



AUGUST 2026

The Generals Post

Anthony Wayne Local Schools Stakeholder Newsletter



Welcome to a New School Year

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! The start of a new year always brings fresh optimism and excitement for the learning and growth ahead at Anthony Wayne Local Schools and we look forward to seeing our students, staff, and families later this month.

As the year unfolds, we remain focused on supporting every student in reaching their individual goals and achieving success both inside and outside the classroom. We are grateful for the continued support of our families and community and look forward to another outstanding year together.

We are also looking forward to advancing several key initiatives this year, including:

Developing Our Next Strategic Plan: We are launching a collaborative process to establish a clear vision and set district priorities for the next five years and beyond. Input from our students, staff, families, and community is important in shaping this roadmap.

Expanding Career Exploration: We are committed to providing meaningful experiences that help students discover their interests, connect learning to future careers, and prepare confidently for the pathways available to them after graduation.

Strengthening Community Partnerships: Strong schools rely on strong communities. We will continue working closely with local families, businesses, and organizations to ensure Anthony Wayne remains a district of pride and excellence.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to an outstanding year of helping every student succeed inside and outside the classroom!

Sincerely,
Kevin Herman, Superintendent
Anthony Wayne Local Schools





Anthony Wayne Local Schools Board of Education Members (L to R): Vice President Kyle Miller; Member Amy Barrett; President Jeff Baden; Member Lindsay Hoipkemier; Member Mike Stamm.

Board of Education Meetings

Meetings are held at the Central Administrative Offices held at 9565 Bucher Road, Whitehouse, OH. They are open to the public, and live-streamed and recorded for those who cannot attend in-person.

Agendas are available for review two days prior to the meeting. Guests wishing to address the Board must live within the AW District and register with a photo ID upon arrival.

[Visit the District website for more information.](#)

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, Aug. 10
8:00 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 14
6:00 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 12
6:00 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 9
6:00 p.m.

Welcome to Anthony Wayne Local Schools

We are pleased to welcome our newest certified staff members to the district and look forward to introducing them at the August Board of Education meeting. Please join us in celebrating these educators as they begin their journey as Generals.

Jason Biniker

Marketing / DECA
Anthony Wayne High School

Clare Black

Intervention Specialist
Fallen Timbers Middle School

Amy Brinthaup

Intervention Specialist
AW Junior High

Autumn Cornell

Intervention Specialist
Waterville Primary School

Alyssa Fisher

Behavior Specialist
District

Maya Fleek

Intervention Specialist
Fallen Timbers Middle School

Ellie Fleisher

Science
Anthony Wayne High School

Drake Furey

Social Studies
AW Junior High

Tracy Greene

Business Technology
Anthony Wayne High School

John (Jack) Hursh

PE & Health
AW Junior High

Kaylee Lu

English Language Arts
Fallen Timbers Middle School

Tori Owen

Intervention Specialist
AW Junior High

Molly Rutkowski

Intervention Specialist
Whitehouse Primary School

Kama Wathier

Gifted Teacher
Waterville Primary School



Be A General: Join Our Team

Back-to-School Employment Fair

Looking for a rewarding career where you can make a difference every day? Join our school district's Back-to-School Employment Fair on Tuesday, Aug. 25, and discover opportunities to become part of a team dedicated to supporting students and schools.

If you are looking for flexible opportunities that benefit our school community, there's a place for you in our district. Substitute employees play an important part in creating a safe, welcoming, and successful learning environment for students.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about available positions, meet district staff, ask questions about the application process, and explore the benefits of working in our schools.

Every member of our team makes a lasting impact.

If you're ready to start a meaningful career or earn extra income while serving your community, consider being a General. We look forward to meeting you.

[Visit our website for more information about employment opportunities and to apply online.](#)

Back-to-School Employment Fair

Tuesday, Aug. 25
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Apply Onsite

Immediate Interviews

Free Background
Checks

Meet Department
Representatives

We are seeking substitute:

Bus Drivers

Custodians

Food Service Staff

Special Education Aides

Playground/Cafeteria
Aides



Before the First Bell: Classrooms are ready and waiting for students to return on August 17 as the District prepares for a successful start to the school year.

Preparing for a Great Start: Back-to-School 2026–2027

The first day of school is just around the corner, and we are excited to welcome students, families, and staff back for another year of learning, growth, and success.

As you prepare for the start of the school year, please take a moment to review important back-to-school reminders and information to help ensure a smooth start to the year.

Throughout the summer, our teams have been working behind the scenes to prepare for students and staff to return. From classrooms and transportation to supplies, technology, and building improvements, staff across the District have been working hard to ensure our schools are safe, welcoming, and ready for a great start to the year.

We can't wait to get started. See you soon!

