



November 2025

The Generals Post

Anthony Wayne Local Schools Stakeholder Newsletter

As November arrives, I'm reminded why it's one of my favorite months of the year. Of course, many of us think of the delicious Thanksgiving meal and the time spent around the table with family and friends. While I certainly enjoy that tradition, what I appreciate most about November is the spirit of gratitude that it brings.

This is the perfect time to pause and reflect on all that we are thankful for, especially the people who make Anthony Wayne Local Schools such a special place to learn and work. As superintendent, I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who supports our District: students, families, staff members, community partners, and residents. Your dedication, encouragement, and involvement are appreciated more than you know. This year the District leadership is focusing on ways that we can give back to our community as a way of showing our appreciation.

In order to show my appreciation and to share more about the District, I invite you to join me on November 10 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon for cider and donuts at the Roche de Boeuf shelter house at Farnsworth Metropark. I am excited to have conversations about the great things happening within the District and to listen to your thoughts and concerns in an informal setting.

Thank you for your continued support and for the many ways you contribute to the success of our schools. May your November be filled with happiness, warmth, and the knowledge that we are deeply thankful for all of you.

Kevin Herman, Superintendent
Anthony Wayne Local Schools





Board of Education Updates

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.

[Contact the Board](#)

Highlights from the October 13 Meeting:

- Jim Conner, Director of Teaching and Learning, presented an overview of the [district's success on the local report cards](#).
- KayLynne Schaller, AW Junior High - Penta Family Consumer Sciences Teacher and student FCCLA representatives shared their [successes from the National Leadership Conference](#).
- The Board recognized the Certified and Classified Staff Members of the Year.
- Semi-annual Board Policy updates were approved in alignment with state law and as recommended by Neola.
- The Board approved the [District Calendar for the 2026-27 school year](#).
- More than \$20,000 in donations were accepted from individuals, boosters groups and community partners.
- Board members provided apologies and clarifications on faith-related concerns and social media activity, along with plans for continued professional development and progress.
- During the public comment period, community members shared their perspectives and called for continued responsibility and strong leadership from the district.

[View the meeting recording](#)

NOVEMBER REGULAR MEETING

Monday, Nov. 3

6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER REGULAR MEETING

Monday, Dec. 8

6:00 p.m.

Tax Reform Discussions Could Impact School Funding

Lawmakers at the Ohio Statehouse are continuing discussions about state tax reform, including proposals that could change how schools are funded. While some legislators are calling for the elimination of property taxes, which may sound appealing, these changes could shift the burden of school funding to local income taxes instead.

Several bills are currently under consideration:

HB 186 – Reduce School District Property Taxes

- Caps property tax growth at inflation levels.
- Provides only a temporary backfill for schools, leaving long-term funding gaps.
- Does not adjust the state funding formula, meaning districts could face a “double loss” — less local revenue and less state aid.

HB 335 – Limit Inside Millage Revenue Increases

- Limits local tax growth tied to inflation, excluding new construction.
- Could force districts back to the ballot more often to maintain funding levels.

HB 129 – Millage Floor & Fixed-Sum Levies

- Restricts the renewal of existing emergency and substitute levies.
- Removes rollback credits for many levies after one renewal, meaning future levies could cost taxpayers more.

We are closely monitoring these developments to understand how potential tax reforms may affect Anthony Wayne Local Schools and our community. We will continue to share updates as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Kerri Johnson, Treasurer

Ray Greene, Assistant Treasurer



Board Candidate Application Process

The AWLS Board of Education is accepting applications from community members interested in serving in an upcoming vacant seat on the Board. [The application form and more information is available on the District website through November 3.](#)

The appointee will serve the remainder of the term, from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027.

Navigating Changes: New Laws Supporting Student Success

New state laws are bringing some important changes to our schools this year including updated expectations for attendance, new guidelines for informing families about their child's education, and the new ban on cell phone use during the school day. An overview of these new rules is provided below, and we will continue to share updates as they are available.



HB 410: Chronic Absence and Habitual Truancy

Ohio has updated its school attendance laws, shifting the focus from punitive measures to early intervention for excessive student absences. A student is now considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of the school year—including both excused and unexcused absences. [A letter with the details of this new attendance law was sent to parents last month](#). Resources supporting regular school attendance can be found later in this newsletter.

