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ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2024

From the Superintendent's Desk

FUTURE SUCCESS STARTS HERE

Welcome to March!

As superintendent, I have been fortunate to hear many success stories about our Anthony Wayne graduates. We all have a profound academic and personal influence on each student who walks across the graduation stage. Many of our alumni go on to do outstanding work and participate in wonderful programs that reach people and needs across the world.

As a proud parent and superintendent, I want to share the below story about my son Drew who graduated in 2019. I know Anthony Wayne Local Schools provided the foundation for his success.

[PharmD student improvises lifesaving device on Guatemalan Medical Trip](#)

Your hard work and dedication makes a difference in our students' lives and can have tremendous ripple effects.

Each of us, through the work we do, is making an impact on every student in the District. Thank you for everything you do to support, encourage, teach and celebrate our students.

Go Generals!!
Jim Fritz, Superintendent

OUR VISION

Driven by our core beliefs and rich traditions, Anthony Wayne Local Schools will be among the best school districts in the state and our future ready Generals will be prepared to march forward with a foundation that will allow each individual ultimate success.

RECENT SUCCESSES

[Rocket Kids intern follows heart for children to Disney race challenge](#)

[AW grad Knapp overcomes leg injury, earns Division I college hockey scholarship](#)

[Lauren Radwan to be inducted into university's hall of fame](#)

['01 Grade Geoff Wells earns medals in world aquatics championships](#)

Anthony Wayne Local Schools empowers students to be future ready!

LINKS TO ELECTION INFORMATION

As the March 19 election day draws nearer, please remember that the District has made [information about the proposed operational levy available to stakeholders on the website](#).

Direct links to the various presentations and documents are provided here for your convenience as well.

If you speak with residents who want more details, please encourage them to review the available information online -- and to reach out to the CAO with any follow up questions by phone or by emailing planning@anthonywayneschools.org.

[AWLS Financial Recovery Plan](#)

[FAQ: Financial Recovery Plan](#)

[Levy Cost for Property Owners](#)

[FAQ: Operational Levy](#)

[FAQ: Expense Reductions](#)

[Lucas County AREIS](#)

[Lucas County BOE](#)

[View Your Ballot](#)

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT COMPLETE

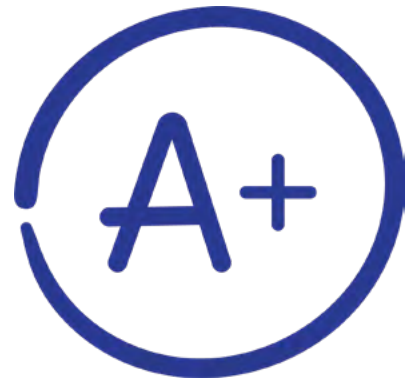
The Ohio Auditor of State's office recently completed its audit of the District finances for the period of July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. AWLS is required to have an audit performed annually because its federal revenues exceed \$750,000.00 in annual receipts.

The weeks-long auditing process ensures the District is spending public funds appropriately and lawfully.

We are proud to report the District had no findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, single audit findings or questioned costs.

The district once again, has earned a clean audit and will receive an Auditor of State Award.

If you would like to review the audit, you may find it on the [Treasurer's page of the website](#).



ANNOUNCING THE GENERALS NETWORK

Goal Three of the [District's Strategic Plan](#) states in part, "AWLS will ... develop partnerships for the purpose of providing outstanding learning opportunities..." and Goal Four states that the district will "continue to work with the community to provide the necessary resources to ensure all Generals are future ready."

Last week, during the annual [In-Demand Jobs Day and Career Fair](#), the District announced the newly formed Generals Network. This collaboration is an expansion of the current [Career Education initiatives at AWLS](#), with the goal of collaborating with local businesses and organizations to help students learn about the opportunities that await them upon graduation.

Businesses are invited to be a regular part of the career awareness, exploration and planning activities in the district, participating in activities like serving as a field trip destination, guest speaker, job shadowing or co-op host, or other job-related experience.

