

Event Dates

February

February 6 and 7 Safe to Say Something student assemblies

February 15 In-service No School

February 18 No School President's Day

February 22 Sweetheart dance for freshman students 7:00 - 9:00

February 26 Games Night 3:00 – 5:00

February 28 Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:30 – 8:30

March 1 No School

March 1 Spring Musical – Alice in Wonderland Jr. 7:00

March 2 Spring Musical – Alice in Wonderland Jr. 7:00



this issue

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From the Principal

Parents/Guardians:

It is time for a mid-year grade assessment. Winter break and the first semester have just ended. This is a good time to look back on the first half of the school year to see what worked and what did not. Students need strong study skills to be successful and parents play a significant role in helping their children develop them. The study skills junior high students learn now will help them succeed today, in high school and beyond. To lay the groundwork for your child's success:

Time management. Has your child been spending the proper amount of time on homework? Check with his/her teachers.

Study environment. Does your child have a quiet, well-stocked place for homework?

Organizational skills. Is your child using his/her daily agenda? Does he/she have projects due dates written on the calendar?

Family support. Continue to tell your child that his/her schoolwork is a high priority. Encourage him/her to feel proud of his/her strong effort.

Stay involved. Take an interest in the things your child is learning. Ask him/her to teach you something new.

Additionally, **Parent-Teacher Conferences** are coming please put them on your calendar. This too is a good way to see how your son/daughter is doing in all classes by talking to teachers face-to-face. We hope to see you on **Thursday, February 28, 2018 from 4:30 – 8:30 PM.** As always, working together we can make junior high a great experience for your child!

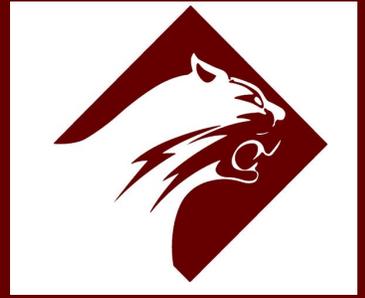
Sincerely,
Lori H. Mangan
Principal

**Respect
Ownership
Action
Relationships**

**Welcome to Altoona Area
Junior High School**



Counselors Corner



The whole scheduling process can be a bit overwhelming. Below is some helpful information from each grade level:

9th to 10th Grade Scheduling:

10th grade counselors: Mr. Steve Westrick (A-K) 946-8280: swestrick@aadscat.com

Mrs. Sue Fox (L-Z) 946-8283: sfox@aadscat.com

Course Description Booklet: This booklet, that your child received mid January, will help clear the fog! Refer to the matrixes at the beginning of the booklet for each Program of Study, i.e.; honors, core academic, etc.

Career Pathways: Remember our pathways when trying to decide on electives. We want our students to be content with future careers. Pick electives related to interest areas. Pathways, electives and clubs are also listed in the course description booklet.

Back to 7 credits: Remember the high school has seven periods in a day in contrast to our eight periods. Your child will be filling a seven period day schedule.

Recommendation Day: January 30th is 9th grade Recommendation Day. Students will pick electives on this day.

GACTC: Tenth graders will attend the GACTC for 3 periods a day. Academic and honors students attending will need to attend summer school to make room in their schedule for a world language. It is **not** too late to apply to the GACTC. Please apply through your 9th grade guidance office.

Earning Credits: Students must pass 6.5 credits this year in order to pass to tenth grade. Since students need 4 credits of English to graduate, English must be passed in ninth grade. Civics is not offered at the high school, so it too must be passed at the junior high.

Health and P.E.: All tenth graders must schedule Health and Physical Education. Did you know swimming and dance are physical education classes offered at the AAHS? Regular Physical may be taken in summer school. See below.

Summer School: High School Summer School dates: *Session 1*, June 13-June 28 *Session 2*: July 5-22. Applications will be available on May 2, 2019 in the first floor counseling office. The cost is \$75 per course.

