

AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

March 31, 2023

The spring season is officially here. As we close out March and head into April, we will be preparing for our Spring Break which runs from April 8 through April 17. We are now in the final push of the year and have less than 45 days of school remaining. This is a busy time of year as we prepare for our end of year SOL testing and other culminating activities to include the ACHS graduation ceremony. It has been a long push since the Christmas Holiday break but we are getting close to the end of the year. I encourage you to talk with your students about proper behavior and do everything within your power to have them attend school on a daily basis.

As the weather begins to warm, it is important for families to refer to their respective school's dress code to ensure students are wearing the proper attire. Historically, during the spring season students begin to push the limits of the dress code and wear clothing that is not appropriate for school. Please contact your students' school if you have any questions regarding the dress code or the appropriateness of your student's attire.

March was a busy month for ACPS staff, students, and families.

- The school division held Future Opportunities Nights at each of our elementary schools in order to give parents and students insight into the programs that are available to our students in middle school and high school.
- Amherst County Public Schools continued its dominance at the State Archery Tournament. Several students placed in the top 10 of the state and Elon Elementary School won the State Title for the elementary school division.
- The spring sports season has begun and our teams are off to a good start.
- Our Band and Show Choir students are in their performance season and have won many recognitions in their competitions.
- The ACHS Theatre team performed Sister Act with opening night on March 30. They performed March 30, March 31, and their final showing is tomorrow, April 1.
- Finally, I held a Community Leaders Breakfast on March 8 and had over 60 community members participate.

I want to congratulate all of our students and sponsors/coaches for a job well done thus far and we are looking forward to great spring season.

We experienced a very mild winter and only missed two days of school due to inclement weather. When we develop our school calendar, we build in time to account for inclement weather. Since we did not experience a typical winter, the Amherst County School Board has approved a calendar revision that will make April 17 an additional day of Spring Break and May 26 (ACHS Graduation) a teacher workday with no school for students. The Amherst County School Board will consider additional calendar adjustments at the April 6 school board meeting.

In closing, I want to thank all of our families and community members for your support of our students and the school division. ACPS will continuously strive to provide the best education possible to our students. Let us continue to work together to ensure our students are prepared for the many challenges they will face upon graduation.

Sincerely,

William



Upcoming Events

Spring Break

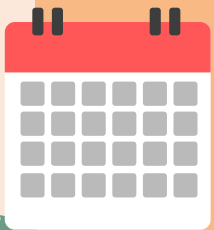
April 10- 17

Kindergarten Registration

April 26-27

Calendar Changes!

April 17 has been changed from an instructional day to a **Holiday** for all students and staff



May 26 has been changed from an instructional day to a **Teacher Work Day** for staff and there is no school for students

[Click Here to View the Revised 2022-2023 School Calendar](#)



2023-2024

School Operational Budget

The school board approved the recommended budget as presented at the School Board retreat to include a minimum of a 7% pay increase for all employees, an additional 1% increase for transportation, moving custodians to the grounds pay table, resulting in an additional 1-3% average increase, and a total 15% increase for child nutrition staff.

Dr. Wells presented the budget to the Amherst County Board of Supervisors on March 21. The Board of Supervisors will now hold a public hearing on the County Budget in April and approval of the budget will be on the agenda for their first meeting in May.

The main thing to consider with our budget is the state has not approved a budget as of yet. We built our budget off of the Governor's proposed budget and anticipate funding to be at that level or higher. However, we will not have any final numbers until the General Assembly passes and the Governor signs the state budget.



THANK YOU, MR. GRIESER!



ACPS would like to thank Mr. John Grieser for the time that he served on the Amherst County School Board. Mr. Grieser served on the Board from January 1, 2020, through March 13, 2023. ACPS appreciates his dedication to Every Child, Every Day. Thank you, Mr. Grieser!

#TeamAmherst

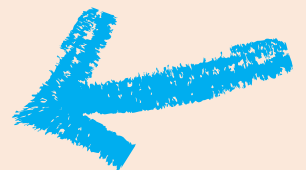
2023 ACPS Summer Academies

Registration for the ACPS Summer Academies will be open from March 31, 2023 to May 8, 2023. Please click the link below to visit the Summer Academies Website and select the program of interest to register. Please read the introduction information prior to completing the registration form.

