

Winter Athletic Highlights

- High School Boys Basketball:** Varsity 13-10 (7-4); JV 21-1; Freshman 15-0; Seniors—Brady Lock, Nathan Koller, Braylen Etherington, Rylan Murray, Caleb Burke, Luke Henninger, and Landon Byrne; Finished 4th place in the WOAC; 2023 Covington JV Boys Holiday Tournament CHAMPS; 2023-24 JV-B WOAC Tournament CHAMPS (6 teams); Regan Christ selected to the Covington Holiday All-Tournament Team. *Postseason Recognition:* WOAC Awards—1st Team-Regan Christ, 2nd Team-Landon Flatter, Special Mention-Brady Lock; District 9 Coaches Team—Regan Christ; All-Southwest District (Media)—2nd Team-Regan Christ.
- High School Girls Basketball:** Varsity 14-9 (9-2); JV 13-9 (8-2); Seniors—Ashlyn Miller, Rylee Leeper, Ava Gilbert; Finished 3rd place in the WOAC; 2023 Covington Varsity Girls Holiday Tournament CHAMPS; Covington Holiday All-Tournament Team—Brooke Anderson-MVP, Caroline Long, Alexis Gibbons. *Postseason Recognition:* WOAC Awards—1st Team-Caroline Long and Alexis Gibbons, 2nd Team-Brooke Anderson, Special Mention-Matty Noe; District 9 Coaches Team—Alexis Gibbons; All-Soutwest District (Media)—2nd Team-Alexis Gibbons, Honorable Mention-Caroline Long.
- JH Boys Basketball:** 7th grade 13-4 (8-2); 8th grade 7-11 (5-6); 7th grade advanced to the semifinals of the WOAC Tournament
- JH Girls Basketball:** 7th grade 10-6 (6-2); 8th grade 16-3 (10-0); 7th grade WOAC Girls Basketball Tournament Runner-Up; 8th grade WOAC Girls Basketball Tournament CHAMPIONS.
- HS Wrestling:** No Senior Athletes; 4th Place at the WOAC Championship Wrestling Meet; 6 HS wrestlers; Hunter Eley WOAC 2nd Place 106; Jesus Gonzalez WOAC 2nd Place 126; Aiden Jackson WOAC 2nd Place 150; Jared Shives WOAC 3rd Place 157; Jesus Gonzalez Sectionals 4th Place 126, District Qualifier.
- JH Wrestling:** Ross Wagner WOAC CHAMP 110; Hudson Knaus WOAC CHAMP 142; Mason Kendig WOAC CHAMP 205; Parker Fogleman WOAC CHAMP 245; Austin Subler WOAC 2nd Place 172
- Swimming:** No Senior Athletes; Titus Palmer set PR's in both of his events at sectionals—50 Free 29.23, 100 Free 1:06.82
- Gymnastics:** Seniors—Arianne Garrison, Lydia Knepshield, Kaitlynn Lipps, Taelen Unger; Team placed 5th at the District meet (31 teams competed); Northmont Invitational 2nd Place; Versailles Invitational 2nd Place; Lydia Knepshield finished 4th in All-Around at Districts to qualify for State—2nd Vault, 9th Bars, 3rd Beam, 11th Floor; Taelen Unger finished 8th in All-Around at Districts to qualify as an alternate for State—11th Vault, 10th Beam, 17th Floor; Lydia finished 29th in All-Around at the State Meet.
- Cheer:** Seniors—Kianna Farmer, Emilie Fout, Arianne Garrison, Carly Rieman, and Taelen Unger; High School placed 3rd in HS Cheer and 5th in HS Gameday at the WOAC Cheer Competition; JH placed 1st in JH Cheer, 1st in JH Gameday, and 1st in JH Dance at the WOAC Cheer Competition.
- College Signings:** Haley Smith—Edison State Community College, Volleyball; Belle Harleman—Heidelberg University, Softball; Emilie Fout—Cedarville University, Softball; Katie Sharp—Ohio Christian University, Volleyball.



