

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

**OPEN TO SEE A
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT!**

A-C COMMUNICATOR

WINTER 2019



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT



I hope your holidays were filled with joy, and that your new year is off to a great start.

As you can see, we have made some changes to our newsletter. Please keep an eye on your mailboxes each quarter as we share key things about our district, including what's new in the district, safety and financial updates, student spotlights and much more. We heard from the community that you want more information and communication, and we are doing our best to meet this request! I hope you will enjoy the articles that showcase our wonderful students and staff included in this newsletter. Please also take a moment to sign up for our electronic newsletter, delivered to your email twice a month - go to bit.ly/2DxwUEj to sign up.

A few items of note ...

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board of Education is working with the Ohio School Board Association to develop a strategic plan for the district. This four- to six-month process brings together stakeholders from throughout the community to create a transparent plan to guide the district over the next several years. If you would like to be a stakeholder on the Strategic Planning committee, please contact me at jdick@amanda.k12.oh.us or 740-969-7250.

SAFETY

Safety of our students, staff and community has always been and will continue to be the number one priority each and every day. Several enhancements have been made over the past year to enhance that safety.

- To ensure first responders can quickly enter the building where they're needed in the event of an emergency, we have installed letters above doors and numbers on each window on the buildings' exteriors.
- We have added a new camera system that provides enhanced clarity and abundant monitoring locations. The camera system is a valuable tool in regards to emergency situations and the investigation of theft, bullying and hazing incidents.
- We have placed Bolo sticks in classrooms. These are one-step door barricade devices that create an additional point of reinforcement to the locks on the doors.
- In the K-2 building, we are adding shatter-resistant film to the classroom doors. The doors are currently full-glass, which would allow an intruder to shatter the glass to enter.
- Panic switches have been added at every secretary and principal desk. These allow a secretary or principal to remotely close doors to hallways, which prevents an intruder from having access to hallways.
- Our Board of Education approved a Professional Development Day on May 6, during which our staff will undergo an active shooter emergency drill with the Fairfield County Sheriff Department, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, local fire departments and other first responders.

BULLYING

The community survey indicated there are concerns about bullying at school. While this is a complex issue facing every school district across the country, we are committed to doing everything we can to address this issue. As a first step, we have created a bullying section on our website to specifically provide information about our policies, how we make decisions and resources for students, parents and families - including our hotline: 740-675-1970, option 7, and amanda.tipline.info.

Continued on next page ...

WHAT'S NEW

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TUTORS

The Board of Education recently approved an agreement with Columbus City Schools to establish tutoring for A-C students who are admitted at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. This partnership ensures that students who miss school for medical purposes have the support they need to keep academics at the forefront when appropriate and safe to do so.

CHROMEBOOKS

At the start of this school year, implementation of Chromebooks was finalized with high school students. In 2014, the Board of Education established a goal of providing our students with 21st Century learning tools - Chromebooks, which allow our students to have up-to-date information and innovative programs right at their fingertips, without additional expenses of books! The rollout began in the fall of 2016 with the sixth-grade students, with middle school students receiving Chromebooks in the fall of 2017.

The board set aside funds received from Medicaid settlements in the five-year forecast to prepare for this implementation. The Ohio Department of Medicaid has been auditing prior years' Medicaid cost reports, which has resulted in the district receiving a settlement. The board agreed to earmark these funds to help pay for the Chromebook project.

THE AMANDA-CLEARCREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT STRIVES TO ...

- Provide a world-class education in an intimate classroom setting that fosters strong relationships with teachers and passion for life-long learning.
- Provide an unprecedented learning environment in which students feel comfortable, safe, respected and valued.
- Foster a learning environment in which the student, staff, caretakers and community all play an active role in the success of the student.
- Instill a pride for our community in all students and staff members.
- Provide transparency in everything we do.
- Be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars to ensure financial stability for the district.

NO SCHOOL • Spring Break	APR 18-22
Genealogy Night • Room 1100 • 7-8:30 p.m.	MAR 21
NO SCHOOL for Students: Professional Development Day	MAR 15
End of Third Nine Weeks	MAR 14
Parent-Teacher Conferences • 5-8:30 p.m.	MAR 12
Parent-Teacher Conferences • 5-8:30 p.m.	MAR 7
NO SCHOOL • Presidents' Day	FEB 18
NO SCHOOL • Teacher In-Service Day	FEB 15



- A Message from Your Superintendent
- Finances in a Flash
- What's New
- Student Spotlight
- A-C Pride: Community & Giving Back

SCHOOL CALENDAR

IN THIS ISSUE:

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

We would like to highlight several members of our FFA chapter for their tremendous success at recent Career Development Event competitions.

In December, four members of the A-C FFA Chapter competed in the Job Interview contest, with all four members receiving outstanding individual placements. Congratulations to Ellie Sahr for placing second in Ohio in the Senior Division, and to the following individuals who won their respective divisions and advanced to the state final round: Morgan Anderson, who placed second in the state of Ohio; Kiley Holbrook, who placed third; and Sara Sharp, who earned fifth place. Three of four members advancing to the state finals is something that no other school in Ohio has done before.

