

ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

<http://www.ashlandcityschools.org/ms>



FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL MR. LINDEMAN

This time of year is always filled with great anticipation for students at AMS. Obviously there are some nice breaks that they will definitely enjoy around the holidays with their family and friends but also there is a ton going on in the building as well. Our staff is clicking on all cylinders working hard to provide great content and classroom experiences for our students. The daily dedication to growing our students is constantly on display and anyone who walks through the doors can feel that. On top of that there is an emphasis on embracing the holidays with lots of activities from classroom door decorating, in school band concert, teachers vs students basketball event and last but not least our Christmas school dance are some of the things that students have to look forward to as we enter the holiday season.

Winter sports are in full swing and our boys and girls basketball teams have been working hard in the gym as they head into the season. Our wrestling team has great numbers and is looking forward to getting after it on the mats over the winter months. The AMS swim team has also plunged into the pool and has some talented swimmers ready to fly through the water. In addition to our school winter sports we also are offering intramural basketball, archery, winter track and esports options for students to participate in and enjoy.

We are equally as excited about our music departments upcoming events that will be taking place during the month of December. The 6th, 7th, 8th grade bands are all putting together great performances along with our orchestra and jazz bands. In addition, each grade level choir as well as the show choir will have shows that will be festive and entertaining as always. Our music department is always looking for ways to grow their program and the students in it and these showcases are a consistent reminder of that.

It is our mission at AMS that every student has a place both in and out of the classroom. We are blessed to have committed staff and coaches that pour into our students everyday. Every year is special and this one is no different and there is a commitment to make this time of year memorable for the students coming through. I hope that this year's holiday season is full of fun and time spent with the ones you love.

Happy Holidays and Go Arrows!

Mr. Jim Lindeman
Principal

Middle School Newsletters

Our newsletter will come out every other month throughout the course of the upcoming school year. We will post our newsletter on the middle school website at the beginning of October, December, February and April.

Newsletters will no longer be mailed home to all students. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter by email, please email me at rhcarey@goarrows.org and Mrs. Carey will add your email to our emailing list. If you do not have access to a computer and would still like to have a paper copy mailed to your home, Mrs. Carey would be more than happy to accommodate that request. Just call the A.M.S. office or email her at the above and she will add you to the mailing list.

Reminders

We continue to encourage students to advocate for themselves and to let adults help them in difficult situations rather than making choices that make situations worse.

- Please continue to monitor your child's media use, there are a lot of APPS and chat groups available out there where unsavory things can be discussed between adolescents and others please keep your child safe and promote responsible use of their electronic devices.
- Continue to monitor your child's belongings as items pile up in our school's lost and found; if something comes up missing, remind your child to check lost and found.
- Please remember if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher or an administrator here at the building.

Procedures for Picking Students up for Appointment

In order to alleviate some confusions, we thought it might be helpful to review our attendance procedures on dropping off students or picking up students for appointments.

Although we will accept telephone calls for last-minute appointments for students, we would prefer the student bring a note on the day of the appointment if it has been scheduled in advance. The student is to bring the note to the main office before school starts in the morning, so we can issue a Permit to Leave Slip. The Student is then allowed to show this Permit to Leave to the teacher, leave class at the time designated on the note by the parent, and meet the parent at the door at the time recorded. This allows the parent to pick up the student without having to come into the building . **Please remind your son or daughter to be aware of the time he/she needs to leave class and where to meet you.** Parents do not need to check in or out of the office with the student unless we have not received a note or a phone call prior. When arriving back to school after the appointment, all students should check in at the main office with their Permit to Leave before reporting to class. This will help us keep accurate attendance records and not mistakenly mark the student absent for the remainder of the day.

Appointments that are made after the student has come to school may be called into the main office by the parent/guardian, and a Permit to Leave slip will be delivered to the student with the appropriate information (such as time leaving, type of appointment, and where to meet his/her ride). The student should then follow the same procedures as listed when we receive written permission for students to leave and return when necessary.

***Participation in an organized team/extracurricular activity requires that the student be in attendance for a full day on the day of the scheduled activity. A full day is determined by the time a student "arrives at" or "leaves from" school. To be eligible, a student MUST arrive by 9:15 a.m.

Arrival/Dismissal Times

The doors will open at 7:20 a.m. Tardy Bell rings at 7:40 a.m.

Dismissal will be at 2:35 p.m.

Students will be dismissed in a slow release method. Bus riders will be dismissed by bus number and students must exit the building as quickly as possible. Car riders and walkers will also be dismissed by classroom number and quickly exit the building. It is our hope to have all students out of the building no later than 2:45 p.m. daily.