District Insight

Arcanum-Butler Local Schools District Newsletter April 2024



Administration

- Mr. John N. Stephens, Superintendent
- Mr. Matthew L. Huffman, Treasurer
- Mr. Tyler R. Cates, HS Principal
- Mr. Jason L. Vince, MS Principal
- Mrs. Joni L. Pechie, EL Principal

Board Members

- Mr. Kelly Norris, President
- Mr. Mark Trask, Vice President
- Mr. Mike Fearon
- Mr. Joe LeMaster
- Mr. Eric Moore

Superintendent's Message

Booster Stadium Planned Renovations

The Arcanum-Butler Schools has a long tradition of excellence on the football gridiron and on the track. Over the years, our football games have been a destination on Friday nights and have featured memorable teams, games, and conference champions. Our track & field teams have featured conference, district, regional, and state qualifiers as well as state champs and individual champions. That tradition has been largely supported by our fan base and in collaboration with an active Arcanum Athletic Boosters. The stadium bears the name "Booster Stadium" to recognize the many parents, community members, fans, and supporters who have contributed to building the strong foundation of Trojan Pride in our programs and facilities. Through the years, the Arcanum Athletic Boosters and volunteers have been hands-on in their efforts. Many of the buildings located at the complex were funded and built by the Boosters and its volunteers. From the concession stand to the locker rooms and the ticket booths to the press boxes, many volunteers contributed their time and efforts to complete general construction, plumbing, electrical work, roofing, and whatever it took to complete the projects. Fundraising efforts provided the original track that lasted 20+ years before a recent replacement. Even the original light poles were brought in and installed with the help of volunteers and a group eager to help bring football back to Arcanum. It is because of those contributions that Trojan Pride is alive and well today!

The Arcanum-Butler Local School Board and its Administration, with the help from the Athletic Boosters, has worked diligently to maintain Booster Stadium and within the last dozen years has upgraded the stadium lighting, retrofitted the bleachers for safety purposes, and most recently installed new track surfacing. In an effort to not only maintain Booster Stadium and its facilities, the Board of Education has approved some needed upgrades to provide safe and accessible facilities for our students and fans. The upgrades will be completed over several phases in order to allow our student athletes to continue to compete and to appropriate funds for the project over time. The district will once again partner with Garmann-Miller Architects, who designed the Ag & Athletic Addition, to design the upgrades to the stadium and utilize the services of Mote & Associates for engineering aspects of the project.

Phase 1: Parking

The district was fortunate for years to be able to use private property located to the west of the field for additional parking, but now without that parking, fans are challenged to find parking for events. Accessibility for handicapped parking is also at a minimum. In order to address insufficient parking, the district will be installing additional parking lots. The parking lot at the Field House will be doubled, with approximately 65 more spaces being added to the west of the existing park lot. The preschool playground has been moved closer to the building, which will allow for the parking lot to be added. This lot will also include additional handicapped parking spaces with close proximity to the field. Additionally, the unofficial grass parking lot to the east of the stadium will be upgraded. The lot will have parking for visiting buses, event and coaching staff, and will also include handicapped parking. This lot will also provide a designated entrance for Arcanum Community Rescue Service to have a safe and efficient entrance into the stadium.

While the parking lots will be the main focus of Phase 1, there will be other work taking place to address other issues. The current scoreboard is dated and has had some technical issues in recent years. All of the sponsorships have run out as well, so now is an opportune time to replace the scoreboard. The new scoreboard will be paid for through the use of new sponsorships and advertising.

The existing high jump, long jump, and pole vault pits will be relocated. Currently, the three areas are all relatively close together. Moving them will provide for a better competitive set up for athletes, better viewing for fans, and will also allow for the future upgrades to take place.

