

A.M.S. Newsletter

DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

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 11th (Choir), 12th (Band) and 14th (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 2017:

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 new Facebook Page: AMS 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.

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!

Fee Reminder

If you have not yet paid your student's school fees for the 17/18 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. A check, cash, or money order may be sent to school with your student to be turned in to the Principal's Office, or you may mail it to A.M.S., 1520 King Road, Ashland, Ohio 44805. A receipt will be provided when fees are paid. If your student brings your payment to school, the receipt will be given to them, or if you send your payment in the mail, your receipt will then be mailed home to you.

If you are not sure how much your student owes, you may contact Mrs. Hardesty at 419-289-7966, Ext. 4146 for the amount.

Book Fair

The A.M.S. Library will be hosting a book fair from December 4 through December 8. The fair will be held in the library and will be open every day from 7:15 until 3:00 p.m. Students will shop during their English/language arts classes, before school, during lunch, and after school. All proceeds will go towards the A.M.S. Library for materials, supplies, and programming.

If anyone would be interested in helping Mrs. Tilton with the Fair, please call her at 419-289-7966 ext. 4130 or send her an email trilton@goarrows.org.

Taking Nominations for Educator of the Year

Ashland City Schools is taking nominations from the community for 2017-18 Educator of the Year. Educators K-12 will be recognized for exemplary teaching/contributions to the education of Ashland City Schools students on May 8 at Ashland High School Little Theater. Criteria for selection include: 5 years of experience in Ashland City Schools, and must be a full-time educator (teacher, administrator, small group instructor, specialist). Nominations from the parents, students and the community are being accepted and should be mailed or emailed to: Molly LaRue, Edison Primary North, 1202 Masters Ave., Ashland, OH 44805, Molarue@goarrows.org. In your nomination, please include the name of the educator and a paragraph on why they are deserving of this honor. These nominations must be postmarked on or before February 2, 2018.

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 soon. 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 in the mornings

Eighth Grade News

Mrs. Black

For the months of December and January Mrs. Black's students will work through a World War II themed unit. We will read the play version of Anne Frank's diary and participate in an escape classroom activity. Periods 1 and 7 will rotate through another guided reading group with fiction and then nonfiction books. Our major writing pieces will include an informational writing and then an argumentative paper.

Advanced classes are also working with fiction and nonfiction books written about the World War II era. They will complete a literary and movie analysis paper along with some practice in screenwriting. We will seek out stories of modern day unsung heroes and share their stories. All classes will continue to blog about their books and the articles we are reading in class, every Tuesday.

Mrs. Shearer

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.

Mrs. Millhouse

In Mrs. Millhouse's and Mrs. Blackley'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! This class has also been enjoying reader's theater, and on December 7 they will participate in a Reader's Theater Workshop led by Spoken Images, a local reader's theater troupe. Students will learn basic reader's theater techniques to make their reading in class more meaningful and fun! The focus will be on the works of Dr. Seuss, and students will attend the A.U. production of *Seussical the Musical* on February 23. Other upcoming activities will include informational essay writing and a group book project (due mid-January).

In Mrs. Millhouse's 8th grade advanced language arts 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 have 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 have been learning some high power vocabulary which will benefit them greatly in advanced high school classes. After the *Hound* final vocabulary exam, students will then move back three centuries to meet "The Bard"—William Shakespeare. They will be introduced to the language of Shakespeare by participating in a Reader's Theater Workshop focusing on the 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. These students have also been reading at home for their next independent book project, which they will present in mid-January. The writing focus for January will be informational essay writing. For informational reading, 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!

Mrs. Millhouse would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the Ashland County Community Foundation for funding the purchase of reader's theater scripts, the Spoken Images Reader's Theater

Workshop, and tickets for the entire 8th grade to attend the A.U. production of *Seussical the Musical*.

Mrs. Hrinda

All students are working on a suspense unit and will be completing a project to culminate the unit. The unit includes a variety of short stories. Throughout the unit, students will be working on concepts including, characterization, plot, irony, figurative language, suspense, theme, and other things. Students are able to complete reading logs for extra credit, but it is the only extra credit available. Reading logs should be completed and turned in when complete. Students may only complete four logs for extra credit.

Advance English students should have brought home a book list for their Classic Book Project. Students should be reading, working on vocabulary, and completing their projects. Books selected for the project should be no more than 100 points above or 75 points below the student's lexile level.