Important Dates

Dec. 3-AMS Band & Orchestra Concert-6:00 p.m.
Dec. 3-Bookmobile here during ACT
Dec. 5-AMS Choir Concert (6th grade starts at 6:00 p.m.)
Dec. 6-Senior Citizens Luncheon at AHS
Dec. 6-Interims mail home
Dec. 10-Board of Education Meeting
Dec. 20-Last Day before Holiday Break-2 hr Early Release Schedule

Jan. 6-First Day back to school
Jan. 10-End of 1st Semester
Jan. 20-NO School
Jan. 17-Grade Cards sent home
Jan. 27-Board of Education Meeting
Feb. 17-No School -President's Day
Feb. 21-23rd-High School Musical-Footloose



A.M.S. Lost and Found

We have many lost items that have been turned into the lost and found there is one on each floor as well as the Clinic. Anything remaining will be cleaned out at the end of **EVERY month.**

Clinic Procedures

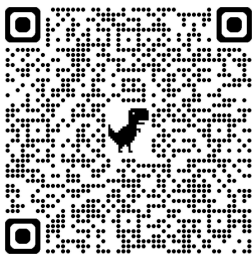
Ashland Middle School is staffed by Ms. Carey, our full time clinic aid. If you need to reach her during the day her extension is 4134.

If your child is feeling ill, please have them come to the clinic to make contact with you rather than calling or testing from class. This ensures that we can work together with you and your child to support them and get them feeling better quickly.

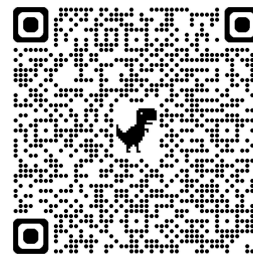
Dispensing of Medication by School Personnel

If there is a need for medication to be dispensed by school personnel during the school day a form must be filled out by the child's physician. This form is also available in the clinic.

Prescription Medication Form



Non-Prescription Medication Form



Breakfast and Lunch

The 2024-2025 school year will once again be **“FULL PAY”**. This is a reminder to parents/guardians that starting the first day of school you will need lunch money on your child’s payschool account. Free/reduced Lunch forms will be available ONLINE (ashlandcityschools.org). 419-289-4550 Ext. 2247 if you have any questions about our programs.

Lunch/Breakfast prices are as follows:

- Middle/High School-\$3.50
- Breakfast is free for K-5
- Breakfast for HS/MS is \$1.60
- Menu will be posted on our website

Free And Reduced Application



PaySchools Account To add money to a students account



Breakfast and Lunch Menu



Lunch Time

AMS students are **NOT** allowed to receive any outside food deliveries during the academic day this includes deliveries from DOOR Dash, Uber Eats etc.

Progress Book

Progress Book is the program we use to track and communicate grades. All students and parents may use their accounts from previous years. If you need help logging into your account, please call the AMS office at 419-289-7966.

Canvas

All students will have Canvas accounts again this year as teachers integrate the program into our in-person learning environment. Links to Canvas information as well as frequently asked questions may be found on our website under the “Canvas” tab.

Fees and Fee Waivers

Parents are reminded the 2024-2025 school fees are due at your earliest convenience. Please note that school fees can be waived for families qualifying for the free lunch program. In order to obtain this waiver, permission for information to be shared with the school principal must be marked on Part 5, the sharing information sections, of the free lunch application form. This only applies to families qualifying for free lunch and not to those who qualify for reduced lunches. Contact the food service director, Nicole Elmore, at Central Office for more information.

Outdoor School

If your 6th grader attended outdoor school and you have not yet paid the balance of their tuition, please pay as soon as possible so we can get that wrapped up. Please call Mrs. Greshner (419) 289-7966 ext 4156 if you have any questions or need to make payment arrangements.

PTO NEWS

Hello AMS families,

We hope you've had a successful start to the school year. The PTO has been working hard to make the staff feel appreciated and sprinkle in some fun for our middle school students.

In September, PTO volunteers provided and served popcorn to the whole school and one lucky student WON a special prize of a Specialty Carmel Apple from Ashley's Candy and Nut Shoppe.

In October, we celebrated our AMS staff with a meal during Parent Conferences and a yummy Fall Friday Apple Bar. (apples were generously donated by Scenic Ridge Fruit Farm).

And finally, just in time for Thanksgiving, the PTO contributed resources toward the Christmas decorations in the AMS lobby. A huge **THANK YOU** to Kassie Sweeney for sharing her talents and her own decorations to give AMS the feeling of warmth and Christmas Cheer!

We successfully ran our No-Fuss Fundraiser and met our goal of raising \$5,000 to go toward each student's field trips and events throughout the school year. The PTO gifted our 6th graders funds for their Outdoor School Adventure at Camp Nuhop. We are still selling the Marco's Pizza cards if interested please contact one of the PTO board members or email us to get yours before the holidays! PTO@goarrows.org.

