



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT



As you probably heard this winter when I announced my departure, my last day as superintendent will be July 31, 2022.

I am grateful for the nearly 30 years I've been fortunate enough to serve this district as superintendent, Primary principal and Elementary principal. I take heart knowing our students will continue being led into the future by our incredible group of teachers and staff, and the district's new superintendent, Mr. Timothy Edwards.

Thank you, again, for your support throughout the decades! It has been a pleasure working alongside each of you to support our students, past and present.

With much gratitude,

**J.B. Dick**, *Outgoing Superintendent, Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools*



Greetings! First and foremost, I want to share how excited I am to join this great community as the new Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools superintendent! From the moment I visited Amanda, even during my first stop at the gas station, it was apparent that I was in a community that is proud of their school, proud of their community and proud of working hard to succeed together.

Each person I have interacted with is tremendously proud to be an Ace. There is an inspiring energy that comes from multiple generations who show their passion for the success of the school and the future of the community.

From my time becoming an Ace, I have witnessed that Amanda-Clearcreek is committed to a winning culture. The atmosphere celebrates growth and progress of the individual, but is focused on the collective win; together, A-C moves forward.

My wife, Mandy, and I are eager to become part of this community and I'm excited to work as a team to build upon prior success to uphold Amanda-Clearcreek as an exemplar district.

**To get to know Mr. Edwards better, please see the Q&A inside this newsletter.**

With much gratitude,

**Timothy Edwards**, *Incoming Superintendent, Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools*

## STAY CONNECTED!

If you are on Twitter and would like to hear about more A-C happenings, please follow:

- A-C District: @amandaacesk12
- A-C Athletics: @amandaathletics
- A-C High School: @ACHS\_Aces
- A-C Elementary: ac\_elementary

**f FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

## 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.



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**Children who will be five years old by July 31, 2022, are eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten** for the 2022-23 school year. If you know a family with a child who meets this criteria, please pass the word on to them.

For more information, call A-C Primary at 740-969-7254.

# STUDENT HAPPENINGS

## A-C FFA MEMBERS CONTINUE TRADITION OF STATE CONTEST WINS



**State Nature Interpretation:** Congratulations to Riley McKeska, Mercedes Draper, Travis Spence, Zach Julian, AJ Dossman and Josie Speakman for placing first in the state of Ohio in the Nature Interpretation career development event (CDE) contest. This is the fourth time the A-C FFA Chapter has won this state contest.



**State Speaking:** Congratulations to Hannah Saum for winning the state speaking contest in the extemporaneous speaking CDE! We'd also like to congratulate Sara Sharp for placing fifth in the state for the senior prepared category. Hannah will advance to the national contest this fall at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

## A-C FFA MEMBERS RECEIVE STATE DEGREES



Congratulations to Emily Buckley, Logan Craycraft, Riley McKeska and Hannah Saum for receiving their State FFA Degree!

## A-C ELEMENTARY STUDENTS HELP SET WORLD RECORD FOR KINDNESS PAPERCHAIN



Amanda-Clearcreek Elementary students are changing the world with their hope and kindness! Students participated in the Kindness Unites Paperchain project by creating their own chains of hope and love. We are so proud of our third, fourth and fifth graders who helped set this world record. Open the camera on your smartphone and scan the QR code to watch the video.

## A-C SENIORS RECEIVE AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY CERTIFICATIONS



Congratulations to the 14 A-C Ag Ed seniors who received their professional welding certifications through the American Welding Society. Students prepared for testing throughout the A-C Ag Power class and completed certification exams at Columbus State Community College. This certification provides career readiness for a variety of skilled trade careers.

## STUDENT ATHLETIC COMMISSION



A Student Athletic Commission was formed this year to bring students and athletic leadership together to identify and support mental health challenges relating to sports, to evaluate processes and procedures, and to identify challenges – and find solutions – relating to A-C athletics. This year, the group's 20 student athletes and Kaz Pata, A-C athletic director, worked together to brainstorm benefits for keeping a no-contact period during the summer, ways to increase student attendance at sporting events, and ideas for preventing trash from being left in the stands.

