



Superintendent  
Kevin Herman  
& AWHs  
Principal Jon  
Burke cheer for  
the Generals at  
the state soccer  
finals.

December 2025

# The Generals Post

*Anthony Wayne Local Schools Stakeholder Newsletter*

As I look ahead to all the exciting events in December, I'm reminded once again why this stretch of the year is one of my absolute favorites. These weeks offer countless opportunities to see our students shine outside of the traditional classroom setting, places where their passions, talents, and dedication take center stage.

Whether it's competing in an athletic competition, performing in one of our many holiday concerts, or sharing their gifts in other meaningful ways, our students continually impress me. Their hard work and enthusiasm reflect not only their individual commitment, but also the incredible support system that surrounds them. Our coaches and teachers dedicate endless hours to guiding and encouraging them. Parents and families stand behind them, cheering them on in all that they do, and our wonderful community consistently shows up, demonstrating a pride and spirit that truly sets us apart.

This season is about giving, and there is something uniquely powerful about students sharing the gifts that matter most to them: their time, their talents, and their hearts. In doing so, they offer a special kind of gift to all of us: the gift of inspiration, joy, and pride.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of our students and embrace the traditions of this time of year, we are reminded of how special our school community truly is. The energy, the togetherness, and the spirit of the season make these months a time to treasure, and I am grateful to experience it alongside all of you.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and meaningful holiday season.

Kevin Herman, Superintendent  
Anthony Wayne Local Schools



Waterville Primary Career Day



## 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.

[Contact the Board](#)

### Highlights from the November 3 Meeting:

- School Social Worker, Rebekah Hrcka shared an overview of her work in the District, and was joined by community members, Anne Stevens and Amy Barrett to provide an overview of how Neighborhood Bridges supports Anthony Wayne students and their families.
- The Board recognized the state-level accomplishments of the fall season student-athletes to date.
- A \$6,000 OneNet Connectivity Grant to support with technology infrastructure.
- Refunds of \$1,766.94 from Lial Catholic School and \$3,212.13 from Discovery Express School were approved for unspent auxiliary funds for FY24-25. These funds will be returned to the state, as required.
- The Board approved several personnel changes, including resignations and retirements, the hiring of new classified employees, substitutes and volunteers.
- Superintendent Herman shared a message of gratitude for district staff members, students and their families, along with AW community members for making AWLS an outstanding place to be.

[View the meeting recording](#)



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### DECEMBER REGULAR MEETING

Monday, Dec. 8

6:00 p.m.

The date of the January organizational meeting will be determined at the December meeting.



## BOARD MEMBER ELECTION RESULTS

Board members Kyle Miller and Mike Stamm were re-elected to their seats on the Board on November 4. They will serve a four-year term starting on January 1, 2026.

## BOARD SEAT VACANCY UPDATES

[The Board received an overwhelming response](#) from applicants interested in serving on the upcoming open member position. Twenty-five residents submitted application materials.

[The top four candidates were announced following a Special Meeting on November 20.](#) Amy Barrett, Katie Carollo, Matthew Culling, and Troy Schalitz will introduce themselves at the December 8 regular meeting prior to interviews with the Board during an Executive Session.



The Board does not expect to make a final decision at this meeting; however, a vote on the selected candidate must be held between January 10 and January 30, 2026.

District stakeholders are encouraged to attend the December 8 meeting or view the live broadcast to learn more about the candidates. Updates will be provided as the Board moves through the selection process.

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## BE A GENERAL: FLEXIBLE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We're continuing our search for outstanding substitutes in all roles across the district. These flexible and rewarding positions allow you to use your skills to support our students and staff. Teaching and non-teaching positions are available. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about how your talents align with our needs.

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## VOTE FOR ANTHONY WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL

We already know AWHHS is the best — now we have a chance to show everyone else. [Cast your vote in the Best of Toledo Awards](#) and help us shine in the Toledo City Paper's annual contest. You can vote once per day through December 15, so let's make every day count!



## INNOVATION AND INCLUSION AT AWLS

Across our district, educators are finding creative ways to ensure every student has the tools, support, and opportunities they need to learn, grow, and succeed. Whether it's re-imagining physical education to make movement accessible for all, or developing custom solutions that help students overcome physical challenges, AW staff continue to demonstrate what is possible when empathy, critical thinking, and collaboration come together. This month, we highlight two powerful examples of that commitment in action.

What's  
**NEW?**



### TAKING SPECIALIZED BICYCLES FOR A TEST DRIVE

AWHS students [explored adaptive bicycles during a special visit from Cycling Without Age](#), giving learners of all abilities the chance to ride, build confidence, and enjoy movement together during their Adaptive Physical Education class.



