

ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

<http://www.ashlandcityschools.org/ms>



Dear Arrow Families:

March Madness is right around the corner but big games are already happening here at AMS. The 7th and 8th grade boys and girls basketball teams have all shown improvement through the course of the year as they head into OCC tournament play. We are also excited about the success of our AMS wrestling team which has won multiple tournaments with top finishes by our individual wrestlers all over the place. The competition is also heating up for our Power of the Pen team who will be competing in a 16 team competition to flex those strong writing skills they have been working on in preparation for this event. It also won't be long before we have our track and field athletes in full swing getting ready to heat up the track.

As the year progresses at AMS we have stayed committed to using our PBIS system which is meant to encourage and reward positive behavior. Our winter activity that students will enjoy as a school is watching the movie "Overcomer" at Archer together in the next couple weeks. These types of events are meant to highlight and reward students consistently coming to school everyday and following the 3 R's (Respectful, Responsible, and Resilient). Through the rest of the year students will see other events and rewards to promote the positive behavior we are striving for on a daily basis.

Just like any other school, state testing is around the corner for students and our staff continues to work hard to prepare our students to be set up for success. With that being said our teachers stay committed by creating exciting and interactive content to challenge our students to not only be prepared for the test but even more importantly stay engaged with the material they are covering. In every classroom students are being exposed to projects, collaboration and creative outlets that are unique to each teacher and class. We are confident that all of this hard work will pay off not only for testing but continuing to create well rounded students moving forward.

Thank you for your continued support and trust as we work everyday to care for your child. We are excited and proud of the accomplishments from the first semester and we look forward to a successful third quarter.

Tim Keller, Jim Lindeman and Ashley Pacholewski
Co-Principals

Teachers of the Month



Mrs. Ebert-Music

Congratulations to Mrs. Ebert for winning the "Ohio Lottery Partners in Education Teacher for the Month" for the month of December. Mrs. Ebert is a constant light for our students who has given so many opportunities for students to expand musical, theatrical and acting skills. Any student or individual who comes across Mrs. Ebert will no doubt recognize the heart she has for kids and a positivity that is contagious.

Thank you for all you do Mrs. Ebert this award is so well deserved.



Mr. Reed
7th Grade Science



Congratulations to Mr. Reed for winning the "Blue Jackets Future Goals Program Teacher of the Month" for December. Mr. Reed was recognized at a recent Blue Jackets game and AMS could not be prouder. When entering into Mr. Reed's classroom students are always exposed to interesting lessons that apply to real world situations that keep them thinking.

Thank you Mr. Reed for all you do for students.

AMS Building Remind

As another way of getting information out to our parents. AMS now has a building Remind that we will be using to help keep parents informed of events, and other informative information. You will need to either Download the REMIND APP or send a text to 81010 to set up an acct our Class Name is AMS-Parents/Guardians and **class code is @8k8b43.**

Middle School Newsletters

Our newsletter will come out every other month throughout the course of the upcoming school year. We will post our newsletter on the middle school website at the beginning of October, December, February and April. **Newsletters will no longer be mailed home to all students.** If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter by email, please email me at rhcarey@goarrows.org and Mrs. Carey will add your email to our emailing list. If you do not have access to a computer and would still like to have a paper copy mailed to your home, Mrs. Carey would be more than happy to accommodate that request. Just call the A.M.S. office or email her at the above and she will add you to the mailing list.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, February 9th and Thursday, February 16, 2023 from 3:30-7:00 p.m. If you would like to set-up a conference with your student (s) teacher (s) please call the Middle School Office to set-up a conference time. Please call 419-289-7966 ext. 4000.

A.M.S. Lost and Found

We have many lost items that have been turned into the lost and found in the CLINIC. Anything remaining will be cleaned out at the end of **EVERY month.**

Arrival/Dismissal Times

The doors will open at 7:20 a.m. Tardy Bell rings at 7:40 a.m.

Dismissal will be at 2:35 p.m.

