

WELCOME, KINDERGARTNERS!

A-C would like to welcome our Class of 2032 and their families to our district! As you take this exciting step, we have a few tips for making kindergarten and beyond successful.

- 1. Stay involved** in the learning process by actively communicating with your child's teacher. Feel free to ask questions or share concerns.
- 2. Make sure your child is well-rested** and ready to learn before coming to school.
- 3. Spend time helping your child** with homework each night to monitor his/her learning and talk through any concerns.
- 4. Take a positive approach** when discussing the classroom or your child's teacher.
- 5. Ask your child about school** and encourage him/her to talk about what they did that day. Children are excited to share their experiences with you, and you'll have a better understanding of how they are progressing.
- 6. Extend the learning process at home** by reading to your child each night.
- 7. Explain to your child his/her responsibilities** toward their actions in the classroom and completing their schoolwork in a timely, efficient manner.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We are still accepting kindergarten registration for the upcoming school year. Children who turn five years old by July 31, 2019, are eligible for the 2019-2020 school year. To register, contact the Amanda-Clearcreek Primary Office at 740-969-7254 or Keena Rich at 740-969-7959. If you plan to enroll your student and have not already done so, we encourage you complete registration as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE INFORMATION

Kindergarten Testing Days: If you have not signed up for a testing timeslot, please contact the primary office to schedule your student's time on one of the following days:

Tuesday, August 13 Wednesday, August 14 Thursday, August 15

Kindergarten Staggered Start Schedule: Kindergartners will attend one of the following days, which will be communicated to families during open house.

Monday, August 19 Tuesday, August 20 Wednesday, August 21 Thursday, August 22

All kindergarten students will be on the regular school schedule starting Friday, August 23.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS:

Can I add lunch money to my child's lunch account?

Parents can load money on My School Bucks or send in checks for multiple days/weeks/months. We'll have representatives from the cafeteria at the orientations to explain the process, as well as collect money if you would like to make a lunch deposit in advance.

Can I volunteer at school?

Volunteers are vital to students' success each year! We welcome and encourage community members who are able to volunteer to inquire about classroom and athletic opportunities. For community members who will be returning to volunteer this year, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your selfless dedication to our students. To inquire about volunteer opportunities, please complete a volunteer form that will be reviewed by the Board of Education. Forms will be available at orientations and each school building.

Which grades are in each school?

While we have two physical buildings, we officially have four distinct buildings according to the Ohio Department of Education. The Primary Building houses our preschool, kindergarten and grades 1-2 students. The Elementary Building houses grades 3-5. Students in grades 6-8 attend the Middle School and the High School is for grades 9-12.

Who are the secretaries and principals for each building?

Primary: Brooke Marshall, *Principal* • Barb Kraft, *Secretary* **Elementary:** Elizabeth Wills, *Principal* • Jennie Cowdrey, *Secretary*
Middle School: Aimee Cochran, *Principal* • Stephanie Hedges, *Secretary* **High School:** Scott Hinton, *Principal* • April Philopoulos, *Secretary*

Are parents permitted to eat with their child for lunch?

Absolutely. We just ask that you communicate those plans to the school prior to the day you plan to visit your child during school lunch.

Where can I find a school calendar?

School calendars are available at www.amanda.k12.oh.us under the "District" tab. Building-specific and district-wide calendars are available.

Does the district use social media?

In addition to the district website, A-C has Facebook (@Amanda.Clearcreek.Schools) and Twitter (@amandaacesk12).

IMPORTANT DATES

Please take note of the following dates for the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

Welcome back, Aces!

Back-to-School Orientation

Kindergarten Aug. 15 • 6-7 p.m.

Grades 1 & 2 Aug. 9 • 4:30-6 p.m.

Elementary Aug. 12 • 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Middle School Aug. 7 • 5-6:30 p.m.

High School Aug. 8 • 5-8 p.m.

First Day of School.Aug. 13

SUPPLY LISTS

Supply lists are posted on our district website under each specific building: www.amanda.k12.oh.us.

Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools
 328 E. Main Street
 Amanda, Ohio 43102

You asked
 for more communication ...
& we listened!

