

BRIDGER BULLETIN

Fall 2022

Ambridge Area School District



Introduction



Hello Ambridge Family,

My name is Foster Crawford and I'm new to the district this year, as the district's new IT Director. I'm excited for the opportunity to be creative and put this newsletter together for you all. I came to Ambridge from a smaller district north of Butler called Karns City. I had held the role of IT Director there for close to four years. I graduated from Duquesne University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. I look forward to the challenges that come with this position and growing as a member of the Ambridge community!

Interested In Playing Bocce?



Unified Bocce season is coming up here at Ambridge! The practices will start on November 23rd, with the regular season starting on December 12th! The Bocce team will have 4 total matches, two home and two away, with all of the matches starting at either 3:30pm or 4:00pm on Wednesdays. We have practices after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays. If anyone is interested in joining the team, they can contact me at ethan.becker@ambridge.k12.pa.us, or come by room 226 after school for more information!

GOING ONS AROUND THE DISTRICT



Middle School Tailgate!

Nathan Harmon, the team parent co-lead, had this to say about Ambridge's Middle School Tailgate, held September 30. The tailgate event could not have gone better. We had 42 families sign up and over 50 families participate in the event with close to 200 people total! From conversations with parents that attended we heard extremely positive feedback. Below are just some of what we heard.



"We've never been to an event like this for families. We hope there are more events like this." We saw teachers and administrators taking part in this event. The teachers that attended also had very positive feedback. They were pleased/surprised by the turnout we had. They also said it was nice to talk to parents in a more casual way. Huge success and can't wait to see what we do next.



Two TECH ED Teachers Win the Shell Regional Lab Challenge! by Scott Setzenfand and Kristin Holmes



Two Tech Ed teachers each win the Shell Regional Lab Challenge for 2022. These \$10,000 prize packages included professional development at the NSTA conference in Chicago, NSTA membership and a \$5000 Carolina Biological supply purchase for the classroom. Middle School Technology Education Teacher, Scott Setzenfand, and Middle/Economy Elementary STEAM Teacher, Kristin Holmes, both recognized the need for better Science, Engineering and Technology instruction and materials in their classrooms and submitted grant proposals last school year for the challenge.

The teachers are excited to have new materials and tools to use in the Technology Education and STEAM classrooms. It is important that students have access to current information and learning materials, especially with the next generation of science standards and teaching of 21st century skills. Students need to have hands on learning available to them to practice learned knowledge and prepare for their futures. This Shell Regional Lab Challenge grant allowed the purchase of materials that would not have been possible otherwise.

Through this grant, the middle school purchased Science and Technology Concepts curriculum created by the Smithsonian Institute as well as the materials and equipment to support the Middle School Technology Education programs. Energy, Forces, and Motion science concepts will be applied to create hands on projects such as mousetrap powered cars, propeller vehicles, marble roller coasters and converting solar energy to kinetic energy. All while continuing to leverage the problem solving Engineering Design Process and improving students 21st Century Skills: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical Thinking.

The elementary gained Smithsonian teaching curriculum and materials as well. Kindergarten and first grade will explore forces and motion while completing several building and design challenges. Second and third grade will explore materials, construct real sandcastles to not erode quickly in a water table and create circuitry art. Fourth and fifth grade will practice hands on construction and design activities with rubber band cars, hydraulic claws, circuits and solar energy. “I am beyond excited to finally be able to put tools into my students’ hands that will let them engineer and design working models in teams using real materials and tools safely. This experience will better prepare them for future learning and life skills.” Holmes states. There are even more activities and tools to use as the year unfolds.

It is an honor to be recognized as Shell Regional Lab Challenge winners. The challenge continues for these two teachers and students with the hopes of winning the grand prize in the spring. Best of luck to these two teachers and the students in the Technology Education & STEAM classrooms.

This challenge is sponsored by Shell. It recognizes exceptional and innovative science educators, to recognize outstanding K–12 school programs for their exemplary approaches to science lab instruction utilizing limited school and laboratory resources and raise awareness and exposure of the outstanding work being done in the science education field in targeted areas near Shell USA Inc. Assets.