Students will be dismissed in a slow release method. Bus riders will be dismissed by bus number and students must exit the building as quickly as possible. Car riders and walkers will also be dismissed by classroom number and quickly exit the building. It is our hope to have all students out of the building no later than 2:45 p.m. daily.

Obligations

Many students still owe school fees or other obligations from past school years be made in the middle school office. If you can not pay the full amount, you may make a partial payment and make arrangements for a payment plan. Obligations follow the student through their school career and must be taken care of before graduation.

Important Dates

Feb. 7th-8th Grade Biology Placement Test
 Feb. 9th-Parent-Teacher Conferences
 Feb. 16th-Parent-Teacher Conferences
 Feb. 16th-District PTO Meeting
 Feb. 17th-Interims Mailed home
 Feb. 20th- NO School-President's Day
 Feb. 23-AMS to watch AHS Play

March 6-Beginning of 5th-6 weeks
 March 6-Assembly: How to Middle School
 March 12-Daylight Savings Begins
 March 13-14-Camp Nuhop (Ms. Michael's)
 March 15-16-Camp Nuhom (Mr. Harlan's)
 March 17-No School: Teacher Work Day
 March 24-Grade Cards Sent home
 April 4-5-6th, 7th, 8th-State ELA Testing
 April 7-14-Spring Break
 April 17-School Resumes

Reminders

We continue to encourage students to advocate for themselves and to let adults help them in difficult situations rather than making choices that make situations worse.

- Please continue to monitor your child's media use, there are a lot of APPS and chat groups available out there where unsavory things can be discussed between adolescents and others; please keep your child safe and promote responsible use of their electronic devices.
- Continue to monitor your child's belongings as items pile up in our school's lost and found; if something comes up missing, remind your child to check lost and found.
- Please remember if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher or an administrator here at the building.

Procedures for Picking Students up for Appointment

In order to alleviate some confusions, we thought it might be helpful to review our attendance procedures on dropping off students or picking up students for appointments.

Although we will accept telephone calls for last-minute appointments for students, we would prefer the student bring a note on the day of the appointment if it has been scheduled in advance. The student is to bring the note to the main office before school starts in the morning, so we can issue a Permit to Leave Slip. The Student is then allowed to show this Permit to Leave to the teacher, leave class at the time designated on the note by the parent, and meet the parent at the door at the time recorded. This allows the parent to pick up the student without having to come into the building. **Please remind your son or daughter to be aware of the time he/she needs to leave class and where to meet you.** Parents do not need to check in or out of the office with the student unless we have not received a note or a phone call prior. When arriving back to school after the appointment, all students should check in at the main office with their Permit to Leave before reporting to class. This will help us keep accurate attendance records and not mistakenly mark the student absent for the remainder of the day.

Appointments that are made after the student has come to school may be called into the main office by the parent/guardian, and a Permit to Leave slip will be delivered to the student with the appropriate information (such as time leaving, type of appointment, and where to meet his/her ride). The student should then follow the same procedures as listed when we receive written permission for students to leave and return when necessary.

Fees and Fee Waivers

Parents are reminded the 2022-2023 school fees are due at your earliest convenience. Please note that school fees can be waived for families qualifying for the free lunch program. In order to obtain this waiver, permission for information to be shared with the school principal must be marked on Part 5, the sharing information sections, of the free lunch application form. This only applies to families qualifying for free lunch and not to those who qualify for reduced lunches. Contact the food service director, Nicole Elmore, at Central Office for more information.

Breakfast and Lunch

Middle School students will have the opportunity to have a healthy breakfast before the school day begins. We will offer a daily choice of bowl pack cereal, fruit juice or fresh fruit, bagels, toast and peanut butter or jelly, milk, hot entrée choices such as breakfast pizza and many more exciting foods! The cost is only \$1.25 for a purchased breakfast. Students on the lunch program can purchase a breakfast for 30¢ for reduced and no charge for free. Please give us a try the first day of school. We welcome suggestions and comments to improve this program. The price for a regular school lunch will be \$3.00. Reduced lunch 40¢. Please call our Child Nutrition Supervisor, at 289-4550 Ext. 2247 if you have any questions about our programs.

