



ALLIANCE CITY SCHOOLS

VOLUME 6: ISSUE 3 • FALL 2019

In This Issue

- 02 Esports Team Forms at AHS
Northside Receives New Name
- 03 A Colorful Way to Fundraise
Every Aviator Every Day is
Reppin' That A
- 04 Habitat Partners with AHS
"Signing the Song" A
Performance to Remember
- 05 Winter Music Schedule
ACS Upcoming Events
- 06 Success on the Soccer Field
There's No Place Like
Homecoming
- 07 ACS Updates Len Dawson
Field
- 08 Staff Spotlight
Team Spotlight
Teacher Spotlight

Superintendent's Message



Greetings Aviator Nation,

The start of the 2019-2020 school year was outstanding, and I just want to take the time to thank the students, parents and staff members for making it the best one yet. It's November already and so many amazing things have happened in the last few months. Our schools are showing academic excellence across the board and we hope to continue with the upward trend through the rest of the school year. Our students are all very bright and our teachers are caring and work hard to ensure each student realizes their potential and has the support they need to succeed.

This year, we will be emphasizing the importance of attending school every single day. A student who misses just 10% of school

has a harder time learning to read and keeping up in their classes. With our new Community Attendance Response Team, we are hoping to decrease the number of students who are categorized as being chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism, by definition, is when a student misses more than 10% of school days for any reason. Remember: Being here every day is Reppin' that A!

The athletic teams have started off the year strong. The AHS Boys' Soccer team earned the EBC Co-Championship after a phenomenal season. The AMS football teams had an outstanding season with both the 7th and 8th grade teams winning EBC championships. In the final game of the season, the AHS varsity football team defeated Marlinton High School to win the EBC championship for the third year in a row. I look forward to seeing what successes the winter and spring seasons will hold.

Here at Alliance City Schools, we value our culture. We encourage supporting each other, maintaining above the line responses and following the district profile to be

the best Aviators we can possibly be. One trait we encourage is caring citizenship. Right before the start of the school year, we had five young men show what a true Aviator is by helping a community member in need. I would like to personally commend Isaiah Cameron-Pow, Aidan Mozden, Braylon Nicholson, Kamden Jones and Dominic Dunson for being outstanding citizens. We strive everyday to be role models for our students, but it's even better when the students become role models themselves.

Within the pages of this newsletter, you will find information about upcoming events and all the exciting things that have been happening so far this year. I am proud to be the superintendent of Alliance City Schools and to lead the Aviators through another successful school year. Keep Reppin' that A.

As always, go Aviators!

Jeffery Talbert
Superintendent



ESports Team Forms at AHS

An ESport team has been added to the list of activities offered to students at Alliance High School. Coached by David Hammers, the team is doing well in its first season.

The ESports team is split between four games: Overwatch, Rocket League, League of Legends and Super Smash Brothers. There is a potential for each game to have a varsity team and JV team along with alternate players, similar to a traditional athletic team. Students are able to play one game or multiple games.

Alliance is one of 68 teams to take part in Ohio's ESports league. Just like an athletic team, the ESports team plays against other schools. There is the possibility for the teams to go to state championships and win the league.



"It's another way to get kids involved in school and afterschool activities," Hammers said. "Some of these kids wouldn't be involved in other things. They're not traditional athletes or they're not interested in music. It's another avenue to get kids involved. I think it's a great thing."

The league came about with the help of Daniel Cherry. He approached Superintendent Jeffery Talbert with the idea of creating an ESports team at AHS. ESports have grown in popularity over the last few years, and teams have been forming in many high schools and colleges.

"Colleges are building teams, you know," Hammers said. "Mount Union's on their first year, so we're right there with them."

With the fall season coming to an end, the ESports team will be focusing on fundraising and preparing for the spring season. In the future, Hammers hopes to open up the team to eighth-grade students and to even create a youth club to teach kids how to play these games at a younger age so they are ready to compete when they reach high school.

Northside Receives New Name

In a unanimous vote at the August Board of Education Meeting held on Aug. 20, the Alliance Board of Education approved the name change for the district's intermediate school.

Formerly Northside Intermediate School, Alliance Intermediate School at Northside (AIS) will begin transitioning to its new name this school year. The decision was made following a community forum held in July and after much consideration from the Board of Education.

Ultimately the decision was made to better align the school's name with the others in the district. The schools that house all students of the same grade levels in the district begin with Alliance – Alliance High School, Alliance Middle School and Alliance Early Learning School. The exceptions are Rockhill Elementary School and Parkway Elementary School; two separate buildings for students in first through third grade. AIS houses all fourth and fifth-grade students in the district similarly to the high school,

middle school and early learning school.