Finally, the current locker rooms will be upgraded. Within the last year, Athletic Director Abbey Moore and Coach Matt Macy have completed work, mainly through donations and contributions. The Arcanum Football Locker Legacy Project has allowed for new lockers to be installed on the home locker room side. Flooring has been updated and walls have been painted. With the ceiling having issues with cracks, Coach Moore had the visiting locker room and wrestling room ceilings covered with metal panels. Repairs coming this spring and summer include finishing the ceiling in the home locker room area, painting the visitor locker room walls and lockers, and updating the restroom area to allow for additional restroom stalls and privacy.

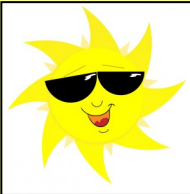
Phase 1 upgrades will be funded through the use of capital set-aside funds with the exception of the scoreboard that, again, will be paid for through the sponsorships. The parking lot improvements will be part of a bid package that will be advertised in the near future. The district is also working with Mote & Associates and the Village of Arcanum to address the necessary services for proper grading and drainage.

(Continued inside)

2011 Trojan Ave.
Arcanum OH 45304

Phone: 937-692-5174
Fax: 937-692-5959
www.arcanum-butler.k12.oh.us

SUMMER SCHOOL ANYONE?



THE ARCANUM VIRTUAL ACADEMY WILL BE OFFERING SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES
FOR ALL STUDENTS GRADES 6-12
MAY 31-JULY 30 COST—\$200 PER 1/2 SEMESTER HOUR
Registration begins May 1, 2024

Contact Jim Gray, AVA Director, at (937)692-1000, or jim_gray@arcanum-butler.k12.oh.us

"The Arcanum-Butler Local School District provides a caring and safe environment where students are challenged to become lifelong learners and productive citizens."

Don't forget to register your child for PS or Kindergarten!



For more information,
contact Mrs. Pechie at
joni_pechie@arcanum-butler.k12.oh.us



Booster Stadium Planned Renovations *(continued from page 1)*

Phase 2: Structures

The second phase of the project will primarily focus on updating/upgrading our structures. For years the board has been monitoring the structural integrity and safety of the pedestrian bridge. While it currently remains safe, it needs to be replaced sooner, rather than later. A new, wider bridge will replace the existing bridge. The new bridge will be installed approximately twenty yards to the north of the current bridge. It will then lead to a new path and entrance into the stadium with one new ticket booth and decorative fencing. The ticket booth will allow fans to enter/exit on either side of the building.

The most significant change in the project will be constructing a new concession stand. A new concession stand will allow for the upgrading and updating of restrooms that includes increasing the number of stalls available for all patrons, as well as a separate family designated restroom. The Arcanum Athletic Boosters, who operate our concessions, will be heavily involved in the interior design and set up of the building. Additionally, the Boosters will continue their financial support of our athletic programs and facilities by helping fund the new concession stand. The building will be moved a bit further to the west and further back from the track surface. In addition to restrooms and a concession area, there will be storage on the back side of the building.

Near the location of the current concession building, a covered pavilion will be constructed which will have several picnic tables to allow fans to enjoy the game and food items. The area will also be used by our cross country, track & field, football teams, and marching band for team meetings, meals, and gatherings. The three main buildings - concession, current locker rooms, and pavilion will be tied together in a “plaza” area that would also include our victory bell, flag pole, and memorials. The plaza area and accompanying sidewalks will allow for easier travel in and around the buildings, track, and stadium.

Phase 3: Bleachers & Fencing

The bleachers were upgraded in 2016 to address safety concerns presented by the district’s liability insurance provider, which included closing gaps on the underside of the bleachers and adding a ramp to the home side bleachers to make them ADA compliant and more accessible. The design of the visiting bleachers did not allow for the addition of a ramp. In order to provide accessibility for all fans, the current bleachers on the home side would replace the existing visitor bleachers. New stadium bleachers that would seat 1,000 fans would be installed on the home side, eliminating the need to piece together separate seating like we have now to accommodate our band, students, and fans. In addition to the new bleachers, a coach’s box would be located at the top of the stadium. This would allow our football coaches to be on our sidelines but, more importantly, give the track officials space for the timing system used at track meets.