Merry Christmas fun to come this Holiday Season happening at AMS! We hope you have a safe Merry Christmas and Wonder New Year!

Heather Bahr
AMS PIT Leader



America Counts–Free MATH Assistance

Looking for math help or support? This school year in partnership with Ashland University, Ashland Middle School is pleased to offer free math assistance **for all of our students from grades 6-8**. The days will be M/W every week to try to make it accessible to all students. A list of dates can be found below.

To participate students only need to show up. No calling ahead or paperwork necessary.

This time can be for:

- Homework assistance
- Catching up after an absence
- Going over lessons students didn't understand in class the first time
- Tutoring to bridge learning gaps on grade level or below standards

Daily before going to America Counts, it is advised that students check in with their math teacher first to see what they recommend working on and the teacher will then communicate that with the AU students.

The America Counts program will run from approximately 3-4pm and is overseen by Ms. Erin Miller (7th grade math teacher). Each day we will have 2 Ashland University students that will be working with our AMS students. Middle school families will need to arrange their own transportation home. If you have any questions you are welcome to reach out to Ms. Miller at ermiller@goarrows.org.

SEPT/OCT.

Monday, September 30th
Wednesday, October 2nd

Monday, October 7th
Wednesday, October 9th

Monday, October 14th
Wednesday, October 16th

Monday, October 21th
Wednesday, October 22nd

Monday, October 28th
Wednesday, October 30th

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 4th
Wednesday, November 6th

Monday, November 11th
Wednesday, November 13th

Monday, November 18th
Wednesday, November 20th

Monday, November 25th
No tutoring Wednesday

DECEMBER

Monday, December 2nd
Wednesday, December 4th

*AU has finals December 9 through December 12. We will not have tutoring that week.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



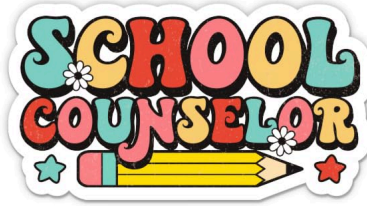
7th and 8th Grade Choir Concert

7th and 8th Grade Choir Concert is on Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m. at Archer Auditorium.

6th Grade Choir Concert

The 6th Grade Choir concert is Thursday, December 5th from 6:00-6:30 p.m. at Archer Auditorium





Kalie Godsey, 6th and 7th Grade Counselor
Deidre Kilpatrick, 7th and 8th Grade Counselor
Christina Howman, School-Community Liaison

SEL Small Groups

The counseling department offers a variety of small groups throughout the year and it is time for us to start new sessions. These groups take place during an encore class or ACT. Students will be in groups with others peers in their grade and each group typically lasts 4-8 weeks.

Each group focuses on a different topic which are social skills, organizational skills, stress management, coping skills for anxiety, managing emotions, and grief. If you would like your student to be a part of a SEL small group, please reach out to one of the counselors (Kalie Godsey, Deidre Kilpatrick, or Christina Howman).

As one might imagine, the unusual challenges of this school year coupled with the holiday season can considerably increase the amount of stress in our students' everyday lives. Through a needs assessment given at the beginning of the year, we learned that over 65% of our students were having difficulty managing some level of stress or anxiety. If our continuous effort to share helpful information and strategies directly with students, we have been providing classroom lessons discussing positive and negative stress, strategies for managing anxious feelings and how to know when more help is needed during our ACT period. If you have any questions/concerns or would like more resources, please reach out to any school counseling staff member for further information or support.

Here are some helpful tips to keep in mind:

How can students overcome stress?

1. Get Enough Sleep.
2. Practice Visualization.
3. Exercise Regularly.
4. Take Calming Breaths.
5. Practice Progressive Muscle Relaxation (PMR)
6. Listen to Music.
7. Get Organized.
8. Eat a Healthy Diet.
9. Make time each day for something you enjoy.
10. Keep Talking to those you can trust!

With the changing social needs of adolescents, it is important for pre-teens to know how to de-stress. These options are relatively easy, quick, and relevant to a student's life and can help to mitigate the types of stress they may be experiencing.

Holiday Food Drive

As part of the A.M.S. "Making Connections" initiative, a food drive will be held **December 9-13**. We believe that reaching out to those less fortunate in our own Ashland Community will serve as a reminder to each one of us to be grateful for our own blessings. Food will be collected in the boxes located in your student's homerooms. Your continued support is truly appreciated as we strive to teach these life lessons. Please note that all food donations need to be non-perishable and the homeroom on each grade level will receive a pizza party!

