

# The Generals Post **AW**

Anthony Wayne Local Schools Stakeholder Newsletter

January 2025

## RESOLVING TO MARCH TOWARD OUR VISION

HAPPY NEW YEAR! As 2025 begins, the District remains committed to accomplishing its goals, fulfilling its mission, and achieving its vision. With a clear focus, we will continue advancing our [Strategic Plan](#) to ensure that students receive an outstanding learning experience at Anthony Wayne Local Schools and are prepared with the skills they need to be successful upon graduation.

Our staff and students have demonstrated incredible accomplishments during the first half of the school year, and we look forward to seeing all learning and growth that the second semester holds!



### OUR MISSION

Anthony Wayne Local Schools empowers students to be future ready!

### OUR VISION

Driven by our core beliefs and rich traditions, AWLS will be among the best school districts in the state, and our future ready Generals will be prepared to march forward with a foundation that will allow each individual ultimate success.



### OUR GOALS

#### Student Learning

All Generals will be provided a comprehensive and engaging learning experience whereby each can demonstrate the *Portrait of a General* competencies.

#### Curriculum & Instruction

All Generals will experience an innovative and engaging curriculum with instruction that is personalized, promotes creativity and application, and provides real-world experiences that facilitate deeper learning.

#### Community Engagement

AWLS will engage in two-way communication and collaboration with stakeholders to promote community engagement and develop partnerships and relationships for the purpose of providing outstanding opportunities to all Generals and to strengthen school and community pride.

#### Resources for Student Success

AWLS will continue to work with the community to provide the necessary resources to ensure all Generals are future ready.

#### Students and Staff Ready to Learn

All AWLS students and staff will have access to personalized services to allow them as Generals to be successful academically and grow personally in all that they pursue to do each and every day.



# A Letter from the Interim Superintendent

Anthony Wayne Local Schools Community,

As we reflect on the first half of the school year, I am energized by the passion, care and commitment that is shown to our students each day in order to allow them to excel both in and out of the classroom. I truly feel that AW is such a special place—a place where students thrive, staff excel and I hope that all of you, our community, takes pride.



At the beginning of the year, I emphasized a few priorities that were important to me:

- **Showing Gratitude:** I want to express how thankful I am for our parents and this community. The commitment you make to support our students and staff is truly remarkable.
- **Building Trust and Support:** Our success is built on trust, collaboration and teamwork. I believe our community stands with us, even though the levy fell short by only four votes. The pride you show in our students, staff and the District as a whole is evident, and it encourages us moving forward.
- **Fostering a Positive Environment:** A supportive and uplifting atmosphere is key to our success. We as a District work hard to provide a safe, welcoming environment we hope our students enjoy. Everything that the community does to add to the positive environment for our students is noticed and appreciated.
- **Improving Communication:** My hope is that you feel informed about what is happening across the District. Open, clear communication remains a priority for me and the District as we move forward.

Everyone in this community helps make AW the special place it is—a place where students thrive, staff excel, and the community takes pride.

I am truly honored to serve as your interim superintendent and remain committed to working hard to earn your continued trust and support. As we move into the second semester, I hope you will join us as we remain committed accomplishing great things for our students, our schools, and our community.

Kevin Herman, *Interim Superintendent*  
[superintendent@anthonywayneschools.org](mailto:superintendent@anthonywayneschools.org)





# JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

Throughout the year we will share the stories of the individuals who have committed to supporting the education of our AWLS students. January is School Board Appreciation Month and we wish to call attention to the contributions of our Board members. Thank you for your service to our district!



Kyle Miller  
*President*

Jeff Baden  
*Vice President*

Lindsay Hoipkemier  
*Member*

Shellie McKnight  
*Member*

Mike Stamm  
*Member*

## JANUARY 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 SPOTLIGHTS

#### Athletic Administrators

Marissa Dazell, AW Junior High  
John Snyder, AWHS

#### Directors of Student Services

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



Jana Leininger  
*Enrollment / EMIS Coordinator*



Laura Soeder  
*Whitehouse School Nurse*



Jill Bigelow  
*Monclova Dean of Students*



FTMS students, Gavin Pittman and Hudson Smith were selected to have their story elements included in a nationwide online learning platform as part of a contest sponsored by eSpark. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



Elise Bender broke the school record for most individual points in a single game by scoring 36 against Perrysburg on December 19. [\[MORE\]](#)

# NEWS FROM AWLS FOOD SERVICES

## NEW USDA MEAL STANDARDS COMING IN 2025

School meals meet strict federal nutrition standards aligned with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. These standards ensure a balanced diet, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and low-fat or fat-free milk, making every meal both nutritious and delicious.

