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# GENERALS BULLETIN

ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER | MAY 2024

## From the Superintendent's Desk

### *Thank you for your commitment to excellence*

As we approach the end of this school year, I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the outstanding dedication and hard work that each and every one of you has demonstrated throughout the year.

Despite the challenges and uncertainties we have faced, your unwavering commitment to our students' education and well-being has been truly remarkable.

Your resilience, creativity, and passion have not only sustained our school community but have also inspired those around you.

Your ability to adapt to changing circumstances while maintaining a high standard of excellence is a testament to your professionalism and dedication to our shared mission.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this past year, let us also look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

I encourage you to continue to strive for excellence and provide the best possible educational experience for our students as we close out this school year and look forward to next year.

Thank you once again for your hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our school community.

Your contributions have made a significant difference in the lives of our students, and I am truly grateful for all that you do.

Sincerely,  
Jim Fritz, Superintendent  
Anthony Wayne Local Schools

*Thank you*



**Anthony Wayne Local Schools empowers students to be future ready!**

## FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN DISTRICT BUDGET UPDATE

The AWLS Board of Education held a work session on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 to review the May update to the Five-Year Forecast and to discuss the components of the AWLS Financial Recovery Plan (originally approved in late January 2024).

The changes made affect the 2024-25 school year. There are currently no changes to the reductions planned for the 2025-26 school year.



A summary of the plan and its changes was sent to stakeholders on May 1 and is [available on the District website](#).

Specifics regarding the pay-to-participate program and accepted donations for supplemental positions will be coming soon.

At the work session, Board members also agreed that District should be on the ballot in November 2024 as a way to increase operational revenue, and will discuss a new operational levy at its upcoming meetings.

The Board and administrators will continue to close monitor the District's financial situation and make decisions centered on providing the best possible education for our community's children. Additional communications will be shared as information comes available.

### ABOUT THE FIVE-YEAR FORECAST

The 5-year forecast is a resource used to assess and share the financial health of a school district. Districts are required to submit 5-year forecasts twice annually to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW).

[You can view the FY24 5-Year forecast as submitted in November on the District website.](#) The annual update will be presented at the May 13 Board meeting.

[The Ohio DEW has a guide to reading a 5-Year Forecast](#) to help in understanding this document.



### BENEFITS OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS MAY 31

The open enrollment period for employees to sign up for, or make changes to health benefits is open through May 31, 2024. There are no anticipated changes in cost or benefits for FY25.

If you want to keep your current benefits plan, there is nothing you need to do at this time. If you wish to enroll for the first time, make changes or terminate your coverage, [please contact Cindy Brahier](#).

## CLOSING OUT THE SCHOOL YEAR

# OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT REMINDERS

Before you turn out the lights on May 28, be sure that the following tasks are complete:



### CLASSROOM SETUP

Make a map of how you would like your room setup for the next school year for the custodial staff.



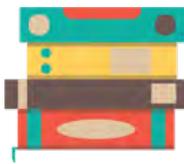
### ROOM DECOR

Carefully remove ALL posters, pictures from walls/doors carefully and cover bulletin boards with paper/plastic.



### LABELING ITEMS

Use care when labeling items to be moved, as some tapes and markers are difficult to remove.



### BOOKS

Check with your custodian, but you may use student lockers to store your classroom library books.



### BASKETS

Individual student baskets may be stored in the over-sink cabinets or in built in/permanent filing cabinets.



### UNWANTED FURNITURE

Offer to others in your building first. Label and leave in your classroom. It will be moved for you.

## FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

As we enter the season of field trips, parties and picnics, please keep your food services team in mind.

If you are planning any event that would affect cafeteria meal counts, please alert your

kitchen staff at least one week in advance.

Please also leave at least a week's time for any special orders through the cafeteria.

Deliveries come in on Thurs-

days and Food Services must place the order the Friday before. Note that the last delivery of the school year will arrive May 16.

Thank you for helping to control inventory and costs!

## DEVICE COLLECTION FOR EXITING EMPLOYEES



Any staff member who is not planning to return to AWLS for the 2024-25 school year, should turn in any devices to the main office of their building. More specific information about returning your district-issued devices will be shared via email to the News list before the end of the school year. If you have questions, please contact [Chris Hamady](#) or [Brad Contat](#).