Economy Elementary in Fall

Welcome Assembly
Economy students began the school year with a Welcome Back Assembly that reinforced our School-Wide Positive Behavior Program and Kindness Initiative. Josh and Gab presented the assembly.



Economy Elementary students continue to have success with the implementation of our School-Wide Positive Behavior Program. Our STAR Matrix provides students with a set of expectations for good behavior in the classroom, bathroom, hallways, cafeteria, recess, and the bus.



Student Council

Our fifth grade class at Economy Elementary participated in a campaign to elect their peers to serve on Student Council. Our Student Council members are as follows: Evie Bogati, Claire Hartman, Brett Hinds, Jayda Palmer, Stone Parker, and Leo Reigner.

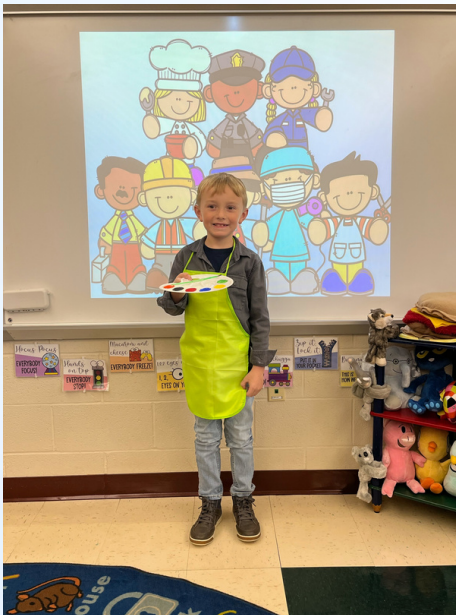


Red Ribbon Week

Economy students participated in Red Ribbon Week with a "Say No to Drugs" Theme each day. They Wore "Red" on Monday to kick-off Red Ribbon Week, they wore a "Hat" on Tuesday, to put a cap on drugs, they wore their "Shirts" backwards on Wednesday, to turn their backs on drugs, they wore "Sunglasses" on Thursday, to shade out drugs, and they scared off drugs with their Halloween Costumes.

Lastly, our students enjoyed field trips to the Wetlands, Pumpkin Farm, and activities sponsored by our PTA that included the Fun Run, Wheel Rodeo, and the Cereal Domino Rally. After-School Tennis was also offered to students in first through fifth grades.

First Grade Career Day

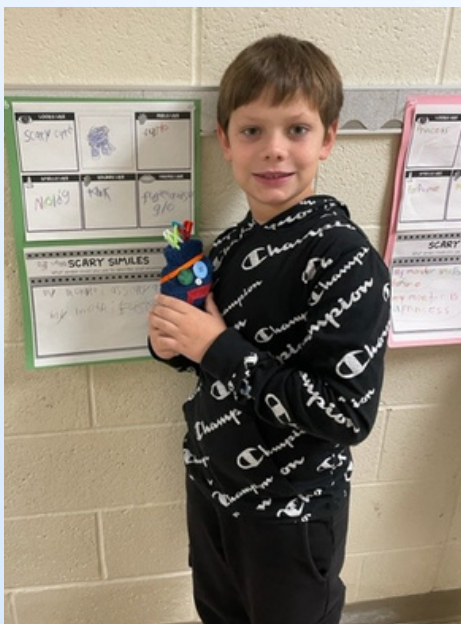


In accordance with PA Career Standards, Economy Elementary first grade students chose a career they would like to pursue and dressed the part. They were able speak about the career as well as write about it.

Getting Creative!



Mrs. Saxons 3rd grade Learning Support Reading Class from State Street created glove monsters while working on similes. Students had to create a monster, use all five senses to describe their monster, then create two simile statements about their monster.



