



FALL 2024

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT



We hope you have had a great fall! It has been a very busy first half of the year at Amanda-Clearcreek, with lots of exciting changes – from academic programming to infrastructure to financial benefits for families.

If you have been near the school property the past several months, you already know how much our landscape has changed this fall. Big changes are underway; check out the enclosed article for updates about progress and what's to come.

Please keep reading to learn about all the reasons it's a great day to be an Ace!

With much gratitude,
Dr. T.R. Edwards, Superintendent, Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools

WHAT'S NEW

TRANSITIONS AND CAREER PATH COURSE ADDITION

A-C added a Transitions and Careers course to help students in grades 6-12 build a career path continuum. Some kids know at an early age if they want to go to college or into a trade, but some students don't have a clear path in mind for their future. This course allows them to confidently chart that path.

The course covers work ethics, team building, communication, leadership skills, school success and how these impact career success, digital citizenship, job hunting, professionalism, financial goals, and wellness as it relates to balancing work and family.

Outside the classroom, students participate in job shadowing experiences, apprenticeships and vocational education. Rachel Jones, the course instructor, partners with the Fairfield County Workforce Development Center, businesses and organizations to set these up to provide real-life experience for students to fine-tune their future career and personal goals – and, in some cases, to establish employment opportunities after graduation.

STAY CONNECTED!

If you are on Twitter and would like to hear about more A-C happenings, please follow:

- A-C District: @amandaacesk12
- A-C Athletics: @AC_Athletics1
- A-C High School: @ACHS_Aces
- **NEW:** Elementary: ac_elementary

 **FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

AMANDA-CLEARCREEK CORE VALUES ...

We believe our success as a school district is the shared responsibility of students, home, staff and community.

We believe each of our students will graduate prepared to enter society as critical, independent thinkers.

We believe all our students can learn when provided with a safe environment that values and respects them as individuals.

REMINDERS

AMANDA-CLEARCREEK APP

If you haven't already, we encourage you to download the Amanda-Clearcreek app to access school information easily on your smartphone.

Download the app by searching "Amanda Clearcreek" or scanning a QR code:

Apple App



Google App



Once you download the app, choose "More" on the bottom right side of the screen to personalize the app to your preferences. Click "My Schools" and make your selections to see posts, information and calendars for the schools relevant to you.

Next, click "Notifications" to choose from which schools you would like to receive notifications and alerts. These options are adjustable at any time.

Opt-out Instructions

If you would like to opt out of receiving this printed newsletter, please contact Kari Karshner, district secretary, at 740-969-7250 or kkarshner@amanda.k12.oh.us.

HIRING SUBSTITUTE POSITIONS

The Amanda-Clearcreek Local School District is seeking motivated professionals to join our team as substitute teachers, bus drivers, educational aides, cooks, cashiers, custodians and secretaries. If you're looking for a rewarding job and are interested in making a difference in our community, we encourage you to apply.

Those interested in substitute teaching should contact the Fairfield County ESC at 740-653-3193 or the Pickaway County ESC at 740-474-7529. Those interested in being a substitute bus driver, cafeteria assistant, custodian or aide can complete the application on our website on the Employment page under the About Us tab. We are an equal employment opportunity employer.

EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING AT A-C!

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING, FINANCES, INFRASTRUCTURE, FOOD SERVICES & MORE

We hope you agree it's always a great day to be an Ace! We have had so many exciting things happening this year, from new academic offerings to student resources to operational improvements. We'd like to share a few of those here to highlight some of the experiences that make being an A-C student so special.

STUDENT SAFETY & WELL-BEING

Amanda-Clearcreek Local School District is fully committed to the safety and well-being of our students and school community. That's why we've taken an important step to enhance personal safety and provide a positive learning environment for all students.

A-C is now using the **Stay Safe. Speak Up! Student Safety Reporting System** (powered by PublicSchoolWORKS).

Stay Safe. Speak Up! is a comprehensive reporting tool that allows students, parents and staff to submit safety concerns to school officials.