Starting in 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is updating meal standards to further improve school nutrition. These changes include:

- New limits on added sugars, including those in flavored milk
- Further sodium reductions

Schools will continue to offer balanced meals with items from all five food groups. This includes fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Flavored milk is still permitted, but with a lower sugar content.

In addition, there are specific standards for snacks offered at school, requiring the following:

- 200-calorie limits
- Low in sugar and fat, with whole grain options
- No added sugars in bottled drinks

### Why the Updates?

USDA updates reflect the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans to combat excessive added sugars, sodium, and insufficient fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in children's diets. These improvements aim to reduce diet-related diseases and promote healthier eating habits.

More information is available in [this overview video from the USDA](#) and in [this presentation to the AWLS Board of Education](#) on December 9.



## MANAGE YOUR CHILD'S CAFETERIA ACCOUNT ONLINE

AWLS uses [PaySchools Central](#), a web- and app-based cafeteria management software that allows parents to easily manage their child's cafeteria account. When you create an account, you can:

- Securely add money to your child's school meal account.
- View student purchase and account balance information.
- Receive low balance notifications.
- Complete a free and reduced meal application.



## CONTACT US

More information about AWLS Food Services is available on the District website. If you have questions, please contact:

### Megan Menchaca

Food Services Director  
by phone at 419-877-1229 or  
[click here to email Megan](#).

## WORK WITH US

Be a part of our team! Substitute and part-time food service positions are available.

[\[APPLY ONLINE\]](#)

## FREE & REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS

If your family's financial situation has recently changed, you may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

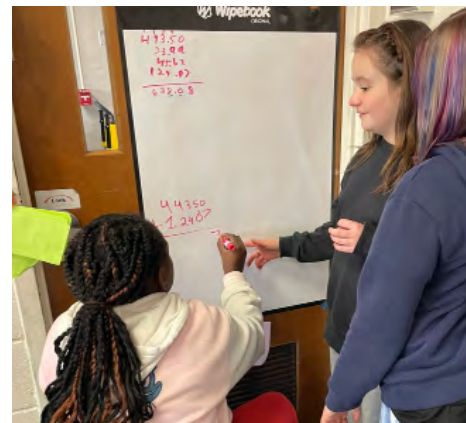
Applications are simple, confidential, and can be updated at any time during the school year.

More information is available on the [Food Services page of the District website](#) or in your school office.





Monclova kindergarten students demonstrate critical thinking and practice communication skills when predicting what will happen next in a story.



FTMS students collaborate to complete a series of math challenge stations.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT OUR DISTRICT:

### WHAT IS THE PORTRAIT OF A GENERAL?

You may have heard about the *Portrait of a General*. You may have even spotted the logo (at right) on various banners throughout the District - but what does this set of competencies mean for AWLS students?

#### Portrait of a General: Preparing Students for the Future

The District adopted the [Portrait of a General](#) after a series of stakeholder meetings in 2019. During these conversations, District stakeholders developed a list of essential knowledge, skills, and habits students need upon graduation in order to be prepared for further education, enrollment in the military or direct employment.

The ***Portrait of a General*** emphasizes five core skills:



<b>LEARNER'S MINDSET</b>	Generals approach new ideas and challenges with curiosity, embrace learning from failure, and demonstrate integrity in their growth.
<b>CRITICAL THINKING</b>	Generals analyze and reconstruct information thoughtfully to propose meaningful, responsible solutions.
<b>ADAPTABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY</b>	Generals demonstrate awareness, reflect on options, and adjust course as necessary to achieve their goals.
<b>COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION</b>	Generals articulate ideas effectively, listen actively and seek diverse perspectives to take collective action when needed.
<b>EMPATHY</b>	Generals connect with others with sensitivity, fairness and respect - valuing diverse experiences and perspectives.