OPEN TO SEE
A TRANSPARENT LOOK AT
THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL
STATE, FEES, KINDERGARTEN
INFORMATION AND MORE!

BOARD-APPROVED CUTS FOR 2020-2021

As you likely know, the Amanda-Clearcreek Local School District is experiencing challenging financial times. We invite you to read this newsletter for more information about our financial situation, current and past spending trends, and board-approved cuts for the 2020-2021 school year. And, we want to personally invite you to contact our district office with any questions or concerns you have or have heard.

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR	VS.	2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR
A-C WE KNOW	VS.	A-C WITH CUTS
\$17,582,103 Total Expenditures to Provide the Following:	-\$2,568,842 DEFICIT	\$15,013,261 Total Expenditures to Provide the Following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two schools providing adequate space for students Student to staff ratios within recommended guidelines for optimal learning Robust educational programming, including college preparatory, skilled trade, technology, foreign language and music Athletic Programs Strong extracurricular programs, including FFA, band and topic-driven clubs (i.e. Science Club, Foreign Language Club, etc.) State-of-the-art learning opportunities rooted in technology and innovation Guidance counselors to help students navigate future planning and positive mental wellness Reliable transportation for every student 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The K-2 Building will be closed, overcrowding students 24 teacher positions will be eliminated, resulting in higher student/teacher ratios in classrooms AP classes, elective courses and foreign languages (required for college entrance) will no longer be offered through A-C Athletic programs will be eliminated All extracurricular activities will be eliminated The 1:1 technology initiative will be eliminated Guidance counselor positions for K-8 will be eliminated Bussing for those within a 2-mile radius and for high school students will be eliminated; no new buses or vans will be purchased

Note: The Total Expenditures listed above are general fund expenditures.

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A-C COMMUNICATOR

FALL 2019



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT



Amanda-Clearcreek Community,

I hope you had an enjoyable summer making new memories with family and friends and that you're as excited as our team is to kick off another school year! As staff, students, parents and volunteers return to school, we are deeply appreciative of the multitude of responsibilities and roles our staff members remain dedicated to each and every day.

When students return to school this month, they will find a building that has sustained its brand-new atmosphere despite it being the 17th year of operation, thanks to the continued work of our custodial team. Our secretaries have diligently prepared to welcome our students for another successful school year. Our bus drivers are prepared to make sure each child is picked up and dropped off safely and carefully. Our cooks, under new leadership, anxiously await our students with new ideas, and the classroom aides are here to take on multiple tasks each and every day. We are excited, and we hope you are, too!

As you read this edition of the A-C Communicator, I ask that you let us know if there is any additional information we can provide to help make the beginning of a new year the best experience for you and your child. If you have questions for me, please contact me at 740-969-7260. For building-related questions, please contact our secretaries at the following numbers:

PRIMARY: 740-969-7254 **ELEMENTARY:** 740-969-7253
MIDDLE SCHOOL: 740-969-7252 **HIGH SCHOOL:** 740-969-7251

STAFFING CHANGES

Welcome to all of our new A-C staff members! In addition to the new employees within our district, there are several staffing changes that will take effect this school year.

K-2
 Brooke Marshall – Principal 740-969-7254 bmarshall@amanda.k12.oh.us
 Theresa Pinkstock – First Grade Teacher 740-969-7254 tpinkstock@amanda.k12.oh.us
 TBD – Intervention Specialist

ELEMENTARY
 Elizabeth Wills – Principal 740-969-7253 ewills@amanda.k12.oh.us
 Jacquelyn Forquer – Title I Teacher 740-969-7253 jforquer@amanda.k12.oh.us
 Hannah Howes – Intervention Specialist 740-969-7253 hhowes@amanda.k12.oh.us
 Wendy LaRue – Fifth Grade Teacher 740-969-7253 wlarue@amanda.k12.oh.us
 TBD – Intervention Specialist
 TBD – Third Grade Teacher

MIDDLE SCHOOL
 Aimee Cochran – Principal 740-969-7252 acochran@amanda.k12.oh.us
 Sarita Fenn – Intervention Specialist 740-969-7252 sfenn@amanda.k12.oh.us
 Chasatie Strickler – Middle School ELA 740-969-7252 cstrickler@amanda.k12.oh.us

