



January 2026

# The Generals Post

*Anthony Wayne Local Schools Stakeholder Newsletter*

As we begin a new year, this is a natural time to pause, reflect, and look ahead. The close of the calendar year often brings a little calmness after a busy and demanding season. In that quiet space, we have the opportunity to thoughtfully consider where we have been, what we have accomplished, and how we want to continue moving forward together.

Over the past few years, our District has made meaningful progress on the goals included in the [2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#). This can be attributed to the dedication and hard work of our staff, students, families, and community partners. We cannot thank you enough for that. We have navigated challenges, celebrated successes, and continued to focus on providing high-quality experiences for all students. I plan to share some of these accomplishments and discuss our future at the Board of Education meeting on January 13.

As our existing Strategic Plan nears its completion date, we will begin the process for setting new priorities and goals for the years ahead. The development of our next Strategic Plan offers an important opportunity for us to work together - listening, collaborating, and aligning our efforts to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students and community both now and into the future. We look forward to engaging stakeholders in this process - we will share more details as the work unfolds.

Thank you for your continued support, commitment, and partnership. I am excited about the year ahead and I am confident that together we will continue to move our district forward.

Kevin Herman, Superintendent  
Anthony Wayne Local Schools

Pictured above: FOCUS Art Show Award Winners Lillian Albert and Ruby Rapp with Superintendent Kevin Herman and AWHHS Art Teacher Carrie Flagg.



## 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 December 8 Meeting:

#### Financial & Operations

- Approved an emergency resolution for a \$54,483 chilled water line repair at Waterville Primary.
- Approved a \$1,038,438 contract with Spatco Energy Solutions for the Fuel Center Replacement Project.
- Approved the 2026 advance tax collection resolution as permitted by law.
- Approved a farm lease agreement with Keith and Michael Hannewald.
- Accepted \$2,849.88 in donations.

#### Student & Staff Recognition

- Celebrated AWHHS volleyball team as State Runner-Up.
- Honored Lillian Albert ('24) and Ruby Rapp for FOCUS Art Show awards.
- Presented Certificates of Appreciation to Board members.

#### Programs & Activities

- Approved service agreements with NWOESC and Sunshine Communities.
- Approved several overnight trips for athletics and student groups.

#### Board Vacancy Update

Four candidates introduced themselves: [Amy Barrett](#), [Katie Carollo](#), [Matthew Culling](#), and [Troy Schalitz](#). Interviews were held in Executive Session. Final selection is planned for Jan. 13.

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### JANUARY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, Jan. 13 6:00 p.m. AWHHS Auditorium

## COMING SOON: NEW CAFETERIA FUNDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Our Food Services Department will be transitioning to a new cafeteria management software in Spring 2026. This new system will make it easier for families to send money to school for school meals and other fees, while offering improved functionality, a more user-friendly experience, and faster, more reliable service.



Any remaining funds with PaySchoolsCentral will be transferred automatically to the Heartland Mosaic system. More details and user instructions will be shared with families as we get closer to the rollover date.

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## CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS ON SCHOOL MENU ITEMS

Food dyes have largely been removed from cafeteria offerings as school food manufacturers have made conscious strides to eliminate artificial coloring from foods sold only in K-12 schools. Currently, only two AWLS cafeteria items still contain artificial coloring: Lucky Charms (reduced sugar) and Reduced-fat Doritos (Nacho Cheese flavor). This reflects significant progress toward cleaner ingredient standards while maintaining familiar options for students.

Questions about our menu selections and cafeteria operations can be directed to [Megan Menchaca](#), Food Services Director.

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## KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT FOR 2026 - 27

Starting with next school year, children must be five years old by August 1 to enroll in kindergarten at AWLS. More information about this change is [available on the District website](#). Enrollment begins March 1, 2026.



