the school may provide

transportation, child care, or home visits to accommodate the scheduling needs of its parents. Additionally, the H.B. Sugg school community provides full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.



Sam D. Bundy School

3994 Grimmersburg St. | Farmville, NC 27828 | (252) 753-2013

Sam D. Bundy School is the second stop for Farmville's youth as they make their way through the district's schools in their community. Bundy serves more than 400 students in grades 3-5 by continuing a commitment to success that begins at the neighboring H.B. Sugg School, a K-2 facility. Everyone at this true community school dedicates themselves to providing a safe and orderly environment and creating well-rounded literate citizens by focusing on the academic, physical, social, emotional, and ethical development of every student.

"We are lucky to have teachers, staff, and administrators who utilize limited resources every day to educate our kids in a very



diverse and changing world with compassion and dedication," Sam D. Bundy parent Betsy Flanagan said. "I appreciate the many hats they all have to wear daily and the way they work together to produce successful kids who will be our next generation of leadership in our community, state, and country."

Due to the proximity of the two schools, teachers from both collaborate with one another to discuss specific student needs and share resources that

will help them provide a better education. Students are offered traditional core instruction along with music, art, physical education, and services for exceptional children and the academi-

cally and intellectually gifted to enhance their education.

While the teachers at Bundy are relatively young in terms of experience, their youthful exuberance leads to creative lesson planning and an unrivaled passion for the well-being of Bundy students. All classes are taught by highly qualified teachers, including nearly 30 percent who hold advanced degrees.

Sam D. Bundy also features a strong Parent-Teacher Association, and the school provides numerous sessions to promote parental involvement. Such events include Books & Bingo Night, Family Literacy Night, Healthy Heart, Healthy Brain Week, Curriculum Night, and Math Family Night. The school also offers opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Bundy opened its doors in 1952 and served all elementary grade levels until H.B. Sugg School was constructed to alleviate crowding in 2000.



Farmville Middle School

3914 Grimmersburg St. | Farmville, NC 27828 | (252) 753-2116

Farmville Middle School serves nearly 700 students in grades 6-8 during some of their most formative years as they transition from elementary to high school. Constructed in 1976, the home of the Patriots appropriately sits between the town's K-5 facilities and the high school where staff strive to fulfill the mission of effectively producing high-performing students that possess leadership skills

to become competent, globally responsible citizens.

Educators at Farmville Middle pride themselves on being culturally responsive, using data-directed instruction, and forming family and community partnerships that help support the school and its students. Farmville Middle families rave about the school's leadership, teachers, and support staff and how they are almost like an exten-

sion of every family. Parents also value the school's dedication to instilling management and organizational skills in every child.

"The one thing that I admire so much about Farmville Middle School is the opportunity for student leadership," Farmville Middle parent April Shackleford said. "Our children have always valued academics and striving to do their best, but the leadership opportunities at Farmville Middle School have shown the school's initiative to promote the whole child concept. From the principal to the custodian, my husband and I know that we are sharing our children with professionals and paraprofessionals who care."

Leadership is promoted at Farmville Middle through the staff's implementation of

Sean Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* in everyday interaction with the students. Students from all grade levels are taught the habits and encouraged to incorporate them into their lives.

Student performance at Farmville Middle also cannot be overlooked. The school met its expected growth during end-of-grade testing in 2012-13, and its overall reading composite score average exceeded that of the district.

Farmville Middle offers several encore courses to supplement core instruction, and there are several clubs and organizations available for students who wish to enhance their middle school experience. The school also fields sports teams in football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, and soccer.



Falkland Elementary School

503 NC Highway 121 | Falkland, NC 27834 | (252) 752-7820

Falkland Elementary School is a small school with big expectations. Relying on collaboration with students, parents, and the community, the Falkland family provides engaging instruction that meets the individual needs of the approximately 440 students at the school. Falkland educators aim to equip students to be effective communicators, critical thinkers, and collaborators in order for them to be productive citizens and lifelong learners in a global environment.

Built in 1957, Falkland Elementary, a K-5 facility, remains a safe and nurturing environment for students who reside in western Pitt County. Families praise the dedication of administrators, teachers, and staff and appreciate the personal connections made with every student who attends the school. The results are hard to deny as Falkland once again met its expected growth during end-of-grade testing in 2012-13, posting overall math scores that exceeded the district average.

"I love Falkland," Falkland parent Amanda Peaden said. "I love that when I am at the school, the staff knows who I am, they know who my child is, and they

know who everyone is at the school. They really do recognize everyone and work together like a family. Nobody is competing with anyone, and everyone is worried about all of the students at the school. I think the size of the school is an advantage. Teachers work hard to make sure that none of the students fall through the cracks."

Falkland students regularly receive small group supplemental instruction based on their individual needs identified through various reading and math assessments. Additionally, the school promotes parent involvement by holding several parent workshops each year as well as curriculum nights and other parent activities such as Science Night and Letterland Day. The school also benefits from an active Parent-Teacher Association.

The education of students at Falkland is enhanced through classes such as physical education, media, art, and music. Students also have the opportunity to join a Battle of the Books team or a handful of reading clubs offered by the school.



Pre-Kindergarten Education

It is the belief of Pitt County Schools that children need to develop a foundation for learning and the preschool years are a crucial time for this development. Therefore, the school system has pre-kindergarten services in 14 of its schools throughout the district. Each is a part of North Carolina's Pre-Kindergarten program for at-risk 4-year-olds.

The pre-kindergarten staff is committed to providing developmentally appropriate learning experiences for all students. The goal of Pitt County's pre-kindergarten programs is to offer experiences that preschoolers need to increase their communication, academic, and social skills. Every effort is made to ensure that all preschoolers enter kindergarten well prepared for school success. Officials strive to provide a classroom environment where all students can feel successful and happy as they learn and grow.

Each of Pitt County's 14 pre-kindergarten sites has been recognized for being among the best in the state. Every site earned a 5-star Pre-K rating during the most recent state licensure

inspection. The pre-kindergarten programs are offered at Ayden, Belvoir, Bethel, Chicod, Creekside, G.R. Whitfield, Grifton, H.B. Sugg, Lakeforest, Northwest, Pactolus, W.H. Robinson,

enhance their being successful learners in home, school, and community environments. The Pitt County Schools pre-kindergarten program is based on learning through hands-on, active, child-centered experiences.

Parents are responsible for transportation for pre-kindergarten services. Public school buses cannot be used for transporting pre-kindergarten students. The North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education has determined that there are several risk factors that impact future school success. Eligibility for the pre-kindergarten program is based upon poverty, limited English proficiency, chronic health conditions, special needs, social risk factors, and low language and cognitive skills. Parents must reside in Pitt County to participate.

Anyone wishing to participate in the pre-kindergarten program must turn in an application and bring their child into the offices for an educational assessment. Call 758-4621 for more information.



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Wintergreen, and the Pitt County Pre-Kindergarten Education Center located at 400 Spruce Street in Greenville.

Pre-kindergarten programs are designed to be developmentally appropriate for young children. The classes provide opportunities for young children to participate in experiences that

Exceptional Children

The Pitt County Schools Exceptional Children's Department strives to provide students with disabilities a plethora of opportunities to help them develop mentally, physically, emotionally, and vocationally through the provision of an appropriate individualized education in the least restrictive environment possible. A variety of support systems, services, and therapeutic services are available.

Students are screened and evaluated according to state rules before being provided the services that best fit their needs. Through individualized education plans and the utilization of assistive technology, students enrolled in the Exceptional Children's Department are taught the general curriculum and given an opportunity to succeed. Services for exceptional children are available in every school in the district.

The Alpha Center is an alternative educational program offered through the Pitt County Schools Exceptional Children's Department. It is designed for students



who require more individualized behavioral and emotional support. Students attending the center have been unsuccessful and unresponsive with the behavioral support provided in their home schools. The center serves students in grades

K-8 with a staff of teachers, teacher assistants, a program coordinator, a school secretary, and a school psychologist.

Helping Us Grow Successfully (HUGS) is another program supervised by the Exceptional Children's Department. It provides services for preschool children with autism. The program utilizes a modified curriculum that focuses on skill deficits. The program's goal is to prepare students for kindergarten. The class also uses specific strategies to address the significant behaviors that prevent students from being successful in the pre-kindergarten program.

A variety of related services such as speech, physical and occupational therapy, and transportation are also offered. Through the efforts of the Exceptional Children's Department, the possibilities for all children are endless.

Academically and Intellectually Gifted

The Pitt County School System believes that all students are unique in their abilities to learn and is committed to their continuous academic progress. Since academically and intellectually gifted students require a higher level of intellectual stimulation than that provided by the regular school program, an educational system must be provided which affords these students the opportunity to develop their potential. Pitt County Schools endorses the North Carolina definition of giftedness and develops programs and services that address these needs.

The AIG program is designed for students who perform or show potential to perform at high levels of accomplishment compared to others based on their age, experience, or environment. The program is for elementary school students in grades 4-5 and middle school students in grades 6-8. However, the AIG program is designed to go beyond the curriculum and cover a wider range of global awareness. Therefore the AIG curriculum does not change per grade level, but it is age appropriate. The exception is students who receive math and reading services. They may vary depending on their grade level.