## NEW: SUMMER BOOK NOOK

A-C Primary is excited to announce the ACP Summer Book Nook at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays from May 31 through July 26. Join us at the A-C Primary playground to listen to a story and use our new "Little Library." Bring a book and borrow a book, and play with friends after!

# YOUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT



After a three-month recruiting and interviewing process, the A-C Board of Education awarded a three-year contract to Mr. Timothy R. Edwards earlier this year.

Mr. Edwards has served as principal of River Valley High School in the Gallia County Local School District for the past 11 years. Prior to his principal role, he served the district as a high school mathematics teacher and the Title I/Literacy Coordinator.

Mr. Edwards earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Morehead State University in Morehead, Ky.; a master's degree in leadership studies from Marshall University in South Charleston, W.Va.; an Ohio superintendent's license from Ohio University; and a doctorate in educational leadership from Morehead State University. He also holds a treasurer's license and a CDL bus driver's license.

Here is some information from a recent Q&A session to help you get to know Mr. Edwards on a more personal level!

## WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WORK IN EDUCATION?

I have always pictured myself involved in education in some format. In addition to my sister, there are many educators and school employees in my extended family. My own educational experience was very enjoyable. Growing up, I was fortunate to have many positive experiences both in the classroom and through extracurricular activities. I was also fortunate to have teachers and coaches who inspired me to perform my best, many of whom I continue to have a relationship with today. My experiences have shown me that adults can have a great impact on young people and I wanted to be a positive influence as well. I strive to show young people that learning and school activities can bring enjoyment and positive experiences to their lives.

## DID YOU PLAY ANY SPORTS AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DURING SCHOOL?

In high school, I participated in track and cross country, as well as marching and concert bands. While in marching and concert bands, I played the saxophone and the tuba. I was also a member of the National Beta Club, Key Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

While in college, I was a member of the Collegiate Middle Level Association and was active in the education department. I was also a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, which facilitates the North American Food Drive (currently referred to as Feeding America).

## WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL?

My favorite subject was history and social studies. I loved to understand the relationship history and society have played in forming and impacting the world's history. The most impactful course I had was a World Regional Geography class, which explored how political geography, physical geography, culture and history impacts groups of people.

## WHAT IS THE LAST GOOD BOOK YOU READ OR MOVIE YOU WATCHED?

My all-time favorite author when reading for enjoyment is John Grisham. Although many of the plots in Grisham's books are similar, law with a hint of action and suspense peaks my interest every time. My all-time favorite Grisham book is *The Brethren*. I enjoy comedies and action movies. Recently, I have been watching again some of my favorites which include *Hidden Figures*, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* and *Wildcats*.

## WHAT IS A QUOTE THAT INSPIRES YOU?

"The key to developing an effective organization is creating an environment that values both relationships and results."  
- Ken Blanchard

## PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My wife, Mandy, and I met in college and married in July 2010. We have two dogs, Buxton and Dutch. Buxton is a small Yorkie-Shih Tzu mix with a huge attitude. Dutch is a docile Australian-Shepherd – Black Lab mix. We have numerous nieces and nephews who we love spending time with in Gallia and Pickaway Counties.

## PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOBBIES AND ACTIVITIES.

Mandy and I love to spend time traveling and visiting new places. We have friends who live in Kentucky and Tennessee who we visit throughout the year. We also enjoy hiking in the Hocking Hills, trails throughout Vinton County and Fayetteville, W.Va. We love to travel and really enjoy the Dominican Republic. We also enjoy skiing. At the beginning of the pandemic, we purchased two kayaks and have fun floating on various lakes. Our usual routine is one where I attempt to fish and Mandy reads books while she floats in the sun. Typically, she catches more sunrays than I catch fish.

For the past 10 years, we have served as teachers in the preschool classroom at our church and have helped lead vacation bible schools. We have also been active members of the Gallipolis Lions Club, through which we enjoyed participating in our annual Children's Christmas Project.

# INSPIRING LEARNING

## DURING SUMMER BREAK

School may be coming to an end, but that doesn't mean learning has to end! Keep your kids engaged and stimulated over the summer with these tips.