HIGH SCHOOL
 Daniel Fox – High School ELA 740-969-7251 dfox@amanda.k12.oh.us
 Kyle Wright – High School ELA 740-969-7251 kwright@amanda.k12.oh.us

DISTRICT
 Kimberly Dum – Cafeteria Supervisor 740-969-7450 kdum@amanda.k12.oh.us
 Amy Fairfield – Art Teacher 740-969-7252 afairfield@amanda.k12.oh.us
 Alisa Black – Interpreter 740-969-7251 ablack@amanda.k12.oh.us

MEET YOUR PRINCIPALS



BROOKE MARSHALL
 Primary Principal
 740-969-7254
 bmarshall@amanda.k12.oh.us



ELIZABETH WILLS
 Elementary Principal
 740-969-7253
 ewills@amanda.k12.oh.us



AIMEE COCHRAN
 Middle School Principal
 740-969-7252
 acochran@amanda.k12.oh.us



SCOTT HINTON
 High School Principal
 740-969-7251
 shinton@amanda.k12.oh.us

AMANDA-CLEARCREEK CORE VALUES ...

We believe our success as a school district is the shared responsibility of students, home, staff and community.

We believe each of our students will graduate prepared to enter society as critical, independent thinkers.

We believe all our students can learn when provided with a safe environment that values and respects them as individuals.

FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT: A TRANSPARENT LOOK AT THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL STATE

The Amanda-Clearcreek Local School District has been prudent with the last five-year income tax levy passed in May of 2011. Knowing the needs of the district, the administration and Board of Education were conservative with their funds, and by being prudent, the income tax levy that was designed to fund the school for five years, has funded it now for eight years.

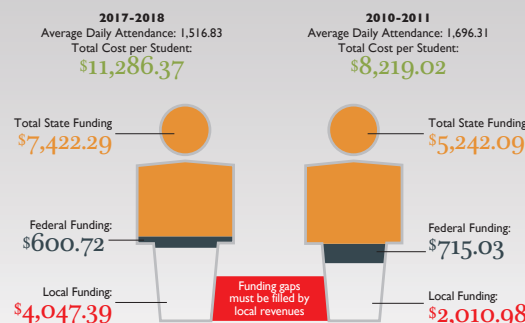
The district had an annual savings of \$1.2 million in the 2017-2018 school year due to cuts in staffing, transportation and technology, and restructuring programs. An additional \$201,000 was saved in the 2018-2019 school year by negotiating expiring vendor contracts for mowing, copiers, transportation and HVAC. The district again restructured programming and will show an estimated savings of \$229,000 for the 2019-2020 school year. The district continues to be good stewards of the public monies it receives, however, this fall's levy is essential to the operation of the school district and to be able to continue programs for our students.

SO, WHY IS THE DISTRICT RECEIVING SO MUCH LESS FUNDING NOW?

As we shared in the last few editions of the A-C Communicator, state and federal funding has declined drastically over the years, and as with all businesses, costs have gone up. Pair that with the 2011 levy ending and failure to pass a replacement levy, and you can understand why the district is experiencing challenging financial times.

To learn more about our funding, please reach out to our district treasurer, **Jill Bradford**, at **740-969-7250**.

