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ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2024

From the Superintendent's Desk

FAREWELL, WITH GRATITUDE

As the academic year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared. It is with a mix of nostalgia and gratitude that I share this farewell message.

Together, we've weathered storms, celebrated victories, and worked tirelessly to shape the minds and hearts of our students.

Our collective efforts have contributed to this great legacy of this District. As we part ways, I am filled with pride knowing that we've equipped countless students with the tools they need to thrive in life.



To our teachers, administrators, support staff, and everyone who plays a role in our students' growth:

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your dedication, compassion, and professionalism have left an indelible mark on our community. Continue to believe in the transformative power of education, and know that your impact extends far beyond the classroom.

As I step into the next chapter of my life, I carry with me the memories we've created together. May our paths cross again, and may you continue to nurture the minds and hearts of our future leaders.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Dr. Jim Fritz

Anthony Wayne Local Schools empowers students to be future ready!

DISTRICT BUDGET UPDATE

The District is continuing to closely monitor its finances and making adjustments where necessary. Please [refer to the website](#) for details of the Financial Recovery Plan.

FIVE-YEAR FORECAST UPDATE

The Five-Year Forecast May Update was presented at the May Board Meeting. The biggest hurdles still facing the District are increasing costs, reduced federal and state revenue and unpaid property taxes.

The District has cut \$7.7 million from the budget over the next several years by reducing personnel and lowering budgets for purchased services and supplies, but unfortunately these cuts are only a short-term solution. AWLS must have additional revenue or face increasing cuts over the next several years.

FALL OPERATIONAL LEVY

The AWLS Board of Education passed a Resolution of Necessity for five-year, \$3.3M operational levy. This is the first step toward pursuing an operational levy on the November 5 ballot. Watch for further updates as the District works through this process.

PAY-TO-PARTICIPATE

In an effort to reduce costs and increase revenue, the District has implemented a pay-to-participate requirement for AWJH and AWHS athletics for the 2024-25 school year.

Final details about this new program will be shared with stakeholders once approved by the Board of Education.



COMMUNITY CONTACT LIST

Approximately 70% of our community is not directly involved with our schools. If you know someone who would benefit from receiving periodic email messages from AWLS, please encourage them to register for updates by [completing the form found on the Communications page](#) of the website.

PARAMOUNT BENEFITS TO CONTINUE

Last month, ProMedica officially completed the sale of its Paramount health insurance provider to Medical Mutual. There are no anticipated changes to member plans or processes in 2024. Paramount members will continue to use the same Paramount ID cards, customer service department and will have access to the same provider network.

If you have questions about your health care coverage, please contact the AW business office.



RECHARGING YOUR BATTERY

Summer break offers a season to pause the demanding pace of the academic year and time to reflect, rest and recharge. We hope that you use the coming weeks to take care of you and restore your physical, emotional, cognitive and social health.



PHYSICAL HEALTH

Incorporate exercise into your daily summer routine, make sure to get enough rest, focus on eating a healthy and balanced diet, or schedule any doctor's appointments or routine testing that you may have put off.



EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Work on enjoying the moment by practicing gratitude and mindfulness, take time to engage in hobbies that interest you, and seek help from a professional when you need support.



COGNITIVE HEALTH

Sign up for a class, read a book, explore a new hobby, or simply complete the daily crossword or sudoku puzzle.



SOCIAL HEALTH

Catch up with a friend, visit a loved one, take a break from social media or spend time volunteering -- or find a quiet space to enjoy your own company.

[ARTICLE: Five Strategies for Recharging During Summer Break](#)

Consider these easy ways to practice the art of slowing down to give your mind and body an opportunity to recover from a busy school year.

[ARTICLE + PODCAST: What is Rest, Anyway?](#)

Restoration is more than just taking a nap...and is more active than you may think. This article and accompanying podcast explore how to overcome the thought that rest = laziness and make the most of your time away from work.

