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ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER | JAN. 2023

From the Superintendent's Desk

Consider the Possibilities of a New Year

Happy New Year!

The beginning of a new year provides an opportunity to reflect on the past year and consider all the possibilities of each day in the new year.

The great news for the school district is we started the school year in a very positive direction that allows for endless possibilities in the 2023.

Our starting point this year was the result of each of you working hard to overcome the adversity of the past three years, and make new plans for starting fresh.

So as we start this new year, I encourage you to reflect on your successes while staying focused on continuing to work with our students, parents and community to continue to provide outstanding learning



"Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one."

- Brad Paisley

experiences that will allow all students to become future ready.

I wish all of you the best in the new year!

Let's Go Generals!!
Dr. Jim Fritz
Superintendent



Anthony Wayne Local Schools empowers students to be future ready!

SUPPORTING SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

School board members are elected to serve their communities and commit their time, passion and energy to ensure that the District is providing the best educational opportunities possible for the children in our community.

We applaud our Board members for their vision and voice to help empower students to be future ready.



MEET OUR AWLS BOARD MEMBERS



The Anthony Wayne Board of Education, pictured from left to right: Mr. Jeff Baden, Mrs. Pam Brint, Mr. Kyle Miller, Mrs. Jayna Gwinn and Mr. Troy Lutz

[Biographical information about the Board of Education members, along with Board policies and meeting details is available on the website >>](#)

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

Monday, Jan. 9, 2023
6:00 p.m.

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

THE ROLE OF THE BOARD

The role and function of board is to serve as a policymaking body, where members are the chief advisers to the superintendent on the community's vision for their local public schools.

Board members do not manage the day-to-day operations of a school district; they see to it that the system is managed well by professional administrators.

An effective school board member impacts student achievement by focusing on the following leadership qualities of: vision, accountability, policy, community engagement, public school advocacy and relationships.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: SANDY PARKER

RETIREMENT REFLECTIONS

Sandy Parker, AWHS counseling secretary is retiring January 31 after 25 years of service to the District. While she'd prefer to leave quietly, we couldn't just let her slip out the back door!

Biggest change over the years:

Learning new personnel and evolving technology have kept Sandy challenged and engaged in her work.

Fun fact:

She holds a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering and started her career by designing municipal water and sewer lines and water treatment plants.

Future plans:

Sandy doesn't like to sit still and plans to take her five grandchildren on day trips to the library and zoo, travel with her husband of more than 40 years, walk at area parks to enjoy the sunshine and volunteer. If that doesn't keep her busy enough, she may just return to sub!

What she will miss the most:

Sandy said she's still not fully ready to retire and will miss the work, seeing the co-workers she has built close relationships with over the years, and getting to know the students.



Thank you, Sandy for your dedicated service to the staff and students of AWHS. You will be missed!

[Read more about Sandy's experiences and plans for retirement in the full story on the District website >>](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: NEW EMPLOYEES

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

As the end of their first semester at AWLS draws to an end, we wanted to hear from some new employees about their experiences to date.

Stephanie Huntley is the new Counselor at AWJH. She previously served as the K-8 counselor at Northwood, and said that she was most drawn to Anthony Wayne's commitment to supporting students' mental wellness.

"We put on so many programs and are so community based. It's so refreshing to see families wanting to be involved in their children's education and volunteer, she said. "I have enjoyed to get to know families in all of those ways. This community is really special."

Emily Ellerbrock was a second grade teacher in Bryan, Ohio before accepting an Intervention Specialist at Waterville Primary. Emily said the standards and expectations the District holds for staff and students were appealing, especially the design and implementation of the *Portrait of a General*.

"Anthony Wayne provides a supportive learning environment where students feel respected and connected with the staff and are engaged in learning," Emily said. "Ultimately there is strong, effective leadership, a clear and shared mission, high levels of communication and collaboration, while also being a part of a supportive and caring school district and community."

Both shared that they appreciate having the opportunity to work with supportive colleagues who are willing to share what they know.

"The most eye opening experience so far is the opportunity to co-teach within several general education classrooms, said Emily. "I really enjoy being able to work with students one-on-one and in a small group setting, but to be a part of their classroom environment as well."

"Having additional resources has been an awesome challenge – it's remembering that I don't have to do it alone," said Stephanie.



POG: LEARNER'S MINDSET AND CRITICAL THINKING

NEW TECH TO KNOW

A recent technology breakthrough in artificial intelligence has the attention of educational institutions and business communities.