One of the most challenging aspects of the project includes adding fencing around the track. It has long been a tradition for our fans to be able to be seated near the action. Relocating the field events inside the track eliminates the option for end zone seating. Also, while entertaining and personable, it does create a safety liability issue that is often questioned by the insurance provider and OHSAA officials. The fencing adds a safety feature for our fans, eliminates the potential for unruly spectators to access the field and players, and also drastically reduces the amount of wear and tear on the newer installed track surface. Fans would still be able to sit or stand on the eight foot wide sidewalk that will run alongside the track while still allowing the movement of fans.

The district will also consider any necessary fixes to the outer fencing. There are areas that have been patched in recent years due to normal wear and tear. Other possible improvements include replacing the original field sprinkler system that has required increased maintenance in recent years, general landscaping throughout the facility, and upgrade/replace the sound system features, as needed.

Trojan Tradition & Pride

The Arcanum-Butler school community has a proud tradition of supporting our students and student athletes. The Board of Education and Administration value the efforts of our Athletic Boosters of the past, present, and future, and collaboratively seek to maintain our facilities with pride. In addressing the needs of our athletes, programs, and fans, the district schedules capital improvement projects through planning and budgeting. Over the course of the next few years, the Booster Stadium Project will address safety concerns, accessibility improvements, and the overall functionality of buildings and grounds, thus keeping with the Tradition of Excellence and Trojan Pride. In the near future, the district will release a video through social media of the plans so all of our fans can visualize the improvements and share in the excitement! A special thank you to all of our past and present Arcanum Athletic Boosters for continued support of our student athletes and athletic programs.

Loyal & True,
John N. Stephens



Arcanum-Butler Students Shine at County Science Fair

Annually, students from Arcanum Middle School and High School voluntarily participate in the county science fair. With the help of Science Fair Coordinators, Mr. Adam Kendig and Mrs. Lora Brandon, students begin working on their projects in October in preparation for the event in February held at Greenville High School.

AHS Students Earning a “Superior” Rating and qualifying for the district science fair were: Kolin Frazee, Garrett Rose, Isabella Harleman and Taelen Unger, Landon Miller and Payten Parks, and Hannah Kendig and Carly Rieman. Earning Excellent ratings were Arianne Garrison, Madison Schwartz and Addy Wooten, and Alexis Gibbons and Mora Menzie. Arcanum HS students took home over \$550 in prizes.

Middle School students who earned a "Superior" rating and qualified for the district science fair were Tim Johnson, Weston Hatfield, Chloe Rieman, Annabelle Holsapple and Olivia Bryson, and Maleah Cheadle and Megan Timmerman. Receiving an "Excellent" rating was the team of Micah Matheson and Tristen Eubank. Olivia Bryson and Annabelle Holsapple, Micah Matheson and Tristen Eubank, as well as Tim Johnson all earned first place in their respective categories. Chloe Rieman and Westin Hatfield both earned 2nd place in their respective categories. All told, Arcanum MS students brought home over \$500 in cash prizes and some great prizes from Whirlpool.



Results from the District Science Fair were:
High School students that earned a “Superior” rating and qualified for the state science fair are Kolin Frazee, Arianne Garrison, and the team of Hannah Kendig and Carley Rieman. Arianne also finished first in chemistry and Carley and Hannah received 3rd overall in biomedical sciences.

Middle School students that earned a “Superior” rating and qualified for the state science fair are Tim Johnson and Weston Hatfield. Earning an “Excellent” rating were the teams of Megan Timmerman and Maleah Cheadle and Olivia Bryson and Annabelle Holsapple. Tim won \$100 from the Ohio Soybean Council. Weston won first place in his category and \$100, as well as a \$250 College Advantage 529 plan scholarship.



Congratulations to Arcanum-Butler Teacher of the Year Erin Fout!