The goal is to have 100 businesses committed to helping our students discover which career best fits their interests and talents. [More information is available on the District website](#), and interested businesses should contact [Stephanie Buckenmeyer](#) to sign up.

The Generals Network is just one more way the District is working to achieve its mission of empowering students to be future ready.

[The Blade: New network gives more opportunities to students at Anthony Wayne](#)

MARCH 19 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The Professional Development Committee hopes that the February 20 Professional Development Preview Day has you excited to learn more about instructional practices and technologies available to support your teaching. We are gearing up for a full day of learning and planning on Tuesday, March 19.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Available topics will be similar to what was offered on the February 20 preview day.
- You do not have to register for the same courses you took last time, if you do not feel they are applicable to your needs.
- *You DO need to register for your preferred courses.*
- Collaboration, experimentation and planning time will be provided.



ACTIVITY SCHEDULE & LOCATIONS

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	MORNING MOTIVATION KICK-OFF MEETING All Staff: AWHS Auditorium
8:45 -10:45 a.m.	SESSION 1 Campus Staff at AWHS Primary Staff at AW Junior High
10:45 - 11:15 a.m.	COLLABORATION & PLANNING TIME AWHS Staff: TBD AW Junior High Staff: AWHS Commons Fallen Timbers Middle Staff: AWHS Media Center Monclova Primary Staff: AW Junior High Cafeteria Waterville Primary Staff: AW Junior High Gymnasium Whitehouse Primary Staff: AW Junior High Library Media Center
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	DISTRICT-PROVIDED LUNCH All Staff: AWHS Cafeteria
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.	SESSION 2 Campus Staff at AWHS Primary Staff at AW Junior High
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	COLLABORATION & PLANNING TIME AWHS Staff: TBD AW Junior High Staff: AWHS Commons Fallen Timbers Middle Staff: AWHS Media Center Monclova Primary Staff: AW Junior High Cafeteria Waterville Primary Staff: AW Junior High Gymnasium Whitehouse Primary Staff: AW Junior High Library Media Center

**CAMPUS STAFF
REGISTER HERE >>**

**PRIMARY STAFF
REGISTER HERE >>**



LEARN MORE

[Decrease Classroom Clutter to Increase Creativity](#)

[Cluttered Classrooms are Problematic for Kids with Low Working Memory](#)

[Changing Behaviors by Changing the Classroom Environment](#)

SPRING CLEANING YOUR CLASSROOM

Spring break inspections will take place in all buildings this month. Please remove any unapproved appliances, furniture or furnishings that were not purchased by the District from your classroom, office or workspace. Now is also a great time to take a few minutes to declutter and organize your space. Use the tips below to help you get started.

START SMALL

Tackle one area at a time to avoid feeling overwhelmed. Begin with a specific corner, shelf, or set of drawers before moving on to larger spaces.

USE THE THREE BOX METHOD

Label three boxes or bins as "Keep," "Donate/Sell," and "Discard." As you go through items, place them into the corresponding box. This method helps streamline decision-making.

CLEAR DESKTOPS AND SURFACES

Keep work surfaces, including teacher desks and student tables, clear of unnecessary items. Only essential materials for current lessons or activities should be on display.

EMPTY AND CLEAN STORAGE AREAS

Empty out cabinets, drawers, and storage spaces. Wipe down surfaces and only put back items that you regularly use.

TIDY YOUR BOOKSHELVES

Organize and declutter the classroom library by removing outdated or damaged books. Arrange books neatly on shelves and consider creating a system for categorizing them.

PURGE PAPERS

Reduce paper clutter by sorting and digitizing files, then recycling or shredding any unneeded paper.

CLEAN UP CABLES

Tidy up cable clutter by using cable organizers or ties. Ensure that electronic devices are stored neatly and are charging when not in use.