Cell Phone and Electronic Devices

Student may not use personal communication devices during school hours at Ashland Middle School. While at Ashland Middle School, personal communication devices must be on silent mode and stored within their locker*. Personal communication devices include but are not limited to cell phones, tablets, smart watches, and other web-enabled devices. Such devices will also not be permitted on off-campus field trips.

Students violating the cell phone/personal communication device policy will result in the following action (s):

First Offense: Confiscation, **staff member who confiscated the phone will notify the parent and document in the Google cell phone spreadsheet.** Students will be able to pick-up their cell phones in the **staff's classroom** at the end of day.

Second Offense: Confiscation, **staff member who confiscated the phone will notify the parent and document in the Google cell phone spreadsheet.** Staff members will bring the cell phone to the office for the **PARENT to pick up** at the end of the day.

Third Offense: The staff member completes a Major Referral in PBIS. Administration will notify parents. Progressive disciplinary action will be issued in the following order:

- 1). After school detention.**
- 2). Meeting with a Parent and the Student.**
- 3). In-School detention.**

An office phone will be available to students before school, after school, during lunches and ACT time with the permission of an Ashland Middle School staff member. Additionally, any parent messages will be promptly delivered to their student before 2:00 p.m., as our building prepares for dismissal. Personal, non-emergency calls are strongly discouraged.

Progress Book

Progress Book is the program we use to track and communicate grades. All students and parents may use their accounts from previous years. If you need help logging into your account, please call the AMS office at 419-289-7966.

PBIS Rewards

Perhaps your student has mentioned something about earning behavior points during the school day. These points are part of a program that the building piloted last May, *PBIS Rewards*. The pilot went so well that we've decided to continue the program this school year. Through the program, students have the opportunity to earn points for demonstrating positive behaviors throughout the building. Points are based on the building's 3 R's- Ready, Responsible, and Respectful. All of the points are housed electronically so there is no worry of students misplacing their points. Points will accumulate all school year. There will be various methods by which students can "spend" their points-teacher stores, a building-wide store, raffles, and events.

Also, there is an app associated with this program. Students can use the app to check their point balances and make purchases from the store. The app is optional; students can get the same information simply by logging into the website without the app. Additionally, there is a parent app. The parent app links to the student's account and allows guardians to view their student's point balance and any teacher comments that may have been added. Through the app, a guardian may also communicate with teachers. The student app is called PBIS Rewards Student. The parent app is called PBIS Rewards Parent. Both apps are available in your device's app stores.

Guidance News

Wendy Packard, 8th Grade Counselor
Kalie Godsey, 6th & 7th Grade Counselor
Christina Howman, School-Community Liaison
Lainy Allen, School-Community Liaison

Eighth Grade into Ninth Grade Guidance Reminders

Eight 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 2027 (8th graders) Text or Email reminders:
Text@e3d444 to 81010

All scheduling materials for eighth into ninth grade scheduling can be found on the web at [Scheduling information.](#) High School counselors presented scheduling information on Tuesday, January 10th in your child's American Studies class. The course of study book is available online for you to access in order to view course descriptions at the link above.

There are a few classes that require applications or a writing sample (Honors English 9 and Foundation in Media Arts. These are all due on Friday, March 10. If they do not fill out an application, they will not be in these classes. Information can be found online for these applications: [Applications for HS classes.](#)

Mrs. Packard will be meeting with all students to complete their course registration. Mrs. Packard will be 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 and/or CCP form, they need to be in before March 4. **All schedules will be forwarded to the high school on March 17. 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 Mr. Heath Grissinger, and N-Z is Mrs. Linda Hodapp.**

For those students interested in summer physical education or online health class, please note that the registration information for these classes are typically available late *April/early May*. 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: [College credit information](#)

Seventh into Eighth Grade Scheduling

On February 6th, 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 Friday, February 10th.** 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. Godsey as she visits each 6th grade Science classroom February 27th. **Signed registration forms are due to your child's Language Arts teacher by March 6th. Mrs. Godsey will then be reviewing completed forms with each student to verify selection of Encore electives.** There is a powerpoint on our website with details on course selection.

