

ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Digital Rendering of AHS by Arrow Media students Gavin Postlethwait and Eric Cao

Winter Update

Dear Arrow Families,

As we head into January, we hope your family had a great break. Many of the things contained in our newsletter are important for planning, not just for the next few months of winter, but for next year as well. In January, we begin our meetings with students and parents to present their schedule options for next year.

Counselors follow up on those presentations by meeting with students to go over questions and finalize their schedule requests for next year. We encourage you to investigate all the options Ashland High School and our partner schools may have in store for your student.

Please also take a moment to read through our update on electronic device use at Ashland High School as well as our expectations for school dances and take time to discuss those with your student.

On January 16th, our first semester will come to a close, and we'll begin our second semester.

Mr. Packard



Important Dates

January 5th- School Resumes following break
 January 14th - College Credit Plus Info Night 6 PM
 January 16th - End of 1st Semester
 January 19th - Martin Luther King Day - No School
 January 21st - 8th to 9th Grade Parent Scheduling Night 6 PM
 January 23rd - Grade Cards distributed in Arrow Time
January 31st - Winter Formal 7-10 PM at AHS (Date Change)

February 4th - Winter Athletic Signing Day
 February 12th - Parent Teacher Conferences
 February 12th - Scholarship Info for Parents - Kiva - 5:30 PM
 February 12th- Honors Diploma/Grad Req. - Little Theatre - 6:30 PM
 February 13th - Teacher Trade Day - No School
 February 16th - President's Day - No School
 February 18th - Accuplacer at AHS
 February 20th-22nd - Ashland High School Musical
 February 24th - ACT Test for All Juniors at AHS - 7:40 AM

March 6th - Accuplacer at AHS
 March 9th - Spring Sports Picture Day
 March 20th - Teacher Day - No school for Students
 March 25th - Spring Meet the Team Night 8 PM at AHS
 March 27th - Accuplacer at AHS
 March 27th - End of the 3rd Grading Period
 March 30th-April 6th - Ashland High School Spring Break

April 1st - Deadline to turn in CCP letter of intent for 2026-2027
 April 13th - Accuplacer at AHS
 April 23rd - Parent Teacher Conferences
 April 25th - Ashland High School Prom
 May 25th - Memorial Day - No School

June 1st - 4th - End of the Year Schedule
 June 3rd - Farewell Assembly Practice - 12:45 PM
 June 4thj - Farewell Assembly - 8 AM
 June 4th - Graduation Practice - 12:00 PM
 June 4th - Last Student Day
 June 6th - Graduation



Winter Formal Dance



On January 31st, 2026, Ashland High School will host a formal dance at AHS from 7-10 PM. There is no need for parents to spend money on new dresses or clothes. The old ones are fine!

Students who wish to bring guests who are not Ashland High School students should pick up a guest form in the main office and turn that in when they purchase tickets. Guests must be high school students under 21 years old. Students may only bring 1 guest. Tickets are \$10 online (plus processing fees) or \$15 at the door. Tickets will go on sale online two weeks prior to the dance on the high school website.

AHS Dance Expectations

We want every school dance to be a safe, fun, and memorable event for all students. Please read these expectations carefully before purchasing a ticket or attending a dance. All students and guests must follow these expectations at every AHS-sponsored dance or event. The administration reserves the right to deny entry or remove any student or guest whose conduct, appearance, or behavior is inconsistent with school expectations. Students who have been suspended or expelled at any point during their AHS career may be required to set up a meeting with administration before they are allowed to attend.

General Expectations

- All dances are school-sponsored events. All AHS and Ashland City Schools rules and policies apply, including the Code of Conduct.
- Students who leave the dance for any reason may not re-enter.
- Bags, backpacks, water bottles, and coats are not permitted, and if brought, will be kept in a separate room. Small purses (clutches) are allowable but subject to inspection by administration. Complimentary water will be available inside the dance.
- Tickets are non-refundable.

Dancing Expectations

Ashland High School expects all dancing to reflect good judgment, modesty, and respect for others.