It was decided to keep Northside as part of the school's name to maintain the history of the school.

"This was a decision we, at Alliance City Schools, have been considering for some time," said Jeffery Talbert, superintendent. "Renaming Northside to Alliance Intermediate School helps to unite the buildings in the district; however, we feel it is important

and necessary to maintain the history of the building and school itself by keeping Northside as part of the name. I believe this is a positive change for the intermediate school and for the district."

There is no cost to changing the name of the school. The old letterhead and business cards will be used until they are gone before providing new letterhead and business cards to the faculty and staff with the school's new name.

A Colorful Way to Fundraise

The Alliance High School chapter of SkillsUSA hosted the inaugural Color Splash Fund Run on Sunday, Oct. 6 with over 120 people taking part in the event.

Donning white shirts, the participants gathered at Silver Park. The event began with participants being sprayed with liquid color as they ran, or walked, around the park. The finish line is where the color splash occurred. Each participant received a color packet at the registration table. Once the participants completed the race, they threw the colored powder in the air. Each person was covered from head to toe in bright splashes of color.

“I think everyone had fun,” said Kim Woodruff, event organizer. “I know I did.”

Led by Woodruff, the pre-medical professions teacher at AHS, the run acted as a fundraiser for SkillsUSA, a national organization for students in Career Tech programs. The money raised will help fund social activities and future competition fees.

The pre-medical professions, interactive media and sports medicine students were the ones to help organize and volunteer at the run. There are already plans in the works for next year’s Color Splash Fund Run. While the run is just for fun and untimed, there is the possibility of stopwatches being added to next year’s event for those who wish to record their time.

“We want this to be more of a type of festival event where there are other activities,” Woodruff said.

She would like to make the event bigger and better next year, but she couldn’t be happier with how the first year went.

“Overall, Robb Quicci, the SkillsUSA co-advisor, and I were really excited about the turnout this year and how smooth it went,” she said. “We love that our event got the community outdoors and moving.”



Every Aviator Every Day is Reppin’ That A

The new school year brings with it a new attendance initiative. This year, the district is planning new ways to encourage all students to attend school every day.

A student is labeled chronically absent when they have missed at least 10% of school days for any reason. Whether an absence is excused or unexcused does not matter. It’s the complete number of days missed that leads to a student being labeled chronically absent.

ACS understands there are extenuating circumstances for some absences. The district has services in place to assist in

ensuring all students are at school everyday. If a parent needs assistance getting their child to school, they are encouraged to reach out to their child’s principal to inquire about the services available.

To help with the attendance initiative, the district is in the process of creating a Community Attendance Response Team to assist in ensuring all students make it to school each day. This team will be dedicated to identifying the factors keeping students out of school and working with the students and families to overcome the barriers. It is important that

students are in school every day. Missing just 10% of the school year can negatively impact a student’s academic performance and make it harder for them to keep up in their classes.

In an effort to help identify students who are chronically absent, the schools will start sending postcards to the parents of students who are chronically absent or are on the verge of being chronically absent. The postcards will serve as a reminder to parents to encourage their children to attend school everyday. Postcards will also be sent to parents whose child has

attended school regularly or increased their attendance rate drastically. ACS wants to positively encourage all students to attend school so they can thrive and be the best Aviators they can be.





Habitat Partners with AHS

Alliance High School recently partnered with the Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity (AAHFH) to create a chapter at Alliance. Currently, AHS is the only high school chapter in Ohio.



Normally, Habitat partners with colleges, but through the efforts of numerous people in the district and AAHFH Executive Director Niki McIlvain, the chapter came to fruition at the beginning of the school year. Led by advisor Brian Swank, the chapter consists of students from three career tech programs – construction trades, interactive media and media arts. The AHS organization will assist with the marketing material, coverage of Habitat events and constructing sheds that will be donated to the families who receive the houses.

Swank believes this is a great opportunity for the students at AHS to get involved in the community and learn what it means to be a caring citizen and to give back to the city they have grown up in. The students will also be learning valuable hands-on experience in their respective fields whether that be construction, marketing or design.

“We’re getting the educational abilities and global skills, the global competency of the people skills, the community service.” Swank said about the benefits of having a chapter at AHS. “They will be interacting with the community and networking. There’s so many upsides for us.”

Each year, one construction trade student will be the president of the AHS chapter. Senior Brandon Maistros was selected as the first president. He is excited to be a part of an organization he has always been

passionate about.

