



School District of Altoona

“Home of the Railroaders”

RAILS REVIEW

WINTER · 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

by Dr. Ronald J. Walsh, Interim Superintendent



“Now is the winter of our discontent.” Those words were written by William Shakespeare in *Richard III*. I’ve always struggled with historical writings such as this. I more easily relate to Red Green’s statement, “Now is the winter of our discount tent.” It brings visions of fun in the winter outdoors. I hope you will all take time during the long winter months to take advantage of what the nature of our area has to offer. For your own health and the health of your family look to outdoor activities to keep you healthy and upbeat during these months of short sunlight and cold weather.

As a school district, we are moving forward with the very important work of finding a new superintendent. This new person will begin duties with the school district in July of next year. That seems like a long time from now but this is actually the best time of year to find the best pool of candidates. Our board is working with a firm, School Exec Connect, to help them do a thorough job to hire the best possible person who will be the best fit for this school district and community. Thanks to those who already participated in our focus groups and did the online survey related to desired characteristics of the new superintendent.

As your interim superintendent I want you to know that this experience for me is exciting and very rewarding. What makes it so are the wonderfully welcoming students, staff and community. This truly is a wonderful community and school district. Somewhat of a hidden gem in Wisconsin. The results of the most recent state testing made me so proud to discuss the great things going on here. It is so reassuring to know that every student is cared for in this school district. Individual needs are known and addressed as much as they can be. The focus of your administrators and teachers is on continually improving. They work hard at getting better and we should all be proud of them for doing so.

I make it a point to walk around each building for a few minutes each week to greet staff and students. Getting to know some of the students is the biggest reward of being in Altoona. Regardless of the age of the students, they are well-mannered and eager to say “hi” each time we meet. The values that are taught and modeled at home and in the community become the base upon which our students grow. It is working. Thank you all for that!

In an early episode of *House of Cards*, Frank is back at his alma mater and reflecting on his time spent there as a youth; the brevity of it, the feeling of it. He came up with the word “harmony” to describe his feelings about his old school. He said, “Harmony. That’s the word stuck in my mind. Harmony, It’s not about what’s lasting or permanent, it is about individual voices coming together for a moment and that moment lasts... the length of a breath.”

I see and feel harmony each day I am with the students and staff in Altoona. Thank you for the trust you have given to all our staff and me. You make this work very rewarding.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Walsh
Interim Superintendent



OUR VISION:

Engage · Equip · Empower

OUR MISSION:

“Offering large school opportunities with a small school approach.”

1903 Bartlett Avenue
Altoona, WI 54720
715-839-6032 Tel
715-839-6066 Fax



<http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us>

CARE CLOSET OPENS TO HELP STUDENTS WITH BASIC NEEDS

by Cheri Bresina, Alternative Education Teacher

The School District of Altoona opened a Care Closet on October 8, 2018.

The Care Closet offers clothing, hygiene items and a food pantry to meet the need of any student enrolled in the district. Clothing is available for students in kindergarten through high school and food is sent home on Fridays.

While schools do not list items such as socks, underwear, and shampoo on their back to school lists, many of our students are lacking these items sometimes causing them to be unable to focus on school.

The Care Closet has been collecting clothing such as winter coats, hats, mittens, jeans, underwear, and socks throughout the year.

The school is also creating hygiene kits. Families and students can “shop” for items

with their school counselor for needed items and take what is needed for free.

The School District of Altoona’s Alternative Education students sort and organize the Care Closet by clothing sizes and also spend time sorting and stocking pantry items for the District-run Food Pantry.

The School District has been fortunate in securing the following donations for start up costs. The Rockin’ on the River Summer Concert Series held at River Prairie Park selected the Care Closet as the organization for it’s final summer concert on August 29th.

Concert attendees donated \$1234.19 to the Care Closet. Donations from our Back to School Ice Cream Social totaled \$216.65. The Tools for Schools Grant sponsored by WQOW, CCFBank, and Asher Lasting Exteriors donated \$500. A Savers FunDrive was

held at the last football home game, and it earned \$95.20 for the Care Closet.

The Care Closet is located in the former district office at 701 7th Street West, just south of the Altoona High School.

Students or families can contact their child’s teacher or guidance counselor to make arrangements to visit the District Care Closet or to receive weekly food.

Donation questions about the Care Closet can be sent to Cheri Bresina cbresina@altoona.k12.wi.us or by calling 715-839-6031 ext. 469



The Care Closet group is collecting clean eco friendly bags for the new Care Closet. Bags can be dropped off in the high school office.