[Click here for the Summer Academies Website](#)



Follow Dr. Wells on Twitter!





Chronic absence — missing 10 percent or more of school days due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions—can translate into students having difficulty learning to read by the third-grade, achieving in middle school, and graduating from high school. We want to work with you to keep your student on track. Please contact your student's school if we can be of assistance.



Absences Add up!

#SCHOOLEVERYDAY

Missing just 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year.



RUPERT GANZER

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

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

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

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

ENGAGE Virginia

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

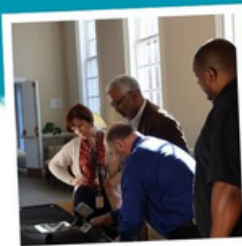




**Amherst County
Public Schools**



COMMUNITY LEADERS BREAKFAST



On March 8, Dr. Wells hosted a Community Leaders Breakfast at Sweet Briar College! Attendees enjoyed breakfast and a discussion regarding community engagement, career and technical education, workforce solutions, and how we can build a better community for our children, families and local businesses.
#TeamAmherst
#ShowUpAmherst

During the March 9 Regular School Board Meeting, Dr. Wells and the School Board presented Glad/Clorox with a resolution to nominate them to the VSBA Business Honor Roll. ACPS wanted to show their appreciation for the company's ongoing support of our community's school division. Their work has aided this community in focusing on the goal of providing the best public schools we can for Every Child, Every Day.

#TeamAmherst
#ShowUpAmherst

ee



WHEREAS, public schools and local businesses are an integral part of the community; and
WHEREAS, many local businesses play a critical role in supporting our schools; and
WHEREAS, the economic health of our community, state and nation depends on a strong public school system; and
WHEREAS, collaboration between local public schools and local businesses strengthens schools and the business community alike by providing a well-trained and highly educated workforce; and
WHEREAS, an excellent public school system is vital to the quality of life in this community and fundamental to preserving a strong society now and in the future; therefore be it

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Superintendent Dr. William Wells and the School Board of Amherst County, Virginia, hereby thank Glad/Clorox for the 2022 Virginia School Boards Association Business Honor Roll, showing appreciation for the company's ongoing support of this community's school division. Their work has aided this community in focusing on the goal of providing the best public schools we can for every child, every day.

Adopted by the 9th day of March, 2022

Signed by:

Amherst County School Board Chair:

Dr. William Wells 3-9-22 Date

Amherst County School Board Vice Chair:

Dr. William Wells 3-9-22 Date

Amherst County Public Schools Superintendent:

Dr. William Wells 3-9-22 Date

Amherst County School Board Member:

Dr. William Wells 3-9-22 Date

Amherst County School Board Member:

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Dr. William Wells 3-9-22 Date

Amherst County School Board Member:

Dr. William Wells 3-9-22 Date

Thank you.
Glad! 



Spring activities are underway! Spring brings a variety of events taking place at our schools, such as the arts, performances, athletics, etc... Let's #ShowUp and support our students!



On Friday, March 17, Amherst County Public Schools hosted its second #ShowUp Day of the school year! Students and staff participated in fun activities throughout the day to celebrate. Thank you to everyone for Showing Up!
#TeamAmherst
#ShowUpAmherst



#ShowUp Day



Thank you for Showing Up!

Spring testing is coming up! SOLs and End of Course testing will begin in early May. Please be on the lookout for information from your student's school.



Helpful Tips!



- Get a good nights sleep
- Eat breakfast in the morning
- Charge your Chromebook



The Education Foundation hosted a Program Showcase Luncheon at ACHS today to highlight the great work of their organization and several programs for students. Guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and tours of the CTE classrooms then caught a glimpse of the ACHS theatre in rehearsal!

The Education Foundation relies on individual donors, businesses, and community partners to continue our mission of providing resources to classrooms and teachers in Amherst County Public Schools that enhance the learning experience through innovation and creativity.

Thank You!

[Click here to make a tax-deductible donation](#)



THANK YOU



JOIN TEAM AMHERST!



