



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT



I know I've shared my gratitude before, but as we wrap up a full school year amid COVID-19, I just cannot start this newsletter with anything but a genuine, heartfelt "thank you" to every student, parent, guardian, teacher, staff member, board member, local business owner and community member for your unwavering support and perseverance during this last year. It has, without a doubt, been like none other in history – at least not during my 39 years in public education.

With every schedule change, unexpected virtual learning day, quarantine protocol and request to help prevent the spread in our community, came personal sacrifice. I know the changes and fluidity we underwent together this year caused great challenges in your lives – some may even say chaos at times – and you rallied behind the health and well-being of our students and still helped prioritize education in your homes. I am in awe of you all.

If you haven't already, I personally encourage you to reflect back on some of the challenges of this year to have a true appreciation for what you've overcome. We have included a look back on the year inside this newsletter, so please keep reading. We have weathered this COVID-19 storm together, and we couldn't have picked a better army of people to make up this great district.

On behalf of our entire staff, please know how grateful we are for your continued support and dedication to our students and this district.

A FEW ITEMS OF NOTE:

- We're working through the master schedule for the 2021-22 school year to determine exactly how school days will look next year. As this is finalized, we'll share the information on the district website and through our e-newsletter. Sign up for the e-newsletter on the district website: Go to District Office ▶ Resources + Forms ▶ E-Newsletter Sign-Up.
- **It's time for kindergarten and preschool registration.** See additional information inside.
- We look forward to seeing you all back in school on August 16, 2021!

STAY CONNECTED!

If you are on Twitter and would like to hear about more A-C happenings, please follow:

- Mr. Dick: @acaces_supt.
- A-C District: @amandaacesk12
- A-C Athletics: @amandaathletics
- A-C High School: @ACHS_Aces

 **FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

AMANDA-CLEARCREEK CORE VALUES ...

We believe our success as a school district is the shared responsibility of students, home, staff and community.

We believe each of our students will graduate prepared to enter society as critical, independent thinkers.

We believe all our students can learn when provided with a safe environment that values and respects them as individuals.

WHAT'S NEW



ACES DIGITAL ACADEMY

We're expanding our Ages Digital Academy to grades 6-12; keep reading to learn more!

PRESCHOOL EXPANSION

We are excited to announce a preschool expansion! Keep reading in this newsletter to learn more.

NEW COURSES

Over the last two academic years, we have added a great deal of high school courses to help our students excel in their next chapter of life. These include:

- Accounting
- Advanced PE (Physical Education)
- Ag Capstone (Welding)
- American History CCP
- Business Foundations
- Career Connections
- Crafts
- English Composition I CCP
- English Composition II CCP
- Guitar
- Human Anatomy CCP
- Interactive Media
- Mentoring
- Mythology
- Psychology
- Public Speaking CCP
- Show Choir
- Sociology
- Sports Marketing
- Wellness
- Wood Working
- Work Experience

Note: CCP signifies the course is part of the College Credit Plus program, which allows students to graduate with college credits.

STUDENT HAPPENINGS

A LOOK BACK ON WINTER & SPRING



ACES IN THE COMMUNITY 100th Day of School Food Drive

The kindergarten classes collected over 500 cans for the 100th day of school canned food drive. Pictured here are Mrs. Fager's class (left), who collected 140 cans, and Mrs. Dury's class (right), who collected 108 cans!



EIGHT STUDENTS BECOME CAREER-READY WITH WELDING CERTIFICATION

Eight ACHS seniors have earned their professional welding certification through the American Welding Society. Students prepared for testing throughout A-C's Ag Power class and then completed certification exams at Columbus State Community College.

A-C FFA MEMBERS ADVANCE TO NATIONAL COMPETITION



We would like to highlight several members of our FFA chapter for their tremendous success at recent state-level Career Development Event competitions.

Congratulations to Morgan Anderson for winning the state Senior Prepared speaking contest; she will advance to the national CDE contest this fall. We'd also like to congratulate Hannah Saum for placing third in the Beginning Prepared speaking contest and Josie Speakman for placing ninth in the Extemporaneous speaking contest.