The following apply to all AHS dances:

- Students may dance near or behind others, but dancing in a back-to-front position with physical contact between partners is not permitted.
- Inappropriate or sexually explicit dancing, running, jumping on others, flips, lifts, or “mosh-pit” style dancing are not permitted.

Guest Policy

- Each AHS student may bring one (1) guest.
- Guests must arrive and leave with their host AHS student.

Guests must be current high school students or recent graduates who are no older than 20 years old. Middle school students are not permitted. All guest applications must be approved by AHS administration at least the day prior to the event. Guest applications are available on our website or in our main office.

Dear Arrow Families,

I would like to take a moment to clarify our personal electronic device policy so that you have time to discuss our current policy and upcoming changes with your student.

Cell Phone Policy

Earlier this year Ohio law changed to prohibit cell phone use during school hours. Schools must put this policy into effect by no later than January 1st, 2026. While AHS students are currently prohibited from using their phone during classes, the new law clarifies that phones may not be used during lunch or hallway transitions as well. We strongly recommend talking to your students about putting their phone in their backpack or their locker so they are not tempted to take it out during the school day.

As of January 1st, when students return from winter break this means that between 7:30 AM and 2:35 PM cell phones cannot be used and must be put away. Exceptions to this may be made for students who have documented medical issues and emergency situations like a school lockdown. If you need to get a message to your student during the school day, please call our main office at 419-289-7968 rather than calling or texting them.

Wearable Technology

As technology continues to evolve, we're seeing our students with more wearable technology items, especially in the form of smart glasses and smartwatches. While these tools can be useful in certain situations, they also raise new challenges in maintaining academic integrity, student privacy, and a focused learning environment.

Smartwatches

Smartwatches are still permitted at this time and after January 1st. However, teachers or administrators may ask students to remove their watches during assessments or whenever they believe the device could interfere with learning or compromise academic integrity.

Smart glasses

Smart glasses are defined as any type of wearable eyewear that includes integrated electronic components capable of performing functions beyond standard vision correction or eye protection. This includes eyewear designed to record or transmit audio, video, or images, either visibly or discreetly; access the internet or connect to wireless networks such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or cellular service; display digital information or augmented reality content through the lenses or frames; send or receive messages, notifications, or phone calls; or operate applications and digital assistants such as Siri, Alexa, or Google Assistant.

Examples of such devices include, but are not limited to, Meta (Ray-Ban) Smart Glasses, Google Glass, and Amazon Echo Frames.

These devices raise significant concerns regarding student privacy and academic honesty. Because these devices can capture or transmit images and video without others' knowledge, they are currently not permitted during instructional time or any part of the school day from 7:30 AM to 2:35 PM. This helps ensure that students remain engaged in learning and that our classrooms, bathrooms, and locker rooms remain secure and distraction-free. Finally, please note that prescription eyewear should not include any recording features or smart technology. Regular glasses that solely assist with vision correction are, of course, fully permitted and encouraged.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations with your students to promote fairness and focus in every classroom. Thank you for partnering with us to protect the integrity of our classrooms, safeguard student privacy, and maintain a productive academic environment for all learners.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Mr. Packard

Ashland High School Principal

College Credit Plus (CCP) Info Night

What: An informational meeting for any student interested in taking a College Credit Plus class from The University of Akron, Ashland University, OSU-Mansfield, or North Central State College during the 2026-2027 school year. This includes CCP classes at AHS and on local campuses. The information at this meeting is required for all students who plan to take college classes next year.

Where: The program will be on Wed., Jan. 14th at 6:00 PM in the AHS Little Theater .

Why: It is essential that interested students understand what they need to do in terms of admission requirements, online applications, and deadlines they must meet in order to be eligible for CCP courses. **Required letter of intent to participate in CCP is due April 1st**

Important Dates for CCP

Students may need a college readiness test to determine if they can be placed into specific courses (i.e. English Composition and College Algebra). The Accuplacer is a college-readiness test that will be given four times at AHS on the dates below. Testing will be 2nd period - Arrow Time and students must have applied to North Central State College CCP at least one week prior to testing. The first attempt at testing is free.