The hygiene kits are available in a child or teenager version. The items include:

Child Kit

- Toothbrush, toothpaste (mild flavor) and floss
- Shampoo and Conditioner (2-in-1 also works)
- Body wash or bar of soap
- Wash cloth
- Lotion
- Brush and Comb
- Lip Balm
- Band-aids
- Q-tips
- Tissue
- Hair Ties

Teenager Kit

- Toothbrush, toothpaste (mild flavor) and floss
- Shampoo and Conditioner (2-in-1 also works)
- Body wash or bar of soap
- Wash cloth
- Lotion
- Brush and Comb
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Tampons/Pads
- Razor and Shaving
- Lip Balm
- Band-aids
- Q-tips
- Tissue
- Hair Ties



The former district office has been transformed into a space that offers clothing, hygiene items, and a food pantry to meet the need of any student enrolled in the district. Students or families can contact their child’s teacher or guidance counselor to make arrangements to visit the Care Closet.

Cheri Bresina, alternative education teacher at AHS, and students accept a Tools for Schools grant. The money is being used to help fund projects for the district’s new care closet. Every month, WQOW along with Asher Lasting Exteriors and CCF Bank awards an area school with a \$500 grant to help in the classroom.

SEMESTER FULL OF GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

by Jason LeMay, High School Principal

I've been asked many times, "How is the school year going?" And I've answered the question each time with the same answer: "It's going great!"

Like any new school year there were some bugs and issues, but we expect that. I'm proud of our staff and our students because we have worked through them together and I'm grateful for that.

Speaking of being grateful, November was National Gratitude Month. This makes a lot of sense when you consider that Thanksgiving and Veteran's Day are both celebrated this month, making November an excellent month to focus on gratefulness.

As the end of first semester nears and we head into another

chapter of the school year, the weather is getting colder, and the days shorten, it can be easy to forget about being grateful for things and focus on the negative. However, that doesn't have to be the case.

Gratitude is so much more than remembering to be polite or say thank you. Gratitude involves taking the time to notice all the positives and the good around us and reflecting on how much they mean to us, including those things at Altoona High School.

We are a school that continues to grow in size and opportunities. We have a quality staff, supportive families and community, and wonderful students. Numerous people have told me how pleasant our

student body is and welcoming to visitors.

Altoona High School also has an outstanding academic profile. We continue to "Exceed Expectations" on our state report card, our ACT scores remain above the state average, and we have numerous students participating in college-level courses.

Our athletic programs are in a process of continued improvement and our winter sports are in full-swing. The dedication of the athletes, coaches, and fans is also something to be very grateful for. One of the best parts of this time of year is attending a sporting event and seeing all the cheering fans.

Finally, we are a building that works to help out others. If you

look through this newsletter, check out the Facebook page, or speak to our staff you will see numerous acts of helping others and I give my eternal gratitude to those folks that make it happen.

I am grateful to be part of the Railroader family and even though last month was National Gratitude Month I challenge all of you to find something or someone this month you can show gratitude towards and express that through a note, a gesture, or a kind word.

I also challenge every member of our community to come and attend at least one event this school year. It can be at any building level, but I promise that you'll be amazed by what our students are doing!



MURDER
Can Be Habit-Forming



The Altoona Drama Department presented "Murder Can Be Habit-Forming" on November 15, 16 and 17 in the High School Auditorium. The plot centered around a busload of passengers getting stranded by a blizzard and finding their way to an old mansion in the woods, now St. Mary's Convent, where the Reverend Mother Mary Cecilia provides them lodging for the night. She soon realizes that among her guests is a serial killer known as 'the Mary Murderer' whose victims are all named Mary! Providing as many laughs as chills the production was a light hearted mystery comedy that showcased the student thespians and all their talents.



AHS Interact Club hosted the Chippewa Valley iFeed event on November 3. Their goal, to “alleviate hunger in the world & in our communities by packing 30,000 meals,” was exceeded! Thirty-four Altoona students together with Regis students and volunteers from local businesses packed 33,000 meals. This event was made possible with help from the local Rotary groups.



Our students in Vocational Skills practice job, social, interpersonal, and communication skills out in the community during their time at their various job sites throughout the area.

Daily students visit the different sites and work on their skills.

Thank you to the community businesses and organizations that help support this valuable program for students.

Students enjoying a treat with the Director of St. Francis Food Pantry, Jerry Boardman.



Two teams from AHS participated in CVTC Manufacturing Day in October.

AHS team, Red Rockets, had the best luck with the big pressure cannon making it 24m, and AHS team, TBE (The Best Team Ever), got the furthest shot with the small nerf cannon with 200m.

A HUGE thank you to Veritas Steel for the hands-on Industry tour.



Sorting products at Hope Gospel Bargain Center.



Stocking shelves at St. Francis Food Pantry.



Join us
JANUARY 26TH
FOR LOCOPALOOZA 2019!

