

the courier

the appleton east student newspaper

PEP RALLY

PARADE

GAME

DANCE!



2025 HOMEcoming

HOMECOMING REWIND: THE 2000S

Homecoming season has officially arrived at Appleton East, and this year's theme promises to spark both nostalgia and excitement. With a focus on a 2000s throwback, students will celebrate a decade remembered for its bold fashion, iconic music, and unforgettable pop culture. From the first day of Spirit Week to the closing moments of the dance, the entire school is preparing for a celebration that brings the community together while taking a fun step back in time.

The build-up to Homecoming is just as important as the big night, and Spirit Week always sets the tone. Each day will give students a chance to showcase their creativity, with themes that mix Y2K-inspired outfits and classic school pride. Denim jackets, rhinestone belts, retro sports jerseys, and neon accessories are expected to fill the halls, making the week both colorful and exciting. The daily dress-up themes give students the chance to express themselves while uniting under the Patriot spirit.

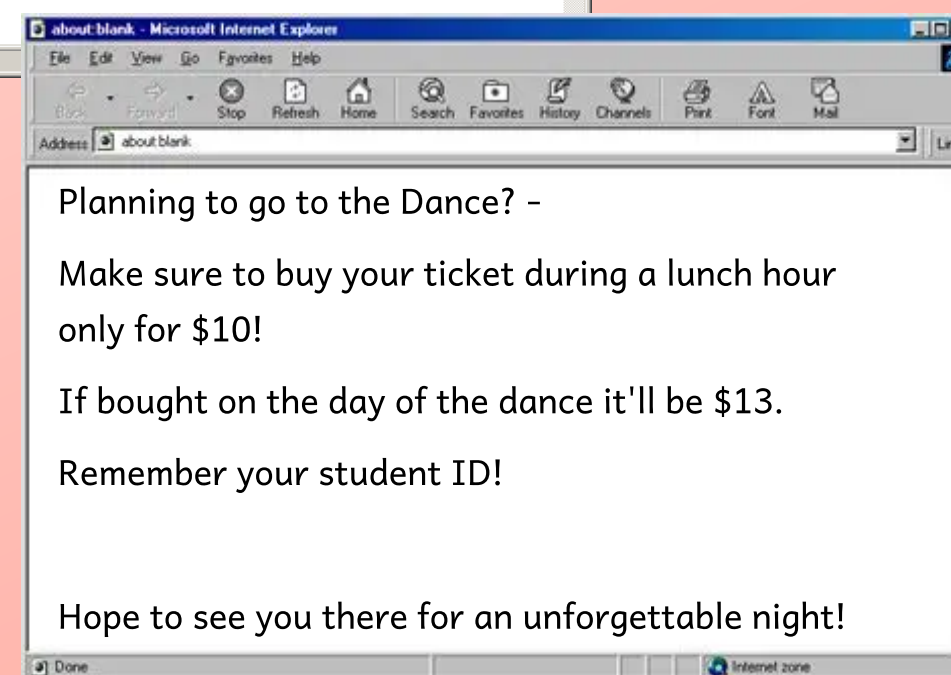
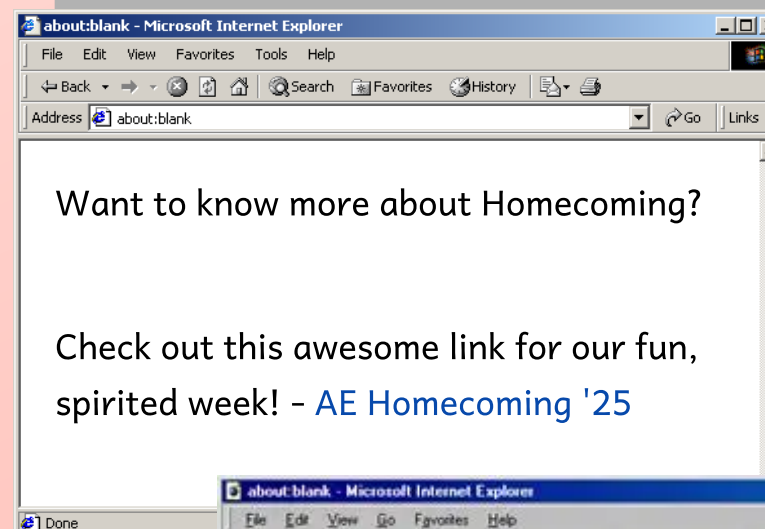
Another highlight of the week will be the Homecoming parade. At Appleton East, this tradition brings together students, families, and the community for a celebration of pride and creativity. Each grade level, along with clubs and organizations, will march with handmade banners and posters designed to show off their spirit. The walking parade format keeps the event personal and interactive, with students carrying their own creations and cheering alongside one another as the crowd lines the route.