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## AWHS WELCOMES NEW SCHOOL FACILITY DOG

AWHS is excited to welcome Jasper, a school facility dog to the team this month. Trained by the Ability Center of Toledo to enhance classroom learning and support student social-emotional needs, Jasper will work alongside staff to promote comfort, connection, and calm throughout the school day. Look for more about Jasper—his role, personality, and impact—in an upcoming issue!



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## SPECIAL EVENT FOR OUR 'TRUE BLUE' ALUMNI

We are looking for the True Blue couples who first met while attending AWLS. Join us for a special evening of memories, laughter, and nostalgia as we bring together high school sweethearts to reminisce about your early years, share stories, reconnect with old friends, and network with alumni from Anthony Wayne, Monclova, Waterville, and Whitehouse High Schools.

**TRUE BLUE:** If both you and your partner are graduates of Anthony Wayne Local Schools (before and after the consolidation), we invite you to come celebrate the moments that started it all!

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### True Blue Alumni Event: *An AW Sweethearts Reunion*

**Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026**



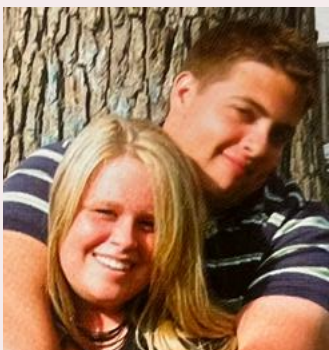
**5:30 p.m. Varsity Boys Basketball Game  
AWHS Gymnasium**

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

**7:00 p.m. Generals True Blue Reception  
AWHS Auxiliary Gymnasium**

Join us after the game for a free post-game social. While final plans are still being confirmed, the evening is expected to feature entertainment, student performances, tours, networking opportunities and more! Stay tuned for updates.

**Register online**  
**or call**  
**419-877-5377**  
**to RSVP by**  
**FEBRUARY 6**



### CALL FOR COUPLES: SHARE YOUR STORY!

We want to fill next month's newsletter with stories about our alumni sweethearts.

[Complete a brief survey and submit your then and now photos.](#)



Pictured: Once voted "Most Lovesick,"  
Dr. and Mrs. Jacob and Shae (Mogg) Vincent ('05) and their daughter, Raegan.

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## STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS

District Superintendent Kevin Herman will discuss the state of our schools during the AWLS Board of Education Organizational Meeting.

Stakeholders are encouraged to attend to learn about how the District is making progress on its Strategic Plan, advancing its long-term vision and priorities, and bringing plans to life across classrooms, athletics, arts, facilities, and community partnerships.

## SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, Jan. 13

6:00 p.m.

AWHS Auditorium

[The meeting will be live streamed and recorded for those who cannot attend in person.](#)



## AWHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS Puffs: or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic

Save the date for this clever, fast-paced parody that takes a fresh look at a familiar wizarding world—this time through the eyes of the “other” students. Follow Wayne Hopkins and the loyal, awkward, and endlessly determined Puffs as they face school trials, dark forces, and the chaos of growing up, proving that heroes come in all forms.

## SHOW TIMES

Thursday - Saturday

Jan. 29–31 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 1 at 2:30 p.m.

AWHS Auditorium

[Reserved seat tickets available online](#), with first come, first serve tickets available at the door.



## EVENTS CALENDAR

### JANUARY 1-2

District Closed  
Winter Break

### JANUARY 5

No School  
Teacher Work Day

### JANUARY 6

Classes Resume

### JANUARY 13

Board Organizational Meeting

### JANUARY 19

District Closed  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### JAN. 29 - FEB. 1

AWHS Winter Play: Puffs

### FEBRUARY 16

District Closed  
Presidents Day

### FEBRUARY 25

2nd Grade Music Program  
Whitehouse Primary School

## HELPFUL LINKS

[2025-26 District Calendar](#)

[District Events Calendar](#)

[Athletics Schedule](#)

[Performing & Musical  
Arts Events](#)

## PLAN AHEAD

[2026-27 District Calendar](#)



### **MRS. SARAH LESAGE**

*5th Grade ELA and Science Teacher at FTMS*

Sarah LeSage fosters a classroom environment at Fallen Timbers Middle School built on care, belonging, and high expectations for learning. Through thoughtful, student-centered instruction, she empowers students to grow academically while feeling valued and supported.

