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Home of the Wolverines

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Winter 2017

310 Court St., P.O. Box 648, Au Gres, MI 48703

989-876-7150

Au Gres-Sims Partners with Apptegy to Create New Mobile App, Website, and Communications Platform

Au Gres-Sims School District is proud to announce their new partnership with Apptegy to reimagine and extend a dynamic new communications platform. Au Gres-Sims partnered with Apptegy, a communication solutions company from Little Rock, Arkansas, to create an exciting new mobile app, website, and communication suite for the district that will better connect students, staff, parents, business, and community. Au Gres-Sims was the first school district in the State of Michigan to partner with Apptegy, and is currently one of only a select few districts state-wide that have taken the progressive leap to expand communication efforts via a mobile app for all constituents.

Superintendent Jeffrey Collier, stated, "As a public school district, we are thrilled to model this amazing new communications platform. Our fantastic partnership with Apptegy provides us the

opportunity to easily sync and streamline our email and Thrillshare notifications along with social media updates and announcements on Twitter and Facebook." Collier continued, "National trends indicate that our community spends more time using mobile apps than all other digital media combined. We sought to create a communication platform that was not only more easily accessible to our constituency, but would also allow us to provide information in a timely, efficient, and preferable manner." In conjunction with their new mobile app, Au Gres-Sims also released their newly updated website presence and dedicated Facebook page to coincide with their pre-existing Twitter account.

Casey Mikula, Apptegy's Director of Sales, shared, "The mobile app provides a much better user experience for parents and community members to easily access information." He added, "Apptegy's Thrillshare product provides a single platform to manage

communication systems, making it easy for districts to tell their story. Our partnered work with Au Gres-Sims focused on designing and providing a 'Gold Standard' communication tool that reflected the district's progressive vision."

Any user may acquire the district's app for free by visiting either the iTunes or Google Play stores, searching for Au Gres-Sims School District, and then downloading the app to their mobile devices. The district's Facebook page can be found by searching for Au Gres-Sims School District; Twitter handle at @AGSschools; and website at www.ags-schools.org.



Fourth Season of Podcasts Begin in January

Au Gres-Sims Superintendent, Jeffrey Collier, and Au Gres City Manager, John Stanley, invite you to listen and enjoy their weekly Podcasts which are the engaging products of a unique joint communications project between the City of Au Gres and the Au Gres-Sims School District. These weekly Podcasts dubbed "J & J in Au Gres" focus on all topics related to business opportunity & entrepreneurial ventures, city management, politics, education, and the high quality of life throughout the region - but primarily, celebrates all of the positive energy and proactive initiatives taking place within the greater Au Gres area, Arenac County, and Northeast Michigan. The weekly podcasts can be found on iTunes, on Twitter @AGSschools, or at www.ags-schools.org under the "Community" tab.

From the Superintendent's Desk

by Jeffrey Collier, Superintendent of Schools



Dear Au Gres-Sims Community,

Our Au Gres-Sims School District is amazing! As we collectively continue our relentless pursuit of excellence, the number of partnerships we are forming with community and private entities, who are also deeply committed to the education of our area youth, are growing at a tremendous rate! The abundance of opportunities and activity choices for students to participate and be engaged in at Au Gres-Sims is overwhelming, both in and out of the classroom. Positivity is building upon positivity for our “public school with a private school feel,” and our partners are eager to offer their sustained support with a building momentum that is central to the story being shared about the incredible things that are happening for students here in Au Gres. Their enthusiastic commitments are positive evidence that they share our belief that the size of our district is one of our greatest strengths, allowing us the flexibility to consistently offer the dynamic and unique programming that we provide for our learners. Embracing and cultivating this progressive philosophy, the professionals within our established *Culture of Learning* are actively authoring grant applications to maximize our treasured resources, acting as ambassadors and establishing relationships with outside philanthropists and experts.

Below are examples of some of the grants (not including State and Federal grants) received just this fall:

- ~ Grant received from the *Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Program* for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programming.
- ~ Grant received from the *Arenac Community Funds* through the *Bay Area Community Foundation* in support of our Science Olympiad program.
- ~ Grant received from the *Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)* to support our river quality/watershed studies.
- ~ Grant received from the *Captain Planet Foundation* to support our Charity Island and greenhouse STEM projects.
- ~ Grant received from *Target* to support our “AGS Travels” student program.
- ~ Multiple grants received from the *Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe* to support our extensive initiatives in instructional technology and dynamic classroom programs.

