



February 2026

# The Generals Post

*Anthony Wayne Local Schools Stakeholder Newsletter*

As we continue to navigate a cold and snowy winter, our focus over the past month has been “weather, weather, weather.” Deciding whether to delay, cancel, or operate on time is one of the most challenging responsibilities I have as Superintendent.

Many have asked how decisions regarding weather-related delays and closures are made, and I want you to understand the care and collaboration involved. Our priority is always student safety while doing everything possible to maintain consistent learning.

When conditions are questionable, the Director of Transportation, the Assistant Superintendent, and I begin driving District roads as early as 4:30 a.m., each covering different areas to assess safety. While we cannot drive every road, we work to evaluate a wide range of representative conditions.

During this time, I am in constant communication with other Lucas County superintendents, while our Director of Transportation connects with fellow transportation directors.

We also closely monitor real-time weather forecasts, temperatures, and wind chills. Our goal is to make a final decision by approximately 5:30 a.m., before buses begin their routes.

Please know that the safety of our students is always at the forefront of my decision-making. I take the responsibilities of this role very seriously and am proud to serve as Superintendent. I also believe strongly in being accessible, listening to concerns, and working together to make our District a great place to learn and work—one our community can be proud of.

If you ever have questions or concerns, I am always willing to talk. We are partners in education, and we are truly Better Together.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Kevin Herman, Superintendent

Pictured Above: FTMS House Council students make decorations for the True Blue Sweethearts Alumni Event. See page 6 for details.



The State Champion Girls Soccer Team

## 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.

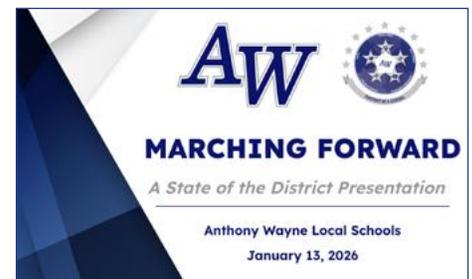
[View the meeting recording](#)

[Contact the Board](#)

### Highlights from the January 14 Organizational Meeting:

#### State of the District Presentation

Superintendent Kevin Herman provided an update on the district's finances, enrollment, employment and progress on the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. [A copy of his presentation is available on the District website.](#)



#### Student Recognition

The Board congratulated the girls soccer team for their state championship.

#### Organizational Business

Actions taken by the Board include:

- electing Jeff Baden as Board President and Kyle Miller as Board Vice President for 2026 and determining committee assignments for the year.
- establishing the Board meeting dates for the year.
- approving various annual authorizations, memberships and services.

#### New Member Selected

The Board voted to appoint Amy Barrett to the open seat. She will take the Oath of Office at the February meeting and will serve through December 31, 2027.

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#### FEBRUARY MEETING

Monday, Feb. 9  
7:00 p.m.

#### MARCH MEETING

Monday, Mar. 9  
6:00 p.m.

#### APRIL MEETING

Monday, Apr. 13  
6:00 p.m.

## IMPORTANT: KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT AGE UPDATE

The state recently passed HB114, requiring that children must be five years old by the first day of school to enroll in kindergarten. The first day of school at AWLS for the 2026-27 school year is Monday, Aug. 17.

*Kindergarten enrollment opens on March 2.*

More information about beginning kindergarten will be shared in next month's newsletter and on the District website at

[www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/Kindergarten](http://www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/Kindergarten).



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## NEW ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Please take a moment to [review and update your address, phone number, and email in FinalForms](#). Having accurate contact information allows us to share important school updates and ensures we can reach you quickly in the event of an illness or injury. Keeping this information current helps us keep your child safe and you informed. Thank you for your cooperation!

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## HAS YOUR INCOME CHANGED?

Families may apply for [Free and Reduced Lunch benefits](#) at any time during the school year. If your household income has changed due to job loss, reduced hours, or other circumstances, your child may now qualify—even if you didn't earlier in the year. Applying is confidential and can provide important support for your family. We encourage you to apply or reapply whenever your situation changes. Contact [Megan Menchaca](#), Food Services Director with questions at 419-877-1229.