“I have a lot of history with Habitat,” Maistros said. “When I saw Habitat was doing work with students, I just kind of jumped on it.”

Swank is excited to see how this program will go over the next few years.

“I’ve got a passion for building and a passion for this project,” Swank said.

“Signing the Song” A Performance to Remember

On Oct. 16, William Martinez took to the stage at Alliance High School with his performance of “Signing the Song: You Have Changed My Life.” Written and performed by Martinez himself, the story details his life growing up in a deaf family as a hearing child.



Martinez is the son of a deaf mother and a hearing father. When he was young, his parents separated and he lived with his mother. His first language was American Sign Language (ASL). Growing up, he attended numerous schools. He lived a lonely and silent life. All he wanted was to be noticed, to be heard and to belong. That was until middle school when he met the teacher that would change his life. Norma Freeman was his choir teacher, and she is the one that told him he was a singer and encouraged him to follow his newfound passion. He credits her for saving him from the darkness, for changing the path he was on.

“It wasn’t until college that I realized the only reason I was where I was at was because of one person, my eighth-grade choir teacher, Miss Norma Freeman,” Martinez said.

Martinez is now a motivational speaker. He travels the country performing “Signing the Song” for educators and students. His performance at AHS included choir students from Alliance Intermediate School, Alliance Middle School and AHS.

“What I loved most about this experience was really the partnership with Mrs. Chumat,” Martinez said. “I think it’s so exciting to see a teacher who is passionate around trying new things and exposing her students to different cultures, different languages and also trusting that the community would get something out of my unique story.”

The inspirational performance is one that the audience will remember, especially the student who took part in the show.

“This was such a powerful experience for our students, I am grateful to work in a district as open-minded, inclusive and supportive as Alliance City Schools,” said Carrie Chumat, choir director at AHS. “The students really enjoyed reaching past the barriers of disability and opening their eyes, minds and hearts to something new and different through ASL. It was an incredibly moving experience to be a part of, and I appreciate all the support to make the evening a success.”

Before Martinez took to the stage, choir students had the opportunity to perform in an open mic night event in the lobby followed by a single song performance from each of the choirs in attendance.

Winter Music Schedule

Alliance Intermediate School Winter Concert

Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. - AHS Auditorium

Parkway Elementary School Winter Concert

Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m. - AHS Auditorium

Alliance Middle School Winter Arts Night

Dec. 10, 6-8:30 p.m. - AMS

Rockhill Elementary School Winter Concert

Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m. - AHS Auditorium

Alliance High School Choir & Orchestra Winter Concert

Dec. 16, 7 p.m. - AHS Auditorium

Alliance High School Winter Band Concert

Dec. 19, 7 p.m. - AHS Auditorium



ACS Upcoming Events

Nov. 19

Board of Education Meeting @ AMS - 6 p.m.

Nov. 20

English Department Blood Drive
AHS Fall Sports Awards Night - 6 p.m.

Nov. 21

ADA Thanksgiving Feast

Nov. 27-29

Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 3

BOE Workshop

Dec. 4

AIS Winter Concert - 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 5

Parkway Winter Concert - 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 6

Second 9 Weeks Intereims Distributed

Dec. 10

AMS Winter Arts Night - 6-8:30 p.m.

Dec. 11

Rockhill Winter Concert - 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 16

AHS Choir & Orchestra Concert - 7 p.m.

Dec. 17

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

Dec. 19

AHS Band Winter Concert - 7 p.m.

Dec. 23 - Jan. 3

Winter Break

Jan. 7

Geography Bee - 6 p.m.

Jan. 11

Royal Aviation Show Choir Competition

Jan. 16

Early Dismissal
8th Grade/Rising Freshmen Meeting -
6:30 p.m. @ AHS

Jan. 17

Top Gun Wrestling Tournament
End of Second 9-weeks
Teacher Day - No Students

Jan. 18

Top Gun Wrestling Tournament

Jan. 20

Martin Luther King Day - No School

Jan. 21

Board Meeting @ The Castle - 6 p.m.

Jan. 24

Second 9 Weeks Report Cards Distributed

Feb. 11

City Wide Spelling Bee - 6:30 p.m. @ AMS

Feb. 14

AMS Navigators Valentine's Dance -
6:30 p.m.
Third 9 Weeks Interims Distributed

Feb. 15

AHS Winter Homecoming - 7 p.m.