## SUMMER ACTIVITIES POSTED

There are many camps, athletics teams, lessons and other activities happening across our community this summer. Be sure to [check Flyer Central](#) frequently as new events and opportunities are added several times per week. If you have an event to share, please send the flyer or link to [communications@anthonywayneschools.org](mailto:communications@anthonywayneschools.org).



## STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK: CELEBRATING YOU!

Each of our District employees plays an important role in helping us achieve our mission of empowering students to be future ready. In every classroom, office, bus, cafeteria and playground your unwavering commitment to our students' education and wellbeing shines brightly.

Thank you for your tireless efforts, your kindness, and your unwavering dedication. You are the heart and soul of our school community, and we are deeply grateful for all that you do!

The Fallen Timbers staff goes above and beyond to do what is best for students. The hard work, dedication and passion they put into our kids is amazing and we are so thankful for such a great group of individuals.

- MATT SMITH

**YOU MAKE**  
*a Difference*



Thank you to all the amazing staff at our school for your unwavering dedication, passion, and support. Your hard work truly makes a difference in shaping our futures. We are grateful for everything you do!

- KEVIN HERMAN

The enthusiasm, generosity and devotion to their work that each and every one of our AW staff members maintains is second to none. I am continually impressed by all that you pour into our students each day. Your commitment to their growth is reflected by their success. THANK YOU for serving with love!

- REBECCA SCHWAN



To My Food Service Comrades: I couldn't ask for better people to work with, support, and laugh with every day. The amount of heart and dedication you put into making nourishing meals for our students is more than amazing.

- MEGAN MENCHACA

Special Education Teachers: Your tireless efforts in tailoring education to meet diverse needs, fostering a nurturing environment, and championing the potential of every student do not go unnoticed. You embody the belief that every individual has unique gifts to offer, and you tirelessly work to unlock those potentials, guiding your students toward their brightest futures. Thank you for all you do each and every day!

- JENNIFER KARL-THOMPSON & ANGELA GARDNER



Every day I am thankful that I have the opportunity to work with such a dedicated and passionate group of people who care so deeply for our students and their progress. I am always amazed when I witness our staff's willingness to go the extra mile to help our students!

- BRAD RHODES

Teacher Appreciation Week is a special week where we honor and say thank you to our outstanding AW teaching professionals. At Anthony Wayne, we are extremely grateful for our dedicated, hard-working, and supportive teachers who work with our students day in and day out. Thank you, AW teaching staff - Go Generals!

- KEVIN PFEFFERLE

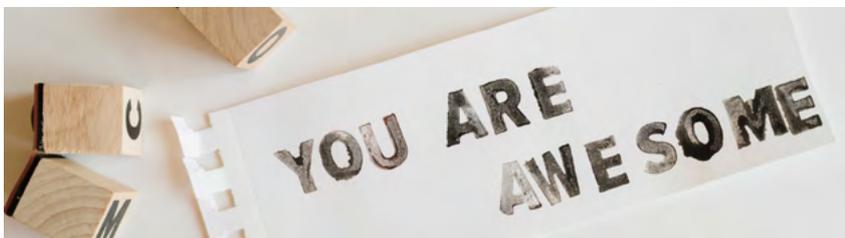
Your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts are the cornerstone of our school community. Your commitment to excellence in education is truly remarkable, and we are incredibly grateful for all that you do. Thank you for your hard work, passion, and continued support in making our school a place of growth, learning, and success for all.

- NEIL RAYMOND

**“ANYONE  
WHO DOES  
ANYTHING  
TO HELP  
A CHILD IN  
HIS LIFE IS  
A HERO TO ME.”**

Thank you, staff for everything you do for our students each and every day! Your dedication to our students, schools and community is unmatched. You are the reason our students are future ready!

- JORDAN LEFEVRE



Thank you for your continued professionalism and dedication to caring for our students on a daily basis. Your actions do not go unnoticed!

- BETSEY MURRY

Thank you for giving your time, energy, and positivity to support and help our students grow! Always remember and believe that You make an incredible difference in the lives of so many!