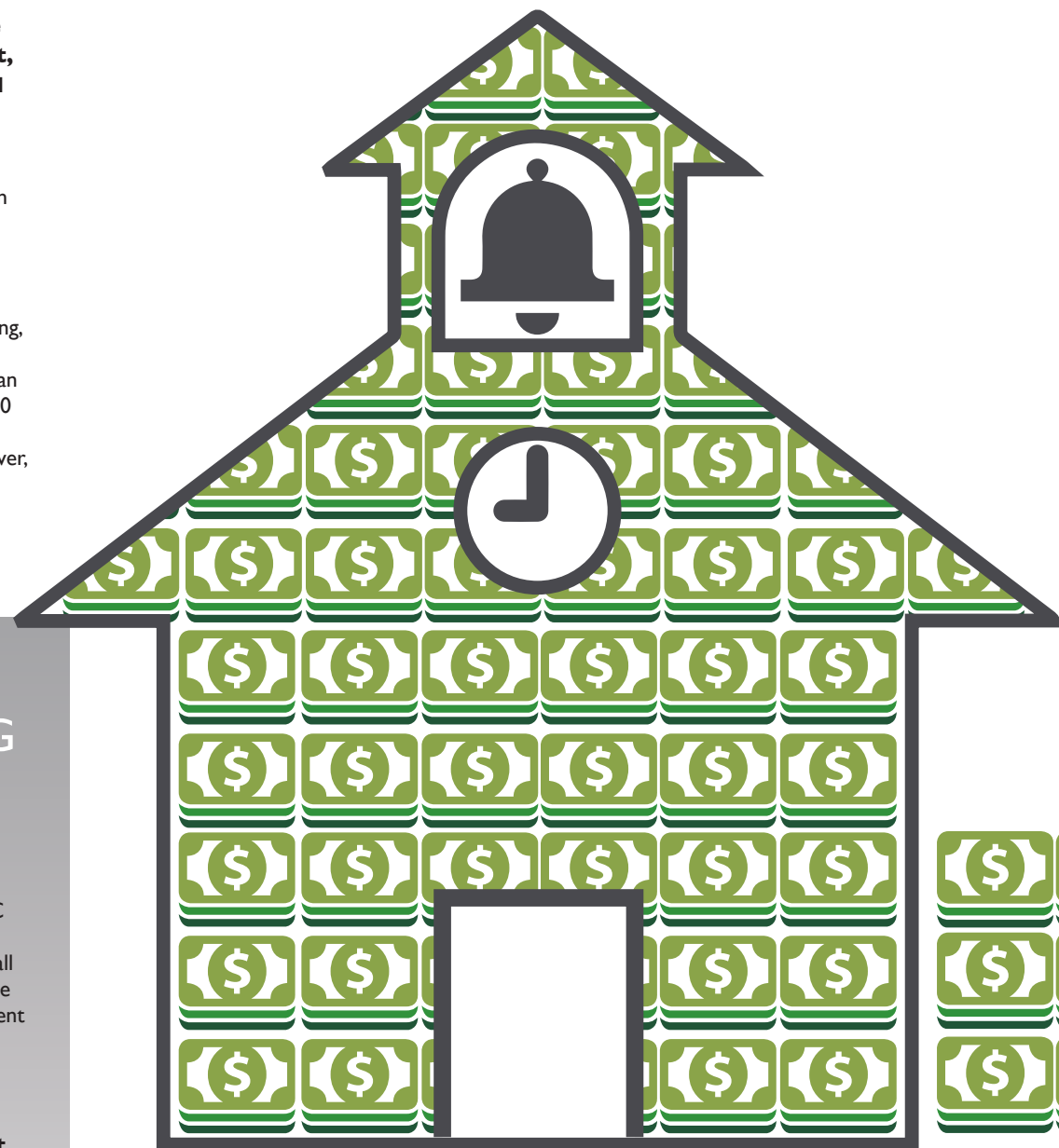
A-C'S TOTAL COST TO EDUCATE A STUDENT



2011 LEVY FUNDING IN EFFECT

SCHOOL FUNDED AT ADEQUATE LEVEL

JANUARY 1, 2012 ← → DECEMBER 31, 2016



*Tax collection for the May 2011 levy started Jan. 1, 2012, and the district received its first quarterly payment in April 2012 in the amount of \$114,955.