8th to 9th Grade Scheduling:

9th grade counselors: Mrs. Bridget Stroh (A-K) 381-7558: bstroh@aadscat.com

Mr. Damon Luciano (L-Z) 381-7524: dluciano@aadscat.com

8th Grade Parent Scheduling Meeting: January 31st, 6:00 pm AAJHS Auditorium

Electives: Students will pick electives on Feb. 5 and 6 in their CBL classes.

Meetings: The 9th grade counselors will meet with every 8th grader individually to finalize their schedule in March.

Career Pathways: Remember our pathways when trying to decide on electives. We want our students to be content with future careers. Pick electives related to interest areas. Pathways, electives and clubs are also listed in the course description booklet.

GACTC: Eighty current 8th graders will be selected to attend the GACTC in 9th grade. Students selected may have had some difficulty in 7th and/or 8th grade. These students will benefit from an extra year at the GACTC in order to prove that they have turned things around.

Course Verification Forms: These forms will be sent home in May. They will list all courses in which the student is scheduled. Parents, please review these forms and call your child's counselor if you have any concerns.

Counselors Corner



7th to 8th Grade Scheduling

8th grade counselors: Mrs. Holton (A-K) 381-7557: mholton@asdcats.com

Mrs. Loucks (L-Z) 381-7534: lloucks@asdcats.com

Recommendations: Teachers are currently making 8th grade level recommendations by completing a recommendation form for each 7th grade student.

Student Assembly: To discuss the scheduling process, 8th grade counselors will hold a student assembly for all 7th graders on Friday, February 1, 2019 during CBL and a parent meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 6:00pm in AAJHS auditorium.

Scheduling process: 8th grade counselors will compile the recommendations from teachers and send home the information in late February. Included will be a brochure explaining the scheduling process. Parents, please review the recommendation sheet and brochure. If you have any questions, contact the appropriate counselor listed above.

Important upcoming dates for 7th and 8th graders:

April 15-19: PSSA English/Language Arts with make-ups

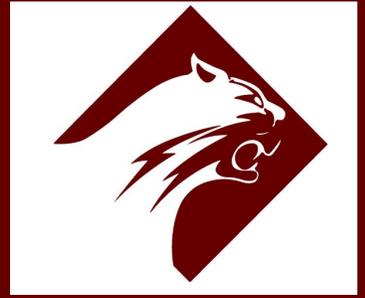
April 22-April 26: PSSA Math with make-ups

April 29-May 3: PSSA Science (8th only) with make-ups

Verification Forms: May, 2019: course verification forms will be distributed with the level of courses the student will take during their 8th grade year, including if the student chose a music elective of band, strings, or chorus.



The School Nurse



From the Nurse's Desk...

Let's fight the flu together!!!!

Cold and flu season is here! Often parents ask, "When is my child too sick to come to school?"

In accordance with Pennsylvania Code Title 28, Chapter 27: Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, your child should not come to school if he/she has the following symptoms:

- Fever, especially 100.5 or greater in the past 24 hours (must be fever free without the help of medication)
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Thick mucus or drainage from the eyes or nose
- Rash that is undiagnosed (especially with fever)
- Cold symptoms with persistent runny nose or cough (especially if the cold symptoms keep your child awake at night)
- Strep throat (must have taken antibiotic a full 24 hours before returning to school)

Bringing a child to school with any of the above symptoms puts other children and staff at risk. Please be proactive and teach your child to wash his/her hands often!

The top five most virus-contaminated areas in the home are:

- Telephones/Cell phones
- Appliances such as refrigerators and microwaves
- Faucets
- Light switches and door handles
- TV remotes

Follow good health guidelines: eat right, exercise, and get plenty of rest to help boost the immunity system to fight the effects of colds and flu. Wash hands frequently, do the elbow cough, and disinfect hot spots at school, work and home.

Social Studies Department

Using Interactive Notebooks in Social Studies-and in other subjects

So what is it about Interactive Notebooks that make them such a hot commodity in education? Why are they such a beneficial tool for students and teachers? What can classrooms and parents gain from their usage?