- JAMIE HOLLINGER



## THIS MONTH'S CELEBRATIONS

### MAY 1

Principals Day

### MAY 3

School Lunch Hero Day School

### MAY 6

School Bus Driver Day

### MAY 8

School Nurse Day

### MAY 10

School Communicators Day

### MAY 18

School Speech Pathologist Day

### MAY 6 - 10

Teacher Appreciation Week  
Substitute Teacher Week

## SPECIAL OFFER



### FREE CYCLING CLASSES

Thanks to a partnership with CycleBar Perrysburg, the Anthony Wayne Youth Foundation is offering 3 FREE RIDES from May 1 through May 31, 2024. [Download the flyer to sign up](#)



## NOMINATION WINDOW OPEN

### AWLS STAFF MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

The District names one Certified Staff Member of the Year and one Classified Staff Member of the Year in recognition of their outstanding contributions to our schools. We are looking for nominations for people who exemplify the Portrait of a General in their daily work in empowering students to be future ready.

There is no limit to the number of individuals you may submit for consideration, but please submit a separate form for each nominee. [Complete your nominations by Monday, Aug. 5.](#)



### PARTNERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM SEEKS NOMINEES

The Ohio Lottery is seeking nominations for students, teachers and schools for their contributions to their school, excellence in the classroom, leadership and innovation.

The Partners in Education program will award cash prizes to winners. [Recognize someone making a difference by submitting a nomination today!](#)



### TEACHERS HONORING TEACHERS

The Jennings Foundation is seeking Ohio public school teachers to share great things about a teaching colleague in an Ohio public school that ensures deep learning for their students. When a story is selected, both the honored educator and the nominator will receive a \$500 award to use for their classrooms.

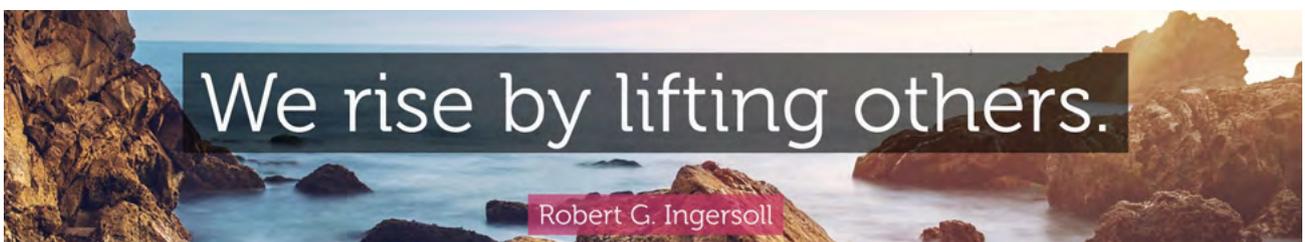
[Submit your nomination for an AWLS educator who is making a difference in the classroom online.](#)



### NOMINATE A STUDENT TO WIN A BIKE

Ten local students will receive a new bicycle, helmet, bike lock and safety light kit from Wersell's Bike Shop and Brightz as a part of the 16th annual Charles Boyk Law Offices Bikes for Kids giveaway.

Nominate a child online at [www.bikesforkidstoledo.com](http://www.bikesforkidstoledo.com) and share how they have overcome adversity, positively impacted the community or other reason. Nominations are open until June 15, 2024.



## SPRING WELLNESS EVENTS

The AWLS Wellness Committee invites you to enjoy time outside with your colleagues at Blue Creek Metropark! There will be snacks and prizes offered at both events.

You are welcome to bring your family.

**KAYAKING**  
THURSDAY, MAY 2 | 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
[Click here to register](#)

**KAYAKING & ROCK WALL CLIMBING**  
THURSDAY, MAY 9 | 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
[Click here to register](#)

**Blue Creek Metropark**  
7035 Providence St.  
Whitehouse, OH 43571  
[Map and Directions](#)



Send questions to [Brad Contat](#), Director of Human Resources.



### ENTER TO WIN A CRUISE!

[Take your RealAge Test with Paramount Sharecare](#) before May 31 for a chance to win a FREE cruise and airfare!

If you have already completed your RealAge test – you can update it this month, to earn your entry to win a free cruise and airfare.

**BONUS:** Update your Sharecare Stress tracker for at least 15 days between during May to earn an entry into the Heritage Oura Ring drawing!

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH FILLING YOUR COPING TOOLBOX

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and is an excellent opportunity to emphasize the importance of self-care and having coping tools readily available during times of stress.

Just like your home/auto repair toolbox, it's good to have a few basic tools handy for when you need them.

