



SEPTEMBER 2026

The Generals Post

Anthony Wayne Local Schools Stakeholder Newsletter

A Strong Start and a Bright Future Ahead



We are off to a great start to another school year at Anthony Wayne Local Schools! Our buildings are filled with energy and excitement, and it has been wonderful to see our students and staff back together, ready for another year of learning, growth, and success.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the opportunities this year will bring. We know that strong schools are built through strong partnerships, and we are committed to continuing to strengthen the connection between our schools and the community we proudly serve.

An important focus this year will be listening to our stakeholders. Throughout the year, we will provide opportunities for parents and community members to share their perspectives, ideas, and hopes as we work together to develop our next Strategic Plan.

Our goal is to build an educational system that provides exceptional opportunities for our students and creates something our entire community can take pride in.

We are extremely proud of what Anthony Wayne offers our students today, while always looking for ways to grow, engage our students, and help every student excel. Our commitment is to continue building upon our strengths while looking toward an even brighter future.

As superintendent, I want to personally share how proud I am to lead Anthony Wayne Local Schools—and equally proud to call this community home. Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and belief in our students. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together this year!

Kevin Herman, Superintendent
Anthony Wayne Local Schools





Examining Today's Finances and Predicting the Future

Each fall, Ohio school districts submit a state-mandated financial forecast projecting revenue and expenditures to demonstrate long-term fiscal health. The report:

- catches potential deficits early so the board can take proactive action;
- pairs numerical projections with written assumptions on local tax revenues, state funding, and operating costs; and
- is re-evaluated every spring to adjust for mid-year budget shifts.

At the August Board of Education meeting, Treasurer Ray Greene presented a high-level look at the district's current standing and three-year outlook, cautioning that school funding is always in flux:

"Preparing the financial forecast is a lot like taking a picture of a fish tank. It freezes a moment in time but as soon as you capture it, something changes."

Even in a constantly shifting financial environment, this fall forecast serves as a crucial tool to keep the district on solid ground. By planning ahead, school leadership can continue making informed decisions that prioritize our students' education and promote fiscal responsibility.



Ray Greene
Treasurer

[Watch the August Board Meeting recording.](#)

[View the Financial Forecast slide presentation.](#)

[Learn to read a financial forecast.](#)

NEXUS Pipeline Resolution Finalized

After several years of litigation, the district received \$4.47 M in back taxes from the Nexus pipeline in 2025 and will receive \$3.17 M annually throughout the forecast.



Financial Forecast Highlights

FY 2027 Revenues

Local Real Estate (73%)	\$40.4 M
State Aid (15%)	\$8.7 M
Other Local (12%)	\$6.1 M

TOTAL **\$55.2 M**

FY 2027 Expenditures

Salaries (62%)	\$33.0 M
Benefits (23%)	\$12.6 M
Purchased Services (12%)	\$6.5 M
Supplies/Materials (3%)	\$2.0 M

TOTAL **\$54.1 M**

“As a service-driven organization, the majority of the District’s expenditures are invested in our educators, classified staff, and administrators. These are the individuals who keep our school district running and ensure that students receive the education and support they need.” - Ray Greene

Fund Deficit / Surplus

2024 (actual) **(\$1,474,074)**

2025 (actual) **\$285,337**

2026 (actual) **\$1,233,373**

2027 (budget) **\$1,024,667**

2028 (forecast) **\$418,529**

2029 (forecast) **(\$122,819)**

2030 (forecast) **(\$670,373)**

“A school district’s fund balance is similar to an emergency savings account. It is money available to help cover unexpected costs, temporary funding gaps, or other financial needs.

Despite the Nexus pipeline resolution and recent increase in Class I property tax revenue, the compounded weight of contractual wage increases and recent spikes in healthcare costs, pushes the district back into structural deficit spending by Fiscal Year 2029.” - Ray Greene

The Government Finance Officers Association recommends a **strict minimum of 90 True Cash Days**, or days that the district could operate at year-end if no additional revenues were received.

16.92 days

FY 2025

30.59 days

FY 2027

32.64 days

FY 2028

26.29 days

FY 2030

Snapshot Summary

The district is operating with exceptional efficiency, but alarming financial vulnerability. Even at peak projected cash reserves in FY28, the district has barely one-third the recommended minimum safety buffer. That leaves little room to absorb an unexpected expense or revenue shortfall, making careful financial management essential to protecting stability and essential services.



The Board recognized the first track and field relay teams in school history to earn All-Ohio honors at the state meet. Congratulations to these student-athletes for their accomplishments.

