

AAHS ARTIST RESIDENCY

This March, Ambridge Area High School hosted its first virtual Artist Residency with local artist Ryan McCormick, made possible by Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and Pittsburgh Center for Arts & Media. The residency was cross-curricular and focused on the underground communication networks of trees. Art students in select classes were gifted watercolor sketchbooks, watercolors, and watercolor pencils. Students learned how root systems and Mycorrhizae communicate and share resources underground, in addition to the artistic techniques necessary to make works of art that communicate concepts to viewers. While our residencies are typically run in person, this virtual style residency was a huge success and we were very pleased to host another successful Artist Residency at AASD. Sample student work continued on page 15 of this newsletter.



*Purple Thunderclouds by
Junior Tareea Macon*



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Ensuring Growth For All Learners

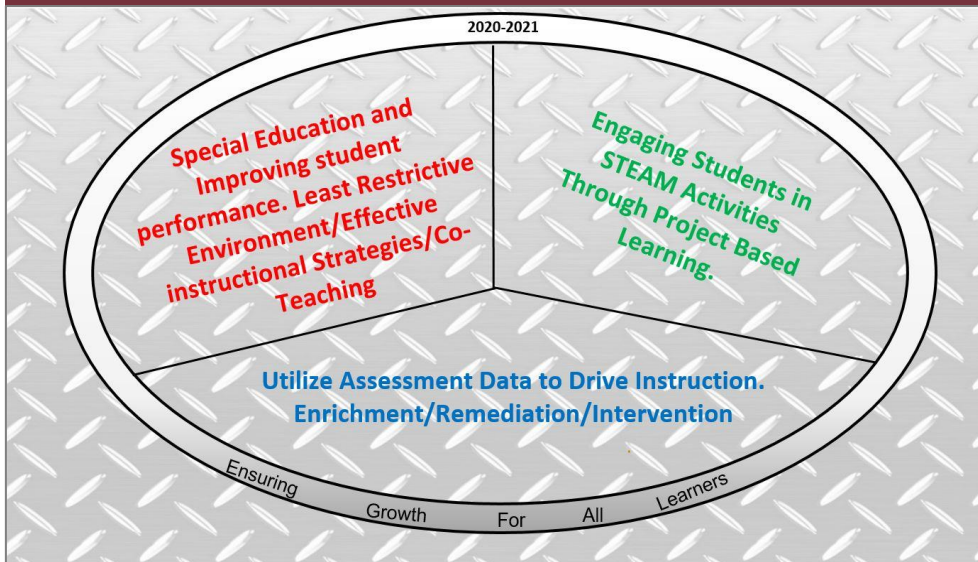


A Message From
**JOSEPH W.
PASQUERILLA,
Ed.D.,
Superintendent**

2020-2021 has been a challenging but rewarding year, moving to a 1:1 device school district with synchronous education. I have had the opportunity to visit all of our schools to spend some time in classrooms. I have been impressed with the quality of instruction, both in-person and virtually, as well as the educational opportunities our students are experiencing. It is an exciting time for education, as the Ambridge Area School District continues to provide our students with the tools to successfully prepare them for their futures. As I mentioned in the August welcome back letter, our theme this year is “Ensuring Growth For All Learners”, and our goals for the 2020-2021

school year go beyond district-wide objectives. This year, we have asked our schools to create school-specific goals. The goals focus on three areas: Special Education and improving student performance, least restrictive environment, effective instructional strategies, and co-teaching; Engaging students in STEAM activities through project-based learning; Utilizing assessment data to drive instruction, Enrichment, Remediation, and Intervention. I want to commend our principals for taking the initiative to set these goals for their schools and commend our staff for implementing them. We look forward to an excellent end of the school year. It continues to be an honor to serve you and your children.

I would like to thank everyone for all of their hard work during this school year to make the 2020-2021 school year a success. This includes administrators, Board of School Directors, teachers, secretaries, Food Service Department,



paraprofessionals, The Pupil Services Department, The Reopening Planning Committee, The Continuity of Education Planning Committee, students, and parents. This year would not have been successful without all of you working together.

Listed below are the individual building goals based upon each area of our 2020-2021 District Vision.

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student Supports

- Special education, administration, and classroom teachers have been using the first year of this important initiative as a way to collaborate and plan for providing students with the least restrictive environment and a co-teaching focus.
- Professional development time has been used to review placements for course requests.
- Focus on co-teaching methods and best practices.
- Plan for professional development ideas that expand opportunities for inclusion.

STEAM/Project Learning

- Tech Ed teachers have spearheaded this district initiative and have collaborated in grades 6-12.
- The Middle School and High School staff have been meeting throughout the school year to plan a collaborative, building level project that focuses on STEAM and project-based learning activities.
- This project will be student-led and have a focus on an area of opportunity in each building!

Data Driven Teaching

- All tested subject teachers have created and updated standards calendars to align the classroom curriculum with state standards.
- Teachers have reviewed the Keystone/PSSA test design, assessment anchors, and eligible content to ensure that their standards calendars reflect an appropriate amount of time according to the weight of each state standard.
- Teachers have used classroom specific data from the Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) during this school year to pinpoint student areas of need to provide

enrichment, remediation, and intervention.

- The vision/goal of the standards calendars is to refocus teachers on developing a curriculum that concentrates on state standards and data-focused instruction. The vision and initiative will apply to all teachers, but the data portion will specifically focus on improving standardized test scores in Math, English, Language Arts (ELA), and Science.
- This is a multi-year vision that will use classroom-specific data as well as standardized testing data to review and guide teaching.

ECONOMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student Supports

- Special education teachers and teaching assistants meet weekly with the regular education teachers to plan for more inclusionary practices to meet LRE standards that are consistent with the IEP goals of the students. Special education teachers participate in professional development sessions to keep apprised of best practices in the special education classroom. Most recently, the special education teachers were trained in Reading Horizons and attended a refresher training in Ukeru.

STEAM/Project Learning:

- Kristin Holmes is the recipient of a \$500.00 grant sponsored by the Beaver County Educational Trust. Her project, "My Mini Garden: Grow, Believe, Play—Be Succulent", was selected by the Advisory Committee in the 2020 Great Ideas Program. This project-based activity will be a great enhancement to the STEAM program.

Data Driven Teaching

- Our teachers administer CDT's to students in grades 3, 4, and 5 to identify concepts that need additional reinforcement to be successful on the PSSA exams. Data meetings are held to adjust our curriculum throughout the year. All students in kindergarten through grade 5 participate in our Focus Period.
- The Focus Period requires a half-hour block of instruction daily to promote the educational growth of each student in reading and math. Universal screeners are used to collect data for flexible grouping interventions and to target areas of strengths and weaknesses. Research-based instructional strategies are implemented for differentiation.

HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student Supports

- Using data collected by universal screeners and through classroom performance, grade level teams identify student skills that require re-teaching or enrichment for students. Through daily Focus Periods, the team addresses these skills with small groups of students to ensure that each child receives the additional support required for them to find classroom success.
- Special education teachers recently participated in training for the Reading Horizons program. This research based intervention will be implemented in the learning support classrooms next year, and provides teachers with materials to help our struggling readers gain confidence in reading.
- For students not responding to the intervention provided during the Focus

Periods, Highland teachers meet monthly with Dr. Burns, the school psychologist, and intervention specialists to talk about the best ways to support individual students during Child Study Meetings. Each month, the team reviews student progress and determines the best course of action to facilitate student growth.

STEAM/Project Learning

- Each week, students participate in 40 minutes of STEAM instruction with Mrs. Darroch. During this special, students learn to problem solve, code, and work collaboratively with their classmates.
- In the fall, Highland Elementary families received the opportunity to participate in an online Coding Night. This program introduced families to basic coding activities that encourage students to develop problem-solving abilities in a fun game-like interface.

Data Driven Teaching

- Three times per year students participate in universal screening assessments. Students in kindergarten through second grade participate in STAR 360 assessments in both reading and math. Students in third through fifth grade complete the Classroom Diagnostic Tests aligned with the PSSA exams. Teachers utilize data from these assessments to group students for interventions and determine skills that require additional instructional time.
- Each month, Highland teachers meet in grade level teams, along with Dr. Burns and the intervention specialists to identify skills where students continue to struggle and plan for the intervention to be implemented during the Focus Period. The team works to identify student groupings to ensure

that students receive the remediation or enrichment of skills necessary to ensure their continued growth in both reading and mathematics skills.

STATE STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student Supports

- Professional development for special education teachers to implement the new Reading Horizons Program.
- Special education and regular education teachers plan together for more inclusive practices to provide the least restrictive environment for our students.
- Planning professional development to focus on co-teaching.

STEAM/Project Learning

- Students attend STEAM for a 40-minute period once a week.
- STEAM incorporates hands-on and technological activities to inspire a child's creativity.
- STEAM Night showcases various activities that the students have learned throughout the year. During this time, the students have the opportunity to teach what they have learned to their family and friends.

Data Driven Teaching

- The teachers focused on the classroom curriculum along with state standards and created standards calendars.
- The Focus Period is a 30-minute block of direct instruction in reading and math. Data is collected to form differentiated groups to target areas of specific strengths and weaknesses.
- The Child Study Team meets to focus on individual students who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally. A plan is created and specific strategies are implemented for students to be as successful as possible.

