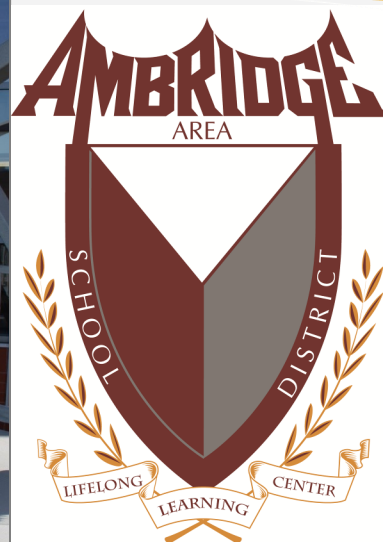


# Bridger Bulletin



Left to Right: Hannah Miller, D'Saun Harmon, Haley Stallsmith, Sedrick Seymour, Alexis Hitchens, Anthony Antonini (King), Amanda Martin, Blake Gibson, Jenna McFarland (Queen), Logan Hammond, Samantha Orlowski, Ivan You, Zyra Chickos, Grant Uvodich, Veida Miller, and Jasmen Walker.



## HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS *by Jenn Phillips*

The Bridgers Homecoming Community Pep Rally took place on Thursday, September 23rd to kick off Homecoming weekend at the Moe Rubenstein Stadium. The pep rally featured a number of fun-filled events, including food trucks, baked goods, raffles, face painting and games for the whole family. Our sports programs along with the AAHS marching band were put on display.

The Homecoming Parade was held on Friday, September 24th. The parade featured high school, middle school, elementary school students and other school organizations, who joined the Homecoming Court as it made its way through town to the stadium. Following the parade, the homecoming court was presented, and the king and queen were crowned. Congratulations to the members of the 2021 AAHS Homecoming Court and **Anthony Antonini** and **Jenna McFarland** for being crowned King and Queen (*photo above*).

On Saturday, September 25th, students in grades 9-12 attended the Homecoming Dance. The Homecoming dance was held from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Ambridge Area High School. Students danced the night away and it made for a great conclusion to the homecoming festivities.

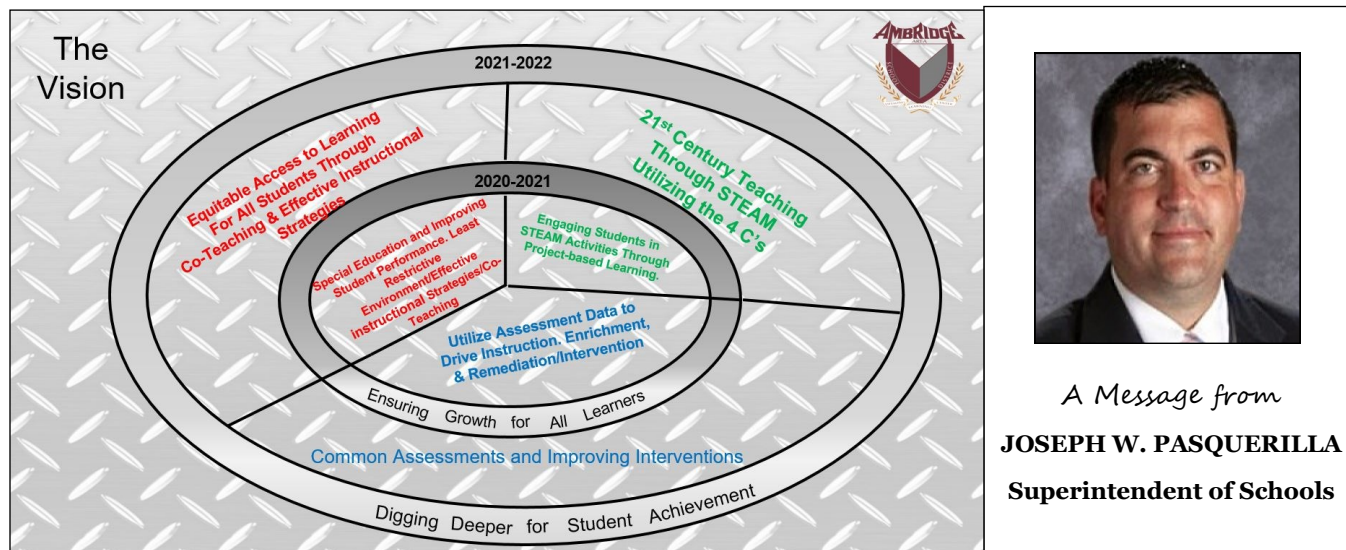
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### BRIDGER ATHLETICS

*By Mr. David Turk, Athletic Director*

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## DIGGING DEEPER FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

As I mentioned in my welcome back letter, our theme this year is "Digging Deeper for Student Achievement."

It is our goal to assist our students in growing their knowledge base and improving their skills in all content areas. Our three focus areas will be: Equitable access to learning for all students through co-teaching and effective instructional strategies, 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching through STEAM utilizing the 4C's, and common assessments and improving interventions.

Common assessments will be aligned to the eligible content and PA Core Standards for each grade level/tested area. The common assessments will serve as summative assessments on the content standards taught. The assessment data will be analyzed to drive instruction to meet the students' needs through flexible grouping, re-teaching, and enrichment. Student progress monitoring is a practice that helps teachers use student performance data to continually evaluate the effectiveness of their teach-

ing and make more informed instructional decisions.