Following the parade, the pep rally will keep the momentum going. Students will gather on the Picket Field bleachers for a morning filled with music, spirited performances, and fun that rally each grade level. The pep rally is always one of the most energetic events of the year, and with a 2000s-inspired soundtrack, it promises to deliver both school spirit and a blast of nostalgia. The cheers will echo long after the event ends, fueling excitement for the weekend ahead.

Friday night's football game will be another major highlight. Under the stadium lights, the Patriots will face off against Fond du Lac in a matchup that draws students, staff, families, and alumni alike. The stands will be a sea of school colors, filled with students ready to cheer for their team. At halftime, the Appleton East Band will take center stage, showcasing their talent and adding even more pride to the evening. Whether on the field or in the bleachers, the game will bring the community together in one of the most anticipated traditions of the season.

The week will conclude with the Homecoming dance, where the 2000s theme will come alive in full. Decorations, lighting, and a playlist featuring the decade's most memorable hits will create an atmosphere straight out of the early 2000s. Outfits inspired by red-carpet trends and music video styles will set the scene, giving students a night to remember. The dance will serve as the grand finale, tying together all the excitement from Spirit Week, the parade, the pep rally, and the football game.

Homecoming is always one of the most memorable times of the school year, but this year's 2000s throwback theme adds a unique twist. By blending tradition with nostalgia, Appleton East is preparing for a celebration that will not only honor school spirit but also create lasting memories. As the final touches are put into place, the community is ready to step back in time while celebrating the present.



- CYNTHIA VANG



One of Appleton East High School's strongest foundations is its community. Simply put, East would not be the same facility without the students, staff, and community members who have shaped what it means to be a Patriot, while equally embodying a trait that has become fundamental to the high school's mission: giving back. Since the doors opened in 1967, East has worked to repay its supportive community; however, one event in particular has come to represent the forefront of the school's mission to contribute: East Tackles Cancer.

East Tackles Cancer was founded in 2012 by former teacher and football coach Pat Schwanke, and teacher and former Key Club advisor Mrs. Loritz. "Each of them had been touched by cancer and had wanted to do something for the people in their lives who fought cancer," Mrs. Flannery-Bosin reported in a recent episode of Appleton Engaged.

Run by DECA, Mrs. Fude since 2016, and Mrs. Flannery-Bosin since last year, East Tackles Cancer is an expansive fundraiser against a costly disease.

Together, the East community tackles a challenge. Appleton East's DECA members are some of the biggest contributors to this event, planning, designing, and setting it up; however, fellow students do not fail to lend a hand. Appleton East's Key Club extended a hand, offering to help with set-up, while the football team helped to sell an extravagant amount of T-shirts. As Mrs. Fude highlighted during her interview with Appleton Engaged, "We really just show up for the kids to come. They're the ones who are actually leading the charge." So, what about those funding it?

As members of the Patriot community, sponsors have given a great deal of help over the years. Whether by providing monetary donations or raffle baskets, Mrs. Flannery-Bosin praised the sponsors on the Appleton Engaged podcast, noting that "they really come out in full force," contributing greatly to the event's fundraising.

In its first year, the event raised \$5,000 for the MACC Fund (Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer). Since then, East Tackles Cancer has raised more than \$171,000 for various charities and foundations, according to Mrs. Flannery-Bosin.

Last year, Families of Children with Cancer benefited from the generosity of the East community. This organization aided Mr. Kautz and his family as their son Ryland bravely fought cancer. Collectively, Appleton East and its community rallied together and raised more than \$23,000 to support one of their own in an incredibly challenging time.