Don't miss the annual LocoPalooza Show Choir event on January 26th at Altoona High School!

The show choir is also looking to get in touch with all the Locomotion alumni out there! This year marks LocoPalooza's 20th Anniversary. We're trying to put together a Locomotion alumni show choir to perform at this year's event.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please fill out the short survey at the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/E2EmDvvF47g3Mkdf1>

Questions can be directed to Mr. Ranek at jranek@altoona.k12.wi.us or calling 715-839-6031 ext. 451



The Altoona Fab Lab hosted their first Community Night on November 29. Participants were able to use the equipment in the Fab Lab to create a laser-engraved photo keepsake and learn more about the other equipment found in the Fab Lab from various staff members who were there to assist.



National Honor Society had a beautiful day on October 31 helping out our Altoona neighbors with fall clean-up. Members and their advisors, Ms. Baxter and Ms. Lynnes, spent the morning raking and bagging leaves around the community. Thank you NHS members for your service.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INCREASES COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

by Dan Peggs, Middle School Principal

The Altoona Community has been good to us as a middle school.

We recognize and cherish the sacrifices our neighborhood makes to ensure that our school is supported and our students are loved. Moreover, we understand our interconnected world and how it impacts Altoona Middle School.

Recently, Mike Golat, Altoona City Administrator spoke at the State of the City address. In his presentation, he highlighted the importance of a good school system and how that can attract talented employees and build a local economy. In turn, we have noted how a good economy and community can support and build up our school system. Schools, businesses, and the culture of the community feed each other to build success.

For these reasons, we have decided as a school to invest in our community, knowing that we will also reap the benefits as a middle school.

One of our goals at AMS is to **build upon our positive school culture to impact the community around us.**

Since the inception of this goal over the summer months, we have seen it take shape in a variety of ways. I started the year by walking our neighborhood streets in Altoona and getting to know our middle school families.

These conversations gave me a real perspective into the lives of our students and their families. What did I learn? They need our support as much as the school needs support from them. That school-home relationship is vital to our student's success. This momentum continued to grow as we started the school year with an all-school assembly asking the community what we could do to help them succeed.

The response was overwhelming. We had groups of students raising money for students in our area who could not afford shoes and hurricane relief on the east coast. Students collected food donations to help build-up our school district's food pantry.

Our 6th graders celebrated kindness by writing positive messages in chalk on the stoops of area businesses and created hygiene bags to give to children who are displaced from their homes.

The entire 7th grade raked leaves for

our neighbors and learned a thing or two about helping others in return.

Our 8th grade tech ed. class has partnered with the art classes and the city of Altoona to build a bird house art feature in the River Prairie development. That's just the beginning! Needless to say, I am a very proud Railroader and principal. Our staff and students stepped up in a big way and we are not even half way through the

school year.

If you notice a need in our community, please let us know how Altoona Middle School can help.

These projects help us teach students the importance of kindness, integrity, and gratitude; arguably some of the most needed attributes in our society.

Thank you for all that you do for AMS, we appreciate your continued support.

Seventh graders were out and about sharing their raking-skills with the neighborhood in November. This was part of the 7th grade community outreach.



AMS students celebrating all of the community outreach projects this school year.

Above: Mrs. Stilp receiving her "Life Changer of the Year" Nomination, at the gratitude assembly.

Right: 8th grader Kennedy Trippler wrote and shared her original piece at our Veteran's Day Program back on November 12.

Far Right: Numerous 6th graders participated in writing positive messages in chalk and made hygiene bags to hand out to children in our community who are in need.



STATE REPORT CARD RANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGH IN PERFORMANCE

by Andrea Steffan, Intermediate Principal & Director of Instruction and Assessment

School and District Report Card scores were released statewide on November 13.

As part of the state accountability system, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) produces report cards for every publicly funded school and district in Wisconsin.

These Accountability Report Cards include data on multiple indicators for multiple years across four Priority Areas (Student Achievement, Growth, Closing Gaps, and On-track and Post-secondary Success). In addition, given the impact on student success, the Accountability Report Cards also measure chronic absenteeism and dropout rates.

A school or district's Overall Accountability Score places the school/district into one of five Overall Accountability Ratings:

Our District and Schools score are worth celebrating!

Rating	Score
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	83-100
Exceeds Expectations	73-82.9
Meets Expectations	63-72.9
Meets Few Expectations	53-62.9
Fails to Meet Expectation	0-52.9

Among the CESA 10 schools (30 school districts in our region), our District Score of 81.4 ranks third out of the 30 districts.