State Street Elementary Starts a New Year

by Kim Roppa

State Street Elementary School started the 2022-2023 school year off with a bang. In August, we reintroduced our Star and Kindness programs encouraging Behavior and being Kind to one another. Students earn tickets to be placed in a box for a chance to win great prizes. We had the Josh and Gab show assembly which was a great Anti-Bullying assembly set to Music. However the most fun of all was our PTO sponsored a "Back to School Bash" where over 500 people showed up. There were Food Trucks, Jump Houses, A Balloon Artist, and more!! We had so much fun!!!

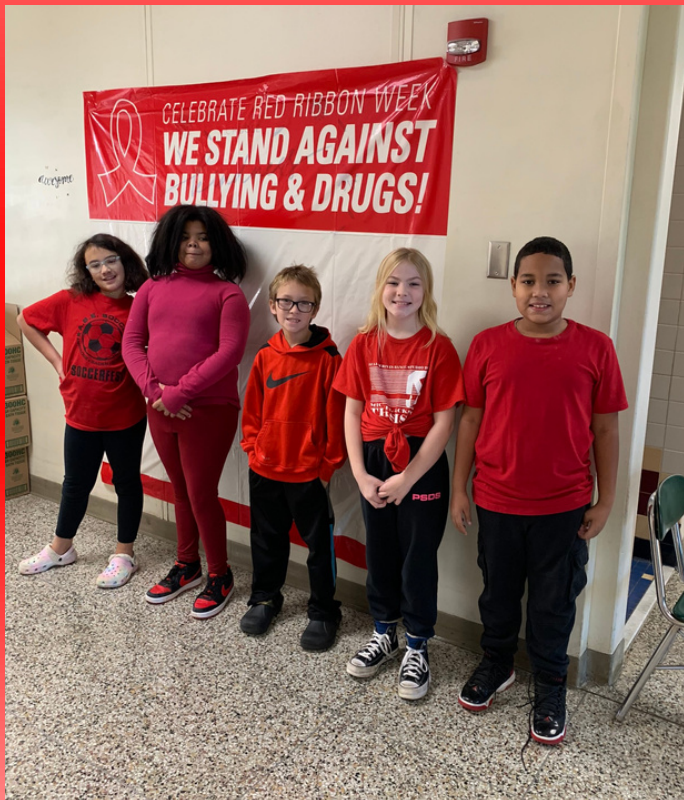


Getting Creative!

In October, we were busy preparing for KDKA meteorologist Mary Ours to visit our school. We learned about all kinds of weathers and saw an example of a tornado, it was so cool. The Baden Fire Department visited to teach us about Fire safety and how to be safe as well as let us tour the firetrucks, boy are they Huge!! Logan, a first grader was the lucky winner of a ride to school on a firetruck. On the 14th, the sirens sounded as Logan rounded the turn around at the school. The student body was outside to greet him with loud cheers!!



The month continued with more excitement-Red Ribbon Week where there was an activity a day reminding everyone to stay "DRUG FREE". Our Pre-K visited the Pumpkin Patch and our 4th and 5th graders mad mugs with the Clay Café in Sewickley. Title I sponsored a Book Bingo where there was a nice family dinner. Student Council held raffles for Children's Hospital and the Caring Place. We learned how important it is to help those less fortunate than us. We also celebrated Halloween with classroom parties and we dressed up in our favorite costumes!



We are looking forward to November with an assembly, "Who Wants to be an Engineer?" There are Parent Teacher Conferences, a Family Literacy Night on the 10th . Grades 2 and 3 will hear from Duquesne Light and there will be a whole school Anti-Bullying Assembly. A Mobile Science Lab is scheduled for the end of the month, how much fun is that!



WQED has teamed up with Highland Elementary to bring teachers, students, and families, Smart Schools. Smart Schools infuses research-based, parent-trusted PBS resources into classrooms to create innovative and impactful learning experiences for school-aged learners. First grade at Highland uses the power of media to educate, engage, and inspire 21st-century learners. Students in first grade have been learning about addition and subtraction. They have viewed engaging Cookie Monster videos that help them build skills to solve problems. First grade participated in an engaging math activity. Students placed addition and subtraction number sentence cookies in the correct cookie jar with the answer on it. They had fun and enjoyed this engaging, hands-on lesson. Afterwards, a special Cookie Monster cupcake was enjoyed by all!