FIRST DAY(s) OF SCHOOL

Thursday, Aug. 13
Staff Opening Day

Monday, Aug. 17
Grades 1 - 5, 7 and 9

Tuesday, Aug. 18
Grades 1 - 12

Wednesday, Aug. 19
Kindergarten

Back-to-School Information at Your Fingertips

As you prepare for a successful start, visit the Back-to-School page on the district website for important back-to-school information and resources. Families can find school supply lists, open house and registration day details, school menus, student handbooks, free and reduced meal information, transportation updates, and other helpful resources all in one convenient location.

www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/BacktoSchool

Get Ready for a New School Year

Important Back-to-School Reminders for Families

These reminders provide our schools with the details needed to support students, communicate effectively, and prepare for the year ahead. Thank you for completing these steps as soon as possible to ensure a smooth start.

☐ Complete Returning Student Registration

Returning Student Registration helps ensure we have the most up-to-date information to support your student. Please review and update email addresses, phone numbers, home addresses, emergency contacts, and any custody or family information changes.

[Log in to FinalForms for Returning Student Registration.](#)

☐ Confirm Transportation Plans

We are putting the final touches on bus routes for the new school year. Please submit transportation requests as soon as possible to ensure your plans are in place for the first day. Bus route information will be available in PowerSchool in mid-August.

[View the Transportation Handbook](#)

[Submit Transportation Request Forms](#)

☐ Provide Health Updates

Please share any new or ongoing health information that may need to be managed during the school day, including allergies, chronic conditions, or medication needs.

[Review the Health Services Handbook](#)

☐ Pay Student Fees & Add Money to Cafeteria Funds

Families will receive student fee statements by email in early August. MySchoolBucks provides a convenient way to pay student fees and add funds for school meals. Cash and checks are also accepted.

[Sign up for MySchoolBucks](#)



Events Calendar

August 5-7

Ohio Sales Tax Holiday

[Review Details](#)

August 10

AWLS Board Meeting

August 13

Staff Work Day &

Professional Development

August 17 - 19

Rolling Start Dates

August 21

Generals Football Home Opener

[Purchase Tickets](#)

August 24 - 28

Start with Hello Week

August 25

Back-to-School Employment Fair

September 3

Kindergarten Immunization Records Due

September 7

District Closed - Labor Day

[View the 2026-2027 District Calendar](#)



Packages filled with classroom supplies and learning materials fill the warehouse at the Operations Building. More than 1200 packages were processed during a two-week span in July.

Managing the Logistics Behind Learning

While classrooms sit quiet during the summer, a different kind of work is happening behind the scenes.

Thousands of school supplies, learning materials, and equipment orders arrive in daily deliveries. Each order is approved, processed, sorted, and delivered to classrooms before the first day of school. It's a monumental task powered primarily by two employees.

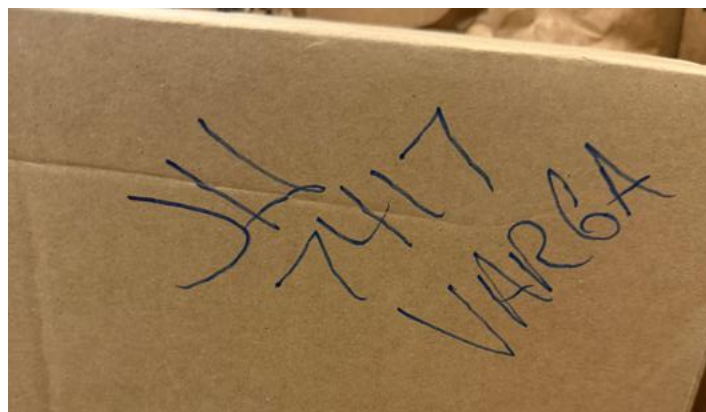
In the Treasurer's Office, Julie Pingle manages the steady stream of purchase orders, while Dani Ottensman receives, sorts, and delivers materials across the District.

Their work plays a critical role in preparing classrooms, supporting staff, and ensuring students have what they need to be ready to learn on day one.

Thank you for making a difference, one order at a time!



Danielle Ottensman, Operations Delivery Person and Julie Pingle, Accounts Payable Specialist are key to ensuring that all necessary supplies are ordered and available by the first day of school. [Read more about their work.](#)



As deliveries are processed, packages are marked with the associated purchase order number and recipient for easier processing, then are distributed across the district.



The new 30,000-gallon fuel tank and associated pumps and equipment will service the district's fleet of vehicles along with those operated by the Whitehouse Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments.

Fueling the Future: New Tanks Keep Bus Fleet Moving

One of the Operations Department's largest projects this summer was the complete replacement of the Transportation Center's aging fuel storage and dispensing station. After nearly 40 years of service, the existing underground fuel tanks and fueling infrastructure had reached the end of their useful life.

Funded through the District's Permanent Improvement Fund, the project replaced the outdated system with a modern underground fuel storage and dispensing station designed to safely and efficiently support the District's bus fleet for years to come.



