

ALLIANCE CITY SCHOOLS

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It's Springtime, and it's a great time to be a part of the Aviator community.

As an educator, there's no better feeling than watching our seniors prepare for their graduation and watching our other students celebrate their successful completion of the school year. Our students deserve to celebrate this year. As we emerge from over two years of pandemic-related challenges and changes, they have demonstrated resilience and toughness, which will certainly help them in their lives outside of the classroom.

We're full of Aviator Pride for the many things our students and staff worked together to accomplish this year. Some of those achievements include:

- Winning the Academic Challenge Kiwanis tournament
- Qualifying at the state level in wrestling, swimming, and indoor track
- The Debate team qualifying at the national level
- The Math team placing first at the County Math Tournament
- Putting on a successful production of The Lion King, Jr.
- · Hosting a district art show
- Conducting our first-ever National Junior Honor Society induction at AMS
- Hosting the Royal Aviation Show Choir Competition
- Recognizing a distinguished alumnus during the Pathfinder Assembly
- Raising over \$17,000 for St. Baldrick's with the help of eight staff members and six students

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and our students. We believe our community is the best around, and we love living and working here. We'll always work hard to make you proud of ACS.

Rep That A!

What & Sam



Alliance City Schools Proposed PI Levy on May 3 Ballot

On May 3, residents of the Alliance City School District will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed Permanent Improvement Levy. If passed, residents will not see an increase from the proposed Permanent Improvement Levy and the Bond Levies coming off at the end of 2022.

In 1999, our community approved bond levies that allowed the district to build three new buildings - Alliance Middle School, Alliance Intermediate School (formerly Northside Elementary) and Alliance Elementary School (formally Rockhill Elementary). The bonds also covered the cost of renovations to Alliance High School, Alliance Early Learning School (formerly South Lincoln Elementary) and Parkway Learning and Development Center (formerly Parkway Elementary School).

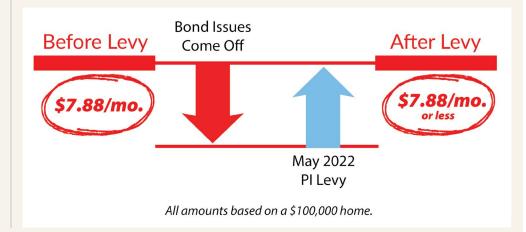
At the end of 2022, the building bonds, or mortgages, will be paid off by the district, and the taxes will come off. Currently, homeowners pay \$7.88 a month for every \$100,000 of home value. The proposed Permanent Improvement Levy will take the place of the bonds when they end in 2022 and will not go into effect until 2023, after the bond levies have come off.

If the Permanent Improvement Levy passes, the district will receive approximately \$842,000 annually for projects that are permanent in nature, meaning they will last a minimum of five years. The proposed Permanent Improvement Levy is a continuous levy, which means if approved, the district will not have to go through the renewal process.

The money can be used to replace parking lots, sidewalks, curbs, roofs, flooring, buses and upgrade HVAC systems. The money from this levy will not and cannot be used for salary and benefits, athletic programs,

or curriculum and instruction. The purpose of a Permanent Improvement Levy is to ensure a district is able to maintain its buildings and items permanent in nature.

"Visitors come into the buildings and are often amazed at how nice and well maintained our buildings are, even our oldest buildings at Parkway, Alliance Early Learning School and Alliance High School," said Rob Gress, superintendent of Alliance City Schools. "Our goal is to be able to continue maintaining our beautiful buildings should the levy pass in May."



Upcoming Events

April 29

Fourth Quarter Interims Distributed

April 30

AHS Band Dinner Dance

May 2

Senior Scholarship and Career Commitment Night, 7 p.m.

May 3

No School

May 4

AHS Top 10% Banquet, 6 p.m.

May 5

AMS Spring Arts Night, 6-8:30 p.m.

May 6

AMS Top 10% Banquet, 6 p.m.