### COLLABORATION RESULTS IN INNOVATION

A collaborative effort between an occupational therapist, an intervention specialist, and Media Center/STEM Lab staff led to a custom 3D-printed tool that now helps a 2nd grader write independently—an act of innovation and empathy gaining statewide attention from the [Ohio Education Association](#). Watch for the story to be published in late January.





## THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL: YOUTH EDITION

Congratulations to the cast and crew of the Anthony Wayne Junior High musical for a lively and colorful display of your talents and hard work!



## STUDENT ART SELECTED FOR SHOWCASE

Fallen Timbers Middle School students, Colt Harrison and Madelyn Richardson had [artwork featured at the Ohio Middle Level Conference](#).



## WATERVILLE WELCOME SIGN

[AWHS Art Club students recently partnered with the Anthony Wayne Area Rotary](#) to paint a mural on the back of the City of Waterville's new welcome sign. Featuring the iconic Interurban Bridge and the message "Thank you for visiting," the mural adds a vibrant and historic touch to the structure and highlights the collaboration between school and community.

## DECEMBER 8

Board of Education Meeting

## DECEMBER 9

AWHS Bands  
Holiday Concerts

## DECEMBER 10

6th, 7th & 8th Grade  
Band Concerts

## DECEMBER 11

Monclova Primary 3rd Grade  
Music Program

## DECEMBER 16

AWHS Choir  
Winter Concert

## DECEMBER 17

Whitehouse Primary 3rd  
Grade Music Program

## DECEMBER 18

AW Junior High Choir  
Winter Concert

## DECEMBER 19

End of 1st Semester

## DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 2

District Closed  
Winter Break

## JANUARY 5

No School  
Teacher Work Day

## JANUARY 6

Classes Resume

## JANUARY 19

District Closed  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



## **DR. MIKE O'SHEA**

*Generals for Generations Board President*

From pastor to coach, substitute teacher, and bus driver, Mike O'Shea has spent 15 years serving AWH schools—and now he's helping strengthen the bridge between community and education as the president of the Generals for Generations Foundation Board.

[More >>](#)



## **MRS. KAREN GERHARDINGER ('83)**

*Community Journalist*

With a natural gift for writing, genuine curiosity about people and a lifelong interest in sharing the stories that matter to her readers, AWH alumna and local journalist Karen Gerhardinger covers the community where her own story took root.

[More >>](#)



## **MRS. RACHEL BIRT**

*Monclova Primary Intervention Specialist*

Rachel Birt helps young readers build skills and confidence through focused small-group support and hands-on practice. She also partners with teachers to provide resources and promote creative reading support that meets students' needs.

[More >>](#)



## **MR. JASON COOK**

*AWHS Geology Teacher*

With an interest in environmental stewardship and conserving natural resources, Jason Cook recently received a \$500 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to help reduce the number of invasive spotted lanternflies in our area.

[More >>](#)



## **MR. JASON HOOD ('88)**

*Technology Company President*

Jason Hood credits his strong academic foundation, supportive teachers, and tight-knit community for shaping his path from science-loving student to technology leader. As a member of the Generals for Generations Board, Jason is committed to giving back and expanding opportunities for AW students.

[More >>](#)



## **MRS. CHERI VOLTZ**

*AWHS Secretary*

Cheri Voltz brings a unique mix of organization, flexibility, and teamwork to AWHS. Her ability to anticipate needs, stay calm under pressure, and build strong relationships helps ensure a smooth experience for students, staff, and visitors alike.

[More >>](#)



## **MRS. NICKIE SATTLER**

*District Technology Supervisor*

Nickie Sattler's expertise in educational technology and passion for adventure have led across industries, around the globe, and ultimately to Anthony Wayne, where she supports teachers and students with their classroom technology needs.

[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!**





The Anthony Wayne [girls soccer team](#) earned its [first state title](#) with a 3–2 win over Hudson behind Lydia Smucker’s hat trick and key saves from Kaity Carr, while the [volleyball team](#) capped its season as [state runners-up](#) for the second straight year.



**BEN GASIORSKI & JACOB PROCTOR**  
*All-Ohio Division II Cross Country Athletes*

[These two standout runners](#) earned a spot on the state podium and All-Ohio honors while leading their team to an impressive fourth-place finish - the highest in school history.



**CHRISSY GRAVEN & LORI WILLIAMS**  
*Division II Coaches of the Year*

[Chrissy Graven](#), Volleyball and [Lori Williams](#), Soccer were honored as Ohio Division II Coaches of the Year for their outstanding leadership and accomplishments this season.