PENNSYLVANIA TSA STATE COMPETITION 2021



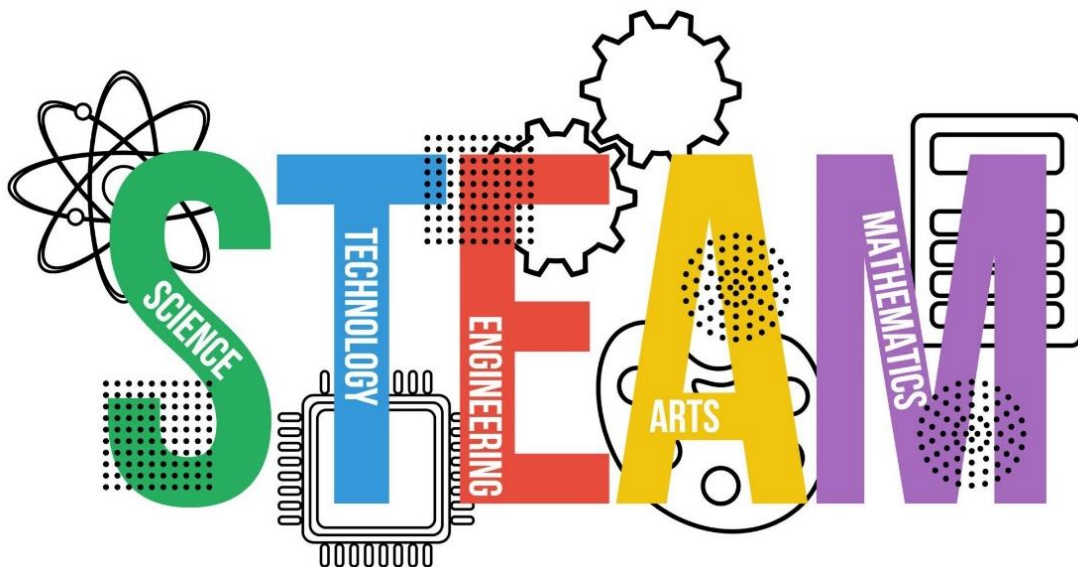
Junior **Joy Jun** placed in the top 10 for Future Tech Teacher from schools across the state of Pennsylvania.

Participants create a screencast webinar that teachers can reference to learn a new technology that can be used in a lesson. Semi-finalists demonstrate mastery of the technological app in a mock lesson and presentation.



Outstanding Technology Student Scholarship was awarded to Senior **Kyla Fitzgibbons**.

The scholarship is for a high school senior or graduate who has been admitted to, but not enrolled in, an undergraduate program. The applicant must submit the application forms which detail his/her educational background and noteworthy achievements. In addition, explanation should be given to describe how he/she has benefited from participation in TSA. The applicant's scholastic achievements, leadership abilities, class rank, TSA involvement, and general honors or awards should be described. A \$2,000 scholarship is awarded.



Economy STEAM Lab: Growing Succulents



Spring has sprung and the sun is shining! Hands got dirty in a unique gardening activity led by STEAM teacher, Mrs. Holmes. As part of a generous grant from the Beaver County Educational Trust and Lincoln Learning Solutions, Economy Elementary kids planted 200 succulents in mini-gardens designed completely by them. Second, third, and fourth grade students, both virtual and in-person, were able to explore this activity during class over several weeks.

What is a succulent one might ask? A succulent is a special type of plant that requires little water; it still needs soil, sunlight and water like other plants do, but this type is able to retain water. There are many different varieties. Each kid received one rosette or stemmed variety to plant in his/her mini-garden creation. Kids discovered and were amazed that succulents are special because they can be regrown from broken off pieces. Classes grew "pups" from these pieces in egg cartons.

The project began like most STEAM projects—with a sketch or a problem to be solved. The kids were challenged to design, sketch and create their own mini world. The mini world could be fantasy, favorite cartoons, animals, or anything relaxing. Each kid, noting placement of the succulent and other materials, first designed the mini-gardens on paper with a scaled sketch. Additionally, honoring Earth Day, the kids reclaimed styrofoam trays and used them as pots. The design of the garden incorporated clay figures they made along with other natural materials like rocks, pebbles, wood, or sand. Evelyn, a fourth grader, created a peaceful garden scene with patio tiles and miniature woodland animals. The project is still under way and will be completed mid-May.

This past year was interesting with many challenges, but also new possibilities. The gardening activity was relaxing and fun, but most of all screen-free. It was a chance for kids to share and get a little dirty. "Taking care of a plant is a responsibility; it builds self esteem, confidence and encourages STEAM skills along with fine motor development," as claimed by Marconi Kid.

The kids were very excited and gained a great experience. **Cayden Pollock**, a fourth grader, said happily with a smile, "I wish we could plant plants and garden all the time in STEAM, this is fun!" Happy spring everyone!



AAHS Spring Musical, *Best of Broadway*

Each year, the students at Ambridge Area High School perform in a spring musical. While they were lucky enough before the pandemic to put on a full weekend of live shows for their 2020 production of *The Little Mermaid*, this year looked a bit different as they navigated rehearsals, recording, and presenting a virtual cabaret-style Broadway revue, titled *Best of Broadway: A Musical Theater Cabaret*.

Director Jessica Patterson, Musical Director, Elizabeth Ambrose, and Choreographer Elyse Perciavalle worked with two separate groups of 12-13 students from January through March to

provide a safe, socially distanced space to rehearse numbers from over 18 well-known musicals, including *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Rent*, *Into the Woods*, *Legally Blonde*, *Grease*, *Hamilton*, and *Big Fish*. In the final weeks of rehearsal, the two groups came together to record their numbers, which featured soloists, duets, and small groups, and production numbers, which were then edited together and streamed to audiences at home from March 26 through April 4.

We are so proud of our incredible cast and crew, and so grateful to have the opportunity to perform, even under unique circumstances!

MANCINI MUSICAL AWARD NOMINEES

Two Ambridge Area High School students received Mancini Musical Theater Award nominations for their performances in *Best of Broadway*.

Best Actress nominee, AAHS Junior, **Jaydn Perza**



Best Actor nominee, AAHS Senior, **Ryan Krokonko**



They, along with the following cast members, Junior **Lily Vignere**, Senior **Bryce Miller**, Junior **Leah Fritsch**, Senior **Elisabetta Pucci**, Senior **Zoe Setzenfand**, and Freshman **Heidi Setzenfand** will be performing at the Mancini's virtually on May 22 at 7:00 p.m. Congratulations to the entire cast!





Science Rocks With Mr. Ayers

Mr. Don Ayers, Science Teacher at Ambridge Area Middle School, knows how to make learning fun. He incorporates hands-on, project-based activities in all of his Science Classes. The Toxic Popcorn Design Challenge is one example of his engaging teaching methods.

This lesson introduces students to the engineering design process (EDP)—the process engineers use to solve design challenges. Students work in teams to solve the challenge by designing both a product and process to safely remove “toxic” popcorn and save the city.



Each team has 10 minutes to design, 20 minutes to create, and 1 minute to test their structure. Highest structure wins!



An additional challenge was the catapult design. Students designed a catapult that will shoot a mini marshmallow as far as possible. Ambridge is lucky to have Mr. Don Ayers!



Another engaging lesson is the Cup Holder Challenge. The students were challenged to create a structure that holds two cups as high as possible and as far apart as possible. One cup must hold a ping-pong ball and neither cup can

AAMS ENVIROTHON WINNERS

Hundreds of teachers and professionals throughout Pennsylvania guide high school students through this natural resource environmental education program that combines classroom learning and outdoor activities. This exposure to nature and seeing how humans impact the natural world provides invaluable lessons for understanding ecosystems and our environment. Science Teacher, Mr. Don Ayers, sponsors the Envirothon at the Middle School.



2nd Place Environerds: Mr. Olenic, Allison Baker, Lauren Mealie, Madison Kozak, Sheridan Olenic, Not Present Scarlett Truskowski



4th Place Envirogeeks: Mrs. Braund, Hannah Larimore, Thayne Barton, Cody Roper, Not Present Rylee Girardi, Mikayka Wolf



5th Place Enviromaniacs: Mr. Ayers, Aiden Groom, Dean Chalupiak, AJ Gerace, Owen Buchanan



ELEMENTARY STEAM HURRICANE CHALLENGE

Elementary STEAM students at Highland and State Street were challenged to complete a STEAM project after learning the true story of two giraffes that survived a hurricane at sea. In 1938, giraffes Lofty and Patches were being transported from Uganda, Africa to the San Diego Zoo. The ship carrying Lofty and Patches was struck by a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic Ocean. The intensity of the storm resulted in injuries for the giraffes and death for a rhinoceros that was also being transported. After arriving in New York, the giraffes were safely transported via truck to the San Diego Zoo where they lived for the next 30 years.

After learning about these events, the students were challenged to design and build a boat that would withstand a hurricane. Students used pool noodles, popsicle sticks, and legos. Students at home completed the challenge using similar supplies. Upon completion, students tested their boats in a tub of water and made revisions to their project when needed.



MathCounts Competition

On February 5th and 6th, 14 students from Ambridge Area Middle School participated in the MathCounts Competition. MathCounts is a nationwide middle school math program. Its purpose is to administer math enrichment, coaching, and competition programs, while increasing enthusiasm and enhancing achievement in middle school mathematics. Each year, 500+ local competitions and 57 state competitions are conducted through the United States. The Beaver County chapter of MathCounts is part of the national program and is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers.

The AAMS Mathletes were selected by their scores from the MathCounts exam taken by all of the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in advanced math classes at the Middle School. Coached by teachers Glenn Freed and Ashley Simpson, the competing AAMS Mathletes were **Thayne Barton, Bailey Braund, Owen Buchanan, Chase Fetterman, Aidyn Iorfido, Cole Lovett, Lauren Mealie, Sheridan Olenic, Madelyn Palmer, Max Redinger, Cody Roper, Aashna Sinha Roy, Anthony Speicher, and Brionna Tyson.**

The competition featured 38 students from 6 schools in Beaver County. The final results had Ambridge Area students not only holding 6 of the 9 spots to move onto the next level, which was the County Invitational Competition, but AAMS Mathletes even held the top two spots. The 6 students were **Chase Fetterman, Aidyn Iorfido, Cody Roper, Aashna Sinha Roy, Anthony Speicher, and Brionna Tyson.**

From the County Invitational Competition, the top 5 students were selected for the State Competition and the AAMS had 3 Mathletes earn this honor! They were **Aidyn Iorfido, Cody Roper, and Anthony Speicher** (pictured above).

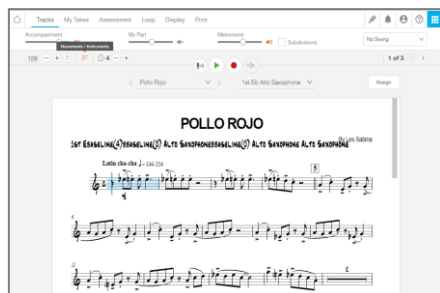
At the State Competition, 116 students from across Pennsylvania competed for the top 4 spots to participate at the National Competition. Congratulations to Aidyn, Cody, and Anthony for competing in this very elite group.

Congratulations to all of the MathCounts students for their awesome performances and for representing the Ambridge Area Middle School with such tremendous scholarship.