Income Eligibility Guidelines 2025-26			
Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$28,953	\$2,413	\$557
2	\$39,128	\$3,261	\$753
3	\$49,303	\$4,109	\$949
4	\$59,478	\$4,957	\$1,144
5	\$69,653	\$5,805	\$1,340
6	\$79,828	\$6,653	\$1,536
7	\$90,003	\$7,501	\$1,731
8	\$100,178	\$8,349	\$1,927
Each additional person	\$10,175	\$848	\$196

# Snow Days, Slow Days, and the Power of Boredom

With gray skies and cold days keeping families indoors, many of us hear those familiar words more often: “I’m bored!” While it might trigger a parental eye-roll or a rush to find the next activity, experts say boredom actually supports your child’s development.

## **Boredom Is Not a Problem — It’s an Opportunity**

According to child development specialists, boredom isn’t something to fix right away. It’s a signal that a child’s brain is ready to engage imagination and problem-solving skills.

When children are constantly entertained — by screens or adult-planned activities — they have fewer chances to practice focus, creative thinking, and working through challenges independently. Allowing kids to sit with boredom helps strengthen attention span, flexibility, and persistence — skills students rely on every day at school.

Research from the Child Mind Institute shows that boredom supports planning and problem-solving. In other words, boredom helps kids move from “Tell me what to do” to “Let me figure this out.”

## **A Natural Cure for Cabin Fever**

When cabin fever sets in and screen time feels like the easiest solution, it’s worth pausing. Boredom — even when uncomfortable — often sparks creativity. Given time and space, children invent games, build, and explore, strengthening both learning skills and confidence encourages children to observe their surroundings, reflect, and tap into their own curiosity.

And if you’ve ever wondered whether bored kids are just restless kids, here’s the good news: boredom often sparks creativity. Given time and space, children invent games, create imaginary worlds, build, draw, write, and explore ideas — all of which support learning, confidence, and independence.



[See how Monclova Primary is promoting independent play with its new Kickstart Your Day with Extra Play pilot project. Story from the AW Free Press.](#)

# “I’M BORED!”

## How to Support Creative, Independent Play

Is cabin fever setting in? Are you trying to reduce device use? Try these tips for helping kids turn boredom into something brilliant:

### Practice Being Bored

Schedule a short, tech-free period each day when nothing is planned. When kids say they’re bored, try responding with curiosity instead of solutions: “I wonder what you’ll come up with.”

### Give Them the Tools

Keep bins or shelves stocked with board and card games, books and comics, old costumes, art supplies, LEGO, and outdoor toys on hand.

### Build a “Boredom Menu”

Create a list of easy, open-ended ideas kids can choose from when they can’t find something to do, like drawing, building forts, inventing games, and creating scavenger hunts or skits.

### Encourage Creative Projects

Provide odds and ends like cardboard boxes, fabric scraps and art supplies. Give older kids open-ended challenges like “invent a game” or “build a robot with moving parts.”

### Model Healthy Boredom

Children notice how adults handle downtime. Reading, drawing, or tinkering with a hobby shows kids that boredom can even be enjoyable.

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For more on this topic from expert sources:

[Why It’s Okay for Kids to Be Bored](#) (Cleveland Clinic)

[The Benefits of Boredom](#) (Child Mind Institute)

[Boredom Isn’t a Bad Thing for Kids](#) (PBS Parents)

[What if We Let Kids Get Bored?](#) (PBS Parents)

[The Art of Boredom](#) (TEDx Talks)



## CELEBRATING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART ALUMNI

This February, we're celebrating love that's truly stood the test of time. [Get to know some AW True Blue Couples](#)—sweethearts who met in high school and have made love last through the years. Their stories remind us that some connections only grow stronger with time, shared memories, and a whole lot of heart.

Do you have an AW love story of your own? We'd love to hear it! [Share your story](#) and help us celebrate the enduring bonds that make our alumni community so special.