With their **83.1** ranking, the Altoona Intermediate School earned a **Significantly Exceeds Expectations** designation – and they rank 9th out of 48 CESA 10 “K-5” schools. All other district schools Exceed Expectations and rank as follows:

- Altoona Elementary (81.2) is #13 out of 48 CESA 10 schools
- Altoona Middle (81.3) is #2 out of 21 CESA 10 schools
- Altoona High (75.2) is #6 out of 30 CESA 10 schools



The Intermediate School celebrated their family learning night with the theme AIS Is Out of This World! Events included “Stories and Songs Under the Stars” and “Be an AIS Star with Kahoot!”



5th graders had a culinary arts learning opportunity with Taher Food Service. At the first “Kids in the Kitchen” class, 14 students learned basic knife skills, cooking methods, and how to make pizza with customized toppings from our very own Chef Abby. Students were then able to take their creations home to enjoy. Thanks Taher!

School Closing and Delay Information will be available to the community and staff through:

RADIO/TV Announcements called in by 5:45 a.m. **
 FACEBOOK, Twitter and WEBSITE Announcements by 5:45 a.m. **

<https://www.facebook.com/altoonaschooldistrict>
<https://twitter.com/AltoonaSD>
<https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/>

SKYLERT (School Messenger) System will call your phone by 6:15 a.m.**

** Notification times may vary depending on weather-related or other circumstances.



ELEMENTARY CONTINUES GROWTH MINDSET WITH STUDENTS

by Tara Betlach, Elementary Principal

Altoona Elementary School is an amazing place for students to learn and grow!

Each staff member strives to provide opportunities for students by creating an engaging learning environment, by equipping them with the tools and strategies they need, and by empowering students to be and do their best.

One specific way we are doing that this year is by teaching about and promoting a growth mindset.

Growth mindset occurs when we believe

our intelligence and abilities can be improved upon with effort and the right strategies.

Characteristics associated with growth mindset include a willingness to confront challenges, viewing failure as a springboard for growth, and a passion for learning.

The staff's encouragement and reassurance that it is okay to make mistakes and that we can learn and grow from them is making a positive impact on our students'

lives.

The staff at the elementary would like to thank the families and community for making a positive impact on our students as well.

By families and community attending events like our Family Learning Nights, Mom and Dad/Guardian Luncheon, Veteran's Day Program, it shows how much we are all invested in our school and community.

Together we can make a difference!



Over 800 students, parents & guardians attended the Mom and Dad/Guardian Luncheon that included a turkey dinner with all the fixins. Members of the boys basketball team even helped serve the meal to all the hungry students and guests.

FAMILY LEARNING NIGHT



ONLINE 4K ENROLLMENT BEGINS JANUARY 1st, 2019!

Dear Parents:

You are invited to participate in the **Altoona School District 4K Program**, our collaborative, community-based four year old kindergarten program, for the 2019-2020 school year. **Altoona 4K** is an enriched, play-based program designed to prepare your child for their educational career. We provide an enriched curriculum that provides school readiness skills and school expectations. We know that our children learn best through play and provide age appropriate activities in cognitive and pre-math skills, social-emotional, adaptive, literacy and language, and motor development. Our 4K program is a half day program (morning and afternoon options) that runs Monday-Thursday. It's a program designed for all children who live in the Altoona School District and who will be four years old by September 1, 2019. Four year old children who have been accepted for open enrollment will also be eligible to participate. The Altoona School District 4K program is provided at no cost. Transportation options are available.

The 2019-2020 **Altoona 4K** program is offered at four community sites:

Little Star Daycare, 2245 Hayden Avenue

Western Dairyland Head Start/Altoona Early Education Center, 1314 North Hillcrest Parkway

St. Mary's Elementary School, 1828 Lynn Avenue

The Little School House of Altoona, 2328 North Hillcrest Parkway

A brief description of our 4K site options is provided on our webpage!

4K Enrollment is completed online. Please visit our website at www.altoona.k12.wi.us to complete the necessary paperwork. If you do not have access to a computer, we will have some available at the elementary school.

- Original Birth Certificate (we verify the information and return it to you)
- Proof of Residency – (mortgage documents or utility bill with your name and address on it)
- Immunization form (only required if your child received their vaccinations from a different state)
- Other important documents if applicable (IEP, court documentation, etc.)

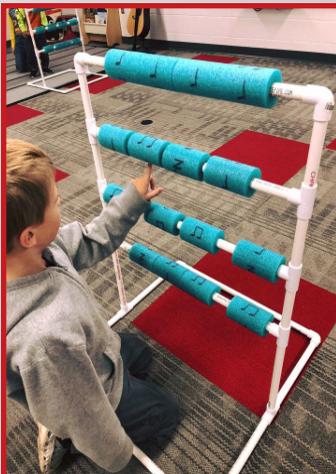
Please bring the above listed forms to the Altoona Elementary School Office, located at 157 Bartlett Avenue, between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., before Friday, May 31, to complete the enrollment process.