-Dana Burns



The middle school and high school life skills classes are participating in a school based scouting program. Troop 819 participates in school based meetings and activities such as fire safety and building a recreational fire. Students also had a chance to enjoy Fall Fun Day at Camp Guyasuta where they were able to experience rock wall climbing, zip lining and shooting a bow and arrow. Students are looking forward to participating in the wooden car races and returning to Camp Guyasuta again in the spring.

-Patty Weale



This fall, the Ambridge High School Interact Club brought back its annual Halloween Night for our elementary students. For the event, the Ambridge teachers and Ambridge Rotary Club, and some students provided candy and prizes for the children who attended. Grace Buchanan and Amara Platz ran the project as their senior project. The Interact Club hopes to continue the long-standing tradition of providing this service project to our students.

–Christina Briola



National Honors Society Helps the Community



-Gregory Mell



As part of our Fall community service project the National Honor Society collected non-perishable cookie mix for the Center for Hope. The students solicited donations through their classrooms from 10/24 - 11/18. the National Honor Society greatly appreciates all students and staff that participated in this project that helped less fortunate families this Thanksgiving.



The Student Council and Youth Ambassador Program collected winter hats and gloves for the Center for Hope. The students solicited donations through their classrooms from 10/24 - 11/18. Student Council and Youth Ambassador Program greatly appreciates all students and staff that participated in this project that helped some of the less fortunate families keep warm this winter.



Ambridge Area High School is proud to recognize Rudy Ericson for being named a Commended Student in the 2023 NMSC Program.

Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success. These students represent a valuable national resource; and are recognized for their accomplishments, as well as their academic development

We at Ambridge High School are pleased to recognize Jocelyn Mahmoud as a recipient of the Linder Dickerson Scholarship for the amount of \$1,000.00. This scholarship was designated by the Bender Leadership Academy in memory of Linda Dickerson, a trailblazer in the disability community, to help students achieve their educational goals.



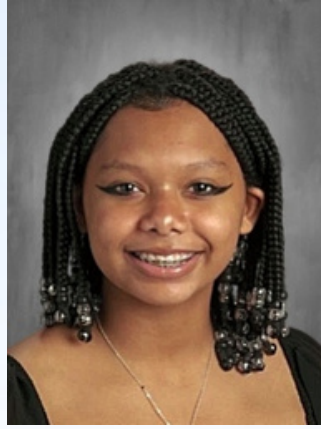
Students left to right: Rudy Ericson and Jocelyn Mahmoud with the School Board

Student Recognition!

Each month the faculty and staff vote for students that they feel exhibit the following qualities:
Responsibility - Cooperation - Attendance - Attitude - Service - Character - Academic Achievement



Cooper Scheidemantle



Savanna Jones



Nate Thomas



Nyh'Juan Ross

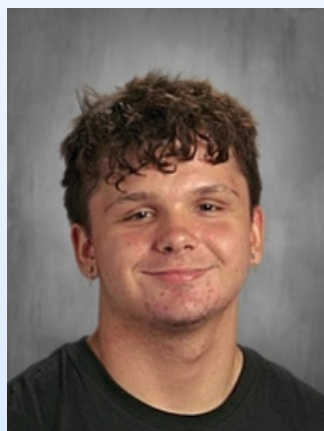
Septembers Students Recognized



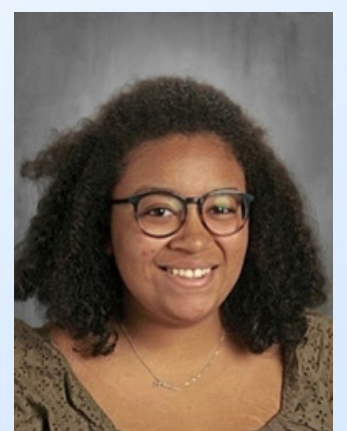
Delores Ruiz



Alec Fustich



Blaise Kolar



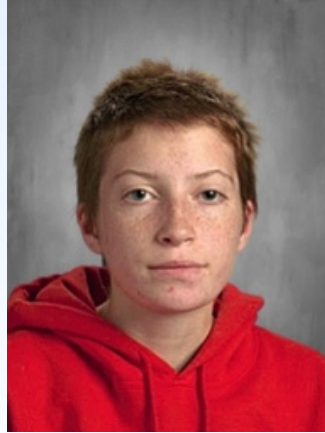
Ariana Avolio-Mason

Student Recognition!