### 1. GET CREATIVE!

Think about what motivates your kids and try to build that into your summer learning strategy. Do they excel with rewards? Start a sticker chart with goals and prizes. Do they like public recognition? Have a "Star of the Week" award and host a mini ceremony. Do they like to lead? Have them help you plan the week's activities. Here are just a few ideas to get you started!

- Join the Fairfield County District Library's Summer Reading Program! Call 740-969-2785 for more information.
- Assign each child to develop a week's lesson plan and theme for the whole family. Themes could include pirates, farming, princesses, bugs, zoo animals, camping, sports, etc. – the sky is the limit! The lesson plan could include themed craft projects, field trips, food, fun facts, games and more.

### 2. MAKE IT FUN!

The key to keeping kids engaged in learning over the summer is to make it fun! Here are just a few ideas to get you started:

- Use elements found in nature for age-appropriate teaching opportunities. For example, assign a number and have them gather a particular item (such as sticks). Use these to practice counting, addition, subtraction and/or multiplication.
- Host a weekly spelling test outside with sidewalk chalk.
- Go letter-fishing! Write letters on ping-pong balls and place them in a small pool of water. Have kids fish out letters with small nets and see who can create the most words. This is like a more hands-on, exciting version of Scrabble.

### 3. HIT THE ROAD!

Who doesn't love a fun field trip? A weekly learning-focused field trip is a great way to keep kids engaged and inspired to learn. So many places within a short drive have free or reduced admission; we've included some of our favorites here. Please search online or call each location for hours, free/reduced admission days, and to ask any questions.

#### Within Fairfield County

- **AHA! A Hands-On Adventure A Children's Museum\*** – 740-653-1010
- Alley Park – 740-681-5025
- American Motorcycle Association Hall of Fame Museum – 614-856-1900
- Decorative Arts Center of Ohio – 740-681-1423
- **Georgian Museum\*** – 740-654-9923
- Historical Aircraft Squadron at the Fairfield County Airport – 740-653-4778
- **Ohio Glass Museum\*** – 740-687-0101
- Rock Mill Weekends (Tour & Grinding Demonstrations) – 740-681-7249
- **Sherman House Museum\*** – 740-687-5891
- Whakeena Nature Preserve – 800-297-1883

#### Just Beyond Fairfield County

- A.W. Marion State Park at Hargus Lake – 740-467-2690
- **Columbus Museum of Art\*** – 614-221-6801
- Columbus Park of Roses – 614-645-3391
- **Dawes Arboretum\*** – 740-323-2355
- Fairy Trail at Infirmity Park in Granville – 740-587-2535
- Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens – 614-715-8000
- Hocking Hills State Parks – 740-385-6842
- Motts Military Museum – 614-836-1500
- Newark Earthworks – 740-344-0498
- Ohio Village at the Ohio Historical Society – 800-686-6124
- Slate Run Living Historical Farm – 614-833-1880
- Splash Pad at the Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Park – 740-474-9502
- The Planetarium at COSI (and all COSI exhibits) – 614-228-2674
- Velvet Ice Cream Tour & Tasting – 800-589-5000

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FREE PASSES!

\*Passes can be checked out for free admission to these locations through the Fairfield County District Library.



#### DON'T FORGET

Work smarter, not harder! Take advantage of great ideas other parents have already implemented by searching the internet for fun ideas!



#### NOTE:

Fourth graders can get into any national park for free! To learn more, visit [EveryKidOutdoors.gov](http://EveryKidOutdoors.gov).

# FINANCES IN A FLASH

## THANK YOU, COMMUNITY!

We wanted to share our sincere gratitude to the community for supporting us financially by passing our levy. Thank you for your contribution to our school, and for trusting us with this important investment in our community, and our future.

Our district needed this funding to not only sustain our incredible educational curriculum in classrooms, but also to perform necessary upkeep and maintenance on our aging buildings.

For those who have been in this community for decades, it may seem like our buildings are new. But, in reality, our buildings have reached the 20-year mark, and that age requires infrastructure maintenance and upkeep.

### Thanks to our community's generosity and restored funding, we have:



- Rolled out the K-2 1:1 Program to ensure all students in all grades have the technological learning tools necessary for today's educational standards.