Teachers will focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching through STEAM utilizing the 4C's. The 4C's include:

**Communication:** Students need to be able to share their thoughts, questions, ideas, and solutions.

**Collaboration:** Students need to be able to work together to reach a goal while putting their talent, expertise, and knowledge into action.

**Creativity:** Students need to be willing to try new approaches to get things done. This leads to innovation and invention.

**Critical Thinking:** Students need to be able to look at problems in new ways and link learning across subject areas.

Effective instructional strategies do not marginalize students, especially those who are in need of culturally-relevant, authentic engagement. Instruction must be provided to ensure ongoing scaffolding to promote growth among all students, regardless of their place on the

achievement continuum. This is achieved through Focus Periods (Elementary Schools), Tutorial Periods (Middle School), and Study Seminar (High School) and will help advance learning for all students.

The key to district-wide student achievement is to focus our vision towards excellence and take our eyes off of the 'status quo' – this means exposing students to new challenges at their respective ability levels while accessing grade level content to achieve.

Some additional district highlights include an additional Pre-K classroom at Economy Elementary, the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Grant for an iPad refresh of 350 new devices, the Integrated Employment Grant in our Transition Classes, and the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Grant secured by the STEAM teachers, just to name a few.

I look forward to continuing our work together this year to take the district to even greater levels of achievement.





*Ambridge Steel Drum Band Seniors from left to right: Alexis Hitchens, Jaina Ilko, Marissa Saturley, Amanda Martin, Leah Fritsch, Dakota Pritchard*

## STEEL SOOTHES THE SOUL by Todd Hartman

During the past month, the AAHS Steel Drum Band and their audiences have begun to heal and feel whole again. Much of who we are is what happens when we're together with fellow musicians and sharing a musical moment with other people. Without missing a beat, our steel drummers have already had several opportunities



to recapture what has been lost due to the pandemic.

Their busy month started with a luau themed marketing event at the Lutheran Senior Living Center in Zelienople. During the luncheon, a small group of seniors provided background music that helped the attendees transcend themselves for a moment, to a tropical paradise. Shortly after that event, the full group of junior and senior steel drummers played their annual show at the Good Sa-

maritan Church Festival. On Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Merchant Coffee Co. celebrated their First Year Festival. From 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., live music was provided, including our steel band who kicked things off with a 45-minute set at the beginning of the day.

The very next day, the band was invited to perform at Evans City. Although the event celebrated Oktoberfest, the steel band's Caribbean sound is always a welcomed addition to the festivities. And back here in our own backyard, the band was one of the featured musical artists at Old Economy Village's Erntedankfest.

Our steel drummers looked forward to returning to Old Fashioned Christmas in the Woods at Shaker Woods in Columbiana, OH. They performed on the Simple Gifts Stage at noon and 2:00 p.m. on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

As always, capturing most of these much-needed musical and social

*Continued on Page 8*







## APPLETASTIC LEARNING

After a unit on Johnny Appleseed, the students in **Mrs. Tierney's** second grade class used the scientific method to determine the effect that heat has on apples. The students made observations as the apples cooked to compare and contrast the properties of cooked and uncooked apples. Students also learned how changes can be reversible or irreversible.



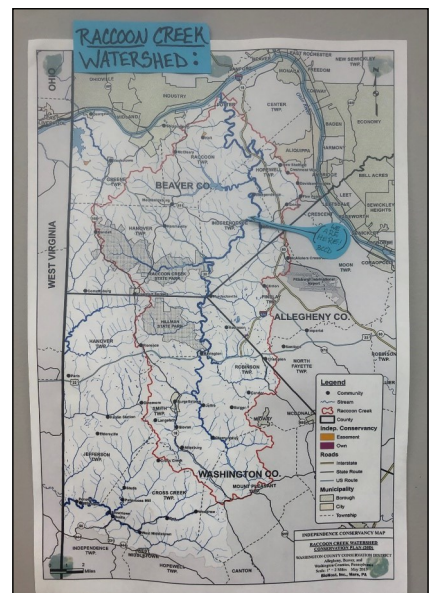
## MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN A WETLANDS FIELD STUDY *by Don Ayers*

On Friday, September 24th, **Mr. Olenic** and **Mr. Ayers** took some lucky students to the Beaver County Conservation District for a Wetlands Field Study.

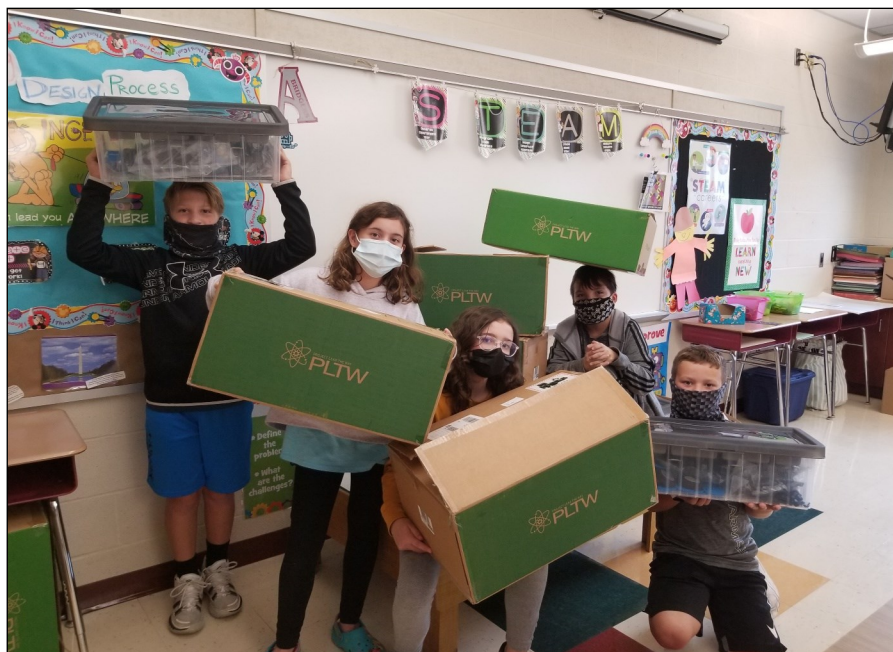
Students learned about important wetland functions and how they help wildlife, people, and the environment. Students collected and learned about aquatic organisms that live in the wetlands and/or

