



# ALLIANCE CITY SCHOOLS

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## Superintendent's Message



Greetings Aviator Nation,

It is November and winter weather will quickly be upon us. However, before we begin full fledged preparation for the Northeast Ohio winter, let's take some time to celebrate what many people are calling the best opening of an academic school year for the Alliance City School District in over 30 years. Smooth starts are the result of months of hard work and planning along with the efforts of many teams and individuals. I would like to thank all of the teachers, support staff, principals and district administrators for the many hours they spent preparing buildings, classrooms, buses, cafeterias, parking lots and playgrounds for the ar-

rival of our students and staff.

I would also like to thank our community partners who sponsored several events designed to support our students and families with back to school preparations such as school supplies and clothing for the year. It truly does take a village and our village has once again proven that it is up to the challenge.

During the 2018/19 school year, we will continue to focus on building a district culture that supports high performance, strong leadership and caring citizenship. We will accomplish this by collectively working to be intentional, purpose-driven and by continuing to hold each other accountable for living our core values every day.

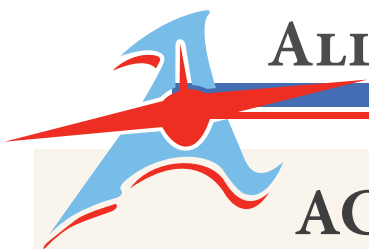
Recently, the Stark County Health Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the results of a survey that was given to students in several districts throughout the county. Last spring our students in grades 7-12 partic-

ipated in the survey and the results pointed to several areas of concern. Our staff will continue to review the data and develop plans to support the social and emotional needs of all students. With that being said, the issues facing our students are larger than our district and will take a full community effort to solve. I am asking everyone reading this newsletter to continue to listen to our youngest community members and to report all concerns to the proper authorities.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will find valuable information about our students, staff and programming. We appreciate your interest and continued support of our district and wish you a safe and enjoyable ending to 2018.

**Go Aviators!**

Jeffery Talbert  
Superintendent



## ACS Focuses on Reading and Writing

New reading curriculums were introduced at the beginning of the school year. Wonders, from McGraw Hill, was introduced to grades 2-5 and My Perspectives, from Pearson, was introduced to grades 6-8.

"We took into account the appropriateness, the needs of each level when choosing the curriculums," said Christine Gibowicz, director of curriculum. "We had a Curriculum Review Committee that determined that these were the best materials to fit the needs of our students."

Wonders is a comprehensive literacy program for students in grades 2-5, meaning it focuses on providing the students with a well-rounded reading education. It has five areas of focus: reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar and the use of technology to learn.

myPerspectives focuses on many of the same aspects as Wonders, with the addition of a research element.

Since each student grades 2-12 has his or her own electronic device, they are able to use the online programs for the new curriculum with ease. The online elements allow students to access books and assignments that go along with the

lessons.

While AHS does not have a new curriculum like grades 2-8, there is an added emphasis on vocabulary.

Preschool through first grade teachers are taking part in an intensive learning program called Language Essentials for Teaching Reading and Spelling (LETRS) to better teach and prepare the younger students.

A major element in the new curriculum for all grade levels is coaching for the teachers. It allows them to learn the best way to teach reading and writing material and to assist the students.

"The coaching aspect has been essential to helping teachers learn all the aspects of the new curriculum," Gibowicz said.

Along with the main curriculums, there is also Read 180, reading assistance offered to students in need of additional help.

Beginning in preschool and ending as the students graduate high school, the curriculum and special reading instruction helps students to improve in reading and writing.

## ACS Upcoming Events

### Nov. 12

AELS Parent/Teacher Conferences  
AHS Veterans Day Assembly - 1:30 p.m.

### Nov. 13

Parkway Parent/Teacher Conferences - 3:30 p.m.  
Rockhill Parent/Teacher Conferences - 3:30 p.m.  
ADA/Altitude Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences - 4 p.m.

### Nov. 15

AHS EBC Honors Choir Festival  
ADA/Altitude Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences - 4 p.m.

### Nov. 20

Board of Education Meeting @ the Castle - 6 p.m.