Morgan Anderson, Cole Bryon, Sydney Young and Sara Sharp competed in the state-level Ag Sales CDE competition, where they placed fifth as a team. Sara also placed first individually in Ohio in the Senior Division; she will advance to the national CDE contest this fall.

CLASS OF 2021 GRADUATION

We're excited to host graduation for the ACHS Class of 2021 at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 21. Congratulations to all of our grads on your hard work and dedication! Please join us in congratulating the Class of 2021 valedictorians and salutatorian.

Valedictorians

Stephanie Bowers
Audrey Butterbaugh
Alyssa Sain
Dorothea West

Anthony Buckley
Emily McCormick
Nathan Storts
Julienne White

Salutatorian

Marissa Durr

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Please join us in congratulating the following ACHS students who were recently inducted into the National Honor Society. These students met the 3.5 GPA requirement in addition to holding the standards of leadership, character and service as set by the NHS.

Jarod Black
Ryan Chambers
Nathan Hunter
Sara Sharp
Jonathan Weaver
Cade Young

Abigail Carver
Madison Durr
Jaymeson Sahr
Carly Spence
Logan Wells

LOOKING BACK ON AN ACADEM

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE OUTCOMES

As the end of this academic year draws near, we wanted to take some time to reflect on a school year amid a pandemic. This is certainly not the first time in history our country has experienced a pandemic, but it is the first time for most of our staff, teachers, parents and certainly our students.

One of the major differences – and advantages – of COVID-19 compared to historic pandemics is our access to technology and the benefits it has for learning. Because of technology, we were able to keep our students “in the classroom” through a combination of in-person instruction and virtual learning. As a community and country, we are so fortunate to have these advantages to ensure our children didn’t miss a beat in their education.

We often think of the challenges and inconveniences COVID-19 has brought to our lives, but there has been a lot of good to come from this experience as well! We wanted to share some of these long-term impacts – and benefits – from an educational and operational perspective here at A-C.



RESILIENCE

Our students, staff, teachers and parents have become more resilient than we ever knew possible! We have adapted at moment's notice in transitioning to virtual learning when necessary, we have embraced ever-changing guidelines and rules, and we have undergone all of this with grace and resilience. These are life lessons that will benefit students for decades to come.



TECHNOLOGY

Collectively, our district quickly adapted to and embraced online learning, allowing our students to continue their education even during periods of quarantine. This virtual platform also allowed us to continue learning when calamity days were exhausted, ensuring our students stayed on-track during periods of winter weather. Most importantly, technology provided a remote learning option for families who wanted to stay home – and that is an ongoing option for families!



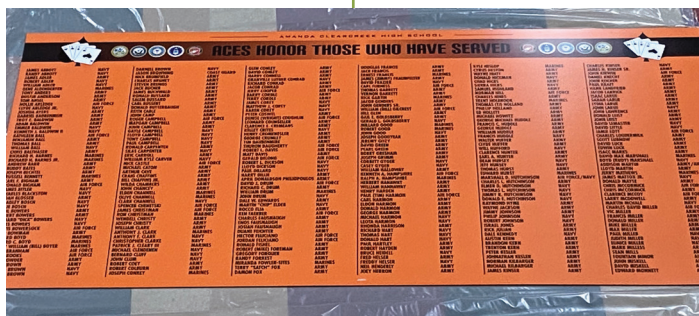
OUR ACES DIGITAL ACADEMY

Our Aces Digital Academy, launched in 2018, set us up for success with virtual learning! The Academy has provided students in grades 9-12 a quality, alternative education online, while counting toward graduation from A-C. The academy offers online courses at school or at home with face-to-face assistance available. Enrolled students are also eligible for all A-C events and extracurricular activities.

NEW! Starting in the 2021-22 school year, the Aces Digital Academy will expand to grades 6-12. Students in grades K-5 will continue to have the option of online learning through the Google Classroom platform that was implemented during this past school year. Our goal is to ensure all students in all grades have access to quality, alternative education here within our district.

Students interested in enrolling in the Aces Digital Academy should contact Steve Daulton, academy coordinator, at sdaulton@amanda.k12.oh.us or 740-969-7251. Students who reside in the district can join the Academy throughout the school year. Students who reside outside the district should check the website for open enrollment information.

