



Alamance Community School
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www.alamancecommunityschool.net

Find meaning, develop empathy, create solutions

Mission

Alamance Community School is committed to helping students become engaged citizens by finding meaning in learning through exploring real-world problems and creating innovative and exciting solutions.

Overview

Alamance Community School (ACS) is a Project Based Learning (PBL) school in Haw River, NC. We offer a unique academic program that exemplifies the best in collaborative, real world learning, while preparing our students for the 21st Century.

- ACS is currently accepting applications for Kindergarten - Sixth Grade
- ACS is a NC Public Charter School currently serving Kindergarten - Fifth Grade with 535 students
- ACS opened in the fall of 2020 serving students in Kindergarten - 3rd Grade and will add a grade level each year until reaching 8th Grade in 2025
- Class size: 20-22 students
- School Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:15am - 3:15pm
Wednesday: 8:15am - 1:15pm (2 Hour Early Dismissal Every Wednesday for Staff Professional Development & Planning)
- ACS is on a trimester schedule to coordinate with the reading and math assessment schedule - report cards are completed 3 times per year - every 12 weeks.
- Title I Program Provides Reading and Math Interventions

Curriculum

Project Based Learning: At ACS Project Based Learning is an integral part of our philosophy and mission. Students are presented with interesting, relevant and meaningful problems to solve. Students complete 3 projects per year/ 1 per trimester. We follow the NC Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) and the Essential Standards in Science and Social Studies to determine each project. [NC STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY](#)

Reading Workshop, Phonics & Word Study: ACS uses the NCSCOS in Reading and follows the Reading Workshop Model and uses the Fountas and Pinnell Guided Reading Mini Lessons Book, in addition to the Fountas and Pinnell Phonics & Word Study curriculum. In Reader's Workshop, students develop strong reading skills through the use of: Mini Lessons, Small guided reading groups, Read-alouds, Conferencing, Independent reading, Literature response, Purposeful share, and Literacy workstations.

Writing Workshop: ACS uses the NCSCOS in Writing and follows the Writing Workshop Model, in addition to the Fountas and Pinnell Writing Mini Lessons. In Writer's Workshop, students are invited to live, work and learn as

writers. Students learn writing craft techniques and to observe their lives and the world around them while collecting, drafting, revising, editing and publishing. Students are given time to write, applying the skills and strategies they've learned to their own writing projects. As students write, the teacher provides feedback. Feedback is given through one-to-one conferences and small group instruction, and includes instructional compliments and teaching.

Math Workshop: We use the NCSCOS in Math and follow a Math Workshop Model. We pull from multiple resources to meet these standards, such as Math in Practice, Math Talks, Math Tasks, Tools4NCTeachers, and other resources. First, students have a math mini lesson. Next, students rotate through math workstations, including a small guided math group on the student's level. Flexible grouping is utilized to ensure all students' needs are met.

Responsive Classroom/Morning Meeting: We use a system of classroom management called Responsive Classroom. The main goal of Responsive Classroom is to promote optimal student learning and create a caring community of students and staff. It is a research-based program that shows students learn best when they feel safe, challenged and happy. The main components of Responsive Classroom are the First Six Weeks of School, Morning Meeting, Hopes and Dreams, Rule Creation, Guided Discovery and Logical Consequences. During the First Six Weeks of School, we spend time learning the rules, routine, procedures, etc. that will foster our students as independent learners and will make our classroom run smoothly.

Everyday, children gather in morning meetings to greet each other, start the day and learn social skills like respect, responsibility, and empathy. [RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM](#)

Empathy and Service at ACS: 10-15 minutes is set aside each day and is part of the daily schedule to promote empathy and community service. All grade levels and classes work on projects that encompass building community and empathy. Our Empathy Initiative connects with Responsive Classroom and the First Six Weeks of School. Some projects have included students collecting canned goods for a local food pantry and creating a Buddy Bench.

Technology: ACS offers a 21st century learning environment in which every student has access to Chromebooks or iPads within their classrooms. Students use these devices in math and literacy workstations and for project research. Each classroom also had an interactive Smart TV to enhance the learning experience.

Specials: ACS offers five specials. They are PE, Art, Music, STEM and & Global Connections.

Lunch: ACS offers My Hot Lunchbox (MHLB) as our hot lunch program. Order lunch from a wide variety of options provided by your student's favorite local restaurants.

Special Features

Before/After School Care: On-site Before/After School Care is offered for students via our contracted vendor, Genesis Athletics. For more information regarding cost, times, etc., please contact Genesis Athletics at: [ACS BEFORE & AFTER CARE PROGRAM W/ GENESIS ATHLETICS](#)

4-H: Alamance Community 4-H opened its charter in the fall of 2022 under Evelyn Krieley's (Genesis Athletics) direction. They are currently offering programs based on registration. In 2023, they will expand to offer more programs and also summer camps.

STEM Club: For our students that love STEM in 3rd grade and up, the new ACS STEM Club will meet February - May. Eventually, we hope to have enough interested students to support the formation of an ACS Science Olympiad team.

Student Ambassadors: The ACS Student Ambassador Program is for students in 4th Grade and up. Interested students may complete an application and get 2 references from an adult and a peer within ACS who would be a good reference for their character and suitability for the program. ACS Ambassadors are highly responsible and respectful students who represent and serve our school. They meet at least twice a month to discuss and perform ACS community services such as:

- Welcoming new students
- Leading school tours
- Improving areas of the school
- Helping with conflict resolution and anti-bullying initiatives
- Assisting with carline and special events

ACS GO FAR Running Club: GO FAR is an 8- to 10-week running club for children that promotes physical activity, healthy eating, and good character. Through the GO FAR curriculum, our running coaches teach children how to set and reach goals. This year their goal was to compete in the [Mebane on the Move 5K in December](#) and they did!

Summer Camps: During the month of June, we offer free and fee-based summer camp options.

Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO): ACS has an active PTO that plans multiple Family Nights at local restaurants and fun events at different venues throughout the year. They also provide numerous ways for our families to volunteer their time and service.