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Together, East Carolina University's (ECU) College of Education (COE) and Pitt County Schools prepare and support outstanding teachers, counselors, librarians, teacher-leaders, and school administrators.

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*Data from the 2013-14 Academic Year

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Education is everywhere you look.

Thank you for taking time to learn more about the Pitt County School System. Whether you have a child in one of our schools, you are considering us for your child's education, or you are a curious member of the community, you can reference this publication to learn more about the plethora of opportunities provided to the nearly 24,000 students who inspire us on a daily basis.

This magazine will highlight each of our schools and the programs and activities that are offered in them through a series of snapshots including six high schools, seven middle schools, six K-8 schools, and 16 elementary schools along with a new Early College High School and a Pre-K Education Center. Additionally, we will focus on extracurricular opportunities and other academic programs that have helped us achieve record graduation rates in recent years while providing each child a rigorous and personalized education.

As one of the 20 largest school systems in the state, we are fortunate to be located in a county that is among the state's fastest growing and features a thriving medical and educational community. Pitt County is also a prime destination for new business, so we expect the growth to continue. It is our goal that all residents and visitors will be aware of the hundreds of outstanding things happening each day in our schools.

We celebrate every child and challenge every learner in Pitt County Schools. We want all of our students to become productive and contributing members of society. This book is just one way we are highlighting how we achieve that. Thank you again for interest in our schools. We hope you enjoy the magazine.



Kindest regards,
Ethan Lenker
Superintendent
Pitt County Schools



Ayden-Grifton High School

7653 NC 11 South | Ayden, NC 28513 | (252) 746-4183

A couple of neighboring communities unite 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. While it is the smallest of the district's six high schools, the 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 nearly 700 students, 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, a renowned automotive technology class, and a new welding 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 themselves 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.

"We feel that AGHS offers a student the opportunity to be well rounded," parent Ellen Walston said. "The school offers many options for academic, social, and athletic success. The smaller student population allows administrators and staff to build relationships with each student."

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, com-

pletes 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.

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 is truly a special place for learning.”

— Ashley Watkins, parent

Ayden Elementary School

187 Third St. | Ayden, NC 28513 | (252) 746-2121

Ayden Elementary School is the starting point for students from one of Pitt County’s most strategically located communities for residential and commercial development. More than 700 kids attend the K-5 school known for its hardworking staff and consistent collaborations with parents and local organizations. Since its construction in 1956, Ayden Elementary has grown with the Ayden community around it.

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. School leaders have implemented several research-based strategies in accordance with the

school improvement plan to continue academic 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.

“Ayden Elementary is truly a special place for learning,” Ayden Elementary parent Ashley Watkins said. “The love, compassion, and understanding the teachers and staff feel for these children is like no other. Not only do they teach and care for them academically, they also genuinely care about the child as a whole, emotionally and physically as well. The whole school takes their commitment to these children as their number one priority.”

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.

“There is no better place to send your child,” Watkins said. “The small town feel, amazing teachers and staff, and community support set this school apart from all others.”

Ayden Middle School

192 3rd Street | Ayden, NC 28513 | (252) 746-3672

Middle school students from the Ayden community attend Ayden Middle School. The home of the Knights has been educating students since opening its doors in 1982. At a little less than 400 students in grades 6-8, Ayden Middle is the school system’s smallest traditional middle school and offers open enrollment to anyone in Pitt County.

The smaller enrollment has provided educators with an opportunity to work closely with each student and better meet their individual needs. Parents laud the quality of instruction that students receive and the nurturing environment at the school.

“I think Ayden Middle is a

great school for so many reasons,” parent Tiffany Crumpler said. “They put my daughter’s safety first. I know when she is there, they will protect her from any harm. I know the teachers educate each student to the best of their abilities and never give up on a student even when a student has given up on themselves. And most of all, Ayden Middle is a great school because they promote and encourage

community involvement by starting at a local level first.”

With a goal of creating a collaborative learning environment that works to ensure individual student success with the challenges of education and life, Ayden Middle offers the usual core classes in addition to other options available to enhance the students’ lives. One of those options is the new STEM (science, technology,

engineering, and mathematics) labs that opened last fall. Students can also participate in band, chorus, orchestra, art, Spanish, physical education, and computer skills courses. Support is also regularly provided for students in the academically gifted and English as a Second Language classes.

The school also provides students with the opportunity to compete on the school’s Battle of the Books or Math Counts teams. Additionally, the school’s quiz bowl teams place well at district competitions. For athletics, Ayden Middle offers football, basketball, cheerleading, baseball, softball and volleyball.





Grifton School

513 E. McCrae St. | Grifton, NC 28530 | (252) 524-5141

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 2013-14 and the school has successfully implemented a leadership program that has been quite popular with students

and staff. Parents credit the Pre-K-8 configuration and the staff’s familiarity with members of the community for the school’s progress.

“Having students in one location for nine years provides the student the opportunity to grow as a lifelong learner with the support of all past teachers,” parent Amy Hahn said. “Students are also given the opportunity to become mentors to younger students in this setting, which is a win-win for all.”

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.

“Grifton School is a community school,” Hahn said. “The students, families, and teachers are invested in the school, community, and students, which in return builds a community of learners in the school.”

“Students are also given the opportunity to become mentors to younger students in this setting, which is a win-win for all.”

— Amy Hahn, parent



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Career-Technical Education

written by Tyler Stocks

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum at Pitt County Schools is multifaceted, with seven different program offerings for students to choose from.

From agriculture and business to health sciences and marketing, students gain valuable skills along with certifications that prepare them for employment after high school. CTE programming is available in grades 6-12, beginning with skill-based business courses and leading to specialized classroom instruction.

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 interest.

"We make sure that the students have the best opportunities to take courses they not only enjoy, but gain knowledge for their career choices," CTE Director Beth Ann Trueblood said.

Currently, 4,000 students are enrolled in CTE courses, countywide. Nearly every high school student will take at least one CTE course, and one in four students will take three or more in a single program. Last year, students eclipsed local records by earning more than 3,485 credentials, good enough for fifth in the state. Credentialing is

considered by business and industry to be a reliable predictor of success for entry-level employment.

The results tell the story as Trueblood iterated that more than 95% of students graduate from CTE. She added that approximately 61 percent of all high school graduates are CTE concentrators.

"A CTE concentrator is when the students follow a career cluster that will include four CTE credits, one being the level two course," Trueblood said.

She also lauded the incessant growth of enrollment numbers and the new courses being added. There are also Career Readiness Certifications students can earn. The four levels include Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Students can also become certified through Cisco Systems networking and Microsoft Office courses. For those wishing to pursue health careers, training in CPR, First Aid and Nursing is available.