HB 96: Student Cell Phone Ban

With the passage of House Bill 250, the state issued a ban on student cell phone use during the school day, set to take effect January 1, 2026. AWLS chose to adopt the policy early -- effective at the beginning of the school year. AWHS Communications Intern Giana Cortez spoke with students and staff about how the change is shaping daily life at the high school. [Read her story](#).



HB 8: Parents' Bill of Rights

Ohio's House Bill 8, known as the Parents' Bill of Rights, requires schools to adopt policies ensuring parents are notified about, and can review materials related to, their child's education and wellbeing. The law specifically mandates parent notification of changes to a student's mental, emotional, or physical health, and allows parents to review or opt out of instruction containing sexuality content.

In response, the District has increased communication with families in these areas to keep them informed and actively involved in their child's learning and wellbeing.

Kindergarten Enrollment Changes for 2026-2027

Starting with next school year, children must be five years old by August 1 to enroll in kindergarten at AWLS. Previously, the cutoff date was September 30. The shift to an earlier cutoff is intended to support the long-term academic and developmental readiness, ensuring that children have the best possible foundation for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year begins March 1, 2026.



Generals for Generations Foundation Update

Enthusiasm is growing for Generals for Generations - a new 501(c)(3) organization committed to supporting Anthony Wayne Local Schools through the support of private gifts. Outreach activities continue with the foundation seeking individuals interested in making an impact through foundation governance, volunteerism, strategic guidance and philanthropy. More information is available on the District website or by contacting Generals for Generations Board President, Dr. Mike O'Shea.

E-Bikes: Popular and Potentially Dangerous

A close-up photograph of a person's hand gripping the handlebars of an electric bicycle. The person is wearing a blue jacket. The background is blurred.

Electric powered bicycles are becoming a popular way for students to get around, but we've also seen an increase in unsafe riding behaviors such as speeding, not wearing helmets, and ignoring traffic laws. These actions put riders, pedestrians, and drivers at risk.

We have partnered with our local law enforcement agencies to give families the information they need to teach their children about being respectful, responsible and safe when riding their e-bikes.

Working together, we can help keep everyone in our community safe.

Every Day Counts! Tips for Strong Attendance Habits

Ohio's new attendance laws emphasize identifying and supporting students before absences become a barrier to learning. When students show up to school every day, they build the habits, connections, and confidence that lead to lifelong success.

Families play a key role in helping students build those habits. Talk with your child about your expectations for attending school each day and why consistent learning matters. Here are a few ways families can help support strong attendance:

Plan Ahead: Avoid scheduling vacations and appointments during the school day whenever possible and reach out to your child's school if challenges—such as chronic illness, transportation, or other barriers arise.

Establish Routines: Set out clothing and supplies the night before, and keep consistent bedtimes and morning schedules.

Stay Engaged: Get involved in school activities, and communicate with teachers about schoolwork or attendance concerns.

Access Resources: Encourage your child to take advantage of school meals, health and mental health supports, and enrichment opportunities like sports, clubs, and music.

Support Learning: Remind your child that each day builds on the last, and regular attendance helps them stay on track and achieve long-term success.

The [Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center](#) has more tips and talking points for families.

Let's work together to make every day count—because regular attendance empowers students to be future ready!



MORE ATTENDANCE RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

- Illnesses happen. The [District Nurse Handbook](#) has advice for when it's best for your child to stay home.
- [Primary Families: Building Strong Habits](#)
- [Campus Families: Emphasizing Education](#)
- [Tips for Keeping Your Child Healthy](#)
- [Managing Chronic Health Issues at School](#)
- [Addressing Anxiety](#)

Stay Connected

[Contact your child's teacher, counselor, or principal if you have concerns about your child's school attendance.](#)

The Anthony Wayne Parent-Teacher Association hosted a Color Blast Run for AW Junior High students after a successful donation drive.

[More photos >>](#)



Our Parents Groups Put the FUN in Fundraising!

A big shout-out to our incredible parent volunteers who know how to turn every fundraiser into a celebration! From setting silly goals (like having Mr. Bolone kiss a cow) to exciting school wide activities, their energy and enthusiasm make a real difference for our schools. Thanks to their efforts, we're not just raising funds for much-needed school supplies, equipment and programs — we're building community and raising school spirit!



Each Monclova Primary student enjoyed a day in the fall sunshine as part of the first ever Monclova Area Parents Fun Run.

