



September 2025

# The Generals Post

*Anthony Wayne Local Schools Stakeholder Newsletter*

Dear AWLS Community,

As we begin this new school year, we are excited to share that it has been a wonderful start—full of energy, optimism, and the promise of growth. Guided by our theme of “Planting Seeds of Success,” we look forward to the opportunities ahead as we nurture our students’ academic journeys and personal development.

We are committed to providing our students with a strong education and helping them discover and pursue their unique interests and strengths. It is both a privilege and a responsibility to play a role in shaping the future of our students, and we take that responsibility to heart every day.

This year, one of our key areas of focus is building and strengthening relationships within our community. We are eager to create new partnerships with local businesses and organizations, recognizing the powerful impact that collaboration can have on our students’ success. In return, we are also placing emphasis on servant leadership—using our actions to show gratitude to those who support us in this important work.

For me personally, servant leadership also means being approachable and available. I welcome conversations, questions, and feedback, and I recognize the importance of listening to the perspectives of others as we work to be our best selves each day.

As we move forward, we are excited to see how our relationships with students, families, and the greater community continue to grow. Together, we can cultivate an environment where all of us—students, educators, and community members alike—are able to thrive and be as strong as possible.

Kevin Herman, Superintendent  
Anthony Wayne Local Schools



A new school year brings fresh ideas, opportunities, and initiatives across the district. Here's a look at what's ahead during 2025-26:



## **New Law: No Cell Phones During School Day**

Ohio recently passed a HB 96 banning smartphones and other devices during the school day with the goal of reducing distractions, improving focus, and promoting social interaction at school. This year, students are not permitted to use their cell phone or other communication devices during the school day. [Read more about how this law is affecting our schools.](#)

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## **Generals for Generations: Building a Legacy**

The District is in the early stages of establishing [Generals for Generations](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation dedicated to enhancing academics, arts, and athletics through private donations, community engagement, and alumni connections.

The goal of the foundation is to fund innovations and improvements beyond what the District can provide on its own. The foundation will be led by a volunteer Board of Directors independent from the District and Board of Education. The District's goal is to have the board and legal structure in place by early 2026.

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## **Exploring Artificial Intelligence in Education**

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes commonplace, it's increasingly shaping the tools, services, and decisions that influence how we live, work, and learn.

During the 2025-26 school year, Anthony Wayne Local Schools will begin exploring AI, for the purpose of identifying and developing best practice guidelines for AI use in our classrooms.

A committee made up of Anthony Wayne teachers, administrators, parents, and community members will be spearheading these efforts over the coming months.

If you are interested in being selected as a part of this committee, please send your name, connection to AWLS, and phone number to Chris Hamady, Director of Technology at [chamady@anthonywayneschools.org](mailto:chamady@anthonywayneschools.org).



# Helping Your Child Manage Cell Phone Usage

While new cell phone policy keeps phones tucked away on campus across 17 states, parents are now wondering how to set healthy boundaries for phone use at home, too. [The Center for Parent and Teen Communication](#) offers some practical tips to help parents guide their teens toward healthier smartphone habits — without turning it into a constant battle.

## ***Lead by example.***

If you're checking texts at the dinner table or scrolling in bed, they'll think that's the norm. Instead, set "no phone zones" for the whole family.

## ***Set rules together.***

Talk with your teen about realistic limits and expectations, and consider drafting a family policy around phone and electronics use together.

## ***Mute those constant pings.***

Notifications can hijack attention and increase stress. Reduce distractions and get better sleep by using "Do Not Disturb" mode, and consider charging phones overnight in the kitchen rather than the bedroom.

## ***Spot the signs of overuse.***

Timers, usage-tracking apps, and "time's up" alarms can help teens notice when they've been glued to the screen too long. Ask them to tune in to their bodies and emotions: a stiff neck, burning eyes, and moodiness or anxiety when the phone's out of reach can be red flags.

## ***Recognize app "hooks."***

Talk about how some apps keep people hooked — with likes, tags, streaks, games, and endless scrolling. Awareness is the first step in breaking free.

## ***Talk about feelings, not just rules.***

Ask how they feel when their phone's off. Lonely? Anxious? Relieved? Helping teens connect the dots between emotions and phone habits can make a big difference.

## ***Power down before bed.***

Aim for 30–60 minutes of screen-free time before sleep to encourage healthy bedtimes and better rest.





