

GENERALS BULLETIN

Anthony Wayne Local Schools Employee Newsletter

SHOWING HOW MUCH WE CARE MATTERS

As educators, our influence extends far beyond delivering lessons. We shape lives, build confidence, and foster a love for learning. But how do we cultivate that love for learning in our students? Fred Rogers reminds us: *"A love of learning has a lot to do with learning that we are loved."* This profound statement challenges us to reflect on how we can show our students we care about them as people.

At its core, love in education is about creating a safe and nurturing environment where every student feels valued and supported. It is not about affection, rather it's about intentional actions that convey care, respect and belief in their potential. When students feel like we care about them, they develop the confidence and curiosity necessary to engage deeply in their learning journey.



"A love of learning has a lot to do with learning that we are loved."
- Fred Rogers

LOVE AS A CLASSROOM STRATEGY

[Click to read the article](#)

Inclusion: Empower Students Through Choice

Foster inclusion by giving students agency over their learning with flexible options for assignments, assessments and participation, reducing anxiety and boosting engagement.

Empathy: Listen and Respond Thoughtfully

Show empathy by understanding students' challenges, offering support and creating a space where they feel heard and cared for.

Vulnerability: Lead with Honesty and Courage

Model resilience by sharing your own failures and encouraging students to embrace and learn from their mistakes.

Trust: Build Relationships with Consistency

Earn students' trust through consistent teaching, personal connections and showing genuine care for their success.

Empowerment: Celebrate and Support Student Growth

Value and empower students by providing meaningful feedback, personal encouragement and opportunities to thrive.

Forgiveness: Balance Flexibility with Fairness

Practice forgiveness by offering grace, flexible policies and guidance to help students overcome setbacks and grow.

SPEAKING OF LOVE:

Simple phrases you can use in the classroom:

"This is why I love this class..."

"This lesson is one of my favorites and I hope you love it too..."

"I really love the effort you put into this assignment..."

"I do love ya'll -- but your assignment is still due tomorrow."

"I love that you put your best effort into your work!"

"I'd love to hear what you think about ..."

ARTICLE

[What Happened When I Committed to Loving My Students Unconditionally](#)

KEVIN'S CORNER: A Message from Our Interim Superintendent

Dear AWLS Staff:

As we step into February, a month often associated with love, I want to take a moment to reflect on the true depth of this word. We frequently use "love" to express strong emotions—our love for a favorite TV show, a favorite football team or a great meal. But love carries a far greater meaning, one that extends beyond personal enjoyment and into the work we do each day. I hope that:

- **you love the opportunity you have to make a lasting impact on others.**
- **you love being a part of preparing the next generation of learners and leaders.**
- **you love working side-by-side with your colleagues.**
- **you love the art of teaching, guiding and supporting students, no matter what position you hold in our District.**

Most importantly, I hope you love the relationships and connections you build with those around you—because when individuals feel that love and support, they are more likely to love coming to school and work each day.

The best way we can prepare our students for the future is by seeing their potential, encouraging their dreams, and giving them the hope and confidence to succeed ... in other words, showing them love.

In all that you do, I ask that before you show how much you know, please first show how much you care.

Your kindness, compassion, and love will leave an impact far greater than any lesson plan or assignment ever could.

Thank you for all you do.

Kevin Herman,
Interim Superintendent



Love
My  Job
#teacherlife



OHIO TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce is now accepting nominations for its prestigious Teacher of the Year Award. If you know someone who should be recognized for their tireless efforts to teach and support students, please [submit a nomination](#) before March 31.



CYBERSECURITY STARTS WITH PHYSICAL SECURITY

Take the time to protect your personal and professional devices (and the information on them) with these tips from AWLS Director of Technology, Chris Hamady:

LOCK IT UP

- When walking away from your computer for any length of time, please "lock" it by putting it to sleep and/or shutting the laptop lid. On Windows devices, you can press the Windows key+L. On a Mac, you can press Control+Command+Q
- Are your doors locked? Locking doors keeps someone from accessing any devices that you have left behind them.
- Always have strong passwords protecting any devices that contain important, sensitive information. Four digit passcodes on phones are not secure.

TAKE IT WITH YOU

- When traveling in your car, never leave your devices inside the car. Take them with you when you exit the vehicle. Placing them into the trunk once you have reached your destination only shows you have stored valuables in your car, which could lead to theft.

RESTRICT ACCESS

- Never allow anyone to connect their USB peripherals to your device.
- Do not let others (especially strangers) handle or use your computers, phones, etc.

MONITOR LOCATION

- Avoid logging into your computer in front of people or security cameras that you do not control. Typing your password in front of others can lead to it being stolen.
- At all times, keep track of where your phone and/or computer are located.
- Do you trust that the WiFi network that you are connected to (Panera, Starbucks, McDonald's etc.) isn't being monitored by unscrupulous individuals trying to capture your data? If not, you may not want to connect to important online resources using that network.