Board of Education Meeting Notes

The AWLS Board of Education held its regular meeting on August 10 where it heard a presentation about the annual Financial Forecast and met the new certified staff members. A [meeting overview is available on the District website](#), or you may wish to [view the livestream recording](#).

The next meeting is Monday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Administrative Offices. [Contact the Board](#).

We Are Hiring!

Bus drivers and substitute teachers are needed! Join our school community and help make a difference in the lives of our students. Flexible opportunities, meaningful work, and a chance to be an important part of our team.

[Learn more and apply online](#)



Opportunities for Kindness

Through our partnership with Neighborhood Bridges, generous community members can connect directly with students and families in need. Sign up to receive opportunities to make a meaningful difference through simple acts of kindness and support. Together, we can help ensure every student feels seen, supported, and valued.

[Sign up to receive notifications](#)





Marching Generals Parades & Performances

Catch everyone's favorite band, the Marching Generals, at a performance this fall. Make plans to attend one of these community events to enjoy the music and cheer them on!

- Sept. 12 Put-in-Bay Historic Weekend Parade, 2:00 p.m.
- Sept. 19 Roche de Boeuf Parade, 10:00 a.m.
- Sept. 25 AW Homecoming Parade, 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 3 AW Showcase of Bands, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 27 Marching Generals Concert, 7:00 p.m.

Choir to Sing National Anthem

Our AW Junior High Choirs will be a part of the pre-game ceremonies for the Toledo Mud Hens vs. Indianapolis Indians on September 3. Game time is 6:35 p.m. Be sure to arrive early to hear them sing the National Anthem before the first pitch. [Purchase tickets.](#)

[Plan ahead for more Performing Arts events.](#)

2026-2027 District Calendar

September 3

Kindergarten Immunization Records Due

September 7

District Closed - Labor Day

September 14

Board Meeting

September 25

Homecoming

October 16

End of the First Quarter

October 19

No School Staff PD & Work Day

November 2

Evening Conferences

November 3

No School - Conferences

November 23

No School - Staff PD

November 24 - 27

Closed - Fall Break

[View the Monthly Events Calendar](#)

Coming Soon: Spring Test Results & Quality Profile

We're eagerly awaiting the annual September release of Ohio's School Report Cards and our spring OST results. We'll also share our annual Quality Profile, a snapshot of district successes across academics, arts, athletics, activities, and community service projects from last year. Please be on the lookout for these reports and the story they tell about the value our schools bring to our students, families, and community.



Homecoming 2026

Celebrating Our School Community



Homecoming is more than just a tradition—it's a celebration of our entire community. It's a time when past, present, and future Generals come together to honor our history, celebrate our students, and showcase the vibrant spirit that makes Anthony Wayne so special.

Whether you're a current student, a parent, a staff member, or a longtime community supporter, your energy is what makes our district thrive. Wear your royal blue and white, bring your school pride, and let's make this Homecoming one to remember!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

5:00 p.m. Parade - [View the route](#)

6:30 p.m. Pre-Game Activities
Royalty Announcement

7:00 p.m. Generals Football vs. Whitmer Panthers
[Purchase tickets](#)

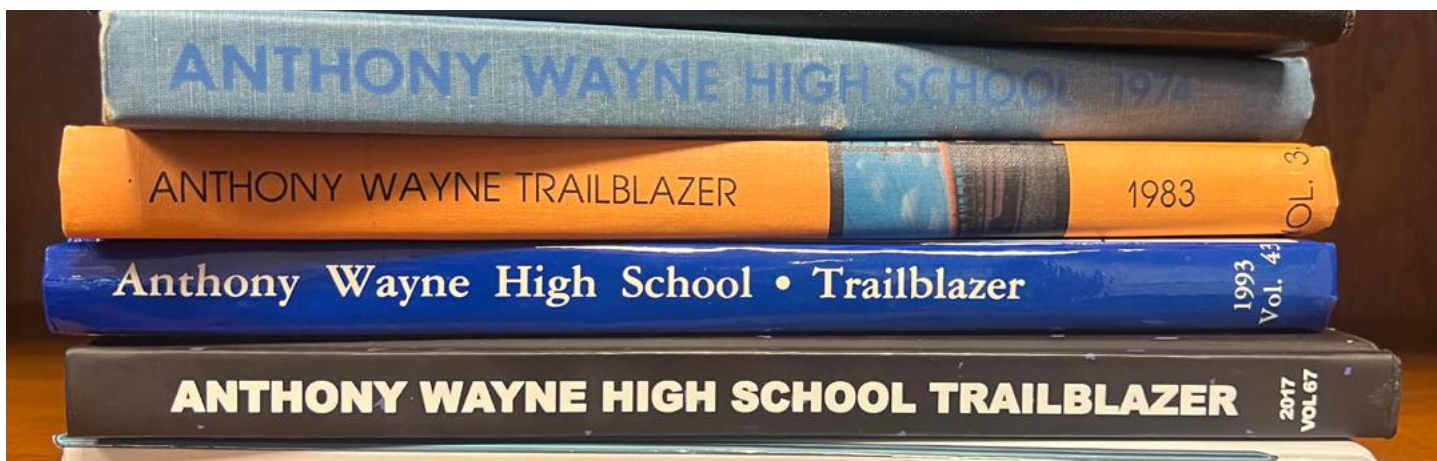
Halftime performance by the Marching Generals