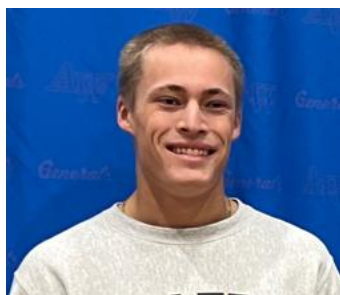
Kensington Butler  
Tiffin University  
Volleyball

## Record-Breaking Fall Signing Day

Anthony Wayne Generals Athletics is proud to celebrate a school-record 13 student-athletes who have [committed to continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level](#). Congratulations to all of our fall signees — and to their families, coaches, and supporters who helped them reach this milestone.



[Kaity Carr](#)  
University of Findlay  
Soccer



[Michael Distefano](#)  
University of Toledo  
Golf



[Leah Pike](#)  
Ball State University  
Volleyball



[Mallory Pike](#)  
Ball State University  
Volleyball



[Blake Madalinski](#)  
University of Findlay  
Baseball



[Drew Madalinski](#)  
University of Findlay  
Baseball



[Brylee Schermerhorn](#)  
Columbus State  
Soccer



Brody Sutto  
University of Findlay,  
Tennis



[Piper Tully](#)  
University of Findlay  
Lacrosse



[Lila Simon](#)  
Kent State University  
Soccer



[Megan Sumner](#)  
Marshall University  
Softball



[Jackson Urenovitch](#)  
Bowling Green  
Baseball







## SERVICE AND SMILES

Whitehouse Primary's 4th Grade Service Squad helps keep their school running smoothly by volunteering just a few minutes each week.



## DONATIONS DELIVERED

AW-Penta Veterinary Science students donated fleece blankets to the Toledo Area Humane Society and learned how the shelter cares for animals in need.

## Generals In the News

AWHS honors veterans, adds names to Military Wall of Honor

Photo Gallery: 21st annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast and Resource Fair

Anthony Wayne senior stays strong while living with two types of epilepsy

'There's nothing better': 38th annual Blade Holiday parade rings in season

Anthony Wayne girls soccer wins first state title in program history

Anthony Wayne volleyball comes up short in state championship match

Season of resilience for Anthony Wayne ends with 42-7 loss to North Ridgeville

Champions, All-Ohio talents highlight loaded Anthony Wayne signing class

Toledo-area seniors seal college commitments on early signing day

Gavarone honors Anthony Wayne baseball champions

2025 All-Blade Football: Complete list of this year's recipients

2025-26 NLL Buckeye girls basketball preview: AW picked to win 5th straight title

See list of top 25 elementary schools in Ohio per U.S. News and World Report

Have a story idea?

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







Community members joined district leaders for Donuts and Dialogue, sharing feedback and discussing school initiatives over refreshments and conversation. Send your ideas to [Planning@AnthonyWayneSchools.org](mailto:Planning@AnthonyWayneSchools.org).

## *Connecting with Our Community*



Parents and community members shared details about their jobs, complete with a tour of TARTA's new e-bus, with Waterville Primary Students during Career Day. Students and staff volunteered to host a water stop for the Churchill's Half Marathon.



Veteran and active-duty service members and their families were honored at a number of [Veterans Day activities](#) across the district. The Technology Department hosted a workshop to teach residents how to manage their digital photos.



## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Whether you're interested in volunteering your time, making a donation, or participating in district activities, your involvement makes a meaningful difference. Below, you'll find a list of upcoming projects and initiatives where your support can help students thrive. Thank you for your partnership!

[Visit Flyer Central for information about these events and other activities in our community.](#)

### **Holiday Wreath & Blanket Sale**

[Decorate your home for the holidays](#) and purchase a gift for the Generals fan on your list! Proceeds support the AWHs Interact Club.

### **Christmas Toy Drive: December 1 - 12**

[New unwrapped toys are being collected by the AWHs Community Engagement class](#) to be distributed to AWLS families through Neighborhood Bridges. Drop off locations include: AW Junior High, Fallen Timbers Middle School, Monclova Primary, Waterville Primary, Whitehouse Primary and various local businesses.

### **Junior Cheer Clinic & Halftime Performance**

The AWHs Cheerleaders invite students in grades K-6 to [attend cheer skills clinics](#) on December 3 and 10, and to perform at halftime at the home basketball game on December 11.

### **Breakfast with Santa: December 6**

The AWHs Softball team is hosting its [annual pancake breakfast fundraiser](#) at Shawn's Irish Tavern in Waterville from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Bring a camera for photos with Santa.

### **Basket Raffle and Bake Sale: December 6**

The AWHs Community Engagement class is hosting a basket raffle during the boys basketball game, with proceeds benefiting The Nest. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the game and on social media.

### **Baseball Holiday Camp: December 22 & 23**

Student-athletes in divisions 8U-14U are [invited to a skills camp](#) hosted by the State Champion Baseball team over winter break. Registration is limited to the first 60 players.

### **Softball Legacy Camp: January 3**

Former AWHs softball players will be taking a break from their collegiate programs to [work with student-athletes in skills workshops](#).

