Athens City School District www.athenscsd.org

Newsletter

August 2026

Welcome Back!

We are excited to welcome our students and families to a new school year at Athens City Schools! We are looking forward to all that the 2026-2027 school year will bring for our students, staff, families, and community.

There are so many great things happening across Athens City Schools. Our staff continues to work hard to support our students, strengthen learning experiences, and create opportunities that help every student learn, achieve, and prepare for the future. We are proud of the work happening in our classrooms and schools. As we start the new year, we want to share a few updates with you.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We are excited for another great year at Athens City Schools!

Bulldog Tips for a Great School Year

A new school year brings new schedules, routines, and plenty of information to keep track of!

A few simple steps can help your family have a strong school year:

- **Stay connected.** Watch for updates from your school and teachers, and make sure your contact information is current.
- **Check the calendar.** Stay up to date on important dates, school events, days off, and other activities by regularly checking the district and building calendars at **AthensCSD.org**.
- **Establish a routine.** Consistent bedtimes, morning routines, and a plan for getting to school can help students start each day ready to learn.
- **Make attendance a priority.** Being at school, on time and ready to learn, is one of the best ways to set students up for success.
- **Ask questions.** If you need help or aren't sure about something, reach out. Our staff is here to support our students and families.
- **Give everyone a little grace.** New routines take time! Encourage your student, celebrate the small wins, and enjoy the start of a new year.

Focused on Learning

Athens City Schools continues to strengthen teaching and learning across the district. This year, we are expanding our commitment to strong literacy instruction with a new comprehensive English Language Arts curriculum at Athens High School, building on the work already underway in grades K–8. We are also continuing to strengthen supports for students through our districtwide I-MTSS framework and dedicated Bulldog Impact time. Our focus remains simple: providing every student with the instruction, support, and opportunities they need to succeed.

Bulldog Proud!

There is a lot to celebrate at Athens City Schools! Our students continue to do amazing things—in the classroom, through the arts, in our community, and beyond.

Our students gave us plenty of reasons to be Bulldog Proud last year. Athens Middle School eighth graders earned **22 perfect scores on the writing portion of the English 8 ELA state test**, while eighth-grade students also saw an impressive **30% increase in passing scores on the Mathematics End-of-Course assessment**.

Our students also shined well beyond the classroom. Sixth-grade scientists advanced to State Science Day, Athens High School artists earned national recognition and significant scholarship awards at the National Ceramics Exhibition, and students across the district demonstrated their creativity, curiosity, service, and leadership through experiences ranging from the East Elementary Art Show and Morrison-Gordon Land Lab to the longstanding Andrew Jackson Davison Club.

These accomplishments represent just a small sample of the incredible things happening every day across Athens City Schools. We are proud of our students, grateful for the teachers and staff who support them, and excited to see what our Bulldogs accomplish this year!

Meet our New Administrators

Cort Forgrave - Assistant Principal at TPIS



I am Mr. Cort Forgrave, and I am so excited to be the new assistant principal at The Plains Intermediate School. I have been teaching fifth-grade science for the past 12 years at Logan-Hocking Middle School. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family (Kelly, Eleanor, and Grant), being outside in the woods or on the farm, and watching baseball.



Danielle Gurtis-Polk - School Psychologist

My name is Danielle, Dani for short. I am starting my 17th year as a school psychologist and my first year with Athens City Schools. I am from Marietta, Ohio, and attended Fort Frye High School. I am a graduate of Marietta College, where I earned B.A.s in Psychology and Communication Studies. I completed graduate school at Marshall University, where I majored in Elementary Education and School Psychology. I love watching football and reality TV. I also have an affinity for documentaries, podcasts, live music, cooking, being creative, chatting with my mom, and making memories with my wife.



Lauren Borovicka - Food Services Director

Lauren began her career and initial training in public health; however, along her journey, she discovered a passion for leadership, school health, and empowering individuals. She is a certified strengths interventionist and has experience in individual and career coaching.

Lauren spent 13 rewarding years running a local AmeriCorps program at Ohio University, where she had the opportunity to supervise and mentor more than 200 fascinating people over the years. Since leaving, Lauren has had a wild ride of different opportunities that she has enjoyed; however, and she is excited to bring her passion for health and leadership to school food service, helping make nourishing students and supporting their well-being a priority across the district.

She has two kids in the district, owns her own business, coaches archery, and believes community is a verb.

Construction Update

Exciting progress continues across Athens City Schools as we invest in spaces that will serve our students for years to come. Construction on the new Athens High School continues to move forward, with the new building anticipated to open in Spring 2027. The new high school will also include solar panels separate from the project, supporting the district's commitment to creating modern, sustainable learning environments.



In addition to the new high school, improvement projects continue across the district as we work to provide safe, welcoming, and engaging spaces for our students and staff. We appreciate the patience and flexibility of our families and community throughout this work and look forward to sharing more progress in the months ahead.





Working Together for Our Students

Great things happen when our schools and community work together. This summer, the City of Athens used grant funding to complete several improvements to the street in front of East Elementary. The project addressed drainage and water buildup that had created concerns, particularly during the winter months when freezing conditions could make the area difficult for students and families to navigate. The work also included roadway improvements and an extended sidewalk, creating a safer and more welcoming area around the school.

This project is a great example of the strong partnership between the City of Athens and Athens City Schools. We appreciate the City's investment in our schools and its continued commitment to creating safe, supportive spaces for our students, families, and community.



Important District Information

Stay Connected

Follow Athens City Schools on social media for district news, announcements, celebrations, and important updates.

Facebook: @AthensCitySD
X/Twitter: @AthensCitySD
Instagram: @athenscitysd
YouTube: Athens City Schools

Infinite Campus Parent & Student Portal

Infinite Campus provides families and students access to important school information. When you receive your username and password, we recommend logging in for the first time from a computer rather than the mobile app, if possible.

Infinite Campus Account Support: campus@athenscsd.org

Need Help?

For assistance with district accounts, services, or registration, please use the appropriate email below:

Infinite Campus Accounts: campus@athenscsd.org
FinalForms Accounts: finalforms@athenscsd.org
Google Accounts & Passwords: google@athenscsd.org
Canvas Accounts: canvas@athenscsd.org
Enrollment & Registration: registration@athenscsd.org
Food Services: foodservice@athenscsd.org

Helpful Family Resources

Be sure to visit the Athens City Schools website for important resources throughout the school year, including:

- District and Building Calendars
- District Calendar of Events
- Student Handbook
- Student Athletic Handbook
- Family and Parent Resources
- District Forms & Links
- Technical Support Information
- Family Involvement Events



Athens City Schools Board of Education and Administrative Offices, Chauncey, OH.

The Athens City School District is committed to:

- Pursuing excellence in teaching and learning
- Nurturing a thriving local community
- Building unity through our diversity

...all within the heart of our Appalachian region.
Every learner. Every day.

Athens City Schools- Chad Springer, Superintendent
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