Raccoon Creek and discovered how they help us study water quality.

Students also took a hike through the wetlands and learned what is required to create a habitat for an animal. They also looked for various habitat components and studied how size and arrangement of components differ between species.







## STEAM TEACHERS SECURE PROJECT LEAD THE WAY GRANTS *by Scott Setzenfand*

In the spring of 2021, Technology Education teacher **Scott Setzenfand**, along with STEAM teachers **Kristin Holmes** and **Nicole Darroch** secured four separate grants for the elementary and middle schools. Principal **Tom McKelvey** also helped drive the charge. These grants, amounting to \$25,000 in total, were awarded by the Bayer Corporation to fund new Project Lead The Way (PLTW) curriculum, equipment, materials, and teacher training. Project Lead The Way provides transformative learning experiences for Pre-K-12 students and teachers across the U.S. It helps to create an engaging, hands-on classroom environment and empower students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills they need to thrive.

"Students use structured approaches, like the engineering design process, and employ critical thinking. They apply science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

(STEM) knowledge, skills, and habits of mind, learning that it is OK to take risks and make mistakes. As teachers and students learn and discover together, education becomes far more engaging" (PLTW Launch website).

The Elementary LAUNCH program builds on our Pre-K-5 students natural qualities of great designers and innovators by further tapping into their exploratory nature, engaging them in learning that feels like play, and encouraging them to keep discovering – now and for years to come. The program empowers students to adopt a design-thinking mindset through compelling activities, projects, and problems that build upon each other and relate to the world around them. As students engage in hands-on activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, they become creative, collaborative problem solvers ready to take on any challenge.

Middle school is a time of exploration, a time when students are figuring out what they're passionate about today and how that relates to who they'll become tomorrow. The hands-on program boosts classroom engagement and excitement, drives collaboration, inspires "aha!" moments and deep comprehension. As students engage in PLTW's design and modeling activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, they see a range of paths and possibilities, as well as develop their 21<sup>st</sup> century skill of collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, communication, and problem solving. They become more technologically literate and learn how to apply and use the Engineering Design Process to solve problems, and get to use some pretty cool tools such as dial calipers and 3D printers!



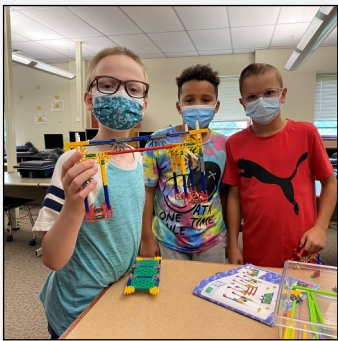
For more information on PLTW visit <https://www.pltw.org/our-programs>





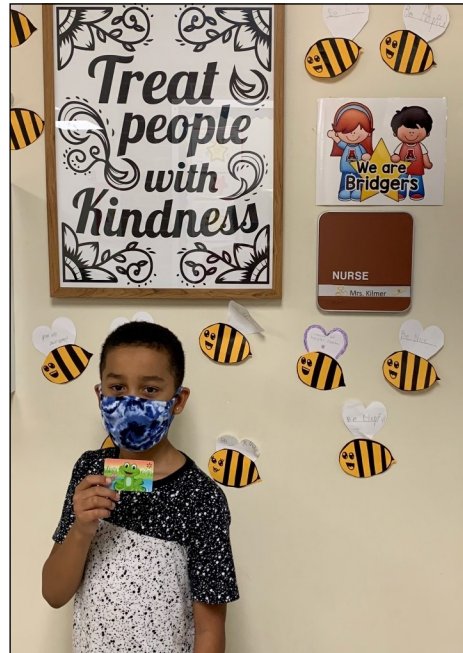
**MRS. DAWN  
FINNEGAN  
MEMORIAL STEAM  
FUND**

Beloved math and science teacher **Mrs. Dawn Finnegan** courageously lost her battle with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) or Lou Gehrig's disease on July 25, 2015. Mrs. Dawn Finnegan dedicated 35 years to teaching in the Ambridge Area School District. Her loving family established a memorial STEAM fund in her honor. The Finnegan Family has given \$2,000 each year over a period of five years. This money was used to make STEAM purchases benefiting students in kindergarten -5<sup>th</sup> grade. Thank you, Finnegan Family.