Finding Ways To Make Music Remotely

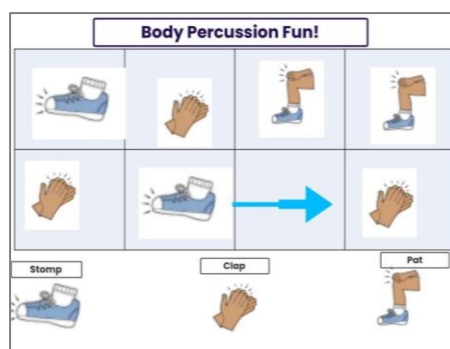
For over a year now, music teachers have been faced with the challenge of keeping their music students engaged and motivated to learn, sing, and/or play musical instruments both in-person and remotely. Thankfully, new methods and new technology kept the music alive at home.



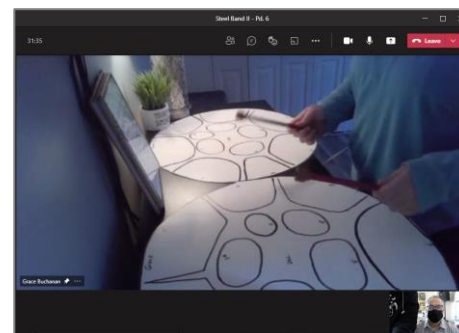
SmartMusic is music learning software for educators and students that makes practicing and tracking student progress easy and fun. At the beginning of this school year, the music and technology departments purchased enough subscriptions for every band student from grades 6 through 12. When students practice with SmartMusic on a band piece,

they are hearing all the parts, in tune, with proper musicianship as if they were rehearsing with a collegiate or professional group. The assessment feature allows for instant gratification and motivation to try to beat their previous score.

Elementary students have been exploring music in ways that were not always possible without the 1:1 devices. They have been composing their own patterns and songs, sending in recordings of their singing, videotaping themselves performing various skills, and playing electronic instruments. While it is not their usual music class, Mr. Eisenreich and Mrs. Schaltenbrand have been able to use this year to try new things and get their students to keep enjoying music!



For Mr. Hartman and Mrs. Ceratti's steel drummers, developing the skills necessary to perform has been one of the more difficult remote learning tasks. Unlike traditional band instruments that families either own or rent, students do not have access to steel pans at home to practice on and make music with. One way to keep developing dexterity, coordination, and rhythmic literacy was to use a 5-gallon bucket. If one could not be found in the garage, it was an inexpensive purchase! Although plastic buckets do not produce the same resonant pitches of a steel pan, bucket drumming served as an effective and fun alternative.

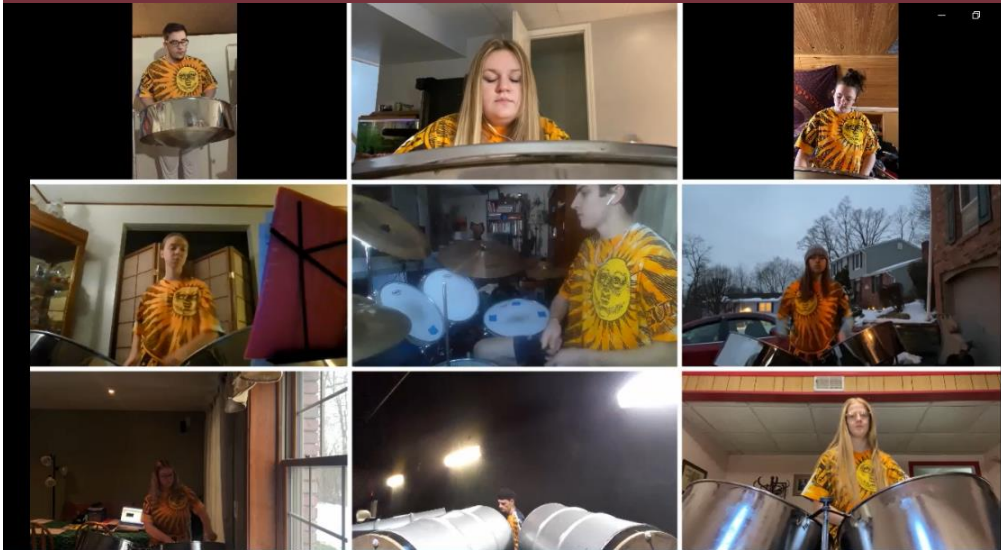


While there were enough pans for junior and senior steel drummers to borrow and take their pans home, Mr. Hartman kept his freshman and sophomores practicing at home with paper pans. Each student was asked to provide the poster board for their new practice pan. Once an overhead picture of each pan was taken, he traced the digital image using a Paint app, projected it onto the poster board taped to the wall, and then duplicated it on the poster board. After templates of each set of pans were created, he

PMEA DISTRICT 5 HONORS CHORUS

Two of our own AAHS Choir students have distinguished themselves by their participation in PMEA District 5 Honors Chorus, Region 1 Chorus, and PMEA State Chorus. Senior **John Barnhart** and Junior **Noah White** were chosen by audition to perform in PMEA State Chorus held virtually on April 14-17. The festival consisted of a virtual concert featuring the ensemble. For more information about the virtual concert, visit <https://pmea.net/chorus/>.

The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) is a statewide nonprofit organization of over 4,500 members, dedicated to promoting the musical development of all Pennsylvanians. The present membership evolved from a small group of band directors dating back to 1933. Today, the organization includes those engaged in music instruction at all levels, from preschool through college and university, as well as those in the music industry, merchandising, and publishing. The organization promotes and supports quality music education, learning, and performance, as well as promoting and supporting music education in schools and communities. PMEA is affiliated with The National Association for Music Education, NAFME. PMEA District 5 encompasses schools from Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties.

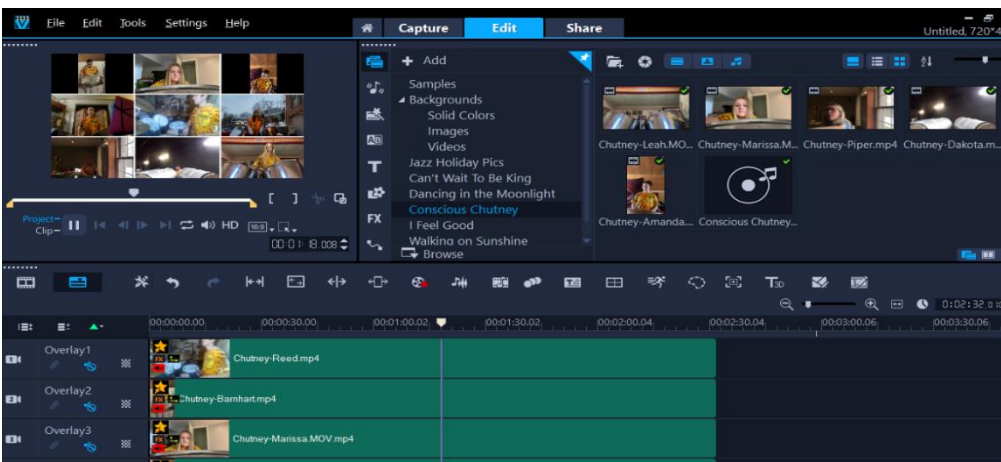


then made duplicates using a tracing light table located in the technology education department.

Finally, Mr. Hartman and Mrs. Dewar kept the band, choir, and jazz band students motivated with a virtual holiday concert. Each student had individually recorded themselves and submitted it using Schoology. Using audio and video editing software, they mixed everyone together and put together a virtual concert. It was not nearly the same as a live performance, but nevertheless, it gave the students purpose and motivation to keep learning their craft of musical performance at home. Currently, they are both finishing up another virtual

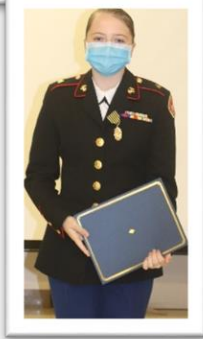
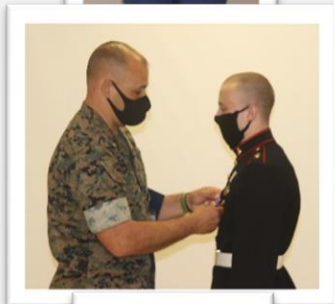
concert that the students worked on last month.

If all continues to improve with regards to the pandemic, the entire high school music department will present an end of the year in-person concert featuring the concert, jazz, and steel bands, along with the choirs. A concert date will be announced soon.



END OF THE YEAR 2019-2020 AWARDS

(COVID-19 DELAYED)



MJROTC Awards

Major Brian Triebel recently presented the COVID-19 delayed 2019-2020 End of the Year Awards to the MJROTC Cadets. The awards are listed below:

MILITARY OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION of AMERICA – The MOAA medal is presented to a cadet who demonstrates outstanding potential for military leadership. The 2020 recipient of this award is: Cadet Sergeant Major **Logan Hoover**.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JROTC BRONZE MEDAL - The Veterans of Foreign Wars JROTC Bronze Medal is presented to: (1) Senior, (1) Junior, (1) Sophomore Cadet who possesses individual characteristics contributing to leadership both in and out of uniform. The recipient is: Cadet Second Lieutenant **Jordan Dixon**.

Sons of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION JROTC Bronze Medal – The Sons of the American Revolution JROTC Bronze Medal is presented to a Junior cadet who has exhibited the highest qualities of leadership, military bearing, and excellence. The 2020 recipient of the Sons of the American Revolution award is: Cadet Sergeant **Justin Baker**.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AWARD – The Marine Corps League award is presented to the cadets who have demonstrated excellent leadership and applies

the Marine Corps' tenant of "Taking Care of Your Own." The 2020 recipient of the Marine Corps League is: Cadet Major **Autumn Brickner**.

WOMEN MARINE'S ASSOCIATION - This award is presented to a graduating female Cadet who has demonstrated academic achievement in JROTC leadership. The 2020 recipient of this award is: Cadet Major **Autumn Brickner**.

RESERVE OFFICER ASSOCIATION JROTC MEDAL - The Reserve Officer JROTC Medal is presented to a deserving cadet who has demonstrated outstanding competence in military skills and has contributed to the common good of the school, community, and nation. On behalf of the ROA, this award is presented to: Cadet Sergeant **Ricardo Lopez**.

