

The Generals Post **AW**

Anthony Wayne Local Schools Stakeholder Newsletter

December 2024



AWHS GRADS RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS, SERVICE

Our Anthony Wayne community has much to celebrate, with alumni excelling in various fields and being recognized for their remarkable contributions. From the arts to the military, and business leadership to community service, here are some recent achievements that showcase the excellence of our graduates:

Ken Bialecki ['82] was named among Penta Career Center's Outstanding Alumni. As the founder and owner of AE Electric, Inc., Ken has built a successful career in the electrical industry. He gives back to the community by supporting the St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway and mentoring other AW grads entering the electrical trade.

Jason Graven ['98] was inducted into the prestigious Ohio Veteran's Hall of Fame. Following 9/11, Jason enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving as a military police officer. Following his service, he founded Task Force 20, a nonprofit that promotes physical activity as a pathway to wellness. Under his leadership, the initiative has positively impacted over 300 veterans. He is employed by Owens Community College where he serves as the Veterans Upward Bound Assistant Director.

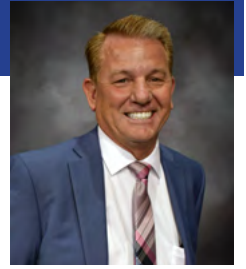
Christina Youngblood ['18] landed the role of Annie (and understudy for Roxie and Velma) in the national tour of *CHICAGO!* The show will make a stop at Toledo's Stranahan Theatre in January 2025. Christina, earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre at Ball State University, where she performed in *42nd Street*, *West Side Story*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Hairspray*.

In addition to these recent accomplishments, 21 graduates were **named to the AWHS Wall of Honor** during the Veterans Day assembly on November 11. Established in 2019, this recognition honors the sacrifices and service of those graduates who have served, or are currently serving in a branch of the U.S. Military.

If you are, or know an AWHS gradate who should be recognized for their accomplishments, please let us know by emailing communications@anthonywayneschools.org.



A Letter from the Interim Superintendent



Anthony Wayne Local Schools Community,

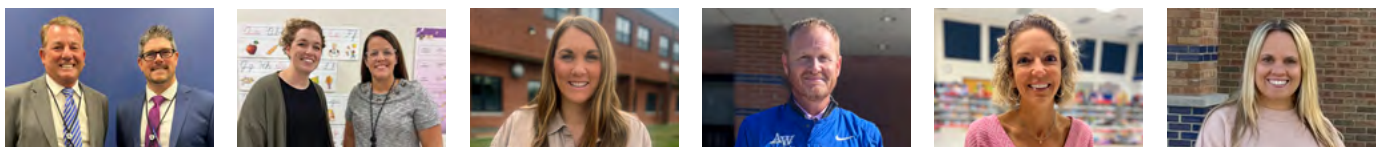
As we enter the holiday season, it's natural to associate this time with gifts, but gifts are far more than things we purchase and exchange. In my role as the leader of Anthony Wayne Local Schools, I am privileged to witness the remarkable gifts of so many. From the talents of our students to the dedication of our staff, this season offers a special opportunity to reflect on the many ways these gifts shape our schools.

Our students shine in countless ways—whether excelling in the classroom, performing on stage, competing on the court or playing field, or showcasing their unique strengths in other areas. This month, as we look forward to a variety of special events and performances, I encourage you to attend and celebrate these moments of excellence. Witnessing our students share their talents is truly a gift to us all.

Equally important is the gift of knowledge shared by our skilled and hardworking staff. Their dedication to nurturing the potential of every student is unmatched, and their impact goes far beyond the classroom.

These gifts are what make Anthony Wayne special and all those associated with it also. It is important to know that all our District stakeholders are gifts as well and the success that our students experience would not be possible without the gift of support that so many share. As you celebrate this holiday season, may your days be filled with the gifts of pride in our District and all that is accomplished because the entire community is a part of it. I wish you all the best during this special time and hope that your holiday is filled with the gifts that truly matter.

Kevin Herman, Interim Superintendent
superintendent@anthonywayneschools.org



LAST MONTH'S STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

Career Development Month:
[Kevin Herman & Brad Contat](#)

Family Literacy Month:
[Emily Rodriguez & Andrea Donley](#)

School Psychology Week:
[Katie Hart](#)

Educational Support Professionals Day:
[Jodi Gyurasics & Bryce Douglas](#)

Parental Involvement Day:
[Jamie Smeltzer & Nicole Farthing](#)

Substitute Educators Day:
[Shannon Mead & Samantha Hemmert](#)

CORRECTION

In the November issue of the Generals Post, the service project supporting Hannah's Socks should have been attributed to the AW Junior High Student Council. We regret the error.

