

# FAMILY NEWSLETTER

November 2022



## *A Message from Dr. Wells*

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of November. It seems as though this year has been flying by. I trust everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday and you were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. As we move into December, we will be twelve school days away from the Christmas Holiday break. This also means we only have 24 days to take care of all of our shopping for the holiday.

The Town of Amherst is hosting the annual Christmas parade on Friday December 2 at 6:30 PM on Main Street in Amherst. This year the parade is back to the pre-pandemic format with entrants traveling from Amherst Library towards the traffic circle. Mayor Tuggle and I will be serving as the masters of ceremony for the parade. I encourage you to #Show Up and support your community at the parade this Friday.

As we move closer to the colder days of the year and better opportunities for winter weather, I wanted to remind everyone of the school closure codes we will be using as well as the process we use to determine a school closure or two-hour delay. When we have forecast that is calling for winter precipitation our snow team (Dr. Wells, Dr. Hoden, Mr. Roakes and Mrs. Campbell) begin discussions on how we will monitor road conditions. If a storm is imminent or precipitation is falling, we begin checking roads around 4:00 AM. Our goal is to make a decision by 5:45 AM so we can notify families and school personnel in a timely manner. However, sometimes Mother Nature does not cooperate with our timeline and we have to make judgement calls based on the forecast. We will err on the side of caution as much as possible when we believe a storm is imminent.

Once a storm has passed, we begin snow clearing operations as soon as it safe to do so. Our first priority is to clear parking lots and sidewalks to ensure that staff and students have safe access to the buildings. At the same time, we begin checking area roads to determine if they are clear for travel. Our goal is to make a decision by 4:00 PM so we can alert families and staff of any changes to our operational schedule.

It is important to realize the size and elevation changes in the county. There are times when some areas of the county will be experiencing winter weather while other areas are not. We have to take into account all of the roads in the county and if we have areas of the county that are not deemed safe for travel we will opt to alter our operational schedule.

When a decision has been made to alter our normal operational schedule, ACPS will utilize our social media channels, School Messenger, school email, and local broadcast stations. We will make every effort to notify staff and families in a timely manner.

ACPS has four basic options when we determine the need to alter our operational schedule:

1. Two Hour Delay – ACPS will operate on a two-hour delay. Staff and students should report two hours after their normal report time. Buses will pick up students two hours later than the normal pick up time.
2. Closed Code 1 – Students, teachers, and teacher assistants do not report.
3. Closed Code 2 – The school division is closed to non-essential staff and students.
4. Closed Code 3 – All schools and administrative offices are closed.

If ACPS announces a Code 1, Code 2, or Code 3 closure, students will not report to school.

As we approach the holiday break, I ask you to ensure your students are attending school and are keeping up with their assignments. As a reminder, the last day of school for students is Friday December 16, 2022 and students will return to school on Tuesday January 3, 2023.

We appreciate all of the support our parents and community have provided the school division thus far this year and we look forward to continuing to build positive relationships as we move forward. Please feel free to contact your student's school or the school administration office if you have any questions or we may be of assistance.



# Upcoming Events



December 1 - Interims

December 17 - January 1

Holiday Break

No School for Staff or Students

January 2

Teacher Work Day

No School for Students

January 3

Students return to school



The Town of Amherst Christmas Parade is on Friday, December 2nd in the Town of Amherst and will be back on Main Street! The parade will take place rain or shine. The excitement begins at 6:30 p.m. where the parade will step-off from Kenmore Road before traveling up Main Street and ending at the traffic circle





# ***Winterfest Celebration***

***You are invited to a Community Event  
for all Amherst County children  
and their families***

Sponsored by Amherst County High School PTO  
& Lancer Support Team,  
partnering with local businesses and organizations

***Monday, December 5, 2022  
and Tuesday, December 6, 2022***

***5:00 pm – 7:00 pm***

***Amherst County High School Cafeteria***

Free Fun Activities Free Dinner

Crafts & Games Hotdogs, chips and water

Amherst County Sheriff's Department and local  
Fire & Rescue Departments will have vehicles on site.

Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus

\$5.00 if taken with your own camera

\$10.00 if taken by ACHS (digital images will be provided)

You are invited to winter concerts  
in the ACHS auditorium at 7:00 pm.  
Monday, December 5 – Band Concert  
Tuesday, December 6 – Choral Concert

Donations of food items for *Amherst Cares* will also be collected.



## AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

In November we celebrated American Education Week!