In October, the Agricultural Communications team placed eighth in the national CDE competition, to which they advanced after winning the state earlier in the year. The team was comprised of Aaron Sharp, Noah Smith, Emma Dearth and Paige Hinton.

For 10 years in a row, and 14 of the last 15 years, A-C FFA teams and individuals have placed in national CDE competitions, placing in the top 10 in the nation an impressive eight times, with six of these placing in the top five in the country.



ROOF UPDATES

As you have seen, the roof on the 3-12 building is nearly complete, and the K-2 roof replacement will begin in the spring.

As I indicated last fall, the roof material is Polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which was selected because of the warranty, appearance and cost. This roof comes with a complete 100-percent, 20-year warranty with a life expectancy of 30 years. It is virtually maintenance-free and easily repairable if damaged for any reason. In addition, our design architect, CTL, made a recommendation for the PVC system as the best option.

We know there have been many questions about the cost and state warranties/coverage of these costs for replacement and repairs, so we'd like to explain those a bit here.

When the building was built, it was with funds split 85 percent from the State of Ohio School Facilities Commission and 15 percent from local funding. The 3-12 building roof has been replaced twice already, making this the third round of repairs needed. The district has been diligent in making sure warranties were used each time, but because of the ongoing issues with this type of roof, we determined it did not make sense to keep repairing the roof with the same materials, which is why we are going with a PVC roofing system.

Due to the good record keeping of the district, we had enough evidence that the state again provided financial assistance. The State of Ohio is covering 85 percent of the cost of what a shingle roof would cost - \$3,143,616. We are applying this funding to the installation of a PVC roof. Because we are using the more effective materials, the district must make up the difference, which was estimated at \$1,075,000 for both the K-2 and 3-12 buildings.

School funding is EXTREMELY COMPLEX,

so please know that we warmly welcome the opportunity to walk you through school funding in more detail and answer any questions you have. Please contact our treasurer to schedule an appointment. Also, feel free to research this further on the Ohio Department of Education website - just look for CUPP Reports.

FINANCES IN A FLASH

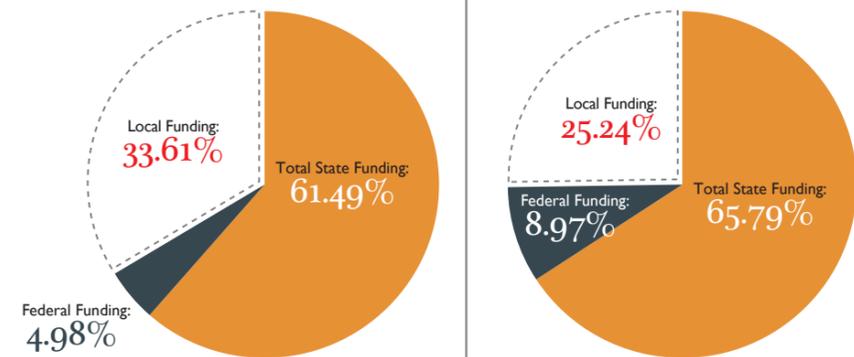
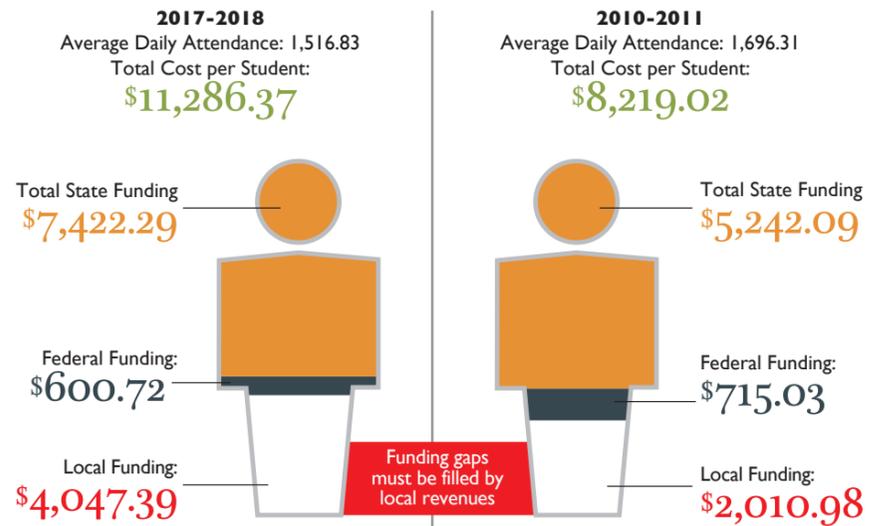
Have you wondered why the district needs money? Like all organizations and businesses, our costs rise each year. When you combine these increased costs with decreased state and federal funding, you can see why it becomes a challenge.

School funding is a complex issue, but simply put, our federal funding has been cut in half since the 2010-11 school year, and state funding has dropped nearly 10 percent in the last five years.