May 10

AHS Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m.

May 1

AMS NJHS Induction Ceremony, 7 p.m.

May 12

AHS Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.

May 14

AHS Jetsetter Cabaret, 7 p.m.

May 17

ACS Board of Education Meeting, 6 p.m.

May 17

AHS Spring Choir Concert, 7 p.m.

May 18

Last Day for Seniors

May 22

AHS Commencement, 2 p.m.

May 25

AHS Spring Sports Awards, 6 p.m.

May 25

AIS Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony

May 27

Last Day for Students

May 27

AMS Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremony, 8:30 a.m.



AHS National Honor Society Inducts 38 Members

The National Honor Society (NHS) at Alliance High School (AHS) hosted its annual induction ceremony on Monday, March 21, with 38 new members joining its ranks.

"We are gathered here to formally recognize those students who have been selected by the faculty of our school for successfully completing their candidacy and are being inducted as new members of our NHS chapter," said Patrick Burse, senior NHS member.

To be inducted into NHS, students must go through an application process to express their interest in joining NHS. Faculty members provide feedback on the potential candidates and select those they believe to be hard-working students who make a positive contribution to the school community.

The candidates must exhibit the four pillars of NHS - Scholarship, Leadership, Character and Service. During the ceremony, each inductee has the opportunity to show which pillar they resonate with by lighting their candle from one of the cer-

emonial candles representing the four pillars.

"Students, what else can I say to you other than 'great job," said Rob Gress, superintendent of schools.

"Sometimes you all make it look very easy—balancing your academic work, balancing all the service that you do; all the leadership activities balancing it all while also having good character. You make it look easy, but we know better. We appreciate your hard work, and we're very very proud of your hard work, but most of all, we're glad you're at Alliance."

As each inductee was called to the stage, they were presented with a key from a se-

nior member of NHS, signifying their acceptance into the society.

The following students were inducted into NHS during the 2022 ceremony: Julia Aldea, Katrina Asano, Olivia Bertolini, Jailyn Billings, Kaitlyn Bondoni, Carter Bugara, Kiernan Canavan, Shyann Craig, CaliAnn England, Olivia George, Isabella Guappone, Mackenzie Heslop, Gabrielle Hill, Megan Hippely, Rylee Horning, Zachary Kinser, Austin Leech, Mavry Maistros, Samantha Martin, Cameryn Mulally, Camden Nicholson, Dymond Oesch, Tabitha Poindexter, Emma Reese, Ramsey Reith, Holden Robinson, Bridgette Runion, Jordan Schwartz, Ashton Stutler, Abiegail Thomas, Caprice Thomas, Cade Ulbricht, Kelly Wang, Gracie Weaver, Emylee Yeager, Brianna Yoder and Elizabeth Ziegler

"We have watched you compete in athletics, perform on stage, create outstanding works of art and excel in the classroom," said Kristy Woodford, principal of AHS. "You do so much for our school, and I want you to know that I appreciate it. You have made AHS a better place, and you're defi-



nitely reppin' that A."

Now that the students have been inducted into NHS, they will continue to focus on the four pillars and positively impact both the school community and the Alliance community.





Disney's The Lion King, Jr.

Alliance High School hosted its first full-scale musical since 2019. Disney's The Lion King Junior consisted of more than 140 students from second to 12th grade for a production consisting of two separate casts.

The show ran from March 31 to April 3, with six total showings.

"It has been so moving as a professional musician to see the interest in this musical really come alive after not having a true spring musical for three years, let alone a show incorporating our young students as well," said Carrie Chunat, choir and musical director. "The younger students are enthralled to see the high schoolers perform on stage and to see each other perform. It

certainly is an exciting experience for everyone involved."

The Alliance City Schools art department lent a hand in bringing the show to life by creating costumes, props and headbands worn by most cast members.

It truly was a production to remember!