Here is some basic information about the interactive notebook and how it can be used in the classroom.

1. Interactive Notebooks teach students to organize and synthesize their thoughts.

By working with students to create a process for them to organize their thinking you will be able to teach study skills without "*teaching*" them. Processes build structure and with use of left and right side pages students will naturally organize their thoughts

2. Interactive Notebooks accommodate multiple learning styles at one time in (and out of) the classroom.

Whether you do teacher input activities as a whole group or a small group, student output activities give students the ability to show exactly where they are in their understanding of the subject.

3. Student-Teacher-Parent interaction is built and strengthened with the use of Interactive Notebooks.

When students are working on homework at home with their Interactive Notebooks, not only will students be able to use them but parents will be able to have a resource into the learning that is taking place in the classroom.

4. Students are building a portfolio that allows for teachers to track growth over time.

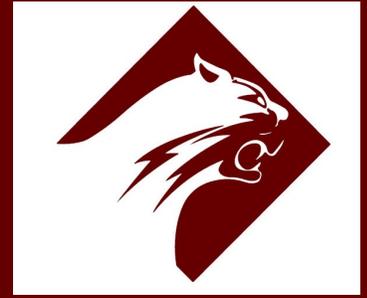
Reflections of what students are learning in their output pages (*as well as the work shown*) will show how they are synthesizing the information learned in class and as students develop further skills this will be reflected in their output. These reflections are great to show during parent-teacher conferences and even discuss during student-teacher conferences.

5. Interactive Notebooks have students create a resource to use as they continue to extend their learning.

An interactive notebook works as a textbook for students that is theirs. Not only are they taking beneficial notes, practicing and reflecting on material but they are also using that information as they work on future activities. Students are going back and reviewing the prior pages repeatedly and therefore building exposure to the material each time.

6. Students take ownership of their learning through color and creativity.

One of the main things that helps students to buy in to the use of Interactive Notebook is not the benefits they can see from it but the ability for it to be their own. When students know, and are allowed, to use color in their notebooks it makes their notes come alive. Using colored paper, markers, colored pencils, etc. make it easier to sort information and group things together. This



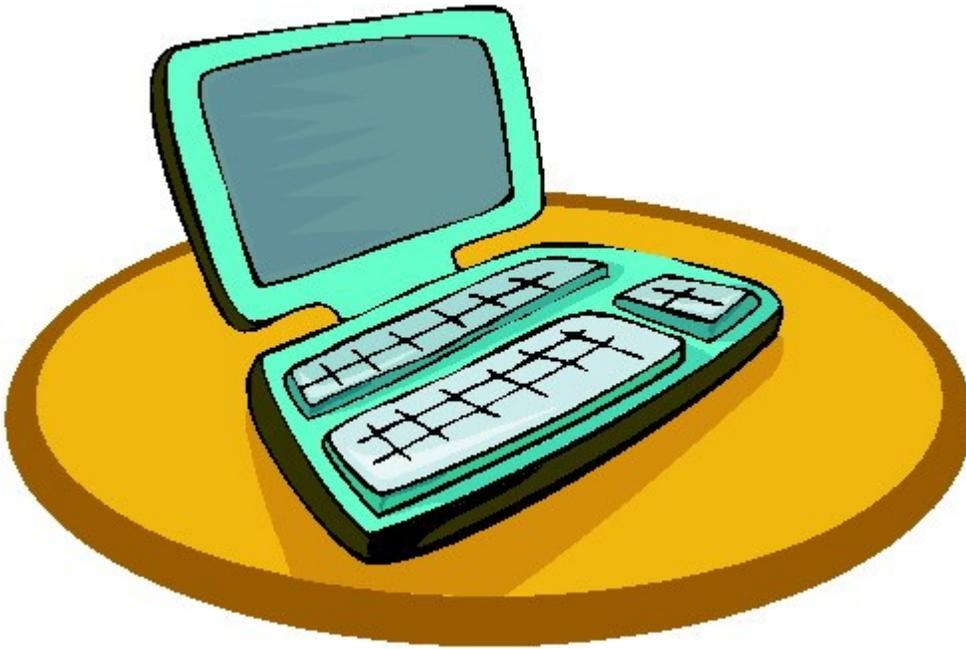
Social Studies Department



7. Interactive Notebooks reduce clutter in the classroom as well as in student's lives.

By having students take all of their notes and then also practice and reflect in one location it allows for them to be organized and therefore eliminates excess papers being lost and misplaced when students would benefit from using them as they learn.