BACK IT UP

- Have you backed up your important AW data to Google lately? If someone steals your devices, having a good backup can minimize stress and anxiety.



394 zettabytes

[394 followed by 21 zeros]
the predicted collective
amount of humanity's data by
2028

\$23 trillion

the predicted annual average
cost of cybercrime by 2027,
which is up from \$8.4 trillion in
2022

258 days

the average amount of time
it takes for security teams to
identify and contain a data
breach

68%

the percentage of breaches
that occur due to non-malicious
means: i.e. people getting
tricked by being taken advantage of, sharing personal information or clicking bad links.

READ MORE:

[35 Cybersecurity Statistics to Lose Sleep Over in 2025](#)

TECH IN YOUR BUILDING

Whitehouse Primary

Monday, Feb. 3 | 8:00 a.m.

Fallen Timbers Middle School

Monday, Feb. 10 | 7:00 a.m.

AW Junior High

Tuesday, Feb. 18 | 7:00 a.m.

Monclova Primary

Monday, Feb. 24 | 8:00 a.m.



WELLNESS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The AWLS Wellness Committee is excited to announce a series of activities designed to support the health, growth and well-being of our valued employees. Wellness activities are part of the District's Strategic Plan Goal to provide opportunities for staff to be successful professionally and personally.

QUESTIONS about the Wellness Committee can be directed to Brad Contat at bcontat@anthonywayneschools.org.



Thanks to the nearly 80 staff members who attended the Wellness Day at BGSU!

EAP WORKSHOPS

Did you know? Our employee assistance program offers training sessions to help improve your health and expand your knowledge. Sessions include topics like mentoring, kidney health, getting better sleep, financial planning and more. [Check out the Q1 events calendar.](#)

SKIP THE GYM MEMBERSHIP

Workout for free at AWHHS! The fitness center is open Monday-Friday from 5:15-7:15 a.m. Enter through the Athletics lobby. Please complete the [Fitness Center Staff Use Form](#) before your first visit to activate your FOB.

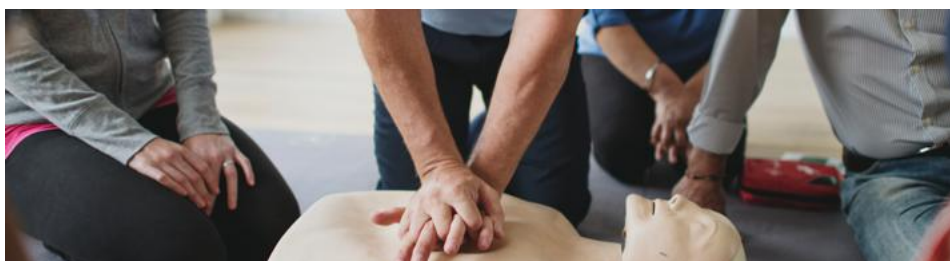


PICKLEBALL MEETUPS

Drop in for a pickup game of pickleball! Come as you are - no equipment or experience are necessary. Significant others are welcome!

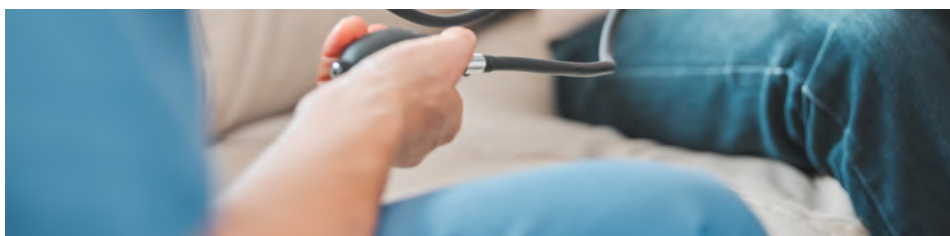
THURSDAY, FEB. 13
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Whitehouse Primary School

TUESDAY, APR. 8
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Monclova Primary School



COMING SOON: HANDS-ONLY CPR

Watch your email for more information from the Wellness Committee about this year's hands-only CPR workshops. These popular classes are intended to help you feel more confident in your abilities to respond in a cardiac emergency. Details are coming soon!



BIOMETRIC SCREENINGS

The final date for the FREE biometric screenings offered by the AWLS Wellness Committee is **Tuesday, Feb. 4**. **Nurses will be available from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** at the Transportation Building.

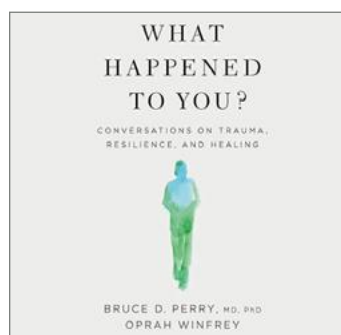
Q3 FOCUS: INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS

Intellectual wellness—engaging in lifelong learning, creative pursuits, and critical thinking—plays a key role in improving overall health. Stimulating your brain reduces stress, enhances problem-solving skills, and increases resilience. Whether it's reading a book, learning a new skill, or tackling a puzzle, the Wellness Committee challenges you to find a new way to challenge and grow your mind during this third quarter of the school year.



