

MID-MONTH MARCH, 2026

APPLETON WEST

# PARENT NEWSLETTER

From the Principal



I am so grateful to our students and families for the attendance, focus, and effort that we saw from our juniors during ACT testing. We have our second leg of state testing coming up on March 24th, this time for our ninth and tenth grade students. All students in ninth and tenth grade can report to the commons on March 24th between 7:30 and 7:45. Since the test is computer-based and kids will be testing on their Chromebooks, parents and guardians can help us out by reminding their students to charge their Chromebooks the night before testing.

Students in grades 11 and 12 will have a virtual school day on March 24th. Teachers will post assignments in Canvas that must be submitted by 3:00 pm. Attendance for students in grades 11 and 12 will be based on submitting their work for that day by 3:00 pm.

We look forward to another successful testing day and appreciate everything our families do to support our students' academic growth and achievement.

## March Calendar of Events

14 - Spring Dance

19 - West Choir Concert

24 - PreACT Testing

26 - End of Quarter

26 - Talent Show

27 - No School - Conference Compensation

March 30 - April 3 - NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK

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## Activities/Athletics



The WIAA has officially approved that beginning in fall 2027, a number of our athletic programs will transition from the Fox Valley Association (FVA) Conference to the Bay Conference. Athletic programs that will remain in their current athletic conference include football, boys volleyball, boys and girls swim/dive, boys and girls lacrosse and boys and girls hockey. We are grateful for the many years of competition, sportsmanship, and relationships built with the FVA and its member schools, and we sincerely thank them for the partnership and experiences shared along the way. At the same time, we are excited to begin a new chapter in the Bay Conference and look forward to building strong connections and great competition with its member schools. We appreciate the continued support of our students, families, and school community as we take this next step for our athletic programs.

Please help us welcome Dave Gassner as our new varsity head girls golf coach. Coach Gassner teaches physical education and health classes here at West high school.

The Appleton West Terror Backers are pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2026 Scholarships. Up to five \$1000 Scholarships in memory of Dale Von Behren will be awarded to graduating student-athletes who will be pursuing higher education. The applications are available for download on the Terror Backers website (<https://www.awterrorbackers.com/scholarship>) and are due by April 3rd, 2026, at 3:45 PM.

Links to the application and letter of recommendation are also below.

Links:

[Application](#)

[Letter of Recommendation](#)

Please visit <https://www.foxvalleyassociation.org/public/genie/240/school/3/> to stay up to date for upcoming Terror events.

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## Counseling Office

### **Sources of Strength "night at the ball park" We belong in the AASD Campaign:**

The Appleton Area School District and the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers are teaming up to spread messages of hope, help, and strength in supporting the AASD Sources of Strength programs! Each student who participates in their school's Sources of Strength campaign in the month of April will receive a free ticket for the April 30th night at the ballpark game! Specifically, the We Belong in the AASD campaign will be implemented starting April 6th, 2026 with the culmination happening at the Sources Night at the Ballpark on Thursday, April 30th, 2026.

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## From the District Office

### **Help Shape Opportunities for Students with Disabilities – Join Our Parent Advisory Council**

The Appleton Area School District Special Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is a group of parents, caregivers, and community members who support and advocate for students with disabilities who work together with district staff to strengthen opportunities for students across our schools.

The purpose of the council is to expand opportunities for students with disabilities, promote inclusion, and serve as a forum for families and supporters to share ideas and perspectives. The group also works to connect families with learning opportunities and resources that support students and their families.

We are currently welcoming new members who are interested in helping shape programs, events, and supports for students with disabilities in AASD. The council meets once per month for about one hour.

Through the work of this group, families and staff have collaborated to:

- Develop parent education sessions
- Host our annual Food Truck Rally
- Raise funds to bring the Arts for All League to AASD
- Begin efforts to expand communication boards and adaptive playground equipment at schools across the district

If you are interested in helping support and improve opportunities for students with disabilities in AASD, we would love to have you join us. Please reach out to Amy Steiner, Executive Director of Special Education, at [steineramy@aad.k12.wi.us](mailto:steineramy@aad.k12.wi.us) for more information.

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## Referendum Information

Did you know? The AASD Board of Education has approved placing an operational referendum on the April 7, 2026, ballot.