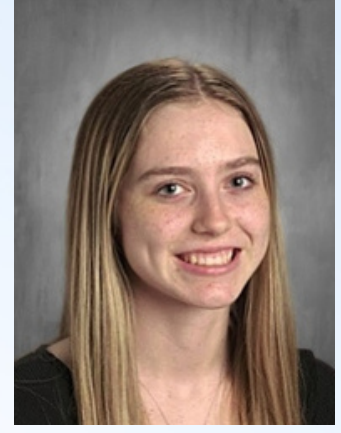
Each month the faculty and staff vote for students that they feel exhibit the following qualities:
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Grace Buchanan



Jazmin Schneider



Ava Timmons

Lauren Kelly
photo not
available

October's Students Recognized



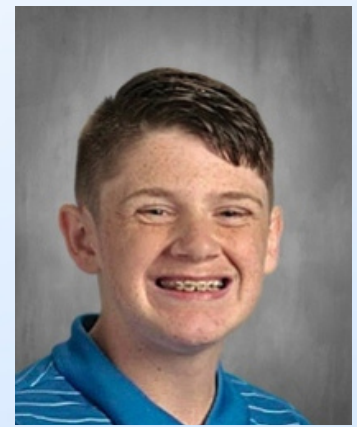
Riley Fallecker



Lana Holcomb



Ariana Avolio-Mason



Richard Roarke

Special Guest Teachers



On November 3rd our High School SRO was asked to be a guest speaker for Health class.

For my presentation I chose to touch on the importance of tobacco/drug use, laws on tobacco/drugs, and dating violence. I touched on what the differences between physical and mental abuse are. I also presented scenarios for each type of abuse.

To help the students understand my point of these topics I presented real life events that I've personally witnessed in the surrounding areas so they could understand what is going on around them. From the feedback I received, the students enjoyed learning about real life situations. I hope in the future I get to do more guest speaking for other classes.

-School Resource Officer Anthony Phan

Sports Updates!

Middle School Boys Cross Country

The Middle School Boys Cross Country team had a great season, going 8-2. The team placed 2nd in two invitationals, including the MAC. Team members are Jake Turko, Taven Wise, Colin Meadows, Aiden Meadows, Emitt Olenic, and Vincent Reiner.

Middle School Boys Soccer

The boy's middle school soccer team had a record of 7-4. There were a few games canceled due to the weather. Team leaders include Alex Lusty and Aaron Scheib on the offensive side of the ball. Our defense was powered by Parker "Iceman" Eisel and Gideon Harmon. They are sending Coach Fiore a solid group that will help our varsity team in the years to come.

Varsity Boys Soccer

The Ambridge Boys' Soccer Team had a historic year making it to the WPIAL AAA championship and the PIAA state quarterfinals with an overall record of (14-8-1). This is the most successful 3A season ever for the boys. Will Gruca was selected for the All Section, All WPIAL and all state teams. Anthony Powell was selected for the All Section and All WPIAL teams. And JJ Simms was an All Section honorable mention. Congrats boys!

Varsity Girls Soccer

This season, the girls' soccer team demonstrated a tremendous amount of growth. Some of the girls started work early by participating in an optional travel team through ABE in the spring of 2022. This extra time that the girls put in proved to be beneficial for the team in the fall. Many of the upcoming freshman participated on the travel team and were able to create friendships and bond with some of the upperclassmen prior to beginning high school in the fall. Further, we were able to bring back our JV team this season after not having one the prior year and showed much improvement as a team. Great job this season, girls!