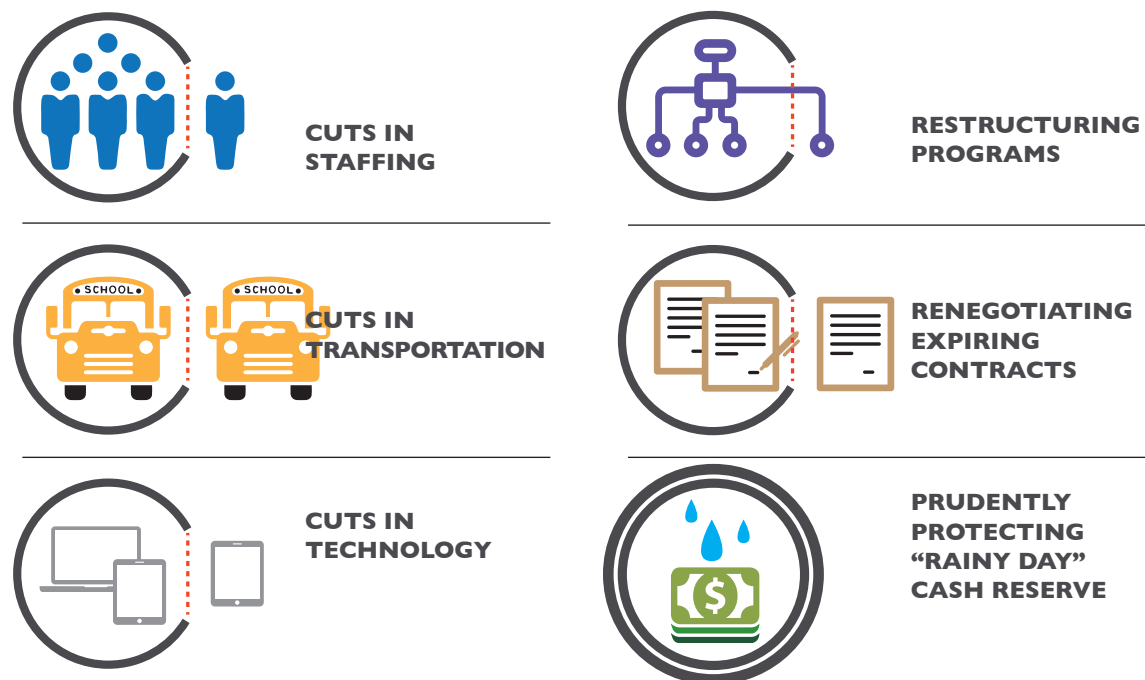
NO SCHOOL DISTRICT INCOME TAX FUNDING IN EFFECT

2011 FUNDING STRETCHED THREE MORE YEARS

JANUARY 1, 2017 ← → CURRENT 2019

Prudent use of funds allowed us to stretch five-year funding to operate for three additional years with minimal impact on students.

WE DID THIS THROUGH:



DEFICIT SPENDING OF \$5 MILLION 2020-2021 AND ON

The dollars we were able to stretch will now be gone, and we will be deficit spending approximately \$5,304,600 in the next two years.

What does this look like for our students, district and community? In order to balance our budget and operate by spending less than we bring in, the Board of Education has approved the following cuts for the 2020-2021 school year, which will be implemented unless additional funds become available through a levy passing in November 2019. The district is currently estimating spending \$2,953,113 more than we are bringing in for the 2020-2021 school year, with nearly \$1.4 million in additional deficit spending projected in 2021. Therefore, additional adjustments may need to be made to balance the budget for the 2020-2022 school year.

Cuts that will take effect in 2020-2021 to balance the budget unless additional funds become available

CUT	SAVINGS
Change graduation requirements from 22 credits to 20 credits	\$0
All extracurricular activities (athletics & clubs)	\$96,146
All co-curricular activities that involve students leaving school (band & FFA)	\$4,131
All field trips at all levels	\$0
No AP courses	\$5,500
No 9-12 bussing regardless of pick-ups (no high school pick up regardless of who is at the stop); no 2-mile radius transportation	\$19,146
Half-time lawn mowing only - mowing will be completed every other week	\$9,870
Change heating and cooling set points	TBD
6-Period day	\$0
No study halls	\$0
Discontinue 1:1 initiative	\$82,800
No new busses	\$100,000
No new van purchase	\$25,000
Network administrator	\$105,685*
Calendar change for classified staff - secretary, cooks, aides, bus drivers	\$16,238
No curricular updates (No \$ slated for 2020-2021; \$150,000 for 2021-2022)	\$0
No CTE teachers - 4 teachers and all extended days (-funding received for salary)	\$270,618
K-5 teachers (6)	\$492,881
6-8 teachers - 6th Math, 6th ELA, 8th ELA (3)	\$267,897
High school IS (1)	\$97,802*
Technology teachers (2)	\$147,965*
Visual arts teachers (3)	\$203,414*
Music teachers (2)	\$173,721*
Physical education teachers (2)	\$189,091*
Guidance counselors (2 plus the cost of social workers)	\$119,343*
Part-time secretaries (2)	\$34,110*
Aides, study hall monitor, technology (4.5)	\$138,719*
Custodian	\$58,356*
Athletic assistant	\$17,874*
Athletic trainer (annual agreement amount)	\$16,000
Foreign language	\$21,958*
Custodian supervisor	\$42,014*
Close K-2 Building and '77 Gym	\$56,347
Custodians (3)	\$186,385
Health aide	\$49,880
Cooks (4)	\$78,086
TOTAL K-2 Closing Savings	\$370,698