"CTE continues to grow by number of enrollment and different courses," Trueblood said. "We have added Fire Fighter Technology and STEM to our program areas."

Throughout the years, CTE has continued to evolve into a curriculum that adequately prepares students to be career ready.

"CTE has been around for a very long time," Trueblood said. "We have just updated the courses to meet the needs of our business and industry partners."



"We make sure that the students have the best opportunities to take courses they not only enjoy, but gain knowledge for their career choices."

— Beth Ann Trueblood, CTE Director

Middle School STEM Labs

Students in some of Pitt County's middle schools are benefiting from a new way of learning and gaining valuable skills along the way thanks in part to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) labs opened in recent years. Curriculum focused on STEM has been present in Pitt County's schools for years, but never in the way one finds when entering these labs.

Students at C.M. Eppes Middle, E.B. Aycock Middle, and Ayden Middle were the first to benefit from the labs, but plans are in place to install them in each of the county's other traditional middle schools by the start of the 2015-16 school year. The labs are equipped with 12 workstations that include computers and supplies for students to participate

in innovative, hands-on modules with a STEM focus. The modules were selected based on input from local business and industry leaders. Modules are related to a variety of topics such as statistical analysis, sustainable agriculture, engines, robots, CNC manufacturing, and plastics and polymers.

STEM lab teachers are facilitators, and the day-to-day operations in their classroom are quite different than what you would find in a traditional classroom setting. Educational leaders say the labs benefit students of all learning styles and introduce them to skills they would need for jobs that on average pay more than non-STEM occupations. Meanwhile, local business and industry leaders say the program will provide an

effective education to workforce pipeline to address the growing shortage of eastern North Carolina advanced manufacturing workers and entrepreneurs, technically skilled in science, technology, engineering, art and design, and mathematics.

The labs were made possible by a Wells, West, and Perkins grant and funding from the Golden LEAF Foundation to incorporate the art and design elements. Whether it is increasing student engagement or helping prepare students for futures in a rapidly growing field, the STEM labs in Pitt County are yet another way that Pitt County Schools is ensuring that every child masters the skills necessary to be successful in a rapidly changing world.



written by Tyler Stocks

“Getting involved and staying involved is the only way you will know what’s going on.”

— Loretta McDaniel,
PTSA President



One of the fastest growing schools in Pitt County is D.H. Conley High School, and it does not appear to be slowing down anytime soon. 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.

From rigorous academics to competitive athletics, students develop intellectually and socially as they prepare for college and the workforce. One way this is accomplished is through a partnership the school has with Pitt Community College. Students enrolled in select computer and business courses receive college credit along with nationally recognized certification through Microsoft and Cisco Academies.

When it comes to athletics, the school has a strong history of sending students out to play for Division I schools. Home to state championship winning baseball, basketball, and volleyball programs,

athletics at D.H. Conley are a way of life. In addition, with fall, spring and winter sports, there is something for everyone. Conleyathletics.com is a great resource for getting plugged in to the athletic culture. Academics and athletics aren't the only thing D.H. Conley has to offer.

D.H. Conley prides itself for its many clubs and organizations that cater to students interested in volunteering and participating in extracurricular activities. From foreign language and academic honor societies to chess and business leadership clubs, there is something for everyone. Of course none of this would be possible without the financial backing of the PTSA and a strong network of parents, students and staff.

According to PTSA President Loretta McDaniel, having everyone involved is essential.

“Getting involved and staying involved is the only way you will know what’s going on,” said McDaniel.

McDaniel added that the PTSA offers mini grants to teachers and offers scholarships to students. Also, local businesses like Overton’s and Bricks for Kids participate in vendor fairs held throughout the school year. With the money raised, teachers purchase items for their classrooms and students get to travel and participate in local, state and national competitions.

D.H. Conley operates on the Positive Behavior Sup-

port 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.

Parents laud the program and speak of how teachers have helped their children.

“RAP Period helps students go to teachers for help. They (students) can go and get help for that 25-minute period. My daughter has utilized that and it opens the door for teachers and students to have better communication,” Mary Paramore said. “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.”

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 Crazy’s. The school also promotes philanthropy, and most student organizations sponsor some type of fundraising drive annually to benefit their school or community.



Wintergreen Intermediate School

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

Since its opening in 1988, Wintergreen Intermediate School has been building a reputation as a school with strong leadership, high performing students and tremendous parental support. While the school has grown significantly since its first days, its priorities have remained the same.

Wintergreen Intermediate is located just a short walk away from its primary feeder school, serving approximately 750 students in grades 3-5 who live in southeastern and portions of eastern Pitt County. The home of the Gators is praised by parents for its clean and orderly environment and its dedicated faculty and staff.

"We have been part of the Wintergreen family for the past five years and could not have asked for a more positive school experience," Wintergreen parent Niekie Zymroz said. "The moment the students walk in the door, they feel welcomed by each and every staff member and teacher. Even though the school is large, the students feel it is a special place for them, where almost every adult in the building

knows their name. The administrators take a personal interest in the students and are quick to respond to any parent concerns. The PTA is supported fully in our endeavors to raise funds for the school and provide enrichment opportunities for students, faculty, and staff."

Each class at Wintergreen Intermediate is taught by a highly qualified teacher, and more than one third 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 traditionally exceed state averages for end-of-grade test scores in reading and math for grades 3-5.

Wintergreen's PTA is 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 that result in some of the most unique fundraising events in the district.

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," Winter-

green 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 kindergarten 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.



Hope Middle School

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

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 bas-

ketball, 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.



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 approximately 540 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

**"The students matter.
The people that
work there matter.
Parents matter."**

— Peggy May, parent

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 fellowship 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 pull-out program 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 succeed by engaging students with movement, utilizing more instructional technology and guiding their students through higher order thinking. Approximately 30 percent of the school's teachers hold advanced degrees, while 50 percent of its teachers have more than 10 years of experience in the classroom.



Chicod School

7557 NC 43 South | Greenville, NC 27834 | (252) 746-6742

written by Tyler Stocks

A historical gem tucked away in rural Pitt County since 1929, Chicod School has become a microcosm for students to excel academically and socially. Chicod School, a former high school that is now K-8, has kept its “old school” charm while integrating 21st century technology. The old red brick buildings still house a media center, a lunchroom, a gymnasium and a few offices while modern state of the art classrooms hide in the background. For former Chicod School graduates, the architectural changes are simply nostalgic.