Accuplacer Dates at AHS for Spring 2026

Wednesday, February 18th / Friday, March 6th / Friday, March 27th / Monday, April 13th

Required CCP Letter of Intent for 2026-2027 School Year: Due to AHS Guidance by April 1st

Paying for College Night

We will be offering a "Paying for College" presentation for ALL interested college-bound seniors and their parents/guardians on February 12th at 5:30 in the KIVA (Media Center).

Important information about local scholarships and financial aid options will be reviewed and representatives from Ashland University and the Ashland County Community Foundation will be available to share specific information and answer questions.

AU financial aid reps will also be able to answer questions about the FAFSA for ANY senior regardless of their chosen university. FAFSA submission is often required for student eligibility for both merit and need-based awards.

Ashland High School Counselor Contacts

Mrs. Thomas - Students with last names A-G
juthomas@goarrows.org

Mr. Grissinger - Students with last names H-O
hegrissi@goarrows.org

Mrs. Hodapp - Students with last names P-Z
lihodapp@goarrows.org

Scheduling for 2026-2027

In mid-January, we begin the scheduling process for the 2026-2027 school year. This will involve our counselors presenting course information to our students the week of January 26th. Course registration sheets for next year are due the following week on February 6th, and counselors will then begin working with students on their schedules as well as planning for graduation pathways, careers, and college.

Course Registration Information for Parents

We encourage our parents to be involved in the process of helping students pick their courses for the following year. This process will begin at the end of January and continue through the end of March as students meet with their counselors to hear presentations and pick their courses for 2026-2027.

Scheduling presentations are available online for parents to view at their convenience, as is our Program of Studies, which has course details as well as valuable information about graduation requirements and College Credit Plus. This information can be found on our guidance website by following the QR code to the right.



JUNIORS

January 27th Scheduling presentations during Arrow Time
February 6th 11th grade scheduling forms (signed by parents) are due

SOPHOMORES

January 29th Scheduling presentations during Arrow Time
February 6th 10th grade scheduling forms (signed by parents) are due

FRESHMEN

January 30th Scheduling presentations during Arrow Time
February 6th 9th grade scheduling forms (signed by parents) are due

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS INFORMATION

January 14th CCP college information night at 6pm in the AHS Little Theater
The spring Accuplacer is offered 2/18, 3/6, and 3/27 and 4/13 starting in Arrow Time

Honors Diploma Requirements for the class of 2026 and Beyond

Two years ago Ohio changed its requirements for honors diplomas to include a seal requirement along with the option of a student strength demonstration. The requirements are viewable in our program of studies by the end of January.

Our guidance department will host a presentation for parents on these requirements and our current graduation requirements on the evening of February 12th at 6:30 PM in the Little Theater.



ACT Testing

Juniors: All juniors (including juniors at the Career Center, full-time CCP students, etc.) will be taking the ACT college admissions test here at AHS during the school day on Tuesday, February 24th, unless they turned in the opt-out form in December. This is a free test for all juniors at AHS. Students will register for the test at school with their counselor. See your school counselor if you have any questions.

Other Testing Dates: For all other National ACT test opportunities, students must register and pay for themselves online at www.actstudent.org

February 14th (register online by January 9th)

April 11th (register online by February 6th)

June 13th (register online by May 8th)

July 11th (register online by June 5th)

Looking for Scholarships?

Many scholarships are available to help you pay for college. Many become available during the months of January, February, and March. Be sure to check the Ashland High School Guidance webpage for the most recent updates by scanning the QR code below.