AMS Welcomes First NJHS Class

Alliance Middle School hosted the first-ever National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony on December 15, with 15 eighth graders joining.

Similar to the National Honor Society at the high school, NJHS is an organization students can join during their middle school career. The students inducted showed themselves to be hardworking and kind. Additionally, they exhibited the four pillars of NJHS - Scholarship, Leadership, Character and Service.

"It is my pleasure to welcome tonight's class, the class of 2026, to the National Junior Honor Society ceremony," said Shawn Jackson, Director of Secondary Education. "I speak for the teachers and all the staff here at Alliance Middle School when I say how proud we are of

these eighth-grade students who have been selected to be the first NJHS class, not only in Alliance Middle School history but in the history of Stark County."

The first 15 inductees include Kadence Adkins, Andalyn Barker, Zellie Barnes, Ra'Zariah Brown, Ava Dickey, Adelheid Fountain, Gabrielle Heslop, Audrey Howell, Richard Jackson, Kaycie Jurina, Sander Kern, Lincoln Masters, Cole Pasco, Makenna Root and Aylah Salyers.

AMS will host a second induction ceremony

on Wednesday, May 11. Typically there will only be one induction ceremony a year in the spring. With the creation of NJHS this year, two ceremonies were required.





Stark Education Awards

Each month, Alliance City Schools participates in the Stark County Education Awards hosted by the Canton Repository. Nominations are submitted for Difference Maker, Teacher of the Month, Teen of the Month and Kids of Character. If one of our staff or students are selected, they are featured in either the Canton Repository or the Alliance Review, depending on which they are chosen for. Congratulations to all the students and staff nominated for these awards!

*Denotes selection by Alliance Review

Birdie Bags

The Alliance Board of Education recognized Ben and Candace Curtis, the founders of the Ben Curtis Foundation, during the March board meeting for donating over 9000 Birdie Bags for the students at ACS since April of 2020.

A Birdie Bag consists of six meals, six snacks and toiletry items. Each bag often includes hamburger helper, mac and cheese, spaghetti, ramen noodles, tuna fish and more. The bags are giv-



en to students who have a need for additional food at no cost to the family. Older students can request two or three bags because they help feed younger siblings.

"The Ben Curtis Foundation plays a big role in alleviating food insecurities for students in Alliance City Schools," said Shawn Jackson, Director of Secondary Education. "Through the generosity of Ben and Candance Curtis, ACS has been given 500 Birdie bags a month since April 2020. The Birdie Bags have provided students with 54,000 meals and 54,000 snacks."

Many people ask why they are called Birdie Bags. Ben is an accomplished golfer, appearing on the PGA tour and winning the British Open in 2003. He created the Ben Curtis Foundation to help alleviate the food insecurity many students experience. He primarily provides the Birdie Bags to schools in Portage and Summit counties. ACS is the only district in Stark County to receive Birdie Bags.

ACS would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Curtis and the Ben Curtis Foundation for their generosity and constant support of the Alliance students and families.

2021-22 Difference Maker Nominees include:

September - Stephanie Garren and Karen McKinstry October - Kristy Woodford and Sam Young* November - Derrick Showell and Marcia Duro* December - Shaun Fontaine and Alana Ryan January - Adam DeMonte* and Marilyn Jackson February - Andy Toth and Jennie Slimon* March - Amy Cramer and Jackie Barrington* April - Beth Starrett* and Faith Pasco

2021-22 Teacher of the Month Nominees include:

September - Shelli Gibbons and Marty Cvelbar
October - Amy Latsch and Amy Recchiuti
November - Tracy Funk and Kerry Varble
December - Cheri Ruttig and Cheryl Jackson
January - Julie Hale and Brianna Boehlke
February - Casey Cross
March - Bob Duncan* and Tricia Thompson
April - Erica Jackson and Mikayla Milburn

2021-22 Teen of the Month Nominees include:

Blake Hood
Patrick Burse
Thomas Butt
Jane Cook*
Caroline Denny*
Alyssa Risley
Phoenix Motry
Henry Wang

2021-22 Kids of Character Nominees include:

September - Ava Dickey and Collin Mason
October - Lilliana White and Caleb Brown
November - Andalyn Barker and Kaivion Thomas
December - Kadence Adkins and Cole Pasco
January - Emma Monday and Gavin Leech
February - Kacie Jurina and Sander Kern
March - Mackenzie Delcol and Garrett Adkins
April - Bianca Carchide and Zachary Jurina

Winter Athletic Season

Aviator Athletics had a successful winter season with several athletes and teams competing in statelevel competitions.

AHS Boys Basketball

2022 EBC Champions

AMS Wrestling

AMS had seven state qualifiers: Caden Callock, John Belz, Alex Harman, Ben Hall, DJ Geisleman, Ashlynn Pennington and Mady Davis.

- Ashlynn Pennington: placed 7th in the Wrestling State Tournament
- Caden Callock: 128lb EBC Wrestling Champion

AHS Boys Wrestling

Tomas Simmons competed in the Wrestling State Tournament, with **Maliki Mason** and **Aidan Mozden** gualifying as alternates.



AHS had six state qualifiers for the Wrestling State Tournament: **Rylee Horning, Adilyn Mozden, Mallory Chunat, Kayley Ross, Abigail Bailey** and **Maddyn Thompson.**

- Mallory Chunat: State Runner Up
- Kayley Ross: placed 3rd in the Wrestling State Tournament

AHS Swim

Ben Craig competed in the Swim State Meet and placed 15th in the 100m backstroke.

AHS Track

La'Kasja Edwards competed in the OATCCC Indoor Track Meet and placed 14th in shot put.



Grimes Recognized as 2022 Pathfinder

Alliance High School (AHS) and Alliance Middle School (AMS) recently recognized Lionel Grimes as the 2022 Pathfinder Recipient. Grimes, an AHS graduate from the class of 1968, shared his story of being a member of the "Black 14" with the students and staff during the annual Pathfinder Assemblies.

Each year, Alliance City Schools hosts a series of Pathfinder Awards assemblies during Black History Month to recognize individuals who have been trailblazers for success. The district recognizes the recipients in five areas: arts and science, education, humanitarianism, citizenship/government and business. Each individual recognized as a Pathfinder is either a local or non-local alumnus who has been an inspiration to minorities in one of the above areas, or a non-alumnus who has been an inspiration in the local area.

Grimes comes from a family of athletes. At six feet and 160 pounds, he lettered in football, basketball and baseball at AHS. He was named an All-Ohio Football Selection in 1968. When it came time to attend college, Grimes was recruited by the University of Wyoming to play football, one of the best college teams ranked 12th in the country.

In 1969 when Grimes was a member of the team, the country was in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement. The African American members of the football team, 14 in total, wanted to ask permission from the Wyoming head coach, Lloyd Eaton, to wear black armbands in the game against Brigham Young University (BYU). The Wyoming Black Student Alliance planned to boycott the game to protest BYU's history of not allowing African Americans to become clergymen and asked the football players to show their support for the movement.

The men didn't even have a chance to ask permission. When they went to see Eaton, he dismissed them from the team for violating the team's no protest policy.

The group became widely known as The Black 14 as news of their dismissal sparked anger and outrage, and their lives were deeply affected by this event. Grimes returned home and started attending Findlay College, now known as The University of Findlay, where he played baseball and earned a Bachelor of Science degree.

After graduation, Grimes had the opportunity to play baseball for the Pittsburgh

Pirates or accept a position with the Ford Motor Company. He decided to take the position with Ford, where he went on to have a successful career.

Over the years, Grimes kept in touch with his athletic roots by coaching his son's baseball team and proudly watching as his children participated in baseball, soccer, cheerleading, golf and basketball.