Home to more than 1,000 students, school spirit is very much alive at the “Hornet hive.” Chicod School also boasts some of the best test scores in the district. 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. With rigorous academic courses and a wide range of athletic programs, the school appeals to just about everyone. Additionally, many teachers have National Board Certification and tend to stay at least ten years or longer.

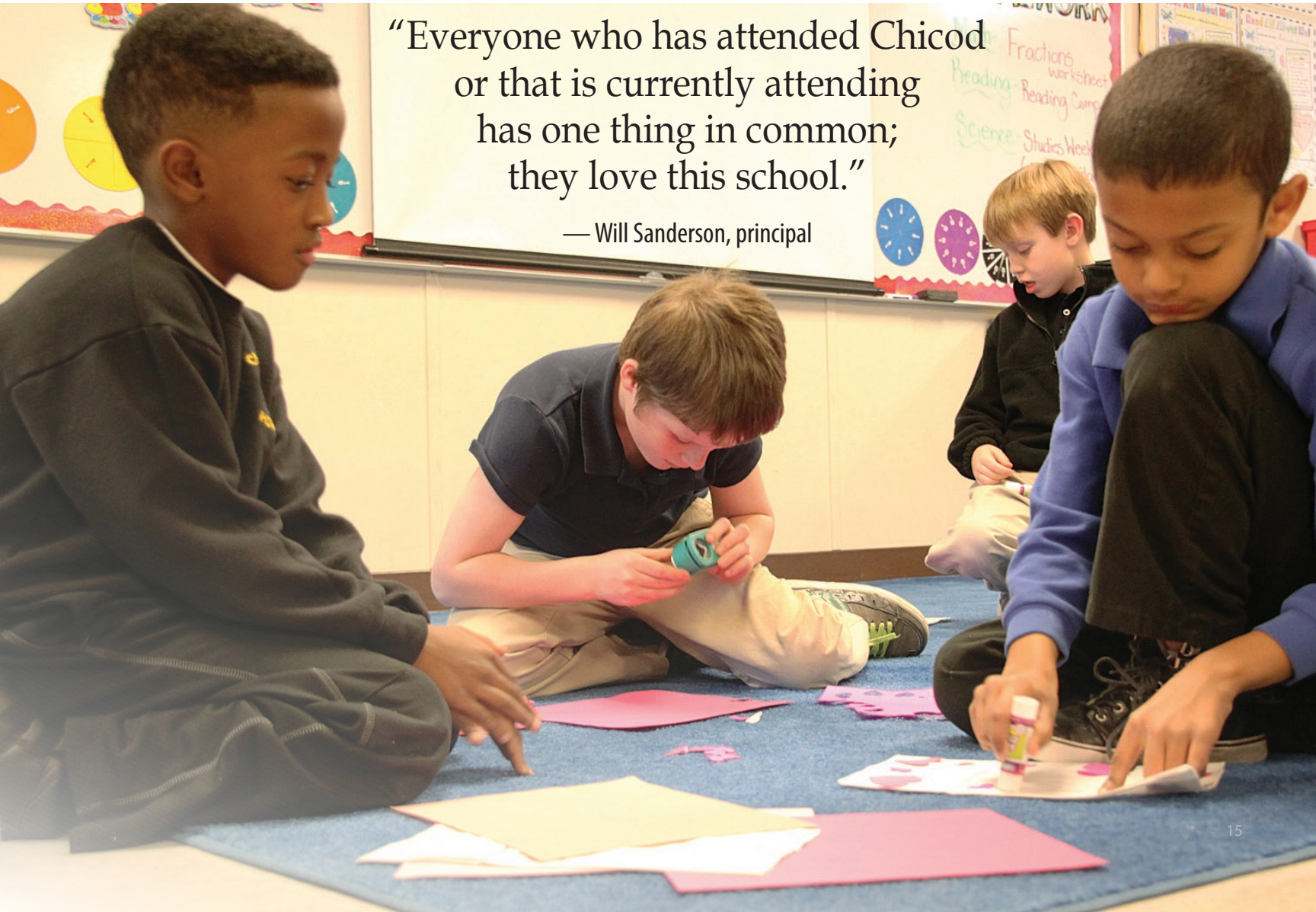
“Everyone who has attended Chicod or that is currently attending has one thing in common; they love this school,” Will Sanderson, principal, said. “Here at Chicod, staff and parents want what is best for their students. Our students recognize that and work hard. Our children come from families that are actively involved in the community. Our teachers are experienced and work hard to meet the needs of all

our students. Hard work is a recurring theme here.”

In addition to having strong academics and athletics, Chicod has organizations and clubs such as Beta Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The school also has a very active Parent-Teacher Association that serves as a great resource for students, parents and staff.

To achieve such success, Sanderson highlighted the communication that takes place among students, parents and staff.

“Email is probably the number one way we communicate with the telephone being a distant third after the app,” Sanderson said. “At Chicod, there is a lot of personal contact. Parents and students here at Chicod take education seriously.”



“Everyone who has attended Chicod or that is currently attending has one thing in common; they love this school.”

— Will Sanderson, principal

Farmville Central High School

3308 E. Wilson St. | Farmville, NC 27828 | (252) 753-5138

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 800 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.

Farmville Central relies on a veteran-laden group of teachers with 64 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 approximately 40 percentage points to 88.3 percent since 2009.

"I appreciate the small student body," parent Melissa Adamson said. "It allows my student to get to know more students, teachers and staff in his school. I feel like the smaller school size allows for an easier to navigate campus and more opportunities for my student to be involved in extra-curricular activities."

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.

"All of my experiences interacting with students, teachers and staff have been positive," Adamson said. "I really believe the school is invested in the success of each student."

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.

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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 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 academically and intellectually gifted to enhance their education.

Bundy is balanced with younger teachers and veterans, leading to creative lesson planning through collaboration and an unrivaled passion for the well-being of Bundy students. All classes are taught by highly qualified teachers.

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.



H.B. Sugg School

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

H.B. Sugg School provides students a nurturing environment that administrators, teachers and staff have created. Some of the more than 450 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 they teach. 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.