IC YEAR AMID A PANDEMIC



CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

COVID-19 restrictions forced us to think differently about everyday activities, traditions and events across the district – and creativity blossomed into incredible new ideas! One example is the new Veterans Wall installation in the 3-12 building. We weren't able to continue our tradition of bringing veterans in to celebrate Veterans Day, so we thought creatively about how to honor our community's veterans in other ways. The result is a permanent installation that will help us celebrate these honorable men and women for decades to come.

THE VETERANS WALL

Note: We invite community members to see the new Veterans Wall in-person on Memorial Day. We'll open the 3-12 auditorium doors (west side of the building) on Monday, May 31, 2021, from 8-11 a.m. The Veterans Wall is outside the cafeteria in the 3-12 building.

Do you know a veteran in our community? Please share his/her name and U.S. Armed Forces branch with Scott Hinton at 740-969-7251 or shinton@amanda.k12.oh.us.



LONG-TERM WELLNESS EFFECTS

Our district has always been mindful of communicable diseases to prevent spread within our district. However, COVID-19 has taught us all a lot about how to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, and federal grants have provided tools and resources we've never had access to before. For example, we were able to replace all drinking fountains with water bottle fillers, eliminating a common high-touch surface for students.

ACT SCORE DATA TREND



We have compiled our ACT scores from the past few years and are excited to see an upward trend of scores – even amid a pandemic. These scores are a true testament to the hard work of our students, teachers, staff and parents working together to put the student first.

ACHS ACT DATA TREND

School Year	Composite	Math	Science	English	Reading
17-18	19.94	19.64	19.77	19.58	20.28
18-19	19.95	19.32	19.6	19.63	20.73
19-20	19.05	18.76	19.4	17.82	19.67
20-21	20.06	19.68	19.83	19.47	20.56

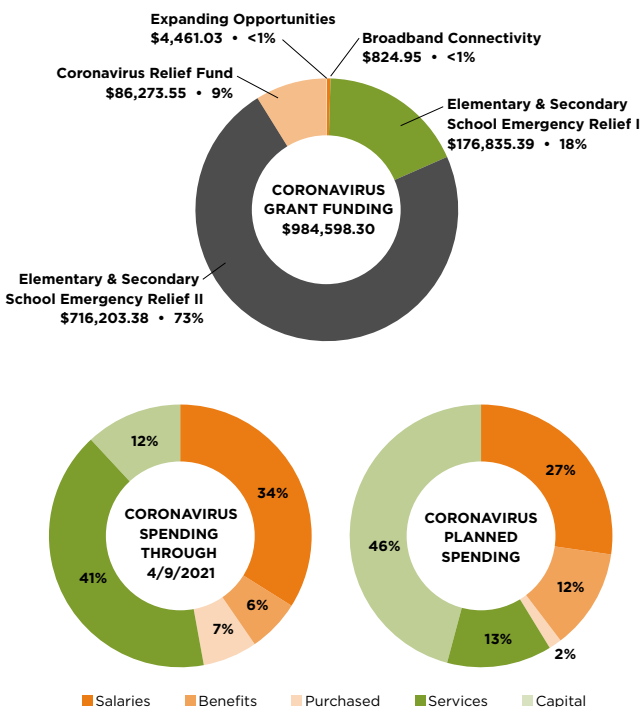
Note: This data includes the students who tested that year and is not by graduating class.

FINANCES IN A FLASH

COVID-19 FUNDING & EXPENDITURES

As you're likely aware, school districts have been given federal funding to help with COVID-19 costs. So far, our district has been awarded \$984,598.30, of which we have spent \$223,801.89. We've included below a breakdown of these funding sources, as well as how we've spent these dollars.

Several of these grants are available through 2022, so we're being mindful of how we're spending these dollars within the established guidelines. For example, instead of buying an overabundance of hand sanitizer, we're investing in a bus and new cafeteria tables that help us socially distance our students. We need them now for COVID, and these will be part of our infrastructure for years to come. We're being responsible stewards of these dollars and strategically thinking about how we can maximize these funds for the long-term, while simultaneously protecting the health and safety of students and staff.