This year's recipient was selected in a similar "full-circle" moment. In her Appleton Engaged interview, Mrs. Fude revealed that while she and her DECA officers were brainstorming potential beneficiaries, an officer mentioned that the Spierings Cancer Foundation had helped her family during her mom's battle with breast cancer. The foundation financially supports local Wisconsin residents and helps fund progressive cancer research in Wisconsin.

Appleton East often collaborates with other schools. For example, Kimberly High School "helped with doing the 50/50 raffle and the miracle minute during halftime" last year, Mrs. Fude stated during her Appleton Engaged interview.

This year, Appleton North joins the fight, and the Lightning's DECA chapter extends its help by selling T-shirts and setting up the event. Together, one town takes on one fight.

How can you join the fight?

On Tuesday, September 30, you can grab a sandwich at Jersey Mike's. Or if you would prefer a fall shopping spree, you can support the cause on October 1 at the Lillian's Boutique Fundraiser. Proceeds go towards the final donation to Spierings Cancer Foundation.

On October 10, Appleton East hosts Appleton North, but as Owen Kiekahefer, DECA Vice President of Community Service, points out, it is "much more than just watching a football game." In addition to the battle on the turf, the event includes a 50/50 raffle, basket raffle, silent auction, and a miracle minute, as well as face painting and luminary decorating. At the end of the event, a lap for cancer survivors and their families takes place on a track lit by the decorated luminaries, lined with football players, and filled with courage and support. It truly is a powerful night and one to remember.

Mrs. Flannery-Bosin described the experience on Appleton Engaged: "These two teams who were just battling it out on the field come together and all the kids that come together and give the opportunity for the survivors' lap. It's such a powerful thing."

East Tackles Cancer is "more than just watching a football game," it is a fight to give back. A night to remember and honor those who fought with courage. A moment to show others that they do not fight alone. It is hope. It is what we stand for when we call ourselves the Appleton East Patriots. And this year, it unites communities as one town takes on one fight against cancer.



East Tackles Cancer is a major event at East and signifies a wholesome mission of giving back. However, the event takes quite a bit of planning, communication, time, and effort; hence, many contributors deserve recognition and praise.

- Thank you to Mr. Schwanke and Mrs. Loritz for founding and fostering such an incredible event that shall forever go down in Patriot history!
- Thank you to Mrs. Fude and Mrs. Flannery-Bosin for advising, planning, and taking over this event, even with all your other contributions to the community at Appleton East High School!
- Thank you to the members of DECA who helped organize and plan this event, with a special thanks to Owen Kiekahefer, the Vice President of Community Service, for the leadership role he has taken.
- Thank you to the new head coach of football, Mr. James, for "jumping in," as Mrs. Flannery-Bosin put it, and getting involved in the East community so quickly!
- Thank you to all the students, staff, families, and administrators who have helped with this event along the way!
- Thank you to all the community members and sponsors who have contributed to this event over the years!
- Thank you to facilities for helping with the event, setting up tables, tents, and other elements to help the night run smoothly.
- Thank you to all those who plan to show up to the event and support the cause.

JOIN THE FIGHT!



PURCHASE AN EAST TACKLES CANCER SHIRT AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO SO TOO!

ATTEND THE FUNDRAISER NIGHTS AND THE OCTOBER 10 GAME. DON'T FORGET TO SPORT YOUR EAST TACKLES CANCER SHIRT!

PARTICIPATE IN THE NIGHT'S RAFFLE EVENTS OR MAKE A MONETARY DONATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPIERINGS CANCER FOUNDATION.

REACH OUT TO MRS. FUDE OR MRS. FLANNERY-BOSIN IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO FIND A VOLUNTEER SPOT, DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY.

SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GAME AND CAUSE ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA.