We encourage you to take advantage of **Altoona 4K**! If you have questions, please contact Laura Trachsel, Altoona 4K Coordinator, at: ltrachsel@altoona.k12.wi.us. Please pass this information on to others who may not have received it. We want all Altoona families with four year olds to be aware of this exciting opportunity!

Sincerely,

Laura Trachsel

Laura Trachsel, Altoona 4K Coordinator



Second graders working on writing and notating rhythm.



Elementary students try out the new rock climbing wall that was installed earlier this school year at AES. This wall adds another activity for students in PE classes.

THE RED ZONE

HOME OF THE RAILROADERS

The Red Zone, the official store of the School District of Altoona, has everything you need to look good and is also a great way to show your school spirit. Some of the items carried include: hats, mittens, hoodies, crewnecks, T-shirts, ¼ zip pullovers, and baseball hats. Located at Altoona High School and open daily.

Contact Mr. Fruit, the school store advisor, with questions: kfruit@altoona.k12.wi.us or 715-839-6031 ext. 419



\$35

Sport Tek Colorblock Jacket (\$35)
Limited Quantities



\$15

Adidas White T-Shirt (\$15)
Other T-shirts and styles available



\$10

Black Stocking Hat (\$10)
(also available in Red!)



\$40

Embroidered full-zip Fleece(\$40)



\$30

Embroidered polo (\$30)

The Red Zone is run by students in the high school marketing classes. Profits from the sale of these items are returned to the program. Thank you for supporting our Railroaders!

RAILROADER INDUSTRIES

PRODUCT LINE 2018/19



ALL CUSTOMIZABLE!



\$15



\$3



\$12



\$3

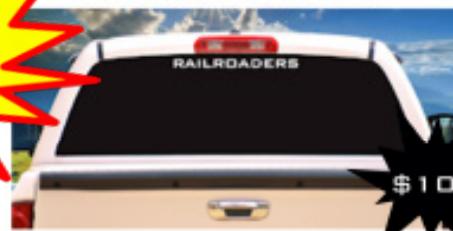


\$4



\$8

NON-CUSTOMIZABLE



\$10

Stop in to see all the items you can customize. Perfect for gifts!

TO PURCHASE ONE OF THE ITEMS YOU SEE HERE, PLEASE VISIT THE RED ZONE TO PICK UP AN ORDER FORM!



Athletic Schedule

Altoona High School
2018-19
Winter Athletic Schedule

Schedules are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, check out our Activities Calendar found on our school website!

FOLLOW US



#GORAILS

Altoona High School

2018-19

Winter Athletic Schedule

Schedules are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, check out our Calendar found on our school website.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Varsity

All bold/red are **HOME** games played in the Round House.

Tue	11/20	6:00pm	Scrimmage vs Cameron, Eleva-Strum, Elk Mound
Thu	11/29	7:30pm	Thorp
Sat	12/01	2:30pm	vs Elk Mound @ UW-Stout
Thu	12/06	7:30pm	@ Fall Creek
Fri	12/14	7:30pm	Regis - Youth Night
Tue	12/18	7:15pm	Logan
Thu	12/20	7:30pm	Stanley-Boyd - Parents Night
Fri	12/28	6:00pm	New Richmond vs Bloomer
Fri	12/28	7:30pm	Altoona vs Medford
Sat	12/29	6:00pm	Medford vs New Richmond
Sat	12/29	7:30pm	Altoona vs Bloomer
Fri	01/04	7:30pm	@ McDonell
Tue	01/08	7:15pm	@ Gale Ettrick Trempealeau
Thu	01/10	7:30pm	@ Cadott
Tue	01/15	7:30pm	Osseo-Fairchild- Staff Appreciation Night
Fri	01/18	7:30pm	@ Thorp
Tue	01/22	7:15pm	@ Menomonie
Thu	01/24	7:30pm	Fall Creek - Youth Night
Sat	01/26	7:15pm	@ Rice Lake
Tue	01/29	7:30pm	@ Regis
Fri	02/01	7:30pm	@ Stanley-Boyd
Thu	02/07	7:30pm	McDonell
Tue	02/12	7:30pm	Cadott - Senior Night
Fri	02/15	7:30pm	@ Osseo-Fairchild
Thu	02/21	7:15pm	Crossover @ East-Side (3rd-8th)
Sat	02/23	1:00pm	Crossover @ Neilsville
Sat	02/23	2:30pm	Crossover @ Neilsville

JV

All bold/red are **HOME** games played in the Round House.
Please Note: 12/28-12/29 games will be played in Lower Gym.