AMERICAN VETERAN'S JROTC BRONZE MEDAL – The American Veteran's Bronze Medal is presented to a cadet who demonstrates outstanding volunteerism and patriotism. On behalf of the AMVETS, the 2020 recipient of this award is: Cadet Corporal **Kensy Lopez**.

MILITARY ORDER of WORLD WARS – This award is presented to an outstanding first-year cadet who excels in both military and scholastic activities. He/She is in good standing in all courses and has made a commitment to remain in the program. On behalf of the Military Order of World Wars, this award is

presented to: Cadet Sergeant **Marc Ross**.

DAEDALIAN JROTC ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL – The Daedalian Medal is presented to a cadet who demonstrates all around excellence. The cadet must have patriotism, potential and a desire for a military career. On behalf of the Daedalian Association, this medal is presented to: Cadet Corporal **Jackson Havens**.

NATIONAL SOJOURNER'S MEDAL – The National Sojourner's Medal is presented annually to a cadet who is committed to the success of the JROTC program. He/She is actively involved in the community and demonstrates Americanism by deed, conduct or both. On behalf of the National Sojourner's Association, this award is presented to: Cadet Corporal **Elise Propst**.

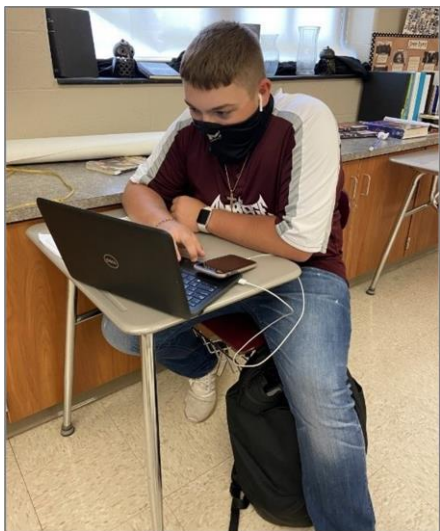
NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION JROTC BRONZE MEDAL – The NonCommissioned Officer's Association Medal is presented annually to an outstanding cadet(s) NCO who has demonstrated dedication, military bearing, deportment and leadership ability. On behalf of the NCOA, this award is presented to: Cadet First Sergeant **Amanda Martin**, Cadet Staff Sergeant **Julia Bennett** and Cadet Corporal **Kyra Hooper**.



SILHOUETTE STAFF

Freshmen: Sophie Beadway, Souhaib Elhalouly, Ethan Worthy
Sophomores: Nora Best, Amara Platz, Samuel Tusick
Juniors: Jenna McFarland (Editor and Co-President), Brett Mueller, Brianna Mueller, Lukas Sovich, Tyler Sproul, Brendon Streb (Co-President)
Senior: Sophia Pedigo

Silhouette Staff Shines Amid COVID-19 Restrictions



The 2020-2021 staff of The Silhouette, the school newspaper, are working extra hard this year to ensure copies of the paper are still distributed. Students could not print and sell paper copies this year due to Covid restrictions and remote learning. Fortunately, thanks to the Technology Department, all of the monthly issues can now be found online and free of charge. To maintain safety and personal distance, the staff personally interviews sources through email or phone calls. Although the class is split between in-person, remote, and club, all students work well with each other to collaborate and incorporate

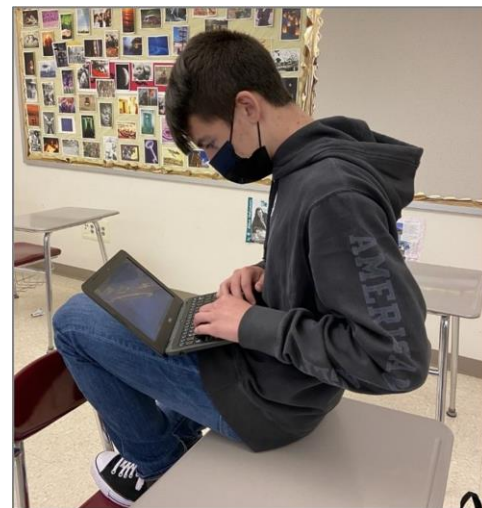
exciting ways to promote the district and student body.

This year, the class is taught by Ms. Veronica Simunick. Along with her Secondary Education teaching certificate, Ms. Simunick has a degree in Broadcast Journalism and a Masters in English and Communications. The students in the class/club range from freshmen to seniors and most of the students have taken this class yearly. Senior **Sophia Pedigo** is going to the University of Missouri to pursue a degree in Journalism next fall. When asked why she enjoys the class, she stated, "I enjoy the freedom that I get from writing in high school compared to a job, but also the experience from starting so young. It is helpful to work on time management skills to know when I need to do certain articles by in order to meet the deadline. Seeing a newspaper that was written by you and your peers is very rewarding."

Junior **Lukas Sovich** says "The Newspaper class gave me a great idea of what journalism is and how it functions. There are many amazing projects that we get to work on together. I get to conduct interviews with people to get information for articles. It is an overall fun class that comes with many great experiences."

Junior **Brandon Streb** is the paper's Sports Editor. He says, "I enjoy class because I get to write articles on the things I enjoy. For example, I usually write about baseball and I love to play/watch it. Getting to report on Opening Day or the World Series is just fun because I enjoy the sport."

Overall, the students are learning the importance of quality journalism. Not only are the students perfecting their writing skills, they are also working on their design, layout, photography, and communication skills. The Newspaper Staff is the voice of Ambridge Area High School. Please contact Ms. Simunick at vsimunick@ambridge.k12.pa.us if you would like to be added to our email list to receive copies of the paper.

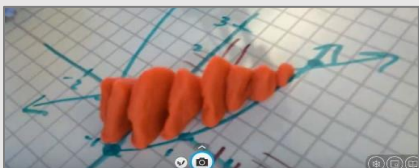


AAHS ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSEWORK

On April 13, 2021, students of Mrs. Briola's AP Language and Composition class asked the question of how justice can be applied in our society. They worked in groups, moving around the room and answering various prompts. Students were encouraged to engage in fruitful discussions about the past, present, and future implications of justice in our country. They wrote their thoughts on large pieces of construction paper for other students to view and consider. Mrs. Briola engaged with both in-school and online students by using an online service called Padlet, allowing kids in her class to post their thoughts not only on construction paper, but also on an online board to be viewed by everyone, both in school and online. Students can be seen in the classroom and hallway writing on their construction paper.



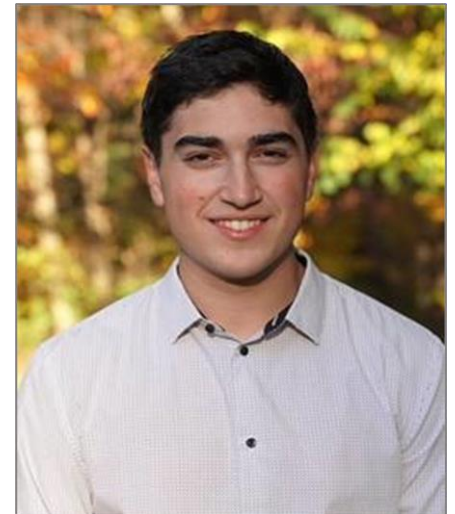
On April 9, students in Mrs. Hapich's AP Calculus AB class constructed 3D models of 2D shapes with a known cross section using Play-doh to create the 3D shape. The students then used a formula for the area of the cross section depending on the shape of the cross section. For example, the formula for the area of a square is different than that of a triangle. Then, in order to find the volume, the students took the integral of that area within the given range which was determined by the intersection points of the given functions.



National Honor Society

On Thursday, April 22, the Ambridge Area Chapter of the National Honor Society held its annual ceremony to induct the new 2021-2022 members. The National Honor Society is a nationwide organization for high school students in the United States and outlying territories, which consists of many chapters in high schools. Students heard from a variety of speakers, including district Superintendent Dr. Joseph Pasquerilla, High School Principal Janice Zupsic, and current NHS officers.

The inducted members were recognized for their excellence in the four pillars of the National Honor Society: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Additionally, new officers were elected among the incoming inductees, who chose **Joy Jun** as Historian, **Kyrsta Girardi** as Treasurer, **Leah Fritsch** as Secretary, **Elliott Powell** as Vice-President, and **Jenna McFarland** as President. Congratulations to all involved in the Ambridge Area Chapter of the National Honor Society, and a special thank you to the NHS moderator Mrs. Santini. We are proud of what you have accomplished!



Senior Jeremiah Giordani

Congratulations to senior **Jeremiah Giordani** for being admitted to Ivy League Universities Princeton and Yale, alongside a number of other prestigious universities. Jeremiah has chosen to continue his education at Princeton. We are proud to have one of our own students planning on attending a world-renowned academic institution, and furthering his educational career at a top-tier school. Good luck to Jeremiah, and we wish him the best with his collegiate endeavors.

BEAVER COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY SPOTLIGHTS



Transition Program Assists Tech Department

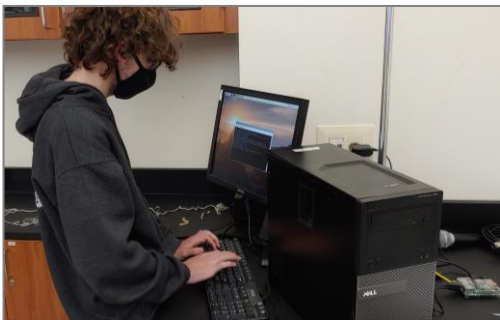
AAHS students have the opportunity to obtain a paid work experience through Job Training of Beaver County, Debby Moore, and the transition program coordinated by Teresa Brewer. This year, we have 10 students participating in various internships throughout the high school. The Technology Interns are **Blake Gibson, Elliott Powell, Alexis Hitchens, and Michael Chalupiak.**

The demand on the Technology Department expanded this year due to the rollout of the 1:1 laptops and iPads for students in grades K-12. Technology Interns were tasked with imaging laptops, replacing damaged equipment, troubleshooting problems, and inventorying new devices.

cables. In addition, they have supported the teachers by troubleshooting LCD projector problems, changing projector lamps, and setting up Fire Sticks for future AATV videos during the school day. They also have had time to work on projects of interest such as the Raspberry Pi and exploring Linux.