This month, [Mental Health America recommends building or reviewing your mental health coping toolbox.](#)

Take a few moments to jot down a list of techniques, activities and people you can turn to as when you start to feel anxious or distressed.

Whether it's writing or doodling, going for a walk, or talking with someone, consider the ways that you can:

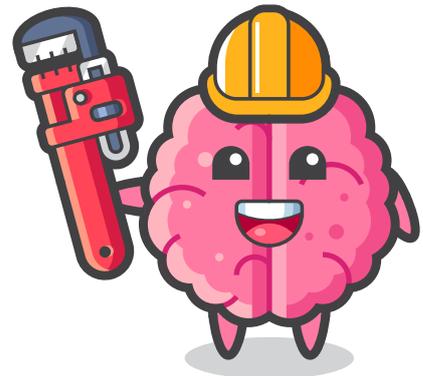
**Take care of basic needs**  
(Are you just hangry?)

**Process feelings**  
(Are you disappointed or sad?)

**Engage your mind**  
(What new hobby can you try?)

**Calm yourself**  
(Do you need quiet? Movement? Space to unplug?)

**Ask for help**  
(Can you call a friend to vent? Do you need a professional opinion?)



If you assemble your toolbox when you're feeling well, you can always easily refer to it in times of stress, worry or sadness.

And if you find that you don't quite have the right tool for the job, remember it's okay to call a friend with more experience or a professional for help.

## ADD THIS NUMBER TO YOUR TOOLBOX

Thanks to our ongoing partnership with ProMedica, free, confidential counseling is available to all AWLS staff members and their families. For more information or to schedule a phone, video or in-person visit, call 866-327-3759.



## MAY EVENTS

- MAY 2** Staff Wellness Event: Kayaking  
AWHS Spring Choir Concert
- MAY 4** AWHS Prom & After Prom
- MAY 6** Waterville Third Grade Music Program
- MAY 7** School in Session
- MAY 9** Staff Wellness Event: Kayaking & Rock Wall  
AWHS Symphonic Winds Concert
- MAY 10** AWHS Spring Choir Coffeehouse
- MAY 11** District Art Show
- MAY 13** Board Meeting
- MAY 14-15** AWHS Band Chicken BBQ
- MAY 18** Class of 2024 Commencement
- MAY 24** Last Day for Students
- MAY 27** Closed: Memorial Day
- MAY 28** Teacher Work Day
- MAY 29** Kindergarten Screening
- JUNE 1** Kindergarten Screening

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



## AWLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The Board of Education meets at the Central Administrative Offices.

May 13 | 6:00 p.m.

June 3 | 8:00 a.m.

June 27 | 8:00 a.m.

July 10 | 8:00 a.m.

*(if needed)*

August 5 | 8:00 a.m.

September 9 | 6:00 p.m.

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

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

**FINAL  
LPDC MEETINGS  
FOR 2023-24**

May 6

## SPECIAL NOTICE: WPD TRAINING EVENT

Please be aware that the Whitehouse Police Department will hold an emergency training event at AWHS on Monday, May 6 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. There will be first responder vehicles and personnel present.



## REMINDER: SCHOOL IS IN SESSION MAY 7

Originally scheduled as a staff professional development day, school IS IN SESSION on May 7. This calendar change was made in November due to the primary election being moved to March.



## THREE SCHOOLS EARN PURPLE STAR DESIGNATION RENEWALS

Waterville Primary School, Fallen Timbers Middle School and Anthony Wayne High School each received a three-year renewal as a part of the statewide Purple Star Class of 2024. Congratulations to the Military Family Liaisons serving in these schools for being recognized for their efforts to support our military-connected students!



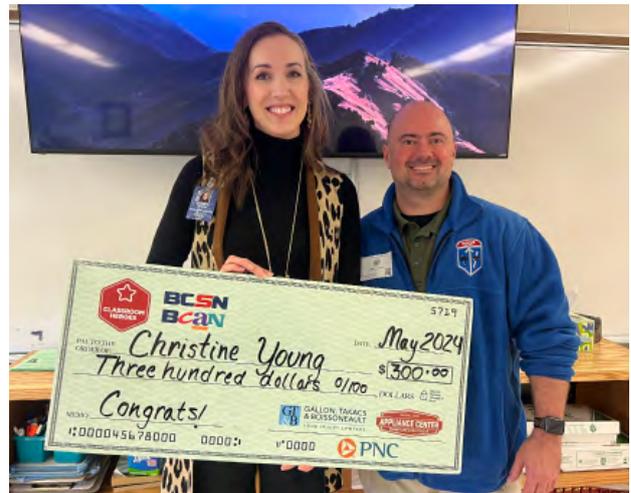
- Matt Beakas, Jillian Cowell and Jamie Hollinger, *Waterville Primary*
- Jennifer Minni, *Fallen Timbers Middle School*
- Jim Eberly, Dave Johnson and Lisa Pietras *Anthony Wayne High School*