Students who demonstrate a high aptitude, high achievement in reading and math, and have high grades may qualify for AIG curriculum services if the student scores a 90 or higher using the Multiple Criteria Indicator (MCI)



for giftedness. Students who score 60 MCI points and demonstrate high achievement in math and/or reading on end-of-grade testing or a national achievement test can qualify for differentiated instruction in that identified area by the AIG teacher. Most identification occurs at the end of the third grade year. However, all students are monitored for giftedness until they

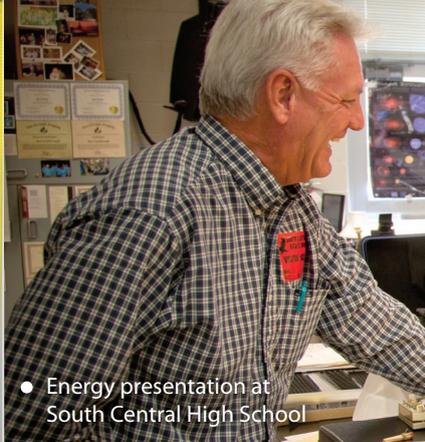
reach high school.

The AIG curriculum is theme-based and covers all areas of curriculum, the arts, and the social/emotional needs of gifted learners. Elementary school AIG curriculum comes in the form of STRIDE. It is a once-a-week, all day pull out program provided by the AIG teacher at the school. In some cases, the students from schools near them may be combined to create a larger group and improve the interaction of gifted students.

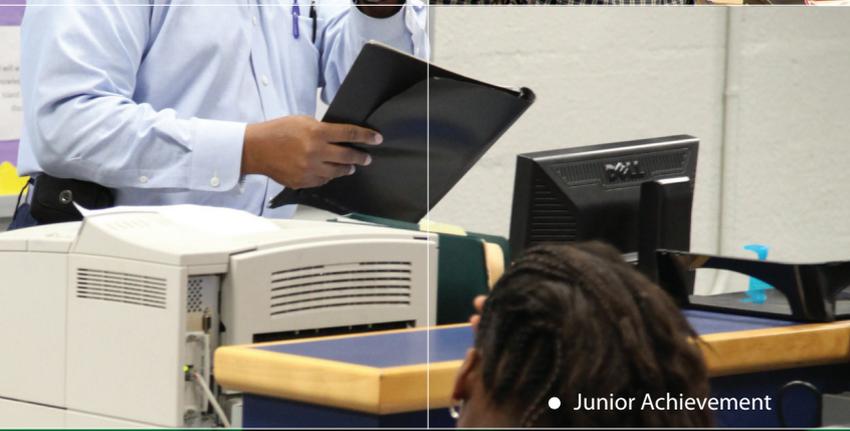
Middle school AIG students follow a themed curriculum that rotates on a three year cycle. Topics include patterns, change, and conflict. All areas of the curriculum are taught, including the arts and social/emotional needs.

The district offers several academic competitions for AIG students. They include elementary and middle school Battle of the Books, Math Masters, Math Counts, Robotics, Science Olympiad, Environthon, and Quiz Bowl. Winning teams in these local competitions move on to test their knowledge in regional and state action.





● Energy presentation at South Central High School



● Junior Achievement

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● Pitt County Schools Construction Career Day



Instructional Technology and Media

Pitt County Schools envisions that students in its district will become effective users of information and technology tools while learning to contribute responsibly in a global 21st century society. With this in mind, the district continues to enhance its instructional technology and media services.

Pitt County Schools' media programming has several goals. Media services leaders aim to foster literacy and information skills for 21st Century learners and impact teaching and learning by encouraging professional collaboration and implementing inquiry-based projects. Coordinators also strive to support flexible access to resources and services in all media centers and provide appropriate print and electronic media support for all learners. Additionally, the media services leaders ensure facilities and furnishings that are both functional and inviting and promote best practices by offering staff development that is relevant, practical, and instructionally sound.

Instructional technology also has a



handful of goals for the district. Among them is accelerating the use of technology to support student learning and achievement and providing resources and training for teachers to integrate technology into curriculum and teaching. The department has been rolling out new mobile technological devices during the past couple of years to meet its goals. In the past two years, nearly 9,000 mobile devices have been purchased for the district, while replacements on CPUs have ensured that no school has a computer more than five

years old. The school system has also established an effective, ongoing planning and implementation process for its technology.

As technology continues to change at a rapid pace, Pitt County Schools will continue to adapt and promote digital citizenship among students to establish 21st century learners.



Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience

High school students from Pitt County have the opportunity to attend the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience NERSBA. The school, which opened in 2012, is an early college high school that serves as a statewide model for science, tech-

nology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in agriscience and biotechnology by providing all scholars with exceptional learning experiences.

The mission of NERSBA is to prepare students for either entry into the workforce or up to two years of college credits through a rigorous technology enriched environment that focuses on biotechnology and agriscience. This is achieved in a unique educational setting at the Vernon G. James Center located on the North Carolina Department of Agriculture Tidewater Research Station property in Plymouth. Students who attend from Pitt County are provided transportation by Pitt County Schools.

NERSBA is developed and supported through a partnership among five school districts, including Pitt County, along with the North Carolina State College of Agriculture, North Carolina State Board of Education, NC New Schools Project, the NC Department of Agriculture, the NC Biotechnology Center, and the JOBS Commission.

Students who apply for and are accepted into NERSBA enjoy a unique and engaging high school experience. They

can earn their high school diploma and up to two years of college credit upon completing the five-year high school program. College courses that are provided are free. Students also take standard high school curriculum courses that focus on STEM, and student activities center around exploring the connections among the four disciplines of STEM. Officials say the studies will pay off down the road since statistics show STEM job growth has been three times greater than that of non-STEM jobs during the past 10 years.

Internships, extended field trips, and more are planned for NERSBA students during the summer, while learning is hands-on and students take their work seriously at the school. As the school enrollment grows, officials say opportunities to participate in the arts and sports will be considered.



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Dr. Ethan Lenker

Superintendent, Pitt County Schools



The Pitt County Board of Education announced the selection and appointment of Dr. Ethan Lenker as the superintendent of Pitt County Schools on July 15, 2013. Lenker served as the superintendent of Sampson County Schools prior to joining Pitt County.

Lenker has spent nearly 25 years working in the field of education, with more than eight years of superintendent experience. Prior to his position in Sampson County, he spent three years as superintendent of Jones County Schools. He also has experience as a central office director, principal, assistant principal, and teacher in various North Carolina and Virginia school systems.

The Board of Education was attracted to the breadth and depth of Lenker's experience following a search process that included 17 candidates from six different states. During the process, the board also carefully considered the information collected during three community forums and community and staff surveys. Nearly two-thirds of the applicants had superintendent experience, but the board felt that Lenker's experience, credentials, skills, devotion, and record of success would best serve the Pitt County students, staff, and community for years to come.

Lenker has been described as a visionary and a tireless worker who is deeply committed to his work, his staff, and his students.

Dr. Ethan Lenker

Superintendent, Pitt County Schools

Lenker has an impressive and well-rounded educational background. He received his bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education from Virginia Tech and later returned to obtain his Master of Arts in Education Administration. In 2006, Lenker received his Doctorate of Education from East Carolina University. He has also studied at the University of Virginia, Virginia Highlands Community College, and North Carolina State University.

During his prestigious career, Lenker has often been recognized for his scholarship and leadership. He is a

published scholar and has been asked to present or speak as part of a panel at many national education conferences. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including being named the Jones County Principal of the Year in 2002 and the North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) Southeast Superintendent of the Year in 2012.

Lenker has started and led many successful initiatives and programs, while obtaining various federal grants and overseeing award-winning schools. He is known as an open and responsive

leader who is a good communicator and collaborator. Lenker has been described as a visionary and a tireless worker who is deeply committed to his work, his staff, and his students. He loves to be out in the schools daily, actively monitoring success and affecting change.

Lenker has been married to his wife, Alice, for nearly 23 years. The couple has two children, Eleanor, 14, and Alexandra, 11. When he is not on the job, Lenker says he and the family enjoy spending time on the water kayaking and boating or at the soccer fields with their children.

He loves to be out in the schools daily, actively monitoring success and affecting change.





“The collaborative and mutually respectful relationship between faculty, students, and parents creates a wonderful learning environment for Rose students.”

— Caroline Doherty, parent



J.H. Rose High School is well known locally and statewide for its robust academic program which emphasizes academic achievement, as well as leadership experience and life skills. School leaders, faculty, and staff aim daily to ensure that all of the school's nearly 1,500 students master the skills necessary for success in a rapidly changing world through high expectations and excellence in teaching in a safe, orderly environment.

Originally opened in 1957 on South Elm Street, J.H. Rose moved to its current location on Arlington Boulevard in 1992. Throughout the years, the school has maintained a collaborative and respectful environment to accentuate its high quality academic, athletic, arts, and extracurricular programs.

“J.H. Rose puts students in charge of their learning, and supports them through top notch instruction,” J.H. Rose parent Caroline Doherty said. “The teachers routinely challenge students with rigorous classes at all levels, but offer a variety of effective ways to assist them when students request help.”