Tue	11/20	6:00pm	Scrimmage vs Cameron, Eleva-Strum, Elk Mound
Thu	11/29	6:00pm	Thorp
Mon	12/03	5:45pm	vs. Elk Mound @ UW-Stout
Thu	12/06	6:00pm	@ Fall Creek
Fri	12/14	6:00pm	Regis
Tue	12/18	6:00pm	Logan
Thu	12/20	6:00pm	Stanley-Boyd - Parents Night
Fri	12/28	6:00pm	Altoona vs Medford
Fri	12/28	7:30pm	New Richmond vs Bloomer
Sat	12/29	6:00pm	Altoona vs Bloomer
Sat	12/29	7:30pm	Medford vs New Richmond
Fri	01/04	6:00pm	@ McDonell
Tue	01/08	6:00pm	@ Gale Ettrick Trempealeau
Thu	01/10	6:00pm	@ Cadott
Tue	01/15	6:00pm	Osseo-Fairchild
Fri	01/18	6:00pm	@ Thorp
Tue	01/22	5:45pm	@ Menomonie
Thu	01/24	6:00pm	Fall Creek
Fri	01/25	7:00pm	@ Eau Claire Memorial
Sat	01/26	5:45pm	@ Rice Lake
Tue	01/29	6:00pm	@ Regis
Fri	02/01	6:00pm	@ Stanley-Boyd
Thu	02/07	6:00pm	McDonell
Tue	02/12	6:00pm	Cadott
Fri	02/15	6:00pm	@ Osseo-Fairchild
Thu	02/21	6:00pm	Crossover @ East-Side (3rd-8th)
Sat	02/23	11:45am	Crossover @ Neilsville
Sat	02/23	1:15pm	Crossover @ Neilsville

DANCE TEAM

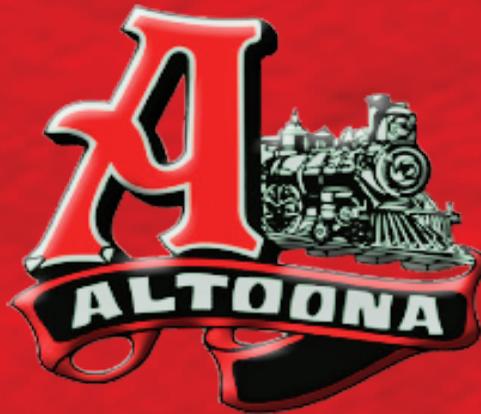
Sat	12/01	Menomonie Holiday Classic @ Menomonie High School
Sat	12/15	UWEC Blugold Invitational @ McPhee Center
Sat	01/05	Prairie Farm Dance Competition @ Prairie Farm High School
Sat	01/26	WACPC Dance Regionals @ Wausau East High School



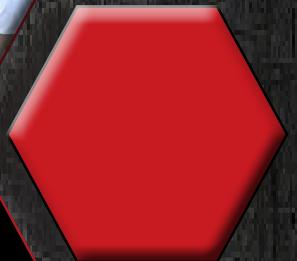
Athletic Schedules



Online Registration



**School District
of Altoona
Athletic Complex
Redevelopment**





Altoona Athletic Complex Overview

The current football field will be reconstructed with synthetic turf and expanded to also include a regulation size soccer field. The stadium will include an elevated “home” grandstand with seating for 1173 spectators, as well as additional seating on the other side of the field to provide space for “away” fans with additional seating for 500.

This plan also includes fixes and updates to the press box as well as a new scoreboard with a video option should the upgrade be desired. In addition to the field area, there will be a new plaza that includes an entrance and the addition of a new multi-use concession/restroom/storage building.

The complex will also include a new track that will accommodate meets, with 8 curricular lanes and 9 sprint lanes. The shot put and discus area will be moved and provide additional space for events.

These upgrades will also provide the district the opportunity to host various home events, WIAA competitions, and offer another venue for community events.

On February 20, 2017, the Altoona School Board adopted a Resolution that allowed the District to proceed with a capital campaign to raise donations of not less than \$1,000,000 to support the Athletic Complex Redevelopment Project.

Under the guidelines of the Resolution, the Board required financial commitments of at least \$1,000,000 from outside sources before they proceeded with construction of the new and renovated sports complex that will not increase property taxes.

School Board President Robin Elvig states, "The District vision is to build a foundation for life-long learning and the emotional well-being of our students in partnership with our students, our families and our community. We seek to engage our community by providing unique learning and recreation opportunities for adults and students alike, and the updated and renovated facilities would provide capacity to expand our programs and community use."

As we near the \$1,000,000 mark we want to share a preview of the sports complex design and exciting plans that are in the works. We also would like to recognize those businesses and organizations that have put us near our goal.

Thank you!