[More >>](#)



### **MISS JAELYNN MARKS**

*Student Teacher at AW Junior High School*

BGSU student teacher JaeLynn Marks is making a positive impact in 8th grade classrooms at AW Junior High with her passion for teaching and strong connections with students. Supported by dedicated mentors, she is already helping students feel valued and inspired to learn.

[More >>](#)



### **4TH GRADE TEACHING TEAM**

*Waterville Primary School*

Four classrooms, one united team. Through collaboration, shared leadership, and genuine care, Katelyn Schwerer, Jackie Smith, Stephanie Echler and Elena Boyle create an environment where students thrive.

[More >>](#)

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## **Call for Spotlight Interview Features**

We're looking for students, staff, and alumni to feature in our upcoming Spotlight Interview series. Know someone doing great work, pursuing a unique path, or making an impact? Nominate them — or yourself! Send a brief description and contact information to [communications@anthonywayneschools.org](mailto:communications@anthonywayneschools.org).

**Help us highlight the stories that make our community shine!**



## HUDSON DANHAUER

*Kindergarten Student at Whitehouse Primary*

Hudson Danhauer is a kindergartner with a talent for conversation and comedy, and his bus driver Judi Wilkerson says his daily imaginative conversations have sparked an unexpected friendship that has turned a simple ride to school into one of the best parts of their day.

[More >>](#)



## ISAAC MORRIN

*Sophomore at Anthony Wayne High School*

In his first-ever client project, Isaac Morrin was selected as the winner of the Anthony Wayne Education Foundation logo design contest. His creative design earned him a \$500 scholarship and will now represent the foundation's mission across the district.

[More >>](#)



## SHYANNE & SAVANNA WYLIE

*AWHS Anthony Wayne Equestrian Team Members*

Together with their teammates, sisters Shyanne and Savanna Wylie brought home the Reserve Champion Award in Division I at the OIHA State Championships. The pair hopes their recent success encourages more student-athletes to consider joining the Anthony Wayne Equestrian Team.

[More >>](#)