Grimes is the recipient of several awards, including the Barrier Breakers Award from the National Consortium for Academics and Sports at the University of Central Florida and the Lifetime Achievement award from the African American Diaspora Studies at the University of Wyoming for their vision, contribution and dedication to the struggle of Black liberation.

Currently, Grimes resides in Columbus with his wife. They have two married children and three grandchildren.

During the Pathfinder Assemblies at AHS and AMS, the students and staff heard about Grimes' history from himself and the Black 14 video created by ESPN.

Continued on page 8





Grimes Recognized as 2022 Pathfinder - cont.



Shawn Jackson, director of secondary education, asked high school students if they had heard about the Black 14. Only a couple of students had, let alone knew that one of Alliance's very own was part of it.

Jackson told the audience, "I got sad thinking that I was an American History teacher at Alliance High School and not only did I not know about The Black 14, but one of our graduates was in The Black 14." He promised to keep the story alive for years to come by continuing to share it with others.

Students from the 99th Squadron were able to ask Grimes questions during a panel. The 99th Squadron is a student success, character, leadership, and life skills development program aimed at improving African American students' academic and social achievement at Alliance High School. The program also places a particular focus on college and career readiness.

The group is named after the first African American fighter group of the Army

Air Force, and Grimes' father was one of the members of the 99th Squadron. He later returned to Alliance, where he became the first African American police officer in Alliance history.

The students involved in the panel were Gabby Hill, Stephen Gales, Dyanna Myers and Valencia Davis. They asked Grimes about his time at Alliance High School and Wyoming, what it was like growing up in Alliance and his advice for students.

"One thing in life I found out," said Grimes. "You may give things to people, you may say things to people, but they'll always remember how they felt. So, be careful what you say and how you say it to people and at the end of the day, just be a good human."

Grimes encouraged students to select a university or trade they are passionate about. College isn't for everyone, and he hopes the students follow a career path they want to succeed in. He also encouraged the students to take full advantage of the opportunities AHS offers.

When asked what helped him overcome the adversity he faced, Grimes stated it was being from Alliance, and the education he received and the constant support and understanding from his family.

"I have a very, very strong family," he said. "The people in the area may have had different opinions over the years, but one thing I think you'll find from anyone that knows a Grimes, we stick together."

Grimes isn't the first of his family to receive a Pathfinder award. His sister, Mildred Gurley, was recognized with the award in 2021.

Alliance City Schools is proud to recognize members of the Grimes family for their admirable achievements and meaningful contributions to the city of Alliance. We thank Lionel Grimes for sharing his inspirational story with the community as this year's recipient.



AHS Takes Part in St. Baldrick's

Students and staff from Alliance High School, and one brave second-grader from Alliance Elementary School, showed what it means to be a caring citizen and a courageous risk-taker by "braving the shave."

On April 8, eight staff members and six students volunteered to have their heads shaved to help raise awareness for childhood cancer. The group raised over \$17,000 for St. Baldrick's, a foundation that helps fund research for a cure

for childhood cancer.

The staff participants were Nicolle Boehm, Liz Davis, Stephanie McKnight, Shaun Fontaine, Amy Miller, Teri Mikes-Kirby, Michael Rossetti and Crystal Sabik.

The student participants were Corissa Barker, Adam Burse, Samantha Gotter, Savannah Stiffler and Cade Ulbricht from AHS, and Ella Fontaine, a second-grader at AES.

The students and staff members raised money in various ways, and the student that raised the most money was Ella Fontaine with \$2,187. The top staff member was Stephanie McKnight, with \$3,381.

The AHS cosmetology students shaved the participant's heads during the event.

Thank you to everyone who donated to this cause and all the staff and students who participated!





Royal Aviation Show Choir Competition Returns

After a year hiatus, the annual Royal Aviation Show Choir Competition returned in February. In 2019, Alliance High School, under the guidance of Choir Director Carrie Chunat, began hosting the show choir competition. High school and middle school show choirs from throughout the area can participate in the all-day competition in the hopes of being named the grand champions. This was the third year AHS has hosted the competition.