FLANNERYBOSINJ@AASD.K12.WI.US
FUDESTEFANIE@AASD.K12.WI.US



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
EAST TACKLES CANCER EVENT
OCTOBER 10, 2025

APPLETON EAST VS APPLETON NORTH

BASKET RAFFLE - SILENT AUCTION - FACE PAINTING - MIRACLE MINUTE - 50/50 RAFFLE
AND AFTER THE GAME: A LUMINARY LIT SURVIVOR'S LAP

ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

9/16 - TOM'S NIGHT

9/30 - JERSEY MIKE'S NIGHT

10/1 - LILLIAN'S NIGHT

THIS YEAR'S EVENT WILL BENEFIT WISCONSIN FAMILIES THROUGH THE: Spierings CANCER FOUNDATION



EAST TACKLES CANCER SHIRT DESIGN

- GRACE BOE

Lots & Spots: Additions at East!

Last year had students and teachers alike grumbling about cramped spaces, a pothole-ridden parking lot, and stagnant facilities. Now, as the 2025-2026 school year at Appleton East opens after an eventful summer, thousands are eager to experience the culmination of the year-long building addition project, letting the school grow further in terms of academic, professional, and physical education. Some of the biggest renovations have been:

Schaefer Street Parking

Lot:

With a complete and gorgeous lot full of hundreds of available parking stalls, the entire space is freshly painted, including an intuitively designed drop-off and pick-up section, as well as beautiful greenery and trees bordering the lot.

Offices:

To support the number of new staff members hired this year, the addition also includes additional professional areas, such as a teacher collaboration space, a new conference room, and three more teacher offices!

Classrooms:

Twelve new classrooms with the Worldworld Language, Business/Marketing, English Language Arts, TESLA, and Health were added, including a featured hydroponic room for science and horticulture projects.

Entrances:

Clearly defined entrance and exit points on Schaefer Street allow two lanes so students can turn from both directions.

Stay tuned for our continuing series: delving deeper into the new spaces inside East additions!

- ELLA RANES

College Application Info

Admission Plans

Early Action:

- Non-binding, admission plan that allows students to apply and receive decisions earlier
- Has an earlier deadline similar to an early decision plan, typically around November 1
- A decision of admission is usually issued by late-January to mid-February

Early Decision:

- A binding admission plan that requires you to attend the college upon acceptance. This plan may only be used for one university
- Has an earlier deadline similar to an early action plan, typically around November 1
- Usually used among higher-ranked colleges by those applying to their top-choice institution
- A decision of admission is usually issued by mid-December

Restrictive Early Action:

- A hybrid between early action and early decision plans
- Allows students to apply to highly ranked private colleges early and receive early admission decisions. However, it is more restrictive than regular early action because students cannot apply to other private colleges under early action or early decision plans
- Has an earlier deadline similar to an early action plan, typically around November 1
- A decision of admission is usually issued by mid-December

Regular Decision:

- A non-binding admission plan that receives a later admission decision
- The deadline is typically around January 1
- Allows students to further explore colleges and interests before applying
- A decision of admission is usually issued between March and April

Some Ways to Apply:

University's Website:

Many colleges allow you to submit your application directly through the school's website.

Common App:

Used by over 1,000 schools, according to Common App.

Coalition Application:

Used by over 170 schools, according to Coalition for College.

The Wisconsin Guarantee

Top 5% of class rank:

- Universities of Wisconsin, including UW-Madison
- Must apply by early action to be considered for UW-Madison Wisconsin Guarantee

Top 10% of class rank:

- Does not include UW-Madison
- Complete the Universities of Wisconsin application for UW-La Crosse and UW-Eau Claire
- Direct Admit Wisconsin program for the other Universities of Wisconsin

For more information visit [College Board](#), [Universities of Wisconsin](#), and [UW-Madison's websites](#)