J.H. Rose offers three ways to receive college credit while still in high school. Students can choose from dozens of Honors and Advanced Placement courses offered by the school, as well

as enroll in Pitt Community College's Career & College Promise program or, with permission from the school, take classes at nearby East Carolina University. The student services department works closely with all students in their course selection to help make them college or career ready. During the past three years, Rose students have earned more than \$14.5 million in college scholarships, including the Morehead-Cain, Park, and B.N. Duke.

“The collaborative and mutually respectful relationship between faculty, students, and parents creates a wonderful learning environment for Rose students,” Doherty said. “Friendly professionalism is the norm among the staff and is expected of all students and their families. The result is more freedom for the students to explore new ways to learn, to express their creativity, to develop leadership skills, and to serve their community.”

One example of the freedom for students is the school's SMART block (Students Managing Academics, Relationships, and Time). This is a supervised 80-minute block of time during which students eat lunch and choose an activity to participate in such as making up absences and missed work, tutoring, studying, attending clubs, collaborating with peers for projects,

or other social and enhancement activities.

Additionally, Rose has more than 50 student-based school organizations, honor societies, and clubs. Each participates in various fundraising, community service, and career-related activities. The school also offers competitive athletic teams at the varsity and junior varsity levels in 16 sports. All athletes compete in first-rate facilities and have access to a well-equipped weight room for training.

J.H. Rose also offers a vibrant arts program that is renowned locally and statewide. The arts opportunities at Rose are highlighted by a handful of theatre and technical theatre courses, the Rampant Theatrical Company, visual and graphics arts courses, culinary arts, and several opportunities provided through the band program including concert band, symphonic band, the Marching Rampants, jazz bands, pep band, chamber ensembles, pit orchestra, and a new iPad band.

Rose is supported through active booster organizations. They include the Academic Boosters, Athletic Boosters, Band Boosters, and the Friends of Theatre. Each plays a vital role in ensuring the continuance of excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts at J.H. Rose.

Arts Education

Pitt County Schools recognizes the impact that arts education has on igniting a student's curiosity and imagination, fostering meaningful connections to other subjects, and helping students acquire creative and innovative thinking skills. As a result, the district offers a diverse selection of arts programs.

Arts Education in Pitt County includes dance, general music, instrumental music, vocal music, theatre arts, and visual arts. Every school in the district offers numerous options for participation in the arts.

Students have the opportunity to audition, perform, design, and produce theatre productions, musicals, dance productions, talent shows and more. They also create original music compositions, original choreography, original plays, and original art work. Local competitions and exhibit opportunities are also available to students. Band, orchestra, and chorus students can audition and perform in All-County Honors events and the All-District and All-State Honors Music events.

Select Pitt County schools have also been enriched through grant funding from donors such as the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge, the Greenville

Museum of Art, and the East Carolina University Schools of Music, Art & Design, Theatre, and Dance. Additionally, schools are frequently visited by local and renowned artists who share their experiences and offer advice for aspiring artists.

Studies show that students who participate in the arts are more likely to develop the highly sought skills needed in the 21st century labor force. Regardless of what career path a student might follow, those who can imagine, innovate, understand the big ideas, and the interconnectedness of concepts and cultures will have the competitive edge in the workforce.

The arts also build a strong work ethic and self-confidence, and help students develop interpersonal and cooperative skills. Arts Education curriculums provide students the creative environment and practice time to develop non-routine, adaptive, and new ways of thinking. Students practicing the arts are challenged to identify problems and find solutions through careful observation, listening, learning through mistakes, and accepting critique. When participating in the arts in Pitt County, students learn how to think and not what to think.





Wahl-Coates Elementary School

2200 E. Fifth Street | Greenville, NC 27858 | (252) 752-2514

Wahl-Coates Elementary School is steeped in tradition. The school originated in 1928 as a teacher's training school on the campus of East Carolina University, but it was relocated in 1972 to its current location where it now provides a physically and intellectually safe environment with high expectations for each of the nearly 450 K-5 students it serves.

Students at Wahl-Coates are expected to achieve mastery of essential skills of a quality education in order to become successful, productive, and well-informed global citizens. Guiding them through the process is a group of highly qualified, veteran teachers that includes nearly 70 percent with more than 10 years experience and 33 percent with advanced degrees. The quality of instruction is evident in the results achieved, as Wahl-Coates exceeded expected growth during 2012-13 end-of-grade testing while meeting each of its Annual Measurable Objectives.

"Wahl-Coates provides the best of all worlds: small school so you get to know

everyone, diverse educational offerings to challenge a student no matter their pace, highly creative and energetic staff, parents that deeply care about not only their kids but all kids attending, and from the teacher to the custodian to the principal to the media coordinator, they have what is best for the kids as their first goal," Wahl-Coates parent Allison Moran-Wasklewicz said.

Students at Wahl-Coates are recognized regularly for their achievements and behavior through initiatives such as the Kindergarten Cuties, Wahl-Coates Smarties, Hoke's Bus Heroes, and rewards parties for positive behavior and Accelerated Reader success. The staff at Wahl-Coates also embraces the community through events such as the Welcome Back Wagon that hands out school supplies in neighborhoods that attend the school and in-school events such as Bedtime at Wahl-Coates which brings families in for reading time with their children.

"The staff is amazing at keeping all



students, no matter their pace, moving forward," Moran-Wasklewicz said. "The small community has allowed my children to form long-term relationships with their teachers and to get to know students in all grade levels. The small community has also provided them with ample opportunities to contribute and assume leadership roles, which has helped to build confident and inquisitive learners."



South Greenville Elementary School

811 Howell St. | Greenville, NC 27834 | (252) 756-7004



Leaders are cultivated at South Greenville Elementary School, a K-5 facility that is home to nearly 500 students. With an original structure dating back to 1949, South Greenville has been a fixture in the community for years. Its mission of demonstrating excellence hasn't varied much since that time as school leaders continue to hold high expectations, work collaboratively with the community, and

provide a safe environment for staff and students.

On any given day at South Greenville, one doesn't have to look hard to find students energetically engaged in the classroom and teachers integrating technology into their lessons. The home of the Cheetahs is one of a couple of schools in the district with a 1:1 technology ratio for students in grades 3-5, providing students with a basic under-

standing of how computer tools operate as well as confidence and knowledge that will support them in becoming productive citizens. Each year, the school hosts a Tech Fest during which students show off projects they've completed using the technology available to them.

"For my family, what makes South Greenville Elementary School a good school is the school community," South Greenville parent Diana Lys said. "With children in kindergarten and second grade, we love that the teachers and teacher assistants know our children and our family. The teachers and teacher assistants at South Greenville are always focused on meeting student needs and improving student achievement. The technology investments at South Greenville – iPads and Chromebooks – provide our

teachers and students exciting opportunities to engage students in their learning through creative, technology-based activities."

Students are not the only ones who are engaged at South Greenville. The school also benefits from an active Parent Teacher Association that sponsors several school events. There are also several opportunities during the school year for families to visit the school and be more involved in their child's education, including the annual Cheetah Goal Bowl that rewards student academic success for the entire year.

All classes at South Greenville are taught by highly qualified teachers, and 32 percent of the school's teachers hold advanced degrees. The school continues to improve academically with students meeting expected growth during end-of-grade testing in 2012-13.



Eastern Elementary School

1700 Cedar Lane | Greenville, NC 27858 | (252) 758-4813

Together, everyone achieves more at Eastern Elementary School. Built in 1969 and expanded in 2010, Eastern serves approximately 660 students in grades K-5 with a vision of leading them to graduation as 21st century learners who think critically, creatively, and possess an attitude of self-worth and an internal drive to contribute positively to society.

From the first bell to the final bus taking off, you don't have to look too far to find children who are excited about their educational experience at Eastern. School officials also recognize that students do not possess the same background of experiences and abilities, nor do they learn in the same ways. With this in mind, the school provides a varied and adapted educational program.

Eastern maintains a purpose of providing a curriculum and environment that gives



students the opportunity to experience continued progress, develop communication and computational skills, demonstrate emotional stability, develop a realistic and positive self-image, establish awareness of personal values, and think logically, critically, and creatively. Additionally, students are taught to show respect, maintain discipline, and appreciate the benefits of the arts and physical fitness.

"The teachers at Eastern consistently spend more time

than necessary in preparation for their students," Eastern parent Anna Barrett-Smith said. "They are constantly seeking new and innovative ways to present information and to engage their students. They challenge each other to perform far above the bar. They are deeply invested in their students, both inside and outside of the classroom. There is a complete sense of nurturing and care within the walls at Eastern and that security enables children to re-

lax and open themselves up to receive information."

Eastern also benefits from its active Parent-Teacher Organization that supports many activities and events at the school through events such as car washes, a school beautification day, and mini grants for teachers. The results of the collaboration are hard to deny. The school met its expected growth on end-of-grade testing in 2012-13, and it reached each of its 21 performance targets.

Unique initiatives at Eastern include the school's Book Swap and the Student Safety Patrol that allows students to assume leadership roles by assisting with morning drop-off and supervision in the halls, cafeteria, and bus area. All students are also rewarded regularly for their positive behavior based on the school's SOAR positive behavioral interventions and supports matrix.



