



The Falcon Forum

AUSTINTOWN LOCAL SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Students, Parents, Staff, and Community Members,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the start of a new school year! As the superintendent, it is my privilege to greet each of you as we embark on another exciting and productive academic journey together.

The beginning of the school year is always a time filled with anticipation, new goals, and the promise of growth and achievement. Our dedicated team of educators and support staff have been working diligently over the summer to prepare for the return of our students. We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and stimulating environment where every student can thrive and reach their full potential.

We recognize that the partnership between home and school is vital to a successful educational experience. I encourage parents and guardians to stay actively involved in your child's education. Attend school events, communicate regularly with teachers, and support your child's learning at home.

Safety remains our top priority. We have implemented comprehensive safety protocols to ensure that our schools are safe and welcoming places for learning. We will continue to monitor and adapt our practices as needed, in accordance with the latest guidelines and recommendations.

I am confident that this school year will be filled with incredible opportunities for learning, growth, and success. Together, we will make it a memorable and impactful year for every student.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Austintown Local School District. Let's make this school year the best one yet!

Timothy S. Kelly

Austintown Board of Education Members



Our board members dedicate their time to carry out our mission of strengthening and preparing our students for unlimited future opportunities.

President

Don Sherwood

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Vice President

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Treasurer

Blaise Karlovic

Austintown Elementary School



This was the first year that AES hosted a color run. Families who signed up ran two miles around campus. There were multiple spots throughout the course where runners were sprayed with various colors and bubbles. The event promoted health and fitness fun for our Falcon Families.



This year at AES students in grades K-2 had the opportunity to participate in both intervention and enrichment activities after school.

Intervention classes concentrated on phonemic awareness and phonics. The enrichment program was sponsored by United Way (Success After 6 & Success By 6). Students were able to participate in many fun activities including 4-H, petting zoos, family movie nights, and so much more.



The positive behavior matrix was fully implemented in all settings of the building. Students were rewarded with peace sign necklaces, respect bracelets, and try your best beads as they were caught following the matrix. The PBIS committee applied for a silver status.



Our 2nd grade students completed their annual Wax Museum project. This event culminates many 2nd grade standards, while allowing the students to complete a differentiated project from a choice menu. Each student completed a PowerPoint to accompany their oral presentation.

#AESISTHEPLACETOBE



5-STAR AWARD WINNER!

Our 5-Star Falcon Fives Pre-Kindergarten Program provided the highest quality education for all students, recently adopting a new ELA curriculum.

Along with the new Early Learning Standards taught, the curriculum used paralleled that of our Kindergarten students. Pre-K students also became familiar with AES building and routines, including PBIS, preparing them for Kindergarten!



The AES Art Department hosted their annual Art Show. Here, artwork for students in grades PK-2 was displayed in the cafeteria for all to see. Select students moved on to the district art show for their efforts too!

Austintown Intermediate School



AIS opened a Care Closet this year. Thanks to Dinesol Plastics and the United Way, we are able to provide food, clothing, and supplies to students in need.



We received a large order of virtual reality goggles for students to use in classes. It has brought an immersive experience to students in many different subject areas.



Grade 5 hosted their Animal Research Showcase in January. They invited their families to share all that they had learned about animals across the world.



Ability Awareness Week was held in January. Students had the opportunity to experience what it would be like to have different disabilities and the challenges those come with.



Students learned about safe digging and the utilities underground through the Call Before You Dig Program. Equipment was demonstrated and two trees were planted with the help of our students.



We celebrated World Read Aloud Day on February 7th. Family and friends joined us to read to the students throughout the day, celebrating the power of literacy.



The Staff versus Student Basketball Fundraiser Game was held in March, with the staff being victorious yet again. All proceeds went to the Hope Center for Cancer Care in memory of alumnus Brett Lemke.



Our students and staff honored the heroes in our community who keep us safe and give back everyday by celebrating Hug a Hero Day.

Austintown Middle School



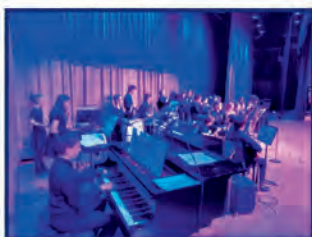
Our Cross Country Teams had a successful season. Jackson Berni broke a seven year home course record with a time of 11.29 and the Girls Cross Country Team were the Mahoning County Runner ups.