- GRACE BOE

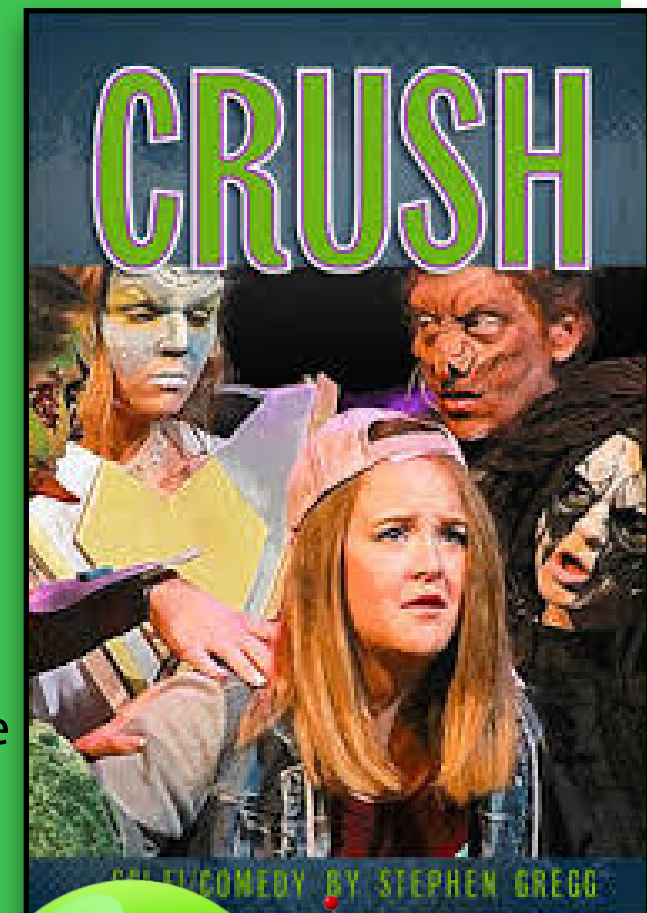
SPRING PLAY: CRUSH!



Before last school year ended, the 2025 musical was revealed: *Footloose!* Another opportunity arose for Drama Club members to help choose this school year's play.

Throughout the summer, a group of students met with their directors, Ms. Amanda Peterson and Ms. Kadie Smith, to collaborate and discuss, read, and explore numerous plays that interested them. The directors decided they wanted to present either a dramatic mystery-focused play or a historical fiction-focused production. On the first day of school, the play *Crush* was revealed as Appleton East's spring play.

Crush, written by Stephen Gregg, is a comedic, fast-paced play about the messy world of friendships, crushes, and identities with a twist. As secrets come out and relationships collide, the students at Pin Cushion High discover that love can be exhilarating, confusing, and downright otherworldly. Auditions and interviews for the spring play will take place the week of February 2, 2026.



- JO BUCK

The Unwritten Rules

Stairways and Hallways

Stay on the right side.

Walk with a purpose.

Don't stop or congregate in the middle of the hallway or stairwell.

Classrooms

If you eat during a class, including chewing gum, please make sure you wipe up crumbs and throw your own wrappers away.

Leave your desk clean. No one likes to walk into class and find that their desk is dirty.

If you spill water, do not make it someone else's problem to clean up.

Use phones, earbuds, or other devices only with permission

Stay on academic sites/apps when using school devices

Parking Lots

Be courteous, patient, and watchful of pedestrians/cars.

Follow arrows and only exit/enter in designated driveways.

Display your parking permit visibly

Report accidents or damage immediately to school staff.

Bathrooms

Don't make a mess, ensure that your paper towel makes it into the garbage can, and that there is no water all over.

Don't congregate in the bathroom during passing time.

Be mindful of others. If you're standing in front of the mirror, where the passes are often left, step aside to let someone grab their pass.

Flush the toilets! This is not even a rule, but rather common sanitation and courtesy.

If you take a pass to the bathroom, make sure you bring it back to class with you.

Lunchroom

Clean up after yourself.

Don't be loud/disruptive.

Once you find a lunch spot, you should stay there for the semester, or upperclassmen could get annoyed if you jump around all the time.

Be sensible with microwaves.

Be kind to the lunch ladies, using your manners such as "please and thank you."

Stay in line and wait your turn when getting food—no cutting

Do not steal any of the food or snacks

Tips and Tricks

Freshman Year

Start off on a good foot academically by completing your assignments on time, studying, and getting to know your teachers.

Find clubs or sports that you may want to join. By joining extracurricular activities, you will find more friends and acquaintances and become a more involved member of the school community.

Notice landmarks like the gym, cafeteria, or library to familiarize yourself

Finding Your Way Around

If you get lost in the circle, when you pass by the same colored stairs, that means you have missed your class.