[OpenAI.com](https://openai.com) has created a chatbot that could change the way we communicate, write and learn. The tool could be used in real-world applications such as digital marketing, on-line content creation, answering customer service queries or write essays.

Right now, schools, universities, businesses and more are studying this new tool and carving out plans on how they

can utilize it to maximize their goals and meet their objectives.

Professors around the world are already discussing how the use of this technology can lead to better research and more successful business ventures.

You can learn more about this tool for free, and test it yourself to begin to think about how it could affect instruction and other educational topics by creating an account at <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

As you explore how it works, start to think critically about the positive and negative uses of this tool and others like it and how they could be used in an appropriate, and educationally sound manner.

[To see how the chatbot describes itself and how it could benefit education, click here >>](#)

What do you think? How will the development of new technologies change the way our students learn and how we are preparing them to be future ready?

FOR TECH TIPS: [View the Technology Staff Resources Google Doc >>](#)

WELCOME NEW TECH TEAM MEMBERS!

The District recently hired two technology specialists to replace the outgoing Annie DeTray and Taylor Gambrell.

Nickie Sattler has a long history in education serving the world in many different roles throughout Ohio and, most notably, New Zealand, a place that she called home for four years.

David Hadley, an Anthony Wayne alumna, graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Toledo in 2020, and has worked a number of varied IT positions for S&P 500 companies and educational institutions in our area.

STAFF CYBER SECURITY QUIZ

More than half of those who completed the cyber security quiz earned a perfect score of 10/10, and 97% of our staff got at least eight questions correct. [You can view the full report and the correct answers here >>](#)

[If you missed the email and would like to test your cyber security knowledge, you can take the quiz here >>](#)



TALK WITH TECH

Share your technology successes, challenges and ideas with the Tech Department on Tuesday, January 10.

[2:30 Session: Join via Google Meet >>](#)

[3:30 Session: Join via Google Meet >>](#)

TECHNOLOGY INSTALLATION TO CONTINUE

Now that we have full staffing in place, we will be moving forward as quickly as possible to implement the installation and configuration of new interactive boards/TVs, as well as the deployment of the new Apple M1 MacBook Air laptops to our faculty. More information on the latter will be shared very soon.

POG: COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

SURVEY RESULTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Communication and collaboration are a part of the District's Strategic Plan and its Portrait of a General, and improving the partnerships we have with stakeholders District priority.

By sharing information and gathering feedback we are able to provide the educational experience that our community wants for our students.

More than 700 employees, parents and community members completed a survey to share their communications preferences and make recom-

mendations for improvements. the results of this survey, along with the ways the District is working to improve the way it shares information were presented to the AWLS Board of Education at its December meeting.

This information is available to you in the following formats:

[December Board meeting recording >>](#)

[Board presentation >>](#)

[Full survey results >>](#)



Suggestions are always welcome! You can share your ideas and feedback by sending an email to: communications@anthony-wayneschools.org

POG: COMMUNICATION & LEARNER'S MINDSET

PD: SHARING OUT AND COMMUNICATING RESULTS

The communications survey revealed that families and community members want to see what our students are learning, and communicating results is an important part of the engineering design process. The [ESC of Lake Erie West is offering a free, one-hour virtual training](#) on January 12 to offer fresh ideas, tips and tricks as to how your students can share out and communicate results.

TIP: The District news webpage is a great place to catch up on what's happening! >>



LET'S SPREAD THE WORD!

There are awesome things happening in our schools every day!

If you have a project or lesson happening in your class that's just too good to keep quiet, [email Rebecca Schwan](#). She can help you get the word out about the great things happening with your students!

#ABCConduct

STAYING SMART ON SOCIAL MEDIA

So many of us frequently use social media, and it's easy to forget to stop and think before hitting send on a post or reel. The [Ohio Department of Education's Office of Professional Conduct offers advice for remaining selective in what you choose to post online.](#)

Please also remember that if you have created a social media account for an AWLS team, club, department, class or other purpose, please inform your building principal and [Chris Hamady](#) via email and provide the following information:

1. Social media platform used
2. Name of the account (i.e. @awgenerals)
3. The account username.
4. The AWLS email address used to create the account.

WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

Should inclement weather force the delay or cancellation of school, you will receive a phone call and email from our automated system. If you would also like to receive a text message, **you must opt in by texting YES to 87569.**

WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATES



STAFF WELLNESS DAY: JANUARY 16

Lace up your sneakers and grab your beach towel...AW is taking over BG!

You and your family are invited to enjoy the BGSU Rec Center from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 16.

Admission and parking are free and you can check out the pool (including a new inflatable obstacle course!), climbing wall, yard games and soccer, volleyball, basketball and other athletics courts.