In this 5-minute video, Superintendent Hartjes explains how the proposed \$15 million per year, four-year operational referendum funds would be used. He outlines the financial realities behind the district's \$13 million budget deficit, clarifies the estimated cost to property owners, and details how additional funds would strengthen student services, including:

- a school counselor in every neighborhood school, every day,
- a 50% increase in access to social workers,
- supports for students learning English as a second language, and students who are credit-deficient.

The estimated tax rate impact for the four-year Operational Referendum is about \$15 per year on a \$100,000 home, or \$45 per year on the average Appleton-area home (\$300,000).

### Ways to Learn About the April 7 Operational Referendum

- Join us at a Referendum Information Session: Open to all community members, our next in-person session is Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. at Wilson Middle School in the Multipurpose Room
- Visit the Referendum Webpage: Access more videos, FAQs, and submit your questions

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## Hiring Event!

Fox Cities Exhibition Center is having a Hiring Event on April 15 from 3:00–5:00 PM.

This free event is open to current 11th-12th grade students who are interested in exploring part-time, seasonal, internship, youth apprenticeship, or entry-level employment opportunities. Students will have the chance to connect directly with local employers who are actively looking to hire.

This is a great opportunity for students who:

- Are seeking summer or part-time employment
- Want to gain work experience while in high school
- Are interested in youth apprenticeship opportunities
- Are ready to enter the workforce after graduation

We encourage students to come prepared to speak with employers and, if possible, bring a resume. Please have students fill out the link below by April 8 if they are planning to attend.

[Student Sign Up: Hiring Event Student Form](#)

[View list of jobs here: 2026 Future Fox Cities Hiring Event - Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce](#)

All current 11th and 12th grade students are welcome to participate. Additionally, if there are any 10th grade students you believe would benefit from this opportunity, they are also welcome to attend. The event is primarily geared toward upperclassmen due to common age requirements for many jobs.

Transportation will need to be arranged independently by the student or their school district, as our organization is not able to provide transportation.

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## From the Business Office



**Senior Caps and Gowns:** The deadline for caps and gowns has been extended! If your Senior student has not ordered their cap and gown yet, please order by using this [link](#)!

**Senior Scholarships:** There are many opportunities for college scholarships available to our students. Please follow this [LINK](#) to access the full list that has been shared with students.

### **Summer School Information and Registration:**

Summer school registration officially begins on April 20th. If you have any questions, please reach out to your counselor.

[AASD Summer School Information](#)

[AASD Summer School - Spanish Form](#)

[AASD Summer School - Hmong Form](#)

# UPCOMING SENIOR EVENTS

## ALL SENIOR MEETING

In April there will be an all senior meeting - you will receive an email with more information regarding this so keep an eye out!

## PROM

**Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> is Prom!**  
**Watch for info**  
**about ticket sales!**

## TERRORS ON THE RISE

**Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> - This is a required event for all seniors. More information will be coming soon!**

## AWARDS NIGHT

Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup> will be Awards Night in the Auditorium at 6:30 pm. This event is invite only so you only need to attend if you receive an invite.

## POOL PARTY

Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>  
After Awards Night there will be a Pool Party at the Appleton West Pool for anyone in the graduating class. This will run 9:00-11:00 pm.

## WALK THRU ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**You are welcome to visit the elementary school that you attended on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.**

## GRADUATION

**Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Arrive in Emanuel Gym at 5:15 pm. The ceremony starts at 6:00 pm.**

## POST GRAD PARTY

All graduates are invited to the Post Grad Party being held at Urban Air in Appleton from 9:00 pm to 12:00 am. This event is free for Appleton West graduates.

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## Important Links and Contacts

### USEFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION:

[Appleton West High School Website](#)

[Appleton West Bell Schedule](#)

[Appleton West Calendar](#)

[Athletic Forms](#)

[Athletic Calendar](#)

### Business Office Contact Information:

Amanda Nushart - Business Administrative Assistant  
(920-852-5410, Option 4)

Debby Andrews - Athletics Secretary  
(920-852-5410, Option 3)

### Student Services Contact Information:

Marie Deley, Julie Ossmann, Mindi Blake -  
Student Services Secretaries  
(920-852-5410, Option 4)

### Counseling Office Contact Information:

Cresta Buss - Registrar  
Morgan Still - Guidance Secretary  
(920-852-5410, Option 2)

**PLEASE TAKE OUR PARENT COMMUNICATION SURVEY!!:** Go to this [LINK](#) to take our anonymous survey. THANK YOU!