PROFESSIONAL

Secondary English Teacher
Imaging Technology Teacher
Secondary Social Studies Teacher
Reading Specialist
Elementary Teacher (23-24 SY)

CLASSIFIED

Instructional Assistants - Special Education (23-24 SY)
Instructional Assistant - In School Detention
Custodians
Bus Drivers



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

APPLY ONLINE TODAY!

[Click here to apply today!](#)



CONGRATULATIONS to our archers who competed in the state tournament this past weekend! Elon Elementary finished with the State Championship for elementary! All of our schools did very well with season bests and top shooters ranking in the top 10 in the state!!



For Elementary Schools:

Elon placed FIRST in Bullseye with a terrific score of 2966.

Central placed THIRD with an amazing 2906.

Top 10 male shooters:

Jase Owen (Elon) 2nd - 262

Brooks Cam 4th (Elon) - 261

Brycen Sanders 6th (CES) - 260

Robert Hamilton 7th (Elon) - 257

Wyatt Terwilliger 8th (Elon) - 255

Mason Hurt 10th (CES) - 251

Top 10 female shooters:

Carissa Rice 1st (Elon) - 270

Paisley Pugh 3rd (CES) - 261

Abby Webster 4th (CES) - 260

Madelyn Wade 5th (Elon) - 258

Eliza Payne 10th (Elon) - 247

For middle schools:

Amherst Middle School placed FOURTH with a season best 3197!

Top 10 male shooters:

Logan Burch 2nd (AMS) - 288

Austin Hendley 4th (AMS) - 286

High School:

Amherst County High School placed THIRD with a 3270!

Top 10 male shooters:

Jesse Smith 4th - 286

Tim Casey 8th - 282

Mark Cash 9th - 281

Top 10 female shooters:

Abby Stecker tied for 8th - 282



THE AMHERST COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL AMHERECHOS AND BELLES HAVE BEEN BUSY THIS MONTH!

Festival of Choirs Competition

BELLES

Best Showmanship- Olivia Price

Best Stage Crew

Best Choreography

2nd place Open Division

AMHERECHOS

Best Showmanship-

Branson Dawson and Lacey Campbell

Outstanding Soloist (division)- Branson Dawson

Outstanding Soloist (division)- Kelsey Fore

Best Band

Best Show Design (tie)

Best Vocals

Best Choreography

1st Place & Grand Champion in AAA Division



Congratulations!



The Amherechos finished out their season with 3rd runner up and People's Choice in their division at the Powhatan Diamond Classic. Congratulations to Taylor Guill and Kelsey Fore for being awarded Best Showmanship.

Congratulations to the Belles of Amherst and Lancer Stage Crew for taking 1st runner up in the Open Division at the Powhatan competition!



The Five C's

How Families Can Engage

by
Dr. Steve Constantino

Clarify Goals and Expectations

- Set high standards and goals for your child
- Set and constantly discuss the expectations you have
- Be firm in the goals and expectations you have set for your child

Communicate With Your Child

- Be sure to have daily interaction of some sort ... make time now!
- Communicating about school shows your belief and value in your child
- Appreciate and communicate with peers. You may not be able to control your children's friends, but you can communicate and appreciate them.

Change the Conversation:

- Tell me about...(your project, your grade, your report, etc.)
- Explain... (your assignment, what you did in class today, etc.)
- Show me... (your homework, your assignment book, your agenda, etc.)
- Teach (a subject or a lesson) to me.
- Leave (your homework, your project, your report) where I can see it.

Collaborate with Your Child's School

- Build a good relationship with teachers
- Exhibit trusting behaviors in your child and your child's school.
- Silence and violence don't work. Discuss questions or concerns in a reasonable fashion with the school in order to support your child's success.

Celebrate Your Child

- Make PRIDE part of your household: **P**ersonal **R**esponsibility **I**n **D**aily **E**ffort
- Don't rely solely on a simple process of punishment or rewards.
- Demonstrate care through valuing your child's educational experiences.
- Be the significant adult in your child's life. You are the most influential teacher your child will ever have.



4 Simple Ways



TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY



SPRING INTO SERVICE

Part of being a good citizen is community service. Here are four simple and inexpensive ways to give back to your community.