[ARTICLE: Teachers in All 50 States Just Revealed How They Recover from Burnout](#)

If you're feeling uninspired about what to do over your summer vacation, take a page from the playbook of one of these teachers who shared what helps restore their motivation.



CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

If you're having trouble unwinding from the school year or have something else that is keeping you from being your best self, know that help is available. As an AW employee, you and your family members are eligible to receive confidential professional counseling through ProMedica's Employee Assistance Program. For more information or to schedule a video, phone or in-person visit, please call 866-327-3759.

YEAR-IN-REVIEW: FROM YOUR VIEW!

What was your greatest accomplishment of the year? When were your students totally engaged in learning? What makes you most proud? We want to include your highlights in the 2023-24 Quality Profile.

This annual publication is the one of the most viewed District resources, with more than 22,000 people viewing last year's profile.

Now is the time to submit the awesome accomplishments of our students and staff over the last year!

Scroll back through your phone and flip through your folders to find your best of the best, then forward them to Rebecca Schwan, *Communications Specialist* [via email](#) or this [Google Form](#).



SUMMER HOURS

Our schools and the CAO are now operating on a summer schedule. Regular hours will resume in early to mid-August.

A building-by-building calendar of open office hours is available on the [Schedules & Calendars](#) page of the website.

TASK FORCE 20 RACE SUPPORTS MILITARY STUDENTS



Support our military-connected students by registering for the Task Force 20's Annual 5K Race on June 30.

A portion of each registration fee will support the Purple Star Generals, Anthony Wayne's students with family members who are actively serving or are who are veterans of our armed forces. [Click here to sign up.](#)

PERSONAL UPDATES? LET US KNOW!



Moving? Getting married? Switching banks? Be sure to update the business office with your new address, name change or direct deposit information. These forms are [available for download from the District website](#) for your convenience.



SUMMER EVENTS

- JUNE 1** Kindergarten Screening
- JUNE 3** AWLS Board: Special Meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- JUNE 19** District Closed: Juneteenth
- JUNE 27** AWLS Board: Regular Meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- JULY 4** District Closed: Independence Day
- JULY 10** AWLS Board: Meeting (if needed), 8:00 a.m.

[See all upcoming events on the District calendar](#)

JUNE 30 - JULY 7 IS FAMILY WEEK!

Family Week gives our students, staff and families and opportunity to spend time away from the obligations of attending school-affiliated activities. Enjoy this time to reconnect with yourself and your loved ones!

FIND THE GENERAL!

We are partnering with the Village of Waterville for a fun family event designed to get you active and playing together in the AW Community.

During Family Week, 24 General Mascot action figures will be hidden in public areas in Waterville, Whitehouse and Monclova Township. You will be challenged to locate them, snap a photo and let us know where you spotted the General.

Special thanks to Bryan DeKay, AWHS Art Teacher for designing, rendering and 3D printing the action figures and to community volunteer, Terri Massucci for hiding them. Watch for full details to come as Family Week draws closer.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 5
8:00 a.m. -- CAO

WORK SESSION FOR OSBA TRAINING

Thursday, June 13
5:15 - 8:15 p.m.
Waterville Public Library

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, June 27
8:00 a.m. -- CAO

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, June 27
8:00 a.m. -- CAO

REGULAR MEETING

(if needed)
Wednesday, July 10
8:00 a.m. -- CAO

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 5
8:00 a.m. -- CAO

[Meetings are streamed live online for those who cannot attend in person.](#)

GETTING READY FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Even before the end of the 2023-24 school year, requests for information about next year were coming in. More information will be available toward the end of summer, but we hope the details provided here will help you begin to fill your new planner with information for next year.

BACK TO SCHOOL WEBPAGE

This resource is designed to be a one-stop for our families looking for school supply lists, photo ordering forms and more! It will be updated as information becomes available.

www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/BacktoSchool

RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION

Families can begin to update their students' information in FinalForms beginning Tuesday, July 8.