DECEMBER STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

Throughout the year we will share the stories of the individuals who have devoted their careers to the education and support of AWLS students. Watch for Staff Spotlights about the individuals below to appear on the [District website](#) and [mobile app](#), and posted to [X \[Twitter\]](#). We also encourage you to take a moment to send a message of thanks to the staff members who make a difference for your child. [\[Click here to view the staff directory.\]](#)



DECEMBER 2

Special Education Day

[Directors of Student Services](#)

Jennifer Karl-Thompson, *Grades PreK - 6*
Angela Gardner, *Grades 7 - 12*



DECEMBER 11

Athletic Administrator Day

Marissa Dazell, AW Junior High Athletic Director
John Snyder, Anthony Wayne High School Athletic Director



CORBETT RECEIVES OMLA AWARD

Julie Corbett, *FTMS 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher*, was recently awarded the 2024 Regional Award for Best Middle Level Practice from the Ohio Middle Level Association for her commitment to caring for her students and building relationships that lead to learning. [\[Read more about Julie and her student-first teaching philosophy.\]](#)

COACHES HONORED

NORTHERN LAKES LEAGUE AND ALL-OHIO [DIVISION II]

Chrissy Graven, *Volleyball*
Lori Williams, *Girls Soccer*

NORTHERN LAKES LEAGUE

Jason Gwin, *Girls Golf*
Pat Phillips, *Boys Golf*
Andy Brungard, *Football*
Brian Billings, *Boys Soccer*



HAPPY RETIREMENT!

Best wishes to Peggy Evens who served as a teaching substitute at AWHS and AW Junior High for 20 years. Thank you for your dedicated service to our staff and students. You will be missed!





PREPARING FOR SCHOOL CLOSINGS & DELAYS

As winter weather approaches, AWLS is committed to making timely and well-informed decisions about school closings or delays to keep everyone safe. Our decision-making process includes monitoring weather forecasts, consulting local authorities, and assessing road conditions to ensure safe travel for students and staff.

If weather conditions result in a need to delay or close school, you can find up-to-date information in the following locations:

- **District Notifications:** Staff and families will receive an email, phone call and text message from our automated system. [Learn more below.]
- **Website:** Banner alerts will be added to the [District website](#).
- **X (Formerly Twitter):** Follow the District's official account [at @awgenerals](#) for quick updates.
- **Local News:** Local TV and radio stations will broadcast closure information.

AW FAMILIES: BE SURE WE CAN REACH YOU

Our automated communications system uses the contact information that parents/guardians enter into FinalForms during Returning Student Registration at the beginning of the school year.

Now is a good time to:

- [Log into FinalForms](#) to ensure your phone number and email address are up-to-date.
- Opt-in to receiving text messages from the District by **texting YES to 87569**.
- Report any communications systems issues [by clicking here](#).



DECEMBER 11: NATIONAL APP DAY

Smartphone users know just how helpful apps can be to manage life on the go. Celebrate National App Day by downloading the AWLS mobile app. It is free for both Apple and Android devices, and includes features like news notifications, calendars, lunch menus, handbooks and more!

[Get it by clicking here.](#)

UPDATE TO DISTRICT CALENDAR

There has been one slight change to the 2024-2025 District Calendar. Tuesday, May 6, 2024 was originally scheduled to be a staff professional development day. Due to a miscalculation in teacher reporting days, it is now designated as a no school day for both staff and students. [\[Download the updated 2024-2025 calendar.\]](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 6 - 7:00 p.m.
AWJH Musical: Wonka, Jr.
AWHS Auditorium
Tickets required

DECEMBER 7 - 7:00 p.m.
AWJH Musical: Wonka, Jr.
AWHS Auditorium
Tickets required

DECEMBER 9 - 8:00 a.m.
Board of Education Meeting
Central Administrative Office

DECEMBER 10 - 7:00 p.m.
AWHS Holiday Band Concert
AWHS Auditorium

DECEMBER 11 - 6:30 p.m.
6th Grade Band Concert
AWHS Auditorium

DECEMBER 11 - 7:30 p.m.
AWJH Band Concert
AWHS Auditorium

DECEMBER 12 - 7:00 p.m.
AWHS Winter Choir Concert
AWHS Auditorium

DECEMBER 13 - 6:00 p.m.
AWHS Choir Coffeehouse
AWHS Senior Commons

DECEMBER 13 - 7:00 p.m.
3rd Grade Music Program
Monclova Primary School

DECEMBER 17 - 7:00 p.m.
8th Grade Holiday Concert
AWHS Auditorium

DECEMBER 18 - 7:00 p.m.
Whitehouse 3rd Grade Program
AWHS Auditorium

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 2
District Closed - Winter Break

STEP INTO A WORLD OF PURE IMAGINATION

AW Junior High presents *Willy Wonka, Jr.*, an adaptation of Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, a whimsical tale of a famous candy maker with an appetite for adventure. Follow Charlie Bucket and the rest of the Golden Ticket winners as they meet the dancing Oompa Loompas and taste their way through Willy Wonka's chocolate factory.