INVOLVE STUDENTS

Turn decluttering into a class activity. Assign specific tasks to students, such as organizing materials, cleaning up shared spaces, and maintaining a tidy classroom.

FIFTY FOR 50 COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS

The District is well on its way of completing 50 community service projects in honor of the 50th anniversary of FTMS and Monclova Primary School.

If your class, student organization, team, department or building is hosting an event, please send the details to Rebecca Schwan, so it can be included in the count.

[See the completed projects on the website.](#)

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT IS OPEN!

We are getting ready for the Class of 2037! Children who are five years old by September 30, 2024 are eligible to start kindergarten in the 2024-25 school year. Families can begin the enrollment process and find more information online.

If you know a family with a child ready to start school, please direct them to www.Anthony-WayneSchools.org/Kindergarten.

TURN TESTING STRESS TO SUCCESS -- WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM TAYLOR SWIFT

State and AP testing season is just around the corner, and in the words of the infamous Taylor Swift, "Are you ready for it?"

You may think that next month is a "nightmare dressed like a daydream" and managing the craziness is something that only happens "in your wildest dreams," but you and your students can "stay, stay, stay" positive and *use this as an opportunity to showcase all the learning that has happened this year.*



Below are 3 tips to encourage students to do their best and demonstrate all they have learned:

Sing Taylor's tune of positivity. [In a 2014 study](#), it was revealed that academic performance is positively influenced by a school's climate. Adequate sleep, exercise, healthy eating and positive self-talk can help you [see the glass as half-full](#), which can [lead to student positivity](#).

Set chart-topping goals. Using EVAAS projections can provide focus, and [as a 2016 study showed](#), goal-setting in relation to standardized testing can lead to higher scores.

"Shake, shake, shake" off stress: Researchers have discovered that stress can impact the [brain's ability to remember, think, and learn](#). Remember to "breathe" and assist students in the regulation of their emotions [through relationship building](#).

As T. Swift would say, "Let the games begin, let the games begin, let the games begin now!" Remember, "everything will be alright if we just keep dancing!"



SUPPORTING MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

AWLS is proud to have each of its buildings recognized as Purple Star schools for their commitment to supporting our military families. ODEW is offering free webinars to bolster supports for students and families connected to our nation's military.

In preparation for April, the Month of the Military Child, please consider tuning in at 4:00 p.m. on March 13 for [Understanding the Needs of Military-Connected Students](#).

FREE HANDS-ONLY CPR TRAINING MARCH 21

The District is pleased to partner with the American Red Cross to provide free hands-only CPR training for AW staff on March 21. Sessions will be held at the CAO and are offered at 6:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The mid-day session is intended for those who work a non-traditional shift, such as transportation and operations staff. [Please register online if you wish to attend.](#)



PORTRAIT OF A GENERAL: LEARNER'S MINDSET

"Research shows that you begin learning in the womb and go right on learning until the moment you pass on. Your brain has a capacity for learning that is virtually limitless, which makes every human a potential genius."

—Michael J. Gelb

WELLNESS COMMITTEE NEWS



2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

BLUE CREEK METROPARK

2 MAY Kayaking 4-6 pm

9 MAY Kayaking 4-6 pm
Rock Wall

Open House - Drop-in events
More information coming soon

LEARNER'S MINDSET 2024 WELLNESS LUNCH & LEARNS

Unleash the power within you as you explore the keys to unlocking a stress-free and joyous life. The ProMedica Employee Wellness Program is offering the following free lunch and learn opportunities. Click the link to sign up.

[Stress Management: Assertiveness Skills Training](#)

Wednesday, Mar. 20
12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Learn ways to transform yourself into a more naturally assertive individual by acquiring the mindset and skills needed for confident self-expression.

[Stress Management: Steps to Increase Happiness](#)

Wednesday, Apr. 17
2:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Dive into evidence-based practices that elevate your happiness by reducing stress levels.

