



June 2026

# The Generals Post

*Anthony Wayne Local Schools Stakeholder Newsletter*

## Thank You for an Outstanding School Year!

As we wrap up another successful school year, we want to extend our sincere gratitude to our entire school community — families, staff, and community members — for your continued collaboration and support.

Thank you for volunteering your time, making donations, attending events, staying informed, and showing up for our students and school in so many meaningful ways. Your involvement strengthens our community and helps create opportunities for student success every day.

From classroom support to event participation and community partnerships, every contribution has made a difference. Simply put, we could not do it without your collaboration. Your commitment, generosity, and engagement are what make our school community so special.

Thank you for being an important part of this journey throughout the school year.

We are grateful for all we have accomplished together and look forward to continuing to strengthen our community partnerships in the years ahead.

Wishing you a safe, relaxing, and joyful summer!



ABOVE: Residents of Waterside Monclova attend a cybersecurity presentation hosted by District Technology Director, Dr. Chris Hamady.

# AWLS Board of Education News

The AWLS Board of Education meets monthly at the Central Administrative Offices. Meetings are open to the public and are live-streamed and recorded for those who cannot attend in-person. [View the recording from the May 11 regular meeting.](#)

## May Meeting Highlights

### Acknowledgments

- The Board thanked the many individuals who serve in our schools in recognition of National Volunteer Month.
- Certificates of appreciation presented Dr. Ralph Whalen and Dr. Robert Kose, and athletic trainer Mrs. Noelle Matson for their commitment to ensuring the health and safety of our student-athletes.

### Presentations

- Brad Contat, Director of Human Resources shared an update on the growth and success of the Employee Wellness program.
- Megan Menchaca, Director of Food Services provided insight into the USDA's school meal requirements and the District's efforts to offer students compliant, nutritious, cost-effective and appealing school breakfasts and lunches.

### Board Actions

- approved a contract with Kleinfelder for design services for a UV Replacement Project for the AW Junior High kitchen.
- hired Megan Conroy as the District's new assistant treasurer, effective July 1, 2026.
- approved 339 members of the AWHHS Class of 2026 for graduation.
- approved the building handbooks, educational and athletic fees, along with several classified, certified, and administrative contracts for the 2026-2027 school year.
- accepted \$2,120 in donations for classroom materials, scholarship funding, and AWHHS Prom and After-Prom activities.

**SPECIAL MEETING:**  
**Wednesday, June 10**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**REGULAR MEETING:**  
**Thursday, June 25**  
**8:00 a.m.**



*Dr. Whalen, Mrs. Matson, and Dr. Kose*



Dear Anthony Wayne Local Schools Community,

As we close out another school year, our school district and community have much to be proud of. The success of our students is truly a shared effort, and we are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our parents, staff, community partners, and taxpayers who invest in our schools each day.

Recently, we celebrated one of education's greatest milestones: graduation. Watching the Class of 2026 walk across the stage was an incredibly proud moment. We are confident they are well-prepared for whatever comes next—whether college, military service, career training, or the workforce—and leave us equipped to make meaningful contributions to the world.

Academically, our students continue to perform at a high level. Preliminary state assessment results are extremely encouraging, pointing to strong growth and achievement. While final official results arrive this fall, these early indicators are a testament to the hard work of our students, the dedication of our teachers, and the support from families at home.

Of course, success is measured by more than just test scores. Outside the classroom, our students continue to excel in athletics, the arts, leadership, and community service. We love seeing our students find their niche, discover their passions, and develop their unique talents.

While the school year is ending, our work never stops. Throughout the summer, our staff will be engaged in professional learning, curriculum planning, and facility upgrades to ensure we are ready to welcome students back in the fall, building upon this year's successes.

Together, we have built a strong foundation, and together we will continue creating opportunities that help every child thrive. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish everyone a safe, enjoyable summer!

Kevin Herman, Superintendent  
Anthony Wayne Local Schools



## **MS. KERRI JOHNSON**

*District Treasurer*

Over the last 20 years, the rules have changed and funding has shifted, but the budget stayed balanced. As she looks to retirement, Kerri reflects on the adaptability, flexibility, and critical thinking required to navigate financial challenges and keep the district stable while providing students what they need to succeed.



## **MRS. MEAGHAN ANDERSON**

*Waterville Primary School Crossing Guard*

With a background in classroom and childcare settings and a strong connection to the community, Meaghan is employed by the Waterville Police Department to ensure students have a safe route to and from school. She finds joy in building relationships with students and families while serving her school community.



## **MRS. ANDREA RIGGENBACH**

*AWHS Intervention Specialist*

Andrea organized this year's senior picnic and breakfast celebrations to give the Class of 2026 a memorable final send-off. As a veteran educator and a parent of graduating twins, she balances role as an intervention specialist with a deep commitment to making sure every student feels seen and heard.



## **MADELYN MOUSSAED**

*AW Junior High Cheerleader*

Madelyn has grown up in cheer, starting at age three and now competing at the All-Star level while also cheering for AW Junior High. This season her club team won their division at the All-Star World Championship. As she prepares to cheer for the Generals at AWHS, she's excited to build her skills and take on new challenges.