The best local group of scholarships can be found by browsing the Ashland County Community Foundation Scholarships listed here: <https://ashlandforgood.org/scholarships/>

**ONE APPLICATION.
HUNDREDS OF
SCHOLARSHIPS.**







APPLY BY MARCH 15.
WWW.ASHLANDFORGOOD.ORG



**ASHLAND COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Chromebooks

Students have done a great job remembering their Chromebooks each day. Please continue to remind them to charge them at home so they are ready for school. If a student's Chromebook becomes damaged or is not functioning, please have them bring it to the Kiva during Arrow Time. AHS will do one free damage repair for students throughout the year, but repairs after that are billed to student accounts.

Parking Passes

All students who drive and wish to park in the student parking lot must purchase a parking pass. This applies to CCP and part-time AHS students as well. At the beginning of 2nd semester, parking passes are prorated to \$5 and are available in the main office. Students may not park in the staff parking lot, designated visitor spaces, or painted reserved senior spaces.

Attendance

Detailed Attendance Guidelines for Ashland High School can be found in our handbook beginning on page 5. Please remember if your student will be absent to call the Attendance Office at 419-289-7968 ext. 3309

Medical Appointments

If your student will be absent due to a medical appointment, please be sure to have the doctor's office write an excuse for that day so that the absence will not count against their total hours missed.

Entry and Exit Time

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. If leaving early, the student must arrive on time and leave no sooner than 1:00 p.m.

Virtual Medical Appointments

Occasionally our families have scheduled virtual medical appointments for their students so that they do not have to miss school and can meet with a medical professional at a scheduled time here. We would ask that when this occurs the parent or guardian let us know so that we can find a private place for that virtual appointment to occur.

Podcasts

Our Arrow Media students have been working hard on podcasts that tell the story of good things going on in our district. Search for Arrow Media Podcasts on Spotify or wherever you listen to your podcasts for our latest episodes.



Work Permits

Students who are between the ages of 14-17 and have obtained after school jobs will need a work permit signed by the school. Work permits are available in the AHS main office. Students should fill out the top portion of the permit, then have their employer fill out the bottom part. They may also need a physical from their physician. After these parts are completed, they can return the form to AHS and we will issue the work permit.

Extracurricular Eligibility

In order to be eligible, students must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, have at least a 1.5 GPA and have no more than 1 F on their report card.

Students who have between a 1.5 and 1.8 GPA will remain eligible but will be placed on probation during the following grading period and may be required to meet regularly with their Arrow Time teacher.

February 20th - Deadline for senior photos—3:00 PM; submit to ahsguide@goarrows.org (physical pictures are NOT accepted)

- Pictures not submitted by this deadline **will not** be included in the senior section of the yearbook. Submit senior photos in .jpg OR .jpeg format.
- Direct all questions pertaining to the yearbook & senior picture submission to Mrs. Nikki Fisher OR Mr. Rich Wasowski, yearbook advisors, using ahsguide@goarrows.org

Tuesday, March 3rd Pioneer Career Center Jostens Delivery (tentative)

Tuesday, March 24th AHS Jostens Delivery Date (caps, gowns, announcements)

- Payment in full is required at the time of pick-up. Payment must be in the form of cash or money order...no checks!
- Items may be picked up in the basketball concession stand during all two lunch periods, or in the main office afterwards.

Wednesday, March 25th Heartland CC Jostens Delivery (tentative)

Friday, April 24 Senior Recognition ads AND yearbook orders are due to the Guide by 3 PM and yearbook orders are due.

Monday, May 18 Senior Social/Sunset Viewing, after Scholar Recognition Night, 8:00ish.

Wednesday, June 3rd Farewell Assembly Practice, 12:45-2:35 AHS Gym

- Seniors who are planning to participate in the Farewell Assembly must attend practice
- All fees and obligations must be paid in order to participate

Thursday, June 4th Farewell Assembly, 8:00 AM AHS Gym

- Seniors report to Archer by 7:40 am in order to robe

Thursday, June 4th Graduation Practice, 12:00-2:30, AHS Gym

Students must attend practice to participate in the ceremony

All fees and obligations must be paid in order to participate

Friday, June 5th Baccalaureate, 7:00 pm at Grace Church

- Participation is voluntary
- Graduates are to report to the church chapel by 6:30 pm