PUT THE SPRING BACK IN YOUR STEP!

If you're not feeling quite like yourself, it is important to take the time to get help when you need it. As an AW employee, you and your family members are eligible to receive confidential professional counseling through ProMedica's Employee Assistance Program. For more information or to schedule a phone, video or in-person visit call 866-327-3759.

WALK, RUN, WALK (OR JUST WALK) YOUR WAY TO FITNESS

AWLS Technology Specialist, Nickie Sattler hosts group training using Jeff Galloway's Run-Walk-Run method for race preparation and fitness and a walking only group for those simply looking to get outside and get moving.

The group meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings in various locations in Lucas and Wood Counties. There is a registration fee, but if you enter TULSA10 at checkout you can save \$10. Check it in her [Facebook group](#) or jump right in by [registering online](#).



WHITEHOUSE 5K/1K COMING SOON!

Registration for the annual Whitehouse Primary 5K and 1K Kids Fun Run is now open! Race day is Saturday, April 13 at 8:30 a.m. You'll start at Whitehouse Primary and weave your way through the village and down the Wabash Cannonball Trail before racing back to the school.

This fun annual event supports Whitehouse Primary. [Sign up here](#).



MARCH EVENTS

- MARCH 1** Kindergarten Enrollment Begins
- MARCH 5** Symphonic Winds & 8th Grade Band Concert
- MARCH 6** AWHs Concert Band Performance
- MARCH 7** 6th & 7th Grade Band Concert
- MARCH 10** Daylight Saving Time Begins: Spring Forward
- MARCH 11** Board of Education Meeting
- MARCH 13** Whitehouse Second Grade Program
- MARCH 17** St. Patrick's Day
- MARCH 19** NO SCHOOL: Staff Professional Development
End of Third Quarter
First Day of Spring
Primary Election Day
- MARCH 20** Statewide Severe Weather Drill
Waterville First Grade Music Program
- MARCH 21** Monclova Second Grade Music Program
Whitehouse First Grade Music Program
- MARCH 25 - APRIL 1** CLOSED: Spring Break

[See all upcoming events on the District calendar](#)



AWLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The Board of Education meets at the Central Administrative Office at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise specified.

March 11

April 15

May 13

[Meeting agendas and Board policies are available online.](#)

[A live stream is available for those who cannot attend.](#)

UPCOMING LPDC MEETINGS

March 11

April 15

May 6



SOLAR ECLIPSE SCHOOL CLOSING: APRIL 8

As we get closer to the Solar Eclipse day, please remind your students' families that there will no school on April 8. This is a change from the original District calendar, and there is a chance that some families have missed this update.



FREE: 25 TIPS FOR TEACHERS USING GOOGLE CHROME

WGTE will host a free workshop for teachers on Thursday, March 7 starting at 4:30 p.m. to learn how to better utilize Google Chrome's features in the classroom. [More information and registration details are available online.](#)

HONOR SOMEONE UNBELIEVABLY BENEFICIAL (SUB)

submitted by Dr. Brad Contat, Director of Human Resources

We are always appreciative of our sub team throughout the district. They step in to assist us in making sure we can get students to school, continue learning, are fed, and facilities are clean and maintained when members of our full time team are unable to be in attendance.

S.U.B.s are Someone Unbelievably Beneficial to our team here at Anthony Wayne!

With this being said, we would like to begin recognizing them on a more regular basis to show our appreciation. Each month, beginning this month, we will highlight an individual or individual(s).

If there is a particular sub you would like to nominate, please feel free to send an email to me at bcontat@anthonywayne-schools.org.

This month, we would like to recognize several members of our transportation sub team. Transportation teams across the state and nation have been hit hard with low staffing, which has made it challenging to keep buses rolling. These individuals step in and assist us in doing that regularly.