These improvements will make Altoona's campus a destination our students, families and community can be proud of. Will you help support our vision?



OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO SUPPORT OUR RAILROADERS STADIUM RENOVATION

Track Sponsor <small>Naming Rights - Name/Logo Displayed on Track</small>	\$100,000
Scoreboard <small>Naming Rights - Name/Logo Displayed on Scoreboard</small>	\$75,000
Field Logo <small>Turf Field - Name/Logo Displayed on Guidelines (Five still available)</small>	\$50,000
Grandstand <small>Naming Rights - Name/Logo Displayed on Grandstand (Two available)</small>	\$50,000
Press Box <small>Naming Rights - Name/Logo Displayed on Press Box</small>	\$50,000
Donor Plaque <small>Donor Name Engraved on Plaque Permanently Displayed at Stadium</small>	
Platinum Level	\$25,000 - \$49,999
Gold Level	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Silver Level	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Bronze Level	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Railroader Level	\$500 - \$999

Donations of \$499 and under are accepted and greatly appreciated with recognition given in print materials when appropriate.

Pledges can be mailed to
School District of Altoona
Attn: Sport Complex
1903 Bartlett Avenue, Altoona, WI 54720
Ph: 715-839-6032 - Fax: 715-839-6066

Questions? Please contact
Mike Markgren 715-839-6033 or Jason LeMay 715-839-6028
mmarkgren@altoona.k12.wi.us jlemay@altoona.k12.wi.us

DONOR OPPORTUNITIES

All naming opportunities are subject to school board policy and approval of the School District of Altoona Board of Education.

Unless otherwise stated, naming rights are perpetual until the facilities require replacement. The Naming opportunities and gift levels are subject to availability and subject to change.

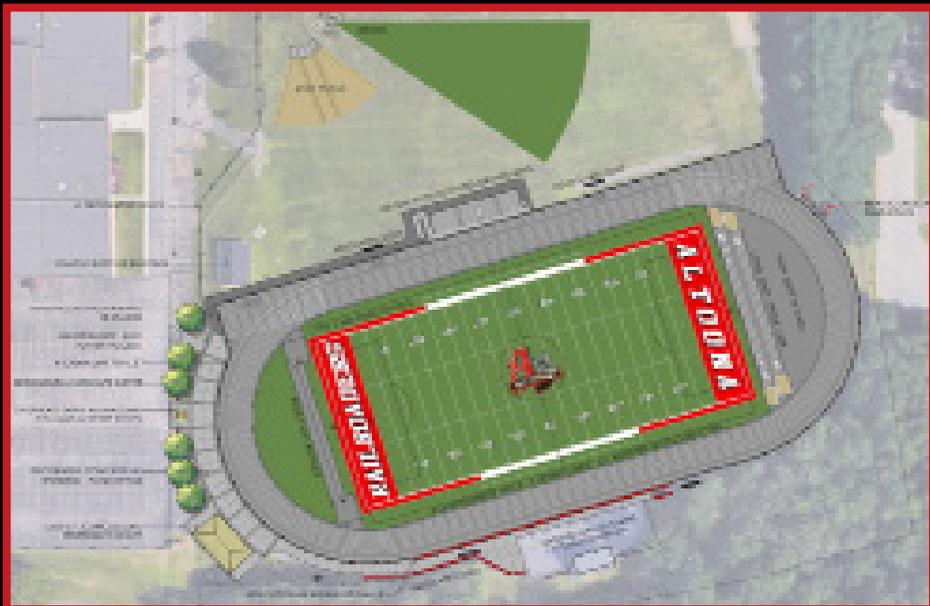
Donations of \$500 or more will be recognized.

FINANCIAL IMPACT TO TAXPAYERS

A capital campaign has raised nearly a million dollars to date for this project through private donations.

To fund the remaining balance the school district has an option to seek additional financing through borrowing and additional fundraising efforts.

The repayment of this borrowing would involve making room in the current operational budget without an increase to the overall bottom line. Therefore, it wouldn't result in an added increase to the taxpayer.





PLEDGE FORM

We wish to invest in our community through a gift to the School District of Altoona Athletic Campus Redevelopment Project.