Total Raised:
\$26,000

The Waterville Parents Association hosted its third annual Generals March, a day of physical activity and fun.

Total Raised:
\$31,000

Whitehouse Parents Club rewarded students with a recess party after meeting their Penny Wars fundraising goal.

Total Raised:
\$5,075



nickelodeon

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL™

YOUTH EDITION

Who lives in a pineapple on our stage? AW Junior High is bringing a splash of color to our auditorium with Nickelodeon's SpongeBob the Musical: Youth Edition! Full of heroism, collaboration and friendship, this lively production brings everyone's favorite sponge and his friends to life in a whole new way.

When an unexpected crisis threatens their world, SpongeBob (Evan Ackerman) and his pals, Patrick Star (Betsey Shiffert) and Sandy Cheeks (Maggie Dumas) must work together to show that optimism, courage, and teamwork can make all the difference.

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 14 &15 at 7:00 p.m. in the AWHS Auditorium

[Purchase Tickets](#)



STUDENTS SELECTED FOR FOCUS ART SHOW

Three AWHS students were selected for exhibition in the 2025 FOCUS Show - an annual showcase that celebrates the creativity and vision of emerging artists. Lillian Albert, Ruby Rapp and Olivia Taylor will have artwork on exhibition from November 8 through December 13 at the Center for Visual Arts on the campus of the Toledo Museum of Art. The exhibition is free and open to the public.



JOIN US FOR DONUTS & DIALOGUE

Anthony Wayne community members are invited to meet Superintendent Kevin Herman for cider, donuts, and conversation from **9:00 - Noon on Monday, Nov. 10 at the Roche de Boeuf Shelter at Farnsworth Metropark.**

“Donut” miss this informal opportunity to connect with district leadership to get the **“in-cider”** scoop about the latest at AWLS. Bring your questions, ideas, and a friend!

Generals Tech Tips Lunch & Learn: Managing Digital Photos

Learn how to take control over your digital photos for better organization and to reduce the need to pay for extra storage.



Bring your lunch and join the AW Technology Team for this free workshop at Noon on November 12.

Full details are [available on the District website](#).
RSVPs are requested. Please email Chris Hamady at chamady@anthonywayneschools.org to save your seat.

AWHS Veterans Day Assembly and Wall of Honor Ceremony

More than two dozen local veterans and active duty service members will be added to the Wall of Honor during the Veterans Day assembly at Anthony Wayne High School on Wednesday, Nov. 5. The ceremony will be held in the main gymnasium starting at 9:00 a.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

[District Events
Calendar](#)

[Generals Athletics
Schedules](#)

NOVEMBER 3

Evening Conferences, K-12
Board of Education Meeting

NOVEMBER 4

No School
Conferences, K-12
Election Day

NOVEMBER 5

AWHS Veterans Day
Assembly & Wall of Honor
Ceremony

NOVEMBER 10

Donuts & Dialogue
Waterville Primary
Veterans Day Celebration

NOVEMBER 12

Generals Tech Tips:
Managing Digital Photos

NOVEMBER 13

Monclova Primary
4th Grade Music Program

NOVEMBER 14 - 15

AW Junior High
Fall Musical

NOVEMBER 19

Whitehouse Primary 4th
Grade Music Program

NOVEMBER 20

AWHS Bands
Fall Concert

NOVEMBER 24

No School
Staff Professional Dev.

NOVEMBER 25 - 28

District Closed
Fall Break



MR. DON SCHALLER

Alumni & Generals for Generations Founding Donor

A descendant of one of our District's founding families, Don Schaller ('57) strives to honor their legacy through his passion for education and generous philanthropy. His commitment to "paying it back and paying it forward" embodies the spirit of Generals for Generations, and promotes the continued success of our schools. [More >>](#)



MRS. ROBIN FRITZ

Science Teacher and 6th Grade Camp Coordinator

From inspiring curiosity in the classroom at Fallen Timbers Middle School to leading adventures at Camp Michindoh, Robin has spent nearly three decades helping students step outside their comfort zones — and into moments they'll never forget as they discover new things about themselves and the world around them. [More >>](#)



MRS. NOELLE MATSON, AT, ATC

Athletic Trainer

For the past 15 years, Noelle has been a trusted presence on the sidelines and training rooms at AWLS. Through a partnership with the ProMedica Sports Medicine Institute, she helps our more than 600 student athletes stay healthy, recover from injuries, and return to the sports they love. [More >>](#)