Elmhurst Elementary School

1815 W. Berkley Road | Greenville, NC 27858 | (252) 756-0180

Elmhurst Elementary School opened its doors 1955 in the heart of Pirate country near the athletics facilities for East Carolina University. The K-5 school, home of the Bears, serves approximately 375 students in one of the school system's more picturesque campuses with a large wooded area surrounding it and a layout that is unique to the district.

The aesthetic appeal is not the only attractive element of Elmhurst, however. The school also posted exceptional growth on test scores during the past couple of years, and it boasts one of the lowest teacher turnover rates in the district with more than 40 percent of its staff employed for 10 years or more.

School leaders remain committed to a quality education for all students by providing highly qualified staff and a safe, orderly, and caring environment. Elmhurst is home to the 2012-13 Pitt County Schools Teacher of the Year and it was named a Title I Reward School

in 2012-13 and a Title I Distinguished School in 2011-12. Strong family and community support also make Elmhurst appealing.

"I feel Elmhurst is a great place to learn because of the caring, dedicated and hard working teachers and staff who really work well together to ultimately benefit our students," Elmhurst PTA President Waz Miller said. "The welcoming environment is very inclusive and the teachers utilize clever strategies and new technology in order to make learning both fun as well as productive...Elmhurst offers all the benefits of a large school in terms of staff, programs, and more, but it also provides the warmth of a sense of family, which helps a diverse group of students each and every day to work toward their true potential...Words cannot adequately convey how I feel or the positivity of the environment at Elmhurst. It's rare, professional, and it has been life-changing."



Elmhurst offers students an opportunity to participate in the arts and various school and county academic competitions, and it also features one of the only outdoor classrooms in the district. The area was constructed and donated by a local Girl Scout group. It includes log benches, a podium, landscaped surroundings and other elements such as insect collectors, garden boxes, and quadrats.



C.M. Eppes Middle School

1100 South Elm St. | Greenville, NC 27858 | (252) 757-2160

Since 1992, C.M. Eppes Middle School has been educating Greenville residents in grades 6-8 with a dedication to providing them with the tools they need for academic, personal, and social achievement. While the school's enrollment has fluctuated through the years, there are currently more than 600 kids who attend C.M. Eppes and benefit from the quality administrators and teachers at the school.



The home of the Bulldogs remains committed to enabling students to reach their highest potential by establishing a curriculum that meets or exceeds government standards for education and providing extracurricular programs that develop children's mental, physical, and social skills. The school also prides itself on partnerships with parents and the community to create an environment geared to the success of all students.

"Middle school isn't easy," C.M. Eppes parent Kathy Herring said. "It's a tough age filled with all kinds of distractions that can pull a student's attention away from academics. C.M. Eppes knows that. If you are worried about your child's transition from elementary to middle school, the knowledge that they will attend Eppes should allay those fears."

Parents such as Herring laud the opportunities for children to become engaged in their academic endeavors and extracurricular activities. Students benefit from rigorous classes taught by a highly qualified staff that includes more

than a dozen National Board Certified Teachers. They are also offered extra-curricular activities such as athletics for boys and girls and clubs such as Junior Beta Club, Students Against Violence Everywhere, Girl Power, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Student Government Association among others.

Eppes students also consistently perform well in academic competitions such as Battle of the Books, Math Counts, Science Olympiad, and Robotics. Additionally, the school's band program is renowned, and other electives such as art, music, career and technical education, orchestra, and Spanish enhance the learning of all students.

"The staff and administration at C.M. Eppes understands that keeping parents in the information loop while allowing students to grow into their own as they develop their organizational, time management, and social choices is key to a successful transition between elementary, middle, and high school," Herring said.



E.B. Aycock Middle School

1325 Red Banks Rd. | Greenville, NC 27858 | (252) 756-4181

E.B. Aycock Middle School, home of the Jaguars, serves more than 750 students in grades 6-8 with a vision of having students show their pride by being prepared for life, respectful to others, independent thinkers, disciplined students, and effective communicators. Constructed in 1969, Aycock remains the largest middle school in Pitt County in terms of square footage (110,207), and educators use every inch of the facility to fulfill their goal of providing a quality learning environment designed to fit the educational, social, emotional, physical, and psychological needs of all students.

Officials at Aycock value the uniqueness of the middle school experience, and they partner with the community to help students become responsible and contributing members of society. Aycock

students have a plethora of educational and extracurricular opportunities available to them. In addition to core classes, Aycock offers band, chorus, orchestra, Spanish and Career and Technical Education courses to enrich student learning. Students also have the opportunity to join a variety of clubs or compete in academic competitions, such as Battle of the Books, or athletics, such as football, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, cheerleading, and soccer.

"The faculty and administration at E.B. Aycock deserve credit for making E.B. Aycock a terrific school," Aycock parent Anna Barrett Smith said. "Every teacher with whom I have come in contact has been interested in my student, in his needs, and in his learning style. They are eager for parental input and they



have considered all of my thoughts and requests very carefully."

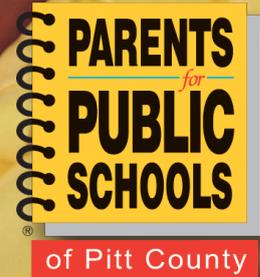
Aycock's staff includes a balanced mixture of experienced and young educators who utilize renowned programs, such as TransMath, Language!, and Accelerated Reader, along with school initiatives, such as Homework Helpers and Readers on the Prowl to improve student performance. Nearly 40 per-

cent of the school's teachers hold advanced degrees.

"The school has an atmosphere that always seems clean, orderly, positive and safe," Smith said. "My son has benefitted from learning at E.B. Aycock because from day one he has been treated with respect and his teachers have created a challenging and interesting learning environment. He loves to go to school every day."



contributed



Parents unite to promote their experiences with Pitt County Schools

Parents for Public Schools of Pitt County (PPS-PC) is a group of Pitt County-area parents, grandparents, and community members who share the belief that public schools are stronger when parents are actively involved. Having enrolled their children in Pitt County Schools, members have learned that true education reform, excellent schools, and successful students are most possible when parents are effective and engaged advocates for public education – in their living rooms, in the General Assembly, and in all places in between. After careful consideration of multiple education options, their member parents chose public schools in Pitt County because they offer children at all levels of need the best opportunity to reach their full potential.

The local PPS chapter was formed by

a group of parents who were actively involved in their schools but felt disconnected from other parents throughout the district. They believed that if parents worked together with a system-wide vision, solutions to district issues could be presented to elected officials in a constructive and unified voice. Early on, PPS-PC gained the support of the Greenville-Pitt Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Pitt County because each organization was committed to the community's student success.

PPS-PC offers three main programs: School Recruitment Tours, Community Conversations, and the Parent Engagement Program (PEP). These programs recruit new families to the public schools, provide opportunities for parents to share their feedback with the PPS organization and the school sys-

tem, and educate parents so they feel empowered to be engaged at a system-wide level and to advocate on behalf of their children and their schools.

Pitt County Schools is fortunate to have a chapter of Parents for Public Schools. The local chapter is one of eighteen chapters across the nation and the only chapter in North Carolina. School system leaders welcome parental engagement through PPS-PC and understand that together, we can make Pitt County Schools a shining example of what community-wide collaboration can do for our children. Membership is free and public school parents are encouraged to join.

If you are considering your education options in Pitt County and want more information on our schools, please visit our website at: www.ppspittcounty.org or email us at info@ppspittcounty.org.



“What I love about North Pitt is that I have the pleasure of serving such a diverse student body.”

— Carla Taylor, Administrative Assistant

North Pitt High School has been referred to by some as one of the best kept secrets in Pitt County Schools. North Pitt serves students residing in northern Pitt County with a purpose of providing every student, regardless of background or economic status, with learning experiences that meet their individual needs, interests, and abilities.

Administrators, faculty, and staff say they are committed to developing a culture of learners that is prepared to actively and effectively connect, communicate, and collaborate with others while meeting the demands of the 21st century. Noting that education is an ongoing process and the experiences students receive outside their classrooms play a vital part in their overall development, school leaders make concerted efforts to involve not only the personnel of the school, but also the parents and other members of the community in providing sound educational programs for North Pitt’s students.

North Pitt, the home of the Panthers, strives to offer an educational program that is beneficial to each of its nearly 1,000 students now and in the future. Through teamwork and unwavering commitment to success, the administrators, staff, and faculty at the high school challenge and nurture their students’ proficiencies and assist them to overcome areas of challenge. Experience among teachers also helps the cause. More than half of the North Pitt teachers have more than 10 years of service in the classroom.

“Our staff takes time to support one another, and we provide encouragement for one another and our students,” North Pitt Administrative Assistant Carla Taylor said.

The North Pitt population is among the most diverse in the district. While some may see this as a challenge for educators, an emphasis on cultural awareness and differentiated instruction at the school enables all North Pitt students to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes for performing well on required testing programs, for continuing their formal education, or entering vocational, professional, or military careers.