### Nov. 22-23

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

### Dec. 6

AHS Government Classes to State House

### Dec. 7

Parkway Danish with Dads - 8:25 a.m.  
Rockhill Danish with Dads - 8:25 a.m.  
Second Quarter Interims Distributed

### Dec. 8

AHS National ACT Test Date

### Dec. 13

AHS Jostens Collection Day

### Dec. 18

Jetsetters to the Elementary Schools - 8 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.  
Board of Education Meeting @ the Castle - 6 p.m.

### Dec. 22-Jan. 1

NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

### Jan. 4

AHS ACT Registration Deadline

### Jan. 12

AHS Royal Aviation Competition

### Jan. 15

Board of Education Meeting @ the Castle - 6 p.m.

### Jan. 17

Rockhill First Semester Student of the Month Dinner - 6 p.m.

### Jan. 18

End of Second Quarter  
AHS Top Gun Tournament

### Jan. 19

AHS Top Gun Tournament

### Jan. 21

NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### Jan. 25

Second Quarter Report Cards Distributed

### Jan. 31

AHS Scheduling Night

# Alliance Spreads Awareness of Suicide Prevention

ACS has been raising awareness about suicide prevention in a number of ways over the last few months.

Last year, the county was listed as having a suicide contagion by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after the number of suicides reached double digits. ACS believes the best way to prevent suicide is to raise awareness and prevent social isolation.

The district took part in the "Start with Hello" initiative, also known as the Sandy Hook Promise, during the week of Sept. 24-28. The initiative included activities and discussions among grades 2-12 about what social isolation is and how they can help to make other students feel included.

"We want the students to be aware of social isolation," said Allison Morrison, a guidance counselor at AHS. "We want them to take the blinders off and be aware of students who may feel isolated."

Therapy dogs have been introduced to the middle school and high school a few days a week.

These dogs are beneficial because they teach students compassion, empathy, responsibility, respect and self-discipline.

A relaxation room called Turbo's Retreat was donated to the high school by Coastal Pet Products. It is a calming room filled with relaxing elements such as furniture, a lavender diffuser and a small water feature. Students who are feeling depressed, anxious or just need to take a break can spend some time in the room by themselves or speaking with one of the guidance counselors.

"Depression, suicide, anxiety- it does not have any type of prejudice. It affects everyone. Many of our kids have really utilized this space," Morrison said.

Students are always encouraged to reach out to their teachers or guidance counselors if they feel the need to talk, are feeling depressed, anxious or thinking of harming themselves. Spreading awareness of suicide and social isolations is the best way to help the students in the district.

## ACS Takes Precaution

The district has been taking a number of precautions to ensure the safety of all the students as it is and will remain our number one priority.

One of the most noticeable security measures is the Raptor Visitor Management system located in each building. This system requires visitors to present a valid driver's license to enter the building.

"The system makes sure everyone signing in and going through the building are who they say they are and are here for official business," said Jason Dixon, the assistant superintendent.

More than 180 new security cameras have been added throughout the district to ensure the safety of the students.

"We realized we had some spots inside and outside our buildings that were not covered currently," Dixon said. "We now have digital access to all those spots instantly."

New magnetized monitors have been added to emergency exits in the buildings to alert the office if those doors are ever opened.

A new swipe card system has been installed on all of the buses for grades 1-5. Each student has a card they have to use to get on and off the bus. The system helps the bus drivers take attendance and to ensure each student gets to where they are supposed to safely.

Stop the Bleeding training, a trauma care training, is being offered to teachers and staff throughout the district.

An anonymous tip system called Say Something which is a county wide initiative will be going live at the end of this month and will allow students and staff in the district to report anything from bullying to safety threats. This system will be linked with local and county law enforcement agencies.

### *Vision*

All Aviators will graduate prepared for life, college and careers.

### *Mission*

Our mission is for all students to reach their fullest potential and become productive citizens through staff who establish high expectations, a safe, positive and engaging learning environment, and content that supports critical thinking collaboration, communication and creativity.





## Investment Alliance Scholars Finding Success

Four years ago, the creation of the Investment Alliance Scholarship, a full tuition scholarship to the University of Mount Union, was announced. The scholarship is awarded to the top 15 students in each graduating class and encourages them to stay in the community after high school.