And if you're part of a True Blue couple, join us for a special alumni event just for you on February 14. Come celebrate your story, reconnect, and be recognized alongside other couples who prove that AW love lasts. [RSVP by February 6.](#)



Tammy Hogg-Sheridan '88  
Doug Sheridan '88



Tiffany (Clouse) Hood '99  
Chad Hood '99



Jacob Vincent ('99)  
Shea (Mogg) Vincent ('99)



Ian Dazell '11  
Marissa (Schnapp) Dazell '11

# True Blue Alumni Reunion: Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026

We are inviting all AW True Blue high school sweethearts back to where their love story began! Please plan to join us as we celebrate our alumni couples with a special date night -- and take home a gift from AWHs! [Submit your RSVP here.](#)

## 5:30 p.m. Varsity Boys Basketball Game

Enjoy FREE admission to watch the Generals take on the Columbian Tornadoes, with a special halftime performance by the AWHs Cheerleaders.

## 7:00 p.m. Generals True Blue Reception

Join us after the game for a free post-game social for refreshments and performances by the AWHs Close Harmony Vocal Ensemble and Pep Band, building tours, photo station, and networking with other alumni couples.



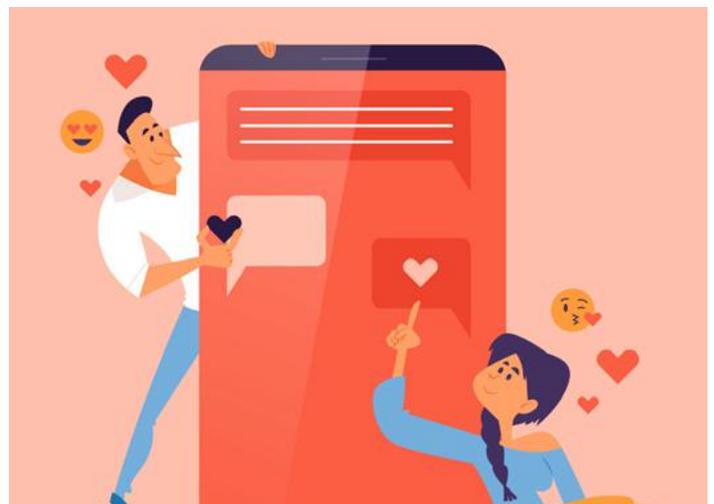
Nicholas Smith ('13)  
Cecelia (Osborne) Smith ('12)



Kyle Aranyosi '14  
Emily (Black) Aranyosi '12



Kasey (Hertzfeld) Breymaier '13  
Kyle Breymaier '14



[YOUR PHOTO HERE](#)



### **MRS. AMY BARRETT**

*Newly-Appointed Board of Education Member*

With deep roots in the Anthony Wayne community and decades of experience as a parent, educator, nonprofit leader, and grant writer, our newest Board of Education member brings both passion and perspective to the role. Learn more about Amy and her goals as a Board Member.

[More >>](#)



### **MRS. LAURA HUDSON**

*Intervention Coach at Anthony Wayne High School*

Laura helps students build academic confidence through real-world learning and strong relationships—while also promoting school pride and connection, creating a school culture that helps students feel safe, engaged, and empowered to succeed both academically and socially.

[More >>](#)



### **MRS. JEN GROSS**

*Special Education Aide at Whitehouse Primary*

Using patience, encouragement, and a great sense of humor, Jen makes a difference for Whitehouse Primary students by helping them build confidence by working to strengthen their reading, math and independence skills.

[More >>](#)



### **GRANT HUBLEY, AWHs SENIOR**

*United States Senate Youth Program Delegate*

Grant has been selected to represent the state in the 64th annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), a highly competitive national program that recognizes outstanding high school student leaders with a strong commitment to public service.

[More >>](#)

## **MRS. JENNY MINNI**

*School Counselor at Fallen Timbers Middle School*

Known for her energy and positivity, Jenny is committed to being a visible, approachable presence throughout the building. She believes in the power of collaboration and building strong relationships, with the goal of helping students discover their place at FTMS.

[More >>](#)



## **MRS. BRIANNE BLACK**

*Fourth Grade Teacher at Monclova Primary*

Inspired by a shared focus on student well-being, Brianne helped launch a once-a-month, before-school program focused on screen-free play, friendship, and creativity. Kickstart Your Day helps students feel connected, energized and excited to learn.