We are incredibly grateful for all of the amazing educators in Amherst County Public Schools who are dedicated to serving students, families, colleagues, and the community in Amherst County! Their efforts to Show Up each and every day, in so many ways, has been inspiring and have strengthened the sense of family and community in Amherst County Public Schools. It takes a strong focused team of caring professionals to achieve our mission and reach our goals in service to our community. We value and appreciate all of our educators!

# Food Lion Feeds

Amherst Cares provides weekend and holiday meals to over 600 ACPS students. Amherst Cares has partnered with the Amherst Food Lion to provide "Food Lion Feeds" boxes to our students. You can sponsor these boxes by going to the Food Lion in Amherst and letting them you would like to purchase a "Food Lion Feeds" box for Amherst Cares. We hope to be able to send boxes home with our students for the holidays. Please consider sponsoring one or more of these boxes to support Amherst Cares and the students of ACPS.





# PRACTICING GRATITUDE *as a family*

As parents and caregivers, we are our children's first teachers. We can use these tips to model gratitude and/or practice gratitude as a family.

1

Say "please" and "thank you"

2

Spend time in nature together

3

Volunteer

4

Write a thank you card

THANK YOU

5

Look for and point out special moments in your day

6

What brings you joy?  
Make a list

7

Compliment others

8

Keep a gratitude journal as a family

9

Participate in Thankful Thursdays and post your gratitude on social media with #ShowUpAmherst

10

Create a family gratitude list

11

Free Space:  
your choice

12

Keep a family Gratitude Jar, where you place notes of gratitude for each other

13

Look for the positive and share what you find

14

Have a family game night or some other activity together

15

Share something you love about your child with them

16

Take gratitude walks

17

Discuss what you are grateful for and why

18

Visit a friend who is lonely

19

Spend one on one time together

20

Give someone a small token or gift

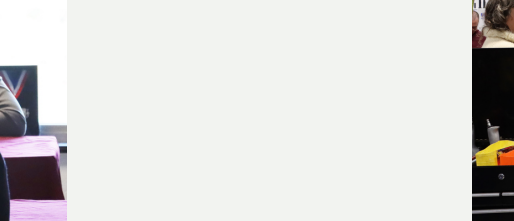
GRATITUDE LIST



SHOWUP  
AMHERST

Adapted from Big Life Journal's *20 Ideas to Cultivate an Attitude of Gratitude in Your Children* by Shannon Lambert

# LOCAL LEGISLATOR'S VISIT



Dr. Wells hosted a visit for our local legislators on November 29. Our visitors were treated to a wonderful brunch prepared by Mr. Sam Addison's talented culinary arts students and a tour of the vocational wing at Amherst County High School. Dr. Wells was able to discuss the school division's concerns about public education in our community and the state. We appreciate their assistance as we advocate for our students, staff, and our community!



# ACPS wants you!

Come join #TEAMAMHERST



## Teaching Positions Available

Secondary English Teacher  
Secondary Science Teachers  
Imaging Technology Teacher  
Elementary Teacher (5th Grade)  
Special Education Teacher (Elementary)  
School Counselor

## Classified Positions Available

Instructional Assistant (SPED)  
School Health Assistant  
Custodian  
Grounds Maintenance Worker  
Child Nutrition Program Assistant

## Head Football Coach Position Available

Apply Online Today!

[www.amherst.k12.va.us](http://www.amherst.k12.va.us)

Want to work with students in a part  
time capacity on your schedule?  
Join Team Amherst as a substitute.

Questions?  
Contact Human Resources  
(434)946-9376  
[hr@amherst.k12.va.us](mailto:hr@amherst.k12.va.us)



Superintendent, Dr. William Wells, working with ACPS students during their trout release as part of the Trout in the Classroom Project.

# Join the Team!

Come join  
#TeamAmherst today!  
We are a dedicated  
team of educators  
working to educate the  
students of our  
community and we  
would love for you to  
join us!

Questions?  
Contact Human  
Resources  
@ (434)946-9376 to  
learn how you can  
become part of our  
team.

# Become a Substitute!

1. Apply online
  2. Register for a sub workshop
  3. Get a background check done
  4. Fill out tax forms and payroll information
- Please register for a sub workshop as soon as you apply.

Click Here  
for  
Information

## WE NEED YOU

To Be A SUBSTITUTE

In Amherst County Public Schools

Looking for subs in many positions:  
Teachers, Secretaries, Aides,  
Bus Drivers, Custodians,  
Nutrition, Health Assistants