## CHRISTINE YOUNG NAMED CLASSROOM HERO

AWJH 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Mrs. Christine Young was named the BCSN/BCAN Classroom Hero for the Month of May.

Christine was nominated by Jason Graven, local veteran and founder of Task Force 20. He acknowledged her support of our military-connected students and her leadership in creating opportunities to show appreciation to the active and veteran service members of our community.

Christine received \$300 for use in her classroom and will be featured in an interview on BCSN/BCAN.



**AW STAFF MEMBERS COMPETE IN SPRING RACES:** If you see the following individuals, be sure to congratulate them on their participation in last month's Glass City races:

**Savage 5K:** Neil Raymond

**Owens Corning Half Marathon:** Jeff Baden, Kelly Bailey, Jim Fritz, Kevin Herman, Maria Matney, Nickie Sattler and Cindy Smigelski

**Glass City Marathon Relay:** Andrea Sedlack, Rachelle Ragan, Meredith Carver, Megan Meiring, Rachael Beavers, Jennifer Mini, Liz Schoenrock, Kelly Sonnenberg, Kelly Brooks, Michelle Kronmann, Joy Lanahan and Melissa Fink

**Glass City Marathon:** Mary Dressel and Jennifer Thomas

Congratulations also goes out to Jim Fritz for running the London Marathon on April 21!

## MAY S.U.B. AWARDS

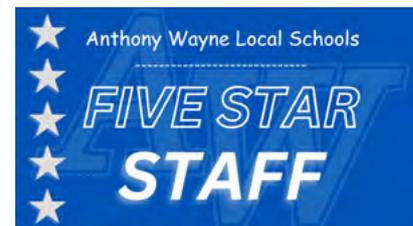
Congratulations to Michelle Lange and Robert Chapman for being recognized as our S.U.B.s (Someone Unbelievably Beneficial) for the month of May! Michelle and Robert have assisted the district greatly in classrooms and kitchens, respectively, throughout the year. Michelle was nominated by Andrea Donley, and Robert by Megan Menchaca. If there is someone you think should be recognized, please email [Brad Contat](mailto:Brad.Contat).



## FIVE STAR STAFF: MEET WATERVILLE'S COURTNEY CARROLL

The Five Star Staff video series is a great way to learn more about the individuals in our District and the AWesome work they do to empower students to be future ready.

Communications intern, AWHS junior Ashlyn Shafer, [met with Courtney Carroll, Intervention Coach at Waterville Primary School for this month's video.](#)



## POG: LEARNER'S MINDSET, ADAPTABILITY & FLEXIBILITY

### WHITEHOUSE PRIMARY AWARDED \$17,000 GRANT

Whitehouse Primary School was awarded a \$17,000 grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation to provide ongoing training for staff as they work to identify and address student barriers to learning. [Read more about the award on the District website.](#)

## POG: LEARNER'S MINDSET, CRITICAL THINKING, COMMUNICATION

### BUCKENMEYER NAMED A FINALIST IN JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY CONTEST

Stephanie Buckenmeyer, *Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Career Development (7-12)* was selected as one of 12 finalists in Johns Hopkins University's *Empower Your Pitch* competition. The annual competition challenges presenters to refine their communication skills by reducing their complex dissertation research into an engaging three-minute presentation -- similar to a short TED Talk. Stephanie's presentation focused on her plan for her dissertation titled, "Why is Change in Education so Challenging?"



## HAVE A STORY IDEA FOR GENERALS BULLETIN?

Send your suggestions for topics, announcements and other news tips to Rebecca Schwan, *Communications Specialist* at [communications@anthonywayneschools.org](mailto:communications@anthonywayneschools.org).

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