Since their adoption, the District has focused on pairing these competencies with rigorous academic instruction in order to ensure our students are prepared to be positive, contributing citizens. [You can learn more about the \*Portrait of a General\* expectations for students, educators and administrators by reviewing the AWLS Competency Actions.](#)

Paired with the [District's Strategic Plan 2022-2027](#), the *Portrait of a General* is a commitment to ensuring all students are empowered to be future ready upon graduation.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JANUARY 2**  
**School Resumes Following**  
**Winter Break**

**JANUARY 7 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
*Central Administrative Office*

**JANUARY 16**  
**End of Second Quarter**

**JANUARY 17**  
**No School:**  
*Teacher Work Day*

**JANUARY 20**  
**No School:**  
*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

**FEBRUARY 12 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Whitehouse Primary**  
2nd Grade Program  
at AWHs Auditorium

**FEBRUARY 17**  
**District Closed**  
President's Day

**FEBRUARY 18**  
**2-HOUR DELAY:**  
*Staff Professional Development*

**FEBRUARY 25 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Symphonic Winds & 8th Grade**  
**Band Concert**  
*AWHS Auditorium*

**FEBRUARY 26 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Concert Band & Symphonic**  
**Band Concert**  
*AWHS Auditorium*

## FEATURED EVENT

### Cybersecurity Lunch & Learn: Protecting Your Devices and Your Identity



Cyber threats are on the rise—are you protected? On January 14, 2025, AWLS will present an engaging and informative program designed to empower our community with practical knowledge and tools to stay secure in a digital world.

Led by the AWLS Technology Department, this session will begin with a brief presentation about the proactive steps the District has taken to safeguard our systems, infrastructure and data. You'll also gain actionable tips to protect yourself, your family, and your business from rising threats like ransomware attacks and identity theft.

Bring your lunch and join us for an afternoon of learning and conversation. We'll provide light refreshments to complement your meal. Don't miss this opportunity to gain critical insights and stay ahead of cyber criminals.

Date: January 14, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: AWLS Central Administrative Offices, 9565 Bucher Rd.

Space is limited. RSVP by emailing Chris Hamady at [chamady@anthonywayneschools.org](mailto:chamady@anthonywayneschools.org) and take the first step toward a safer digital future!

## District Master Calendar

[Fine & Musical Arts](#)

[Generals Athletics](#)

## DISTRICT NEWS & INFORMATION

AWLS is committed to timely and transparent communication with stakeholders. The District proactively shares information with families and community members in a variety of ways. You are invited and encouraged to utilize these resources to stay informed about our schools:

- [District website](#)
- [Mobile app](#)
- [X \[Twitter\]](#)
- Phone and email: [District directory](#)
- [Attend a Board meeting or other event](#)





Pictured from left to right: Shellie McKnight, *Member*; Jeff Baden, *Vice President*; Kyle Miller, *President*; Lindsay Hoipkemier, *Member*; Mike Stamm, *Member* [\[EMAIL THE BOARD\]](#)

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## UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 7**

**6:30 p.m.**

Central Administrative Office

The Board will elect new officers and set the meeting schedule for the 2025 calendar year. The full agenda will be available two days prior to the meeting.

To view the agenda, please visit the [Board of Education page of the website](#).

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## Anthony Wayne Board of Education Briefs

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

- The Board heard from Brad Contat, *Human Resources Director* for updates from District's Wellness Committee and its initiatives for promoting physical, mental, social and intellectual wellness among staff.
- Megan Menchaca, Food Service Director explained the upcoming changes to the school meal standards coming in early 2025 as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- The Board approved the addition of an Engineering Design and Biotechnology course at AWHs and an Automation and Robotics class at AW Junior High, and an upgrade to the FTMS math coursebook to the newest edition.
- The District also entered into an agreement with Kleinfelder Architecture, Inc. to begin the process for evaluating and planning several significant facilities repairs.
- The Board accepted \$6587.63 in donations and grants.
- Following adjournment, members toured each District building to observe their daily operations and enjoyed lunch with second graders at Monclova Primary School.

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### AWLS BOARD TOURS DISTRICT SCHOOLS

Members share their impressions following their tours of the District on December 9.