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

As our buildings age, infrastructure projects are critical for keeping the buildings and property safe and efficient. We have a few infrastructure projects currently in the works, which are being responsibly funded by a combination of federal grants, community sponsorships, energy savings, cash reserves and record-low financing. For example, our HVAC project listed below will save the district \$137,000 annually, and the LED lighting project will save the district \$93,000 annually.

HVAC Control System – We're implementing an HVAC control system in the 3-12 building that will allow us to only heat/cool the building when necessary. Not only will this project save \$137,000 annually on energy costs, but it will also allow us to monitor and increase the indoor air quality by pulling fresh air into the building from outside (which is especially important during COVID-19 and seasons of high communicable disease).

LED Lighting in Stadium – We're upgrading the lights in the stadium for two reasons: safety and efficiency. The old wood poles holding the lights were 30 years old, and using LED lights provides significant energy savings.

Digital Scoreboard – A new digital scoreboard is being installed in the stadium, and is being funded solely through community sponsorships. This also provides a career-readiness opportunity for our students, as building content for the scoreboard is part of the new Interactive Media course curriculum.

Band Room – Our band room is overcrowded, and for fire code reasons, we are expanding this space.

REGISTER NOW

PRESCHOOL EXPANSION

We want to ensure children in our district have the opportunity to start their educational journey right here at home, so we're expanding the A-C preschool program to provide room for more students!

Our taxpayers entrusted us with their support to increase education, and this is one meaningful way to do just that. Since quality education starts at the foundation, we wanted to be sure our students are coming into kindergarten already prepared for the curriculum.

For enrollment and questions, please contact Lora Lowe at llowe@amanda.k12.oh.us or 740-969-7289.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Children who will be five years old by July 31, 2021, are eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year. For more information, call 740-969-7254 or visit the district website and click *Kindergarten* under the Primary tab.



UPDATES

FEE WAIVER REMINDER

Please complete the Free and Reduced Meal Application. Even though lunches were free this year, those who qualify could be eligible for waived school fees – and you help the district secure critical ongoing funding.

FREE MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended FREE meals to all students through Sept. 30, 2021.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

A-C will be offering a Summer Food Program due to the extension of the USDA Waiver. This program is available to ALL A-C students regardless of income. Each child will receive five breakfasts, five lunches and 10 milks per week at NO COST. For more information, call 740-969-7450 or email kdum@amanda.k12.oh.us.

You asked
for more communication ...
& we listened!

OPEN TO SEE
A PANDEMIC YEAR,
STUDENT SUCCESSSES
& MORE

SIGN UP
FOR OUR A-C
E-NEWSLETTERS
bit.ly/2DXWUEJ
or go to Resources on the A-C website.

Sign up for AC text Alerts!
Text TEC to 64085
to sign up for
text alerts.




AUG. 16: First day for students

MAY 27: Last day for students

MAY 21: Graduation

DISTRICT CALENDAR

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Message From Your Superintendent
- What's New
- Kindergarten Registration
- Preschool Expansion & Registration
- Reflecting Back: A Year Amid A Pandemic
- Finances in A Flash
- Student Happenings
- Student Spotlight

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

At Amanda-Clearcreek High School, we encourage students to get involved in as many activities as they can to help them become well-rounded students. Twins Nathan and Natalie Storts have done just that! During their time at A-C, they've been active in National Honor Society, Student Council, AP and CCP (College Credit Plus) courses, soccer, Drama Club, Science Club, Academic Challenge, Hosler, jazz band and pep band. Through their participation, they have found that each group provides the opportunity to build friendships with different people.

NATALIE'S FAVORITE PART OF BEING AN ACE:

"It feels like you have a family at school, and you feel like everyone is family in our community. It's great knowing that people will always encourage you to be the person you know you can be."



NATHAN'S FAVORITE PART OF BEING AN ACE:

"The teachers here play a big role in preparing us for the future. Not only do they teach you, but they care about who you are and where you are going. They teach us important life lessons – like how to rebound from a mistake."

Natalie plans to attend Columbus State Community College for the Interpreter Education Program and communications, and hopes to later sign for patients in a hospital. Nathan plans to attend the University of Cincinnati for chemical engineering and math, with a dream job of working for NASA. His goal is to solve one of the world's seven unsolved math problems.