

AMBRIDGE

AREA



SPOOKTACULAR

The Student Services/Counseling Team and Interact Club proudly hosted the Annual Spooktacular Community Event on October 23, welcoming students and families for a fun-filled night of information sharing and resources for families, games, food, and community connection. Families enjoyed trick-or-treating, free books, costumes, and access to helpful school and community resources.



Thanks to the leadership of Student Services and the Interact Club, student groups, and community partners, the event was a wonderful success! The evening brought smiles to many faces and highlighted the strong sense of togetherness that makes our school community special.



High School



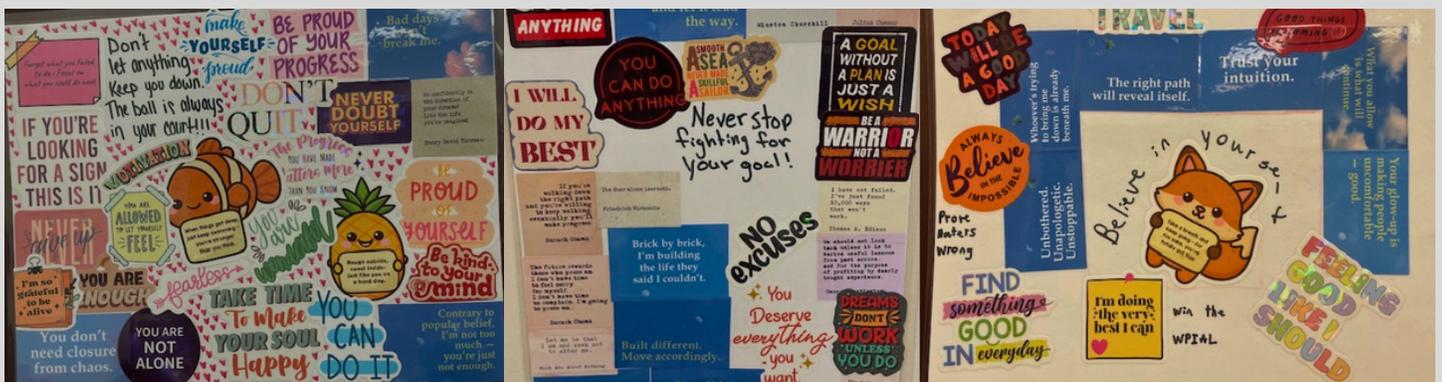
Youth Peer Generation Support (YPGS) Program

Take Care of
& Your Mind



Mental Health Matters

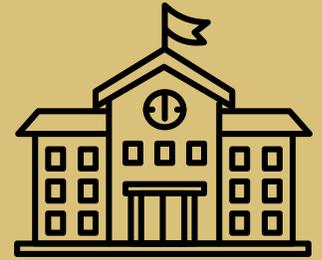
Ambridge Area High School students recently participated in the Youth Peer Generation Support (YPGS) training, a leadership and peer-support program hosted by Beaver County Behavioral Health and the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit. Through this experience, students learned valuable skills focused on resilience, mental wellness, and supporting one another in positive ways.



Working alongside the High School Counseling Team, Youth Ambassador Program students returned to school empowered to share encouragement and promote inclusive, supportive environments for their peers. We are proud of their commitment to leadership and well-being within our school community.



High School



Honoring Veterans

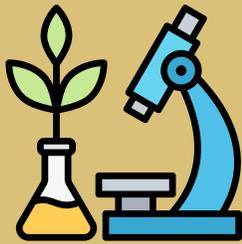


Thank you to the Student Council for the visible tribute outside the school to honor the dedication and service of our veterans. The Freshman channeled their creativity into an act of community gratitude. Their heartfelt messages and drawings were delivered to the Baden Legion to honor local heroes.

