

A.M.S. Newsletter

DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019

Ashland Middle School news, events and information can now be found on social media.

Follow us on

Twitter: @AMSConnections

Instagram: ams_arrows

Facebook: AMS Arrows

Principal's Notes

I hope this time of year finds you in good spirits preparing for the upcoming holiday season!

It was nice to have such a good turnout for our recent Parent/Student Conference Nights. Please make sure you continue to be actively involved in your child's education. I recommend you frequently check Progress Book to stay current on his/her progress. Also, don't hesitate to call for a follow-up conversation with your child's teachers.

If you were not able to attend a conference, please feel free to call and set-up a time to talk or visit with teachers regarding your child's progress.

As you look at the calendar of events for December, please note our music concerts are scheduled for December 10th (Choir), 11th (Band) and 13th (Orchestra). Our students have been working hard to prepare for the holiday programs.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the staff and administration at A.M.S.

Matt White, Principal

Message from Mr. Paramore

We are well into the swing of things here at A.M.S., and many relationships have been built and students understand our expectations here at A.M.S. to reach excellence. Just a few reminders as we wrap up 2018:

1. Please ask your child to check our lost and found for any items you know they are missing, we

have a ton of stuff that students have left throughout the first part of this year.

2. Please continue to monitor your student's social media activity, it is the safest way to ensure that they are safely communicating with others.

3. Please follow our Facebook Page: A.M.S. Arrows

4. Please continue to get your students here on time, and when you want them to go home with someone different on the bus make sure they have a note from you, and the parent of the place they are going.

5. Please make sure you are monitoring your child's expenditures at lunch, we feel bad when a student overspends and you are not aware of what he or she is purchasing on a daily basis.

6. We conducted an Intruder/Emergency Drill on December 5, all students followed protocol to a tee, and staff did an excellent job as well.

We continue to appreciate your positive support of our building and our building initiatives, and we hope that all of you have a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season! Go Arrows!

Middle School Play

This year Ashland Middle School students will perform the play The Adventures of Robin Hood. Tryouts will be held at the beginning of January for any student who is interested in being a part of this year's play. Students who earn a role will practice during the months of January & February in the A.H.S. Little Theater. Cast and crew work many long hours to prepare! Audiences should expect an exciting evening of adventure, comedy, and fun!

Robin and his Merrie Band are looking for an opportunity to perform their usual daring, dashing deeds in their customary fun-loving fashion. When they encounter Alfred the Saxon, who alerts them

that the nasty and nefarious Sheriff is about to collect taxes (again!) in the nearby village of Edwinstowe, they immediately don disguises, and dash into town. Comedy, adventure and danger ensues as each side tried to claim victory over the other side. But, who will prevail?

We invite everyone to attend the public performances, held on Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9, at the Little Theater at Ashland High School starting at 7:00 P.M. Tickets will be sold on the nights of each performance, with the box office opening at 6:15 P.M. Reserved pre-sale tickets will be made available through the A.M.S. Main Office in the weeks prior to the show. All tickets will be \$5.00 per person this year, regardless of student or adult status.

Fee Reminder

If you have not yet paid your student's school fees for the 18/19 school year, and your family does not qualify for free lunch, please consider paying them at your earliest convenience. You may make a partial payment if that is more convenient for you. Cash, checks or money orders may be sent to the school with your student to be turned in to the Principal's Office. You may also mail your payment to AMS, 1520 King Road, Ashland, Ohio 44805. If you are not sure how much your student owes, please contact Mrs. Greshner at (419) 289-7966 Ext. 4146.

Honors Algebra Class News

As we close out the second quarter please remind your Honors Algebra student that we will take the first semester exams December 18 ~ 20. Please help make sure that your student is on time and attending class, so they can get the information covered on the exam. Mrs. Thomas will send home an exam review that will help the students start to think about the topics that the exam will cover. Please keep in mind that this exam grade will be calculated into the second quarter grades.

As for the start of quarter three, we will study systems of linear equations and move on to studying the many rules of exponents, so please encourage them to seek help from me after school when needed.