## **MRS. LISA ERNSTHAUSEN**

*AWHS Business & Technology Teacher*

Over 39 years in education, Lisa's career evolved from teaching on electric typewriters to guiding students and educators through a rapidly changing technology landscape. Her work has been rooted in adaptability, collaboration and a passion for helping others succeed.



## **MR. STEVE TROMPETER**

*AWHS Building Engineer*

As he closes out his 22-year career with Anthony Wayne, Steve said the keys to his success were having a broad range of skills and remaining flexible. He said the most enjoyable parts of his work were solving problems and working with students for special events.



## **MR. BEN BETHEL ('22)**

*AWHS Alumni & Medical Assistant*

A recent graduate of AWHS and candidate for medical school, Ben is putting his Portrait of a General skills of critical thinking, communication, and empathy into action by starting a non-profit organization that aims to bring comfort to children facing surgery.



## **MIA HELLER AND LEAH NEVI**

*Whitehouse Primary School Students*

Mia and Leah's artwork was selected as the winners of the Whitehouse's annual yearbook cover design contest.

The contest was one of many 4th-grade traditions they are reflecting on as they look forward to starting school at Fallen Timbers Middle School next fall.





## JORDAN RINKER

*AWHS Class of 2026 Graduate*

When she noticed an issue that limited her independence during a safety drill, Jordan used her critical thinking, communication and collaboration skills to approach school administration with solutions. She will attend the University of Florida this fall with plans to become a medical researcher and disability rights advocate.



## ROYA RAHIMI

*AWHS-Penta Class of 2026 Graduate*

Inspired by her third grade teacher's compassion, Roya chose a nontraditional learning pathway through the Penta Career Center Teaching Professions Program, gaining real classroom experience while earning college credit. She will continue her studies at BGSU to continue her journey to becoming a fifth grade science teacher.



Andrew Davis



Arjun Jayaraman



Caden Meiring



Chase Phalen



Roya Rahimi



Andrew Davis



Joseph Timm



Shyanna Wylie

## AWHS Graduates Honored by Penta Career Center

Eight members of the AWHs Class of 2026 were among the 930 seniors honored at Penta Career Center's 2026 Senior Recognition ceremonies, where students received Career Passports and outstanding seniors were recognized for excellence in career-technical programs.

## AW Family Week is June 28 - July 4

An annual tradition, AW Family Week is a time when school activities pause to encourage families to unplug, slow down, and enjoy quality time together. We hope our students and families take this opportunity to connect and make lasting memories.



### Where Will You Find the General?

The search for the AW General is back! Starting during Family Week, 3D printed General mascot keychains will be hidden in public areas within the district. Special thanks to Bryan DeKay, AWHs Art Teacher, community member Terri Massucci and activity sponsors Pour Soul Art and Waterville Sweets for making this activity possible. If you find one, snap a photo and [send us an email to let us know!](#)



Anthony Wayne Local Schools  
2026  
Summer Camp Guide

### Summer Game Plan

A new resource for our families, [the Anthony Wayne Summer Camp Guide](#) is now available, featuring athletics, theatre, and STEM opportunities.

Activities, events, and programs offered by community organizations can be found on [Flyer Central](#).

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### JUNE 1 - 3

Kindergarten Screening  
(by appointment)

### JUNE 8

Summer Office Hours Begin

### JUNE 10

Board of Education  
Special Meeting

### JUNE 19

District Closed: Juneteenth

### JUNE 25

Board of Education  
Regular Meeting

### JULY 1

Returning Student  
Registration Opens

### JULY 15

Board of Education Meeting  
(if needed)

**SPECIAL NOTE:**  
**There will be no  
Generals Post  
newsletter for the  
month of July.**

**Please refer to the  
District website for  
news updates.**

**We will resume  
publication in  
August.**

## Waterville Primary Earns Recognition



### **OHIO STEAM SCHOOL RE-DESIGNATION**

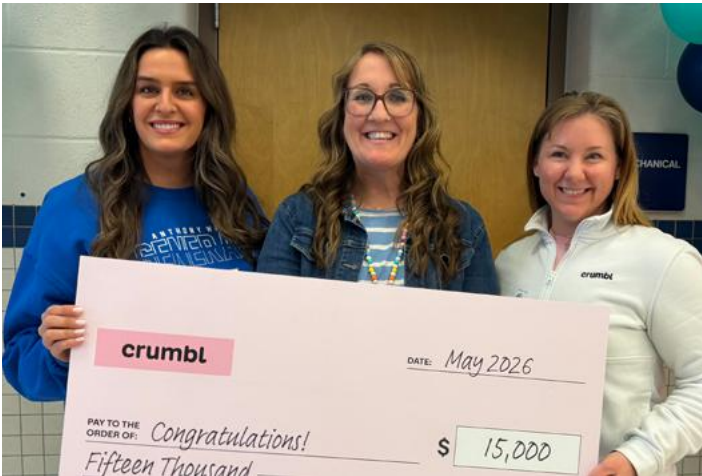
Waterville Primary School was re-designated as an Ohio STEAM School by the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) for continuing to lead the way in integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) into the everyday learning experience of its kindergarten through fourth-grade students. The school will be honored at an awards ceremony in June.