Our AMS Drama Club put on their production of Moana in March. Once again, they outdid themselves with an exceptional performance and had a sold out crowd each night.



AMS wrestlers performed well at the Junior High State Meet. Raghan Koch earned a Third Place spot at the Junior High State wrestling tournament.



Our band and orchestra were part of many contests, and were recognized by winning individual and group awards. These contests included Solo and Ensemble Contest, Honors Band, OMEA Honors Band, and Large Group Contest.



The AMS 8th grade Blue Volleyball team was the AAC runner up, while the 7th grade Blue Volleyball team won the AAC.



Academic Honors Assemblies were held each quarter. We celebrated our students who were Honorable Mention, Honor Roll, High Honor, and Perfect Attendance. Each student received a certificate for their outstanding accomplishment.



Each grade level had their own unique projects, events, and programs to expand their knowledge with Balloons over Broadway, Rocket launches, Career Day, WEB Program, and the Afterschool Study Table.



Our Choir students had an eventful year with their annual concerts but they also had the opportunity to experience the Opera Western Reserve's production of Carmen and recorded two tracks with the local rock band, Apocalyptic Lovers.



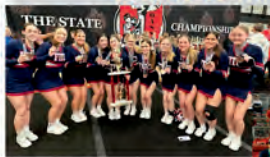
The AMS Girls Track team won the AAC Championship. Jazlynn Cylar ran a 12.74 at the Mahoning County Championships, breaking the old school record of 12.8 held by Pam Arnold since 1980. A 44 year old record. She also placed sixth in the 100M with a time of 12.62 at the Junior High State Track meet.



Six of our students represented AMS at the Annual National Day of Remembrance, honoring the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. Morgan Avery, Avery Billups, McKenna Briggs, Rubylyn Payumo, Danica Stanley, and Shelby Sullivan are pictured.

STATE Champions

The Austintown Fitch Cheerleading Competition Team won the 2024 OASSA State Championship in the Division II Traditional Building category, beating six other teams to win the title.



The Fitch Softball team beat Watkins Memorial by a score of 4-0 to secure their second straight Division I State Championship.

Austintown Fitch High School



JROTC completed year four with some significant accomplishments. Our Drill teams had one, First place finish and four, Second Place Finishes throughout three highly competitive competitions. Our Raider team (extreme fitness team) placed Second Overall with four, Second Place finishes in four individual events, which is a MAJOR step forward. Additionally, one of our Juniors, Xojier Lewis, won a national competition to attend a Flight School, and will earn a private pilot's license with a certification to instruct. Lastly, The Corps took two "field trips" to the Air Base this school year, culminating with a flight over Niagara Falls with the back door open for a spectacular view.



The Fitch Vocal Music Department put on four concerts this school year. The Concert Choir traveled to Myrtle Beach, SC upholding their over 50 year tradition of serving Veterans. They performed at Veterans Village Long Term Care Facility and had some time to meet with the Veterans. Fitch Harmonics put on a Mid-Season Pops Concert in collaboration with the Fitch Rock Band. In 2025, the Concert Choir has been invited to perform at Lincoln Center in New York City under the baton of Grammy Award winning composer Eric Whitacre.



The Fitch Drama Department had a busy season starting with our One Act Plays and ending with our epic production of Grease. In collaboration with Carl's Towing and the support of families in the department, we were able to obtain a real car on the stage to bring Greased Lightning to life! The students put in much time and effort staging this musical and we are all so proud of them. **We are excited to announce our musical next year. The Phantom of the Opera!**

EXPANDING Course Offerings

Our new AP courses expanded our students' opportunities to earn dual credit in both high school and college, along with our already strong CCP program/partnership with YSU. New course offerings included:

Pre-AP– English 9 and 10, Geometry Algebra, Art, Theater Biology, Chemistry, Algebra 2, World History

AP Courses (students can test for college credit)– Biology, Precalculus, AP 2-D Art and Design, AP 3-D Art and Design, AP Drawing, AP Art History, AP Music Theory, AP Psychology, AP Spanish



Students in Fitch's Digital Media Production classes produced shows for our school district and the Austintown community. Their work as crew members at events and in the studio provided them experience with videography, lighting, audio, directing, and even as drone pilots! Students also created many independent and team projects including creative films. They are content creators for Falcon Media and our school's Armstrong cable channel.