## OUR SCHOOLS PROMOTE KINDNESS THROUGH THE CHOOSE KINDNESS FOUNDATION GRANT

*by Aphrodite Galitsis  
and Kimberly Roppa*



Both Economy Elementary School and State Street Elementary School were awarded the Kindness Grant sponsored by the Choose Kindness Foundation. This grant is to be used to encourage students and staff to make kind gestures and say kind words.

The goal is to support the development of a culture of caring and kindness through systematic instruction and recognition of kind behaviors in all areas of the school community. The Kindness Program is designed to increase experiences and expressions of

kindness in schools and create a more equitable environment through kindness. The Choose Kindness Foundation Grant is targeted toward ensuring inclusive practices that ensure individuals from marginalized groups are in leadership rolls and participate in significant numbers in the kindness activities.

The grant funds, totaling over \$12,000, will be used for kindness programs, interactive kindness assemblies, activities and more funded through the grant. The grant will be incorporated into our current School - Wide Positive Behavior Programs. In addition, Kindness tickets will be distributed throughout the year to students who show kindness in school, during lunch and recess, and on the bus. Monthly drawings will be held for students to receive prizes.

We look forward to "Beeing Kind."







## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

by Kim Springer

*Marhaban, Olá, Hola,*

Ambridge welcomes English Second Language (ESL) students from several countries, including Arabic, Portuguese, and Spanish speakers. Over forty English Language Learners (ELLs) attend English Language Development (ELD) classes along with core academics and specials. Inviting exciting language learning initiatives and enriching our classrooms with their stories, ELLs present a whole world of opportunities.

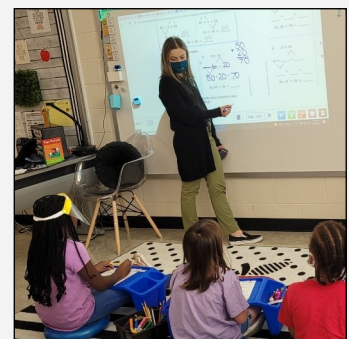
Home to the elementary ELL population, Economy Elementary supports 21 ELLs. Listed by grade level they are: kindergarten 4, first 9, second 3, third 2, fourth 2, and fifth 1. Some of the countries represented are Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil, and El Salvador, with students speaking Arabic, Portuguese, and Spanish. While a simple hello goes a long way in welcoming these students to their new language, creating an inclusive classroom environment sets the best academic tone. **Mrs. Hartle's** first grade class sings bilingual "name the color" songs on a daily basis. Extending learning occasions, **Mrs. Hawranko's** fourth grade class manipulates and labels visuals in an all-encompassing lesson on making inferences. **Mrs. Fetkovich's** second grade class provided information about themselves in English and Spanish for open house. Economy teachers go above and beyond for all students!

The middle school boasts nine ELLs from areas including Puerto Rico, Honduras, and various US states. Fully immersed Spanish and Arabic speaking students attend regular classes and ELD (English Language Development) classes, utilizing Microsoft Translator, Google Translate, and other resources to meet grade-level expectations. With highlighted texts, bilingual directions, and dynamic instruction, **Ms. Vaccarelli** prepares ELLs for real-world reading and writing demands. Utilizing online resources, graphic organizers, and Microsoft Translate, **Mrs. Fedorek** provides accessible content for recent ELL enrollees. It's a united effort at the middle school to accommodate our ELL population.

High school ELLs total 11 students representing various countries including Honduras, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Guatemala and Morocco. Spanish and Arabic speaking students at the high school have been working on PowerPoint presentations about their native countries. They are then sharing their presentations with their classmates. This is also a way to help our four ELLs who are seniors to add more information to their senior projects.

For more information about our ELL program, contact **Tracy Parsons** (high school/EE) or **Kim Springer** (middle school/EE).

## HANDS ON LEARNING WITH MRS. HUGHES AT HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY



*Students learning math using their lap desks and collaborating with one another*



*Sorting money during math instruction*



## STEEL SOOTHES THE SOUL

*Continued from Page 3*

experiences is our own exclusive photographer, Alan Freed (<http://alanfreedphotography.com/>). To see a list of upcoming shows or to request a performance, visit the band's website (<http://www.ambridgesteelband.com/>)

For those who are interested in keeping up with the band's activities and photos on social media, look for "Ambridge Steel Drum Band" on both Facebook and Instagram.

Let's hope social gatherings continue as normal so the sounds of their pans keep shining and our souls stay soothed!



## BATTLE AT THE BRIDGE CHEER COMPETITION

*by Jenn Phillips & Amanda Palshaw*

Ambridge Varsity Cheerleaders hosted the Battle at the Bridge Cheer Competition in early October. 30 competitive cheer teams, youth through high school, from all over Western Pennsylvania, showed off their athleticism and brought their community/school spirit here to Ambridge. Congratulations to United High School for capturing the Grand

Champion Trophy and congratulations to McDowell High School for claiming the Overall Spirit Award. Good luck to our Ambridge Varsity Cheerleaders as they head into their Competitive Spirit season, traveling to competitions all over Western PA, including the WPIAL Championship in January



Highland kindergarteners created an American flag out of their hand prints in honor of September 11. The flag was mailed to the brave firefighters in New York City!