Middle School Choir Info.

Monday, December 11, Winter Concerts

Grades 6 6:00-6:30 P.M.

Grades 7 & 8 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

Choir t-shirt and pants or skirt. Preferably no jeans or shorts

Seventh Grade Choir

Dress up! (no particular colors)

Girls in dresses or blouse with skirts or dress pants
Boys in dress pants, and collared shirt. Ties are nice! Preferably no jeans or shorts

Eighth Grade Choir

Black on bottom and 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 or shorts

**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 Dates

December 4 - Show choir to perform at Ashland Senior Citizen Center 1:00 P.M.

December 11- Winter Concert Grades 6 Archer Auditorium 6:00 P.M.

December 11- Winter Concert Grades 7 & 8 and 8th Grade Show Choir Archer Auditorium 7:00 P.M.

December 15 - A.M.S. Holiday Concert with performances for student body by Show Choir, 8th grade choir, 8th grade band and orchestra at Archer Auditorium. Parents welcome!

Guidance News

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Guidance News

Kym Irwin, 6th and 7th Grade Counselor

Wendy Packard, 8th Grade Counselor

Shawn Riley, School-Community Liaison

Holiday Care And Share

We realize that many families have been hit hard by the current economic conditions here in Ashland. The school counseling staff coordinates an "Angel Tree" for assisting A.M.S. students in addition to making referrals to local agencies. If you are in need of assistance, please register with one of the agencies listed below. A.M.S. students registered with Associated Charities will be served through our Angel Tree. Please call any of the three school counseling staff members for more information by calling 419-289-7966 or by calling the number for agencies listed below. (Please note, you can only sign up at one place.)

Associated Charities – 419-281-6061

The Salvation Army – 419-281-8001

Grief and Loss Support

We recognize that the holiday season can be especially difficult for some students and their families because of a recent loss. Once again, the guidance department will offer the opportunity for students who have experienced a loss to create an ornament/sun-catcher to commemorate a loved one. Mrs. Irwin will be meeting with students during an encore class between now and Christmas Vacation. However, we are sometimes unaware of all students who may have been impacted by a loss and would ask that you contact Kym Irwin by calling her direct line, 419-289-4586 to be sure your child is included.

For those seeking additional support, grade level Grief Groups will be conducted by Kailey Bradley, Bereavement Specialist from Hospice of North Central Ohio. Kailey was well received by our students last year and we are delighted that she is able to provide this valuable service to our students once again. Information for joining the 8 session program will be sent home with students as they meet with Mrs. Irwin to create their commemorative ornament.

Red Flags Of Depression

As you know, grief and loss can be one of the many triggers for depression in youth. The guidance department, in conjunction with our health instructor, Krissy Geren, is making a renewed commitment to the Red Flags Program. Through this program, students will learn to watch for symptoms in themselves and their friends, to understand treatment, and develop strategies to assist someone who has been diagnosed. We hope to institute the new and improved curriculum *at all three grade levels* this year beginning early in the second semester. Additionally, there is a parent component that we hope to present during the second round of parent conferences. Please contact Kym Irwin at 419-289-4586 should you have questions or concerns about the program.

College Credit Plus Information seminar

There will be a meeting held at the High School Little Theater at **7:00 P.M. on February 1st** 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 15th 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 21st at A.H.S. in the afternoon. More information will follow if your son/daughter are interested in this opportunity.

Scheduling Information – 8th grade

Eighth grade parents, please mark your calendars! Your student will receive scheduling information in their History class on Friday, Jan 19th. **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 school Little Theater on Thursday evening, January 25th.** 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 for a power point after the presentation date or contact Mrs. Packard at 419-289-7966 Ext 4150.

January 2	School Resumes
January 12	End of 3 rd 6 Weeks, 2 nd 9 Weeks and 1 st Semester
January 15	Martin Luther King Day - No School
January 19	Grade Cards Distributed

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1	Senior Citizen Luncheon A.H.S.
December 11	Winter Choir Concert 6:00 P.M. Archer Auditorium
December 12	Winter Band Concert 6:30 P.M. Archer Auditorium
December 12	Kettering Science to A.U.
December 14	Winter Orchestra Concert 7:00 P.M. Archer Auditorium
December 15	A.M.S. Winter Assembly 1:15 P.M. Archer Auditorium
December 21 - January 1	Winter Break