Seventh Grade News

Mr. Reed and Mrs. Godsey

The Ashland Middle School Science Fair has been scheduled for February 14. Students are beginning their projects now and will be finished testing by January 2. A timeline has been given to the students of important dates and what needs to be completed by that date. Each student will need a journal to log information from their research and experimentation. They will need to complete a poster board for their presentation at the science fair. Students that receive a Superior rating at our science fair qualify to go to the Mohican District Science Day at Ashland University.

Eighth Grade News

Mrs. Millhouse

In Mrs. Millhouse's and Miss Luedeman's 8th grade language arts class (periods 1-2), students have been reading a fabulous novel--*Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt. It's about an 8th grade boy named Doug Swieteck who has had a pretty rough life. He moves to a new town, makes a few friends, and is introduced to the bird paintings of John James Audubon. Oddly enough, Doug becomes fascinated with these paintings and finds that each one symbolizes something that is going on in his own life. When the town library is in danger of losing these valuable works of art, Doug makes it his mission to save them, and in so doing, saves himself. Ask your students to tell you about this book—they'll have a lot to say! When finished with the novel, students will then write informational/explanatory essays on relevant topics from the tumultuous time period of the story—the late 1960s.

In Mrs. Millhouse's 8th grade advanced English classes, students have become sleuths as they try to determine the murderer in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic mystery novel, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. They've had fun piecing together clues and constructing possible motives for nearly every character in the book. By the time you read this, they may have solved the crime! And, as always, in connection with their reading, they've been learning some high power vocabulary which will benefit them greatly in advanced high school classes. After the *Hound* final vocabulary exam, and a unit on informational/explanatory writing, students will then move back four centuries to meet "The Bard"—William Shakespeare. On November

29, they were introduced to the language of Shakespeare by participating in a Shakespeare Workshop focusing on his play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. After students read the play in its entirety in class, they will then create and present 3-D projects (in groups) to represent what they've learned. Mrs. Millhouse would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the Ashland County Community Foundation for funding the purchase of costumes for the Shakespeare Workshop, to First Christian Church for graciously hosting the event, and to PTO for providing snacks.

For informational reading, advanced students have been using *Upfront Magazine*, a *New York Times* publication. This magazine contains current events articles designed for grades 9-12, so these students are given access to above grade level curriculum appropriate to their reading levels and interests. These students are undoubtedly feeling "stretched," but growth is the goal!

8th Grade Science

Throughout this next unit in science, students will examine forces that give Earth's crust its shape. We will go back in time to examine Pangaea and continental drift. We will then look at the causes of convection in the mantle and how that process is the driving force of plate tectonics. Students will examine relationships between tectonic plate movement and determine the causes of mountain formation, oceanic trenches, mid ocean ridges, volcanoes, and earthquakes. As a final culminating project, students will choose and research a geological phenomena on Earth that was created by plate tectonics.

Middle School Choir Info.

Monday, December 10, Winter Concerts

6th Grade 6:00-6:30 P.M.

7th & 8th Grade and Show Choir 7:00-8:00 P.M.

Archer Auditorium

Choir members should arrive 15 minutes early.

If you know you will be absent for a performance, your director must be notified in writing prior to the performance to count as an excused absence. Failure to do so will result in a drop in letter grade. Excused absences (illness, family emergency) will not lower the grade but will still require a written note upon return to school.

Sixth Grade Choir

Black A.M.S. choir t-shirt and any color pants (or skirts or leggings).

Seventh Grade Choir

Dress up! (No particular colors)

Girls in dresses, blouses with skirts, or dress pants, Boys in dress pants, and collared shirt. Ties are nice! Preferably no jeans, unless they are black.

Eighth Grade Choir

Black on bottom and all white on top.

Girls in black skirts or dress pants and white blouses (any sleeve length or collar)

Boys in shirt with a collar, black pants. Ties are nice! Preferably no jeans- unless they are black.

**If anyone needs help in obtaining any of these items, please contact Mrs. Wolbert or Mrs. Ebert. They have some extras.