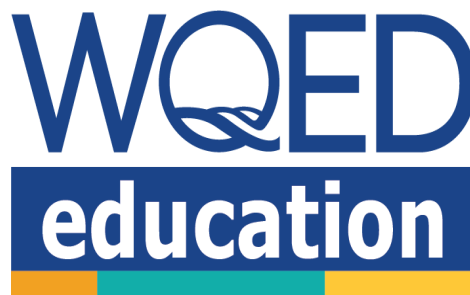
## PBS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM by Nicole Darroch

The district is partnering with PBS and WQED Education to offer a unique after-school program for families with students in early elementary. Families are invited to enjoy quality family time, complete with a meal and hands-on designing and coding activities. Economy, Highland and State Street elementary schools will each host the Family and Community Learning (FCL) event throughout the school year. Teachers Kristin Holmes, Nicole Darroch, and Caitlin Bajgier are the facilitators.

Family and Community Learning is a multigenerational opportunity designed to activate playful and collaborative early STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) learning using PBS KIDS media and resources. Early STEM learning can be a direct extension of curiosity, exploration, and creativity. This after school program uses guided play to introduce both kids and grown-ups to exciting digital and tangible tools that support the development of science inquiry and engineering design practices. As families explore and play together, facilitators are there to support the experience. Teachers will model and point out

STEM learning as it is happening and will provide grown-ups with experiences and tools that they can use to support their children's learning throughout the series and beyond.

PBS KIDS Family & Community Learning is inspired by a model developed by Ricarose Roque at the MIT Media Lab. No coding experience is necessary. Space is limited. Each ele-

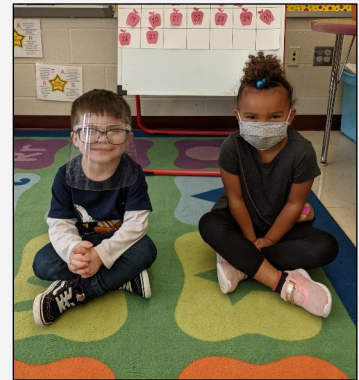


mentary school will be offering the same family night event throughout the year. Parents and guardians are encouraged to keep a watch on social media sites and flyers sent home for more details. The facilitators are excited to meet families and bring this program to our students. Special thanks to the WQED Education crew for supplying the materials for this unique and exciting family event.

Thanks to parent participation in the Shop 'n Save SEED Program, students at Economy Elementary enhance their science education through free virtual Science on the Road Programs from the Carnegie Science Center. The October program was entitled, The Science of Hockey.



## NEW PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM AT ECONOMY ELEMENTARY



Economy Elementary received an expansion grant to add an additional Pre-K classroom. The new classroom opened on September 15, 2021. The classroom is offered to three and four year old students. It operates from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., and includes free breakfast, lunch, and transportation. There is no cost for the program to families who qualify under the income guidelines. Our registration is open, please contact Cathy Hopkins at 724-266-2833, Extension 1273, or stop at Economy Elementary for a registration packet.

## STATE STREET SPECIAL EVENTS



State street's 4th and 5th Graders get rewarded for being Star Students for behavior and academics at Baden Bowl.



State Street celebrates "Fire Safety Week" with Ambridge, Baden and Harmony Township Fire Departments.



## internet» essentials

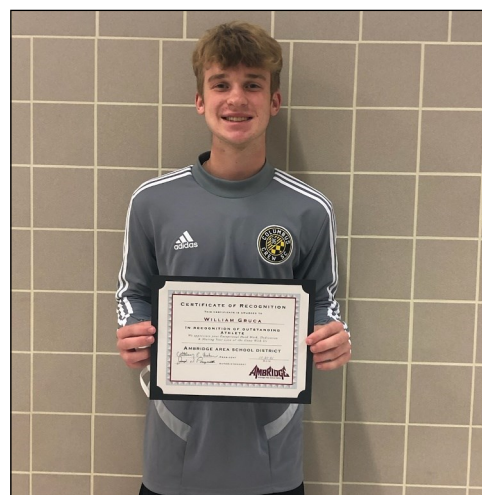
FROM COMCAST

## AMBRIDGE AWARDED EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND *by Lori Heim*

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) is a \$7.17 billion program that will help schools and libraries provide the tools and services their communities need for remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period. The Emergency Connectivity Fund Program will reimburse schools and libraries for the reasonable costs of eligible equipment and broadband connections used to help students,

staff, and patrons who otherwise lack access to be able to engage in remote learning.

In late September, Ambridge was one of only 129 schools in PA awarded funds in the first window of the grant. Ambridge received \$140,476.50 to purchase new student iPads and provide continued Comcast Essentials broadband Internet service to families in need.



## FERNANDEZ AND GRUCA RECOGNIZED

Ambridge Bridgers freshman Wide Receiver/Kick Returner/Punt Returner **Adam Fernandez** scored on a 60 yard punt return for a touchdown, 80 yard kick return for a touchdown and added one catch for 50 yards. In total, Adam had 210 all-purpose yards en route to a 35-9 victory over the Hopewell Vikings. Adam's play helped the Bridgers break a 28 game losing streak! Adam's accomplishments earned him a nomination for PA player of the week.

Through just 12 games (as of 10/10/2021), **Will Gruca** has tallied 24 goals, 16 assists, and played in 96% of the total minutes this year. Will has lead his team to clinch 2nd place in the section, putting the Ambridge Bridgers en route to a strong seed for playoff position. Will scored four goals in the first game of the WPIAL playoffs. Will is our only junior captain, and is on pace to be selected for All-Section and All-WPIAL.