BE KIND & HELP A NEIGHBOR

Something as simple as saying hello, smiling, or holding the door for someone can make a positive difference in your community. These simple acts can create a positive ripple effect in our community.

You could take it a step further and carry groceries in for a neighbor, or mow their lawn. Small gestures can make a big difference.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer for a local nonprofit organization. Use your talents to make a positive difference in someone's everyday life.



TAKE CARE OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Plant a tree
- Join or start a Community Garden
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Organize a community clean-up
- Choose to bike or walk instead of driving



GOOD NEWS

SPREAD GOOD NEWS

Look for the good happening and tell others about it. You will foster good relationships with others and you'll also brighten someone's day in the process.



Adapted from *10 Ways to Give Back to the Community Even With No Money* by Judy Ponio and *7 Ways to Give Back to the Community* by Foster Love

ACPS Parent Resource Centers

Did you know that a Parent Resource Center is offered to all parents at each of our elementary schools? These resource centers contain supplemental materials to be used at home to further meet student needs.

Since your elementary student is enrolled in Amherst County Public Schools you have access to these resources!

Materials range in difficulty and relate to various content areas in grades K-5. These materials include items, such as:

- thematic backpacks with books and activities
- board games to reinforce various
- reading and math concepts
- leveled books
- and many other interactive materials

Contact your child's school today to find out more about the Parent Resource Center!

In addition, we have many resources available on our webpage. Visit the ACPS webpage and search for "Parent and Family Literacy Links" or scan the QR code to check it out!



SCAN ME



ACPS Padres Centros de recursos

¿Sabía usted que un Centro de Recursos para Padres se ofrece a todos los padres en cada una de nuestras escuelas primarias? Estos centros de recursos contienen materiales complementarios que se pueden utilizar en casa para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de los alumnos.

Dado que su estudiante de primaria está matriculado en las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Amherst, ¡tiene acceso a estos recursos!

Los materiales varían en dificultad y se relacionan con diversas áreas de contenido en los grados K-5. Estos materiales incluyen artículos, tales como:

- mochilas temáticas con libros y actividades
- juegos de mesa para reforzar diversos conceptos de lectura y matemáticas
- libros nivelados
- y muchos otros materiales interactivos

Póngase en contacto con la escuela de su hijo hoy mismo para obtener más información sobre el Centro de Recursos para Padres.

Además, tenemos muchos recursos disponibles en nuestra página web. Visite la página web de ACPS y busque “Parent and Family Literacy Links” o escanee el código ¡código QR para comprobarlo



Escanéame





**Amherst County
Public Schools**

Kindergarten Registration 2023-2024 School Year

Registration days for Amherst County children eligible to enroll in kindergarten in the Amherst County Public Schools for the 2023-2024 school year will be held on the dates listed below. Children have to be age 5 on or before September 30, 2023, in order to enroll in kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year.

Online registration forms can be completed at <https://ecollect.accelaschool.com/Amherst>. Please also schedule an appointment in your child's school to complete the in-person screening on one of the dates below.

REGISTRATION will be: **Wednesday, April 26, 2023 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
 Thursday, April 27, 2023 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

****All children entering kindergarten must register at the school in the attendance zone in which they reside.**

Amelon Elementary School
Lea Gray, Principal
Phone: 528-6498

Amherst Elementary School
Amanda Cassise, Principal
Phone: 946-9704

Central Elementary School
Derek Adam, Principal
Phone: 946-9700

Elon Elementary School
Kimberly Anderson-Scott, Principal
Phone: 528-6496

Madison Heights Elementary School
Jeremy Hutchinson, Principal
Phone: 846-2151

Temperance Elementary School
Lantz Martin, Principal
Phone: 946-2811

To find your attendance zone, visit the Amherst County Schools website (under Families > Bus Routes)

www.amherst.k12.va.us

Prior to entering school, the following will need to be provided to the school:

- 1) Proof of Residency (for example: electric, water, or cable bill)
- 2) Child's Birth Certificate
- 3) Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Health Form (MCH 213 G) from your doctor. This form must be completed within the 12 months prior to the first day of school and include the child's complete immunization record and well-child check (Code of Virginia § 22.1-270).
- 4) Proof of required immunizations listed below:

- Four DPT (1 DPT must be after 4th birthday)
- Four Polio (1 dose must be after 4th birthday)
- Two MMR (1st dose must be after 1st birthday)
- Three Hepatitis B
- Two Varicella (Chicken Pox vaccine) or doctor's documentation that child has had chicken pox
- Two or Three Rotavirus
- Two Hepatitis A



Inscripción en el jardín de infancia

Curso escolar 2023-2024

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

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

La INSCRIPCIÓN será:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.amherst.k12.va.us

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

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

The Amherst County Public Schools Education Foundation, Inc. hosts the

20th Annual Captain's Choice

Golf Tournament

Friday, June 16th

Winton Golf Course

AM Flight: 8am

PM Flight: 1pm

Lunch for both flights at NOON

\$90 per player includes:

Lunch & On-Course Snacks/Drinks

Golf Cart

One Mulligan per player

Great Sponsor Swag!

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

To register, contact the
Education Foundation at
434-316-3900, email
educationfoundation@amherst.k12.va.us
or **REGISTER ONLINE** at
www.ACPSEducationFoundation.org

GREAT PRIZES IN EACH FLIGHT!

***Swing for a great cause and
support Amherst County
Public Schools!***

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$2,000 Platinum TITLE

Sponsor

Title sponsor recognition!

Golf tournament entry for EIGHT players!

Large sponsor sign at golf tournament registration

Winter luncheon attendance

Exposure at all annual events

Public recognition in newspaper twice
per year

\$1,000 Gold Sponsor

Golf tournament entry for FOUR players!

Large sponsor sign at golf tournament registration

Exposure at all annual events

Public recognition in newspaper twice per year

\$500 Silver Sponsor

Small sponsor sign at golf tournament registration

Hole sponsor sign on the course

Exposure at all annual events

\$250 Bronze Sponsor

Small sponsor sign at golf tournament registration

Hole sponsor sign at golf tournament

\$200 Hole-in-One Sponsor

Sponsor the designated \$5,000 Hole-in-One on the

course (selected by Winton management)

Small sponsor sign at designated hole

\$200 Longest Drive Sponsor

Sponsor the designated Longest Drive prize hole

(selected by Winton management)

Small sponsor sign at designated hole

\$100 Hole Sponsor

Hole sponsor sign on the course

\$50 Green Sponsor

A green sponsor sign in honor or memory of a
teacher, bus driver, etc.



WINTON
F A R M

**CORN
HOLE**

**Music
Kickball
Skills Training for
Football Players &
Cheerleaders**

Hosted by Monelison Youth Football Association

SUNDAY FUN DAY

April 16, 23, 30

May 7, 21

2PM - 5PM

**FACE
PAINTING**



**\$1 per person
13 and under**

Concession Available

**Special guest:
High School
Football
Players and
Cheerleaders**

Bruins Park 265 Trojan Rd, Madison Heights, VA 24572

Contact Donnie Byers - 665-0361 or Kathy Harris 941-1293

Amherst County's Annual **EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

DATE: April 1, 2023

Time: Event starts at 3:00 PM

Egg Hunt promptly at 4:00 PM

LOCATION: Coolwell Park,

646 N Coolwell Rd, Amherst, VA

**Rain
or
Shine**

Children 5th grade and under are invited to participate in Amherst County's Annual Egg Hunt beginning at 3:00 PM. (bring a BIG bag or basket to collect candy-filled plastic eggs. The children who find the golden eggs will get a special prize.

Sponsored by:

Amherst County Recreation, Tourism, & Cultural Development Department.

For further information call the Department at 434-946-9371 or visit us at

www.countyofamherst.com



Amherst County Recreation & Tourism

Presents



CONCERT IN THE PARK

Date: April 22, 2023

Time: 3:00 PM

**Where: Coolwell Park
Amphitheater**

Fee: Free!

Featuring:

**The Liberty University Trombone
Ensemble
and The Amherst County High School
Sax Ensemble.**

Food Truck & Vendors

2023 SUMMER CAMP

DATES

Week 1: June 26-29

Week 2: July 10-13

Week 3: July 17-20

Week 4: July 24-28

**REGISTER
NOW!**



**AGES 8-13
CAMPS ARE LOCATED IN
AMHERST COUNTY**

**James
River
ASSOCIATION**





Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK
Everyone should have enough to eat.