The seven scholars from the inaugural class graduated from Mount Union in the class of 2018. Each scholar is using his or her education from ACS and Mount Union to further themselves on their future endeavors.

Emily Ault turned her passion for caring for others into a career as a nurse at Aultman Alliance Community Hospital in the Progressive Care Unit.

William Draves is currently serving in the Peace Corps for the next two years in Namibia, Africa. His passions for helping others, traveling and learning about new cultures has led him to be a secondary math educator.

Cheyenne Gonzales is the new communications liaison for ACS where she manages the social media accounts, website and lets the community know what is happening in the district.

Gaston Marian is working in software development for the



Huntington Bank corporate office in Columbus. In college he developed a love for traveling and looks forward to being able to travel in the future.

Samuel Rodman currently works for Disney in California as a mail handler. While he is no longer taking classes, continuing to study a variety of topics is his number one priority.

Kelby Smith works for Mount Union as the assistant director of brand marketing. In her position, she is responsible for administering brand-related initiatives to the university.

Michael Unckrich works in

guest relations at the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He is happy to be able to continue to live in Alliance and to continue to support the community.

While not all of the graduated scholars stayed in Alliance, they are grateful to be a part of the inaugural class of Investment Alliance Scholars.

## Career Center Update

The Alliance Career Center (ACC) is now enrolling students for Medical Assisting, Practical Nursing and STNA classes. Medical Assisting and Practical Nursing classes begin Jan. 14, 2019. Practical Nursing classes will run Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and the Medical Assisting program will run Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. A new STNA class is also offered every four weeks. The next STNA class starts Nov. 26. Additionally, ACC is now enrolling students for all fall programs. To receive more information or to schedule a tour, please call 330-829-2267 or visit [www.acctw.org](http://www.acctw.org).



# Surviving Alliance Horror Story

The students at Alliance High School were greeted by haunting decorations as they entered the homecoming dance on Saturday, Oct. 13.

The theme, Alliance Horror Story, gave AHS a whole new meaning. Spiders, gravestones and scary creatures filled the lobby as the students enjoyed refreshments before making their way to the gym to dance the night away.

“I was very pleased with how the Student Senate members worked to bring the theme to life,” said Elizabeth Davis, a spanish teacher at AHS and a coordinator for the Homecoming dance. “It is rewarding to have the dance attendees in awe as they walk into the lobby. Our goal is to make them feel like they aren’t at school but instead are transported to another place for the dance.”

Queen Ki’Errah Martin and King Cameron Cox received their titles on Friday, Oct. 12 at the Homecoming game along with senior court members Allison Wagonner and Devyn Jones, junior court members Kate Boehm and Moe Thompson, sophomore court members Olivia Franks and Andrew Datz and freshmen court members Rustina Torrez and Jay’Ron Thomas.

Student Senate, which sponsors the dance, spent 10 hours decorating the lobby and hallway leading to the gym to provide their fellow students with a frightfully fun experience. A Personal Touch decorating service provided the main decorations including a mock cemetery, alien and grim reaper. The balloons for the balloon drop and the giant balloon spider were done by Just For Fun Balloon Art.

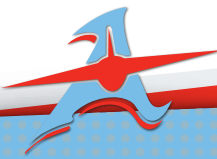


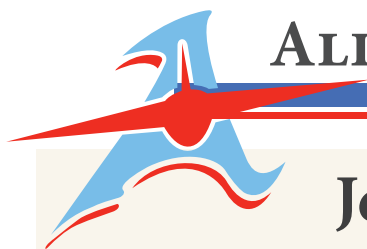
## EVERY AVIATOR, EVERY DAY

*Reppin' That*



VALUE	BEHAVIOR	OUTCOME
HIGH PERFORMANCE We teach and learn at high levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Think before we act</li><li>•Own our work</li><li>•Learn, Improve, Succeed</li></ul>	All Aviators reach maximum Altitude
LEADERSHIP We are engaged in the learning process at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Be on target</li><li>•Follow through on what we say</li><li>•Act decisively</li></ul>	All Aviators influence the course of others positively
CARING CITIZENS We treat all people with respect and dignity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Seek first to understand</li><li>•Speak our truth - even when it's hard</li><li>•Care for and support those around us</li></ul>	All Aviators earn trust





## Jetsetter Alumni Soared Once Again



The inaugural Jetsetter Alumni Cabaret was held on Saturday, Oct. 13, at Jupiter Studios. The show choir alumni from over the years attended to perform once again and to continue their support of the program.