## AMBRIDGE RECEIVES GRANT FUNDS FOR MULTIPLE PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT *by Barry King*

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the Ambridge Area School District has received many grants to help with the academic progress of our students. The descriptions below highlight some, but not all of the grants received.

The Ambridge Area School District applied for two grants that target the needs of special education students. The ARP ESSER A-TSI 2.5 Set Aside Grant (\$51,465.00) will bring additional funding for Ambridge Area High School students by providing learning intervention materials, laptops, and teacher training in relation to co-teaching and progress monitoring. The District received the Competitive Employment Grant which provides employment opportunities for students with disabilities. The District will be providing job shadowing and transportation in order to give students work experience to build their resume for employment after high school. The total award for the grant during 2021-22 academic year is \$30,000.00.

The ARP ESSER 7.5 Set Aside Grant will provide summer school and after-school tutoring for students at all District schools during the 2022-

2023 and 2023-2024 academic years. This grant will provide Prevention Network services for secondary students as well as funding for state mandated professional development for faculty and staff.

The Ambridge Area School District is using the American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ARP-ESSER) (\$4,649,141.00) to fund after-school tutoring and summer school for the 2021-2022 academic year. Also, these funds will be allocated to purchase ELA and Mathematics curriculum materials in grades K-6 and K-5 respectively. This grant will also be used for WQED After-School Coding Classes. Finally, the majority of the ARP-ESSER funding will be used to maintain essential academic programs and staff positions.

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 two Pre-K rooms at Economy Elementary School. The total value of this grant opportunity is \$875,000.00.

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 (\$28,000.00).

The Ambridge Area School District was a recipient of the Choose Kindness Foundation Grant valued at \$5,000.00 for State Street Elementary and \$6,500.00 for Economy Elementary. The Purpose of Grant is to increase experiences and expressions of kindness in schools and create a more equitable environment through kindness. Purchased books, posters, and gift cards for ticket drawings.

The District received \$25,000.00 through the Project Lead the Way Grant (PLTW) (\$10,000.00 for the Middle School and \$5,000.00 for each elementary school) to implement STEAM-based learning opportunities for students in grades PK-8.





## BUILDING CONTACT INFORMATION

**Ambridge Area High School**  
909 Duss Avenue, Ambridge, PA 15003  
Ms. Janice Zupsic, Principal  
724.266.2833 x2287  
[jzupsic@ambridge.k12.pa.us](mailto:jzupsic@ambridge.k12.pa.us)

**Ambridge Area Middle School**  
401 First Street, Freedom, PA 15042  
Mr. Ronnell Heard  
724.266.2833 x3245  
[Ronnell.heard@ambridge.k12.pa.us](mailto:Ronnell.heard@ambridge.k12.pa.us)

**Ambridge Area High School**  
**Ambridge Area Middle School**  
Mr. David Turk, Assistant Principal  
724.266.2833 x2479, x3246  
[dturk@ambridge.k12.pa.us](mailto:dturk@ambridge.k12.pa.us)

**Highland Elementary School**  
1101 Highland Ave., Ambridge, PA 15003  
Mr. Thomas McKelvey, Principal  
724.266.2833 x7202  
[tmckelvey@ambridge.k12.pa.us](mailto:tmckelvey@ambridge.k12.pa.us)

**Economy Elementary School**  
1000 First Street, Freedom, PA 15042  
Mrs. Aphrodite Galitsis, Principal  
724.266.2833 x6245  
[agalitsis@ambridge.k12.pa.us](mailto:agalitsis@ambridge.k12.pa.us)

**State Street Elementary School**  
600 Harmony Road, Baden, PA 15005  
Mrs. Jo Ann Hoover, Principal  
724.266.2833 x4213  
[jhoover@ambridge.k12.pa.us](mailto:jhoover@ambridge.k12.pa.us)

## FIRST GRADE CAREER DAY *by Lisa Kovach*

The first graders discussed careers all week by reading stories and working through the Xello app. The students were asked to think about a career they were interested in and dress the part. It was so fun to see and hear all of their wonderful ideas. Great job to all of our amazing first graders.

### Ambridge Area School District Board of Education

Mrs. Cathy Fischer,  
*President*  
Mr. Scott Angus,  
*Vice-President*  
Mrs. Mary Jo Kehoe,  
*Treasurer*  
Mr. Charles Campalong  
Mrs. Kathleen Curtis  
Mrs. Denise Manganello  
Mr. William Metz  
Mrs. Valerie Pedigo  
Ms. Valerie Young

### Ambridge Area School District Administration

Dr. Joseph W. Pasquerilla,  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
Mr. Barry King,  
*Assistant to the Superintendent*  
Mrs. Bethann Eyth,  
*Director of Business Operations*  
Dr. Amy Filipowski,  
*Director of Special Education*  
Mrs. Janet Gaffney,  
*Food Service Director*  
Mrs. Lori Heim,  
*Technology Supervisor*  
Mr. David Turk,  
*Athletic Director*



901 Duss Avenue  
Ambridge, PA 15003  
724.266.2833

[www.ambridge.k12.pa.us](http://www.ambridge.k12.pa.us)





# Bridger Athletics

## HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

### FALL

Boys Golf  
Boys Soccer  
Boys Cross Country  
Football  
Girls Cross Country  
Girls Golf  
Girls Soccer  
Girls Tennis  
Girls Volleyball  
Game Day Cheerleading

### WINTER

Boys Basketball  
Boys Bowling  
Girls Basketball  
Girls Bowling  
Wrestling  
Game Day Cheerleading  
Competitive Cheerleading