In addition to the Technology Interns, we also have the following Interns: **Randall Allison** and **Jeremiah Giordani** are the tutoring interns, **Bryshawn McMorris** and **Adam Hennessy** are the Athletic Assistants, and **Lucas Bedillion** and **William Townsend** are the Maintenance Interns. As of April 1st, Job Training of Beaver County has paid a total \$13,363.71 to our students.



The Technology Helpdesk Apprenticeship Course, a first year technology intern class led by Mr. Paul Hladio, has been busy this year as we train to support the Technology office. Students have worked on learning soldering skills, assembling and disassembling computers, and making CAT5 ethernet

2020-2021 National Business Honor Society for Business Information Systems

Benjamin Wyar

Richard Nartey

Troy Jacob

Troy Jacob and Benjamin Wyar are also recipients of a \$6,000 Scholarship from Pittsburgh Technical College

2020-2021 FBLA Regional Leadership Competition

Troy Jacob – 1st place in Networking Infrastructure

Richard Nartey – 4th place in Management Decision Making

Benjamin Wyar – 4th place in Computer Problem Solving

2020-2021 HOSA Competition Health Occupation Program

Emma Preston – 2nd place in Interviewing Skills

2020-2021 National Technical Society Honor Society

Brandan Hare

FITNESS HEPTATHLON



This year, the Life Skills students and Teen Leaders participated in the 2021 Fitness Heptathlon. The athletic participants completed 10 weeks of competition against other schools in Pennsylvania. Some of the exercises were based on their agility, strength and endurance. We are waiting for the statewide results. The group also participated in the Spread the Word campaign which brings together students of all abilities. The Fitness Heptathlon sponsors are Kim Bogati, Marian Puet and Teresa Brewer.

AAHS SPIRIT DAYS



Tie-Dye Day



Hawaiian Day



Bridger Biscuits Help Service Dogs

Last school year, Mrs. Weale's life skills support class not only learned about service dogs, but had the opportunity to get to know Mowgli, a service dog in training with a club at the University of Pittsburgh. He came to visit her class several times with his raiser. Her 8th grade students wanted to use some of the time they spent doing hands on life skills activities to make dog treats to donate to STEP@PITT. STEP is a non-profit student organization at the University of Pittsburgh, dedicated to raising service dogs through Canine Companions for Independence.

These students used their reading and math skills to follow recipes, measure ingredients, make, and package over 1,000 "AAMS Bridger Biscuits". In addition, by seeing this project from conception to finished product, they were able to gain and practice skills needed in the workplace.



The students agreed to let Mrs. Weale use a portion of the biscuits to sell to her family and friends for donations. As a result, the "AAMS Bridger Biscuit Co." was able to give \$150 to STEP@PITT. This money will be used by the club to buy food for the current service dogs in training. Her students enjoyed working as a group and were very proud to be able to give back to the dogs whose lives are dedicated to helping others.

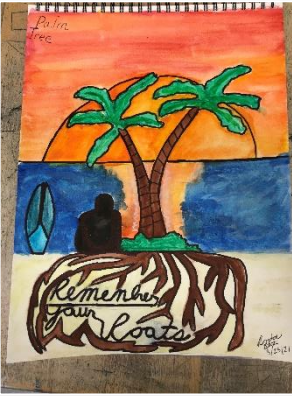


<https://stepatpitt.wixsite.com/stepatpitt>



AAHS ARTIST RESIDENCY

Continued from Page 1



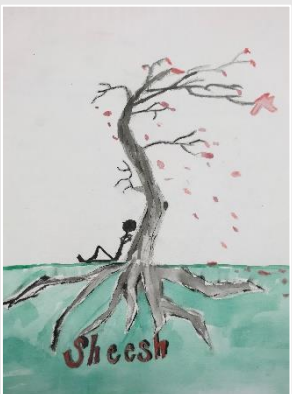
Palm Tree by Brandon Streb



Pine Tree by Samantha Orlowski



Palm Tree by Yasmine Townsend



Sheesh by Ronin Kittrell

Celebrating The Class of 2021 Seniors

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Albring, Hunter | Ernst, Jacob | Leonberg, Mia | Runner, Jesse |
| Amburn, Zane | Fallecker, Matthew | Lewis, Brandon | Ruskin, Ottavio |
| Bailey, Dinah | Farah, Samantha | Listorti, Christopher | Salyers, Kylee |
| Baker, Justin | Finnegan, Connor | Lopez, Kensy | Sandoval, Jose |
| Baker, Levi | Fisher, Reed | Ludovici, Auston | Santia, Dominic |
| Barkley, Mallory | Fitlin, Chad | Lyon, Emily | Schmude, Angela |
| Barnhart, John | Fitzgibbons, Kyla | Mahmood, Noor | Schneider, Cassidy |
| Baronio, Elizabeth | Ford, Jessica | Marks, Cameron | Sea, Breonna |
| Barton, Gavin | Frederick, Le'Ara | Martin-Miller, Mikayla | Serak, Jacee |
| Bartosh, Jocelyn | Freed, Amelia | Martiny, Dimitri | Setzenfand, Zoe |
| Batista, Anthony | Furguele, Cailyn | Massimiani, Zachary | Shea, Nautica |
| Bedillion, Lucas | Furis, Trenton | McCall, Noah | Shipeck, Madison |
| Benes, Ryan | Galvan, Derek | McCracken, Jade | Siebert, Noah |
| Bennett, Daisey | Garrison, Natalie | McCutcheon, Grace | Silberger, Hailey |
| Benton, Nicholas | Gazda, Parker | McGeorge, Hudson | Simpson, Domenick |
| Bonnoni, Gino | Gill-Martin, Deyvon | McKissic, Colin | Smith, Christina |
| Bosh, Rhiannon | Giordani, Jeremiah | McMorris, Bryshawn | Smith, Courtney |
| Bowens, Enire | Gorecki, Austin | McPeak-Kennedy, Marissa | Smith, Tazjia |
| Bowman, Jayden | Gray, Sarah | Mease, Daniel | Snow, Tony |
| Bozza, Eli | Graziano, Caleigh | Milcoff, Gabrielle | Sochats, Izabella |
| Brandenburg, Ian | Green, Spencer | Miller, Bryce | Sovich, Emma |
| Brickner, Autumn | Guthrie, Rachel | Morrell, Richard | Spears-Banks, Devonte |
| Brickner, Sean | Haberman, Anthony | Mosconi, Christianna | Staley, Zoe |
| Brown, Jonathan | Hanna, Ezra | Mose, Michael | Steals, Devozbre |
| Bruckelmyer, John | Hare, Brandon | Muhammed, Aziz | Stevenson, Angelina |
| Bufalini, Richard | Harris, Amahni | Mycyk, Jaelon | Stickles, Tyler |
| Campbell, Lily | Haymond, Sarah | Nartey, Richard | Stokes, Austin |
| Capone, Krista | Hermann, Tori | Naughton, Bethany | Sumanga, Mico |
| Chalupiak, Hunter | Higley, Alexa | Nelson, Chyenne | Sumpter, Brynn |
| Chambers, Keaira | Hitt, Kadie | O'Brien, Haven | Swartz, Madeline |
| Chickos, Sofia | Hogue, Hunter | Orlowski, Sara | Sylvester, Alexandra |
| Ciani, Jonathan | Holman, Luke | Ozenich, Fiona | Terrick, Aniah |
| Clark, Ayreonna | Hooper, Tory | Palmieri, Kaylee | Terry, Kloe |
| Copenhaver, Paul | Hoover, Logan | Parrish, Khanaisia | Tesner, Caleb |
| Corona, Kaine | Hovanec, Natalie | Parrish, Tara | Thomas, Ariyane |
| Cruver, Katherine | Hrinko, William | Patterson, Patrick | Thompkins, Alica |
| Depace, Gabriella | Indovina, Mona | Patterson, Sarah | Townsend, Drake |
| Deschaine, Mitchell | Jacob, Troy | Pawlishak, Jace | Traupman, Allison |
| Devine, Maura | Janicki, Dalton | Payne, Lucas | Trehear, Joseph |
| Deweese, Ashley | Johnson, Tiana | Pedigo, Sophia | Trent, Karon |
| Dewitt, Zachary | Jones, Darius | Perza, Nickolas | Valecillos, Gabriel |
| Diaz, Darrell | Kane-Scott, Ian | Polachek, David | Varner, Jonathan |
| Dickinson, Gideon | Kelly, Kierron | Pollock, Devon | Vrbanac, Jillian |
| Dixon, Jordan | Kelly, Quinn | Prentice, Alivia | Weber, Paige |
| Dorsey, Jaila | Kinter, Myra | Presto, Anthony | Welling, Shane |
| Dowlin, Xander | Kirkpatrick, Delaunie | Preston, Megan | Wijnen-Riems, Nicholas |
| Dunkle, Bre-Ana | Kittrell, Ronin | Pucci, Elisabetta | Williams, Destiny |
| Dunlap, Piper | Kotula, Jacob | Raineri, Shalyah | Witt, Justice |
| Dwyer, Payton | Kowalsky, Matthew | Rance, Robbi | Wyar, Benjamin |
| Eisel, Brady | Krokonko, Ryan | Rodgers, Rahjir | Zanella, Zackary |
| Elchin, Grant | Krol, Riley | Roehm, Tage | Zassick, Joseph |
| Ellis, Zaire | Lagleva, Blake | Rogers, Dylan | |
| Erdlen, Flynn | Lee, De'Andre | Ross, Ramona | |