A member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

How to ...

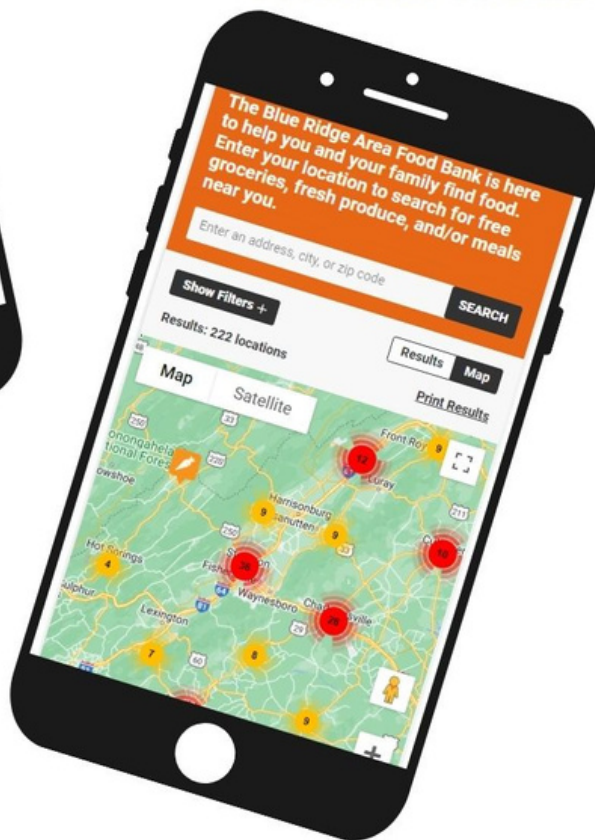
FIND FOOD

1



2

Enter your location
to search for free
groceries, fresh
produce, and/or
meals near you.



3



Once you've picked a nearby food pantry,
call them for details.



Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK
Everyone should have enough to eat.

A member of
FEEDING
AMERICA

Cómo...

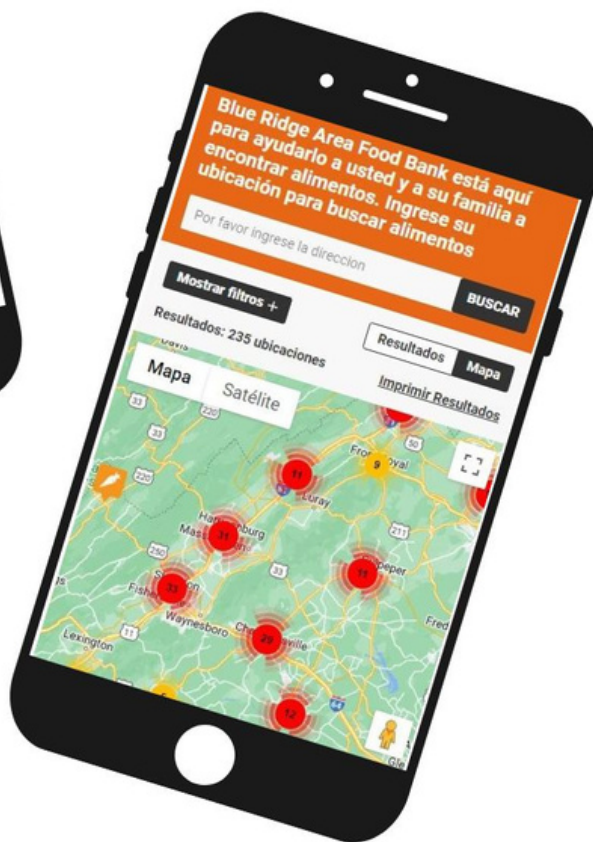
ENCONTRAR ALIMENTOS

1



Ingrese su ubicación
para buscar comestibles
gratuitos, productos
frescos y / o alimentos
cerca de usted.

2



3



Una vez que haya elegido una despensa de alimentos
cercana, llámalos para más detalles.