“What I love about North Pitt is that I have the pleasure of serving such a diverse student body,” Taylor said. “We have some extremely gifted students that completely amaze me. I have some students teach me a life lesson every day that I come in.”

Faced with more rigorous standards and higher proficiency expectations, North Pitt met its expected growth for end-of-course assessments last year. Additionally, the school has seen its four-year graduation rate increase nearly 30 percentage points in the past five years.

Students at North Pitt are offered standard and honors courses, while the school also provides several Career and Technical Education courses to enhance the education of students and make them more career ready. CTE offerings include welding, construction, masonry, culinary arts, business and computer science, and Family and Consumer Science courses. Students can also show off their talents by taking courses such as art and music or participating in band, chorus, theatre or dance.

The school has a tradition of success in athletics as well. The Panthers participate in football, basketball, cheerleading, baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, cross country, volleyball, track and field, and wrestling. All sports teams are perennial contend-



ers in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s 2-A Eastern Plains Conference, and the school has made strong runs in state playoff action for several of its sports during recent years.

For those who do not have an athletic interest but want to stay involved in extracurricular activities, North Pitt also affords students the chance to join numerous clubs and organizations. Examples include JROTC, Action Inspire Motivation Club (AIM), Art Club, Battle of the Books, Drama Club, Ecology Club, CTE Honor Society, Elevate Club, Future Farmers of America (FFA), History Club, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Kappa League, Link Crew, National Honor Society, Peer Health Advocates, P.I.N.K. Panthers, Student Athletes for Sports Integrity (SASI), Student Government Association, Skills USA, SophisticATS Dance Line and PAWfection Dance Team, Spanish Club, and Teenage Mothers Achieving Success (TAMAS).

North Pitt was constructed in 1970. It has seen two additions for classroom space since that time, once in 1986 and most recently in 2008. The current campus includes more than 150,000 square feet of classroom space.





Belvoir Elementary School

2568 NC 33 West | Greenville, NC 27834 | (252) 752-6365

Belvoir Elementary School is home to Pitt County's most diverse culture of students who reside in a mostly rural area just north of Greenville. More than 500 kids are currently assigned to the K-5 school which was constructed in 1952 and has seen several additions or renovations since that time. Belvoir relies heavily on its community support and caring, supportive teachers who set high expectations for all students.

The faculty and administration at Belvoir Elementary are committed to the academic excellence of all students through the use of differentiated instruction and technology. School officials make great strides to form family, community, and teacher partnerships that will help the school promote good character, tolerance of diversity, and global awareness.

"Belvoir is a special place to



learn because the students and staff are a good reflection of our society," Troy Milburn, a Belvoir teacher and parent, said. "It's a very diverse population of students and everyone enjoys learning from each other. We have an awesome amount of support from parents and the community, and we have several outreach programs every year that brings the commu-

nity closer together. Knowing that my children have a safe and caring environment to go to and they get a great education is both a blessing and an honor."

Belvoir exceeded its expected growth during the most recent year of testing despite more rigorous standards and higher proficiency expectations. Additionally, students met their

expected growth the previous year.

One unique offering at Belvoir is the fifth grade's "Walking Classroom." As part of this initiative, students listen to lessons while walking around the school's short track. Afterward, they discuss what they learned and complete assignments. The initiative is praised for keeping kids engaged and helping to build their social skills. Belvoir also offers one of the district's only elementary step teams. The Lady Eagles

meet weekly, and participants sign contracts that require them to keep up their grades and be on their best behavior at all times.

"Our staff is willing to go the extra mile to let every child know that they are more than just a number, they are somebody," said Kim Sutton, Belvoir teacher and parent.



Northwest Elementary School

1471 Holland Rd. | Greenville, NC 27834 | (252) 752-6329

One of Pitt County's fastest growing schools in terms of student achievement is Northwest Elementary School. Located near the small community of Belvoir, the home of the Tigers has transformed in recent years from one of the state's lowest performing schools to a Title I Reward School that ranked in the top 10 percent of the state for progress made in improving the performance of all students on statewide assessments.

Northwest serves approximately 350 children in grades Pre-K-5 with a youthful, energetic staff and the support of an administration that provides teachers and students with the resources they need to be effective. The school is currently one of Pitt County's only schools to feature a 1:1 technology ratio, meaning there is a technological device available for all students. Parents and students rave about the commitment to teamwork at Northwest and the school's mission of producing empowered leaders.

"My child has made significant academic gains at Northwest," Northwest

teacher and parent Lilly Smith said. "He has benefited from being a student at Northwest because he is given challenging classroom assignments that are appropriate to the subject, are interesting, and clearly relate to other lessons taught. His teacher uses a wealth of materials and many different approaches to teach difficult concepts. In addition, the discipline is maintained in the classroom to foster the optimal learning environment."

Students at Northwest are able to measure their own progress through the use of data notebooks, and they are consistently informed on how they are performing and what they will be doing next. This benefits students by empowering them to take accountability for their own learning.

"The teachers have the philosophy that all children can learn if taught, coupled with high expectations for all students," Smith said. "In addition, Northwest has a school climate that is conducive to learning."

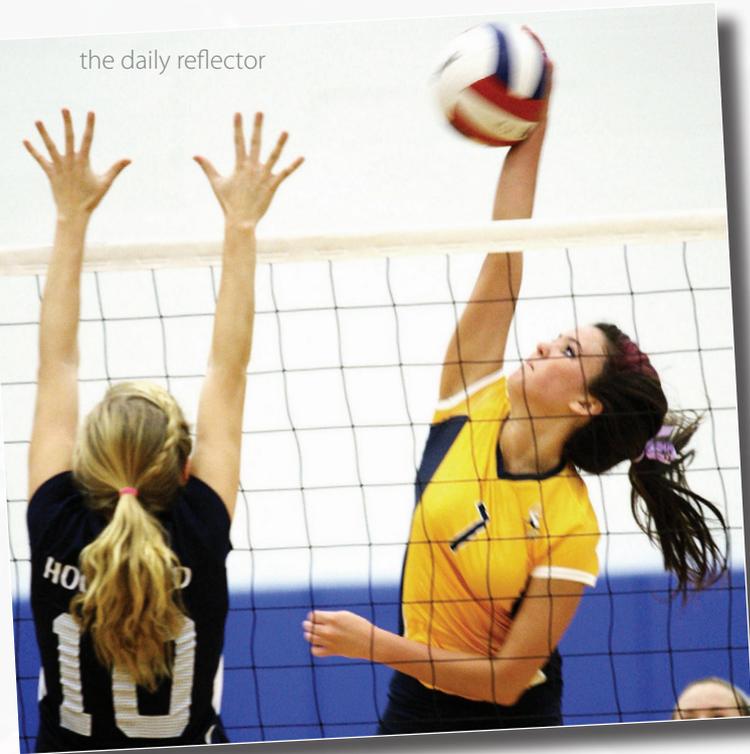
Students are consistently rewarded for

their hard work as well. For the past two years, Northwest has been nearly flawless on its Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports evaluations. Northwest students also benefit from a character education program that integrates character development and the promotion of traits such as respect and responsibility into the curriculum.



Athletics

the daily reflector



the times-leader

Interscholastic athletics have a vital place in the total educational program when they are effectively planned, organized, administered, supervised and evaluated. Through school athletics, many of the interests and needs of young people can be served better than through any other channel. For this reason, it is important that school administrators, teachers, students, parents and community personnel determine what educational objectives seem most desirable and plan athletic programs in keeping with the overall purpose of the school program.

Underlying every phase of the athletic program should be a primary concern for the athlete as a person, student and a member of society. At all times, emphasis should be placed upon progressing levels of maturity both physical and emotional, upon integrity both personal and social and upon responsibility, both for one's self and to all involved in the athletic program.

Pitt County Schools provides more than 250 teams at the middle and high school levels. Nearly 4,000 Pitt County students participate in one or more interscholastic sports annually, accounting for nearly 40 percent of all eligible students in the district. The school system employs approximately 400 coaches, and all paid coaches are required to be CPR, AED, and First Aid certified.



the times-leader



Athletics



All six Pitt County high schools also have a nationally and North Carolina licensed athletic trainer at the school as the result of a collaboration with East Carolina University and local health care agencies. This partnership has improved planning, equipment, and personnel for athletics throughout the district. Additionally, every team practices and competes with injury management kits that contain an emergency action plan, physical examination forms, domicile declaration forms, permission to treat forms, emergency phone lists, injury notification forms, insurance claim forms, sport concussion assessment tools, and American Red Cross first aid handbooks and protocols for concussions, asthma, heat, hydration, inclement weather, communicable disease, and communication.

All student athletes must pass physical examinations and meet academic and attendance standards. Additionally, a drug testing policy is currently adopted by all six high schools.

Sports offered in Pitt County's high schools include cross country, football, soccer, golf, volleyball, tennis, basketball, track and field, wrestling, swimming, baseball, softball, and lacrosse. Middle schools provide football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, baseball, soccer, and softball.