[Click here and watch your email for more details >>](#)

LEARNER'S MINDSET

BEATING THE JANUARY BLUES

Recovering from the holidays, enduring cold weather and seeing less sunlight can make even the peppiest of us feel off our game this time of year.

Winter doesn't have to be a drag. There are ways to help your students and yourself beat cabin fever. A few suggestions are below:

Stay Social

Winter months can keep us cuddled up inside. Make it a point to schedule time with friends.

Get Outside

A quick walk outside in the frosty air can be just enough to boost your mood and offer a reset.

Redecorate Your Space

If you're stuck inside, it may as well be a space you enjoy. Rearrange the furniture, or pick up a new piece of art.

Turn Up the Tunes

Music can make a huge difference. Pick a playlist and dance around the kitchen (or your classroom)!

Shift Your Mindset

Even the flowers and trees rest in the winter. It's okay to use this time to take it easy and get ready to bloom again in spring.



COLORFUL CHALLENGE

Thank you to all who participated in the collaborative coloring stress reliever! The murals turned out beautifully and we heard that you really enjoyed this activity that is [scientifically proven to relax our brains](#).

Congratulations to the winning teams who earned free breakfast from La Petite Gourmet.

Interested in more to help beat cabin fever this winter? [You can download dozens more coloring pages for free here >>](#)

We hope your brains aren't too relaxed --- you will need them for our next team wellness activity. Stay tuned for more!

CONFIDENTIAL HELP IS AVAILABLE 24/7

Anthony Wayne Local Schools partners with ProMedica for the Employee Assistance Program, a free counseling service available to all staff and their families. Simply call 866-327-3759 to learn ways to navigate life's challenges.

LEARNER'S MINDSET

A WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE - FOR FREE!

Are you on a post-holiday spending freeze? Great news! There are plenty of ways to learn and explore without having to break the bank.

Here are just a few ways you can learn something new this winter:

Lucas County Public Library

Sure you can borrow books and movies, but you also have access to free:

- Technology equipment
- Studio space
- Hoopla audio books
- Overdrive audio books
- Wall Street Journal
- Toledo Blade
- Flipster for magazines
- Kanopy movies
- Mango language learning
- Enrichment Classes

Imagination Station

Admission to Toledo's Science Center is free for teachers every day with your ID.

Toledo Museum of Art

You can see the museum's world class exhibits for free, every day.

Metroparks Toledo

The number 1 park system in the country is in our backyard.

Toledo Botanical Garden

Take a stroll through the gardens to experience the beauty of winter.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

End of Second Quarter

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Work Day: No School for Students

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: District Closed

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 & 18

AWHS Winter Musical

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Presidents Day: No School

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Evening Conferences, Grades 7-12

[VIEW THE FULL DISTRICT EVENTS CALENDAR >>](#)

2023 - 2024 ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS CALENDAR

In case you missed it in our last issue, next year's school calendar was approved by the Board in November.

[Download a copy to start making your future plans today >>](#)

LOCAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

January 9
February 13
March 13
April 10
May 1
May 22

[More information is available on the District website >>](#)



"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.

Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Once Upon A Mattress

SAVE THE DATE: AWHS WINTER MUSICAL

Anthony Wayne High School presents *Once Upon a Mattress*, the musical version of the classic fairy tale *The Princess and the Pea*, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 16-18. The curtain rises at 7:00 p.m. each night, with an additional matinee performance at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The cast includes 35 students, featuring Ella Pfefferle as Princess Winnifred, Abe Nixon as Prince Dauntless, Ainsley Gasiorski as Queen Aggravain, Morgan Mangold as Lady Larken, Ethan Crosby as Sir Harry, and Raleigh DuShane as the Minstrel.

This is AWHS Choir Director Aaron Roos' directing debut at Anthony Wayne High School, however he has extensive experience in musical theater, having co-directed performances at Anthony Wayne Junior High and served as music director for several community productions.

Tickets are available at the door and are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, and \$8 for children under 12. Watch for more information about discounted pre-sale tickets coming soon.



AWHS STUDENTS RECEIVE U.S. MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

Two AWHS students were recently nominated by U.S. Representative Bob Latta for acceptance into U.S. military service academies. Joseph Roush was nominated for the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO and Parker Schofield was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

DISTRICT RECEIVES FUNDS FROM ODNR

Anthony Wayne Local Schools received \$12,871.29 from the harvest of timber from Ohio's state forests through the Trees to Textbooks program, which operates as part of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry. [Learn more about the program here >>](#)

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