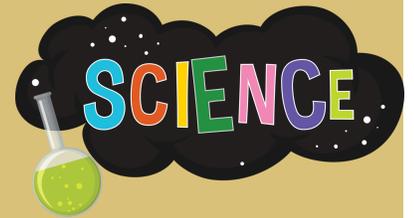
KD Quiz Show



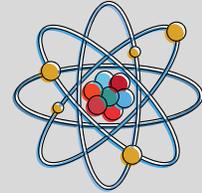
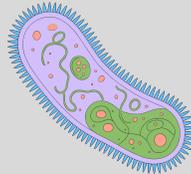
On October 8, Senior Janna Rusnak and Juniors Faith Aguirre and Charlotte Hill competed in the KD Quiz show against Taylor Allderdice and Valley High Schools. The quiz show tests general knowledge of a variety of subjects. Our students performed admirably.



High School



Small Stuff, Big Science! (Life Science)

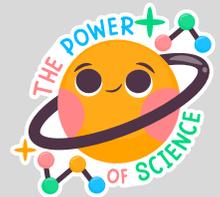


Ninth-grade Life Science students are exploring cells and how they help living things survive and interact with their environment under the new PA STEELS standards.

As the year continues, students will move from cells to body systems and then zoom out to study ecosystems and populations—connecting science from the smallest to the largest levels.



Cracking the Case: Forensic Science



Forensic Science students began the year with hands-on activities while learning how the field connects to the justice system and ethical responsibilities.

Next, students will practice collecting and analyzing evidence, with plans to apply their skills in mock crime scenes later this year.



Science Club Is Back!



Science Club is conducting experiments, building leadership skills, taking field trips and holding a school-wide science assembly.



High School



Strive for 5!



Ambridge High School's 2025-2026 Attendance initiative encourages kids to show up every day ready to learn, build strong habits for future success, and stay connected to their school community. Each Friday, we reward the students with a treat of their choice. If you have attended all 5 days the previous week, you get to come to the table during your lunch period!

On October 4th, we kicked off this initiative with a Fall Kickoff and Community Fair. We featured a clothing shop with fall and winter essentials as well as school supplies and hygiene items. Community vendors were present to provide resources and support for our district families and pizza was enjoyed by all. If you attended, visited all vendors, and submitted your ticket you were eligible to win one of 3 gift cards donated by community businesses. We look forward to future events that will mirror our October 4th event.

Please encourage your children to attend school and report on time every day. Let's work together to build positive habits!

Athletics



Athletic Honors Spotlight

Congratulations to our student-athletes for earning All-Conference and All-Section recognition this season!

In football, the following players were honored:

Quinn Tkatch was named 1st Team All-Conference (Offense) as a Guard, and also received Honorable Mention (Defense) on the Defensive Line.

Martese Priest earned 2nd Team All-Conference (Defense) as a Defensive Back.

Darold Cain received Honorable Mention (Offense) as Quarterback.

Darren Cox was recognized with Honorable Mention (Defense) as an Inside Linebacker.



In girls soccer, Norah Marchionda was selected to the All-Section Team.

We are proud of all of our athletes for their hard work and outstanding accomplishments!





Athletics

Athletic Honors Spotlight

Ambridge Area High School Boys' Volleyball Team

·Section Champions

·WPIAL Silver Medal 2nd Place

·PIAA 5th Place

·Overall record 16-3

·The team has qualified for the WPIAL playoffs for the last 24 years with coach Glenn Freed, including being in the WPIAL Finals 15 times (winning 10) and Consolations 6 times.

Student-Athlete Honors:

All-Section Teams

First Team: Karson Merlina, Anthony Seymour, Nathan Sheffield

Second Team: Owen Buchanan, Nickolas Henry

All-WPIAL Teams

First Team: Karson Merlina

Second Team: Anthony Seymour, Nathan Sheffield

Third Team: Nickolas Henry



All-State Volleyball

Congratulations to 2025 senior Karson Merlina! He earned a spot on the All-State Team.

From across the state, 10 players were chosen to the First Team; 10 players on the Second Team; and 9 players on Honorable Mention. Karson earned FIRST TEAM honors. Very awesome.

What a great honor! Way to represent Ambridge Area High School and the team.

GO BRIDGERS!



Athletics



Athletic Honors Spotlight



Golf Accolades

Please join us in recognizing Colton Hisiro for an incredible, record-setting performance in the WPIAL AAA Individual Golf Playoffs!