This scrumdiddlyumptious fantasy will satisfy your sweet tooth and leave you humming the familiar tunes from this entertaining show!

Performances are Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 - 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the AWHS Auditorium.

Tickets are \$10 - \$15 and available online at:
www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/Arts

District Master Calendar

Fine & Musical Arts

Generals Athletics



LITERACY VIDEO PROJECT EXTENDED

We celebrated National Literacy Month by sharing stories read by AWHS students to promote a love for reading. They were so popular by both our primary and high school students, that we have extended the project through the holiday season! We invite you to pour a cup of cocoa, snuggle up together and listen to a story.

[\[Click here to enjoy the stories\]](#)

PENTA CAREER NIGHT

Students and families are invited to preview the 30 career-tech programs available at Penta Career Center on Monday, Dec. 2. The annual [Penta Career Night](#) runs from 5:30-7:30 p.m.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:00 a.m.

Central Administrative Office

The meeting will be streamed live online for those who cannot attend in person.

The date for the January organizational meeting will be set in December.

To view recordings from previous meetings, please visit the [Board page of the website](#).

Anthony Wayne Board of Education Briefs

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING: [\[VIEW RECORDING\]](#)

- The Board discussed and voted to approve the [District's 5-Year Forecast](#) following a presentation by Treasurer, Kerri Johnson.
- AWHs Art Teachers, Carrie Flagg, Hailey Kirchner and Bryan DeKay spoke about the fine arts courses available to students and shared students' recent successes.
- John Snyder, AWHs Athletic Director spoke about the accomplishments of our student-athletes and coaches during the fall season.
- Several donations and grants for were accepted.
- Shellie McKnight and Mike Stamm spoke about their take-aways from the OSBA Capital Conference.

CONTACT THE BOARD

Kyle Miller, *President*

Jeff Baden, *Vice President*

Lindsay Hoipkemier, *Member*

Shellie McKnight, *Member*

Mike Stamm, *Member*

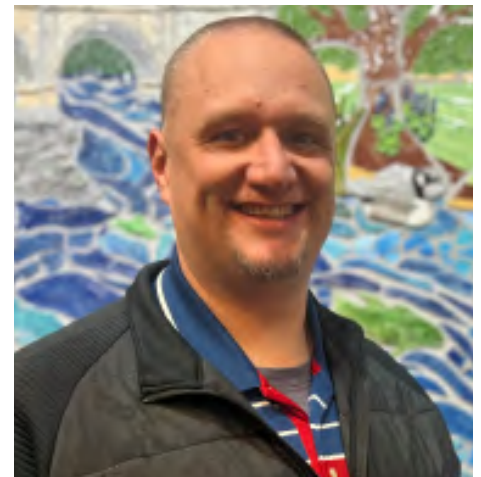
[\[EMAIL THE BOARD\]](#)

MEET THE MEMBERS: MIKE STAMM

A resident of the AW community for the last 10 years, Mike Stamm was elected to the Board in November 2023. His wife, Kristen is employed at AW Junior High and he has three children who attend AWLS.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from The Ohio State University and is employed as a project engineer at Cleveland Cliffs. Mike also volunteers with the Anthony Wayne Youth Foundation (AWYF) and assists with the youth programs at CedarCreek Church.

In his spare time, he enjoys being a part of F3 Black Swamp, a men's leadership and fitness group, practicing his golf game, and playing, coaching and refereeing various sports. [\[LEARN ABOUT THE BOARD\]](#)



DISTRICT FINANCES: OPERATIONAL LEVY IMPACTS

The following information is provided to share some insight into what will happen next following the failure of the District's proposed operational levy that appeared on the November 5 ballot.

OPERATIONAL LEVY OUTCOME

The election outcome certified by the Lucas County Board of Elections indicates that the proposed levy failed by four votes. Since the difference is within 1/2 percent, the Secretary of State will conduct a mandatory recount. *We are still waiting for official results, but are moving forward as if the levy failed.*

PROPERTY REVALUATION, MILLAGE RATE AND HOUSE BILL 920

The state's constitution requires that schools receive a minimum of 20 mills in local funding.

The District's effective millage rate currently sits at just above the 20-mill floor at 21.99 mills. With the most recent property revaluation, the Lucas County Auditor says we can expect property values to increase by an estimated 29.5%. This will drop the District's effective millage below the 20-mill floor.

