



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT



Amanda-Clearcreek Community,

It's hard to believe we're already nearing the second half of the academic year! I want to start by thanking each of you for making my first year at Amanda-Clearcreek such a joyous and collaborative transition. This is truly a community of kind people who are passionate about their school district – I'm so grateful to be here and to be focused on the success of our students!

We have lots of exciting things to share in this newsletter. Please be sure to read about this year's new grading system for school districts and our new opt-in process for mailings. We're hoping this new process will help us maintain consistent communications while being as fiscally responsible as possible.

As we approach the holiday season, we want to wish you a **Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!**

With much gratitude,  
**Dr. Timothy Edwards**, Superintendent, Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools

## FINANCES IN A FLASH

### ODE GRANT PROVIDES AFTERSCHOOL FUNDING

The district is partnering with Ohio University-Lancaster to implement an afterschool literacy program. This program is funded entirely by a grant from the Ohio Department of Education in an effort to increase collaboration between higher education and primary schools to strengthen literacy among younger students. Read more inside this newsletter.

### BUS RIDER IMPACT ON FUNDING

If you already receive our e-newsletter, you likely saw that October 3-7 was our state's district transportation count week, which factors the number of riders on district buses and vehicles to determine transportation funding. The count from this week is what the state uses to calculate our transportation funding for the entire district.

### SCOREBOARD FUNDING

Have you noticed the new digital scoreboard at the football stadium? As we've shared in past editions, this gives students the opportunity to learn real-world job skills. High school students can interact with the board, through which they learn how to build digital content for the scoreboard. We are grateful for our community sponsors who funded this scoreboard and provided new career-readiness opportunities for our students! Those sponsors include:

#### Lifetime Sponsorship

- Kingston National Bank

#### Premier Sponsorship

- Clearcreek Valley LLC
- Liberty Tax
- Midwest Fabricating Co.
- Tretton Inc.
- Veregy

#### Banner Sponsorship

- Ace Party Rental
- Buckeye Toyota
- Jeremy Mills & Associates/Rise Realty
- Key Realty/Cindy Collins
- Marshall Grain Co.
- Mount Carmel College of Nursing
- Pinkstock Homes
- Stoutsville Seed Shed
- Taylor-Theller Funeral Home
- The Dunn Group

#### Founding Sponsorship

- Amanda Family Dental

## NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We have many new staff members on our incredible team this year! Please join us in welcoming the following professionals to A-C:

### PRIMARY

- Kaitlyn Barnes - Preschool Intervention Specialist
- Kaleigh Bower - Primary Intervention Specialist
- Delaney Burns - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher
- Abigail Cuenca - Preschool Teacher
- Bethany Herron - Primary Intervention Specialist
- Tiffany Snider - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher
- Brandy Stewart - Preschool Secretary
- Karly Strong - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher
- Christa Wascher - Preschool Aide
- Crystal Wood - Primary Intervention Specialist

### ELEMENTARY

- Megan Lee - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Brad Bunting - Middle School Intervention Specialist
- Andrew Hutchinson - Middle School Science Teacher

### HIGH SCHOOL

- Billy Dennis - High School Principal
- Leslie Hatfield - High School Intervention Specialist
- Jamie Justus - High School Athletic Director
- Zoe Pickett - High School Intervention Specialist
- Amber Williams - High School Intervention Specialist

### COUNSELORS

- Lisa Knight - 6-12 Counselor
- Joanna Shipe - 6-12 Counselor

### DISTRICT STAFF

- Nikki Benson - Paraprofessional
- Ashley Boso - Paraprofessional
- Barbara Clark - Paraprofessional
- Angie Cline - Paraprofessional
- Angela Daugherty - Health Aide
- Sandra Davis - Paraprofessional
- Dr. Timothy R. Edwards - Superintendent
- Hunter Francis - Custodian
- Rebecca Frank - Paraprofessional
- Mary Jo Garret - Paraprofessional
- Nicholas Grady - Network Administrator
- Christy Hutchinson - Paraprofessional
- Ashley Jimmo - Paraprofessional
- Kari Karshner - District Administrative Assistant
- Angie Roberts - Paraprofessional
- Lindsay Sisler - Bus Driver
- Jenna Solenbarger - Paraprofessional
- Trena Tedrow - Cook/Cashier
- Angela Turner - Paraprofessional
- Elizabeth VanGundy - Business Teacher
- Tyler Webb - Custodian