Anthony Wayne Local Schools: A Shared Vision

In the early 1950s, the communities of Monclova, Waterville and Whitehouse came together around a shared vision for education—laying the foundation for what would become Anthony Wayne Local Schools.

From the groundbreaking of the first Anthony Wayne High School in 1951 to decades of new buildings, renovations, programs and community investments, the district's story is one of growth, change and, above all, community. [Take a walk through the past.](#)



Calling All Anthony Wayne Alumni

We can't wait to welcome you home!

All Anthony Wayne grads are invited to drop by the Alumni Welcome Tent located near the tennis courts before the Homecoming Game on Friday, September 25.

- Enjoy free refreshments
- Reconnect with your classmates and network with other AW alumni
- PLUS: Free copies of yearbooks from yesteryear courtesy of the AWHHS Yearbook class. If you have misplaced your copy over the years, this is a great opportunity to pick up a new one!

Can't attend? [Drop us a line and tell us how you've been!](#)



Anthony Wayne Hall of Fame Welcomes New Inductees

[The Anthony Wayne Alumni Association](#) welcomed six new members to the Hall of Fame at its annual luncheon on Saturday, August 22. The honor recognizes alumni and faculty whose achievements, leadership, and service have made a lasting impact on Anthony Wayne Schools, their communities, or their professions.

This year's inductees are: Kevin Click ('79); Debbie Thompson ('80); Lisa Schaller ('81) Charlie Wiedie ('86); Matthew Mauro ('07); and Steve Mossing (Faculty).

With these additions, the Anthony Wayne Hall of Fame now honors 185 outstanding individuals. Their photos and biographies are permanently displayed in the Roy Williamson Auditorium Area at Anthony Wayne High School.

[Learn more about this year's honorees.](#)



The Portrait of a General: Learner's Mindset

Student Spotlight: Lewis Warner, AWHs Junior Committed to lifelong learning and leadership in agriscience

From state- and national-level agriscience awards to raising livestock and leading his local FFA chapter, Lewis embodies the spirit of a lifelong learner. [Read our full Student Spotlight](#) to see how Lewis balances agriculture, academics, and athletics. You'll also learn who inspires and supports his growth mindset.



Staff Spotlight: Critical Thinking Jennifer Liber

Intervention Specialist
Waterville Primary School

Jennifer Liber is bringing an ADA-accessible sensory garden to Waterville Primary, thanks to an \$8,000 Lott-Conlon Foundation grant. The space will give students opportunities to explore, learn, practice self-regulation and mindfulness, and enjoy the outdoors in a way that works for them. [Learn more about the project.](#)



Staff Spotlight: Empathy Tommy Bridges

Physical Education and Health Teacher
AW Junior High School

Tommy has spent years making an impact as a physical education and health teacher and Generals Athletics coach. As he prepares for retirement on Sept. 23, he reflects on the colleagues, students, and meaningful connections that have made his time with the district so special. [Read more about Tommy.](#)



Anthony Wayne Local Schools' nurses were recognized as the district's Group Staff Members of the Year during Opening Day ceremonies for the compassionate care they provide to students each day. They not only attend to medical needs, but also demonstrate comfort, patience and reassurance that helps students feel safe and supported at school. Pictured from L to R are: Laura Soeder (Whitehouse); Valerie Bradfield (Waterville); Libby Gagen (AWJH); Sarah Tapley (AWHS); Amy Baburek (FTMS); and Fay Birkemeier (Monclova).

Celebrating Our Staff Members of the Year



Classified Staff Member of the Year **Jennifer Gross**

Special Education Aide
Whitehouse Primary School

Jennifer was honored for her dedication to supporting students with academic, behavioral and emotional needs, as well as her willingness to step in and support colleagues. Her positive, collaborative approach and caring presence have made her a valued member of the Whitehouse Primary community.