Nothing was off limits when it came to the performances. Disney songs to modern music to popular musicals, all were enjoyed by the audience.

"I think it was a great night of reflection," said Seth McConnell, a 2013 graduate and MC for the evening. "We got to bring back old memories and relax."



Each performer told their favorite memory from their days as a Jetsetter. The audience spent the evening laughing at old memories and enjoying the heartfelt messages the alumni shared.

"To tell you the truth, I don't think I would be standing here without Miss Chumat," Kofi Amponsah, a 2014 graduate, said.

Amponsah was recently signed to a record deal and credits much of his passion for music to the program and the encouragement he received from it.



The night was a way for Chumat, the Alliance High School choir teacher, to reconnect with former students. She wanted to make sure the past Jetsetters still maintained their connection to music.

"Music is very powerful," Chumat said. "I'm so glad I got to



share it with so many different people in so many different ways."

The Jetsetters have been around since the 1986-87 academic year. When Chumat took over in 2010, she introduced the show choir to competitions beginning in the 2012-13 school year. Since then, the choir has performed in a number of com-

petitions over the years and has received a variety of awards and recognitions.

AHS will be hosting its inaugural show choir competition on Jan. 12. The competition, appropriately titled "Royal Aviation Competition," already has a number of schools signed up to participate.



### ACS Winter Music Schedule

**Northside Winter Concert** - Wednesday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m. - AHS Auditorium

**Parkway Winter Concert** - Thursday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. - AHS Auditorium

**Alliance Middle School Winter Arts Night** - Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m. - AMS

**Rockhill Winter Concert** - Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m. - AHS Auditorium

**AHS Choir & Orchestra Winter Concert** - Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m. - AHS Auditorium

**AHS Band Winter Concert** - Thursday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. - AHS Auditorium



## Staff Spotlight

### Kim Gang and Renee McDaniel

Kim Gang, a district bus driver, and Renee McDaniel, an aide, are both dedicated employees of the district. Gang and McDaniel were diligent while working and witnessed an incident that could have had negative consequences. They reported the incident immediately, allowing the situation to be handled in the best way possible. The district is grateful for their hard work and to have such vigilant employees who put the safety of the students above all else.



Kim Gang



Renee McDaniel

## Team Spotlight

### Tech Resource Teachers (TRTs)

The Tech Resource Teachers (TRTs) are responsible for getting all the tech equipment ready, running and distributed at the beginning of the school year. It's not an easy job to get all the technology in the district up and running, but our TRTs did a fantastic job helping the district to start another successful year. They are instrumental to the district not just at the beginning of school, but throughout the academic year as they provide new technology and technological assistance.

The TRTs being recognized are Misty Sampson, Jon Smith, Maxine Middleton, Wendy Hubbard, Kim Frazier and Caitlin Driscoll.



Misty Sampson



Jon Smith



Maxine Middleton



Wendy Hubbard



Kim Frazier



Caitlin Driscoll

## Teacher Spotlight

### Amy Latsch, math teacher at AHS

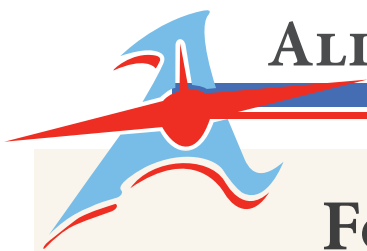
Amy Latsch, a math teacher at AHS, recently received the Buck Martin Award at the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference. The prestigious award is given away each year at the conference to one teacher in the state of Ohio who has shown themselves to be an exemplary secondary teacher. ACS is proud to have Mrs. Latsch as a member of the Aviator team.



Amy Latsch







## Four Honored as Distinguished Alumni

Four ACS graduates were inducted into the ranks of Distinguished Alumni on Oct. 1 at Alliance High school. **Robert L. Benjamin, John Blebea, MD,** the late **Dr. Wilton Eckley** and the late **Ernest S. Prince** were the four inductees.