Show choir competitions consist of allday performances where schools compete in their respective classes, based on the size of the choir. Top schools then compete in final performances against each other.

Final Overall Awards for the 2022 Royal Aviation Show Choir Competition went to:

Best Choreography — Kenton Top 20 **Best Vocals** — Buckeye Valley

Fourth Runner Up — Sheridan Northern Stars

Third Runner Up — Musselman Kaleidoscope

Second Runner Up — Marion Harding Singers

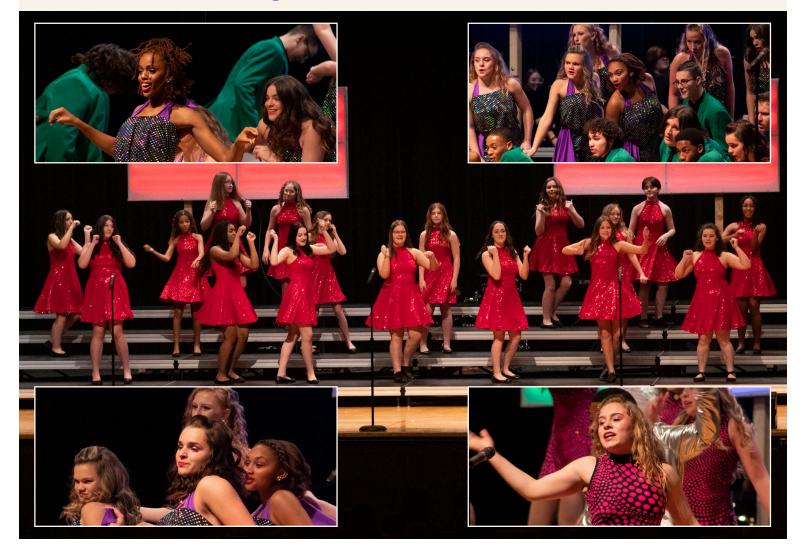
First Runner-Up — Buckeye Valley Visions

Grand Champion — Kenton Top 20

The Alliance Middle School show choir had the chance to compete for the first time in the competition, coming in second place in their class.

As the hosting school, the AHS Jetsetters could not compete; however, they held an exhibition performance for all the show choirs in attendance.

Congratulations to all the winners!





OPEN ENROLLMENT AND NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Visit alliancecityschools.org and select the blue "new student registration" box under the picture slider.

* All forms must be completed before a student can be considered enrolled at ACS



AHS Hosts Celebrating Diversity Night

The Alliance High School choirs and Social Justice Team partnered with The Lutheran East High School choirs to host a Celebrating Diversity Night on March 9. The evening consisted of a concert and presentation by the two schools.

"We combined to make a choir of people with so many differences yet one common love: MUSIC," said Carrie Chunat, AHS choir director. "We can make beautiful—and in this case, extremely meaningful—music together, no matter

how different we may seem on the outside. In the process of making that music, we learn more about each other and learn to appreciate those very things that make us different."

All the songs sung during the concert were written and composed by African American musicians and artists. Before each song, students presented information on each musician or artist and their impact on encouraging acceptance of diversity. Those highlighted include

Melanie Demore, Maya Angelou and Raymond Wise, to name a few.

Soloists from both schools were featured in a variety of songs such as "Justice" by Paul Laurence Dunbar, "Lead with Love" by Melanie Demore and "Shine the Light" by Raymond Wise.

The event was free and open to the Alliance community.









Akron Zoo Visits Kindergarten Classes

For the past couple of months, the Akron Zoo has been visiting the kindergarten classes to teach students social-emotional skills and share fun and interesting critters. By the end of the year, each class will have been visited four times.