### **WATERVILLE PRIMARY ECO SCHOOL OF THE YEAR**

The Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment (S.A.V.E.) named Waterville Primary the Eco-School of the Year for 2026. The honor highlights the school's dedication to sustainability and excellence in integrating environmental science with STEAM learning.

## Generals In the News



**Teacher Places 2nd in Contest**  
Monclova First Grade Teacher, Shannon Blaesing was named First Runner-Up in the Crumbl Teacher of the Year Contest.

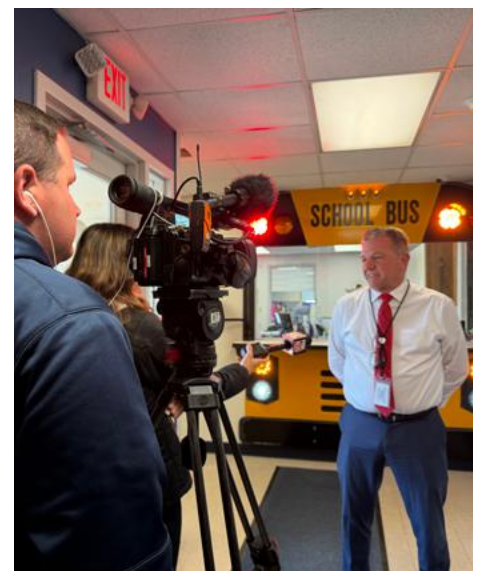


**AWHS Holds Military Signing Day**  
Seniors entering the military were honored at a 2nd Annual Signing Ceremony.



**More Generals March to College Ranks at AWHS Signing Day**  
A record-tying 13 student-athletes signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level at the Spring Signing Day.

- Community rallies around teacher with stage 4 cancer
- Rising fuel costs strain school transportation budgets
- Crews conduct rescue task-force drill inside AWHS
- Beloved teacher swaps out lessons for scares
- Waterville Primary earns 5-year STEAM re-designation
- AW food services plans for changing guidelines
- Anthony Wayne organizations award scholarships
- Anthony Wayne holds showcase for college scouts
- New hockey coach Dean Ball takes over for Generals
- Anthony Wayne advances to regional softball final
- Sumner paves her own legacy as a five-star General



Have a story idea? [Let us know!](#)



## Community Collaboration



### PEACE POLE INSTALLATION

*PROMOTING POSITIVITY, DIVERSITY, AND COMMUNITY*

The Anthony Wayne Area Rotary installed peace poles at each primary school as a visible reminder of the importance of kindness, respect and understanding others.



### WHITEHOUSE KID COUNCIL

*ELECTED STUDENTS VOTE ON SPRING 2027 VILLAGE BANNERS*

Third grade students at Whitehouse Primary participated in local government, learned about various careers, and took part in community decision-making during Kid Council meeting with support from Mayor Bingham and Village Council members.



### PLANTING A PRAIRIE

*STUDENTS PLANT NATIVE PLANTS IN OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE*

AW Junior High students took a hands-on role in the next stage of the native prairie installation on Campus. The project is a partnership with The Toledo Zoo.

## Moving Up! Celebrations of Learning & Growth



### **PRESCHOOL GRADUATION**

Monclova Primary School hosted the [ESC of Lake Erie West Preschool graduation ceremony](#), celebrating 38 young learners as they earned their preschool diplomas.



### **KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION**

Waterville Primary School proudly celebrated the accomplishments of its kindergarten students at a special graduation ceremony held in the AWHs Auditorium.



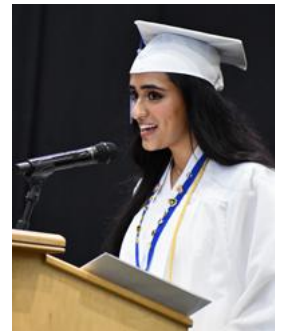
### **4TH GRADE CLAP OUT**

Monclova Primary sent fourth graders off to Fallen Timbers with an enthusiastic clap out during their final walk through the building on the last day of school.

## Congratulations to the AWHs Class of 2026!

The Class of 2026 celebrated two graduation ceremonies this year. The first honored students with disabilities at a private ceremony for family and friends in the AWHs Auditorium. The traditional commencement ceremony was held at the Stroh Center on the campus of BGSU. These events mark a major milestone as students reflected on their achievements and looked ahead to future opportunities.





# Celebrating the End of a Super School Year!

What better way to wrap up the year than with a little fun? From exciting field trips to end-of-year celebrations, these moments remind us that some of the best memories are made when we take time to connect, laugh, and celebrate together.



*WHITEHOUSE PRIMARY BIKE HIKE*



*FALLEN TIMBERS FIELD DAY*



*MONCLOVA PRIMARY FIELD DAY*



*WATERVILLE SPRING SPECTACULAR*



*AW JUNIOR HIGH INCENTIVE DAY*



*AWHS SENIOR PICNIC*