HOW IT WORKS: *As property values increase, effective millage decreases.*

House Bill 920 ensures that previously-voted levies cannot collect more than their approved dollar value. As property values increase, it takes fewer mills to generate the same amount of money.

Example: In 2003 voters approved a 4.85-mill levy, generating \$3 million per year. Since then, property values have increased, but HB920 caps the amount the district can receive to \$3 million - resulting in a lower effective millage rate.

HB 920 is designed to protect residents from paying more property taxes as values increase, but the new valuations are pushing the effective millage rate below the 20-mill minimum required by the state. The auditor must adjust the millage back to 20-mills, resulting in a tax increase for property owners.

AWLS is one of many districts across the state experiencing this issue. Districts that have not passed operational levies over a long period of time operate at or near the 20-mill floor. With the increase in property values, these districts are dipping below the 20-mill floor and must be made whole. AWLS has not passed a new operational levy since 2013.

QUESTIONS REMAIN

Unfortunately, we still do not have all the pieces to the puzzle. We will not know the District's new effective tax rate until the new property values are final and certified by the state. This also means we cannot calculate the increase for property owners or get a definitive anticipated revenue for the District.

We understand that this situation is complicated, and the unknowns can be frustrating. We are working hard to get the answers and will share more information with you as it becomes available.

In the meantime, if you have questions, please call 419-877-5377 or email us at planning@anthonywayneschools.org.





Whitehouse Principal, Brad Rhodes was joined by staff and students as he was recognized by Whitehouse Mayor and Village Council for the school's performance on state tests. [\[VIEW THE STORY\]](#)

Generals in the News

- LEVY: [AW Schools levy headed for recount with 4 vote difference](#)
- LEVY: [Anthony Wayne Schools levy will go to automatic recount](#)
- VETERANS DAY: [Bright Side - November 11, 2024](#)
- VETERANS DAY: [Students honor veterans, hear from fighter pilot](#)
- STAFF: [Whats the 'dill' with pickleball? Players explain appeal...](#)
- ATHLETICS: [AW's amazing autumn, Generals collect 8 NLL titles](#)
- FOOTBALL: [AW's memorable season ends against Medina Highland](#)
- VOLLEYBALL: [Athlete of the Week: Leah and Mallory Pike](#)
- VOLLEYBALL: [AW volleyball team earns Div. II state runner up title](#)
- SOCCER: [AW's Lori Williams named D-II coach of the year](#)
- BASKETBALL: [20 players to watch for 2024-25 season](#)



Monclova Primary students had the opportunity to practice social and functional skills at a Toledo Walleye game thanks to a grant from the AWEF. [\[MORE\]](#)



Eight student-athletes signed letters of commitment to compete at the collegiate level during the fall signing day. [\[VIEW THE STORY\]](#)



A Blade photographer captured an eagle-eye view of the Marching Generals in the Blade Holiday Parade on November 16. [\[VIEW THE STORY\]](#)

MORE DISTRICT NEWS: Information and updates about Anthony Wayne Local Schools can be found on the [District website](#) and on [YouTube](#).



The House Council at Fallen Timbers Middle School planned and executed several service projects to give back to our AW Community.



Whitehouse Primary students raised over \$4,000 in a penny war hosted by the WPC to support school activities.

SHARING OUR RESOURCES WITH OTHERS



During an early-season scrimmage, the AW Junior High girls basketball team encouraged spectators to contribute to the school's Thanksgiving Food Drive.



Monclova Primary staff and students celebrated Laney's 10th birthday with a fundraiser to provide for her care.



The AWHs-Penta Chapter of DECA hosted its annual food drive to support families through Food for Thought.



The Purple Star Generals at Waterville Primary got the chance to meet Sgt. Ledyard, the recipient of the letters of support they sent prior to his deployment last year.



Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Rumors*, the AWHs Drama Departments fall production. Audiences enjoyed four performances over three days in November.



The AWHs Marching Generals traveled to Pennsylvania over fall break to participate in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Parade. [\[WATCH THE BROADCAST RECORDING\]](#)

SHARING OUR GIFTS & TALENTS WITH OTHERS



Waterville 4th Grade students were captured by The Blade as they performed at The University of Toledo's Veterans Day Breakfast and Resource Fair. [\[VIEW THE STORY\]](#)



Members of the AWHs Symphonic Chorale & Close Harmony sang with musicians from across the country in *An Eric Whitaker Holiday: The Gift of the Magi* at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



Fourth graders at Monclova Primary School took to the stage to present *GOAL* - a high-energy musical performance celebrating teamwork, goal setting and good sportsmanship.