

# A.M.S. NEWSLETTER

## February/March 2019

### Principal's Notes

As we begin second semester, it is very important to look at your child's progress for the first half of the school year. If your child is doing well in school, it is important to let your child know that you are proud of his/her accomplishments. If your child seems to be having difficulty, don't wait! Call and make an appointment to speak with your child's teachers and/or counselors so we can work together to determine what needs to be done to help your child succeed in school. We want to partner with you to provide an excellent education for your child here at A.M.S.

Please note that the middle school will be holding its Spring Parent Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, February 12, and Thursday, February 21. Additional information has been mailed home.

It is hard to believe that we are already planning for the 2019-2020 school year. Seventh into eighth grade scheduling discussions will take place beginning in early February. Sixth into seventh grade scheduling will take place in late February. Beginning in March guidance counselors will work with current fifth grade students on their choices for classes next year.

Mr. White, Principal  
Ashland Middle School

### A Note From the Assistant Principal

Congratulations your child has completed the first semester of the school year and we are now established in our routines and students should understand by now the effort and care they need to put into their daily school life both academically and socially. Here are some gentle reminders of our expectations here at AMS:

- Please continue to check your child's electronic device use and conduct, this also means their conduct on PlayStation and Xbox which have chat forums during games that get heated and inappropriate and this negativity spills over into students' interactions at school.
- Please get your child to school as often as possible, attendance is important to the success of your child's education. Obviously it is cold and flu season so if your child is sick and has to stay home please make sure they are keeping up with their makeup work.
- Make sure you are aware of your child's lunch account activity and how they are spending this money as it can be depleted fast if they are getting extra items sold after the main lunch service in the snack shack.

- Please be courteous in the drop off and pickup line as it can be congested do to cold weather and the increase in parents driving students to school, we very much appreciate your patience and care during both of these times of the school day.
- Please be in touch with your students' teachers if you have any questions on academics or behavior, that communication can prove beneficial in your child's success if there is any concern on your end.

Thank you,

Mr. Paramore  
Assistant Principal

### Lost and Found

There are many items in our lost and found located in a room off the library at this time. Please remind your students to check the lost and found for any missing items before spring break. The items will be disposed of at the beginning of spring break.

### Attention 6th Grade Parents

The Ohio Department of Health mandates what immunizations are required each year in the schools. All students entering into the 7th grade must have had 1 dose of the Meningococcal vaccine. It is a 2 dose vaccine and the first dose is to be given prior to 7<sup>th</sup> grade with the booster being given prior to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Your student is still required to get the Tdap immunization prior to the start of 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

If your student has already received the Tdap and Meningococcal vaccine, please have a copy of their immunization record sent in, faxed or emailed to me so I can add it to your student's records. If your student hasn't received these vaccines, be sure to have them get them prior to the start of school in August. [karamsey@goarrows.org](mailto:karamsey@goarrows.org).

### Adventures of Robin Hood

This year Ashland Middle School students will perform the play The Adventures of Robin Hood. Tryouts were held at the beginning of January, and students have been practicing since. They will practice during the month of 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!) After a number of boldly dramatic and comic attempts made on both sides to outwit the other, neither party succeeding, (of course), it is time at last for the archery contest. (Robin cannot resist an archery contest, as the Sheriff well knows!) Robin wins the contest, (of course), which calls for a bit of sword play, (of course), and as he triumphs over the nefarious sheriff, a message from the King arrives, appointing the Lady Marian the new Sheriff! And, from there, craziness ensues.

We invite everyone to attend the public performances, held on Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9. The evening performances will take place in 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, regardless of student or adult status.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade News

In February, Mrs. Millhouse's and Miss Luedeman's Periods 1-2 Language Arts class will be focusing on non-fiction reading. Students will be reviewing text structures (cause/effect, problem/solution, compare/contrast, description, sequence) in order to better comprehend non-fiction texts. Additionally, they'll be sharpening up their inferencing and summarizing skills. Also in February, students will read the short story version of "Flowers for Algernon," which deals with the theme, "Can science go too far?" In March, students will then research ethical issues in science and technology, take a side on one of these issues, and write an argumentative essay in support of their position.

