

# PTO Newsletter

Parents - Teachers - Students



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"State Street PTO" &  
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**YOU made PTO thrive in January!**  
**THANK YOU!!!**

## PreK - 2nd Grade Family Fun

### State Street's 1st "Superhero & Princess Ball"

PTO kicked-off 2023 with a "Superhero & Princess Ball" for PreK - 2nd Grade families! It was a joy to see adults and students dressed in-character while dancing the night away with our live DJ. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make this event a success, especially our amazing Ambridge Area High/Middle School students who dressed-up and spent their Friday night with us. We look forward to making this an annual event!

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## Top STAR Students

### State Street's Enhanced STAR Program

The faculty and staff of State Street Elementary are adding a little incentive to the existing STAR student program, which recognizes students who demonstrate positive behavior. "STAR" stands for: Safe, Trustworthy, Accountable and Respectful.

Beginning in January 2023, students who demonstrate STAR behavior will have a chance to be selected as State Street Elementary's "STAR Student of the Month". Each month teachers and staff will select two STAR students from each classroom (1 boy and 1 girl) that will be recognized as "STAR Students of the Month". Also, one student from the entire school will be selected as the "Top STAR Student of the Month".

"STAR Students of the Month" will receive a recognition medal provided by PTO.



## PTO's Magic Assembly

### No Bullying, Kindness, Comedy & Magic!

By popular demand, PTO brought back Magician Mike Seege's "Say No To Bullying Magic Show" in January to entertain students with his unique combination of comedy and magic. Mike and the students shared stories about kindness & respect. Also, during the show our students pledged to be bully free and learned some hands-on magic tricks!



## Treasurer's Corner

### Finance Update: December

After taking a break from fundraising in December, we began 2023 fundraising with a "Hoagies & More" sale. Upcoming fundraisers include: Nothing Bundt Cakes, Anderson's Candy, Penny Wars, etc.

PTO depends on successful fundraisers to cover field trip, field day, assembly and student activity costs. Thank you for your continued support!

#### **Summary of January Income:**

- Hoagie Fundraiser - \$632
- Box Tops - \$50.90
- "Superhero & Princess Ball" RSVPs - \$575

#### **Summary of December Expenses:**

YOUR support allowed PTO to give-back about \$1,150 to our State Street Family! These funds paid for a No Bullying Magic Show assembly, award medals for State Street's Top STAR Students of the Month and a PreK - 5th Grade "Superhero & Princess Ball".

**Thank you for your support!**  
**PTO cannot thrive without YOU.**

**#Students Matter. #Teachers Matter.**  
**#You Matter. #PTO Matters.**



We'd like to give a big, beautiful "THANK YOU" to our donators, volunteers, teachers/staff, vendors & community groups who helped make PTO possible in January!

### **Volunteers**

- Principal Jo Ann Hoover
- Mrs. Beverly Cobern
- Superhero & Princess Ball volunteers: Casey Bayer, Stacy Brock (5th Grade Teacher), Erica Brozich (PreK Teacher), Jessica Magnone, Cindy McFarland, Jeffrey Shakespeare, & AASD High School & Middle School students (Grace, Amara, Zach, Taylor, Talan and Zach).
- Hoagie Fundraiser Organization & Distribution volunteer Cheri Wojciechowski.
- Vision Screening volunteer Jennifer Tusick.

### **Vendors & Community Groups**

- DJ Christopher Hyre
- Fotobomz
- Magician Mike Seege
- J&J Catering (Hoagies)

# Meet Our Third Grade Teacher

## Mrs. Amy Hoback

Some people spend a lifetime searching for a profession they love or pursuing their life's calling without ever finding it. Not me. From my earliest days as a little girl growing up in Bradford Park and Economy Borough, I knew that I wanted to be a Bridger teacher! I began the pursuit of my life's passion by honing my teaching skills in my childhood home classroom, with my younger brother, sister, my dog, and numerous Cabbage Patch kids.

After graduating from Ambridge in 1992, I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education from Carlow University. Immediately after graduation, I began working in AASD teaching 6th grade at Highland Elementary. (Did you know that Mrs. Tierney was a 6th grade student in my very first class?) I have been with AASD for more than 26 years, serving in various roles including 6th grade, Kindergarten and a short period working with High School students. I finally found my home at State Street and have spent the last 19 years teaching 3rd grade at the BEST school in the district. I love our big, happy State Street family! (... What's a family without pets, right? Over the years I've had many classroom pets, including my beloved pet tarantula Charlotte. She passed away in May, so I proudly introduced my new tarantula, Willow, to my class this year. It's with pets that we discover things that we never knew we liked... spiders aren't so bad!)

My favorite part of the school year is meeting new children at the beginning of the year. We all have a blank page in front of us, and each member of my classroom family gets to be the author of the story we write or the picture we paint of the upcoming school year. The possibilities are endless, and we can't help but dream of how much fun we will have and how much we will learn and grow together! Every child that I have taught holds a special place in my heart. Once I am your teacher, you are my student forever... and I mean it. When you go out into the world and do great and amazing things, I smile with such pride and admiration!



**Mrs. Amy Hoback**  
3rd Grade Teacher  
State Street Elementary

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- **Favorite Color:** Yellow
- **Favorite Food:** Police Station Pizza
- **Favorite Drink:** Coffee or Coca-Cola
- **Favorite Snack & Sweet-Treat:** Jellybeans
- **Favorite Hobby:** Watching TV, Traveling the world with family, Cheering on son (Cannon) in track & cross-country
- **Favorite Author:** I love biographies
- **Favorite Quote:** "I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

# Meet Our Third Grade Teacher

## Mrs. Deanna Young

I grew up in Monaca and received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Slippery Rock University and a master's degree in Teaching & Curriculum from Penn State University. Twenty Four years ago I started working as a teaching assistant for AASD, as Miss Robinson in the old Economy building. In 2004, I was given the opportunity to begin my teaching career at Highland. I then went to Economy and the Middle School before I found myself here at State Street Elementary. I have taught kindergarten, third grade, fourth grade, and sixth grade.

Third graders ROCK! At this age, the students are enthusiastic about a lot of things. They want to learn, are innocent and they love their teacher! My favorite part of the school year is the beginning. Each August, there is excitement about meeting the students and getting to know them individually. Creating these relationships is what makes each year special.

Outside of my classroom family, I have a husband and three stepchildren ranging in age from 17-25. In July, I will be a "Nana" for the first time! I love to travel with my family and was given the opportunity to travel to Rome, Italy. We visited all the places I spent years teaching about. Seeing the Colosseum, the Vatican, and Sistine Chapel was an utterly amazing experience. I was extremely impressed by the ancientness of the city. I hope to someday visit Pompeii, Italy, Egypt, and Athens, Greece.

When I'm not teaching or traveling, my husband and I like to go to concerts. He is a huge music fan. This past summer we went to Syracuse, NY to see Paul McCartney. BEST CONCERT EVER! We also like to cheer-on Pittsburgh sports teams. I love sports! If I weren't teaching, I would be a sportscaster, doing interviews and analysis with athletes on the sidelines or in the studio.



Mrs. Deanna Young  
3rd Grade Teacher  
State Street Elementary

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- **Favorite Color:** Green
- **Favorite Food:** Frank's Pizza
- **Favorite Drink:** A good cup of coffee or Coca-Cola with crushed ice
- **Favorite Snack & Sweet-Treat:** SnoCaps or Hot Fries
- **Favorite Hobby:** Golfing with my husband
- **Favorite Author:** My Sister's Keeper - Jodi Picoult
- **Favorite Quote:** "Negative, Ghost Rider, the pattern is full." - Top Gun