Following are some of the partnerships we are fortunate to

have established:

- ~ *Alpena Community College* provides dual enrollment courses on our campus. Did you know that our students can earn over 30 college credits while attending Au Gres-Sims High School? Wow!
- ~ The *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* has provided a greenhouse that is being erected on our campus to support the propagation of endangered plant species by our students as a component of our Charity Island STEM studies.
- ~ The *4H Foundation* and *Arenac County 4H Leaders Council* have sponsored a full *VEX IX* robotics classroom kit and resources for elementary science, robotics and engineering studies to build and enhance foundations for upper level *Science Olympiad* and *FIRST Robotics* programs.
- ~ *Bopp-Busch Manufacturing* continues to generously partner with and sponsor our competitive *FIRST Robotics* team.
- ~ Our *Girls on the Run Club (Au Gres Chapter)*, an after-school running club, inspires and empowers our upper elementary female students to be joyful, healthy, and confident.
- ~ The *Department of Health and Human Services* has partnered with us to provide a full-time success coach for our students through the “*Pathways to Potential*” program.
- ~ *Nike Marathon Kids* has partnered with us to provide an after-school activity for upper elementary and middle school students to promote healthy, physically active lifestyles.
- ~ Recently a local family anonymously donated new, brand name coats for our fourth grade students valued at over \$800.

This list is only a snapshot, and does not even come close to encompassing the extensive scope of our fantastic partners or all of the magnificent contributions that have been made to our district on behalf of our children. We are also the fortunate recipients of the tireless volunteerism, advocacy, and generous sponsorship of our *Parent Teacher Organization* members and *Wolverine Pride Association* athletic boosters. Further, our area residents who volunteer substantial time and talent for the improvement of our facilities and student activities is simply inspiring.

We are deeply appreciative and humbled to be the recipients of these good works, which I believe are indicative of the school district itself. Coupled with this extensive support network, our entire staff continues to excel and live up to the community’s high expectations and our far-reaching reputation as a “*Destination District*” that truly provides an unequivocal product of excellence in education. We invite you to join us and celebrate the knowledge that we represent a growing school district of unbounded student opportunity and unrelenting greatness!

Yours in Education,

Home of the Wolverines district newsletter is a publication of Au Gres-Sims School District, published three times annually. Its purpose is to share school district/educational information with the community. Issues are bulk mailed directly to all district residents. Comments or inquiries may be directed to Au Gres-Sims School District Administration, P.O. Box 648, Au Gres, MI 48703, or by calling 989-876-7150.

2017 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Heather Garry, President
 Nancy Selle, Vice-President
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It is the policy of the Au Gres-Sims School District Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its employment, educational programs, and activities as required by Title VI or the Civil Rights Act of 1954, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1973. Anyone believing they have been discriminated against should contact Jeffrey Collier, Superintendent, Au Gres-Sims School District, P.O. Box 648, Au Gres, MI 48703, or call 989-876-7150.

Important Media Notice

During the course of the school year, our students are sometimes recognized in the newspaper or other media formats for such things as their accomplishments, special projects, upcoming events, or other newsworthy happenings. These opportunities serve to promote and enhance our students, schools, and community. If you do not wish for your child to appear in public relations materials of this nature or on our website, a written request must be completed and on file at school each year, prohibiting them from being recognized in this manner.

District Implements New Responsible Thinking Process Program

As part of the District School Improvement Plan, the Au Gres-Sims School District is implementing a new student positive behavior program to encourage students to be thoughtful of their actions, be responsible and choose positive behavior, assist with identifying issues that interrupt and/or prevent their educational success, provide support where needed, and to identify consequences of poor choices and to hold students personally accountable for their behavior.

The Responsible

Thinking process begins with the classroom teacher asking a student who is not performing as expected in various situations a series of questions. The questions are designed to encourage a student to stop inappropriate behavior, identify what they are doing wrong, identify what they should be doing, identify any issues that are contributing to the behavior, what steps need to be taken to rectify the situation, and if the student is unwilling or unable to correct the situation immediately, what the consequences

will be. The student may then be sent to the Responsible Thinking classroom, which is staffed by a full time employee, for further discussion and resolution of the situation.

This process gives students the power to stop negative behavior in its tracks and redirect their actions toward a positive outcome. Additional support and parental involvement to address ongoing problems are also part of the program to ensure students are able to focus on their academic program and not be hindered by other influences that prevent or disrupt their success.

Athletic Admission Prices for 2017-18

<u>Contest</u>	<u>JV/V</u>	<u>JH</u>
Single Person	\$5.00	\$4.00
Senior Citizen 60+	3.00	2.00
Student	3.00	2.00

All Sport Family Pass:

(Pertains only to IMMEDIATE family members currently living full-time in the same household and children 18 or under):

All Sport Family Pass	\$200.00
All Sport Single Adult Pass	100.00
All Sport Student Pass	50.00
All Sport Sr. Citizen Pass	50.00
All Sport Sr. Citizen Couple	75.00

Season Pass:

To be purchased for fall, winter, or spring sports only:

Individual	\$ 50.00
Couple	100.00

Student Honors Pass: FREE

School Closings

We will utilize the *Apptegy* system to notify parents, students, and staff of school closings and delays this year. Please make sure that the principal's office has the correct contact information for your student/family on file.