Varsity Girls Volleyball

The Ambridge girls' volleyball team went 4-7 in the section. Seniors Annabelle Hrinko made All Section second team and Samantha Ellenberger made All Section third team along with Juniors Jordan Garrison and Ava Timmons.

Varsity Boys Basketball

The Varsity Boys Basketball Program is excited to officially get underway this Friday, November 18th (4:30pm - 7:00pm in the fieldhouse). All are welcomed to tryout but must have a physical on file with the school. The boys have been working hard all off-season with multiple work outs every week. We joined summer and fall leagues to pick up valuable playing experience. Our boys generously donated their time to support Youth Nights this fall to help develop the skills and fundamentals of our little Bridgers. Our first game will be Saturday, December 3rd at 4:30pm against Montour at Beaver Falls High School. We look forward to community support as we begin our new season.

Girls Varsity Basketball

Sometimes you have to switch it up to keep other teams uncomfortable, and that's what we're going to do this year. We're going to try to do the unexpected and create chaos on offense and on defense to keep the other teams on their toes. Playing fast is a better way to play the game. We want to support the growth and push the girls to work together to be successful. We have a great group of players who are ready to work, and we believe it will be an exciting year! Be a part of the Bridgers Family. Practice will be held Monday–Thursday 6pm–8pm High School Gym. We have 3 awesome new coaches who are building this program up and believe the program has room to grow! We can't do this work without the support of The Ambridge Community. We're all trying to figure out how to make this work— together. The future is Bright for The Lady Bridgers! The time is

now!

Coach Harrison

Cheer

The Ambridge Area School District Cheerleaders have been building up their program consistently, which now includes a Middle School team, JV team, Varsity sideline and Varsity competition teams. As newer additions to the program, MS and JV teams have gotten some great guidance and technical training from Coaches Emily O'Malley and Wenzday Koskey, proving how important these younger years are to the skills training needed for Varsity. In addition to all teams cheering for football season and basketball season, the Varsity competition teams also compete during their own season, which makes Cheer a 3 season PIAA sanctioned sport here at Ambridge! Under the direction of Head Coach Jenn Phillips and Assistant Coach Amanda Palshaw, the Varsity comp teams have added a good amount of trophies to the athletic display cases over the past few years, but this year stands out because for the first time in Ambridge history, Bridger Competitive Spirit earned TWO bids to High School Nationals at Disney World in the Game Day division and Traditional Competition division. "We're extremely proud of our athletes. Our goals have always been to have a consistent program from MS–Varsity, so the athletes are knowledgeable and technical once they hit the Varsity level, just like the other successful competitive programs. We're finally meeting our coaching goals, other high ranking competitive schools are recognizing us as major contenders, and our athletes are crushing their own goals!"– HS Coaches. Good luck to Bridger Competitive Spirit as they head into basketball and competition seasons! Want to join the cheer program?? For more info, "like" on Facebook & message us! (Ambridge Area School District Cheer)



Varsity Football

This season ended earlier than we had hoped, but we made progress just the same. Coach McBride and his staff would like to thank every player, parent, and fan. We'd like to thank those that braved the rain to watch their beloved Bridgers fight to the end, and also those that watched online, spilling popcorn on the sofa with every nail-biting moment. We'd like to thank the cheerleaders for keeping everyone's spirits high and the boosters for keeping our bellies full. We thank our underclassmen for pitching in whenever and wherever asked, but mostly, we'd like to thank our seniors for leading the team, not only on the field, but also in the classroom, and in the community. They set the tone for everyone coming behind them and that tone is loud and clear:

"PUT SOME RESPECT ON OUR NAME!"

-Joseph Lamenza



Ambridge Band Members Make Honors Band!

Congratulations to Amanda Waschak (12th grade flute) and Samantha Waschak (9th grade bass clarinet) for making the 2022 PMEA District 5 Honors Band at Westminster College. These students competed against hundreds of band students from schools in Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties.