Check us out by going to YouTube: Austintown Falcon Media.



Members of the Fitch Interact Club conducted another successful food drive to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank. This collection netted 3,100 lbs. of food to replenish warehouse shelves.

Austintown Fitch High School

IN THE NEWS

Ohio Career Education Equipment Grant

The Ohio Career Technical Education Equipment Grant was a competitive grant offered to schools to establish or expand career-technical education programs, with priority for programs that support careers on Ohio's Top Jobs List and establish or expand credentialing programs. **Fitch was awarded this grant, totaling \$950,746.26.**

Austintown Fitch High School applied for the grant to address the needs of its four career technical programs; Skilled Trades, Drone Education, Business and Marketing, and Family and Consumer Science. We look forward to expanding these programs in the coming school year!



The Fitch Rock Band program received a generous donation from Gibson guitars that helped to equip our growing program and put instruments in the hands of our students. This year, the rock program played at various events including kicking off the Youngstown Light Up Night, Youngstown State University, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, various community events, and one of our groups, The Knockouts, were selected as the ONLY high school rock band to perform at YSU's Federal Frenzy music festival. Due to the popular demand of the class, it will be offered five times throughout the day during the 24-25 school year and a new class, Music Technology, will be offered as an elective.



Fitch's 2023-2024 Microsoft Office Specialist course was another huge success. There were 381 Microsoft Industrial Certifications awarded in Word, Word Expert, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook. Eighty-one seniors passed all four Microsoft Industrial Certifications, which awarded them the Industry-Recognized Credential Diploma Seal. There were five perfect exam scores of 1000/1000 for students' certifications. Gianna Benedis received three perfect scores on Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Isabella Tofil and Ben Miller received a perfect score on PowerPoint. The Microsoft Office Certifications not only prepare students for college, but these certifications prove job readiness for multiple careers right out of high school.



The Fitch Art Department finished the first year of AP Art History, AP 2-D Design, and AP 3-D Design and are looking forward to continuing these programs in the years to come. We were also honored to have a student be accepted into the Butler Art Youth Honors Program this past year. Our students received Gold, Silver, and Honorable Mentions in the Scholastics Art Contest and earned multiple awards at the Mahoning County ESC Art Show. Many students enjoyed joining the Art Club along with a new activity, Comic Book Club. Our District K-12 Art Show was held for a second year at Fitch. There is a lot to be excited about as we continue to expand and grow the program.