**It's imperative for eligible parents/guardians to complete the Free and Reduced Lunch application every year.**

# STUDENT HAPPENINGS

## HOPE SQUAD IMPACTS 30+ STUDENTS

HOPE Squad ("Hold On. Persuade. Empower.") was launched in 2021 as a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program. More than 30 students have submitted online requests to talk to a HOPE Squad member, and even more have interacted with HOPE Squad members directly through social media, word of mouth, etc.

This year's HOPE Squad includes 12 students, six of whom returned from last year. This is our second year offering the program. We're grateful for this opportunity to impact lives, and ultimately, to help prevent suicide among our students.

HOPE Squad members go through an intensive training with approved HOPE Squad organization curriculum, covering topics like suicide warnings, bullying, depression and other social emotional needs of students. Through education, training and peer intervention, the purpose of the HOPE Squad is to prevent youth suicide and build peer-to-peer trusting relationships.

The HOPE Squad is comprised of high school students in each grade level and is overseen by Mrs. Gina Neff.



## A-C FFA RECEIVES TOP RATING; MEMBERS EXCEL AT CONTESTS



At this fall's National FFA Convention, the A-C FFA Chapter earned a three-star gold rating, which is the highest honor bestowed upon FFA chapters around the country and places A-C FFA in the top 3% of chapters across the nation.

Our FFA members have been busy competing at regional, district and national events. Congratulations to all A-C FFA members who have represented our chapter through various Career Development Event (CDE) contests.

### NATIONAL CONTESTS

These individuals have worked extremely hard for the rare opportunity to compete in the national CDE contests at the National FFA Convention, which requires winning the state contest to qualify.

- **National Speaking** – Congratulations to Hannah Saum for earning a bronze rating in extemporaneous public speaking at the national contest.
- **National Agricultural Issues** – Congratulations to Emily Buckley, Morgan Cowdrey, Riley McKeska, Autumn Parry, Karlee Parry and Josie Speakman, who also earned bronze ratings in Agricultural Issues at the national contest.

### DISTRICT CONTESTS

- **Job Interview** – Congratulations to Jillian Bennett for winning the state contest in her area in the Job Interview CDE; she will advance to the state finals at The Ohio State University. Also, congratulations to Hayden Dunn for placing sixth in the state in his area.

## A-C PRIDE: COMMUNITY & GIVING BACK

### CAPS TO BENCHES PROJECT

A-C High School student council, students and staff participated in a three-year project to convert plastic lids to benches, dedicated to our military. Due to COVID, this project took much longer than anticipated, but still became a reality thanks to the hard work of many. The five benches were completed in time for the start of fall sports and sit prominently on the sidelines of the athletic field.

This project would not have been possible without the help of many. We would like to extend special appreciation to the following:

- Our community members who donated lids.
- Our student council and other students who assisted with sorting and organizing lids.
- Our cafeteria team for washing the lids.
- Mr. Nick Philopoulos for transporting over 500 pounds of lids to Wadsworth, Ohio, to complete the final step.
- Plastics-R-Unique for assisting us with the project and providing an excellent product!





# WHAT'S NEW

## NEW: OPT-IN MAILING PROCESS

This printed newsletter was developed to meet the community's request for more transparency, and more communication about what is happening within the district. We hope you have found this communication helpful! However, we understand that a growing number of people are reading this newsletter in electronic form, so we are adapting our process to ensure we're balancing two priorities: Being great stewards of funds entrusted to us and providing consistent, transparent communications to residents throughout the district. By reducing the number of printed newsletters to homes who already read this electronically, we're able to save on printing and postage costs.