In Mrs. Millhouse's Advanced Language Arts classes, students are working in groups to complete a 3-D scene analysis project for Shakespeare's play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Students will then complete a literary analysis essay which will be a jumpstart for those applying for Honors English 9. In March, students will begin the classic gothic novella *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. One of the major themes of this work is "At what point does science cross ethical boundaries?" Upon completion of the novella, students will research Notre Dame University's 2019 List of Ethical Dilemmas and Policy Issues in Science and Technology. They will then take a side on one of these issues and write an argumentative essay in support of their position.

## Seventh Grade Science Fair

The science fair for seventh grade students will take place on Thursday, February 14 beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the Ashland Middle School Cafetorium. Students will bring home information on what time they are scheduled to report. They will present their project and will then be permitted to leave. Scores and certificates will be passed out during school the following week. Any student scoring a superior has the option of attending the Mohican District Science Day at Ashland University.

## Guidance News

### Eighth Grade into Ninth Grade Guidance Reminders

Eighth grade parents can stay up-to-date on important news, dates, and deadlines from the high school by signing up for the high school counseling office's text or email reminders. Information on how to sign up can be found below.

Class of 2023 (8<sup>th</sup> Graders) Text or Email Reminders:

To sign up for text messages, send the text message @arrows2023 to 571-222-4962.

To sign up for email messages, send an email to [rmd.at/arrows2023](mailto:rmd.at/arrows2023) (you can leave the subject blank)

All scheduling materials for eighth into ninth grade scheduling can be found on the web at <http://arrowsguidance.weebly.com/scheduling.html>.

High school counselors presented scheduling information on Thursday, January 24 in your child's American Studies class. The course of study book is still waiting to be approved by the board of education; however, a draft version is available online for you to access in order to view course descriptions: [http://arrowsguidance.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/8/9/12898810/2018-2019\\_program\\_of\\_studies\\_1-17-18.pdf](http://arrowsguidance.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/8/9/12898810/2018-2019_program_of_studies_1-17-18.pdf)

There are a few classes that require applications or a writing sample (Honors English 9, Honors History, and Video Production). These are all due on Friday, March 8. Information can be found online for these applications:

<http://arrowsguidance.weebly.com/scheduling.html>

Mrs. Packard will be scheduling freshmen courses for all students in eighth grade. She is reviewing completed forms individually with each student and discussing teacher recommendations for high school courses. If your student has not submitted a P.E. waiver or dual credit form, they need to be in before March 8. If your child is looking at an advanced class, they need to fill out the online application by Friday, March 8. If they do not fill out an application, they will not be in the advanced class. **All schedules will be forwarded to the high school on March 11. If you have any questions after March 11, please contact the appropriate high school counselor at 419-289-7968. The counselors are alphabetical based on the first letter of your last**

**name: A-F is Mrs. Juliet Thomas, G-M is Mrs. Peggy Steward, and N-Z is Mrs. Jessica Hartman.**

For those students interested in summer physical education or online health class, please note that the registration forms for these are typically available late April/early May. Registration is made by completing a form and returning it, with payment, to the high school. These classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Once we are notified of form availability, we will make an announcement to pick up a registration form in the main office. Any questions regarding scheduling should be directed to Mrs. Packard by calling 419-289-7966, extension 4150.

### **College Credit Plus**

College Credit Plus (CCP) is an initiative created by the Ohio Legislature which began during the 2015-2016 school year. It mandates that students in grades 7-12 who have demonstrated college readiness have the opportunity to take courses where they can earn College Credit and High School Credit concurrently. Being college ready means meeting the same requirements that a freshman in college would have to meet in order to be admitted. In the past students were able to take college courses through Post-Secondary Enrollment or Dual Enrollment programs. College Credit Plus streamlines these two entities under one unified program, with standardized rules and procedures for schools and universities to follow. As students and their parents plan out their middle school and high school education, there are many things they'll want to know about this program. On the Ashland High School Guidance Department website there is a page devoted solely to College Credit Plus. The link to that page is here: <http://arrowsguidance.weebly.com/college-credit-plus.html>.

