

Event Dates December

December 4 Jazz Band
Concert 7:00

December 7 IGRs will be
post to Family Access in
Skyward

December 7 Seventh Grade
Chorus/Orchestra Concert
7:00

December 11 Orchestra/
Chamber Concert 7:00

December 21 No School In
-service

December 22 –January 1
No School Winter Break



this issue

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From the Principal

Parents/Guardians:

With the holiday season just around the corner let’s all promote “kindness” to make a difference in our school and community. Acts of kindness don’t cost us anything and can always make a difference in someone else’s life. It can be big or small and it can make your child feel good whether she gets it or gives it away. What is it? Kindness!

Junior High students who are considerate get along better with classmates and adults. Try these suggestions:

Take action. Encourage your child to be kind. If there is a new student in her classes, ask how she might feel if she were new. Then, she can think of ways to make the new girl feel welcome, such as introducing herself or sitting with her at an assembly.

Celebrate. Comment on your child’s kind behaviors. You might say, “That was nice of you to put away your brother’s laundry while he’s sick.” Or declare “Kindness Week.” Have family members write down random acts of kindness they see others do, and take turns reading them aloud at dinner.

Here’s to a great winter break!

Sincerely,

Lori H. Mangan

Principal

**Respect
Ownership
Action
Relationships**

**Welcome to Altoona Area
Junior High School**



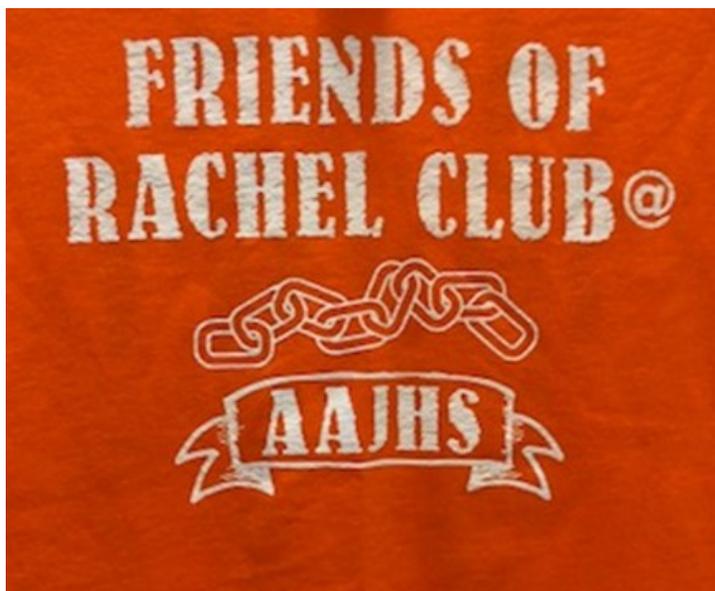
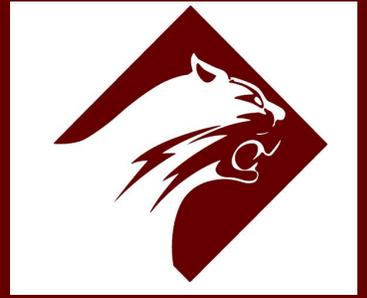
Counselors Corner

Rachel's Challenge

Rachel Joy Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999. But that was only the beginning of the story. After her death, many students that Rachel touched shared stories with her parents, the Scotts, about the profound impact her simple acts of kindness had on their lives, even preventing one young man from taking his own life. They soon realized the effect of Rachel's story and started the non-profit organization that is Rachel's Challenge today.

In the nineteen years since Rachel's death, her legacy has touched 25 million people and is the foundation for creating programs that promote a positive climate in schools. Her vision to start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion is the basis for the mission of Rachel's Challenge, making the focus on showing **kindness**.

Here at Altoona Area Junior High, the school counselors and a group of teachers have joined and created the F.O.R (friends of Rachel) Club. There are about 100 students in the club. It meets monthly to discuss and plan activities to create an atmosphere of kindness throughout the school setting. To date, the F.O.R Club has started the day with two "High Five Welcomes" where members greeted students coming into school, created Thankful posters for classroom doors, painted positive messages on the cafeteria windows, and participated in team building exercises. In the months to come, our plan is to continue acts of kindness with holiday cheer.



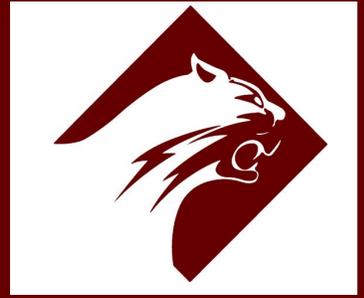
Counselors Corner

9th Grade GACTC

For some ninth graders, The Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center (GACTC) will be part of their tenth grade schedule. This state of the art technical school offers 27 programs which can lead students to full time employment, accreditation or certification in a particular program, or to college or technical schools.

In November, ninth graders had the opportunity to visit three different programs at the GACTC. After the visit, many students decided to apply to the technical school. Applications will be mailed home and are also available in the AAJHS counseling offices. Applications should be completed by January 11, 2019, and they can be given to the ninth grade guidance counselors, Mr. Luciano and Mrs. Stroh. Once the applications are turned in, Mr. Luciano and Mrs. Stroh will continue the application process by forwarding to the GACTC first and second marking period grades, attendance, junior high transcripts, discipline, and eighth grade PSSA scores. The GACTC counseling department will review all of the information and make decisions on placement. Students will receive a letter from the GACTC starting in March which will indicate their acceptance or denial. Students are competing for open spots against other students from all over Blair County and even parts of Cambria County.

Is the CTC right for your child? We encourage you to learn more about the GACTC by visiting their website at www.gactc.edu. It would also be helpful to talk to their administrators, counselors, instructors, and even past and present students. The GACTC Open House will be held on **December 4, 2018, from 5-8 p.m.** All students in all grade levels and parents are invited to attend.



A+ School Rewards



Altoona Junior High ID# 20469

Dear Supporter:

Our school Altoona Junior High, ID#: **20469** has the opportunity to participate in and earn cash from A+ School Rewards, a great fundraising program run through your local Martin's!

Former Supporters:

You DO NOT need to re-register your card if your school selection(s) remains the same as last year.

New Supporters or Existing Supporters Wishing to Make Changes:

Beginning *August 3, 2018*, visit martinsfoods.com and select "SIGN IN" at the top right to log into your online account. Once logged in, select "MY ACCOUNT", followed by "MANAGE MY ACCOUNT", then "REWARDS & SAVINGS" to select your school.

If you do not have an online account, visit martinsfoods.com and click "REGISTER". Follow the prompts to create your online account. Once logged in, follow the same instructions as noted above.

You'll need your 11-digit BONUSCARD® number and the School ID number. If you need assistance, call 1-888-562-7846 option 1.