- Purchased new buses to replace old, unreliable buses in our fleet.



- Made critical HVAC upgrades. These efficiency measures saved \$60,000 in electric and gas costs in the first four months alone.



- Resurfaced the track, providing a safe surface for physical education and athletics.



- Upgraded our infrastructure to make the whole campus Internet-accessible, which has provided enhanced learning opportunities for students.



- Increased staff to meet district growth and provide additional learning opportunities.



- Opened our own preschool program to ensure we're preparing our students for kindergarten.



- Facilitated infrastructure improvement and maintenance across all buildings.

### We're also in the process of exploring other infrastructure projects, both through the five-year forecast and federal grants:

- Safety upgrades in the '77 Gym (this is both a school and a community space)
- Playground resurfacing and equipment additions for ADA compliance to ensure students who use wheelchairs, walkers or crutches can access the playground (they currently can't safely do so in the mulch)
- Band room expansion

### STATE FUNDING UPDATE

The state funding formula has recently changed, so we wanted to share the impact this has on our district. Through the new Fair School Funding Plan, the state evaluates the local "capacity" for funding based on income and property taxes, and then calculates how much state funding will be given to each district.

Some districts, particularly in urban communities, favored from this funding change. Districts who were determined to have strong local capacity saw a reduction in funding (sometimes drastic), resulting in the need to pass local levies.

Because our district's property values are high and our income is above average, the state share has decreased slightly. The income tax levy passed by our community is more critical than ever before, as it balances our state contribution change and minimizes the impact on our district.

## STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Our last strategic plan update was developed before the passing of our levy and COVID-19 impacts. Our Board of Education and administration have been bringing community members and staff together to fine-tune the strategic plan to ensure we're being good stewards. This new five-year forecast will be available on the district website soon; please don't hesitate to reach out to the superintendent or treasurer with any questions.



## IMPORTANT REMINDER:

It's imperative for eligible parents/guardians to complete the Free and Reduced Lunch application every year, as this is what determines our district's federal funding level. Please be sure to complete these forms over the summer for next school year; contact the district office with any questions at 740-969-7250.

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**You asked**  
 for more communication ...  
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**OPEN TO SEE**  
**SUMMER LEARNING**  
**TIPS, A Q&A WITH**  
**MR. EDWARDS & MORE!**

**SIGN UP**  
 FOR OUR A-C  
**E-NEWSLETTERS**  
 bit.ly/2DXWUEJ  
 or go to Resources on the A-C website.

**Sign up for AC text Alerts!**  
 Text TEC to 64085  
 to sign up for  
 text alerts.



**2022 GRADUATION**  
 We will celebrate the  
 Class of 2022 at 7 p.m.  
 on Friday, May 20, in  
 Gym 1 at the 3-12 Building.  
 Congratulations to our  
 seniors and their families!

**MAY 20:** Graduation at 7 p.m.  
**MAY 26:** Students' last day (grade cards sent home)  
**JULY 1-8:** No contact period for athletics & extracurriculars  
**AUG. 16:** First day for students

*For a full calendar for both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, please visit the district website.*

- Meet your NEW Superintendent
- Finances in a Flash
- Kindergarten Registration
- Student Happenings
- Staff Recognitions
- Summer Learning Tips

**DISTRICT CALENDAR**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**CONGRATS, A-C STAFF!**



**A-C AG EDUCATOR RECOGNIZED AS GOLDEN OWL HONOREE**

Congratulations to Jeff Tilley, A-C agricultural educator and FFA advisor, for being recognized as a 2022 Golden Owl Award Honoree! The Golden Owl Award recognizes ag educators for their tremendous contributions in preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders. Mr. Tilley is in the running for the 2022 Ag Educator of the Year Award, announced at the Ohio FFA Convention.

**A-C ATHLETIC DIRECTOR NOMINATED FOR HORIZON AWARD**

Congratulations to Kaz Pata, A-C athletic director, for being nominated for the Horizon Award. Given by the Central Ohio Interscholastic Administrators Association, the award is presented to an active athletic administrator who has made a difference in their school or conference within their first five years.