So ask your student if their teacher is using an interactive notebook!



Announcement

♥ Sweetheart Dance ♥

The 9th Grade Sweetheart Dance will be held on Friday, February 22nd from 7:00-9:00 PM in the A-gym

Don't Forget:

The dress code is casual formal – gentlemen should wear a dress shirt and dress pants. Ladies' dresses can be short or long, with or without straps. **The length of the short dresses must follow the Student Code of Conduct, meaning that they must reach the knee area.**

Dresses with **CUTOUPS** or **TWO-PIECES** must have **COLORED MESH** in them. **NO BARE SKIN OR SEE THROUGH.**

No limousines or flowers/corsages permitted.

Soda and snacks will be served throughout the night.

Only Altoona Area Junior High School **ninth graders** are permitted to attend this dance.

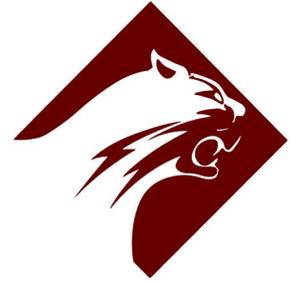
Students on current **suspension, have five demerits, and/or are on extracurricular probation** at the time of the dance are not permitted to attend.

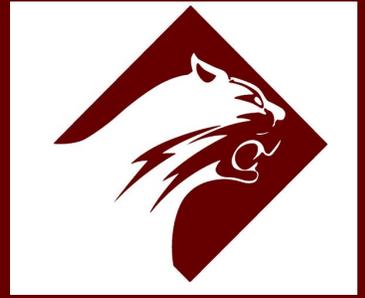
Also, any student who owes a fine cannot attend the Sweetheart Dance. **Fines must be cleared up by the end of ticket sales – NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**

YOU MUST HAVE YOUR ID TO ATTEND THE DANCE.

Tickets will go on sale starting the morning of Wednesday, February 20th for students' last name A-K and Thursday, February 21st for students' last name L-Z. Tickets will also be sold on Friday, February 22nd for any students that were absent. The tickets will be sold on the first floor near the auditorium from 7:00-7:25. The cost of tickets will be \$5.00.

Tickets WILL NOT be sold at the door.





RESCHEDULED:

The scheduling presentation for 6th Grade students and their parents has been *rescheduled* for Thursday, February 7th at 6:00PM.

AAJHS will soon begin course scheduling for next year, and with the challenge of a successful transition to the junior high setting ahead, we feel it is extremely important to meet with you and your child to discuss the scheduling process. We have scheduled two evenings as follows, and encourage all AASD sixth grade students and parents / guardians to attend:

*Please enter out Building through the “Arts” doors facing the high school (7th Avenue, closest to 13th Street)
For handicapped accessible entrance, please use the 8th Avenue band doors, closest to 13th Street.*

Please use AASD parking lots only. (Do not park in Dr. Chopra’s office parking lot!)

The Annual Altoona Area Junior High School Activity Fair



The sixth graders from the Altoona Area Elementary Schools' will be visiting the junior high school on March 1, 2019. The event is a fun opportunity for the sixth graders to experience what life is like as a seventh grader. They will take part in a variety of activities, which include a performance by our drama club, obtain helpful information about their future enrollment, meet with their future counselors, and experience lunch in the food-court cafeteria. This visit will help sixth graders make a smooth transition to Altoona Area Junior High School.

ASPIRE. ACHIEVE. SUCCEED. DREAM.