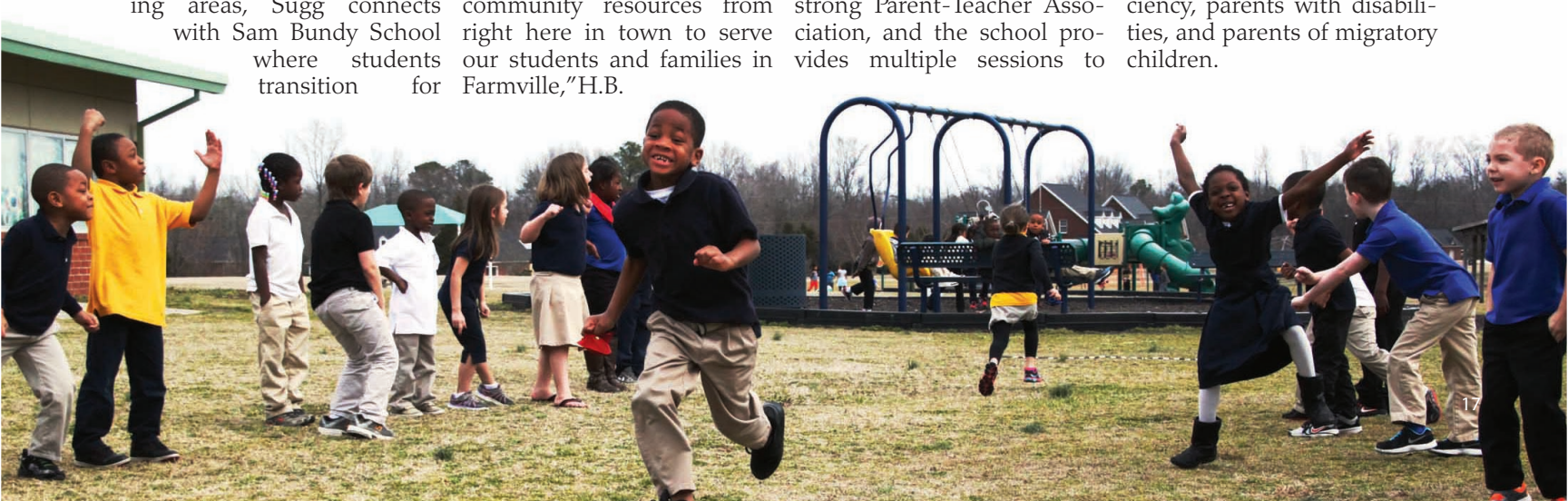
"We are able to leverage community resources from right here in town to serve our students and families in Farmville," H.B.

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.



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 414 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.

"I think the thing that I appreciate most about Falkland is the teachers and the way that they interact with the kids," parent Cynthia Vandiford said. "When you go in there and you are involved like I am, you realize that every teacher knows all of the kids and it is just a very welcoming feeling. I have a little girl who idolizes her teacher so much that she plays school and pretends to be her every day when she gets home."

Falkland students regularly receive small group supplemental instruction based on their individual needs identified through various reading and math assessments.

"There is certainly more one-on-one instruction than you might think, and that is very important," Vandiford said.

Additionally, the school promotes parent involvement by holding several parent workshops each year as well as curricu-



lum 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.

Farmville Middle School

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

Nearly 700 students in grades 6-8 attend Farmville Middle School 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 extension of every family. Parents also value the school's dedication to instilling management and organizational skills in every child.

"The administration and teachers at FMS provide a warm and structured learning environment for the students," Farmville Middle parent Pam Darden said. "The doors are always open for parent help and ideas, and I have found all of my concerns to be addressed in a timely manner."

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 en-

couraged to incorporate them into their lives.

Student performance at Farmville Middle also cannot be overlooked. The school exceeded its expected growth during the most recent end-of-grade testing. Farmville Middle also 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, soccer, and track and field.

"If you want your child to be seen as a person and not a number in a safe and clean environment, then Farmville Middle is the school for you," Darden said.



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 and partnerships with five private locations. 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 pre-kindergarten site has been recognized for being among the best in the state. Every location 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. Suggs, Lakeforest, Northwest, Pactolus, W.H. Robinson, Wintergreen and the Pitt County Pre-Kindergarten Education Center located at 400 Spruce Street in Greenville. Private partnerships exist with Children's World Aspiring Minds, Children's World Learning Center, Possessing the Keys to Kingdom, East Carolina Kiddie College, and the Nancy Darden Child Development Center at East Carolina University.

Pre-kindergarten programs are designed to be developmentally appropriate for young children. The classes provide opportunities for young children to participate in experiences that 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. 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 apply and bring their child into the offices for an educational assessment. Call 252-758-4621 for more information.

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 supports. Students attending the center have been unsuccessful and unresponsive with the behavioral supports 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 stu-

dents 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. Additionally, Pitt County Schools is home to the 2015 North Carolina AIG Teacher of the Year Karen Eberenz of Hope Middle.

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.

Health Sciences Academy



Students participating in the Health Sciences Academy are able to make health career decisions suited to their individual needs, aptitudes, abilities, and career objectives.

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.



Instructional Technology and Media

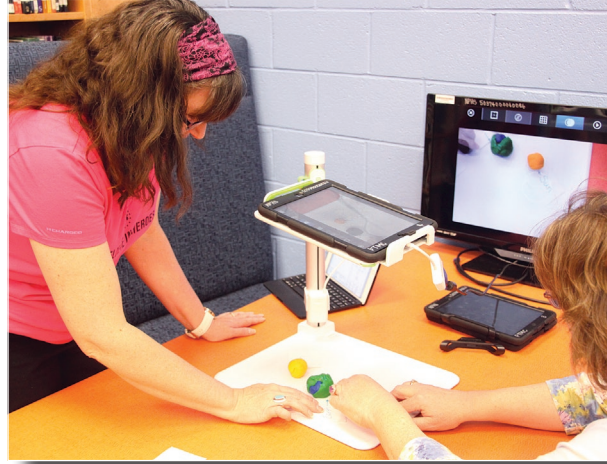
It requires hands-on, participatory learning.

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 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 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.

Recently, some school media centers have been undergoing a transformation

to a "makerspace" environment designed to offer students a place to share resources and knowledge, work on projects, network and build. A makerspace is often associated with a field such as engineering,



computer science and graphic design. It requires hands-on, participatory learning.

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 three years, nearly 9,000 mobile devices have been purchased for the district, and officials remained committed to keeping CPUs that are no more than five years old.

The school system has also established an effective, ongoing planning and implementation process for its technology, including the Impact Ventures grant program that awards classroom sets of laptops, tablets, or other electronic devices through an application process. Winners are required to complete 118 hours of technology integration training and present to other teachers during the annual Tech Fest.

As technology continues to change at rapid pace, Pitt County Schools will continue to adapt and promote digital citizenship among students.

Pitt County Schools Virtual Academy

In the fall of 2014, Pitt County Schools launched the Pitt County Schools Virtual Academy to provide students additional opportunities, flexibility, and convenience to earn high school credits in an online environment. The new option for learning outside of the traditional class-

room is a step into the digital age for the school system.