AUSTINTOWN FITCH HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024

351

earned their diploma

1 received a 34
on the ACT



Over 5 million dollars
in scholarships
offered

175



took Advanced
Placement
(AP) courses

28%

plan to enter a trade
after high school



43

graduated from our online program



20



earned
athletic
scholarships

18

valedictorians

69

National
Honor
Society
members



1,057

College Credit
Plus hours were
earned this
year by the
class of 2024



46

graduated
with honors

112

were honored by the
PTSA for maintaining
a 3.5 GPA or higher



5

enlisted or plan to serve in the military



VALEDICTORIAN SPOTLIGHT



Lucas Andino



Dylan Baer



Grace Basile



John Darnley



Robyn Dinobile



Jared Giovannone



Mara Glass



Drew Kaschak



Emma Marciano



Isabella Martinez



Hannah Proctor



Aubrey Ross



Joey Ruscitti



Brian Russell



Maiya Seminara-Tate



Jakob Wallace



Grayson Weston

Not pictured: Lucas Wayland

Financial Information

Fiscal Year 2024

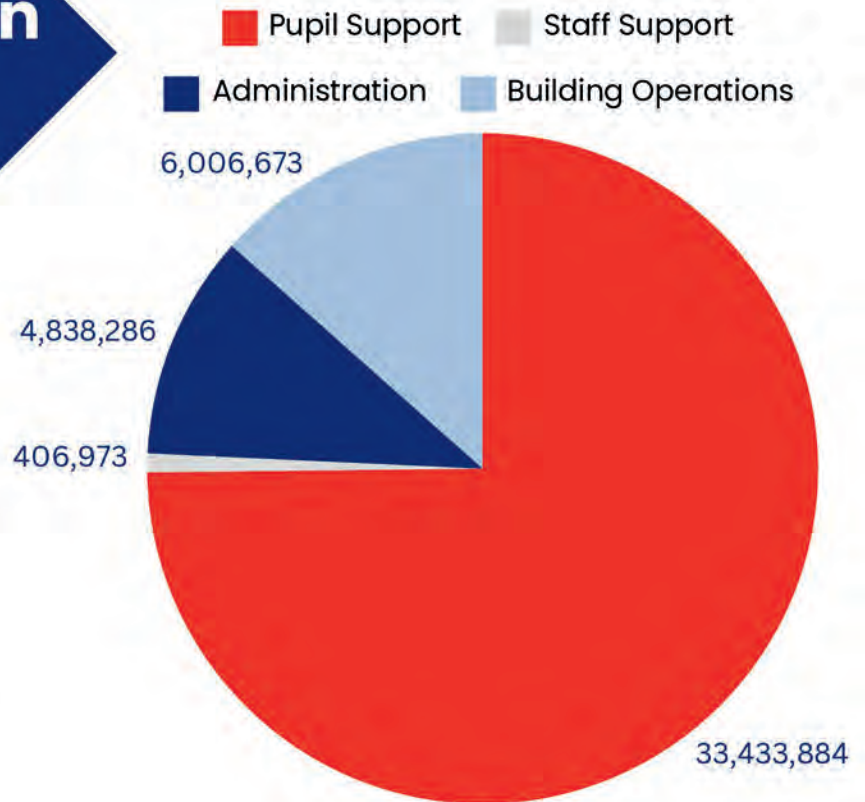


The Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction was presented to the Austintown Local School District for excellence in financial reporting related to the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and compliance with applicable laws for the previous fiscal year.

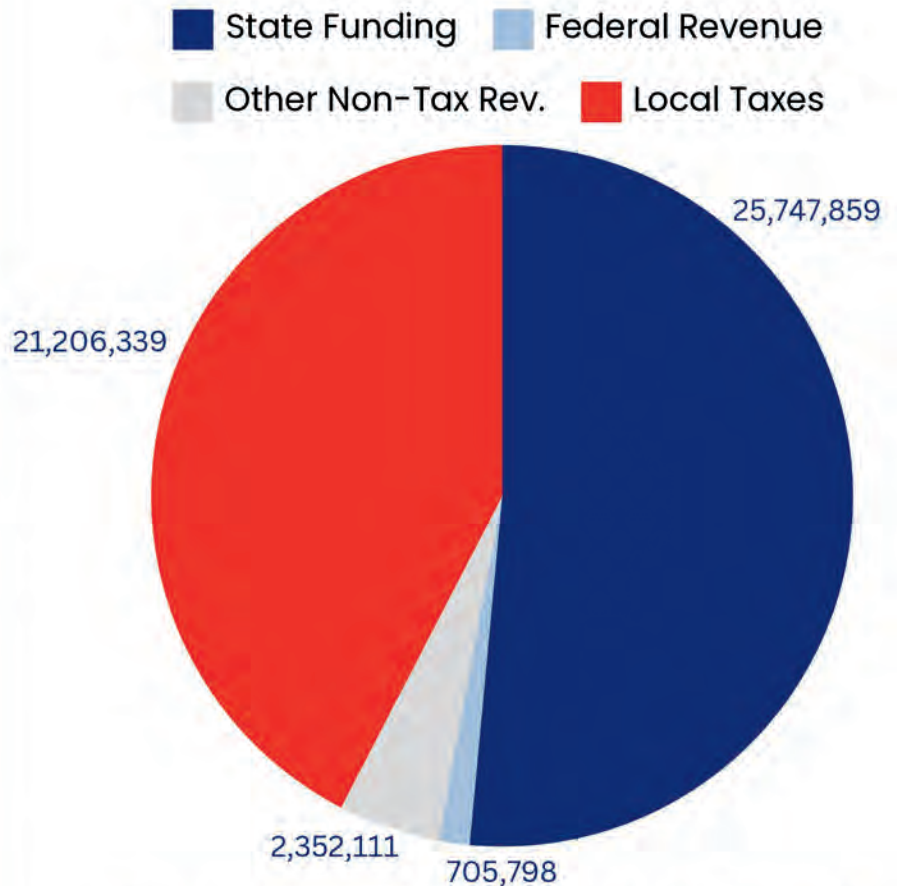
The Five- year forecast was presented to the Board of Education in May of 2024 by Treasurer/CFO Blaise Karlovic. The five-year forecast serves as a tool to communicate and assess the financial health of a school district.