Colt's season was defined by consistent excellence and dedication:

- Historic Achievement:** Colton is the first Ambridge golfer to qualify for all three rounds of the WPIAL playoff system since the three-round format was adopted, according to Coach Yanessa.
- WPIAL Finals Run:** He started strong in the local section qualifier, finishing 3rd out of 36 golfers. He then advanced through the first round by shooting a 76 at Peasant Ridge and shot another 76 at Willowbrook Country Club in the second round, finishing tied for 16th among top competitors.
- Top Golfer Status:** In the WPIAL AAA Finals, Colt finished tied for 34th overall. This places him as the 34th best golfer out of all the golfers in all school districts.
- Remarkable Improvement:** This success is a testament to his determination. Last season, he finished in the second round; this year, through hard work and playing rounds of golf, he made it to the finals!

Congratulations, Colton, on your historic achievements and for representing Ambridge with such dedication!



Music Department



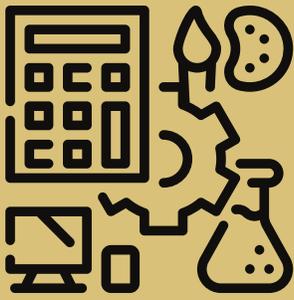
Music Department Highlights



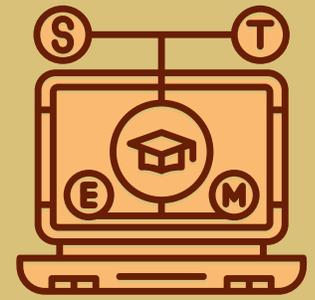
The marching band had a strong season, welcoming over 30 new members and completing their entire show during band camp. Their halftime performance, The Music of the King of Pop – Michael Jackson, was a visual and musical success. The band also opened the Beaver County Invitational, hosted a Drum & Bugle Corps, performed in the Veterans Day Parade, and welcomed middle school musicians for Middle School Band Night.



The steelband opened the St. Luke Festival over Labor Day weekend, featuring vocals for the first time. The group also performed at Christmas in the Woods in Ohio and at the State Street Veterans Day Breakfast, sharing island music throughout the community.



Middle School



Inspiring Futures with STEM & Sports – Visit from Chris Hoke

Former Pittsburgh Steeler Chris Hoke met with local students to talk about the power of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and how hard work, curiosity, and teamwork can open doors to exciting careers.



During his visit, he shared stories from his NFL career and life after football, encouraging students to:

- Stay engaged in their math and science classes
- Set goals and work through challenges
- Use teamwork and leadership in the classroom, not just on the field

Students left feeling motivated and inspired to explore STEM pathways and think big about their futures!



Middle School



AAMS Highlights



Middle School Students had a lot of fun events at their Decades Dance!



Students can test their skills and creativity in Dungeons and Dragons club!



Middle School



Serving Up Fun: Tennis at AAMS!

Students at Ambridge Area Middle School had a ball learning tennis with the National Tennis Association!



Fun drills, teamwork, and lots of laughter filled the gym as students:

Practiced basic tennis skills

Built confidence and coordination

Learned about sportsmanship and staying active

It was an “ace” experience that helped students discover a new lifelong sport and healthy hobby.



Economy Elementary

Living Rachel's Challenge

Students at Economy Elementary are continuing the powerful work of Rachel's Challenge, a program focused on creating safer, more connected schools. Classrooms are embracing Rachel's Five Challenges by:

Looking for the best in others

Dreaming big

Choosing positive influences

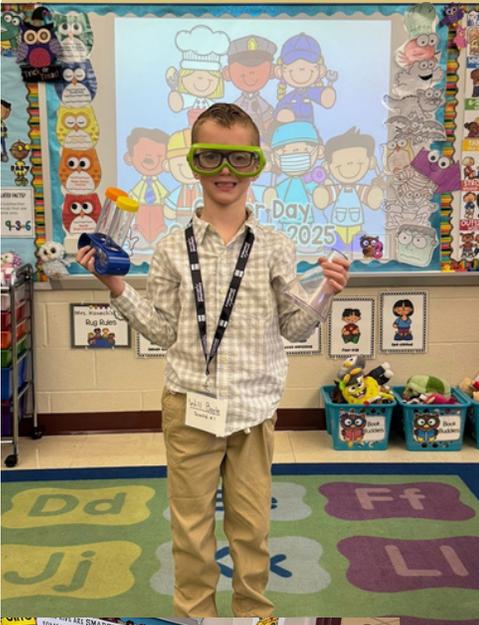
Speaking with kindness

Starting a kindness chain reaction



Teachers are expanding on these themes through classroom lessons, helping students turn kindness into daily action, and making Economy a welcoming place for everyone.