<https://anthonywayne-oh.finalforms.com/>

2024 - 2025 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Find the dates for holiday breaks, conferences and other district-wide events on the grid view or list view District calendar.

www.anthonywayneschools.org/schedule

DISTRICT CELEBRATION WEEKS

Jot down these dates for our upcoming Districtwide awareness campaigns and celebrations:

Start with Hello Week
August 26 - 30

Homecoming Week
September 16 - 20

Districtwide Anti-Bullying

Day
Wednesday, October 9

Red Ribbon Week
October 17 - November 1

Veterans Week
November 11-14

Districtwide Food Drive Week



LOCAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING

September 9
October 7
November 11
January 13
March 10
April 7
May 5
May 19

MATERIALS DUE

September 4
October 2
November 6
January 8
March 5
April 2
April 30
May 14

[Click here for a printable list of meeting dates.](#)

BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

Stephanie Buckenmeyer
Anthony Wayne High School

Janet Hamilton
AW Junior High

Jim Huddleston
Fallen Timbers Middle School

Chris Buehrer
Monclova Primary School

Robin Buffy
Waterville Primary School

Brad Rhodes
Whitehouse Primary School

Jim Conner
Central Administrative Office



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWLS RETIREES!

As we say goodbye to our retiring colleagues, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for your dedicated service.

Your hard work, kindness, and commitment to our District have made a lasting impact on our school community. Each and every day you helped to shape the lives of our students and prepare them for their futures.

As you move into this new phase of life, we wish you a retirement filled with happiness and fulfillment.

Thank you for everything and stop by to visit soon!

BEST WISHES FOR A FUN-FILLED FUTURE!

Beth Bunde, *AWHS School Counselor*
27 Years of Service

Karin Instone, *FTMS Sixth Grade Teacher*
34 Years of Service

Jennifer Martinez, *Monclova Music Teacher*
35 Years of Service

Elizabeth Swiler, *AWJH Special Edu. Aide*
10 Years of Service

Tammy Tapley, *Transportation Director*
8 Years of Service

Jan Wolfe, *Bus Aide*
26 Years of Service

NOMINATION WINDOW OPEN

AWLS STAFF MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

The District names one Certified Staff Member of the Year and one Classified Staff Member of the Year in recognition of their outstanding contributions to our schools.

We are looking for nominations for people who exemplify the Portrait of a General in their daily work in empowering students to be future ready. Please take a moment to recognize someone who is:

- a critical thinker
- adaptable and flexible
- an excellent communicator and collaborator
- empathetic
- committed to maintaining a learner's mindset



There is no limit to the number of individuals you may submit for consideration, but please submit a separate form for each nominee.

[Click here to complete your nominations by Monday, Aug. 5.](#)



AWHS STAFF HONORED FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Two AWHS Staff members were honored at the 2024 *I Make a Difference Awards* hosted by the ESC of Lake Erie West. Julie Blakely was nominated by Elayna Sonnenberg and Justin Dowling was recognized by Tyler Pellek as teachers who made a significant impact



THE GENERALS FAMILY IS GROWING

We are excited to welcome two new babies to the AW Community! AWJH Math Teacher Kara Brown and her husband Mike welcomed Brynlee Judith on May 14. Mom and dad are said to be on cloud nine and doing great!

Noah Gabriel was born on May 18 to AWLS Food Service Director Megan Menchaca and her husband, Lito. He was welcomed by proud siblings, Micah and Charlotte. Everyone is doing well and settling in as a family of five.

HAVE A STORY IDEA FOR *GENERALS BULLETIN*?

Send your suggestions for topics, announcements and other news tips to Rebecca Schwan, *Communications Specialist* at communications@anthonywayneschools.org.

VIEW BACK ISSUES: Previous editions of the *Generals Bulletin* can be found on the [Staff Forms and Information page of the District website](#).