**An informational meeting on College Credit Plus will be held in the AHS Little Theatre on February 13th at 7pm. (This is a rescheduled meeting from Jan 30th due to extreme cold.)**

### **Seventh into Eighth Grade Scheduling**

On February 15, Mrs. Packard will meet with students in their Science classes to discuss course registration for eighth grade. Registration sheets and a handout with course descriptions will be sent home with the student. There will be a power point on our website with details on course selection. **Forms are due back to your student's English Language Arts teacher on Tuesday, February 19.** During the two weeks following the meeting, Mrs. Packard will meet individually with all seventh grade students to finalize their eighth grade course selections. Please discuss the schedule with your child and **SIGN the course request sheet.** Any questions regarding scheduling should be directed to Mrs. Packard by calling 419-289-7966, extension 4150.

### **Sixth into Seventh Grade Scheduling**

Scheduling forms will be distributed by Mrs. Irwin as she visits each 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science classroom on Tuesday, February 19. **Signed registration forms are due to your child's science teacher by Friday, February 22. Mrs. Irwin will then be reviewing completed forms with each student to verify selection of Encore electives.**

Advanced placement for math, science, and language arts will be determined from Terra Nova scores, the Hanna Orleans (math placement test), teacher recommendation, course grades, and gifted identification. Special education teachers will be meeting with Tammy Webb, special education district coordinator, to make recommendations for your child's placement next year. Any questions regarding scheduling for Grade 7 next year can be directed to Kym Irwin at 419.289.4586.

### **Fifth into Sixth Grade Scheduling**

Scheduling forms will be distributed by Mrs. Irwin as she visits Social Studies classes at Taft the week of March 11th. **Signed registration forms are due to your child's Social Studies teacher by Wednesday, March 20.** The only selection for our incoming sixth grade students is for music class. The options are band, orchestra, choir, or music appreciation. ***Students must select one of those options.***

Advanced placement for math, science, and language arts will be determined from Terra Nova scores, teacher recommendation, course grades, and gifted identification. Special education teachers will be meeting with Tammy Webb, special education district coordinator, to make recommendations for your child's placement next year.

***There will be an informational meeting for parents on Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 PM in the Middle School Cafeteria. Mrs. Irwin and Mr. Keller will be available to answer questions following the presentation.*** Please contact Kym Irwin if you have any questions regarding scheduling for Grade 6 next year by calling 419.289.4586

### **Online Computer Based Assessments**

For additional information, practice tests, and resources related to these tests, please visit the Ohio Computer Based Assessment website at the following link: <http://oh.portal.airast.org/ocba/students-and-families/>

It is very important we have all students here on testing days. Please do not schedule appointments during the scheduled testing windows if at all possible or delay them until the afternoon if necessary.

### **6<sup>th</sup> grade testing dates:**

4/9 & 4/10 – ELA

5/1 & 5/2 - Math (except Adv. Math 6)

**7<sup>th</sup> grade testing dates:**

4/9 & 4/10 - ELA  
 4/30 & 5/1 - Math (except Hon Pre-Algebra 7)  
 including  
 6th Grade Advanced

**8<sup>th</sup> grade testing dates:**

4/9 & 4/10 - ELA  
 4/25 - Science  
 5/1 & 5/2 - Geometry  
 4/29 & 4/30 - Math 8/Algebra I/ Honors Pre-Algebra  
 7th

If you have further questions regarding these tests, please contact Mrs. Wendy Packard, our middle school counselor at 419-289-7966, Ext 4150.

**Career Day – February 22**

On February 22, all 8th grade students will be taking part in a Career Day. During the morning, students will have an opportunity to learn about the variety of programs our Ashland County West Holmes Career Center has to offer students in 11th and 12th grade by visiting the labs and seeing the hands-on programs in action. Later in the day, students will take part in a hands on learning environment at A.M.S. with most skills linked to a program at the ACWHCC. Students were able to select up to 3 areas of interest for the afternoon sessions including: brick laying, heavy machinery, engineering, construction, cosmetology, culinary arts, and much more. We were very lucky to receive donations to help defray the cost of the afternoon activities from the following businesses: Miller's-Hawkins, Buehler's Fresh Market, BCU Electric and Home Depot. Without their support, we would not have been able to pull off the afternoon portion of our career day.