State funding is based on three things: income taxes, land values and wealth. Each district is given a state share percentage ranging from 5-90 percent. In 2018, the state of Ohio has determined that each student in Ohio receives \$6,020, but each district only gets their determined percentage of that funding amount for each student. This year, our district receives 57.4 percent of that \$6,020, or \$3,455.48 per student. The remaining \$2,564.52 is expected to come from the district through local levies. This is important to share, because like federal funding, our state funding has decreased. Over the last five years, our state share funding has dropped from 67.2 percent to 57.4 percent—a nearly 10-percent drop in just five years.

Therefore, to keep the same academic programs going in school districts across the state, like here at A-C, funding falls on the local communities.

A-C'S TOTAL COST TO EDUCATE A STUDENT



50% LESS
IN FEDERAL FUNDING
OVER LAST NINE YEARS

9.8% LESS
IN STATE FUNDING OVER
THE LAST FIVE YEARS

THERE ARE A FEW OTHER THINGS THAT FALL INTO THE FUNDING EQUATION.

UNANTICIPATED COSTS

Our district has experienced unanticipated costs that have also impacted our bottom line.

- In the 2017/18 school year alone, \$356,061.47 in state funding left our district for community and charter schools, including online and STEM.
- As the unfortunate occurrences of school shootings has increased, our district has taken aggressive action to protect our children. We have gone above and beyond mandates, investing \$178,573.39 in 2018 alone in enhanced security measures (including those listed in this newsletter) to ensure our students are as safe as possible. We believe you can't put a price on safety and giving our children peace of mind as they sit in a classroom.
- We spent \$35,091.06 in 2018 to improve safety at our facilities. An example of this was adding steps and handrails to improve safety at the '77 Gym.

SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

To ensure we're responsible stewards of our finances, the district always looks for new and innovative ways to operate as cost-effectively as possible. Here are a few examples.

\$92,000 - LED LIGHT & ENERGY SAVINGS

Through an energy conservation project, we'll save \$920,000 over 10 years after our return on investment is met.

\$88,116 - ACES DIGITAL ACADEMY

Launched this year, the Aces Digital Academy was created to allow our students to complete online schooling and graduate from A-C, rather than having to enroll in other online/charter schools. As a secondary benefit, this prevents funding dollars from leaving the district, and increases funding for students who enroll from other districts. For 2018-19 alone, the district retained \$76,076 of state share funding for the 22 students in the district. If those 22 students chose to complete online/charter schooling outside of the district, A-C would have given \$132,440 in funding to those schools. The academy will also bring the district \$12,040 in funding through open enrollments for the school year from other districts. We know this is confusing, so we'll share more about this concept in the next newsletter—stay tuned!

FUN FACT:
A-C is leading the way! Lancaster is the only other district in Fairfield County to have a digital academy like ours.

\$47,781 - HVAC CONTRACT

A new HVAC contract provides a savings of \$47,781 annually.

\$25,000 - COPIER CONTRACT

A five-year copier contract negotiated in 2018 shows a savings of \$25,000 each year, totaling \$125,000 in savings during the contract period.

\$22,000 - CUSTODIAL SAVINGS

A reduction in custodial hours will save \$22,000.

\$6,100 - MOWING CONTRACT

A new three-year mowing contract will save \$6,100 annually, with a total savings of \$18,300.

\$5,000 - EMIS/CENTRAL REGISTRATION

A reduction in contracted days will save \$5,000 this year.

\$3,500 - TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT

A transportation agreement with Berne Union will save \$3,500 this year.

Immeasurable - SHARED SERVICES

By purchasing insurance, utilities, school buses, operating supplies and other services through consortiums, we leverage pricing. One example we can calculate: We saved \$11,534 last year on insurance alone.

\$289,497 - THAT'S NEARLY \$300,000 IN ONE YEAR!

A-C PRIDE: COMMUNITY & GIVING BACK

We're proud of our students and staff members for not only their community pride, but also their continued dedication to giving back to this community, and those around us in need.



ACES AGAINST CANCER

During the fall athletic season, the Amanda-Clearcreek Athletic Department and A-C Coaches Club joined forces to host the third annual Aces Against Cancer Week, which raised an astounding \$20,013.97 for The James Cancer Hospital.

Aces Against Cancer was created to honor and remember those impacted by cancer, while raising funds for cancer research and teaching our students about paying it forward. Throughout the week-long event, students sold T-shirts, 50/50 raffle tickets, honor and memory plaques, and Chain of Hope links.



CHELSEA'S CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Primary, Elementary and Middle School students raised \$6,400 to support Chelsea's Christmas for Kids. The annual effort sponsors Christmas festivities for local families in need to honor Chelsea Hedrick, the late daughter of Ralph and Angie Hedrick, who passed away at 14 months due to a genetic disease.

Founded in 1996, this program has raised \$90,000, helping 731 families in need - and 1,900 children - in the Amanda-Clearcreek community.