Saturday, June 6th Graduation, 10:00 am, Community Stadium OR 7:00 pm

- In the case of inclement weather, graduation will be held in Arrow Arena at Ashland High School; tickets required for entry to Arrow Arena; ceremony broadcast to Archer Auditorium
- If weather conditions are questionable for an outdoor ceremony, information will be posted on the website, and communicated via Twitter and Parent Square

Important Names and Contact Information

Nikki Fisher, Senior class co-advisor 419.289.7968 ext 3120 nifisher@goarrows.org

Rich Wasowski, Senior class co-advisor 419.289.7968 ext 3128 rjwasows@goarrows.org

Senior class questions senior@goarrows.org

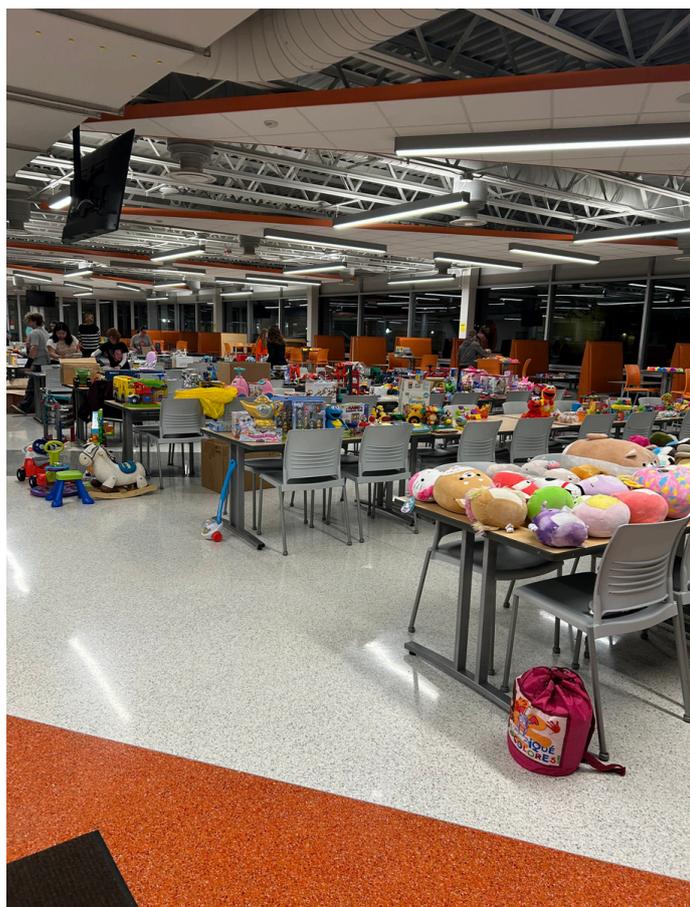
Josten's 1.800.JOSTENS www.jostens.com

Yearbook Questions ahsguide@goarrows.org

Walsworth Yearbooks yearbookforever.com

Arrows in Action

Members of Ashland High School's Community Service Club put on a toy drive for the community the week of November 20th. Thank you to all who donated their time and toys to make Christmas a little merrier for families in our community.



Communication

Clear communication with our parents and students is very important. At Ashland High School we regularly use our Parent Square App, school newsletters, and our website to communicate important updates.

Parents will find a link to Final Forms posted on our website as well. Final Forms is an online system that allows parents to submit forms more quickly and directly. Whenever you have a change to contact information or your address, please take a moment to update that in Final Forms as well.

The link for Final Forms is: <https://goarrows-oh.finalforms.com/>

Other channels of communication are as follows:

Ashland High School Website

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

Twitter

Athletics: @ArrowsAD

Instagram

Mr. Paramore - arrows_supt.goarrows

Phone - Main Office 419-289-7968

Fax - 419-289-8218

Ashland City Schools YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/c/AshlandCitySchoolsOH/videos>

Yearbook Orders

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HOME OF STATE CHAMPIONS
AND RECORD BREAKERS



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