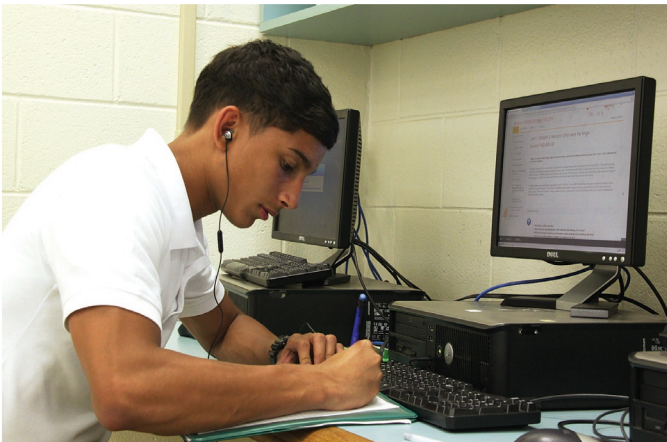
The virtual academy began with eight courses offered in 2014-15, but it has expanded to offering 16 courses including: honors English I, III, and IV; honors biology, chemistry, and Earth science; honors American history, world history, and civics; honors and standard math courses; and electives such as art history and physical education. Students from each of Pitt County's six high schools are eligible to take the online classes designed for those who may not fit into the traditional school model, including home school students.

Online courses are set up to be self-paced for the students. The teacher provides weekly assign-

ments and learning modules to assist the students in their understanding of the content. The teachers hold a minimum of two whole class online chats where everyone meets at the same time, but the courses are generally meant to be flexible to allow students to learn in a way that best fits their schedule.

The Pitt County Schools Virtual Academy courses are offered to PCS students at no cost. Students who are not enrolled with Pitt County Schools can take courses for a cost of \$500 each. However, if a non-PCS student would like to enroll in PCS but still take all courses online, that is also an option at no cost.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Pitt County Schools Virtual Academy should contact Bill Frazier at 252-830-4295 or Tim DeCresie at 252-830-3511.





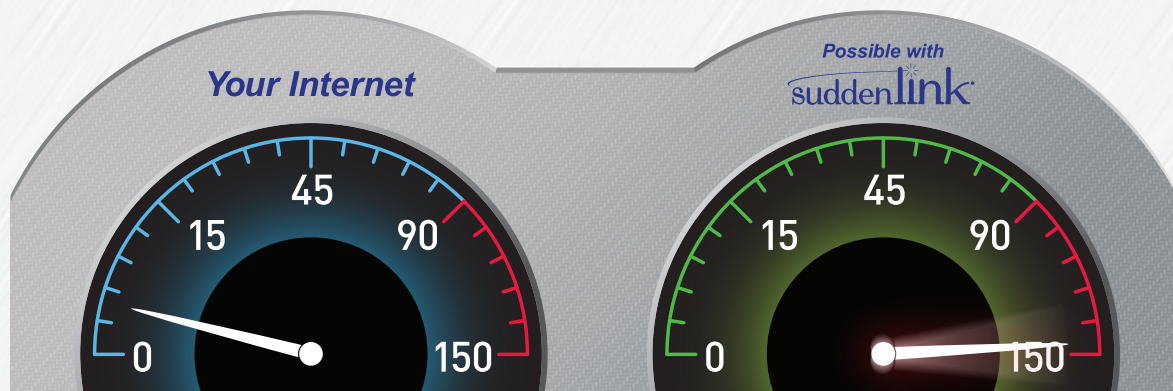
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The students will have the opportunity to earn two years of college credit or an associate's degree in addition to their diploma in five years of work.

Pitt County Early College High School

Pitt County Schools is opening the county's first ever Early College High School during the 2015-16 school year to provide high school students an opportunity to earn a high school diploma while also getting a head start on college credit.

The PCS Early College High School is made possible through a partnership with Pitt Community College, and it will be located on the college's campus. Approximately 75 students are expected to make up the inaugural class, and the school expects to grow by an additional 75 students each year. The students will have the opportunity to earn two years of college credit or an associate's degree in addition to their diploma in five years of work.

Aimed primarily at students who

are first generation college bound and traditionally underrepresented in higher education, the PCS Early College will provide a personalized, academically-energized environment at both the high school and college level. There is no cost to attend and students are selected through an application and lottery system.

The school's instructional methods will include project-based as well as problem-based learning, performance-based assignments and cooperative learning. Assessment methods include portfolio presentations, oral defense, student-led conferencing and state/locally mandated examinations. The school seeks to expose students to relevant, real-world scenarios and empower them to make meaningful decisions about their learning

and future goals. Job-shadowing and internships with local business and industry will strengthen students' understanding of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) career pathways and workforce readiness as it relates to curricular direction at Pitt Community College.

Support will be provided through AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) strategies with an emphasis on reinforcing study and organizational skills. Exceptional children will receive services as required.

The PCS Early College provides transportation from the high school in a student's attendance zone. Anyone interested in learning more about the school should contact principal Wynn Whittington at wynn.whittington@pitt.k12.nc.us.

Pitt County Educational Foundation

Most recently, the Foundation has turned its focus to recruiting and retaining excellent educators.

Since its incorporation in 1986, the Pitt County Educational Foundation has aimed to secure the social and economic health of Pitt County through excellence in public schools. Through its strong leadership and fundraising efforts, the non-profit organization has experienced steady growth through the years and provided services of value to teachers and students of Pitt County Schools.

The Educational Foundation operates on a set of core beliefs. They include: the belief that all students can achieve and excel; the belief that all students can be good citizens and contribute to their community; the belief that a vibrant regional economy and globally competitive business community require excellence in Pitt County Schools; the belief that the success of Pitt County Schools

depends on the commitment of businesses, community, and family; the belief that Pitt County Schools must have the very best teachers and principals; and the belief that the school system must effectively utilize state of the art technology.

At its inception, the goal of the organization was to enhance the services provided by the community to Pitt County Schools. The initial effort of the group to raise funds proved to be successful and over \$100,000 was pledged for an endowment. That has since grown to over \$1 million. In addition, each of the six attendance areas of Pitt County Schools raise funds to be distributed for minigrants to teachers for classroom projects. Other projects which were implemented included a Teacher Executive Institute, an annual art competition, health scholarships and numerous monetary and

scholastic awards. Large grants were received from the Perkins Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Belk, Inc., Margaret B. Harvey, Gay and Erskine Love Foundation and Lance Foundation to fund the initial endeavors of the Foundation.