Feb. 17

Presidents' Day - No School

Feb. 18

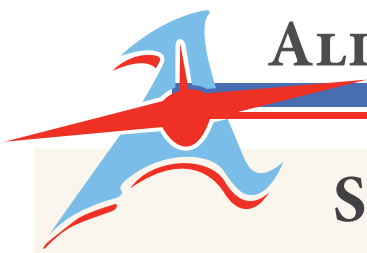
Board Meeting @ AIS - 6 p.m.

Feb. 20

Cosmetology Hair-A-Thon - noon-6 p.m.
AHS Parent/Teacher Conferences -
4-7 p.m.

Feb. 21

AHS & AMS Science Alliance



Success on the Soccer Field

The Alliance High School Girls' Soccer team had an incredible season this year, perhaps even the best season since the sport began in 1993 at AHS.

This year, the team was a combination of experienced upperclassmen, talented freshmen and even a couple of players who were new to the sport. The talents of each player, their dedication to the sport and their drive to win is what sets this year apart from others.

"I was very proud of the season the girls had," said Matthew Horning, head coach for the team. "They earned the respect of many teams. Other coaches and referees were talking about Alliance Girls' Soccer and coaches were scouting our games to prepare for us."

The team started the season 7-0, the best start the Alliance Girls' Soccer team has ever seen. They ended the season with a record of 9-6-2 and a 3-1-2 for the EBC. For the first time ever, the team defeated Salem in conference play. Freshman Neveah Russell set the school record of 16 goals this season. A school record of six shutouts was also achieved by goalkeepers Corryne Phillips and LaKasja Edwards.

"I don't think when we started conditioning in June they could have imagined having a chance to play West Branch for first place in the league," Horning said. "Even though we didn't win that game, it is an experience I will not forget."

Two players, Phillips and Zariyah Board, had never played soccer before, but were recruited from



other sports. With the team losing their top 5 scorers after this year, Horning hopes to recruit more students from spring and winter sports to play in the fall. He believes there will be a talented group

of experienced players coming in with the freshmen class. Horning is preparing for next year and hoping to have just as good of a season, if not better, as this year's.

There's No Place Like Homecoming

Alliance High School transformed into the land of Oz for this year's homecoming dance held on Oct. 12. Munchkins, a yellow brick road, a hot air balloon made of balloons and photo ops with Dorothy and the Wicked Witch of the West provided the students with a true "Wizard of Oz" experience.

"I was very pleased with this year's homecoming," said Liz Davis, Student Senate advisor. "We had a good attendance and the decorations turned out how we had imagined them."

The homecoming dance is sponsored and organized each year by Student Senate. They are responsible for assisting in decorating and

ensuring all of their peers have a fun time at the dance.

"The students were amazed to see how the lobby was transformed," Davis said. "I also enjoyed the students' reactions as they entered the school."

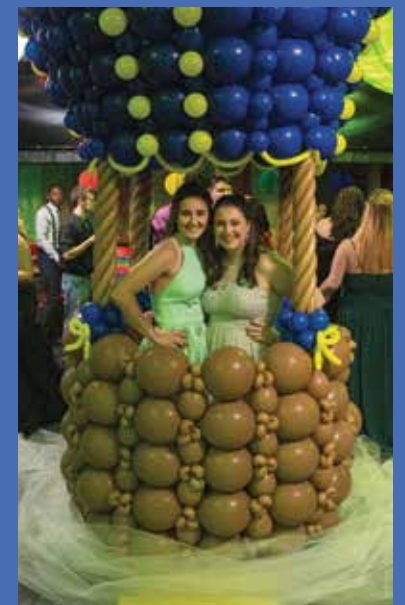
Student Senate had help from Just For Fun Balloon Art who provided the hot air balloon, tornado and gates to Oz and A personal Touch decorating company provided vignettes with figurines from the movie.

"It is always very satisfying to see how the theme comes together in the end," Davis said.

The idea for the "Wizard of Oz"

themed dance came from advisor Nicolle Boehm. It has been her favorite movie for years and she jumped at the chance to bring the film to life for the students at AHS.

Approximately 440 students attended the annual dance. Among the attendees were the 10 students selected by their peers to be court members. Announced at the Friday night Varsity football game, the Homecoming King and Queen were J'Dynn Seals and Abby Oyster. Senior court members were Ryan McKnight and Ke'Aijah Hawkins-Montgomery. Junior court members were Grant McGeehen and Kyleigh Ferrall. Sophomore court members were Jack Quinn and Kiera Miles. Freshmen court members were Jaylin Colbert and Gabrielle Hill.