The following TV stations will broadcast school closings or delays: WNEM (Channel 5), WJRT (Channel 12), WBKB (Channel 11), and WEYI (Channel 25); and radio stations WSGW (790 AM and 100.5 FM), WGER (106.3 FM), WTLZ (107 FM), WCEN (94.5 FM), WIOS (1480 AM), WKJC (104.7 FM), WQLB (103.3 FM), and WKJZ (94.9 FM).

After-School Tutoring Now Available for All Grade Levels

After-school tutoring is now available for all students, from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Tutoring sessions are being held from 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday that school is in session through the end of the school year, with a few scheduled exceptions.

Students have the opportunity to join high school peer tutors in the beautifully reno-

vated Cyber Cafe' for help with their school work, or just simply take advantage of a quiet time and place to study or complete homework.

The tutoring program is monitored by certified teachers at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, and help is available in any given subject.

Peer tutors are well prepared to provide targeted assistance to other students as they are

likely studying the same subject matter in their own classes or in classes they have taken previously. This knowledge of the material gives tutors the ability to explain concepts in ways that are different from classroom instruction that their peers may be able to better understand.

For more information, contact Mrs. Jamie Kraatz, Instructional Services Director, at 876-7157, extension 335.

AU GRES-SIMS WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE 2017-18

Date	Day	Team	Opponent	Site	Time	
11	Dec	Mon	JV/V BBB	Fairview	Fairview	6:00 p.m.
12	Dec	Tues	JH BBB	WP	WP	6:00 p.m.
12	Dec	Tues	JV/V GBB	Fairview	AGS	6:00 p.m.
14	Dec	Thurs	JH BBB	Mio	AGS	6:00 p.m.
14	Dec	Thurs	JV/V BBB	WP*	WP	6:00 p.m.
18	Dec	Mon	JV/V BBB	Oscoda*	AGS	6:00 p.m.
20	Dec	Wed	JV/V GBB	WP*	AGS	6:00 p.m.
4	Jan	Thurs	JV/V BBB	Hale	AGS	6:00 p.m.
5	Jan	Fri	JV/V GBB	Hale	Hale	6:00 p.m.
8	Jan	Mon	Basketball	Atlanta Triple Header	Atlanta	4:00 p.m.
11	Jan	Thurs	JV/V BBB	Posen	AGS	6:00 p.m.
12	Jan	Fri	JV/V GBB	Posen	Posen	6:00 p.m.
16	Jan	Tues	JV/V GBB	Oscoda*	Oscoda	6:00 p.m.
19	Jan	Fri	V BB	SASA	AGS	6:00 p.m.
22	Jan	Mon	JV/V GBB	Hillman	Hillman	6:00 p.m.
23	Jan	Tues	JV/V BBB	Hillman	AGS	6:00 p.m.
25	Jan	Thurs	JV/V GBB	WP	WP	6:00 p.m.
26	Jan	Fri	JV/V BBB	WP	AGS	6:00 p.m.
29	Jan	Mon	JV/V GBB	Rogers City	AGS	6:00 p.m.
30	Jan	Tues	JV/V BBB	Rogers City	Rogers City	6:00 p.m.
1	Feb	Thurs	JV/V GBB	Fairview	Fairview	6:00 p.m.
2	Feb	Fri	JV/V BBB	Fairview	AGS	6:00 p.m.
5	Feb	Mon	JV/V GBB	Hale	AGS	6:00 p.m.
6	Feb	Tues	JV/V BBB	Hale	Hale	6:00 p.m.
9	Feb	Fri	Basketball	Atlanta Triple Header	AGS	4:00 p.m.
12	Feb	Mon	JV/V GBB	Posen	AGS	6:00 p.m.
13	Feb	Tues	JV/V BBB	Posen	Posen	6:00 p.m.
15	Feb	Thurs	V Basketball	SASA	SASA	6:00 p.m.
19	Feb	Mon	JV/V GBB	Mio*	AGS	6:00 p.m.
20	Feb	Tues	JV/V BBB	Bay City All Saints	Bay City All Saints	6:00 p.m.
21	Feb	Wed	JV/V GBB	Bay City All Saints	AGS	6:00 p.m.
23	Feb	Fri	JV/V BBB	Oscoda	Oscoda	6:00 p.m.
27	Feb	Tues	JV/V BBB	Mio*	Mio	6:00 p.m.