### SPRING

Baseball  
Boys Tennis  
Boys Volleyball  
Softball  
Track  
Girls Lacrosse (Club)



## MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

### FALL

Boys Soccer  
Girls Soccer  
Football  
Game Day Cheerleading

### WINTER

Boys Basketball  
Girls Basketball  
Wrestling  
Game Day Cheerleading

### SPRING

Boys Volleyball  
Girls Volleyball  
Baseball  
Softball  
Track

1932	AA	Football
1949	AAA	Boys Cross Country
1967	AAA	Boys Basketball (PIAA Champion)
2002	AAA	Boys Volleyball
2005	AAA	Softball (PIAA Champion)
2008	AA	Boys Volleyball
2009	AA	Boys Volleyball (PIAA Champion)
2010	AA	Boys Volleyball
2012	AA	Boys Volleyball
2013	AA	Boys Volleyball
2014	AA	Boys Volleyball
2015	AA	Boys Volleyball
2018	AA	Boys Volleyball
2019	AA	Boys Volleyball

## Importance of Athletics



*A Message from*

**JOSEPH W. PASQUERILLA,**  
**Ed.D., Superintendent**

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2021-2022 Athletic Program.

Our athletes have been working hard in preparation for another great year of competition, and we are proud of their commitment to continuing the tradition of athletic excellence at the Ambridge Area School District. While the students play for their school, they also play for their families, fans, and community, and we thank you for your continued support of our hard-working athletes. Your attendance and support mean a great deal to our student-athletes.

On behalf of the Ambridge Area School District Administration and Board of School Directors, we extend our best wishes to our teams for a successful 2021-2022 campaign.

Go Bridgers!



1949	AAA	Cross Country Champion
1967	AAA	Boys Basketball Champion
2005	AAA	Softball Champion
2009	AA	Boys Volleyball Champion



# Bridger Athletics

## AASD Varsity Head Coach Highlight!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR COACHES AND HEAD COACHES THAT WORK WITH OUR AASD STUDENT ATHLETES EACH AND EVERY DAY.

### Fall

*BOYS GOLF—*

CHRIS YANNESSA

*BOYS SOCCER—*

BEN FIORE

*CROSS COUNTRY—*

DENISE DUNCAN

*FOOTBALL—*

SHERMAN MCBRIDE

*GIRLS GOLF—*

LARRY KNOPSNYDER

*GIRLS SOCCER—*

DAVID SMITH

*GIRLS TENNIS—*

GEORGIA BARLAMAS

*GIRLS VOLLEYBALL—*

TIM BURESH

*CHEERLEADING—*

JENN PHILLIPS

### Winter

*BOYS BASKETBALL—*

RYAN HUGHES

*BOWLING—*

SHANA DOWLIN

*GIRLS BASKETBALL—*

NIKKI SANTIAGO

*WRESTLING—*

LARRY KNOPSNYDER

*COMPETITIVE CHEER—*

JENN PHILLIPS

### Spring

*BASEBALL—*

MATT LAPORTE

*BOYS TENNIS—*

GEORGIA BARLAMAS

*BOYS VOLLEYBALL—*

GLENN FREED

*SOFTBALL—*

BUBBA HUWAR

*TRACK—*

FELICIA MYCYK

*GIRLS LACROSSE (CLUB)—*

VICKY FREED





# Bridger Athletics

## Ambridge Bridgers Athletic Website ([www.Ambridgebridgers.org](http://www.Ambridgebridgers.org))

AMBRIDGEBRIDGERS.ORG IS THE ATHLETIC WEBSITE FOR YOUR AMBRIDGE BRIDGERS SPORTS TEAMS. USING THIS WEBSITE, YOU CAN CLICK CALENDAR AT THE TOP TO SEE ANY EVENTS THAT ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE VARIOUS SPORTS PROGRAMS! YOU CAN ALSO SEE THE VARIOUS TABS FOR FALL, WINTER AND SPRING SPORTS. IF YOU CLICK MORE, YOU CAN SEE MORE INFO ABOUT THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT, CHAMPIONSHIP CORNER, BRIDGERS HQ, ETC... (SEE BELOW!)

### EXAMPLE OF WEBSITE:

The screenshot displays the Ambridge Bridgers Athletic Website. The top navigation bar includes the Ambridge Bridgers logo, a dropdown menu with options: FALL, WINTER, SPRING, PHOTOS, WATCH, CALENDAR, SHOP, and MORE. To the right of the menu are links for Tickets, Sign Up For Alerts, Admin, a search icon, and a globe icon. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled "ALL ATHLETIC EVENTS" and features a "PRINT SCHEDULE" button. The events are listed in a table with columns: Date, Team, Event, Location, Result, and Links. The events listed are:

Date	Team	Event	Location	Result	Links
Thu, Oct 28 1:00 pm	Coed Varsity Cross Country	Championship @ California University Of PA	Away Unknown location		Event Details
Leave: 10:00 am					
Thu, Oct 28 6:30 pm	Boys Varsity Soccer	Shadyside Academy	Away Unknown location		Event Details
Leave: 4:30 pm					
Fri, Oct 29 7:00 pm	Boys Varsity Football	Keystone Oaks High School	Away 1801 Hillsdale Ave, Pgh PA 15216 Get Directions		Event Details
Leave: 4:15 pm					