Bethel School

210 E. Washington Rd. | Bethel, NC 27812 | (252) 825-3801



Students residing in the northernmost portions of Pitt County attend Bethel School. Built in 1957 and located in the heart of the town of Bethel, Bethel School is focused on helping students learn the basic skills necessary to succeed by providing a learning environment and instruction that will enhance the produc-

tivity of learning and personal growth. The school serves approximately 350 Pre-K-8 students who school officials aim to empower with the ability to use their talents, abilities and knowledge in order to better themselves, their community, their nation, and the world.

Relying on an effective mixture of experience and youth

in its staff, Bethel once again exceeded expected growth on the state's end-of-grade testing during the 2012-13 school year. The school also boasts a relatively low teacher turnover rate that allows for better camaraderie and more collaboration among educators. Bethel students also benefit from lower enrollment numbers because teachers are able to spend more one-on-one time with students and individualize their instruction.

"Bethel School is probably Pitt County Schools' best kept secret," Bethel School parent Junior Bailey said. "I have two sons there at this moment, and had three sons there recently. Bethel School is a school that is very nurturing. There are great teachers that truly care about the students that they are instructing. Overall, I am very pleased with the instruction that goes on at Bethel School. I taught in the school system for 10 years at E.B. Aycock Middle

School, and the atmosphere at Bethel reminds me of the atmosphere at E.B. Aycock when I was there, which was a caring and united school."

In addition to the core instruction at Bethel, students may also participate in various extracurricular activities such as clubs, academic competitions, and athletics. Sports offered include baseball, softball, basketball, football, volleyball, soccer, and cheerleading.

The school has been called the heartbeat of the Bethel community by some, and the local support it receives provides the proof. Community stakeholders do their part to contribute to the school's success by volunteering or participating in numerous events such as fundraisers or family nights that are held throughout the year. With such dedication in and around the school, there is little reason to believe that Bethel School will not continue to thrive.



Stokes School

2683 N.C. 903 North | Stokes, NC 27884 | (252) 752-6907

One of the school system's smallest community schools is nestled in northeastern Pitt County. Stokes School, a Pre-K-8 facility constructed in 1992, serves nearly 300 students from Stokes and surrounding areas. When you enter the building, there is a feeling of caring and warmth that permeates throughout as teachers and staff members strive to encourage each child to reach their potential.

The vision at Stokes is that all members of the learning community will value themselves, others, and their education and recognize the importance of being life-long learners in order to become productive and responsible members of a technology-rich society. Helping to maintain that vision is a staff of highly qualified teachers, 50 percent of whom have been in the classroom for more than 10 years. Thirty percent of the teachers also hold advanced degrees.

"As the parents of three children who attend Stokes, we could not be happier

with the progress and attention that our children and their classmates receive," Stokes parent Lindsay West said. "It is a joy to us that our children are eager to get to school each morning and happily share what they learned and did throughout their school day. All parents are also welcomed to come to the school and participate in their child's education and school decisions."

Students excel academically at Stokes. The school met its expected growth during end-of-grade testing in 2012-13, and it met each of its 17 performance targets.

The school also offers a number of extracurricular opportunities. Students can participate in fall, winter, and spring sports. There are also a handful of clubs at Stokes including Beta Club, Student Government Association, Math Masters, Math Counts, and Battle of the Books.

With the support of administra-

tion, staff, the community, and an active Parent-Teacher Association, the facilities at Stokes continue to be enhanced as well. The school has a newly renovated library, a memorial garden, and new playgrounds.

"As Stokes strives to be a school of excellence, we are proud to be a part as they emerge into a school of leadership in Pitt County," West said.





Pactolus Elementary School

3405 Yankee Hall Rd. | Greenville, NC 27834 | (252) 752-6941

Students in most of the eastern portions of Pitt County attend Pactolus Elementary School, a K-8 educational environment that serves about 630 students with a mission of fostering high levels of achievement for all students to help them become productive citizens. A true community school, Pactolus was constructed in 1950, and it has seen numerous additions through the years to accommodate growth in the area.

Pactolus leaders maintain a vision of developing lifelong learners who are globally competitive, responsible citizens. They also strive to develop independent thinkers who can communicate effectively using innovative resources while gaining transferable skills based on the Common Core Standards and North Carolina Essential Standards. Teachers work to fulfill the school's vision by collaborating in Professional Learning

Communities on a consistent basis and analyzing data that is used to drive instructional planning.

Additionally, outside consultants, administration, instructional coaches, and remediation specialists meet regularly with teachers to discuss student needs and determine targeted interventions that will give every child a chance to succeed. Parents rave about the results.

"I like Pactolus a lot," Pactolus parent Carroll Worrell-Barnes said. "I have a lot of confidence in the school's ability to provide my child with the best opportunity to learn. Qualified teachers at the school have helped him overcome a lot of the obstacles he has faced, and I am very happy about the attention they have given my child. I attribute it mostly to the strong leadership that enforces the mission of providing every child with what they need to be success-



ful."

All classes at Pactolus are taught by highly qualified teachers, and nearly 50 percent of the staff has more than 10 years of teaching experience.

To enrich the students' educational experience, Pactolus offers clubs such as the Student Government As-

sociation and elementary and middle school Battle of the Books teams, along with some unique arts opportunities such as a steel drum band. While the school doesn't host its own sports, students are offered a chance to participate in football, baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, and wrestling.

3101 N. Memorial Dr. | Greenville, NC 27834 | (252) 752-5938



Wellcome Middle School

There is a revolution taking place at Wellcome Middle School. Students and staff have bought into the school's motto of "We can be more and we will be more," and the results have been astounding. Nearly 500 students in grades 6-8 have certainly played a part in the turnaround as they benefit from the school vision of excelling in every facet of academia by creating independent thinkers and using effective practices, data, and goal-setting to raise student achievement.

Built in 1976, Wellcome educates students living just north of Greenville and in the northwestern portions of Pitt County. The school's mission is to foster partnerships with students, parents, and community members while creating an environment that promotes excellence, integrity, responsibility, and maximizes student potential in and out of the classroom. Members of the Wellcome Revolution Committee help fulfill this mission by arranging a myriad of events to promote parental involvement. Such

events include movie nights, pizza bingo, a talent show, a dance, arts night, parent/child dinners, parent informational sessions, and a spring carnival among others.

"Wellcome is what it says, a school that welcomes students to a nurturing and rigorous learning environment to assure they receive an outstanding education," Wellcome parent Gloristeen Roberson said. "As a parent, one of the most important decisions you will make is choosing the attendance area within the district in which your child will be awarded quality education. Choosing Wellcome Middle's attendance area was the best decision I made when it

comes to my child's education."

Results of Wellcome's revolution are evident in both student academic growth and the culture of the school. The school exceeded expected growth during more rigorous end-of-grade testing in 2012-13 due in large part to the EXCEL reading and math remediation block and differentiated instruction based on student data. Students have also learned to be philanthropic by participating in fundraisers for various organizations and causes. Positive student behavior is also supported through Positive Behavior Interventional Support initiatives such as the "Big Ups" ceremony at the end of the school year.

Students have multiple opportunities to enrich their educational experience as well. Wellcome features the school system's only middle school dance program in addition to several other clubs and athletic teams. Sports offered include football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, and cheerleading.





“Learning is engaging, dynamic,
and we have fun taking learning seriously.”

— Ira Varney, teacher



South Central High School

570 West Forlines Rd. | Winterville, NC 28590 | (252) 321-3232

South Central High School, home of the Falcons, is Pitt County’s newest and largest high school in terms of enrollment. Nearly 1,700 students walk the school’s halls each day, transitioning from one challenging classroom to the next where they gain the necessary skills and knowledge to be competitive in today’s world. Since opening its doors in 2002, South Central has proven to be a place where academic rigor and the support of teachers consistently challenge each student to be successful in high school and beyond.

One aspect of the school which stands out is the incorporation of technology into instruction. Students are regularly given opportunities to learn, explore, and create with technology in all subject areas. Technology projects for teachers are also completed based on best practices in instruction with technology. Additionally, teachers are willing to try new modes of student learning such as standards-based testing, learning by modeling, and projects that utilize the technology available to them.

“The staff is ‘all systems go,’ and they put their heart and soul into their classes and students,” South Central art teacher Ira Varney said. “Learning is engaging, dynamic, and we have fun taking learning seriously.”

South Central boasts the district’s highest four-year cohort graduation rate at 85.1 percent with the assistance of a graduation coach, attendance specialist, and counselors who work to break down the barriers that might stand between a student and a diploma. The school also met its expected growth for end-of-grade testing in 2012-13.

More than 50 percent of South Central’s teachers have been in the classroom for 10 years or more, and 16 of the school’s teachers are National Board Certified. The staff works cohesively through authentic professional learning communities to focus on the individual needs of each student, and the administration is friendly, helpful, and always ready to listen and problem solve. There is a strong bond between parents, teachers, and students as well with the school’s Parent-Teacher-Student Association providing funds

for staff appreciation, scholarships, an annual gift to the school, and student recognition events such as academic breakfasts.

The South Central school schedule provides a flex period each day to allow students time to get additional help, makeup tests, collaborate on projects, or work on more complex topics. During one day of the week, students use this time to meet with advisors for lessons on various topics such as time management, graduation requirements, financial aid, testing, bullying, and more.