Certified Staff Member of the Year **Christine Young**

Social Studies Teacher
AW Junior High School

Christine was honored for her dedication to helping students succeed and her commitment to supporting students and families beyond the classroom. Her work connecting students and families with resources throughout the district and community reflects her compassion and commitment to making a difference.



Supporting Military Families

PURPLE PAGES

Special Section for Our Military-Connected Families

We're excited to introduce a new section highlighting and supporting our military-connected students, families, staff, and community members.

Look here for stories, resources, upcoming events, and opportunities to connect. Most of all, The Purple Pages is a space to celebrate the strength, resilience, and experiences that make our military-connected community special.

Why Purple?

Each AWLS school is recognized as a Purple Star School by the state of Ohio for its commitment to supporting students and families whose loved ones serve our country. Purple was chosen to represent the strength and unity of the U.S. military by combining the colors associated with each branch.

[Learn more about the Purple Star Program](#)

Purple Star Generals

The Purple Star Generals are peer groups for military-connected students to connect with others who share similar experiences. Throughout the year, students meet to discuss challenges and work together to give back to our military community through school activities, service projects, and special events.

Interested families may contact the Military Family Liaison to learn more about the Purple Star Generals.

MILITARY FAMILY LIAISONS

Monclova Primary

[Chris Buehrer](#)

Waterville Primary

[Jamie Hollinger](#)

[Jillian Cowell](#)

Whitehouse Primary

[Michelle Dammeier](#)

Fallen Timbers Middle

[Jennifer Minni](#)

AW Junior High

[Christine Young](#)

AWHS

[Jim Eberly](#)

[Lisa Pietras](#)

[Dave Johnson](#)

[Dan Kalo](#)



Several AWLS staff members attended a training hosted by the 180th Fighter Wing to learn how to best support students and families during a deployment.

Military Family Resources Available

We are committed to supporting our military-connected students and families with resources designed to help them thrive at school and beyond. The district's [Military Families web page](#) provides helpful information on educational support, family readiness, mental health, transitions, and other military family needs.

Join Us for Military Appreciation Week

Generals Athletics is offering current service members and veterans free admission to all AWHs and AW Junior High athletic events the week of August 31-September 3. Military ID is required.

In addition, at Friday night's varsity football game, Purple Star students will be recognized on the field and military appreciation tee shirts will be sold for \$20 with proceeds supporting the Purple Star programs at AWLS.

Thank you for your service to our country!



Nominations Sought for AWHs Military Wall of Honor

We're looking for Anthony Wayne alumni and staff members who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces to be recognized on the Wall of Honor at AWHs. Help us recognize their service and sacrifice by nominating a service member.

Submissions must be received by September 15 to be named among the honorees on Veterans Day this November.

[Visit the district website for a list of the veterans and active duty service members included on the Wall of Honor.](#)



[Elsa Walz, Evan Jones, Maya Geiger, Griffin Greer and Amelia Cappel brought home two awards in the Detroit 48 Hour Film Project. The AW Free Press has the story.](#)

Generals in the News

[Anthony Wayne Board of Education welcomes new staff members](#)

[Mini-roundabout construction detours traffic](#)

[Anthony Wayne's Purple Star program gives military students a built-in support system](#)

[AW Alumni Association welcomes Hall of Fame Inductees](#)

[High school girls soccer: Defending state champion AW leads pack of state contenders](#)

[Rouser, Kellet find back of the net as AW downs Ottawa Glandorf, 2-0](#)

[High school boys soccer: Wide open battle for supremacy among area teams](#)

[2026 high school football previews: AW Generals](#)

[Five Star Generals: Charley Gardner, Addy O'Shea lead AW volleyball's next chapter](#)

[Anthony Wayne downs Clay 3-1 in District Final rematch](#)



Superintendent Herman [talks with Lily Lowndes from 13abc](#) about roundabout construction in an August 2 live interview.



Senior Kira Zemanski is interviewed by WTOL for [a story about the AWHS Community Engagement class](#) and her service project to collect sports equipment.



The State Champion AWHHS and AW Junior High cheer teams were recognized as the Team of the Game by the Toledo Mud Hens and were introduced on the field.



Waterville Primary students put collaboration and problem-solving skills to the test while identifying local animals in a lesson from the Toledo Zoo. [Watch the video.](#)



Sixth grade students welcomed fifth graders to their new teams during the House Reveal event in Schaller Stadium. The house system is designed to promote a sense of belonging and positive culture at FTMS. [See highlights from the day.](#)

Stay Connected

General Information

www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org

District Directory

www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/Contact

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www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org/News

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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.](#)