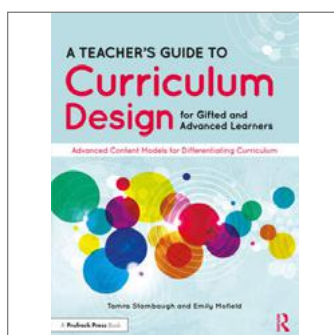
WINTER BOOK STUDIES

Dive into engaging books, thought-provoking discussions, and meaningful connections by joining a book study! More information about how to join will be shared via email soon.



WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? *Conversations on Trauma, Resilience and Healing*

LED BY: Beka Hrcka,
District Social Worker



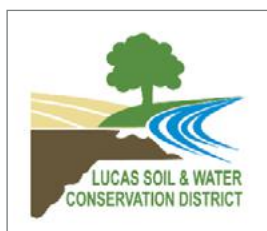
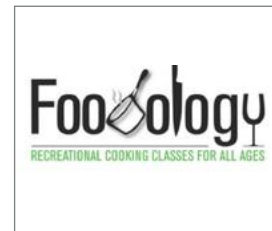
A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO CURRICULUM DESIGN FOR GIFTED AND ADVANCED LEARNERS

LED BY: ESC of Lake Erie West

[**LEARN MORE:** [How reading improves your mental health and well being](#)]

LOCAL CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Discover new skills, ignite your creativity, and enhance your intellectual wellness by attending a local workshop! Whether you're interested in dance, arts, woodworking, or other hands-on activities, these classes offer a fantastic way to challenge your mind, learn something new, and connect with others in your community. Explore the possibilities and take a step toward personal growth today! Click the tiles to discover available opportunities.





FEBRUARY 3 - 7	SCHOOL COUNSELOR WEEK
MONDAY, FEB. 10	BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12	WHITEHOUSE 2ND GRADE PROGRAM
FEBRUARY 17 - 21	RIGHT TO READ WEEK
MONDAY, FEB. 17	CLOSED: PRESIDENT'S DAY
TUESDAY, FEB. 18	2-HOUR DELAY, STAFF PD
TUESDAY, FEB. 25	AWJH 8TH GRADE BAND CONCERT
TUESDAY, FEB. 26	AWHS CONCERT BAND & SYMPHONIC WINDS CONCERTS
TUESDAY, FEB. 25	AWJH 7TH GRADE BAND CONCERT

2024-25 DISTRICT CALENDAR

GENERALS ATHLETICS



FEBRUARY S.U.B. AWARDS

Jenny Green, Long Term Sub at AWJH and Gary Bentley, Districtwide Sub are our honorees for the AWLS Someone Unbelievably Beneficial (S.U.B.) Awards for the month of February. If there is a substitute employee you would like to see recognized, please [contact Brad Contat](#).

BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Central Administrative Office.

February 10 - 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

March 10 - 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

April 14 - 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

May 12 - 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

June 9 - 8:00 a.m.
Special Meeting, if needed

June 25 - 8:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting

July 16 - 8:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting, if needed

August 4 - 8:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting

September 15 - 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

October 13 - 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

November 3 - 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

December 8 - 6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

[Meeting Agendas,
Policies & Livestream](#)

2024 - 2025 LPDC MEETINGS

February 10

March 10

April 7

May 5

May 19

[Materials Deadlines &
Representatives List](#)

FEBRUARY STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

Staff Spotlights shine a light on the outstanding work of your colleagues. Watch for stories to be published on the [District website](#) and [on X](#). If you know someone who should be recognized, please email [Rebecca Schwan](#).

February is Career Technical Education Month



Kay-Lynne Schaller
Family Consumer Science
AW Junior High



Becky Stutz
Marketing
AWHS



Amanda Valdez
Family Consumer Science
AWHS



Courtney Bockbrader
Agri-Science
AWHS

National School Counseling Week: February 3 - 7



Chris Buehrer
School Counselor
Monclova Primary



Shauna Dunbar
School Counselor
AW Junior High



Michelle Reid
School Counselor
AWHS

JANUARY SPOTLIGHTS

[Jana Leininger](#)
EMIS Coordinator
District

[Laura Soeder](#)
School Nurse
Whitehouse Primary

[Jill Bigelow](#)
Dean of Students
Monclova Primary



TANSEL APPEARS ON GAME SHOW

Starting February 9, you can watch Terry Tansel put his trivia knowledge to the test on the national stage! The FTMS Assistant Principal will compete for \$250,000 in the third season of Fox's *The Floor*, which premieres right after the Super Bowl. [\[LEARN MORE ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE\]](#)



TECH DEPT. HOSTS WORKSHOP

Nearly 20 community members have the skills to protect their devices and data from cyber criminals, thanks to a lunch and learn hosted by the AWLS Technology Department. [\[LEARN MORE ABOUT CYBERSECURITY AT AWLS\]](#)