The Foundation has focused on a pair of bold initiatives in past years, including every student should graduate and every student should read at a second grade level by the end of second grade. Most recently, the Foundation has turned its focus to recruiting and retaining excellent educators.

For more information about the Pitt County Educational Foundation or to donate, contact executive director Frances Young at 252-830-4223.





J.H. Rose High School

600 W. Arlington Blvd. | Greenville, NC 27834 | (252) 321-3640

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 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.

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 activi-

ties. 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.





Dual Language Immersion Program

Students at Belvoir Elementary get a head start on becoming bilingual learners through the school's Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program. The program is the first of its kind in Pitt County Schools.

Parents can choose whether they would like to have their children learn half of the core instruction in English and half of the core instruction in Spanish using a 50/50 model. Math, language arts, social studies, and science are taught in Spanish and English. Art, health, physical education, and music instruction is delivered in English.

"Our staff is excited about the expanded choices that this program provides to parents for their child's education," Belvoir principal Kevin Smith said.

Approximately 48 percent of Belvoir's students are Hispanic, and the school has several bilingual staff. Its identity as a culturally and demographically "global school" made it an ideal location for a dual language program. Half of the students in the DLI program speak English as their first language and the other half are native Spanish speakers.

"I think it's been needed for a long time," Pitt County Schools Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Olmsted said. "We need to create a bilingual workforce for our diverse growing public."

There are more than 2,000 DLI programs nationwide and there are 14 counties in North Carolina that offer dual language programs. The benefits of such programs include high academic achievement, students who become fluent in Spanish and English, and a high degree of cultural understanding.

All rising kindergarten students at Belvoir Elementary School are eligible to apply for a place in the DLI program. Applications are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

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 today's 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.



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 more than 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 school in the district with a 1:1 technology

ratio for students in grades 3-5, providing students with a basic understanding 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. "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, 25 percent of the school's teachers hold advanced degrees, and 36 percent have 10 or more years of experience.



Wahl-Coates Elementary School

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

Steeped in tradition, Wahl-Coates Elementary School originated in 1928 as a teacher's training school on the campus of East Carolina University. 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 met expected growth during the most recent end-of-grade testing.

"Wahl-Coates is phenomenal," parent Alice Hyatt said. "It's great because not only is the adminis-

tration top notch, but I feel they truly care about my kids. The staff is just perfect. As a parent, I see that my kids are getting everything they need."

Students at Wahl-Coates are also competing daily to see who can make the best choices and exhibit positive behavior while learning. The school is divided into four flagships consisting of students and

staff members. Students from each flagship earn points for their team based on positive choices and behaviors throughout the marking period, and the flagship compiling the most points is rewarded.

Initiatives, such as the Kindergarten Cuties, Wahl-Coates Smarties, Hoke's Bus Heroes and rewards parties for positive behavior and Accelerated Reader success, also boost morale. Additionally, the staff at Wahl-Coates 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.

"I truly feel my kids are getting a better education than a lot of others," Hyatt said. "The teachers are on top of things. They communicate with me and make sure they are meeting the needs of my children. I wouldn't want my kids anywhere else."



Elmhurst Elementary School

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

Parents, students and staff rave about the family atmosphere found at Elmhurst Elementary School each day and the enthusiastic approach to learning taken by students and staff alike.

"Elmhurst is like one big family," Elmhurst parent Jennifer Tanner said. "The teachers know all of the kids, and the kids all know each other. You will often walk into the school and see older kids helping the younger ones. It is a warm, welcoming environment where you feel safe and happy to have your child attend school."

Elmhurst opened its doors in 1955 in the heart of Pirate country near the athletics facilities for East Carolina University. The K-5 school, home of the Bears, serves nearly 400 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. The school has also performed well on state assess-

ments the last few years, due in large part to an innovative staff of hard-working teachers. Continuity also benefits the school that 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 the highly qualified staff and a safe, orderly and caring environment. Elmhurst was named a Title I Reward School in 2013-14, and the school has adopted the "whole brain" teaching and learning philosophy under principal Colleen Burt's leadership. Strong family and community support and ongoing communication also make Elmhurst appealing.

"The lines of communication are always open there," Tanner said. "The teachers, staff and administration are friendly and available to answer any questions you have at any time."



Elmhurst offers students an opportunity to participate in the arts and various school and county academic competitions. 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.

Eastern Elementary School

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

"The teachers and staff don't accept the status quo."

— Rebecca Blount, parent

Together, everyone achieves more at Eastern Elementary School. Built in 1969 and expanded in 2010, Eastern serves approximately 680 students in grades K-5 with a vision of leading them to graduation as learners who think critically and 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.

"One of my favorite things about Eastern is that the



teachers and staff at Eastern are innovative and always looking for new ways to reach the children and teach to the way they learn; knowing all the while that every child learns differently and comes from a different background," Eastern parent Rebecca Blount said. "The teachers and staff don't accept the status quo. They are always trying to be better and encourage and help each other in doing so."

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.

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. Other 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.

"I can't recommend this school more highly," Blount 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 700 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. One example includes the new STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) labs. 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 paren-



tal 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 30 percent 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."

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. More than 600 kids 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 highly qualified teachers, 33 percent of whom have advanced degrees and nine who are National Board Certified. They are also offered extracurricular 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. Eppes also features one of the school system's STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) labs that provides an opportunity for students to complete various modules chosen by local business and industry leaders.



“We share the belief that public schools are stronger when community members are actively involved.”

— Kathy Herring, President of PPS-PC

Parents for Public Schools of Pitt County

written by Tyler Stocks

For many parents and students alike, school can be stressful. However, with groups like Parents for Public Schools of Pitt County (PPS-PC) the goal is to encourage parents to become active participants and not just spectators.

“We are part of a national organization committed to improving student achievement through active parent engagement in public schools,” said Kathy Herring, President of PPS-PC.

The local chapter was formed by a group of parents who were actively involved in their schools, but felt disconnected from other parents in the county. PPS-PC received a \$60,000 grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in 2014 and with that money, the group started its three initiatives. They include the Parent Engagement Program (PEP), the Community Conversations Program and school tours given to parents as they research prospective schools.

With the three initiatives, the group can train parents how to engage in meaningful dialogue not only with educators but community leaders as well. The topics discussed at meetings revolve around current trends in education, while providing parents with direction and support.

The group has also reached out to business leaders and non-

profit groups like the United Way of Pitt County, the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce and the Pitt County Educational Foundation.