[More >>](#)



## **MR. SCOTT STIGALL**

*Community Member & School Supporter*

Scott proudly supports the Marching Generals as well as both the boys' and girls' soccer, baseball, and basketball teams. He is also focused on safe teen driving, spoken to students in the AWHs Adulting 101 class, and worked with the Penta-Anthony Wayne chapter of DECA on business-focused programs.

[More >>](#)



## **EVEY BRINGOLF, AWHs SENIOR**

*OMEA All-State Band Participant*

Evey earned selection to the OMEA All-State Band for the second time. A French horn player with a love for beautiful tone and heroic melodies, Evey said the experience has increased in herself and inspired her to try more things outside her comfort zone.

[More >>](#)





## SINGERS SELECTED FOR OMEA ALL-STATE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Five Fallen Timbers Middle School students and three Waterville Primary School students were selected by audition for the [Ohio Music Education Association \(OMEA\) All-State Children's Chorus](#). Kate Cilley, Clara Shiffert, Nora Palawczyk, Aria Mead, Emery Puppas, Callie Brown, Veda Putnam and Alex Radalinski performed at the OMEA Conference on January 29.

## PODCAST APPEARANCES

### ELENA NORTH

Intervention Specialist - Monclova Primary

### MADDY SCHNABEL

Occupational Therapist - Waterville Primary



Ohio Education Association  
[3-D Printing Possibilities: Educators create one-of-a-kind assistive device for student](#)

### CHRIS HAMADY

Director of Technology



Anthony Wayne Innovation & Design  
[Cybersecurity, AI, Gaming and the Future of Schools](#)



## STATE CHAMPION CHEER TEAM

The AW Junior High Cheer Team brought home the State Championship title from the OHSCCA Best in State Competition in Columbus.

[View their performance.](#)



## OMEA DISTRICT 1 HONORS FESTIVAL HONOREES

Anthony Wayne Local Schools was proudly represented by talented musicians from the AWHs Band and Choir and the AW Junior High Band, performing alongside top instrumental and vocal students from northwest Ohio at the Stranahan Theater.

[A performer list is available on our website.](#)



## GENERALS TECH TIPS: FREE TECHNOLOGY LUNCH & LEARN

Bring your lunch and get ready to learn tips for problem solving your device dilemmas. The AWLS Technology Team will provide simple troubleshooting tips for computers, mobile phones and tablets at Noon on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at the Central Administrative Offices. Please RSVP for Troubleshooting on the Fly via email to: [chamady@anthonywayneschools.org](mailto:chamady@anthonywayneschools.org).

## Generals In the News

[13abc Rising Star: Grant Hubley, a civil servant](#)

[Amy Barrett to join AW School Board](#)

[Monclova students get a Kickstart](#)

[A ripple of inspiration: How one Toledo native gives back through scholarship](#)

[Anthony Wayne High School welcomes facility dog](#)

[Most districts “in pretty good shape” with hours for snow days](#)

[Breaking down the 2025-26 area girls basketball title races](#)

[AW edges Northview to secure outright NLL title](#)

[Letter to the Editor: Kudos to Coach Ryan Donley](#)

Have a story idea?

Send it to [communications@anthonywayneschools.org](mailto:communications@anthonywayneschools.org).



## EVENTS CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 9

Board of Education Meeting

### FEBRUARY 14

AW True Blue Alumni Event

### FEBRUARY 16

District Closed: Presidents Day

### FEBRUARY 18

Generals Tech Tips  
Lunch & Learn

### FEBRUARY 25

2nd Grade Music Program  
Whitehouse Primary School

### MARCH 2

Kindergarten  
Enrollment Opens

### MARCH 4

Monclova Primary  
Kindergarten Parent Meeting

### MARCH 13

End of the Third Quarter

### MARCH 30 - APRIL 3

District Closed: Spring Break

### APRIL 6

2-Hour Delay  
Staff Professional Dev.

## HELPFUL LINKS

[2025-26 District Calendar](#)

[District Events Calendar](#)

[Athletics Schedule](#)

[Performing & Musical](#)

[Arts Events](#)