Advanced placement for math, science, and language arts will be determined from Terra Nova scores (taken in 5th grade), the Hanna Orleans (math placement test), and gifted identification.

Special education teachers will be meeting with Dr. Tammy Stevens, special education district coordinator, to make recommendations for your child's placement next year. Please review your child's selections with them and **Sign the course request sheet.** Any questions regarding scheduling for Grade 7 next year can be directed to Mrs. Kalie Godsey at 419-289-7966, extension 4148.

Fifth into Sixth Grade Scheduling

Scheduling forms have been distributed by Mrs. Godsey as she visited Social Studies classes at Taft on January 23rd and 25th. **Signed registration forms were due to your child's Social Studies teacher by Monday, Jan. 30th.** The only selection for our incoming sixth grade students is for music class. The options are band, orchestra, choir, or music appreciation. Band and orchestra classes require previous experience. If you are not currently in a performing music class, you must try out with the teacher and take private lessons to catch up. ***Students must select one of those music options.*** There is a PowerPoint on our website with details on course selection.

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

There was an informational meeting on January 26th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. to answer any questions you had about the transition to AMS. All students will have an opportunity to tour AMS in May to help them understand and feel comfortable in the building. Please contact Kalie Godsey if you have any questions regarding scheduling for Grade 6 next year by calling 419-289-4586.

Online Computer Based Assessment

For additional information, practice tests, and resources related to these test, please visit the Ohio Computer Based Assessment website at the following link: [Practice assessments.](#)

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.

Spring Test Dates:

6th Grade Testing Dates:

ELA- April 4 & 5

Math- May 2 & 5

Honors Math- May 2 & 4

7th Grade Testing Dates:

ELA- April 4 & 5

Math-May 2 & 4

Honors Pre-Algebra-May 2 & 3

8th Grade Testing Dates:

ELA-April 4 & 5

Science-April 25 & 26

Math/Algebra-May 2 & 3

Geometry-May 4 & 5

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

Groups and Activities



Grief group with Kathy Wantland of Hospice of North Central Ohio will be starting mid February. This is open to any student at AMS who would benefit. Please call if interested. Permission forms are required for participation.

We will be celebrating National Kindness day (2/17) the week for February 13, 2023. We will be doing various activities and lessons throughout the school day to encourage kindness in our students. We encourage you to ask your student (s) about what is happening this week!

There are small groups being offered for students based on need and recommendation by staff or parent request. These groups are held to address topics such as coping skills, positive relationships, positive self esteem, academic growth in the classroom, organizational skills and more. If you feel your child would benefit from a small group please contact the Liaisons or Guidance staff and we will do our best to accommodate your student's needs.

Camp Nuhop Dates

Mr. Harlan's students will go to Camp Nuhop **March 15th and 16th**. Ms. Michael's group will go on **March 13th and 14th**. We are switching to a **day camp** only this year. There will be **NO overnight**. Both days will be extended days. We will leave AMS at approximately 9:00 am, and we will return to AMS daily by approximately 6:15 p.m. Teachers may leave camp at 3:00, or teachers may volunteer to stay for the extended day with Ms. Michael or Mr. Harlan. **Lunch will be provided at Camp Nuhop both days**. Students will eat breakfast and evening meals at home. (Students may eat breakfast as school as usual.)

The tuition fee for two extended days at Camp Nuhop will be **\$45.00**. This includes two lunches served in the Camp Nuhop cafeteria. We already held a fundraiser to help students with this cost. The district has also already paid over 50% of the total fee for each student. There will be no additional help with funding from the school. The expectation is that **all sixth grade students will attend camp**.

Tuition if due by February 17th. You may send cash or a check made out to Ashland Middle School. This payment will go directly to the front office.

We will have a Camp Nuhop parent information meeting on **March 1st, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.**



Arrow Connections

... working together
to keep
schools and families
connected!

America Counts - FREE Math Help with Ashland University Students

- * Contact Ms. Michael with questions limichae@goarrows.org*
- To participate, students only need to show up. No calling ahead or paperwork necessary.
- Time can be used for math tutoring, homework help, or catching up on work after being absent.