## TORI MARSHALL

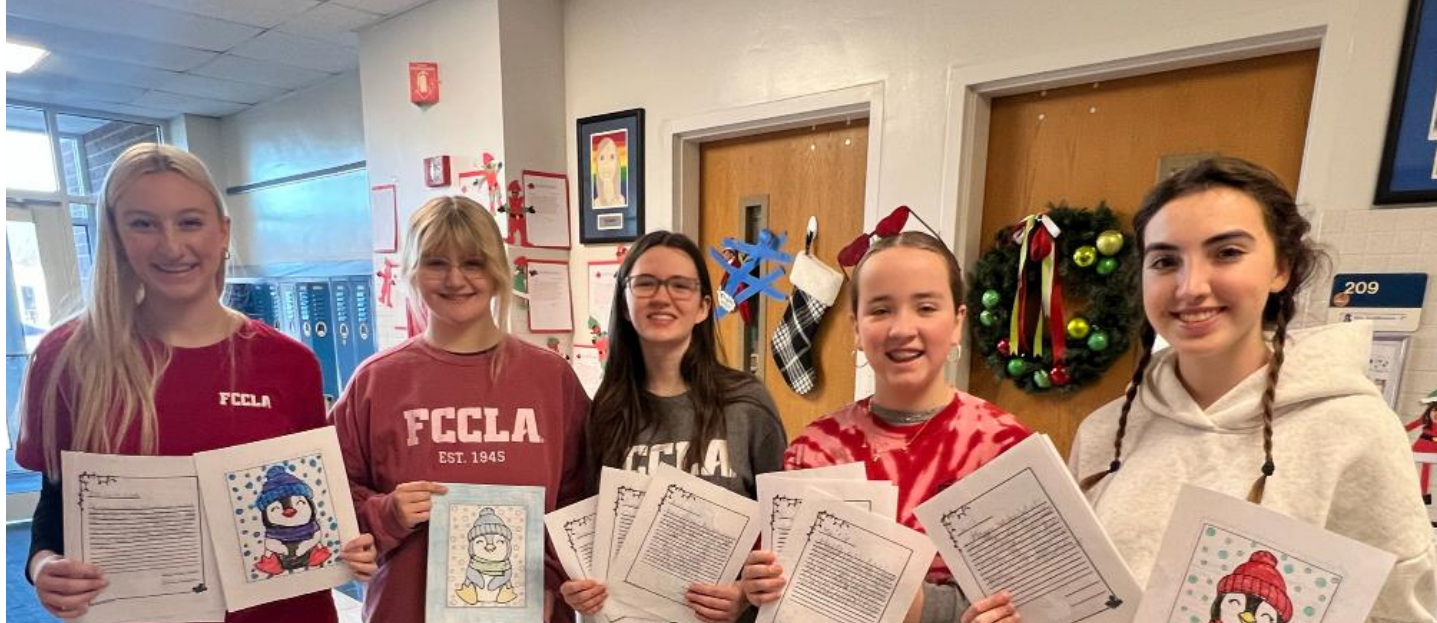
*Senior at Anthony Wayne High School*

In her final year with the AWHS Drama Program, Tori Marshall is flipping the script and taking on a new role. She is leading the school's winter production of the play, "Puffs: Or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic!"

[More >>](#)







The Penta-AWHS Chapter of FCCLA teamed up with students at Waterville Primary to write [more than 300 holiday letters and cards](#) for residents of StoryPoint Senior Living.

## Supporting Our Neighbors and ...



AW Junior High athletes and their families collected toys and stuffed animals to support the children served by the Ronald McDonald House through the holiday season.

**WE ♥ VOLUNTEERS!**



Staff members across the district have logged over 430 Hero Hours as part of a friendly competition hosted by the Wellness Committee.



Inspired by The Mitten Tree by Candace Christiansen, Waterville Primary staff and students collected new gloves to help keep others warm and toasty this winter.





AW Junior High and AWHs Music Departments shared the sounds of the season by performing at the Toledo Zoo's Lights Before Christmas display.

## *... Spreading Holiday Cheer in Our Community*



Waterville Primary second grade students visited StoryPoint Senior Living, where they formed friendships across generations by sharing stories and making ornaments.



Community Engagement Class students from AWHs hosted a number of service projects, including a toy drive that collected 2600 items for local families.



Monclova Primary School staff members shared sweet treats and serenaded students and their families at its 2nd Annual Reverse Caroling Event.





## AWHS FIELD TRIP

Students in Mr. Mike Schnieder's Anatomy and Physiology class toured the cadaver lab at The University of Toledo's College of Medicine for real-world insight into the study of the human body.



## SPELLING BEE WINNERS NAMED

### AW Junior High

Josie Nemeth - 1st Place  
Alexander Kohler - 2nd Place

### Fallen Timbers Middle School

Blake Werner - 1st Place

## Generals In the News

[Rising Star: Whitehouse Police Officer and School SRO: Officer Morgan Schumann](#)

[Anthony Wayne Board of Education: Four candidates to interview](#)

[Anthony Wayne residents weigh in on board member's replacement](#)

[Anthony Wayne students support community causes](#)

[6 soccer players from northwest Ohio earn All-American honors](#)

[AW Girls Basketball's Kennedie and Addison Hill interview one another](#)

[Anthony Wayne gets past Northview 53-50 in early season thriller](#)

[Pike sisters' dedication to basketball critical to Anthony Wayne's success](#)

[Dynamic duo of Ethan Robison and Cole Gast lead Anthony Wayne to victory](#)

[Generals use second-half rally to stop Trojans](#)

[Six AWHS students earn FFA Chapter Degrees](#)

Have a story idea?

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