Class order is divided into two sections; the first digit tells you the floor it's on, and the last number tells you if it's on the outside (odd) or inside (even) of the circle/hall. Ex: 3132 (Third floor, outside circle).

When entering a floor, blue signs with white writing are around to tell you which direction your class may be in

Schoolwork

Use your time wisely in class and Flex. Once you do, you will realize the significant time you save and the amount of work you will be able to get done.

When doing homework, complete it yourself and put effort into it. Similar problems, questions, or even the exact same questions could come up on your tests. Plus, simply putting in a little extra time and thought on your homework limits the time spent on studying and even retakes later.

Always prepare for the test the first time! Some tests may be tricky, but avoid falling into a cycle of retakes.

Stairwells

The Cinderella stairs, Red stairs, Steep stairs, and the New Stairs only lead up to the second floor.

The White, Blue, and Green stairs lead up to the second and third floors.

If you're going to the second or third floors from the new addition, take the new stairs to the 2nd floor. Go into the circle—head to class if it's on 2nd, or use the blue stairs on the left for 3rd.

AP Classes

Find a studying method that works for you. Everyone has different approaches and methods as far as studying is concerned. Taking an AP class, especially in your earlier high school years, is a great way to push yourself and find your study method.

Start preparing for the AP tests early; they arrive quickly.

Go back through the notes you have taken, highlighting and reviewing key concepts, dates, locations, and people that you struggle to remember.

This goes for all classes, but especially AP. If you have a question, ask it! Teachers are here to help and further your understanding, so don't hesitate to ask for clarification or further explanation.

If you have friends taking the same course, create study sessions close to the AP test. Group studying can be very productive, especially in a round-robin style where everyone takes turns elaborating on ideas and concepts.

Get Involved: Club Connections

Appleton East High School offers dozens of clubs where students can build leadership, teamwork, and friendships. Maybe, you can find the right one for you!

DECA: DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Members gain real-world experience through competitions, projects, and leadership opportunities.

Advisor: Mrs. Fude & Mr. DeBruin

Key Club: Key Club is a student-led organization emphasizing leadership and community service. Members volunteer, organize events, and make a positive impact in school and the community.

Advisor: Ms. Rice

Student Council: Student Council gives students a voice in school decisions while promoting leadership and school spirit. Members help plan events, represent their peers, and work to improve the school community.

Advisor: Ms. Parker

Link Crew: Link Crew is a student leadership program that helps welcome and support incoming freshmen. Members mentor new students, build connections, and create a positive school community.

Advisor: Mrs. Mullen & Mrs. Platt

DREAM Team: Dream Team inspires connection and school spirit by supporting freshmen and building community. Student leaders work to make the school a welcoming, positive place for everyone.

Advisors: Ms. Olearnick, Mrs. King, Ms. Spring & Mr. Friday

First Robotics Team: The FIRST Robotics Team is a group of students who design, build, and program robots to compete in challenges. They focus on teamwork, engineering skills, and creative problem-solving.

Advisors: Mr. Schuff & Mr. Eckrose

Forensics: Forensics focuses on public speaking and performance skills. Members compete in events like speech, debate, and interpretation to improve communication and confidence.

Advisors: Mr. Miller & Ms. Witt

Math Team: The Math Team lets students challenge themselves with problem-solving and competitive math. Members practice together, improve their skills, and compete in local, state, or national competitions.

Advisor: Mr. Palma

Chess Club: Chess Club brings together students who enjoy strategy and critical thinking. Members play games, improve their skills, and sometimes compete in tournaments.

Advisor: Mr. Palma

Library Advisory Committee: The Library Advisory Committee discusses programs, needs, the environment, and available resources. Members help ensure the library meets its goal of supporting students and staff.

Advisor: Mrs. Bedor Griffiths

Drama Club: Drama Club lets students explore acting, theater production, and stage performance. Members put on plays and develop creativity, teamwork, and confidence.

Advisors: Ms. Peterson & Ms. Smith

A Cappella | AE Voices: AE Voices brings singers together to create music using only their voices. They explore harmonies, rhythm, and creativity while performing songs as a group.