TOTAL SAVINGS necessary to balance the budget **\$3,126,975**

*Cost includes full price to employ staff member including benefits package.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Have questions about how taxpayer money is being spent, how our school is funded, or anything else relating to the district finances? We will be glad to talk with you and share any information you are eager to know. Please take the time to ask.

Call: J.B. Dick, Superintendent, or Jill Bradford, Treasurer

2019-2020 SCHOOL FEES

KINDERGARTEN - \$14.60

Writing Journals: \$4.60 • Technology Fee: \$5 • Art Fee: \$5

1ST GRADE - \$22.75

Scholastic News Subscription: \$5.75 • National Geographic Science: \$4.60
Words I Use When I Write: \$2.40 • Technology Fee: \$5 • Art Fee: \$5

2ND GRADE - \$16.75

Scholastic News and Science Spin Subscription: \$6.75 • Technology Fee: \$5 • Art Fee: \$5

3RD GRADE - \$29.23

Eureka Workbook: \$15 • Book Pouches: \$6.04 • Science Fee: \$3.19 • Technology Fee: \$5

4TH GRADE - \$27.49

Eureka Workbook: \$15 • Super Science: \$7.49 • Technology Fee: \$5

5TH GRADE - \$30.71

Eureka Workbook: \$15 • Scholastic News and Science Spin: \$7.41 • Planner: \$3.30 • Technology Fee: \$5

6TH GRADE - \$54.00

Digital Art: \$10 • Science: \$10 • Junior Scholastic: \$9 • Chromebook Insurance: \$25

Please note: Middle/High School fees are contingent on classes.

LUNCH/BREAKFAST PRICES

Breakfast: \$0.60 (increase \$0.25 from 2018-2019)
High School & Middle School Lunch: \$3.00 (same)
Elementary & Primary Lunch: \$2.75 (same)

PAY TO PARTICIPATE FEES

\$175 per season for athletics/cheer*
\$125 per season for band*
\$25 per extracurricular activity

*There is a \$175 per student per season cap for athletics, cheer and band.

STRATEGIC PLAN

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 10, the Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools Board of Education approved a resolution accepting the district's new strategic plan, which includes a vision statement, mission statement, core values and four overarching district goals. Upon the plan's completion, it will be available on the district website.

Strategic plan efforts began in late winter and continued through the spring with a diverse group of nearly 40 district staff and community members. The work was facilitated by the Ohio School Boards Association.

As work continues, action teams representing each of the four goal areas will outline specific and measurable strategies to work toward the district's vision. The Board of Education has committed to overseeing and guiding the work of the strategic plan by incorporating discussion of the goals in each of its board meetings. Efforts will include communicating progress about the plan through the district's website and social media, which directly aligns with one of the plan's four goals: communication.

A-C VISION STATEMENT

Lead with Innovation
Commit to Excellence
Unite in Purpose

A-C MISSION STATEMENT

Growing the whole child through innovative educational experiences to provide all students the opportunity to Aspire, Create, Empower, Succeed.

OUR GOALS

• **Education and Academic Opportunities** – A-C offers a diverse curriculum, support and retains high-quality staff who provide resources to ensure every student meets their full potential.

• **Communications** – Through the consistent and timely dissemination of relevant information using all types of media, A-C communicates effectively with all members of the school community.

• **Growth and Change** – With a mindset of growth and change, A-C uses best practices and relevant evidence to innovate and build a school community that is successful today and will be tomorrow.

• **Financial Health** – Through sound decision-making and efficient management practices, A-C maximizes its resources to ensure the provision of a successful educational environment as well as long-term financial stability.