The AWLS Board of Education welcomed new certified staff members:

Emily Geiwitz, AW Junior High  
Jessica Gast, Waterville Primary  
Kayeann Batanian, Fallen Timbers  
Leigh Pancoast, Fallen Timbers  
Jon Burke, AWHs  
Tom Burzine, AW Junior High

## Board of Education Updates

The AWLS Board of Education invites all stakeholders to be an engaged member of our school community. Meetings are open to the public and are [live-streamed and recorded](#) for those who cannot attend in-person.

### Highlights from the August 7 meeting:

- The Board approved a memorandum of understanding between the District and the Village of Whitehouse for School Resource Officers for the 2025-26 school year.
- The District also agreed to contracts with several educational service agencies to support the academic needs of students, and approved the bus routes for the new school year.
- The Board voted to accept the resignation of district Treasurer, Kerri Johnson for the purpose of initiating retirement benefits, effective August. 27. Ms. Johnson will be reemployed by the District to serve in her current role for a period of September 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026.
- New certified staff members were recognized and officially welcomed to the District and individuals were approved to support the District as classified staff members, tutors, substitutes, and volunteers.

[➡ View the meeting recording](#)

[➡ Contact the Board](#)

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### WORK SESSION

Tuesday, Sept. 9

7:30 a.m.

### NEXT MEETING

Monday, Sept. 15

6:00 p.m.

# Treasurer's Report

## FEDERAL FUNDING

Some annual federal grant monies have been awarded to the District, but others are delayed due to changes happening with the Department of Education. The following grants have been received to date:

- Title I: \$316,320.40
- IDEA: \$961,179.76
- ESCE Preschool: \$25,980.38

Approximately \$110,000 in Title II, Title III and Title IV funds are still outstanding.

## LOCAL FUNDING

The District will receive \$2.3 million from the Nexus Pipeline settlement. In addition, \$3.2 million will be received in FY26 and each year going forward. These funds will help to bolster the District's fund balance – bringing it closer to the recommended level of 60 days cash balance.

## DONATIONS ACCEPTED

- \$37,358 from Don Schaller for contracting costs associated with establishing a philanthropic foundation in support of AWLS.
- \$4,000 from AWPTA to purchase materials for the new cafeteria mural at AW Junior High.
- \$500 each from Rebel Chiropractic and Sandman Sales Yard LCC for the boys soccer program.
- Various tickets and gift cards from Mr. Lightbulb, Habitec Security and Strause Refrigeration for incentives for the Operations Department.

## FINANCIAL RATING

As the Board previously approved the partial refunding of the district's 2017 bonds, Mr. Herman and Ms. Johnson participated in a rating presentation to Moody's on Tuesday, Aug. 5. While the District was not upgraded as hoped, Moody's did share that we are making progress and once the Nexus funding is received, we will be in a better position for an upgrade.

### CONTACT:

[Kerri Johnson](#), Treasurer

[Ray Greene](#), Assistant Treasurer





## Military Appreciation Night: Friday, Sept. 12

Join us for Military Appreciation Night featuring a special flyover by the 180th Fighter Wing in honor of our heroes! All veterans and active-duty service members will be admitted free with a valid military ID.\*

- 6:30 p.m. Pre-Game activities honoring our military families  
6:55 p.m. Flyover by the 180th Fighter Wing  
7:00 p.m. Anthony Wayne Generals vs. Lima Senior Spartans - [Buy Tickets](#)

\* Free admission with military ID will also be granted at the following contests:

- |              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| September 9  | Generals Volleyball vs. Northview   |
| September 10 | Generals Girls Soccer vs. Whitmer   |
| September 11 | Generals Boys Soccer vs. Perrysburg |



## Homecoming: Friday, Sept. 19

Celebrate Homecoming with us—an evening of community, connection, and celebration for the whole family!

- 5:00 p.m. Parade - [View the Route](#)  
6:30 p.m. Pre-Game Festivities and Royalty Announcement  
7:00 p.m. Anthony Wayne Generals vs. Bowling Green Bobcats - [Buy Tickets](#)



## Showcase of Bands: Saturday, Sept. 27

The Anthony Wayne Marching Generals will host other area marching bands for an evening of music under the lights in Schaller Stadium.

[Ticket information will be posted online when it is available.](#)

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## Pass it On Challenge: Sept. 29 - Oct. 2

Anthony Wayne High School will compete against Clay High School in an attempt to collect the most donations for Goodwill Industries, with a \$500 scholarship up for grabs. [Drop off your donation of clothing or household goods and fill our trailer!](#)

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### IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, Sept. 1

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Friday, Oct. 24

District Closed - Labor Day

End of First Quarter

No School - Professional Development Day

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### AWLS District Events Calendar ➡

See what's happening across the District, or filter by school and add events directly to your own Google calendar.