Below the calendar, there is a "MORE TAB:" section with a grid of links organized into four columns:

- ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**
  - Physical Packet
  - Ambridge Bridgers News
  - NCAA Eligibility Information
  - NCAA Guide for College Bound Athletes
  - Pittsburgh Positive Athletes
  - Sportsmanship Message
  - Web Stream Calendar
  - Facility Usage Form
- BRIDGERS BOYS VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP CORNER**
  - 2019 WPIAL Champs
  - 2018 WPIAL Champs
  - 2016 PIAA Runner-Up
  - 2015 WPIAL Champs
  - 2014 WPIAL Champs
  - 2013 WPIAL Champs
  - 2012 WPIAL Champs
  - 2010 WPIAL Champs
  - 2009 PIAA Champs
  - 2008 PIAA Champs
- BRIDGERS HQ**
  - Athletic Department Contacts
  - About Bridgers Athletics
  - Alumni Info
  - Driving Directions
  - Bridgers PIAA State Champions
  - Bridgers WPIAL Championship Teams
  - Softball 2005 PIAA Champs
  - Boys Basketball 1967 PIAA Champions
- COVID-19 INFORMATION**
  - PIAA Announcements
  - UPMC Recommendations
  - AASD Return to Sports & Extracurricular Activities Plan

At the bottom, there are two more sections:

- PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE**
  - Buy Tickets Here
- SPORTS MEDICINE**
  - Athletic Trainers Information
  - Common Sports Injuries
  - Summer Physicals
  - UPMC Sports Medicine
  - UPMC Heads Up Summer Program

# Bridger Athletics

## Athletic Communication!

PLEASE SEE THE VARIOUS TECHNOLOGY COMMUNICATIONS OFFERED BY THE  
AASD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT!

[RSCHOOL= AMBRIDGEWPIAL.ORG](http://RSCHOOL=AMBRIDGEWPIAL.ORG)

### Parent Guide

PLEASE SEE THE  
“[RSCHOOL- PARENT  
GUIDE](#)” PDF

Parents will be able to be more involved in the athletic programs offered at AASD. Parents can see events, practices, etc...and also sign-up for the notifications. As a whole, this would increase community communication!

### Mobile App

PLEASE SEE THE  
“[RSCHOOL- MOBILE  
APP](#)” PDF

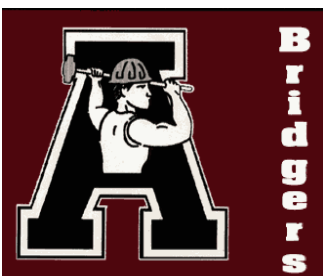
With the Rschool mobile app you can see:

- Overall athletic calendar.
- View specific schedules (you can pick a sport).
- See the specifics with each event (times, location, purpose of event).

### Notify Me

PLEASE SEE THE “[RSCHOOL-  
NOTIFY ME](#)” PDF

If you go to Ambridgewpial.org, you can sign-up for the notify me feature. This feature seems small but in all reality is important because it would provide you with a notification (email or text) based upon which sports you sign-up to receive notifications for. This is great because if you select the “schedule changes notifications” and there is a change in an event or a practice schedule, you will receive a notification instead of having to constantly check the Ambridgewpial.org website. Another feature is that you can setup reminders through this based upon how many hours/days in advance you want to receive a notification as a reminder of an upcoming event.



GO  
BRIDGERS!





# Bridger Athletics

## Athletic Eligibility

BELOW ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES!

### Academic and Attendance Eligibility/Communication System:

Grades and attendance are pulled after 3:00PM Friday via Tyler SIS teams report.

Eligibility emails are sent to principals and coaches Friday or Saturday along with grades/notations for review.

Coaches will communicate with the student-athletes and parents about any academic and attendance eligibility issues.

Academic requirements: Student-athletes must be passing four full-credit classes weekly. If they fail to meet the PIAA requirements, they are ineligible from Sunday through Saturday.

Academic semester: Students must have passed at least four full-credit subjects or the equivalent during the previous semester. Failure to meet this requirement=ineligibility 15 school days of the following semester starting on the first day that report cards are issued.

Attendance requirements: Should a student accumulate more than twenty (20) days of unexcused absences, the student will be ineligible to participate in athletics (inter-school practice, scrimmage or contest) until the student has been in attendance for a total of forty-five (45) school days following the student's twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) day of absence.

Attendance semester: Should a student accumulate twenty (20) days of unexcused absences during the semester, the student will be ineligible until the student has attended for a total of forty-five (45) school days of the following school year.

### Athletic-Attendance Eligibility

A student may not participate in an event on any school day in which they have not arrived to school by 11:00 a.m.

However, an exception may be made for medical appointments or other special circumstances, which occur during that day. A student on OSS will be ineligible to participate in any practices or games on the day(s) of the suspension. A student serving detention may not participate in practice or games until detention is over.

Students expelled from school are not permitted to participate according to the PIAA rules.

Should a student accumulate more than twenty (20) days of unexcused absences during a semester, the student will be ineligible to participate in athletics (inter-school practice, scrimmage, or contest) until the student has been in attendance for a total of forty-five (45) school days following the student's twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) day of absence. \*\*\*Attendance of summer school does not count toward the forty-five (45) school days of attendance required.

\*\*\*The AASD student handbooks directly reflect the PIAA Constitution and Bylaws which all school districts must abide by. Please refer to either document for additional details.\*\*\*