Mrs. Fout has been teaching at Arcanum-Butler Local Schools for 17 of her total 18 years in education. Erin currently serves as director and teacher of the Arcanum Early Learning Center. Erin lives in Arcanum with her husband Tracy and three daughters, Ellie, Emilie, and Elexie. An AHS graduate, Erin enjoys cheering on her daughters as they are very active in sports. If you don’t find her at a ball field, she will most likely be enjoying her summer with family and friends on the lake.

When asked about what she enjoys most about teaching, Erin shared, “I love investing in the lives of little ones and knowing that preschool is the first experience these little ones have of school, I need to make it memorable. I am passionate about providing hands-on learning experiences that are fun, exciting, and real. I would not be able to do what I do each day without my amazing supporting teachers, Kayla Morrison and Manda Holliday. Our goal as teachers is to create an independent learning environment that cultivates success into kindergarten.”

When asked where her passion for teaching education began, Erin answered, “I come from a long line of educators. My grandfather, dad, mom, and many aunts and uncles were all teachers in the Darke County school system. The rides with my middle school principal (my dad) to and from the old Butler building were memories that I will cherish. Arcanum has always been a special place for me growing up, and it has been such a blessing to have the opportunity to be able to give back by being a teacher. I owe my high school principal, Mr. Combs, the biggest thank you for believing in me and realizing that one day I would make a difference. He would later become the Superintendent at Arcanum that gave me the chance to help develop the PS program known as the Arcanum Early Learning Center. Arcanum has a motto that we are Loyal and True. At AELC, we like to say this is ‘Where Loyal and True Begins’.”

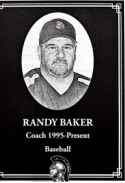
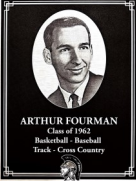
Upon being named the Teacher of theYear, Erin shared, “I am honored to be chosen as the 2024 Teacher of the Year and look forward to many more years of teaching.”

Mrs. Fout will join teachers from the other county schools at a Teacher of the Year luncheon hosted by the Darke County Educational Service Center on May 15 at the Birchwood Learning Center.

Congrats to the Arcanum Hall of Fame Inductees!

Athletic Hall of Fame

Mr. Arthur Fourman and Mr. Randy Baker were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame on January 21, 2024. Arthur is a 1962 graduate who earned four varsity letters in basketball, baseball, and track. He went on to play basketball at Manchester College and, as an adult, coached for five years.



Randy is a 1990 graduate that continues to make an athletic impact at Arcanum in baseball. He earned four varsity letters while in HS, then in 1995 started here as the varsity coach. His teams have won eight league titles, ten sectional titles, and three district titles. Randy has been honored with multiple coaching awards, including being inducted into the Miami Valley Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Thank you to both of these worthy recipients for their contributions to Arcanum athletics!

Arcanum Alumni Hall of Fame

The Arcanum Alumni Hall of Fame Committee is pleased to recognize the following inductees who will be inducted at the Trojan Alumni Banquet on April 20, 2024.

Distinguished Alumni Inductee—Dr. Aaron Trask
Honorary Trojan Inductee—Mr. Ed Everman



Aaron graduated from Arcanum in 1999, then went to Ohio Northern University where he received a bachelor’s degree in Biology with minors in Biomedical Sciences and Biochemistry in 2003. Additionally, he earned a PhD in Physiology and Pharmacology from Wake Forest University in 2008. Currently, Dr. Trask is a Principal Investigator in the Center for Cardiovascular Research at the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.

Ed was a graduate of Troy HS and The Ohio State University with a Bachelors in Agricultural Economics. He has worked for the Soil and Water Conservation District as a Program Specialist for 35 years. Ed and wife, Shari, raised two children that are graduates of Arcanum. Eric graduated in 1996 and Erin in 1999. Mr. Everman is a past member of the Athletic Boosters and served for 24 years on the Arcanum-Butler Board of Education, serving as the Board President for many of those years.