* (Non-League Game)

New Staff Members at Au Gres-Sims



Jill Haag

Jill Haag was previously employed at Bay City Public Schools as an elementary teacher before coming to Au Gres-Sims. She earned a teaching certificate in Elementary Education from Saginaw Valley State University, and enjoys teaching fourth grade at AGS.

Mrs. Haag and her family live in Sterling.



Elesha Davidson

Elesha Davidson graduated from Au Gres-Sims High School and earned a teaching certificate in Secondary Education from Saginaw Valley State University. She taught at Hale Area Schools for four years before coming to Au Gres-Sims, and is currently teaching middle school mathematics.

Mrs. Davidson lives in Au Gres with her husband and infant son.



Brook Begres

Brook Begres came to AGS as a veteran teacher from Tawas Area Schools. She earned a teaching certificate in Elementary Education from Saginaw Valley State University, and is also teaching fourth grade for us this year.

Mrs. Begres and her husband live in Standish with their family.



Molly Hasty

Molly Hasty has many years of teaching experience, having taught most recently at Hale Area Schools for four years. She earned her Elementary Education teaching certification from Saginaw Valley State University, and is teaching first grade this year.

Mrs. Hasty and her family live in Au Gres.



Deb Bilacic

Look who's back! After a short "retirement," Deb Bilacic found she was more content when she was doing what she loves the most, which is teaching. Deb rejoined our staff as a K-8 Math and Reading Interventionist this fall and works with students who need additional academic support.

Mrs. Bilacic and her husband live in Twining.

**SCHOOLS OF CHOICE
and
THE ACADEMY AT AU GRES-SIMS
ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN**

Applications will be accepted January 3- 19, 2018 for enrollment second semester, and are available online at www.ags-schools.org under the Quick Links tab, or at the school offices. Call 989-876-7157 for more information.

**New Age Limit Allowed
for Academy Enrollment**

The Michigan Department of Education recently raised the age limit for students wishing to enroll in alternative education programs. Students who have dropped out and are under the age of 22 years old before September 1 of the current school year are now allowed to re-enroll. Additional criteria for enrollment in The Academy at Au Gres-Sims must be met, as outlined in the advertisement on the right. This is one more great opportunity for students who previously turned 20 years old before completing their high school education to be able to continue and earn their diploma. Interested persons can call the school at 989-876-7157 for more enrollment information.



THE ACADEMY AT AU GRES-SIMS

Your Life. Your Time. Your Success.

Make the choice that works for you.

The Au Gres-Sims School District is currently accepting applications from eligible students wishing to enroll in the Academy. This online alternative is a fantastic choice for students who have fallen behind, are struggling to graduate, or looking for opportunities beyond traditional high school classes. Academy students will have the flexibility to complete coursework at home and earn an Au Gres-Sims High School diploma. There is also an opportunity to enroll in classes at the Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District's Career Center or dual-enroll to earn college credit. Find your path to success!

Eligible Students

- Have not been expelled for disciplinary reasons
- Juniors and Seniors 16-22 years of age
- Reside in one of the following school districts: Bay-Arenac ISD, Iosco RESA, COOR ISD, Clare Gladwin RESD, Midland Co. ESA, Saginaw ISD, or Tuscola ISD

Applications are being accepted January 3 through January 19, 2018.

The Academy at Au Gres-Sims
310 Court Street • PO Box 648 • Au Gres, MI 48703
Call (989) 876-7157 or visit www.ags-schools.org/academy

**Au Gres Area Chamber of Commerce
Welcomes You to Our Schools and Community!**

This school district newsletter is generously sponsored by the Au Gres Area Chamber of Commerce. Together, we would like to invite you to join us as we take part in the following upcoming community events.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



FROM THE AU GRES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE!

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| December 9..... | PTO Holiday Bazaar...10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m... AGS Multi-Purpose Room |
| December 13..... | AGS Athletic Boosters Ace of Spades Drawing...7:00 p.m... Town & Country Lounge |
| December 16..... | Music by Less than Ordinary...7:00 p.m... Ali's UpNorth |
| December 20..... | AGS Athletic Boosters Ace of Spades Drawing...7:00 p.m... Town & Country Lounge |
| December 23..... | A Christmas Special with Music by Less than Ordinary...7:00 p.m.... Ali's UpNorth |
| January 11..... | Comedy Night Fundraiser with Jason Douglas...7:00 p.m.... Town & Country Lounge |
| January 27..... | 2018 Winter Festival...Visit the Chamber website for details |

Visit the Au Gres Area Chamber of Commerce on the web at www.augreschamber.org for information and events!