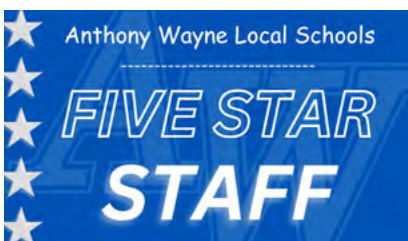


AWLS SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS: SOMEONE(S) UNBELIEVABLY BENEFICIAL!



Substitute bus drivers play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth and uninterrupted operation of the Transportation Department at AWLS. These dedicated individuals serve as reliable backups, ready to step in at a moment's notice when regular drivers are absent due to illness, emergency or other unforeseen situation.

Being recognized with S.U.B. Awards for being Someone Unbelievably Beneficial to our District are: Elliot Sells, Robin Hartzell and Seth Hudson. Also honored, but not pictured are: Aaron Weise, Adam Kane, Deb Parker, Ken Bess, Matt Dewitz and Kim Cocoran



The Five Star Staff video series, produced by AWHs communications intern, Ashlyn Shafer, shines a light on the individuals across our District who empower students to be future ready.

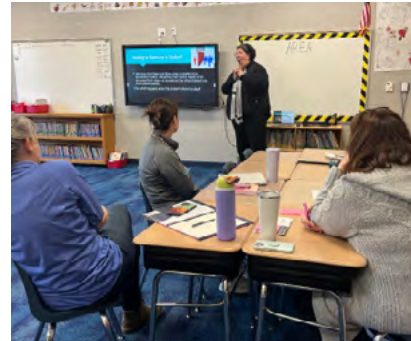
Featured this month is [Elena North](#), Intervention Specialist at Monclova Primary School.

THANK YOU TO OUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY COMMITTEE, PRESENTERS

The February 20, PD Day was a smashing success thanks to the creativity, collaboration and critical thinking of the Professional Development Committee. Thank you for all of your efforts in [preparing learning sessions tailored to meeting the instruction and technology needs of your peers.](#)

Many thanks also go out to the individuals who forfeited their opportunity to learn in order to share their expertise and knowledge with others: Matt Beakas, Jim Conner, Mary Dressel, Chris Hamady, Beka Hrcka, Cailyn Morstadt, Shane Pransky, Taylor Pawliski, Renee Pellerite, Brad Rhodes and JoAnna Studer.

During the March 19 full-day PD, instructional staff will dive deeper into these selected topics and begin to develop plans for incorporating their new knowledge in the classroom.



THE DAZELL FAMILY HAS GROWN!

Congratulations to Marissa Dazell, Intervention Specialist at AW Junior High, and her husband Ian on the birth of their third son.

Parker Lee was born on February 12 and was welcomed by proud big brothers Jackson and Owen. Everyone is happy, healthy and totally adorable!

JAMIE HOLLINGER NOMINATED FOR OAESA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Dr. Jamie Hollinger, Waterville Primary Principal was among the nominees for the Ohio Association Elementary School Administrators (OAESA) for Principal of the Year for 2024. Congratulations, Dr. Hollinger for being recognized for your tireless contributions to the education of the children of AW schools, and for your enthusiasm in supporting other educators!

TIFFANY SECREST RECOGNIZED BY TEACHERS HONOR TEACHERS PROGRAM

Waterville Primary School speech therapist, Tiffany Secrest was [recognized by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation](#) for her commitment to supporting student growth and learning. She was nominated by her colleague, Jennifer Liber through the Teachers Honor Teachers program. Both will receive a \$500 grant for their classrooms. Congratulations!

AWHS COACHES EARN RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Jami Carter and Julia Foster for being named NLL Coach of the Year for girls basketball and gymnastics, respectively. Jami was also named District 7 Coach of the Year.

Your passion for helping AW student athletes be the best they can be shows through the many hours of hard work, planning and mentoring that you devote to each season. Thank you for all you do!

AW NEWS



VIEW BACK ISSUES: Previous editions of the *Generals Bulletin* can be found on the [Staff Forms and Information page of the District website.](#)