"Your selection puts you among an elite group of Aviators," said Shawn Jackson, principal at AHS. "Alliance graduates have been leaving their mark on our planet for over a hundred years, yet only 96 individuals have been ranked among the distinguished. Your names are going to be added to this list this morning."

Benjamin, a 1969 graduate, is an artist who found his life's passion painting New Mexico's landscapes. His art has been shown in a number of galleries and private collections.

A 1974 graduate, Blebea has dedicated his life to medicine.

After graduating from Alliance, he attended Brown University followed by Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland before completing his intern-

**"Alliance graduates have been leaving their mark on our planet for over a hundred years, yet only 96 individuals have been ranked among the distinguished. Your names are going to be added to this list this morning."**

*- Shawn Jackson, principal at AHS*

ship and residency at Georgetown University Hospital.

Eckley's honor was accepted on his behalf by his son, Doug Eckley. He was a gifted trumpet player and continued to hold his passion for music throughout his lifetime. The 1947 graduate

went on to further his education at Mount Union College, Pennsylvania State University and Case Western University. He was a well respected edu-

cator throughout his life.

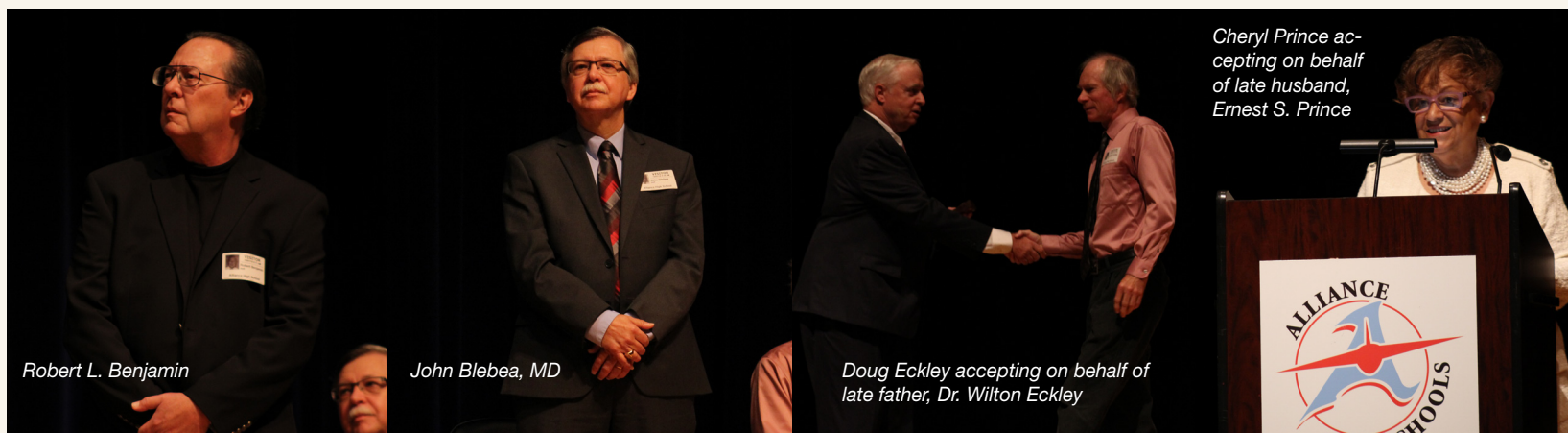
Cheryl Prince accepted the honor on behalf of her late husband. Prince was the 1960 senior class president. He went on to graduate from Baldwin Wallace University. Shortly after graduating, he began his career

with the Urban League. Prince had a passion for social justice and spent his life advocating on behalf of African Americans.

The ceremony was held during

the day to allow all students to see that they too can succeed as the hundred distinguished alumni have.

"What I want you to know," Jackson said. "Is that when you are an Aviator, the sky's the limit."



Robert L. Benjamin

John Blebea, MD

Doug Eckley accepting on behalf of late father, Dr. Wilton Eckley

Cheryl Prince accepting on behalf of late husband, Ernest S. Prince