# Staff Spotlights



## MR. BRYAN DEKAY

*Art Teacher, Anthony Wayne High School*

Bryan DeKay was named Co-Certified Staff Member of the Year for his commitment to student-centered teaching. He promotes creativity and exploration and encourages each student to find an art medium that aligns with their skills, interests, and goals in mind.



## MRS. MARY DRESSEL

*6th Grade Teacher, Fallen Timbers Middle School*

Staff Spotlight: Mary Dressel inspires students through her love of math, meaningful relationships and passion for running—demonstrating that with hard work and courage, challenges can become accomplishments. [Read more about our Co-Certified Staff Member of the Year.](#)



## MRS. CLAUDINE STRAYER

*Secretary, Monclova Primary School*

When Claudine Strayer heard her name announced as Classified Staff Member of the Year, she was “shocked and humbled.” She credits her recognition to the teamwork of her colleagues and says the best part of her work is the people she has met along the way. [Keep reading to learn her hopes for every student.](#)



## DR. STEPHANIE BUCKENMEYER

*Assistant Principal, Anthony Wayne High School*

Congratulations to AWHHS Assistant Principal, Stephanie Buckenmeyer for earning her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Education. [Read more about Stephanie](#) to see what her research revealed about change in the school setting -- and to discover what sparked her to become a lifelong learner and educator.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### RYLEIGH SHIVERDECKER

*Anthony Wayne High School Marching Generals*

From Friday Night Lights to Saturday community parades, the hardworking Marching Generals are ready to perform for their adoring fans this fall.

We caught up with senior squad leader Ryleigh Shiverdecker, who says band is more than rehearsals and performances - it's friendship, leadership and carrying on a legacy. [Read her story](#) to see how she leads with positivity, pushes her section to improve, and is cherishing every moment of her final season.



## Anthony Wayne Alumni Adds to Hall of Fame

[The Anthony Wayne Alumni Association](#) welcomed six new members to the Hall of Fame on Saturday, Aug. 30. This honor recognizes individuals who have made an impact on the Anthony Wayne Schools, in their community, and/or in their professions. [Learn more about each of the inductees and their contributions to our school community.](#)



Pictured from left to right: Rose Kandik, Community Member; Patrick Fountain, Class of 1977; Rob Slee, Class of 1976; Amy Albaugh Powell, daughter of Pauline Albaugh; Anne Stevens, Class of 1973; Deborah Baxter, Class of 1975; Pauline "Polly" Albaugh.



Representatives from the class of 2026 got up early to talk about their plans for the year with 13abc before gathering with friends for [Senior Sunrise](#) on the first day of school.

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### BLAKE CANELLI

*State Champion Fisherman*

Bass fishing isn't just about the catch. For two-time national tournament qualifier, Blake Canelli it's teaching patience, communication & adaptability—skills that go way beyond the water. [Read more about why he's hooked on fishing in his Student Spotlight.](#)



## Generals In the News

[Sunshine Communities students head back to class](#)

[Commanding the screen: Waterville native's star rises with recurring 9-1-1 role](#)

[Anthony Wayne High class of '75 forms four bands for reunion](#)

[Talking volleyball and playing ConnectFour with AW's Charley Gardner](#)

[Anthony Wayne volleyball is marching with a vengeance in 2025](#)

[Anthony Wayne embracing the culture that Andy Brungard has built](#)

[Former Michigan linebacker, BGSU defensive coordinator Morrison thriving at AW](#)

[AW's Mara Boyd defeats St. Ursula's Taylor Kayse in girls tennis](#)

[Proctor, Gasiorski determined to lead AW boys cross country to more success](#)

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Have a story idea?

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



# JOIN OUR TEAM!

# NOW HIRING

## OPEN INTERVIEWS

Join us for a hiring event with on-the-spot interviews for  
Evening Custodial Positions & Food Service Substitutes



**DATE**

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 16**



**TIME**

**4:00 – 8:00 P.M.**

**ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS**

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

9565 BUCHER RD., WHITEHOUSE, OH

### WHAT TO BRING:

- YOUR PHOTO ID
- YOUR RESUME OR WORK HISTORY
- REFERENCES (PREFERRED, NOT REQUIRED)



**FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE   GREAT PERKS   COMPETITIVE PAY**