ACS Updates Len Dawson Field



On Aug. 23, Alliance City Schools hosted a celebratory ribbon cutting to showcase the recent updates made to Len Dawson Field.

Many community members gathered at Len Dawson Field for the ribbon cutting. Speeches were made by Athletic Director Mike Schott, Superintendent Jeffery Talbert and Mayor Alan Andreani. Sally Ailes, BOE president, held the honor of cutting the ribbon.

To complete the celebration, the Pride of the Sky, the AHS Marching Band, performed for the crowd on the new field. It was a great night for ACS to be able to showcase the new updates to the



students, staff and community members in attendance.

The project came to fruition in the spring when the Alliance Board of Education voted unanimously for the updates to be made. Over the summer, the old sod field and track were removed to make way for the new artificial turf and updated track. The new turf will provide a safer field for the ACS athletic teams to practice and compete on. The field will be used as a practice field for the high school football teams. The Alliance Middle School football teams and the freshmen and JV football teams will host games at Len Dawson Field. The field will also be used as an alternative playing field for the AHS soccer teams.

All varsity football games will continue to be played at the University

of Mount Union.

A new track was laid at Len Dawson Field. The old track was worn down and unsafe for competition. It was a much needed update that will benefit the track team and will allow them to host home meets once again in the spring.

Along with the field and track, four stadium lights were added around the field to allow for a better visibility during evening practices and meets.



Today's Education for Tomorrow's Career

PROGRAMS OFFERED:



STNA
Practical Nursing
Welding

Cosmetology
Medical Insurance Specialist
Medical Biller

FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE!

For enrollment information, call **330.829.2267**
or visit our website at www.accrtw.org.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

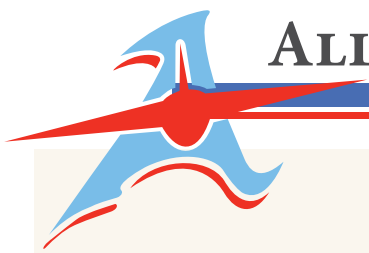


[alliance_career_center_rtw](https://www.facebook.com/alliance_career_center_rtw)



[@ACSCareerCenter](https://twitter.com/ACSCareerCenter)

ALLIANCE CAREER CENTER | 500 GLAMORGAN ST. | ALLIANCE, OH 44601



Staff Spotlight

Tana Russell

An employee of ACS for 38 years, Tana Russell is a kind-hearted and dedicated employee. Ms. Russell works in the cafeteria at Alliance High School where she is loved by her co-workers. She comes in early every day to make sure coffee is made and ready for her co-workers, she starts the laundry and opens the cafeteria before everyone else arrives at work.

"She does it out of the kindness of her heart," said Tammy Hagge, head cook.

Ms. Russell goes above and beyond what her job calls for and is always willing to help anybody in need of it. AHS and ACS is lucky to have a kind and hard-working person like her on the Aviator team.

Thank you for all you do, Ms. Russell!



Team Spotlight

Rockhill Third-Grade Teaching Staff

Over the past few years, the third-grade team at Rockhill Elementary School has significantly raised achievement. The team's students met the state indicator in math the past two years and just missed the state indicator for English Language Arts by .8% this year. The performance index for Rockhill has grown from 93.1 to 96.6 to 98.

The team consisting of veteran teachers Tracy Funk, Julie Hale, Susie McDaniel, Vickie McGeehen, Kate Morris, AnnaMae Searfoss and Joan Skidmore, along with newcomer Olivia Turney, consider themselves a family. They focus on educating the whole child and establishing and maintaining trusting positive relationships with their students to create a positive and productive work environment.

"The legacy these teachers will leave behind will be that all of their students will forever know that they cared about them, not just as learners but as people," said Michelle Balderson, Elementary School Principal.

Thank you to this amazing team for all they do for the students at Rockhill!



Teacher Spotlight

Laura Stauffer

Mrs. Stauffer has worked at Alliance City Schools for 27 years. Currently, she teaches seventh-grade social studies at Alliance Middle School. Her favorite part about being a teacher will always be the students and all of their different personalities. She enjoys working for Alliance City Schools because of the engagement and support she has received throughout the years and the fact that the district strives to use innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

Troy Russell, principal of AMS, had this to say about Mrs. Stauffer, "We are excited to spotlight Mrs. Stauffer. She is an outstanding seventh-grade social studies teacher. She makes history come alive for her students. Walking into her classroom, you will see students who are excited to learn about social studies."

Thank you for all you do, Mrs. Stauffer!