"I didn't think it was possible to be more impressed with our school district, but yesterday's (sic) experience truly exceeded my expectations. It was, by far, my favorite moment in this school board member role to date." - LINDSAY HOIPKEMIER

"We saw a lot of impressive things...kids were all over the place, but in a good way - totally absorbed...you could see the light bulb moments happening...it was amazing seeing such engaged and happy students." - MIKE STAMM

[\[READ THE MEMBERS' FULL RESPONSES\]](#)







The AWHs Close Harmony ensemble and AW Junior High 7th and 8th grade choirs performed as strolling carolers at the Toledo Zoo's Lights Before Christmas on December 16. [\[LISTEN IN\]](#)

## Generals in the News

- ACADEMICS: [AW finalist in nationwide STEM competition](#)
- ARTS: [AW choirs perform at Toledo Zoo Lights Before Christmas](#)
- ATHLETICS: [Old Newsboys Goodfellow Assn. continues tradition](#)
- SOCCER: [Area soccer players recognized on all-region teams](#)
- FOOTBALL: [Anthony Wayne's Grant Kinnee signs with Colgate](#)
- BASKETBALL: [Josh Arthur previews AW boys basketball season](#)
- BASKETBALL: [AW girls take care of business at Bowling Green](#)
- ALUMNI: [AW grad, lacrosse player enjoys officiating side gig](#)
- SERVICE: [AWHS FCCLA and Waterville Primary write holiday letters](#)
- SERVICE: [AW students help collect 20,000 toys for LCCS](#)



The AW Junior High wrestling team kicked off its season with a strong start, bringing home a first place trophy from the Fremont tournament. [\[FOLLOW AWJH ATHLETICS\]](#)



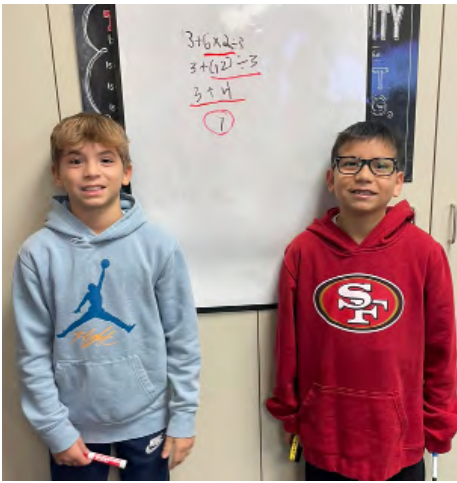
Mrs. Black's fourth graders at Monclova Primary present a \$500 check to Amy Barrett for Neighborhood Bridges. The donation was made possible after they were named the winners of the Waterville tree decorating contest. The Monclova staff also made a \$500 donation with funds raised from their annual staff holiday party. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



AWHS students enrolled in the Welding and Small Engines course are taking the skills they learned in stick welding to the next level with MIG welding. [\[MORE FROM THE AW FFA\]](#)

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





Fallen Timbers Middle School students paired up to practice solving an algebraic expressions with multiple math operations.

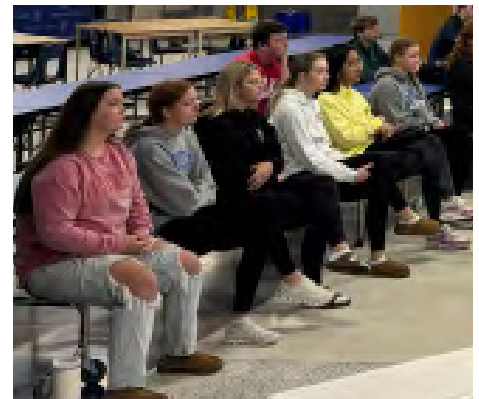


AW Junior High students learned how to use joint compound on their model houses as a part of their Career Connections course.

## LEARNING & GROWING TOGETHER



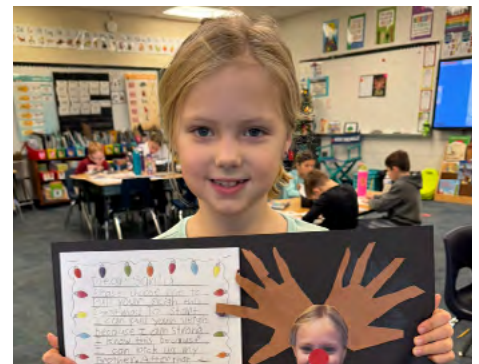
Whitehouse Primary students practiced using scientific tools as they strengthened their literacy skills by searching for hidden words and sorting them by their "glued sounds."



AWHS students met with guest speakers to learn about post-graduation options during a variety of Career Chats.



Waterville Primary students explored the science of color and basic chemistry concepts with a chromatography lesson and experiment.



Monclova Primary second graders practiced their persuasive writing skills with letters to Santa in an attempt to convince him to let them pull his sleigh.