“We share the belief that public schools are stronger when community

members are actively involved. PPS-PC believes that true education reform, excellent schools and successful students are the result when parents and community members are effective and engaged advocates for public education,” Herring said.

Incorporated in 2013, the mission of PPS-PC is “To strengthen Pitt County Public Schools by engaging, educating and mobilizing our community.” The Pitt County chapter is one of 18 across the nation and the only chapter in North Carolina. School officials welcome the parental engagement through PPS-PC and understand that, together, the schools and PPS-PC can make the area a shining example of what community-wide collaboration can do for children.

To find out more about Parents for Public Schools of Pitt County, visit ppspittcounty.org or call 252-758-1604.



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 more than 900 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."

North Pitt improved its overall composite proficiency score when consider-

ing grade level proficiency during the most recent testing. Additionally, the school has seen its four-year graduation rate increase approximately 30 percentage points during 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 contenders 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.



"Our staff takes time to support one another, and we provide encouragement for one another and our students."

— Carla Taylor, Administrative Assistant



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 residing 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 has excellent teachers and the staff overall is just exceptional," parent Elizabeth Sanchez said. "There is also great communication from the school. I've never had any issues."

Belvoir exceeded its expected growth during the most recent year of testing. School officials are hoping to continue that

success with the implementation of a dual language immersion program in 2015-16. The program will teach core subjects to students in English and Spanish using a 50/50 model with a goal of producing bilingual students, improving student proficiency and developing cultural understanding.

"The idea of the dual lan-

guage program is a good one," Sanchez said. "It is a great opportunity for all students. In today's world, it really helps to be able to speak more than one language. It will really help them when it is time for them to get a job."

Another unique offering at Belvoir is the fifth grade "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.

"Belvoir has excellent teachers and the staff overall is just exceptional."

— Elizabeth Sanchez, 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 com-

mitment to teamwork at Northwest and the school's mission of producing empowered leaders.

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.

Students are consistently rewarded for their hard work as well. For the past couple of 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.

Northwest is also home to the 2015-

16 Pitt County Schools Teacher of the Year Matthew Robinson. Robinson is a fourth grade math teacher at the school.



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.

Athletics



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.

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 athlet-

ics 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, track and field, wrestling, baseball, soccer and softball.



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 the 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 to play a key role in interagency networking.



Stokes School

written by Tyler Stocks

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

Stokes School, a Pre-K-8 institution was built in 1992 and, since that time, has experienced steady growth while also getting a few facelifts. New additions like the memorial gardens and playgrounds make for an aesthetically pleasing experience. Nestled in rural Pitt County, the small town setting provides nearly 300 students with an environment conducive to intellectual and social development.

Home of the Eagles, Stokes School features an administration, staff and student body that shares a vision of all members of the learning community valuing themselves, others and an education, and recognizing the importance of being life-long learners in order to become productive and responsible members of a technology-rich society. Despite its small size, the school also boasts a successful music program, featuring band and orchestra. It also offers a number of extracurricular activities, such as fall, winter, and spring sports, in addition to numerous academic and social clubs,

such as Beta Club, Student Government Association, Math Masters, Math Counts and Battle of the Books.

Seeing members of the Stokes School learning community value themselves, others and their education is the daily mission teachers and parents want students to achieve. According to PTA President Stephen West, one new initiative the school has implemented to help accomplish this is character development based on the book "7 Habits of Highly Effective People," by Stephen Covey. School officials are also hoping to eventually transition to a "Leader in Me" school to expand on this initiative.

"Teachers are coming together as they study The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and PTA is very active and open for parent involvement," West said. "The principal is involved in the classroom and getting parents engaged. She sends out emails to parents as well. I think the school staff wants children to succeed in life and in the 21st century."

Many of the teachers at Stokes School



hold advanced degrees and National Board Certification and have been at the school ten years or more. They are also helpful when it comes to getting answers for parents.

"It's a very good school and I've been very pleased with it. If they (teachers) don't know the answer, they'll help find it," West said.

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 productivity of learning and personal growth. The school serves approximately 340 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, the home of the Buccaneers once again exceeded expected growth on the state's end-of-grade testing during the 2013-14 school year. School officials say Bethel students 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.



Wellcome Middle School

written by Tyler Stocks

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

For students and staff at Wellcome Middle School, the motto to empower, to excel and to explore is integrated into every facet of the school culture.

Since 1976, Wellcome Middle School has sought to empower students in grades 6-8 to excel academically as they explore career and college opportunities. Home to nearly 500 students, there is always something happening in this tight-knit community through a program known as Revolution.



Revolution is a community-based program that aims to offer fun, friendly, affordable events for Wellcome families and the greater Greenville area. From pizza bingo to the fall festival, there are many ways students and parents can network. The recruitment of parent involvement ties in adequately with the school's mission of fostering partnerships with students, parents and community members, while creating an environment that promotes excellence, integrity and responsibility, and maximizes student potential in and out of the classroom.

Home of the Wildcats, Wellcome also has fall, spring and winter sports, providing students with extracurricular opportunities as well. The school also features the school system's only middle school dance program, perhaps the most popular class at the school, along with several academic and social clubs.

"My oldest daughter played basketball and youngest did cheerleading, and my experience at Wellcome has been great," Wellcome parent Lakeisha Brown said. "The staff has been cooperative and, if they don't have answers, they get answers. If my kids need help with homework, links to websites are sent out."

The Title I school offers many different resources for students regardless of socioeconomic status. These resources, according to the school's Website, ensure students have access to a high quality education and, at a minimum, achieve proficiency on state exams. The school also encourages positive student behavior through Positive Behavior Interventional Support initiatives, such as the "Big Ups" ceremony at the end of the school year.

Brown encourages all families to visit the school as often as possible and ask as many questions as they can about their child's education.

"Ask as many questions as you can," Brown said. "You will see growth as long as you're involved. It's a great atmosphere."

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 just more than 600 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 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. They are guided by the 2015 Region 1 Principal of the Year Steve Lassiter.

Additionally, outside consultants, administration, instructional coaches and remediation specialists meet regularly with teachers to discuss student needs and deter-

mine 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 ob-

stacles 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 successful."

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 Association and the 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.



“I would say that South Central truly has it all.”

— Karen Klaich, parent



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 schools 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 its opening in 2000, 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.

“Walking into SC, one feels immediately the presence of a dynamic, learning environment,” parent Karen Klaich said. “It is a busy place, whether in the media center where several classes are working on iPads for a science lesson, or to an arts class where students are expressing their creative side, or to a history class

where students are discussing the lesson that was flipped by the teacher the previous night. Everyone at SC has a part to play in helping to move students toward success, and it is evident that each staff member takes that role seriously.”

