



A word from interim superintendent, Mr. Mike Kastle:

The school year is off to a good start. Our numbers remain pretty stable from 2020-2021 school year, but we will not have an official count until September 20. At that time we will know what our funding should look like and be able to make more plans for the district this year.

We have had a couple of cases of COVID-19 thus far but at this time we are COVID free. As we all know this could change before you get through reading this newsletter.

I believe that everyone is adjusting to having all of our district students in one building. I am grateful to all of our staff who have made the transition successful. The summer and start of the year was very stressful to all of our staff but certainly took a toll on our elementary school staff. Thanks to the middle / high school staff members who got transplanted to make it possible for the elementary students to be in one area of the building.

We are still in the discussion stage concerning the status of the elementary school building in Altoona but it seems most likely that we will be rebuilding on that site. Discussions continue with insurance carriers as well as attorneys, allowing us to make the best decisions for the future of the district.

Although I am not in the district every day, I am available to visit and try to answer any questions or concerns that you may have. Please contact the district office and they will let me know I need to make contact with you.



STAFF Spotlight

David Batzer: Vo-Ag Education

Howdy, Altoona-Midway friends and family! My name is David Batzer, and I am very excited to be the new Agricultural Education teacher at AMHS. I live in Fredonia with my wonderful wife, Jessica, and our four amazing boys, JP (11), Zeke (9), Malachi (6), and Amos (11 mo). This is my third year teaching Vo-Ag and being an FFA sponsor. I was raised around cattle and horses, and have a BS from Colorado State University in Equine Science and Ag & Resource Economics. Until moving to KS to be closer to Jessica's family I was a guide and outfitter in Colorado, and most recently a dude ranch manager in western North Carolina. Having now been in southeast Kansas for 8 years I am proud to say that this is home, and I am thrilled to be part of the Altoona-Midway family.

Welcome Mr. Batzer!

Makayla Wood: 6th Grade Teacher

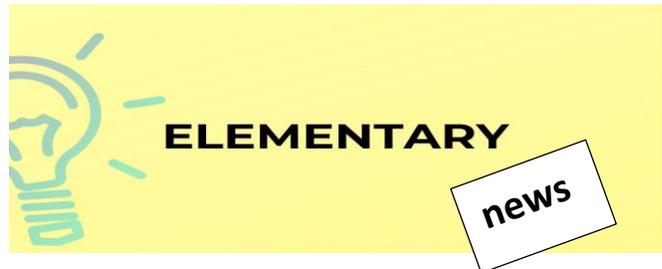
This is my 1st year teaching middle school, however it is my 3rd year in education. I started my degree program at Pittsburg State University but graduated from the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

I met my husband, Caleb, during our time at Chanute High School. We have been married for 6 years now. We have two very independent, curious and wonderful children: Leo (2.5) and Lyla (1). We also have 2 dogs: Duke and Fergus. We love hangin' out with friends and family, going on walks, and exploring the outdoors. I personally also love nature photography and baking.

I was raised in Chanute, Kansas and have lived in southeast Kansas for most of my life. I am simply a small-town girl with a big heart and a love of country living--where traditions and keeping your word mean everything.

I am beyond excited to work at Altoona Midway this year and I plan on staying here for a very long time!

Welcome to USD 387 Makayla!



Welcome to the 2021-22 school year. This year has started differently than most but our staff and students have adjusted to our new surroundings and we are excited to be back in school. I would like to thank everyone in the community and around the state for all of their support financially as well as with all of the classroom supplies. We would not be able to be as prepared for the year if wasn't for everyone's generosity. This summer my husband and I traveled to Indiana twice to see our granddaughter and her parents. We were also able to celebrate our 30th anniversary with a trip to the Ark in Kentucky. The teachers were very busy setting up their rooms and many of them attended different in-services. Our summer academy was once again well attended and gave the AMES students new experiences. We are also hoping to get back to a normal year and plan to do as many activities as we are allowed to do.

I'm looking forward to a great year and I know the teachers are ready to use what they learned this summer to improve teaching strategies and to continue giving the students the added benefits of the 21st century grant and WILD programs.

Kim Reazin

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Welcome back! We are excited to be in a new room with new and familiar faces! The preschool classes have done a great job learning the new routines and building. Being in a new room also has a few new things we are all enjoying, WINDOWS!!

We are learning how to write names, use scissors and even describe if something is a solid or liquid. The children have done a great job getting into the lessons and asking great questions. So far all the children love science, reading and block centers.

One big thing we have been really trying to work on this quarter is manners. We talk daily about being polite, asking for help, keeping our spaces clean and organized. They all have done a great job working hard using their manners or asking for help when they need it.



Fabulous in Fifth!



I want to start off with a huge thank you for everyone's kind words and contributions towards the elementary school. We are so blessed to teach in such a wonderful community. The support has been overwhelming, in a good way of course.