Advisor: Mr. Van Sickle

Literary Club: Literary Club celebrates writing, reading, and art. They participate in writers' workshops, poetry nights, and put together a literary magazine, Letters from the Fourth Floor. Advisors:

Mrs. Bedor Griffiths & Ms. Bartel

Dungeons and Dragons: Dungeons & Dragons (DND) brings together students to play tabletop role-playing games. Members use imagination, strategy, and teamwork to create stories and adventures.

Advisor: Mr. Kautz

Rock Climbing Club: The Rock Climbing Club brings students together to learn and practice climbing skills. Members focus on fitness, teamwork, and safety while enjoying indoor climbing challenges.

Advisor: Mr. Rana, Mr. Stratton & Mr. Nichols

The Color Guard: The Color Guard shows off a team full of skilled and talented performers who spin and toss up flags with a bunch of color and fun, adding to the excitement of marching band shows.

Advisor: Mrs. Lafleur

IBA: The IBA (Intramural Basketball Association) is a student-run basketball league where over 100 students form their own teams to compete each weekend during the winter season.

Advisor: Mr. Seidl

HOSA: HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) is a club for students interested in health and medical careers. Members participate in competitions, leadership activities, and community service.

Advisor: Mrs. Herrick

ASL Club: ASL Club teaches and practices American Sign Language while promoting Deaf culture. Members learn communication skills, participate in activities, and learn about the Deaf community.

Advisor: Mrs. Bethe

Equality Club: Equality Club promotes LGBTQ+ awareness, acceptance, and inclusivity. Members support each other, educate the school community, and work to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Advisors:

Mr. Johnson & Mr. Buchberger

FCA: The FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Club connects students through faith and sports. Members share values, support one another, and participate in discussions and community service. Advisors:

Mr. Brewton & Mr. Shaw

The Courier: The Courier lets students write, edit, and publish stories about school events and issues. Members develop journalism, writing, and teamwork skills while keeping the school community informed.

Advisor: Mr. Otis

- CYNTHIA VANG

Painting Through Summer

Throughout last summer, the annual "Paint the City" event splashed into motion. "Paint the City," a mural project that started four years ago, is an AASD summer course where a group of students get together and paint.



"To start off, I wanna say being part of Paint the City was a really great experience, not just with other students but with the teachers as well." Senior Ivan Castro Rodriguez shared. "Some of us also invited teachers to the paint site to show them our progress and just to see them, since we haven't seen them since June."

"Mr. Neo Medina has to be one of the best artists I've seen and a great person overall," Ivan raved about the project leader. "He would always play every type of music for us and ask us for songs. He also made sure no one was ever left out, which was really nice."

Ivan enjoyed the good food too. "Every day we would get lunch from different places all over the city. All of the restaurants that brought us food were fantastic."