Education is enhanced at South Central through nearly 30 clubs and organizations. They range from honor societies and vocational clubs to organizations that promote student leadership such as the Link Crew and encourage cultural tolerance such as STAND.

There are also plenty of opportunities for participation in athletics at South Central. The school offers football, basketball, baseball, softball, cross country, swimming, volleyball, tennis, golf, cheerleading, wrestling, soccer, and track and field. Facilities for every sport are among the best in the region, and the athletic boosters do their part to ensure that every team is properly supported.





contributed

Community Schools and Recreation

Community Schools and Recreation reflects one of the most unique partnerships in the State of North Carolina with support from the Pitt County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education.

Prior to the ratification of the Community Schools Legislation in 1977, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners had researched avenues for providing recreation services in Pitt County. Reports show that it was difficult to determine a means for working with both well-developed recreation departments, as well as very small communities lacking a recreation organization. Realizing that any county recreation program would be dependent on the use of school facilities, the Community Schools Program seemed to be a logical venue for this development. The original vision for Pitt County Community Schools became to maximize the utilization of school facilities; encourage greater citizen involvement within the schools; and develop recreation programs and activities for citizens of all ages.

Today, Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation continues to represent a unique partnership between the Pitt County Board of Commissioners and the Pitt County Board of Education. Program areas have grown from six

to 34. Examples of programs include youth basketball, youth soccer, volleyball, flag football, Senior Games, exercise classes, and several other programs serving more than 1,900 seniors. The department's vision is to maximize the utilization of human, physical, and financial resources with the cooperative efforts of other agencies and organizations in order to impact the quality of life for all citizens in Pitt County.

With the strong cooperative support and ownership of the two largest governmental agencies in Pitt County, Community Schools and Recreation has evolved into a department that coordinates the use of facilities in 35 schools; provides for greater citizen involvement through volunteerism; plans, implements, and coordinates recreation programs for citizens of all ages; works cooperatively with agencies and organizations throughout Pitt County and North Carolina; coordinates the afterschool program in 10 elementary schools; and works collaboratively with schools and communities to develop school parks across the county. Through this partnership, Community Schools and Recreation is strategically positioned to truly "connect people and services," as well as play a key role in interagency networking.



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Creekside Elementary School

431 Forlines Road | Winterville, NC 28590 | (252) 353-5253

Located on the outskirts of Winterville near one of the fastest growing residential areas in the county, Creekside Elementary School is home to more than 600 students. The school, which opened in 2005, was honored by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in 2013 for being a Title I Reward School after making significant progress toward improving student performance on state assessments. The Creekside family of more than 50 teachers and support staff works tirelessly each day to uphold the Cardinals' mission of providing quality instruction that ensures high expectations in a safe environment for all students while working collaboratively within the school and community to promote respect for self and others and nurturing each child's potential for social, emotional, intellectual, and physical growth.

"Our children have had the opportunity to learn and grow under creative teachers each year," Creekside PTA President Melonie Alligood said. "They are challenged to achieve and meet goals for each grade level. Each teacher we have is quick to respond to my questions and concerns. They have tailored their teaching style to meet the needs of my children as well as the other students in their care each year."

In addition to the academic endeavors at Creekside, the school provides several enrichment and extracurricular opportunities for students such as Math Masters, Battle of the Books, chorus, and a chess club among others. In 2012, Creekside also started the county's only elementary school running club. The running club gives third through fifth graders the opportunity to train after school utilizing the "Couch to 5K"



training program to build up endurance before they compete in local 5K races. Some Creekside students also take part in a handful of other healthy initiatives such as Club Fit-tastic, Jump Rope for Heart, and the Pitt County Safety Coalition's bicycle safety program.

Creekside is one of the primary feeder schools for A.G. Cox Middle School and South Central High School. Every class is taught by a highly qualified educator, and nearly half of the teaching staff at Creekside has 10 or more years of classroom experience.



Ridgewood Elementary School

3601 South Bend Dr. | Winterville, NC 28590 | (252) 355-7879

Since opening its doors in 2008, Ridgewood Elementary School has proven to be one of Pitt County's most successful elementary schools in terms of student performance and community involvement. Located in the heart of a residential neighborhood in one of the county's fastest growing areas, Ridgewood serves nearly 700 students in grades K-5 with a mission of providing a positive, nurturing, and safe learning environment where every child is expected and challenged to grow academically, emotionally, and socially in order to become a successful lifelong learner.

The home of the Sharks has one of the lowest teacher turnover rates in the district. The staff boasts nine National

Board Certified Teachers, and 40 percent of Ridgewood's teachers have 10 or more years of experience. The classroom expertise is evident in the performance of Ridgewood's students. During the 2012-13 school year, Ridgewood met 17 out of its 17 performance targets during end-of-grade testing and the school finished in the top 10 percent of the state's elementary schools in overall testing composite results.

"Ridgewood stands out as a school to me because when I walk in the door I am greeted with happy faces and pleasant words by staff and students," Kari Martin, a Ridgewood parent and PTA board member, said. "My children's teachers have always been very receptive to dis-

cussions about my children. I am also amazed, over and over, by the positive changes in my children's math and reading skills and by their ever increasing knowledge of current events, history, science, and many other topics."

Students are offered several initiatives to enhance their learning at Ridgewood. They can participate in a school leadership program, spelling bees, Battle of the Books, science and math fairs, and Math Masters competitions. The school offers a handful of clubs too, and it annually hosts renowned authors of children's books to mingle with students and discuss the elements of creative writing.

In addition to the wonderful happenings inside the school building, Ridgewood's location also affords many students the opportunity to walk or bike to school. The school provides a "Walking School Bus" that is led by Ridgewood staff and parades along the sidewalks of surrounding neighborhoods picking up and dropping off kids before and after school.





A.G. Cox Middle School

2657 Church St. | Winterville, NC 28590 | (252) 756-3105

The largest traditional middle school in Pitt County sits in the heart of Winterville with a long history of educating students from the relaxed, family-oriented community. A.G. Cox Middle School serves more than 800 students in grades 6-8 with a mission of producing independent, 21st century learners through communication and a rigorous curriculum in a safe, positive environment.

Constructed in 1936, A.G. Cox was originally Winterville High School. Much of that design remains intact, making the front portion of the school a valuable asset to the town's preservationists. The configuration of the school has changed through the years and it has seen numerous additions that have helped school officials accommodate

"A.G. Cox is a great middle school, and I wouldn't want my child anywhere else."

— Tammy Baker, A.G. Cox Parent

rapid residential growth in surrounding areas and strengthen the quality of education provided there.

Parents and community members rave about the dedication of the A.G. Cox staff and its commitment to maintaining high expectations for student growth. The home of the Raiders boasts strong leadership, including the reigning Pitt County Schools principal of the year, and an experienced staff that has 65 percent of its teachers with more than 10 years of experience. Nearly 30 percent of the A.G. Cox teachers also hold advanced degrees and there are 10 National Board Certified teachers at the school.

"The best thing about A.G. Cox is the staff," A.G. Cox parent Tammy Baker said. "They want all students to be successful. There are also many opportunities for students to become involved. Whether it's academically, clubs, or sports, students have a wide range of activities from which to choose. A.G. Cox is a great middle school, and I wouldn't want my child anywhere else."

Athletics offered at A.G. Cox include cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, football, and the county's only middle school wrestling team. Students may also choose



to get involved in clubs and organizations such as the Beta Club, Spanish Club, Student Government Association, Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), Yearbook Club, or the Algebra team. Additionally, the school offers a plethora of opportunities in the classroom ranging from traditional courses to other classes that enhance learning such as band, chorus, general music, art, physical education, Spanish, and orchestra.



W.H. Robinson Elementary School

2439 Railroad St. | Winterville, NC 28590 | (252) 756-3707

W.H. Robinson Elementary School has been providing a quality education for students in Winterville since opening its doors in 1952. The home of the Bears houses nearly 600 K-5 students in an environment where each child is treated as an individual and given the opportunity to develop to the highest level of his or her abilities intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically.

On any given day, it is not unusual to walk into a classroom at W.H. Robinson Elementary School and find students immersed in an engaging lesson with some type of technology in their hands. From the time they begin kindergarten, W.H. Robinson students are challenged and empowered to become self-directed, independent 21st century leaders and lifelong learners.

Parents also appreciate the dedication and communication of the teachers and administration at W.H. Robinson, noting their commitment to every child who steps into the school. That commitment has motivated more parents to become involved with the school and support it through organizations such as the Parent-Teacher Association.

"The staff and teachers at W.H. Robinson have always made me feel welcome at the school," W.H. Robinson PTA President Katie Greenberg said. "All of the teachers at W.H. Robinson have created a classroom environment that promotes learning. My two daughters who attend Robinson feel safe and secure at their school and they are learning so much because of their wonderful teachers. Both girls even have their own iPads in their classrooms."

Core instruction at W.H. Robinson is enhanced through classes such as physical education, music, art, and instruction for the academically and intellectually gifted. Additionally, students have opportunities for enrichment through district competitions such as Battle of the Books and Math Masters.