**A.M.S. ATHLETICS****Track**

With the winter season behind us, there will be no more basketball games and wrestling matches in hot gyms, but track meets under the beautiful sunny skies of spring in Ohio. Be sure to bring your umbrella though, and maybe your hat and gloves. After all, this is Ohio. Track practice officially begins on Monday, March 4. No one will be permitted to start practice until all required forms are completed on PRIVIT, and a current physical is on file. The athletic fee of \$65 for first sport, \$55 for second sport, or \$45 for third sport must also be paid. See a coach, or Mr. Weisenstein in the Athletic Office if you have questions. Anyone that has already participated in a sport this year does not have to complete Privit again, just make sure you have joined the correct gender and grade level track team on Privit. If you are not familiar with Privit, the new athletic forms website, see a coach or Mr. Weisenstein, AD, to get

information on how to complete it. Our two Head Coaches this year will be Mr. Vance and Mr. Moore. Assistant coaches will be Mrs. Spotts, Mr. Breed, Ms. Luedeman, and Mrs. Green. There may be a couple specialty volunteer coaches but none have been named at this time. The track team opens up its competitive season with a home meet against Shelby and Open Door Christian School on Monday March 25, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

**Athletic Physicals**

Please be sure to get your physicals scheduled with your family doctor, or maybe try Samaritan Q-Care or Urgent Care. Physicals are still to be turned in, in paper form as before. If you already have a current physical on file in the athletic office, you do not need a new one until that one expires. The physical and activity fee, must get turned into the middle school athletic office at least one week before the first scheduled practice.

With the winter season behind us, there will be no more basketball games and wrestling matches in hot gyms, but track meets under the beautiful sunny skies of spring in Ohio. Be sure to bring your umbrella though, and maybe your hat and gloves. After all, this is Ohio. Track practice officially begins on Monday, March 5.

**Arrow Wrestling Mulch Sale**

The Ashland Arrow wrestling team is doing their annual mulch sale fundraiser again this spring. The delivery will be the last weekend of April, the 26-28. Please have orders in by April 13 to make sure we can get your order filled. All other information is listed on the attached flyer for the fundraiser.

The profits of the mulch sale go to support our Arrow wrestling program. This includes travel, uniforms, food and many other expenses that has helped the program to achieve very high success in recent years.

The high school wrestling team is looking to win their 4th straight OCC title and to qualify many individuals to the state tournament in Columbus. The middle school and JAWS wrestling club have both won their league titles this year and the future of Arrow wrestling is very bright.

## Upcoming Events

February 12	Parent Teacher Conferences Ashland Middle School
February 14	Science Fair - Mr. Reed's and Mrs. Godsey's 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Classes in A.M.S. Café 5:30 P.M.
February 15	Interims Mailed Home to Those Students with D's and F's
February 18	President's Day – No Classes
February 21	Musical Matinee Performance at Archer Auditorium
February 21	Student Led Conferences 3:30 – 7:00 P.M.
February 23	Career Center Trip 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade 8:30 – 12:00
February 22	Musical 7:00 P.M. Archer Auditorium
February 23	Musical 7:00 P.M. Archer Auditorium
February 24	Musical 2:00 P.M. Archer Auditorium
March 5	Early Release 1:10 P.M.
March 8	A.M.S. Play Little Theater 7:00 P.M.
March 9	A.M.S. Play Little Theater 7:00 P.M.
March 12	Band Concert Grades 7-12 6:30 P.M. Archer
Mach 13	Track Parent Meeting AMS Cafeteria 4:30 P.M.
March 19	5 <sup>th</sup> into 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night AMS Cafeteria 6:00 P.M.
March 21	Family Literacy Night 5:00 P.M.
March 22	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks
March 29	Grade Cards Distributed