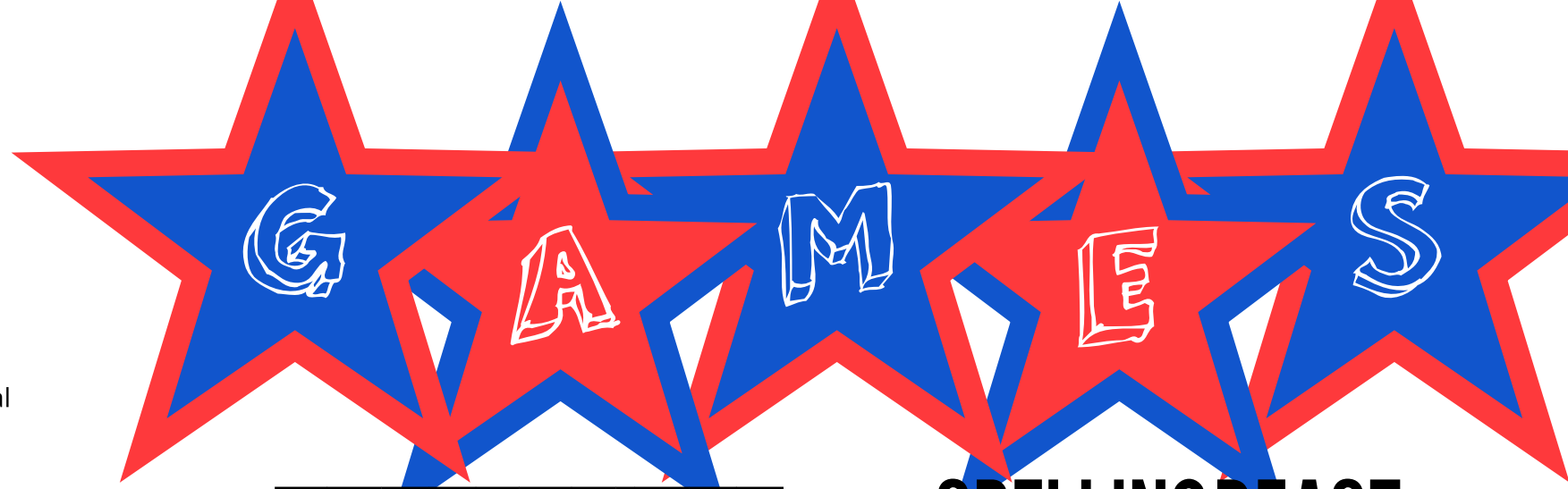
"One of my favorite moments from Paint the City is when Mr. Medina had a water balloon fight for us, and we split up into two teams." Ivan explained. "On the day of the celebration party, people from around the area came to see what we all worked so hard for. Mr. Medina, as well as two other students, gave amazing speeches in front of everyone, including the mayor. We even had people from the news station come and interview us."

"I'll never forget my time at Paint the City, as every day was fun and exciting."

You can find the new mural on the Washington St. side of the Fox Commons building, downtown Appleton. Come and check it out!

Check out last month's news stories on **Fox11**, **WFRV**, and **WBAY**, too! (Photo courtesy City of Appleton)

- JO BUCK



CONNECTIONS

Connections is a word game that challenges players to find themes between words.

Players are given 16 words and find groups of four items that share something in common.

For example:

- FISH: Bass, Flounder, Salmon, Trout
- Things that start with FIRE: Ant, Drill, Island, Opal

Each group is assigned a color (Yellow, Green, Blue, or Purple), with Yellow being the easiest category and Purple being the trickiest.

[Play here!](#)

Strands

Find all the words based on the hint!

[Play here!](#)

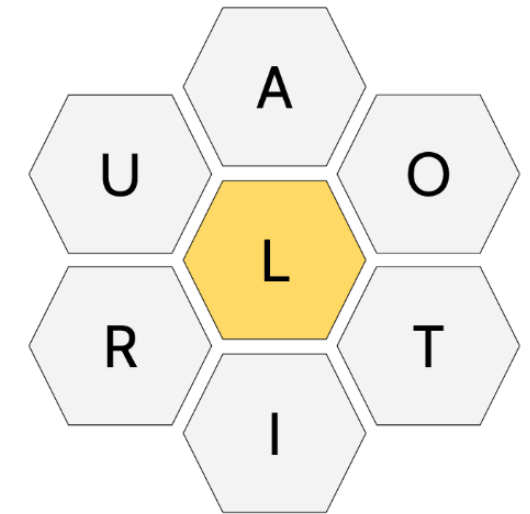


Try to guess the hidden word in six guesses or less!

- R** = the letter does not appear in the word
- O** = the letter does appear in the word, but in a different spot
- W** = the letter appears in the word in that spot

[Play here!](#)

SPELLING BEAST



Make as many words as possible with the given letters!

- All words must contain the center letter
- Words must be at least four letters long
- Letters may be used multiple times within one word
- Four-letter words are worth one point, any words longer than four letters are worth the number of points equal to the number of letters in the word
- There is at least one word that can be made using all seven letters, called a pangram. A pangram is worth seven bonus points plus the word's length, so a seven-letter pangram would be worth 14 points. *Answer on last page of The Courier!*

- MATS RIDLEHOOVER

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The Courier, Appleton East's student newspaper, is written, edited, and distributed by Patriot students and staff.

JOIN NOW!

EAST

Next Meeting!

Thursday, October 2, during Flex! Room 1112
Sign up for Mr. Otis. We hope to see you there!

Pangram Answer- Tutorial