Senior Schedule of Events

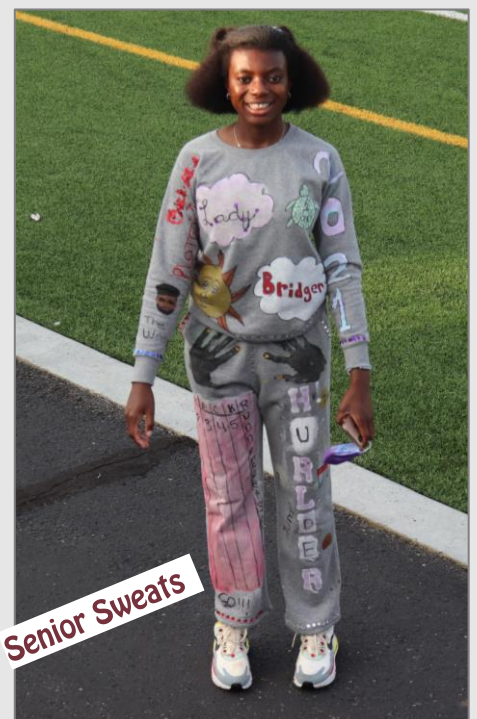


Date	Event
May 3	80's Day
May 4	Tie Dye Day
May 5	Hawaiian Day
May 6	Twin Day
May 7	Class Colors Day - Seniors Garnet
May 10	Senior Wall of Fame begins
May 11	USA Day
May 13	Senior Dress Up Day Academic Awards Ceremony (HS) 1:30 p.m. - Auditorium
May 17-21	BCCTC only - Cap & Gown pick up
May 20	Senior Last Day at BCCTC
May 21	BCCTC Graduation - 12:30 p.m. Location: Monaca Football Field Bus for seniors will depart Ambridge 11:00 a.m.
May 24	BCCTC Graduation - Rain Date
May 28	Seniors College and Career Day
June 1	PROM with Red Carpet Arrival (All couples must be checked in by 6:30 p.m.) Pittsburgh Airport Marriott 5:30 - 10:00 p.m.
June 2	Kennywood Park opens - 10:30 a.m.
June 3	Turkey Bowl
June 4	3 on 3 Basketball Tournament All books & materials must be turned in, and all fines must be paid. Laptop collection 9 th period
June 7	Senior Walk 7:45 a.m. - Elem. Schools & MS (Permission form online)
June 8	Senior Breakfast/senior sweats Mandatory graduation practice Softball Game (afternoon) 7:45 a.m. - report to Cafeteria immediately following breakfast
June 9	Mandatory graduation practice 9:00 a.m. Cap/Gowns & tickets distributed Winterish Olympics (afternoon)
June 10	Mandatory graduation practice 9:00 a.m. Senior Picnic Senior Kickball game
June 11	Senior Parade 3:30 p.m. - parade to start Graduation 6:00 p.m. - ceremony to begin Check in for Seniors - 5:30 p.m.

SENIOR REMINDERS

In order to receive a diploma and/or participate in the graduation ceremony, ALL academic requirements must be met and ALL financial obligations must be fulfilled.

- All Edgenuity documentation must be submitted by Saturday, May 15.
- All disciplinary consequences must be resolved prior to May 28.
- All books and materials belonging to AASD must be returned, including laptops, and all fines must be paid by June 4.
- If you have ever attended summer school or remedial night school, please make sure you verify with the Guidance Office that your grades have been recorded and any fees have been paid.
- Each graduating senior will receive six (6) graduation ceremony tickets. They will be inside your cap & gown package.



Senior Sweats

Economy Elementary

ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM

Students at Economy Elementary participate in the Accelerated Reader Program throughout the school year. They select approved books that are linked to an online assessment to evaluate their knowledge on the reading concepts from the story. Each nine weeks, one student who has earned the most points in their grade level receives a gift certificate to Barnes & Noble.

Here is a picture of our winners for the 2020-2021 school year for the first, second, and third nine weeks. Some of our students have won certificates for several marking periods this year.

Congratulations to our winners: Madison Curry, Alyssa Smith, Greyson Priore, Kinley Tekula, Emily Kinkade, Rylan Wolf, Ellie Young, and Ava Grace Akella (not pictured).



SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

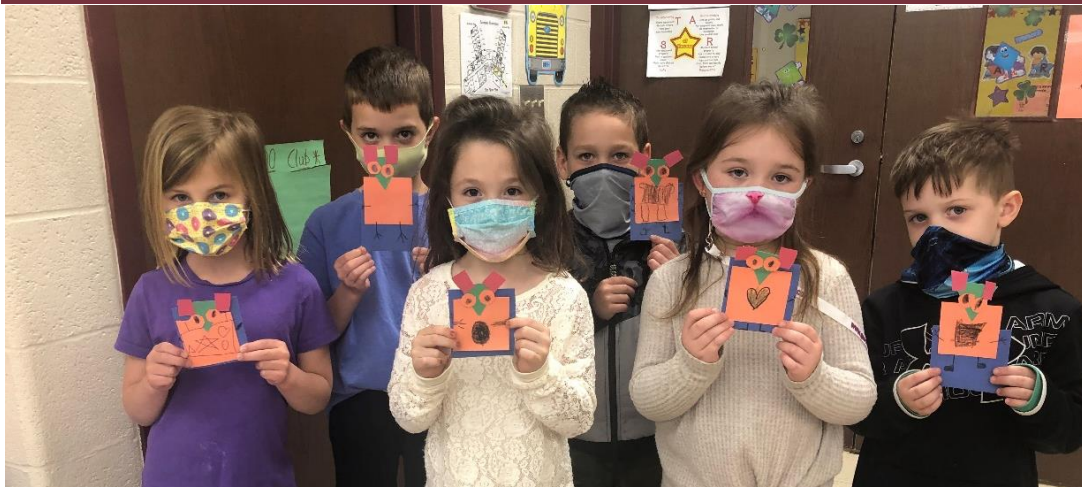
The Economy Elementary faculty, students, and staff have been successful in implementing our School-Wide Positive Behavior Program entitled, “**STAR**”. **STAR** is an acronym for **Safe, Trustworthy, Accountable, and Respectful**.

The **STAR Matrix** that is posted throughout the building has a set of expectations that reflect good behavior in the classroom, bathroom, hallways, cafeteria, recess, and the bus. The faculty and staff distribute **STAR** tickets to students daily that adhere to the behavioral expectations described in the Matrix. The **STAR** tickets are entered into monthly drawings and students receive prizes to reward their good behavior.

Our School-Wide Positive Behavior Program is a state sanctioned initiative. Economy Elementary received Tier 1 recognition for the 2020-2021 school year from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Here is a picture of students who were recognized for their **Good STAR Behavior**.



Congratulations to our STARS: Mallaina Deluigi, Braiden Stacy, Eli Arlof, Logan Zurbach, Elizabeth Yurasko, Aubrey Wesolowski, Zoe Chapin, Alan Beck, Sebastian Lege, Kason Ross, Chloe Chismire, Alyssa Walker, Abigail Howell, Talia Varella



Kindergarten Registration 2021-2022

[Kindergarten Registration Link](#)

The Ambridge Area School District is happy to announce that online Kindergarten Registration is now open for the 2021-2022 school year. Children turning five on or before September 1, 2021 are eligible to register for kindergarten. We welcome all students living in Ambridge who meet the age qualification.

Documentation: Once you have completed the online registration form, you will be contacted at a later date for verification of residency (2 documents), the certificate of birth, immunizations, and all other relevant documentation either virtually or in-person. Please note that your child's registration is not complete until the district receives the necessary documentation.



What to expect when you and your child go to Kindergarten Registration:

Parents will arrive at registration and check-in with the secretary. The nurse checks over the immunization record with the parent. The child is separated from parent and given the screening tests. They consist of vision screening, hearing screening, visual matching, writing skills (hand dominance), scissor skills, counting skills, numeral recognition, shape recognition, identifying upper and lower case letters, and verbal skills (can the child say their full name, address, phone number).

Please contact Cathy Hopkins at 724-266-2833, Extension 1273 or email chopkins@ambridge.k12.pa.us with any questions regarding the completion of the online registration form.

VIRTUAL ORIENTATION

**Did you miss the virtual Kindergarten Orientations?
Recorded sessions will be available on our website!**

<https://youtu.be/vyiV5JhiLog>

PRE-KINDERGARTEN COUNTS PROGRAM

Registration now open for the Pre-K Counts Program

[Pre-K Registration Link](#)

The Ambridge Area School District will operate four PA Pre-K Counts Classrooms. The Pre-K Counts Program services three-year old and four-year old students, with four-year old students having the first priority (students must turn 3 on or before September 1, 2021). The Pre-K Counts Program is available at each of our elementary schools with 20 students being the maximum capacity in each. Students are enrolled in the elementary school closest to their geographic home regardless of whether they have siblings in that building or not.

A student cannot be considered for enrollment without having the completed registration form AND the required documents. Once the 20 students per class has been filled, a waiting list will be established. Students are provided both breakfast and lunch. Transportation is ONLY available for AASD students. This is NOT a first-come, first-served program. Enrollment is determined through the state approved Pre-K Counts Selection Criteria.

Please contact Cathy Hopkins at 724-266-2833, Extension 1273 or chopkins@ambridge.k12.pa.us with any questions regarding the completion of the online registration form.

FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

A reminder to the parents and students of Ambridge Area School District that our Food Service Department is currently still offering curbside meals, both breakfast and lunch, to those students who are remote-learning.

Starting on Monday, June 14th, our Summer Food Service Program officially kicks off. It will operate curbside, from the Senior High School.



Hours of operation are 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Monday through Thursday. This program will continue through August 5, 2021.

Each Thursday, we will distribute breakfast and lunch meals for Friday as well. This program is offered free of charge to all children ages 1-18. We'll have prizes and giveaways as well! Hope to see you there!

Ambridge Schools Receive Grant Money

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Ambridge Area School District has received the following grants to help with the academic progress and safety of our students. The District received two school security grants consisting of the Safe Schools Initiative Targeted Grant to purchase security cameras for Highland Elementary School (\$24,960) and the funds for Ambridge Area Middle School's School Resource Officer (\$60,000).



Two grants will bring additional funding for special education students so that they have the opportunity to close achievement gaps that may have occurred during COVID-19 induced shut-downs. These grants include the special education COVID-19 Impact Mitigation Grant (\$36,011), which will be used for Special Education student remediation, and the Continuity of Education Grant for A-TSI Schools which will provide touch-screen laptops for special education students (\$56,940).



The Ambridge Area School District used the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER FUND) (\$517,155) to purchase iPads and laptops for the Ambridge Area School District's 1:1 Device Initiative. Also, the District used the COVID-19 School Health and Safety Grant to purchase devices for the 1:1 initiative for the Ambridge Area School District (\$228,997). The ESSER School Health and Safety Grant will be used to supply technology personnel support for these technology initiatives for the 2021-2022 School Year. (\$77,888).



Once again, the District received the PA Pre-K Counts Grant that provides two Pre-K rooms at Highland Elementary School, one Pre-K room at State Street Elementary School, and one Pre-K room at Economy Elementary School. The value of the grant is \$700,000 annually.