This aerial view shows the tank installation area at the Transportation Center on Industrial Parkway in Whitehouse.

Project Details

Bid Award: Spatco Energy Solutions

Start Date: June 1, 2026

Completion Date: July 20, 2026

Estimated Cost: \$1,038,483



The new fuel center is fully operational and ready to keep the district's fleet of buses rolling throughout the school year.

[Learn more about facilities improvement projects at Anthony Wayne Local Schools.](#)



Anthony Wayne-Penta FCCLA students attend Rally on the Hill with other students from across the country as part of the National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

Students Showcase Leadership Skills at National Conference

Students from the Anthony Wayne-Penta FCCLA chapters had an outstanding showing at the National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., in June. Competing against students from across the country, our Generals earned top awards in recognition of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to their year-long projects.

Representing AW Junior High were Mary Amstutz, Karis Doro, Hailey Thomas and Tiffany Thomas.

Competing for Anthony Wayne High School were, Diana Beach, Sophie Canos, Bryn Hubbard, Grant Hubley, Maddie Johnson, Aradhya Muthumula, Skylar Smelley and Gracelyn Vance.

[See the full story for their awards.](#)

FCCLA encourages students to make a positive impact on their communities by developing career and leadership skills. Students are led by advisors, Kay-Lynne Schaller and Amanda Valdez.



Aradhya Muthumula ('26) earned First Place in the Nation and a gold medal in the category of Instructional Video Design.



Amanda Valdez (center), AWHHS Family Consumer Sciences Teacher and FCCLA Advisor was presented with the Spirit of Advising Award for her commitment to modeling FCCLA attributes, promoting positive character development and nurturing young leaders.



Meagan Conroy joins Anthony Wayne Local Schools as the new Assistant Treasurer, replacing Ray Greene who was promoted to Treasurer with the retirement of Kerri Johnson on July 31.

New Assistant Superintendent Keeps Students at Center

Meagan (MAY-ghan) Conroy is settling into her new role as Anthony Wayne's assistant treasurer after joining the district this summer, bringing nearly 20 years of experience in public finance, school auditing and school district financial operations. As she gets to know the district, she's focused on building relationships with staff and the community while keeping students at the center of every financial decision. She's already been impressed by Anthony Wayne's welcoming culture and is excited to continue meeting the people who make the district special. [Read the full story to learn more.](#)

Staff Spotlight



Molley Stachowiak

Secretary
Whitehouse Primary School

Molley puts customer service at the center of her work, supporting families, staff, and students by solving problems, answering questions, and helping the school run smoothly. [Read the full story.](#)

Student Spotlight



Emma Huhn

8th Grade Student
AW Junior High

Emma's essay about what it means to be an American was selected for publication in the AW Free Press's Commemorative Print Edition in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of our country. [Read more.](#)



Keeping Our Girls Safe is dedicated to empowering women through education, awareness, and skills that help them recognize their strength and protect themselves in everyday situations.

Preparing for a Future Beyond the Field

Following a historic run to the state championship last season, the General Girls Soccer Team is continuing to grow — not only as athletes, but as leaders prepared for success beyond the field.

Over the summer, players participated in personal defense and situational awareness training led by Detective Rupp from the Wauseon Police Department through the Keeping Our Girls Safe organization, building confidence and skills to make safe decisions.

The team also read *The Confident Athlete* and met virtually with author Tami Mathney to discuss confidence, focus, motivation, mental toughness, leadership, and teamwork. Each player received a signed copy of the book.

These experiences support personal growth while reinforcing the General Way — being respectful, responsible, safe, and involved — and the Portrait of a General skills of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and lifelong learning.



Athletes practiced setting and communicating personal boundaries when approached by others in public.



Author Tami Mathney talks with athletes about overcoming self-doubt, goal setting, developing confidence through consistency, staying in the moment, and celebrating progress via Zoom as a culmination of their study of her book.



Gearing Up: The Generals football program partnered with local first responders and the 180th Fighter Wing for its annual Hero Workout. [View highlights from the event.](#)



Generals in the News

[AW girls soccer partners with Keeping Our Girls Safe for personal safety training](#)

[Wauseon police detective teaches self defense to AW soccer players](#)

[Generals put a ring on it, AW Cheer celebrates national and state titles](#)

[School Board hears of student successes](#)

[AW grad Ben Schoen excited for first season with Walleye](#)

[Anthony Wayne custodial staff attends MVOM summer training day](#)

[Ohio State Senator Theresa Gavarone visits Camp Invention](#)

Stay Connected

General Information

www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org

District Directory

www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/Contact

Get the Latest News

www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/News

Download the AWLS Mobile App

Available for free



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Suggest a Story

If you have a topic you would like to see covered in the Generals Post, or an individual you would like to recognize with a Spotlight interview [send us an email](#).