SOPHIA STANTON

All-Ohio Golfer

What started as family fun has turned into a record-breaking career for Sophia, now the most decorated female golfer in AWHS history. The All-State and two-time NLL Buckeye Player of the Year is heading to Taylor University to continue her golf journey, with her sights set on a professional golf career. [More >>](#)



MR. ROY YOUNG

AWHS Director of Instrumental Music

Recently honored as one of three finalists for the 2025 CreativeOhio Arts Educator Champion Award, Roy inspires nearly 500 students each year to find joy and self-motivation through music. Over the last 18 years, he has transformed the AWLS instrumental music program into one of the most respected in the state. [More >>](#)



MISS SOPHIA ZYGMUNT

BGSU America Reads Tutor

In what started out as a part-time job, Sophia has found unexpected joy in helping young students grow as readers. The experience has taught her patience, communication, and the power of connection -- and has this film major considering adding a teaching degree to her educational plans. [More >>](#)



COOPER UNVERFERTH

Student Director for the AW Junior High Musical

Cooper has been an active member in theater and drama for the last several years. His ardor for acting has earned him several lead roles over the years but this year, he's taking on his biggest role yet -- as the Student Director for the AW Junior High production of The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition. [More >>](#)



ABBY BROSE

Junior Cross Country Championships Winner

Abby's dedication to training—balancing swimming, soccer, and extra runs—helped her close a late gap to cross the finish line first in the Dave's Elementary Cross Country Championships. Now she looks forward to joining the AW Junior High cross country team and encourages others to 'just keep going.' [More >>](#)





Waterville Primary's after-school LEGO Club promotes critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity.



Six AW sophomores were the only high school team to compete in Maumee Indoor Theater's 48-hour film festival.



The AWHS Quiz Bowl Team is growing and taking the competition by storm.



AW Junior High students learn the value of giving back to the community.

Generals In the News

13abc: National School Bus Safety Week Begins

BCSN: Inside the NLL with AW Boys Basketball Coach Alex Geisel

Toledo Free Press: Backlash to AW Board of Education on Ideological References

WTOL: Athlete of the Week - Brayden Cole, AWHS Football

WTOL: Athlete of the Week - Lila Simon, AWHS Soccer

Anthony Wayne-Penta FFA Students Test Water Quality

Dave's Junior Cross Country Program Ends Season

FTMS House Council Members Attend Leadership Workshop

AWJH Students Complete Community Service Projects

Have a story idea?

Send it to communications@anthonywayneschools.org.

State Tournament Appearances



Mara Boyd, Jillian To and Cora Langenderfer represented girls tennis.



The girls golf team finished 11th in the state tournament.



The boys cross country team finished District Runner-Up to earn a trip to the state race, and Avelyn Lengel will run as an individual qualifier for the girls team. They will compete Saturday, Nov. 1 at Fortress Obetz.

GO GENERALS: The Competition Continues

Girls volleyball has made it to the Elite 8. They will play Big Walnut at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1 at Westerville South High School.



Girls soccer also made it to the Elite 8. They will take on Avon at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1 at home.

Generals football has moved on to game two in playoffs. They will play at North Ridgeville on Friday, Nov. 7.





Staff from Monclova Primary donated their time to fill weekend snack bags in collaboration with [Neighborhood Bridges](#) and the [Anthony Wayne Community Food Ministry](#) to support local families facing food insecurity.

Caring for our AW School Community

SUPPORT A SERVICE PROJECT

We often hear that community members would like to make a difference in our community, but are not sure to start. We invite you to be on the lookout for opportunities to support our schools with their upcoming community service projects. [Details will be shared on Flyer Central as they are available.](#)

SIGN UP FOR NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGES

[Neighborhood Bridges - Anthony Wayne](#) serves as a connecting point between children and families in need in our district with our community members who are willing to support others. Donors and recipients are anonymous.

When you register your email, you will receive notifications when a need arises. There is no commitment to contribute. Just do what you can, if you can, when you can.

Families with needs are encouraged to contact their school counselor to learn how Neighborhood Bridges may be of assistance.

AWLS COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

[This guide](#), prepared by our school counselors and social worker, offers suggestions for local resources to assist families. It includes contacts for housing, food, clothing, and utilities assistance, along with local resources for medical and mental health care, and much more. It is updated as new services are available.