A representative from Akron Zoo began each session with a questionnaire, followed by reading a fun story and doing an activity related to the book. In their first two visits, classes read "The Color Monster" and "We're Different, We're the Same." Each visit concludes with the students' favorite part—meeting their new animal friends.

Before students pet the animals, they learn about how to tell when the animal is upset or scared and talk about ways they can prevent the animal from feeling that way.

So far, students have met a bearded dragon, a bird, a star turtle and a tenrec. They were able to gently touch most of the animals that visited their class but not all of them. Students learned to gently pet the creatures using two fingers, taking great care to not scare their little animal friends.

The students love meeting the new animals and learning all about them!





Aviators Shine in Art Show

The Alliance City Schools Art Department hosted a district-wide art show at the University of Mount Union's Sally Otto Art Gallery. There were hundreds of pieces available for viewing in the gallery showing off ACS students' artistic skills and creativity.

The annual art show featured artwork from students in all grades. Pieces available for viewing included sculptures, photographs, paintings and drawings, just to name a few. Each year, a student from each building is recognized for their artwork. This year the art show winners are:

Elsie Washington - Alliance Elementary School

Elisheba Selassie - Alliance Intermediate School

Audrey Howell - Alliance Middle School

Kegan Serrano - Alliance High School

The winning students were recognized during a reception and awards ceremony held at the gallery on March 2.









Teacher Spotlight: Brianna Boehlke



Brianna Boehlke is in her third year as a teacher at Alliance High School. In her time at AHS, she has made an immense impact on the social studies department and the students and staff she works with. She currently teaches modern and American history II, psychology and AP psychology.

This year, she also took over as the Academic Challenge coach and has led the team to a very

successful season.

"Miss Boehlke is a wonderful part of our AHS social studies team," said Kristy Woodford, principal of AHS. "She is great at getting students engaged in the material and works with her team to plan creative ways to let students show what they know. She also goes the extra mile to build relationships with students by showing up for their extra-curricular activities and supporting them."

Her dedication and passion for helping the student to succeed is evident. ACS thanks Miss Boehlke for all she does to make a positive impact at AHS!

Staff Spotlight:

Tracy Lewis



Tracy Lewis is being recognized as the ACS Staff Spotlight for all the hard work she does to help meet the needs of the students she works with.

Ms. Lewis is a Family Support Specialist. Her job is to help make sure families at Alliance Elementary School and Parkway Learning and Development Center have their basic needs met. She assists families if

they need clothing, personal items, food and more.

"Tracy is 100% committed to addressing the challenges facing Alliance students and their families," said Michelle Balderson, director of elementary education. "She helps them overcome barriers to learning by connecting family, school and community. Tracy's dedication and element of care for the families of Alliance are immeasurable. She moves mountains daily!"

ACS thanks Ms. Lewis for all she does and has done to make the lives of our students better in every way she can!

Team Spotlight: ACS School Counselors



Throughout this school year, the ACS school counselors have been implementing two big projects that positively impact on the school community and students' lives.

"Through a collaborative effort, the ACS school counselor team has made significant improvements to policies and procedures throughout the district this year," said Alliance Director of Secondary Education Shawn Jackson. "From creating Restorative Practices to a District-Wide Crisis Plan, ACS is able to meet a variety of our students' needs."

The first is implementing the district-wide crisis plan. In the past, each building has handled crises, such as the passing of a staff member or a house fire, very differently. The creation and introduction of this plan help to ensure each crisis that arises is treated similarly.

The second is Restorative Practices, which are used as an alternative to expulsion. The idea is to help keep students in school and on a better path so they don't miss out on their educational experiences.

We would like to recognize Annie Horner, Tracy Lahr, Tim Calfee, Jayme Oyster-Smith, Amanda Scott, Gelsaira Ortiz, Allison Morrison, Tyler Triner, Victoria Belden, Amber Patti, Kaylee Krichbaum and Kayla Johnson for all of their hard work this school year!