Show Choir

Black and gold uniforms

Future Date

December 14 1:30-2:30 A.M.S. Holiday Concert with performances for student body by Show Choir, 8th grade Choirs, 8th grade Band and 8th grade Orchestra at Archer Auditorium. Parents welcome!

Cocoa & Cookies with the Literacy Coach

When: Monday, December 10

Where: Ashland Middle School Library

Time: 2:45-3:15 P.M.

What: Parents are invited to Ashland Middle School's annual Title One Parent Meeting. Come meet our small group instructors, learn about the Title One programming, and how it has a positive impact on our A.M.S. students. We will have ideas on how you can help your child become a better reader.

Guidance News

Kym Irwin, 6th and 7th Grade Counselor

Wendy Packard, 8th Grade Counselor

Shawn Riley, School-Community Liaison

Holiday Care And Share

If you are in need of assistance for the holidays, please register with one of the agencies listed below. Some A.M.S. students registered with

Associated Charities in October and early November will be served through our school Angel Tree. This is completely anonymous and allows our staff to help our families in need. Please call one of the places listed below for assistance. (Please note, you can only sign up at one place.)

Associated Charities – 419-281-6061

The Salvation Army – 419-281-8001 (only serves up to age 12)

Red Flags For Depression

We recognize that the holiday season can be especially difficult for some students and their families because of a recent loss. With that in mind, Mrs. Irwin has presented the Red Flags for Depression Program through sixth grade World Studies Classes in Nov/Dec and Mrs. Hughes has presented it for 8th grade students out of Math class in Sept. Please contact guidance office should you like further information or would like us to assist your child through a loss he or she may be experiencing by calling Kym Irwin at 419-289-7966, Extension 4148.

College Credit Plus Information seminar

There will be a meeting held at the High School Little Theater at **7:00 P.M. on January 30** to provide information to any parent or student (grades 7 -12) interested in taking College Credit Plus courses next school year. This meeting will cover the guidelines for participation and representatives from various local colleges will cover their application process. Detailed information about College Credit Plus can be found by following this link to the Ashland High School guidance website: <http://goo.gl/5Q4ATZ>.

Any student who registers for College Credit Plus courses will be **required** to take an Accuplacer assessment. **All paperwork must be submitted by March 13th to be eligible for this assessment.**

Students will be required to have their social security number with them on the day of the assessment. The Accuplacer assessment will be given on **March 20th** at AHS in the afternoon. More information will follow if your son/daughter are interested in this opportunity. This assessment will only cover those students who will be enrolling with NCSC. OSU requires students to take the assessment at their Mansfield campus.

Scheduling Information – 8th grade

Eighth grade parents, please mark your calendars! Your student will receive scheduling information in their History class on Monday, January 22nd. **For specific information on your child's ninth grade schedule, please attend the eighth-into-ninth grade parent information meeting at 5:30 P.M. in the high Little Theater on Monday evening, January 22nd.** Mrs. Packard will be at the meeting with course recommendations from your son/daughter's eighth grade teachers. You will also learn more about graduation requirements and dual credit (earning a high school credit and college credit at the same time) options for your student. If you are not able to make it, please check the high school's guidance website, <http://arrowsguidance.weebly.com/>, for a power point after the presentation date or contact Mrs. Packard at 419-289-7966 Ext 4150.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7	Senior Citizen Luncheon A.H.S.
December 10	Winter Choir Concerts 6 th Grade 6:00 P.M. Archer Auditorium 7 th & 8 th Grades 7:00 P.M. Archer Auditorium
December 11	Winter Band Concert 6:30 P.M. Archer Auditorium
December 13	Winter Orchestra Concert 7:00 P.M. Archer Auditorium
December 14	A.M.S. Winter Assembly 1:30 P.M. Archer Auditorium
December 18	Kettering Science Scholars
December 20	MasterMinds Activity
December 21 - January 1	Winter Break
January 2	School Resumes
January 12	End of 3 rd 6 Weeks, 2 nd 9 Weeks and 1 st Semester
January 18	Grade Cards Distributed
January 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School
January 30	Screen Free Day