South Central boasts one of the district’s highest four-year cohort graduation rate at 87.9 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.

Nearly 50 percent of South Central’s teachers have been in the classroom for 10 years or more, and 19 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 as 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, make up 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.

“I would say that South Central truly has it all,” Klaich said. “It has a diverse school population. It has a vigorous and involved administration that has a vision for the future and the plan to achieve the goals that are set by the educational personnel.”





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Ridgewood Elementary School

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

Since opening its doors in 2008, Ridgewood Elementary School has become 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 more than 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 eight National Board Certified Teachers, and 33 percent of Ridgewood's teachers have 10 or more years of experience. The classroom expertise is evident in the performance of Ridgewood's students. Ridgewood finished in the top 10 percent of the state's elementary schools in overall testing composite results in 2013, and the school also met its expected growth in the most recent testing.

"The quality of the education and the sense of community is exceptional. The



teachers, administration and staff are amazing and go far above and beyond to help all of the children excel. Personally, I know that my two children feel a sense of pride attending Ridgewood and this pride is working to lay the groundwork for their desire to do well," Ridgewood parent Sandra Thompson said.

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.

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 nearly 650 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 parent Melonie Allgood 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.

W.H. Robinson Elementary School

written by Tyler Stocks

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

Located in the quaint town of Winterville, W.H. Robinson Elementary School provides students with a small classroom setting and nationally certified teachers. Parents say the smaller classrooms and the family-friendly atmosphere make the school memorable.

"We have had a great experience," W.H. Robinson parent April Moore said. "It's a small student community and it's very family friendly. The staff is incredible, and they really care about the kids and are very willing to help."

W.H. Robinson has a rich history dating back to 1952. Students learn through art and music, in addition to the core subjects that are part of the curriculum. The learning is enriched by the school's commitment to incorporating 21st century technology at all grade levels. One example is tablet use in classrooms made possible by district alloca-

tions and the district's Impact Ventures grants.

Teachers also use numerous tools to collaborate with students and parents. Parents are updated regularly about grades and disciplinary matters, in addition to other messages from teachers. Moore also lauded W.H. Robinson for its AIG program and active Parent-Teacher Association.

"The staff is incredible, and they really care about the kids and are very willing to help."

— April Moore, parent

"There are many resources like PTA and youth programs like Math Masters, Battle of the Books and the AIG program. We also have a family art and science night. There are many fundraisers that families can be a part of," Moore said.

With a student population of just more than 550, W.H. Robinson staff ensures that 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. The school provides counseling services, curriculum support and a structured academic environment. It was also the origin of the CARE program that allows students to receive reading instruction and support in small group settings.

From the moment you walk in the doors, the pride exemplified by staff creates an environment where success is not only encouraged but achieved, each and every day.



A.G. Cox Middle School

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

Nestled in the heart of Winterville is the largest traditional middle school in Pitt County. 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.

Parents and community members are enthusiastic 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 2013-14

principal of the year and a staff that has 62 percent of its teachers with more than 10 years of experience. Approximately 25 percent of A.G. Cox teachers also hold advanced degrees, while there are also 13 National Board Certified teachers at the school.

"I was truly amazed with the administration and faculty at A.G. Cox Middle School," A.G. Cox parent Kathryn Colmore said. "My child came to A.G. Cox from a private school, so we were unsure what to expect. The principal and teachers went out of their way to make his transition nice and smooth. The academics were beyond my expectations and the communication between the teachers, students and parents is remarkable. I can truly say that A.G. Cox strives to create a safe, caring atmosphere where students can excel at a high level."

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

Athletics offered at A.G. Cox include cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, football, cross country, and one of the county's two middle school wrestling teams. 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.





“Lakeforest has a community focus that I appreciate as a parent.”

— Shanae Godley, parent

Lakeforest Elementary is Pitt County’s newest elementary school, but it hasn’t taken long for the home of the Frogs to leap into the hearts of its families. Lakeforest serves more than 800 students from the west and southwest Greenville area with a mission of preparing all students to exist 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.

“What makes Lakeforest a special school is the atmosphere that has been

set by the staff and administration for parent involvement, student success and team spirit,” Lakeforest parent Shanae Godley said. “All of these things are very much needed in a school. Lakeforest has a community focus that I appreciate as a parent.”

All classes at Lakeforest are taught by highly qualified teachers with 30 percent of the teachers having more than 10 years of experience and nearly 30 percent holding advanced degrees. Each teacher has multiple resources available to them to help maximize student achievement, and nearly all implement technology whenever possible into their data-driven instruction.

“If you would like to send your kids to a school that cares about the growth and success of your student, then send them to Lakeforest,” Godley said. “There are mentoring programs and opportunities

for leadership that keep kids engaged and interested in learning.”

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.

“My family moved to the Lakeforest district a year ago, and I was extremely nervous about sending my students to such a large school,” Godley said. “I was concerned about bullying, discipline, attention to detail, and the ability to engage with the staff. Needless to say, the staff at Lakeforest has been instrumental in easing all of those concerns and has really challenged my students to be their very best.”

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* Represents a program with special admissions requirements

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, 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 and 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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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.

Each of Pitt County's schools prepares breakfast and lunch for students. Approximately 58 percent of students qualify for free or reduced meals, and six schools provide free meals to all students through the federal Community Eligibility Provision program. Those schools include Belvoir, Northwest, Pactolus, South Greenville, Lakeforest and Wellcome Middle.

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.



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. Led by highly skilled technicians and experienced drivers, approximately 218 school buses run each day while 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. Dedicated technicians, including state 2014 Best Bus Inspector of the Year Dustin Wells, ensure that the fleet runs safely and efficiently.

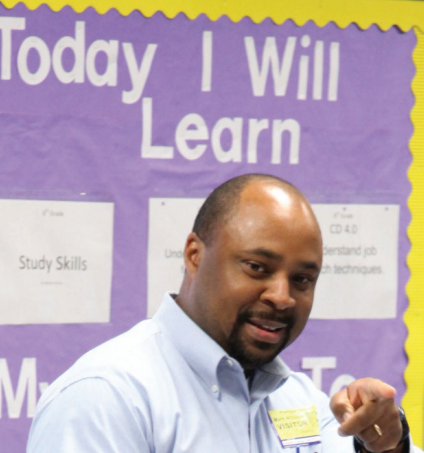
School buses are run outside of the regular 185-day school term for summer school and specially funded programs that meet the criteria for the use of school buses. Activity buses are also maintained for extracurricular activities.

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 geocode-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.





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