Students at Highland Elementary School are provided with an opportunity to diversify their palates and increase their daily intake of nutrients thanks to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant (\$22,000).

The Ambridge Area School District is also receiving a combined total of \$6,942,927 through the ARP ESSER Fund, as well as the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (ESSER FUND). This money will be used to continue to provide much needed support to students.



Highland Highlights

Highland fourth and fifth grade students sharpen their multiplication skills through the homeroom challenge every other Friday. Competing virtually, students focus on a different set of multiplication facts each week. The winning student gets to hang the certificate on their classroom door for the week. There is also a traveling trophy that goes to the winner's homeroom.

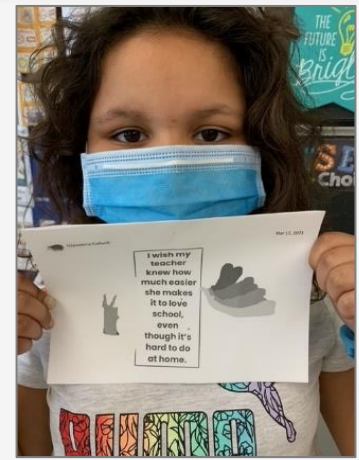
Throughout the week, students take a few minutes at the beginning of each math class to sharpen their multiplication skills. Some activities utilized by the teachers are Jack Hartman videos, iPad multiplication applications and timed multiplication activities. In addition, the 5th grade weekly math assignments were focused on the times tables for 5th Grade (prior to PSSAs).

The winners are featured in the photo above: Fifth-graders **Molly-Anna Cephas** (not pictured), **Jerzee**

Harmon, Jocelynn LaRocca, Alexis Tonsel and Ziyad Rizki.

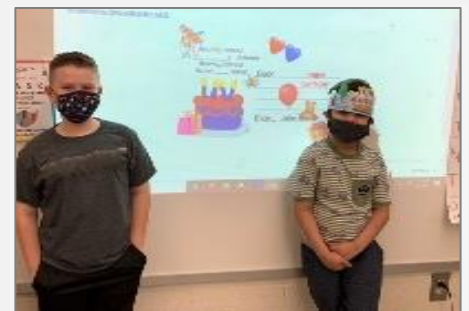


Highland continues to work to ensure the safety of all students through social distancing. In the cafeteria, students remain six feet apart causing our cafeteria to expand into the hallways. Students excitedly get to eat their lunches at the “Panera tables” in the building foyers. In classrooms, students are distanced and continue wearing their masks, even for the specials classes. We continue to work diligently to ensure student safety at Highland.

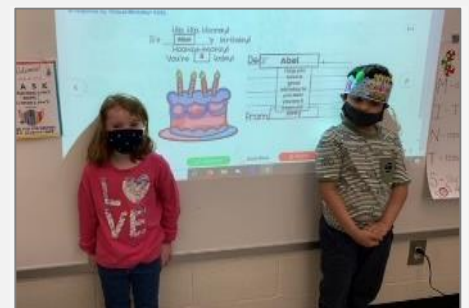


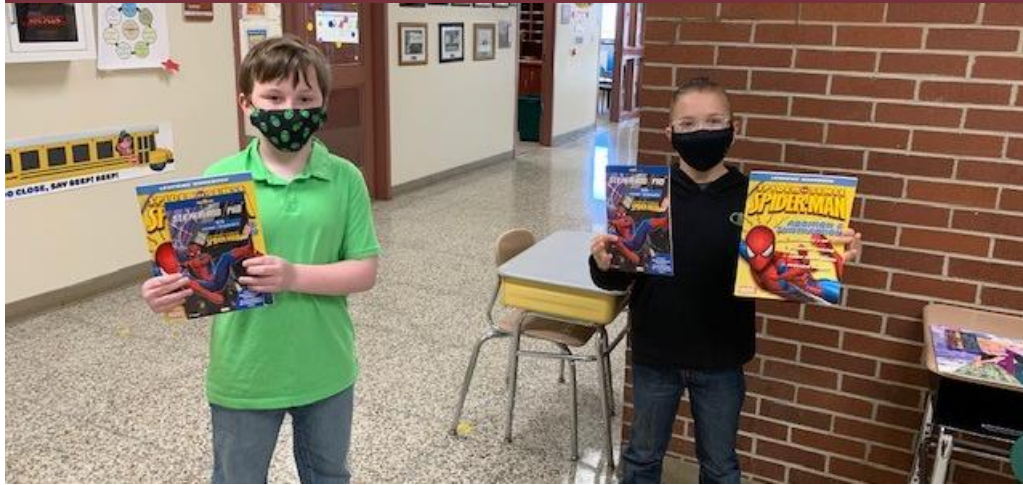
Second grader at Highland Elementary, **Giavanna Cafrelli**, responds to a writing prompt in Ms. Jessica Scerbo’s room. Listed below is her sweet and inspirational response to the writing prompt, “I wish my teacher knew” during the morning meeting.

“I wish my teacher knew how much easier she makes it to love school even though it’s hard to do at home.”



Ms. Scerbo’s class at Highland celebrates birthdays in person and at home by creating and sharing individual virtual birthday cards on Seesaw.





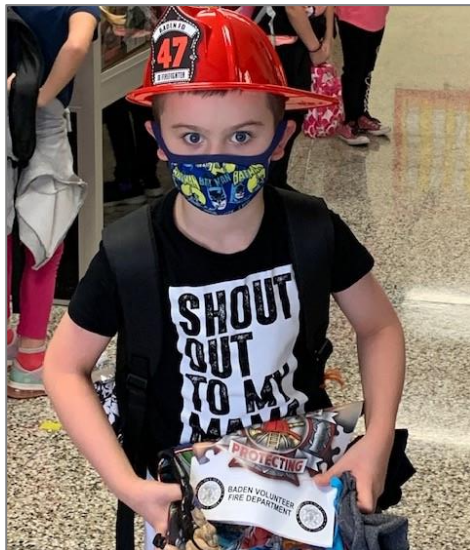
State Street Year-In-Review

State Street Elementary continues to strive to make school fun while educating our students during this difficult year. We began the year with our students being greeted by teachers in STAR Costumes welcoming them back after a very difficult close to the 2019-2020 school year. This was done two-fold as part of our School Wide Positive Behavior Program, as well as an ice breaker for our students who hadn't been in school since March.

We continued to implement our STAR Program for grades K-5 with random prize drawings and classroom rewards, as well as marvelous prizes for our monthly drawings. These prizes included gift cards, lunch certificates to McDonald's, mystery prizes, toys, books, and so much more.

Our school is proud to announce that we were recognized by the state of Pennsylvania for Universal (Tier I) Initial Implementation with Fidelity of our STAR Program. Currently, we are working on Tier 1 Sustained Implementation with Fidelity. Congratulations to our students and staff for a job well done!

In September, we experimented and held our first virtual assembly. We all know the importance of STEAM in our children's lives, so we partnered with the Carnegie Science Center to present the students with "Who Wants To Be An Engineer?!"



We certainly would be remiss if we didn't thank our Baden Fire Department for a wonderful "Fire Safety" program in October. They presented this program virtually to remind our children how to keep themselves and their families safe during a fire. They provided fire hats and fun activities.

We work hard every day to help our students make good choices. We

celebrated Red Ribbon Week during the last week of October with help from our generous PTO. Our children pledged to be "Drug Free".

In November, we honored our Veterans with an outdoor celebration. Our students made cards for our Veterans and walked through our circle to greet them. McDonald's donated certificates for our veterans to enjoy breakfast. Thank you, Veterans, for your service. We appreciate you!

We feel that it is extremely important to teach our students about giving to the community. We supported "Grief Awareness Day" in November by wearing blue and making butterflies in memory of our deceased family members. This was done in conjunction with our partnership with The Caring Place in Warrendale. We also gave a kind donation to support their services to our families that use this facility in their time of need.

Our fifth graders constructed a gingerbread house while six feet apart. Yes, that's correct! Six feet apart! We took pictures and entered it in the first ever "Virtual Gingerbread Competition" at the City County Building in Pittsburgh. We didn't win, but we really had fun! We also gave a generous donation to our other partner, Children's Hospital. Thanks to all of you who donated.



In December, we held another virtual assembly. "Science of Hockey" was presented by the Carnegie Science Center. A fun time was had by all! "Good News" post cards and "My Child is a Star at State Street" post cards

continued being sent home to inform parents about their children doing good things at State Street. Despite the shutdown, cards still went home by mail.

February brought Valentine's Day. We awarded Valentine-themed prizes during Valentine's week in conjunction with our STAR program. The kids *loved* winning stuffed animals, candy, toys, and more.



To continue building school spirit, we hosted a "Bridger Pride Day". Teachers and students wore their favorite Bridger Gear! We also had Crazy Sock Day; how fun! Crazy Hair Day will be announced soon. We want our students to love reading, so our PTO sponsored an online Book Fair; there were some really cool books!



March was fun as we celebrated "Read across America". We had various themed prizes awarded and Ms. Roppa read Seuss stories and did activities with the children. We set aside time daily for everyone to read for 10 minutes. As a culminating activity, Mrs. Hoover received donated books from "Progress through Pages", a local non-profit organization. Every student in the building received a free book!

Our staff partnered with Subway of Baden and participated in a food drive to support our neighbors in the community.

To mark the Buccos being back in action and the start of the baseball home season in April, we had "Pirates Day". Kids dressed in their favorite sport team's gear!



Do you know what it's like to be cool? Why, State Street students will be cool very soon! They will enjoy Italian Ice in May courtesy of our wonderful PTO!

PTO is also planning our annual Fun Day. We are in the process of planning other various activities for the end of the year. We love our school, we love to learn new things, and we certainly love and appreciate our State Street Elementary School Family!



Students in Mrs. Saxon's third grade class built their own working solar ovens using pizza boxes, foil, plastic wrap, and black paper. After reading an article and studying various energy sources in "Time For Kids", they decided to use solar energy to cook some s'mores and cheesy nachos. After about an hour outside, they had a yummy snack by using the beautiful spring sunlight!





Boys Volleyball

Bridger Spring Athletics

BOYS VOLLEYBALL: Congratulations to the Ambridge Area High School boys' volleyball team for their tremendous success so far this season! As of April 21st, the team is ranked #1 in the state by the Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association and also ranked #1 in the WPIAL by the Western PA Volleyball Coaches Association and the Post-Gazette Rankings. The 2021 undefeated team is the defending WPIAL Champion by winning back-to-back titles in 2018 and 2019.