Concerns can be submitted in three ways:



1. MOBILE APP

Download the **Stay Safe. Speak Up!** mobile app and enter our unique District Code to submit reports directly from your smartphone.
District Code: ACES.



2. PHONE

Call **1-866-547-8362** to leave a voice message or speak with a trained, live attendant. Attendants can initiate contact with various national crisis hotlines if a student needs help in dealing with a personal emergency.



3. ONLINE

Go to the district's website and click on the **Stay Safe. Speak Up!** button to access the online form from a desktop computer or laptop.

You and your child can easily report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, weapons, thoughts of suicide, or any other concern which may jeopardize the safety of students, employees or school property.

Every report received about our district is immediately logged into our system and our administration is notified so we can investigate and take appropriate action. And, tips can be submitted anonymously.

We will make every effort to handle and respond to every charge and complaint filed by students, parents and employees in a fair, thorough and just manner. And, every effort will be made to protect the due process rights of all victims and all alleged perpetrators.

We're confident that **Stay Safe. Speak Up!** will enhance communication, ensure a swifter response to school safety concerns, and make our district a safer place to work and learn.

CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENTS

Preschool

This is where the educational journey starts! A-C continues to offer a robust preschool program, which was awarded a five-star (now titled gold) Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) rating by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth. Receiving this rating not only puts A-C's preschool as one of the highest-quality programs, but it also qualified the program for \$170,000 in grants this year.

K-5

We have worked diligently to round out the K-5 curriculum for students, including incorporating the elements of the Science of Reading. We have exceeded the state's requirements for English Language Arts curriculum, with teachers implementing several new programs across the entire K-5. This ensures student learning is consistent and connected each year, with programs to build strong youth literacy.

6-12

Curriculum in the middle school and high school have been revamped to expand our offerings in various industry pathways and in the arts for vocal and instrumental music. Here are just a few of the enhancements we've made:

- We added an Information Technology pathway for grades 6-12 to introduce students to hardware and software technology.
- We added a music teacher to grades 6-12 that will provide expanded opportunities to grades K-5 as well.
- By transitioning from block scheduling to an eight-period day, we were also able to add additional electives in English and social studies.
- We continue to offer College Credit Plus courses in-house, which means A-C students earn college credit for courses taken here at A-C – at no cost to them!

FALL SPORTS

Congratulations to our fall student athletes for a great season!



Career Pathways

A huge part of providing a quality education is helping students define their path for after graduation. At A-C, students start receiving career-based experiences in the primary grades. For example, second graders took a field trip to city hall so they could explore what it takes to run a city and learn about the roles of people who work in city offices, police, fire, etc. Students can use virtual reality to use their hands to actually "try" a job (for example, changing oil in a vehicle).

True career exploration at A-C really begins in middle school. In sixth grade, students learn about various careers, then they pick two areas of interest to focus on in seventh grade. In eighth grade, they narrow their focus to one interest and build a pathway for success within that career goal. For example, this could lead to courses at the career center, college prep classes or workforce experiences.

The ultimate goal of this career pathway approach is to prepare all students for life after high school, providing them with various options and opportunities to fine-tune their path along the way.

SMALL CLASS SIZES

Students at Amanda-Clearcreek enjoy smaller class sizes and higher staff-to-student ratios than all but one other school in the county (we're second only to Walnut Township Local Schools). Small class size – and ultimately more individualized time with staff – is extremely important for academic success. We have been very fiscally responsible while accomplishing this, by using grants and available funding whenever possible to place staff in positions where needed without impacting taxpayers.

TRANSPORTATION

SafeRoutz – This year, we introduced a new transportation routing software called SafeRoutz. This system allows us to quickly communicate with parents/guardians of children on specific buses about delays and other time-sensitive information. The system provides route information (for their students only) and allows bus drivers access to contact information for the families in their route, which provides drivers an extra level of communication and safety.