The district submits this twice annually to the Ohio Department of Education. Each five-year forecast contains two components: 1) historical and projected financial data and 2) notes to explain any significant changes or "assumptions" a district used to develop the reported financial projections. To view our forecasts and other financial data, visit:

austintownschoools.org/departments/treasurers-office.



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

FREE MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS

As we prepare to return to campus for the 2024-2025 school year, we would like to inform you of a few important changes happening within our department.

We are pleased to inform you that school breakfast and lunch meals will be **FREE for all students**, beginning this 2024-2025 school year. New changes to the USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs have afforded us the opportunity to offer all meals at no cost for all students for the 2024-2025 school year.

Each student can receive one free breakfast and one free lunch meal each school day.

No action is needed for your student(s) to participate and receive free school meals. Students can simply come through the meal service line to receive one free breakfast meal and one free lunch meal each school day. Extras and a la carte items are still available for purchase. More information about this change can be found on our website, AFFoodServices.com.

NEW MENU ITEMS

BREAKFAST: Fresh fruit & yogurt parfaits and a chicken 'n biscuit sandwich.

LUNCH: Cheesy breadstick bites, sub sandwiches & homemade soup, and chicken & waffles. Students 6-12 will have a loaded nachos bar and burrito bar, Philly cheese steak, and tangerine orange chicken.

We will still have our classics like homemade macaroni & cheese and breadsticks with homemade meat sauce. Chick-Fil-A® and Papa Johns® will also have a spot on our menus.

Items vary by building, so be sure to check out our menus.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Featured FOOD HOLIDAYS

Keep an eye out for special menu items to celebrate monthly food holidays such as National Popcorn day and National Strawberry Day!



BUS ROUTE INFORMATION

Bus Routes will be ready **ONE WEEK** prior to the first day of school. Bus Route information, including pick up/drop off times, bus number, and bus stop location are available on the **Versatrans E-Link Parent Portal**, which can be found on the transportation page of our district website along with login instructions. *Please continue to check the parent portal up until the first day of school, as adjustments may be made due to new resident families enrolling in the district.*



HOW CAN I SEE THE BUS LOCATION?

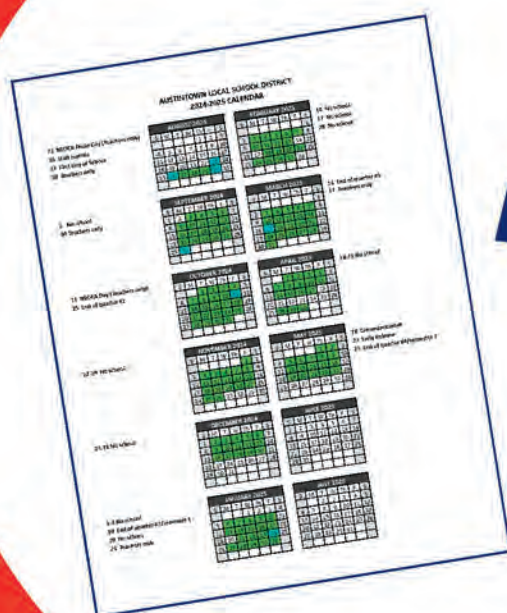
You can view the location of the bus in real time (there is approximately a 30 second delay) by downloading the **Versatrans My Stop App** via smart phone.



NEW FOR GRADES 6-12: BUS DEPOT STOPS

Beginning the 2024-2025 school year, grades 6-12 will have condensed neighborhood stops (depot stops). Bus stop location will vary by neighborhood.

Please arrive at your designated bus stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled bus arrival time.



Use the QR Code or visit
austintownschoools.org under
the "Parents" tab to view our
2024-2025 calendar.