Economy Elementary



Economy students had a blast this fall with Career Day, the Mad Science Assembly, Fire Safety Assembly, Student Council Snack Cart, the Blay Cafe, and the PBIS Josh and Gab Assembly! Way to go Economy!



Economy Elementary

Thank You, Mrs. Galitsis!

Thank
you



After many years of dedicated service, leadership, and heartfelt care for our students, Mrs. Galitsis will be retiring at the end of December. Throughout her time as principal, she has made a lasting impact on our school community through her unwavering commitment to students, staff, and families. We are deeply grateful for the care, support, and guidance she has provided, and her legacy will continue to be felt for years to come. Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Galitsis on her well-earned retirement and wishing her joy, relaxation, and fulfillment in this next chapter of her life.





Highland Elementary



“Legend of Spookley” Family Event

Laughter, learning, and kindness filled Highland’s “Spookley the Square Pumpkin” night! Families enjoyed reading, crafts, and pumpkin fun while celebrating acceptance and community. Square-shaped treats and smiles made this event truly heartwarming.





Highland Elementary



Honoring our Veterans!

Highland Elementary held a special assembly on November 10 to learn about and celebrate our veterans. Fourth grader, Brantley Turner, and his mom, Brittini Turner (United States Army), shared with the students what a veteran is, and information on the 6 branches of the military. The assembly ended by recognizing family members of Highland staff members, as well as current staff, that had served in our Armed Forces.



State Street Elementary

State Street Elementary Happenings:

We hosted Touch a Truck for the kids. Our third grade student, Remington Stump, was the lucky winner to get a ride to school in a fire truck as his friends greeted him upon his arrival. Baden fire Department presented fire safety as well.



Beaver County Regional Police brought their canine to school to teach about his daily work for the county. What a fun time!

We appreciate our community connections with our local law enforcement and fire departments!

State Street Elementary

State Street School has been buzzing with activity!



We were honored to host our annual Veterans Breakfast, welcoming community members to thank them for their service. Our fifth graders have also been busy beyond the classroom—enjoying a fun and educational trip to Yeck’s Farm and showcasing their creativity by decorating a gingerbread house, now on display at Northway Block through early January. We wrapped up the month with a successful McTeacher Night, bringing families together for a great cause.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events memorable!

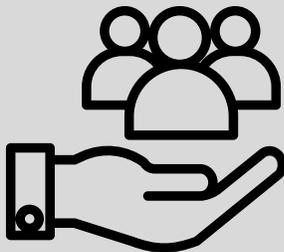
Accomplishments

Special District Accomplishments

Silver Level of the Child Hunger Hero Award

We would like to recognize the High School Food Service Team for receiving the Silver Level of the Child Hunger Hero Award, awarded by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. This significant achievement highlights their consistent and effective commitment to improving food security and supporting crucial programs that address child hunger across our region. We appreciate their dedication and celebrate this well-deserved recognition tonight.

Leigh Anne Holman, Food Service Director



Kelly Gregory
Anna Robinson
Leah Hartman
Akiko Sachs
Vickie Pinkerton
Barb McGeorge



Turnip the Beet SILVER Award

Ambridge Area School District has been awarded the Turnip the Beet SILVER award! This recognition honors summer meal program sponsors nationwide who diligently provide children with high-quality, nutritious meals during the summer months.



Kelly Gregory
Sue Palombo
Anna Robinson
Vickie Pinkerton
Amanda Knox
Barb McGeorge
Leah Hartman

Leigh Anne Holman, Director of Food Service