Electric Buses – Through federal grant funding, we were able to add two electric buses to our fleet last year. These not only provide a cost-effective mode of transportation for our district, but they also provide a quieter ride for students.

FOOD SERVICE

Students have enjoyed free breakfast and lunch this year, thanks to funding through a new federal program. Due to our district's income demographics, A-C elected to apply for the Provision 2 Program, rather than the Community Eligibility Program (as other schools in the county did).

There are a few reasons for this, but the most important reason is that this program is sustainable for a longer duration because of the way ongoing funding is calculated through both programs. We took our time thoroughly exploring both options, and this was the best option for our district long-term. This three-year federal program will prevent deficits in the food service budget, which has allowed us to build a more robust breakfast and lunch menu (as parents/guardians have likely noticed this year). We'd like to thank Kim Deerfield, our food services supervisor, for her diligent work to bring healthy, delicious food options for our students and staff!

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAINTAIN THIS PROGRAM

Help us sustain the free breakfast and lunch program at A-C! To sustain this funding beyond this academic year, we must have strong completion of the Household Income Survey (this replaced the Free & Reduced Lunch Application). This is critical for our district and impacts more than just students who are eligible, as many state and federal programs are based on the information provided by our families. **Please, complete this survey by scanning the QR code.**



ATHLETICS

To promote student attendance and build a culture of Aces pride, we implemented free admission for all A-C students to home athletic events. We have loved seeing our student sections grow this fall and hope it continues for winter and spring as well!

STUDENT FEE WAIVER

We know finances are a struggle for many right now. To help reduce the burden on our families, we waive curriculum-driven classroom fees and pay-to-play fees for sports teams. We also have reduced the number of back-to-school supplies that families need to provide.

We have worked diligently to find ways to offer these benefits without impacting our taxpayers. For example, Jamie Justus, our athletic director, has worked hard to host athletic events and tournaments that generate revenue for our athletic program to offset pay-to-play fees.



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or go to Resources on the A-C website.
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- Message from your Superintendent
- Ag Teachers Receive Prestigious Award
- A-C FFA at National Convention
- Student Successes
- Aces Against Cancer Recap
- Exciting Things Happening at A-C:
- Academic Programming, Finances, Infrastructure, Food Services & More
- What's New
- Important Reminders



Dec. 23-Jan. 1 – NO SCHOOL, Christmas Break
Jan. 2 – NO SCHOOL, Teacher In-Service
Jan. 3 – NO SCHOOL, Teacher Workday
Jan. 4 – School Resumes

For a full 2024-25 school calendar, please visit the district website.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

IN THIS ISSUE:

A-C PRIDE: COMMUNITY & GIVING BACK

ACES AGAINST CANCER RAISES NEARLY \$28,000 FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Aces Against Cancer (AAC) recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a focus on student and community education and engagement. We are proud to say our community raised \$27,622.25, putting our 10-year total at more than \$191,000.

To kick off this year's AAC Week activities, we collaborated with the Amanda Harvest Festival to offer a day of free community activities on September 14. This event included free yoga and Zumba classes, cancer screenings and prevention displays from local health care organizations, and an evening of live entertainment to celebrate 10 years of never giving up hope. The rest of AAC Week included theme days at school, a vaping prevention course for middle school and high school students, and athletes wearing special game jerseys to honor those impacted by cancer. The week ended with the homecoming game, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle and a big win over Circleville to top it off! It was a great week working toward "More Homecomings, Less Cancer," and it wouldn't be successful without the amazing support of the A-C Community! **THANK YOU!**



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As we have shared in the past, our district has seen slow, steady growth over the last several years and our projections show this will continue into the future. To ensure we're being proactive and as fiscally responsible as possible, we embarked on a master facility planning process.

Construction officially kicked off in June for the Amanda-Clearcreek facilities improvement project! We wanted to share some exciting updates with you about the project's progress.