The team consists of **Levi Baker, Reed Fisher, Ronin Kittrell, Jake Kotula, Josh Hovan, Austin Merlina, Brett Mueller, Nate Norton, Caleb Ziemkiewicz, Jonathan Ippolito, Brendan Jones, Trent Mcknight, Tyler Mcknight, Zach Miller, Evan Scheib, Chris Woten, Sam Miller, Trevor Grabski, Josh Ziemkiewicz, Donovan Bober, Ashton Lusty, and Joey Bellinger.**

The head coach is Glenn Freed, and he is assisted by Jason Benkowski, Lee Smith, Jorge Bojorquez, and Josh Jones. Good luck to the team for the remainder of the regular season and the playoffs. *(Photo above by Alan Freed)*

GIRLS SOFTBALL: On April 9th, the Beaver County Times featured the Bridger

Softball team and their win against Hopewell. The lone senior on the team, **Ashley DeWeese**, was handling the majority of the pitching duties. Against Hopewell, Ashley struck out 12 batters. Ashley also was leading at the plate. In the Hopewell game, Ashley had 4 hits in 4 at bats.



BOYS BASEBALL: The Bridger Baseball team is very young this year. There are no seniors on the roster. At press time, their record was 1-5, but first year coach, Matt LaPorte, is noting signs of improvement with each contest.

BOYS TENNIS: The Boys Tennis team has struggled this year after losing last year to COVID-19. Some student athletes who are new to playing tennis joined the team to support their friends

and give them an opportunity to play. The team was led by seniors **Matt Kowalsky** in the No. 1 singles spot, **Jeremiah Giordani** in the No. 3 singles spot, and **Xander Dowlin** in the No. 1 doubles pair.

GIRLS LACROSSE: **Samantha Freed**, 2019 graduate, started the Ambridge Girls Lacrosse program at the end of her freshman year. She started with 8 of her friends and worked to build the program up so much so that last year there were 22 girls on the team. Her goal was to give the girls at Ambridge an opportunity to play a sport and be part of a team where everyone is welcome. You do not need experience to play. It does not matter if you socialized with any of these girls before you joined or not, everyone is friendly and supports each other. The vibe on this team is like no other sport at Ambridge.



Samantha's sister, **Amelia Freed**, is a senior this year. Senior **Kylee Salyers** and Amelia joined the team as 8th graders and have been with the team since the beginning. This year the team was accepted into the WPIAL and given an official schedule with home games for the first time. What a great accomplishment! There are currently 18 girls on the team and they are very excited to have the opportunity to play this spring.

TRACK AND FIELD: The track and field team kicked off the season strong, with many returning and new student-athletes aiming for school records. "After ending the season so abruptly, the team came in with a fire lit to not only improve on their self-confidence with reaching their personal best, but also to create a legacy for the teams to come," shared Felicia Mycyk, Head Track and Field Coach.



Sedrick Seymour, Josh Holman, Richard Nartey Jr., Ricardo Lopez, and Bethany Naughton are bringing the speed this year. **Bethany Naughton** is on track to beat both of her school records set for the 100 and 300 meter hurdles and anchors our 4x4 relay team. **Sedrick Seymour** leads the sprinters in speed in the 100 and 200 meter races and is the anchor of our 4x1 relay team. **Richard Nartey**, new to the team, runs 100 and is also a member of the 4x1 and 4x4 relay teams; He is already getting looks from colleges for his talent with the high jump and is a few inches from breaking the record.



Serena Bryson- Brown, Anthony Preston, Leah Fritsch, Heidi Setzenfand, and Richard Nartey Jr. are our leads in jumps. **Anthony Presto** returned improving his distance in the long and triple



jumps. **Leah Fritsch** is the only underclassmen team captain; she holds the school record for the pole vault, is a member of the 4x8 and 4x4 relay races, and is a steady point-maker in the long jump.



Brayden Reeves, Nathan McCullough, Ryan Krokono, Jayden Bowman, Harrison Hill, Maura Devine, and Jazmin Schneider are distance runners ready to deliver results. **Maura Devine** returned bringing leadership on and off the track to the team. She is a reliable point for the 800 and the 1600 meter races and runs the first leg of both our 4x8 and 4x4 relay teams. New team member **Brayden Reeves**, a middle-distance runner, is showing promise as a future team weapon and is helping the team on the 4x8 and 4x4 relays and has the speed to do the open 400.

Emma Sovich, Valeria Young, and Hannah Miller are throwers showing

strength, balance, and effort with ease. **Valeria Young** came back this year, leading the throwers in shotput, discus, and javelin with her eyes set to break the school record; A thrower to watch in the field. "We're building for the future" added Coach Mycyk.

"We are in full swing now and excited to have a season. Our returning and new student-athletes and outstanding coaching staff helped create a growth mindset culture and set our team's standard."

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Spring sports are under way at the middle school with 7/8 Baseball, 7/8 Softball, and 7/8 Track and Field. The teams compete in the Southwest Conference. Their start dates were pushed back to mirror the fall and winter sports schedules. The boys volleyball team competes in the NADA.

The weather has been challenging to work around for softball and baseball. But both teams are seeing skills improve and are competitive each time out.

The track and field student-athletes participated in large meet on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at South Side School District. They were tested there by competition from Beaver County and beyond.

Boys volleyball is struggling with numbers, like many teams that lost the 2020 season. But each match they are becoming a more cohesive unit especially with their blocking play at the net.



Looking Ahead To Fall Sports

Looking ahead to the fall 2021 sports season, here are some important dates for your calendar.

- High School football begins heat acclimation practices on Monday, August 9, 2021.
- The first day of fall sports practice is Monday, August 16, 2021, for the high school teams.
- Watch for announcements of preseason workout and open gym opportunities for all of the fall sports teams.

FALL SPORTS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

CHEERLEADING: Contact Coach Jenn Phillips about open gyms in May. Tryouts begin June 8th.

CROSS COUNTRY: They train and compete on the MS campus. Head Coach Denise Duncan will begin hosting optional training runs in the summer.

BOYS AND GIRLS GOLF: Contact coaches Mr. Larry Knopsnyder (girls) or Mr. Christian Yannessa (boys) for more information. Beginners are welcome.

FOOTBALL: Head Coach Mr. Sherman McBride can provide you

with spring and summer workout information.

SOCCER: Both teams will host open workouts. Contact Mr. Rob Van Rheenen on the boys' side. The search has begun for a new coach on the girls' side.

GIRLS TENNIS: Head Coach Ms. Georgia Barlamas is looking for more student-athletes to join the squad. Beginners are welcome.



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: Open gyms will be available over the summer. Head Coach Tim Buresh leads the team.

You are welcome to reach out via email to individual coaches. If you need more information, please contact the Athletics Office at 724.266.2833 x2380.

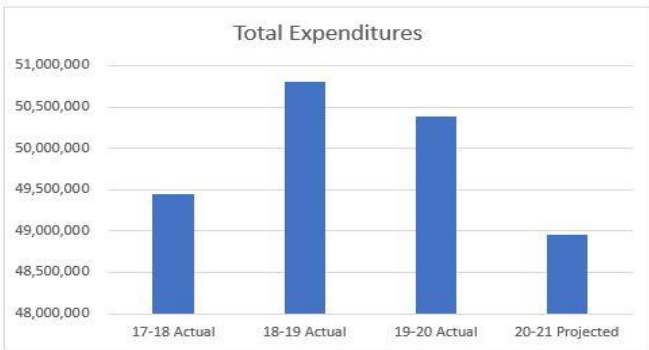


Welcome Coach McBride!

Congratulations to the new Ambridge Bridgers football coach, Sherman McBride. Coach McBride has spent time as an assistant coach at Aliquippa, Hopewell and Seton LaSalle. He played high school football at Aliquippa and collegiate football at Ohio University. Coach McBride is also currently the head coach of the Aliquippa track team.

Optional weight training and conditioning for the high school football team members has already begun at the high school. The team will have on-field workouts beginning on Thursday, May 11, 2021. The Bridgers will open the fall 2021 schedule with a home game against Wheeling Central Catholic on Friday, August 27th at 7:00 p.m. in Moe Rubenstein Stadium.





Lower Expenditures in 2021-2022

Beginning in December each year, the Administration begins to gather information to build a budget for the next year. The School Board and Administration begin meeting to determine the needs and direction of the District. This is one of the most important functions that the Board will encounter. The final budget for the next fiscal year must be approved no later than June 30, 2021.

It is important to know that the budget is a road map for the next fiscal year. At times it is necessary to take a detour and make adjustments within accounts to allow for expenditures that were not specifically budgeted for. The Board has the authority to make these

adjustments during the fiscal year as long as the total budget is not exceeded.

As you can see from the graph above, the Board and Administration have done extremely well controlling expenditures over the last few years. Although there was an increase in expenditures during the 2018-19 year, we have since decreased total expenditures by \$424,695 in 2019-20. Our 2020-21 early projections predict expenditures to further decrease \$1,433,271.

At this time, the Board and Administration are working diligently to prepare the 2021-22 Budget.

Ambridge Area School District Board of Education

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Ambridge Area School District

2021-2022 School Calendar

August 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

End of Nine Weeks						
First Nine Weeks - October 20, 2021						
Second Nine Weeks - January 11, 2022						
Third Nine Weeks - March 18, 2022						
Fourth Nine Weeks - June 2, 2022						

- First and Last Day of School
- Teacher Day
- No School - All Student
- Early Dismissal - All Students

- No School - All Students - Half Clerical Day- Half Professional Development Day
- Snow Make-Up Day - No School
- Two Hour Delay - All Students
- No School - Elementary Only - Parent Teacher Conferences
- Graduation Day

- August 16... In-Service Day
- August 17... Clerical Day
- September 6... Labor Day
- November 11... Veterans Day
- November 24 - November 29... Thanksgiving Break
- December 22 - January 2... Holiday Break

- January 17... Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 21... Presidents Day - Snow Make-Up Day
- April 13 - April 19... Spring Break(April 13,14,...Snow Make-Up)
- May 30... Memorial Day
- June 1... Kennywood Day
- June 3... Graduation Day/Clerical Day