W.H. Robinson was also the first to pilot the CARE Plan, a reading intervention model for first graders that is now used in multiple elementary schools throughout the district. As part of the CARE Plan, first grade teachers are joined by a pair of reading recovery specialists who work with the entire class in small groups with the goal of ensuring children are reading at grade level by the second grade. Each small group's instruction is catered to fit their specific needs.

“The staff at Lakeforest looks at every child and adapts its instruction based on the needs of the individual child.”

— Emily Walker, parent



Lakeforest Elementary School

3300 Briarcliff Dr. | Greenville, NC 27834 | (252) 756-3941

Pitt County’s newest elementary school is Lakeforest Elementary, a Pre-K-5 facility that is the educational home for more than 800 students from the west and southwest Greenville area. During its first couple of years, the home of the Frogs has leapt into the hearts of its families by preparing all students to excel academically, socially, and emotionally to meet the high expectations of an ever changing global society.

Students at Lakeforest remain actively engaged in the learning process as they gain skills and knowledge necessary to become responsible, contributing citizens. Additionally, the school has kept its parents actively involved as advocates for the students and supporters of school programs and staff through

its growing Parent-Teacher Association. Students are reaping the benefits, and the school exceeded its expected growth on end-of-grade testing in the 2012-13 school year.

“My child is an excelled student, and they have done a really good job supporting my child to help her move forward in her education,” Lakeforest parent Emily Walker said. “The staff at Lakeforest looks at every child and adapts its instruction based on the needs of the individual child. Since it’s a newer school, it’s still developing its PTA, but every effort of the PTA has been directed at supporting the children. It is also a diverse school, and that has been good for my children because it has allowed them to experience multiple cultures.”

All classes at Lakeforest are taught

by highly qualified teachers with nearly 30 percent of the teachers holding advanced degrees. The school also has five National Board Certified Teachers. They have multiple resources available to them to help maximize student achievement. Lakeforest educators also utilize numerous resources available to them including implementing technology whenever possible into their data-driven instruction.

The school holds numerous parent involvement events throughout the year such as parent workshops, curriculum nights, and other special events that bring families to the school. Additionally, the school implements a positive behavioral supports intervention plan that rewards students for their achievements and good behavior.

Transportation

Education begins with transportation. The goal of the Pitt County Schools Transportation Department is to provide safe, efficient student transportation to and from school. The Pitt County Schools Transportation Department ranks 12th in North Carolina in the number of students transported each day. Approximately 218 school buses run each day, transporting more than 12,000 students.



Currently, 40 percent of the buses in the Pitt County Schools fleet provide runs for two schools to increase efficiency. Additionally, 18 buses make special runs for exceptional children. These buses are equipped with two-way radio communications and have an adult monitor on board to assist in loading and unloading wheelchair bound students and others. Some contract transportation is also provided for handicapped students and use is also made of the Pitt Area Transit System (PATS) for special needs students.

School buses are run outside of the regular 185-day school term for summer school and specially funded programs that meet the criteria for the use of school buses. Activity buses are also maintained for extracurricular activities.

Bus drivers are carefully selected from top applicants who must submit to drug/alcohol testing, criminal records checks, and national driving records checks. All drivers are required to obtain a commercial driver's license. Training is completed with 16 hours of coursework in the classroom and another 18 hours behind the wheel training. Each school year, every driver completes eight hours in service training in areas such as defensive driving, maintenance, behavior management, emergency procedures, first aid, railroad crossings, fire safety, and standard operating procedures. Each school also conducts monthly safety meetings with the department to keep drivers informed.

Bus routing is completed by utilizing a computer database with a geo-code-based road network. The Transportation Information Management Systems, which is utilized by school districts across North Carolina, is coordinated through Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University.

Child Nutrition Services

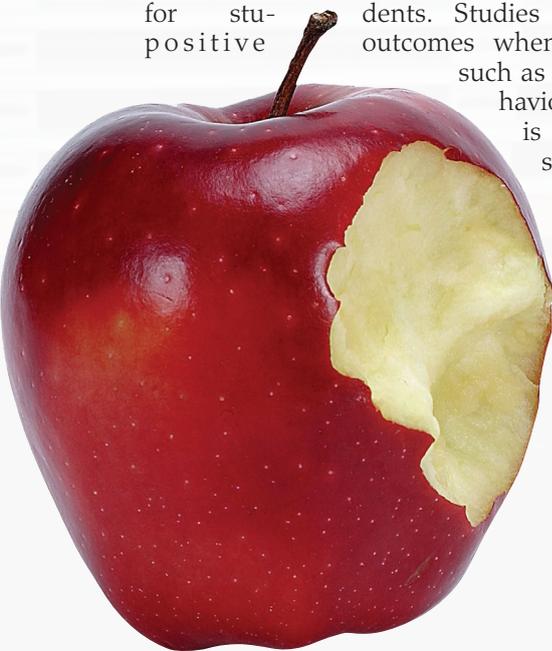
The mission of the Child Nutrition Services department is to meet the nutritional needs of all students in Pitt County Schools. The program strives to nourish the students so they are healthy, fit, and ready to learn. Nutritional needs are met through the breakfast program, national school lunch program, after school snack program, and the summer meals program. The department also supports the Child Nutrition personnel that work with the programs to maintain their operational integrity and financial stability.

All of Pitt County's 36 schools prepare breakfast and lunch for students. Studies have shown numerous positive outcomes when students eat breakfast such as improved attendance, behavior, and test scores. Lunch is served daily and offers students various choices. It is specifically developed to meet one-third of the daily nutrient requirements for children.

Additionally, Child Nutrition Services works with principals and the Community Schools program to provide snacks for children attending afterschool programs. The program offers a safe and healthy option for parents who cannot be at home with their child after school.



The Child Nutrition Department also provides for the summer food service program that was established by the USDA to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. In this program, free, nutritious meals are provided to all children in areas where there are a high number of needy children. Children up to the age of 18 may participate.





Student Services

The Student Services Department of Pitt County Schools aims to provide an exceptional learning environment to all of the students in the county. School counselors, social workers, and nurses work with educators, parents and members of the community to identify any social, developmental, emotional, and behavioral challenges that students may face and eliminate any barriers to student success. Student Services also works hard to ensure that the rights of all students are enforced according to the Pitt County Code of Student Conduct.

School counselors are assigned to

each school. They provide developmental, preventive, and responsive direct services to students through individual and group counseling, group guidance, academic and career planning, student assessment, consultation, referral, and follow-up. Counselors also provide some indirect services for teachers, parents, and the community as needed.

Social workers have multiple school assignments and serve all grade levels. They are the liaison between the home, school, and community with a primary focus on encouraging parental input and involvement and regular school attendance, and removing barriers to

achievement. Direct services include providing advocacy and community resource information and referral. Social workers also work to support family and child welfare laws.

School nurses are provided to the district by Vidant Medical Center. They have multiple school assignments and serve all grade levels by promoting healthy lifestyles and behaviors, assisting with evaluation of specific medical concerns, and linking students with health care providers. Nurses also create individualized health plans and emergency action plans for students who have chronic health conditions.

Safety and Security

Ensuring the safety of students and staff is the top priority of the Pitt County School System. A safe and orderly environment is essential for student success. The schools of Pitt County maintain this through effective communication and training, sufficient building security, and a strong partnership with all stakeholders including the Greenville Police Department and Pitt County Sheriff's Office.

School Resource Officers (SROs) play an integral role in maintaining order and safety in the schools. The SRO's knowledge of the law, awareness of potential threats, and the trusting relationship

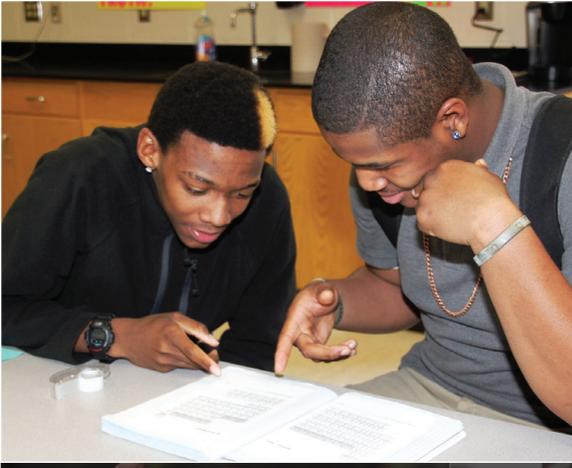
they build with students are vital for their ability to intervene and prevent crime. There are 14 full-time SROs who patrol the hallways of Pitt County's schools, while four other part-time SROs also provide coverage for some rural schools. Each is acquired through a partnership with the Pitt County Sheriff's Office or the Greenville Police Department.

Pitt County Schools also formed a Safety and Security Task Force recently to look at local needs and evaluate current practices. The task force included individuals from law enforcement agencies, school administrators, and members of the central office and facility

services staff. The school system underwent a safety assessment of each school, and officials have followed through with several recommendations. The system has worked toward installing interior and exterior cameras, buzz-in systems, panic devices, and improved visitor check-in systems in all schools since that time.

The Safety and Security Task Force is an ongoing committee that will continue to evaluate the needs and priorities of the district. It is the school system's intention to continue to provide as safe and orderly of an environment in the schools as possible.





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