Available Afterschool from 2:45-4 on these dates:

Wednesday, Feb. 1st
Tuesday, Feb. 7th
Thursday, Feb. 9th
Monday, Feb. 13th
Wednesday, Feb. 15th
Tuesday, Feb. 21st
Thursday, Feb. 23rd
Monday, Feb. 27th

Wednesday, Mar. 1st
AU Spring Break, no tutoring
Tuesday, Mar. 14th
Thursday, Mar. 16th
Monday, Mar. 20th
Wednesday, Mar. 22nd
Tuesday, Mar. 28th
Thursday, Mar. 30th

Monday, April 3rd
Wednesday, April 5th
ACS Spring Break, no tutoring
Tuesday, April 18th
Thursday, April 20th
Monday, April 24th
Wednesday, April 26th

* We hope to continue this next year. *

List of upcoming Extracurricular Activities:

-Boys & Girls Track
-Club Baseball
-Club Softball

-Intramural Golf
-Solo & Ensemble Contest

Jan. 26 AMS Family Game Night 7-8:30
Week of Feb. 6 7th scheduling for 8th grade
Feb. 7 8th grade Biology Placement Test
Feb. 9 Parent-Teacher Conferences
Feb. 16 Parent-Teacher Conferences
Feb. 16 District PTO Meeting
Feb. 17 Interims Mailed Home
Feb. 20 No School: President's Day
Feb. 22 Book-of-the-Month Discussion ACT
Feb. 23 AMS to watch AHS Play
Feb. 27 Board of Education Meeting

Mar. 6 Beginning of 5th 6-weeks classes
Mar. 6 Assembly: How to Survive Middle School
Mar. 12 Daylight Savings begins
Mar. 13-14 Camp Nuhop Mrs. Michael's classes
Mar. 15-16 Camp Nuhop Mr. Harlan's classes
Mar. 17 No School: Teacher Work Day
Mar. 24 Grade Cards sent home
Mar. 29 Book-of-the-Month Discussion ACT
Apr. 4-5 6, 7, & 8th State Testing: ELA
Apr. 7-14 Spring Break
Apr. 17 School Resumes

- Ashland City Schools app for your phone -<https://www.ashlandcityschools.org/hs/ahs-app>
- AMS Staff Directory -<https://www.ashlandcityschools.org/ms/staff-directory>

We receive grant money through Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center at The Ohio State University <https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/>



Ashland Middle School Athletics

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 6, 2023. 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 \$65.00 for the first sport, \$55.00 for second sport, or \$45.00 for third sport.

See a coach or Mr. Sauder in the Athletic office if you have any 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, see a coach or Mr. Sauder to get information on how to complete it. Our two Head coaches this year will be Mr. Vance and Mr. Moore.

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 into the AMS office 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 be turned into AMS athletic office at least ONE week before the first scheduled practice.

Eligibility

Please keep grades a top priority. Remind your student/athlete that if his/her grades falter, he/she could be either sitting out or ineligible to participate (meaning it carries over from one sport to another). Please refer to the [Activity Fee Information Sheet](#) that you will receive, or did receive, with your payment form. Pay particular attention to #3 and #4: "Fees are non-refundable with the following exception. Letter "E" states..."If the students becomes academically ineligible before the first contest". In other words, if you athlete becomes ineligible after the first contest, your fees will NOT be refunded. So, stay on top of your child's work nightly. Ask to see their homework, stay in touch with the teachers and make yourself available at home as much as possible to see that all work is done correctly and is ready to hand in on time. But, we all need to remember, in the end, it is the student's responsibility to keep their grades in line. Support and encouragement is always a good thing, but the student must take ownership and be Responsible for his/her own grades.

Schedules

Anytime you need an event schedule or directions to a game/meet, either stop by the athletic office and pick one up, call, or instruct your athlete to bring one home. Coaches will pass out copies at the team meetings. Also check out the Ashland Middle School Website. Hopefully, if all goes well, the schedules to all winters sports, and directions to away basketball games will be posted. Just go the the [sports](#) link.