Art For Everyone

Community Mural Official Start

The Ambridge High School Art Club will be embarking on our largest community mural to date this winter. We will begin the long prepared for journey of creating a unique pictorial history of our community on November 30th at the Laughlin Memorial Library in Ambridge where our local library director Julie Mulcahy and historian Sarah Buffington will present a pictorial history to our core design group. The AAHS Art Club will host renowned PCA&M artist Bernie Wilkie as our resident artist in our first ever large-scale multi-media community mural.

The Bicentennial Mural is set to be finished in June of 2025 will be located at 537 Merchant St. The final public artwork will consist of painted and mosaic elements. Art Club will host a series of events and invite everyone from the community to participate in this meaningful project. Look forward to hearing about our Community Paint Events later this school year. We cannot wait to see the outcome of this project in 2025, but hope you will all enjoy helping us to create memories that will last a lifetime while making a truly magnificent and professional grade public artwork.

-Jamie Orth



Q&A's With Dr.P!

Hanna Jozwiak, Autistic Support Teacher at Highland Elementary School

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: I enjoy the challenges, helping fix problems for kids and helping them with what they need for their education to be successful.

Q: What brought you to work for the Ambridge Area School District?

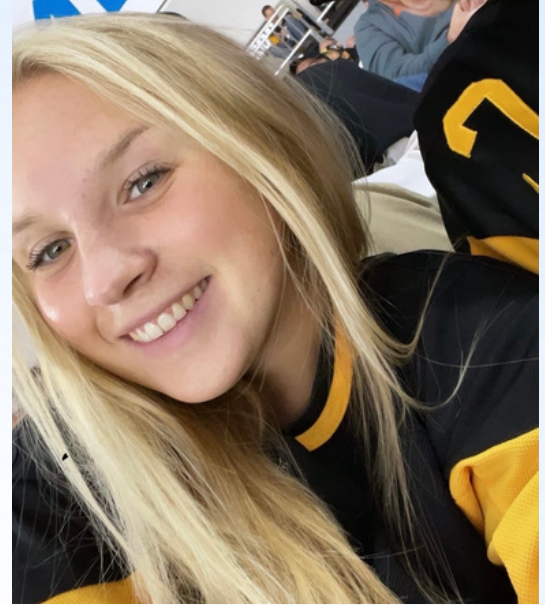
A: I was a student teacher in the district and then began subbing in the district. I enjoy the staff and kids and love it here so thought why NOT stay?

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

A: Coaching Lacrosse and spending time with family and friends.

Q: What motivates you the most?

A: The kids every day, honestly! Spending time with the kids and giving them the attention and support they need.



Miranda Swartz, School Psychologist for grades K-4

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: Working with the kids and watching their development throughout the years.

Q: What brought you to work for the Ambridge Area School District?

A: It puts me closer to home and it is a great school. I feel that it has a lot of potential and I can make a difference in the lives of students and their families.

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

A: Renovating my house, home projects, and learning a ton as I go.

Q: What motivates you the most?

A: Looking to improve myself. I am confident in my skills, but I know there is always more to learn. By improving myself I am better able to help others reach their full potential.



Q&A's Continued!

Sarah Schaffer, a Social Worker at the High School and Highland Elementary:

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: Collaborating with other staff, counselors, and prevention specialists to support our students. I also love running social skills groups and I really enjoy my group time with the Life Skills students at the High School.

Q: What brought you to work for Ambridge Area School District?

A: I went to Grove City High School and never heard of the Ambridge School District until accepting a long-term substitute position with the district for the 2021-2022 school year. I enjoyed the position and was hired full-time for the 2022-2023 school year.

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

A: Spending time with family, friends, baking, and teaching cheerleading classes.

Q: What motivates you the most?

A: The kids! I love being a positive role model for our students. I especially enjoy working at the elementary level. The students have so much enthusiasm which inspires me every day.



Look for more Q&A's coming in the Spring!

**The Ambridge Area School
District wishes all of our
families and the community a
Happy, Healthy Thanksgiving.
Stay tuned for what is coming
to our school in 2023!!!!**