With support from the Amanda-Claircreek Board of Education, we're moving to an opt-in process for these newsletters. Going forward, you have two options for receiving these newsletters from the district:

### 1.) PAPER NEWSLETTER

If you'd like to continue receiving this paper newsletter in your mailbox, you must opt in by:



1. Calling Kari Karshner, our district secretary, at 740-969-7250.

-- OR --



2. Completing the short opt-in survey at [bit.ly/3U3CfPM](https://bit.ly/3U3CfPM) (or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone's camera).



To ensure all residents have more than one opportunity to opt in, we'll also be sending an opt-in postcard in the mail in the coming weeks.

**>> Required Action: Opt in**

### 2.) ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

These newsletters will continue to be available electronically through our e-newsletter, sent directly to your email inbox. If you are already signed up for the district e-newsletter, you don't need to take any further action. If you are not signed up already, you can scan this QR code to start receiving them going forward.



**>> Required Action: Sign up for the e-newsletter**

*Note: This opt-in process is scheduled to take place each year, so be on the lookout each spring for your chance to opt-in for the following academic year.*

## OHIO SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

The Ohio Department of Education recently released its 2021-2022 Ohio School Report Cards. Rather than using letter grades like in years past, schools now receive a star rating in six categories: achievement, progress, early literacy, gap closing, graduation and readiness. You can learn more about the report breakdown in the guide from ODE. Amanda-Claircreek Local Schools is using this updated rating system as an opportunity to set new goals for years ahead. We are working together to address the areas that we aspire to strengthen and uphold the areas of achievement and success.

## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

The district is excited to partner with Ohio University-Lancaster to implement an afterschool literacy program through a grant from ODE. This program is invitation-based and is focused on strengthening literacy in grades 1 and 2. Undergraduate students studying education will work with A-C teachers to offer the program as space is available.



## PLAYGROUND & FACILITY UPGRADES

The A-C Primary and Elementary playground updates are complete. Next time you drive by, you'll see a rubber surface rather than the mulch, which makes our playgrounds much more accessible for all students. We've also expanded the grass play area, added new musical equipment and ADA-accessible equipment. We are thrilled for our students to have an updated space to be physically active, learn through outdoor activities and play together.

Additionally, we're re-investing in our facilities to keep them in good condition. This includes updates to the roof on the '77 Gym.

## KICKIN' IT TO CANCER RECAP

This fall, Amanda-Claircreek staff, students and community members came together to BEAT cancer! The 2022 fundraiser ran September 6-10 and featured T-shirt sales, a "Claim that Tune" game, a community walk and prayer service, a new "Ladies Night at the Vineyard" event and a "Winds of Change" pinwheel display with over 300 people recognized. Special game jerseys were worn by boys soccer, girls soccer, volleyball, golf and cross country in honor and remembrance of approximately 75 loved ones impacted by cancer.

Thanks to the continued support of our extraordinary community, Aces Against Cancer was able to raise \$21,577.35 for patient care and cancer research this year! These funds were donated to the Fairfield Medical Center Foundation Cancer Care Fund, The Buckeye Cruise for Cancer Research Fund at The James and The Hawk Family Fund for Pediatric Radiation.

## FILL THE BUS

A-C Elementary students experienced the joy of helping others in the community by "filling the bus" ahead of the holiday season. Collections were gathered for local animal shelters, food pantries and homeless shelters.



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

**OPEN TO SEE**  
**DISTRICT FINANCES, NEW**  
**TEAM MEMBERS, STUDENT**  
**SUCCESSES & MORE**



**SIGN UP**  
**FOR OUR A-C**  
**E-NEWSLETTERS**  
**bit.ly/2DxwUE!**  
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.

*For a full 2022-23 school calendar, please visit the district website.*



**DEC. 21 - JAN. 2:** NO SCHOOL; Christmas Break  
**JAN. 3:** NO SCHOOL; Teacher In-Service  
**JAN. 4:** School Resumes  
**JAN. 16:** NO SCHOOL; Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
**JAN. 25:** TWO-HOUR LATE ARRIVAL

**DISTRICT CALENDAR**

**STAY**  
**CONNECTED!** 

If you're on Twitter and would like to hear  
about more A-C happenings, please be sure  
to follow these A-C accounts:

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

 **FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

## **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.

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