Scheduling Information for 2024-2025

College Credit Plus Information seminar

There will be a College Credit plus seminar on January 15th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Little Theatre to provide information to any parent or student (**grades 7-12**) interested in taking College Credit Plus courses next school year. This presentation will cover the guidelines for participation and their application process. Detailed information about College Credit Plus can be found by following this link to the Ashland High School guidance website:

<https://sites.google.com/goarrows.org/ahsguidanceoffice/home>

Any student who registers for College Credit Plus courses will be **required** to take an Accuplacer assessment. Students will be required to have their social security number with them on the day of the assessment. The Accuplacer assessment will be given February 13th at AHS in the afternoon. More information will follow if your son/daughter are interested in this opportunity. This assessment will only cover those students who will be enrolling with NCSC. OSU requires students to take the assessment at their Mansfield campus.

Scheduling Information-8th graders going into 9th grade next year

Eighth grade parents, please mark your calendars! **Your student will receive scheduling information in their History class on Wednesday, January 15th.** For specific information on your child's ninth grade schedule, please attend the eighth-into-ninth grade **parent information meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the high school Little Theater on Thursday, January 16th.**

Ms. Kilpatrick will be at the meeting with course recommendations from your son/daughter's eighth grade teachers. You will also learn more about graduation requirements and dual credit (earning a high school credit with college credit at the same time) options for your student. If you are not able to make it to the parent meeting, please check the high school's guidance website, <https://sites.google.com/goarrows.org/ahsguidanceoffice/home> for a powerpoint after the presentation date or contact Ms. Kilpatrick at 419-289-7966 ext 4146. **Forms are also available online and need to be submitted to their ELA teachers by Tuesday, January 22nd.**

Scheduling Information-7th graders going into 8th grade next year and 6th graders going into 7th grade next year will have more scheduling information in the next newsletter.

Ashland Middle School Athletics

Athletic Physicals

Please be sure to get your physicals scheduled with your family doctor, or you can try Samaritan Q-care or Urgent care. Physicals, and the activity fee form, are the only paper forms that get turned into the middle school athletic office. Please have these turned in along with the fee, at least one week before the first scheduled practice. Everything else is done through Final Forms.

Below are the sports to choose from in Final Forms that A.M.S. offers:

Fall

7th Girls Cross Country
7th Boys Cross Country
8th Girls Cross Country
8th Boys Cross Country
7th Girls Football Cheerleading
8th Girls Football Cheerleading
7th Girls Volleyball
8th Girls Volleyball
7th Boys Football
8th Boys Football

Winter

7th Girls Basketball
7th Boys Basketball
8th Girls Basketball
8th Boys Basketball
7th Boys Wrestling
8th Boys Wrestling
7th Girls Basketball Cheerleading
8th Girls Basketball Cheerleading
7th and 8th Boys/Girls Swimming

Spring

7th Girls Track and Field
7th Boys Track and Field
8th Girls Track and Field
8th Boys Track and Field

Eligibility

Please keep grades a top priority. Remind your student/athlete that if his/her grades falter, he/she could be either sitting out or ineligible to participate (meaning it carries over from one sport to another). Please refer to the [Activity Fee Information Sheet](#) that you will receive, or did receive, with your payment form. Pay particular attention to #3 and #4: "Fees are non-refundable with the following exception. Letter "E" states..."If the student becomes academically ineligible before the first contest". In other words, if your athlete becomes ineligible after the first contest, your fees will NOT be refunded. So, stay on top of your child's work nightly. Ask to see their homework, stay in touch with the teachers and make yourself available at home as much as possible to see that all work is done correctly and is ready to hand in on time. But, we all need to remember, in the end, it is the student's responsibility to keep their grades in line. Support and encouragement is always a good thing, but the student must take ownership and be Responsible for his/her own grades.

Fees

The fees for a winter sport should be paid at least one week prior to the first official practice date set by the OHSAA. We will allow those who try out for boys and girls basketball, to wait until the team members have been announced following tryouts. However, those fees will need to be paid before the first official practice. Fees not paid in full by the first practice may mean that your student/athlete will be sitting out until the balance is taken care of. Please don't allow this embarrassing situation to occur. Please see due dates next to each activity.

The Fee is \$65.00 for the first sport of the school year, and \$55.00 it its the second sport.

Track Information

Spring Track season lifting and conditioning will begin Tuesday, January 7th, with Coach Q in the AMS fitness center, from 3-4:30 p.m.

YOU MAY ONLY ATTEND Spring Track lifting and conditioning if you participated in the 2024 season (8th graders only). We will be learning the importance of pre-season conditioning, how to lift in relation to running and how to maintain stretched muscles through the season.

Spring Track lifting and conditioning will run Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from January 7, 2025 through February 20, 2025.