K-2 Primary Addition: Significant milestones have been achieved. The storm piping installation is complete, and the slab-on-grade (SOG) work is finished. Currently, the team is installing roofing insulation and membrane, along with ongoing mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) rough-ins and interior wall construction. Looking ahead, HVAC duct and hydronic piping installations are set to begin soon, pushing the project closer to its next phase.



Fieldhouse: Major structural work has wrapped up, including the completion of the lower-level concrete walls and waterproofing. Currently, underground plumbing, steel angles for plank, and steel columns and bracing are progressing. Next up is underground electric work, followed by foundation block installation.



Athletic Storage Building: Interior electrical work is ongoing. The next steps include storm piping installation, site concrete placement, and the installation of the interior fence.



Concession and Batting Cages: Current activities include MEP installations and truss bracing/sheathing. Upcoming work focuses on roofing, overhead MEP systems and HVAC equipment setup.

REMINDERS

VISITOR SIGN-IN PROCESS

The safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. To further strengthen our safety measures within our buildings, A-C has implemented an ID policy for all visitors during school hours.

If you are a classroom visitor or are entering the school building beyond the front office for any reason during classroom hours, you will be asked to provide your ID. Our integrated school safety software will search for any warning flags that may come up, and those will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in the superintendent's office. We appreciate everyone's cooperation with this policy, as it helps keep the students in our care as safe as possible.

Note: Your ID will need to be scanned into the system each year, so please be sure to allow extra time if you are coming into the school for awards banquets, ceremonies, class party days and any other time that has an increased visitor presence.

VOLUNTEERING

If you're interested in volunteering and haven't turned in your volunteer form, please contact the district office at 740-969-7250 – or your building's secretary – to obtain the volunteer form and handbook. Parents/guardians who wish to attend school parties, field trips, school sports and any other school-related activity must be approved by the A-C Board of Education.



STUDENT HAPPENINGS

ACES ON THE MOVE



A-C FFA REPRESENTS AT NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

Members of the A-C FFA Chapter represented the district well with strong numbers at the recent National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Congratulations to our National FFA contest participants and award recipients!



Agricultural Communications Team Places in Top 10 in the Nation

We are so proud of Cate Buckley, Madison Cordle, Haley Robinson and Emma Strickler for earning a gold rating and placing ninth in the nation in the Agricultural Communications Career Development Event (CDE) competition. The team represented A-C FFA well at the National FFA Convention. Congratulations, ladies!



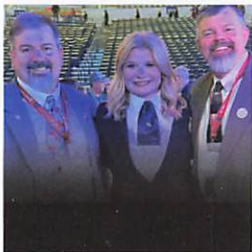
Madelyn Anderson Receives Silver Rating

Congratulations to Madelyn Anderson for placing in the top 20 in the nation in her CDE contest! She received a silver rating in the Employment Skills CDE, which she won at the state level to advance to the national contest during the National FFA Convention.



A-C FFA Members Earn American FFA Degrees

Congratulations to Riley McKeska and Hannah Saum for earning their American FFA Degrees during the National FFA Convention. This is the highest degree an FFA member can earn.



Morgan Anderson Completes National FFA Officer Term

We want to congratulate Morgan Anderson, A-C graduate, for wrapping up her term as a National FFA officer. She represented A-C and Ohio well, and we're so proud of her!



A-C FFA Advisors Recognized

Congratulations to Mr. Scott Sharp and Mr. Jeff Tilley for earning their Honorary American FFA Degrees and for being recognized on stage as Morgan Anderson's mentors.



A-C STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY

Congratulations to the following Amanda-Clearcreek students who were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society, Fairfield Career Center Chapter:

- Elizabeth Brinley, Pre-Nursing
- Kyle Kougher, HVAC
- Bailey Sterling, Pre-Nursing



HOPE SQUAD RECEIVES GRANTS

Congratulations to our ACHS HOPE Squad on securing two grants this fall. The HOPE Squad had been awarded the 4imprint Grant and The Joe Burrow Foundation Do Good Grant! These funds will help HOPE Squad members continue their excellent work in our school district and community.