Students have been working on various reading skills such as cause and effect, author's purpose, inferencing, and figurative language. Our class has been reading the novel "Bridge to Terabithia" by Katherine Paterson. Students have been working on completing a comprehension packet that goes along with the reading and then will have the opportunity to watch the movie.

In science, students have been learning about how engineering and technology is used in science. We have been learning about how much technology has changed over time and the effect it has had on society. In social studies, students will be learning about how Native Americans lived, worked, and built homes and communities east of the Mississippi River in North America.

Pictured below are a few of our new friends. Usually I would say furry friends, but in this instance I will not. Our two new friends are both hairless rats. They go by the name of Ben and Jerry. Ben and Jerry both love laying in their hammock, roaming outside in the grass, and running around in their exercise ball. Both of them love being fed treats and are very spoiled by us all.

I am very excited for a great year and I hope you all are too!

- Mrs. Parra

The Middle School cheerleaders performed at their first game on Thursday night against the Marmaton Valley Wildcats. They were very excited to perform in front of a crowd and watch our football team win. We are expecting a great season ahead of us!



HIGH SCHOOL CHEER

This year the AMHS Cheer squad consists of 9 girls, 4 returning from last year and 5 that are new to the squad this year. They are Abi Elsesser, Alyssa Relph, Bailey Graham, Ava Hufford, Heather Lane, Karissa Cook, Emmalynn Pupanek, Olivia Goodwin and Sophia Dannels.

These ladies were busy over the summer learning new cheers and stunts at camp, marching in parades, and fundraising for new poms and warm-ups at Altoona's 4th of July celebration. The Jet cheerleaders also marched in the Buffalo homecoming, and ran a bake sale table. We want to thank everyone who has helped support our fundraising efforts so far!

The squad will be attending the KSHSAA Spirit Spreader on Wednesday, September 8th, and are looking forward to learning new things! Also, football season is underway, and our squad is practicing and excited to show some of our new cheers at our first home game and pep rally on Friday, September 17th!

Please watch for an apparel fundraiser from FanGear coming soon and some fun activities we are working on for October!

Let's Go Jets!!!

Coach Laura Ashmore

*****Middle School Officers*****

President: Colby Derrick

Vice President: Kody Foster

Secretary: Abigail Relph

Treasurer: Chantal Morales

6th Grade Representative: Chance Mustain

STUDENT COUNCIL

Congratulations to the 2021-2022
High School Student Council Officers



Jackson Ashmore
Treasurer

Alyssa Relph
President

Mariah Stackhouse
Vice President

Tiffany Kuhn
Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 23rd- Regional Student Council Conference at Chanute High School
- Sept. 24th - Homecoming
 - Ceremony before game at 6:45pm
 - Neon Lights Dance - after game
- Oct. 8th- Senior Night for Football and Volleyball at 6:45pm



ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Pic 1: Students are building a skeleton. No better way to learn!

Pic 2: Students learn how to apply dissection terminology by dissecting A LIVE POTATO.

Here by the Owl



Ag Education with Mr. Batzer

It is definitely an exciting time to be back in the classroom. I am thrilled to be the new Ag Education teacher at AMHS, and am looking forward to getting to know all of you in the upcoming year. But for starters, let's dive into what's been going on in the Ag Education department.

2021 Altoona-Midway FFA Greenhand Team



Middle school Ag Explorations and 9th grade Agriscience are studying the foundations of FFA as the freshmen prepare for the upcoming Greenhand Leadership Conference on September 23rd. Agribusiness students are becoming acquainted with the many career opportunities that are available in agriculture. Welding and Ag Fabrication students are finishing up basic shop safety and preparing to make the jump to the shop.

The Altoona-Midway FFA just had our first chapter meeting of the year, and it was very productive. The officer team is starting to work on the program of activities (POA) for the year, fundraisers are just around the corner (Riverstar fruits and meats, ½ pig raffle, etc), and a group of volunteers will be helping out at Old Iron Days on September 23rd. Other things on the table for discussion are a possible trip to the FFA National Convention, a makeover for the main entrance to the Ag Education building, and a Meet-and-Greet BBQ for an evening of good ol' fashioned fun and fellowship.

That about sums up the beginning of the year craziness that is Ag Education and FFA. It only gets busier from here on out, but that's why I love it! Thank you so much for supporting the program and the FFA chapter. Keep an eye out on the Facebook page (Altoona-Midway FFA) as September is going to be full of activities and announcements of things to come.

Adios and Happy Trails,
Mr. Batzer



August Approved BOE Minutes

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1552560/Official_Minutes_Aug_9_2021.pdf

Flu vaccines will be Tuesday, October 5th for all students and staff. If they have not signed up to get the vaccine, they can get a form in the office. Forms need to be filled out, signed, and returned by September 21st.

September Lunch Menu

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1522476/September_2021_Menu.pdf