Pledges can be mailed to:
School District of Altoona
Athletic Sport Complex
1923 Barbell Avenue, Altoona, WI 54729

A contribution of \$ _____

Giving Options

- I wish to have all of my contribution go toward the School District of Altoona Athletic Campus Redevelopment Project
- I wish to have this contribution support a Naming Opportunity (see back side)
 - Track
 - Scoreboard
 - Field Logo
 - Grandstand
 - Press Box
- I wish to have this contribution recognized with a Donor Plaque. (see back side for levels of recognition)

Recognition

- I wish to remain anonymous. Please do not publish my name as a donor.
- I wish to have my name(s) listed as: _____
- This contribution is in honor of: _____
- This contribution is in memory of: _____
- My company will match this gift: _____

Your name(s) _____
 Name as it should appear in publications (PLEASE PRINT) _____
 Address _____
 Primary Phone _____
 Email _____
 Signature _____
 Date _____

Thank you for your commitment to the future of our schools and our community. All donations are appreciated. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

SPORTS COMPLEX OVERVIEW

The School District of Altoona Sports Complex Capital Campaign is a project to raise funds for the building of a sports complex at Altoona High School.

The proposed \$3 million project will include:

- New Synthetic Turf Dual Football/Soccer Field
- 8 Lane Track with 9 Sprint Lanes
- High Jump, Pole Vault, Long/Triple Jump, Shot Put and Discus Facilities
- 1,673 Capacity Bleachers
- Entrance Plaza and Ticket Area
- Concessions, Restrooms, and Storage Space



Special thanks to our title sponsor



OAKLEAF
SURGICAL HOSPITAL

physician owned. patient centered.

OakLeaf Surgical Hospital
supporting the Altoona Railroaders
with a \$500,000 donation

Additional early contributors helping make this project a reality include:



Altoona Athletic Boosters Club, with a \$50,000 donation



CCF Bank,
with a \$250,000 donation

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Varsity

All bold/red are **HOME** games played in the Round House.

Fri	11/09	6:00pm	Scrimmage vs. Boyceville, Eleva-Strum, Hayward
Thu	11/15	7:15pm	@ Durand
Tue	11/20	7:15pm	@ Arcadia
Fri	11/30	7:30pm	Thorp - Parents Night
Tue	12/04	7:30pm	@ Fall Creek
Fri	12/07	7:30pm	Regis
Tue	12/11	7:15pm	@ Rice Lake
Thu	12/13	7:30pm	Stanley-Boyd - Staff Appreciation Night
Tue	12/18	7:30pm	@ McDonell
Fri	12/21	7:30pm	@ Cadott
Fri	12/28	3:30pm	Elk Mound
Sat	12/29	3:30pm	Osceola
Thu	01/03	7:30pm	Osseo-Fairchild - Youth Night 3rd-5th
Tue	01/08	7:30pm	@ Thorp
Fri	01/11	7:30pm	Fall Creek - Youth Night 6th-8th
Mon	01/14	7:30pm	West Salem
Thu	01/17	7:30pm	@ Regis
Tue	01/22	7:30pm	@ Stanley-Boyd
Fri	01/25	7:30pm	McDonell
Thu	01/31	7:30pm	Cadott - Senior Night
Mon	02/04	7:30pm	@ Gale Ettrick Trempealeau
Fri	02/08	7:30pm	@ Osseo-Fairchild
Thu	02/14	7:30pm	Cloverbelt Crossover (3rd-8th)
Sat	02/16	4:45pm	Cloverbelt Crossover
Sat	02/16	6:15pm	Cloverbelt Crossover

JV

All bold/red are **HOME** games played in the Round House.

Fri	11/09	6:00pm	Scrimmage vs. Boyceville, Eleva-Strum, Hayward
Thu	11/15	5:45pm	@ Durand
Tue	11/20	6:00pm	@ Arcadia
Fri	11/30	6:00pm	Thorp - Parents Night
Tue	12/04	6:00pm	@ Fall Creek
Fri	12/07	6:00pm	Regis
Tue	12/11	5:45pm	@ Rice Lake
Thu	12/13	6:00pm	Stanley-Boyd
Tue	12/18	6:00pm	@ McDonell
Fri	12/21	6:00pm	@ Cadott
Fri	12/28	2:00pm	Elk Mound
Sat	12/29	2:00pm	Osceola
Thu	01/03	6:00pm	Osseo-Fairchild
Tue	01/08	6:00pm	@ Thorp
Fri	01/11	6:00pm	Fall Creek
Mon	01/14	6:00pm	West Salem
Thu	01/17	6:00pm	@ Regis
Tue	01/22	6:00pm	@ Stanley-Boyd
Fri	01/25	6:00pm	McDonell
Thu	01/31	6:00pm	Cadott
Mon	02/04	6:00pm	@ Gale Ettrick Trempealeau
Fri	02/08	6:00pm	@ Osseo-Fairchild
Thu	02/14	6:00pm	3rd Place East - Crossover
Sat	02/16	4:45pm	Cloverbelt Crossover
Sat	02/16	6:15pm	Cloverbelt Crossover

RAW WRESTLING

All bold/red are **HOME** meets.

11/29	7:00pm	@ Thorp
12/1	10:15am	Invitational @ Black River Falls
12/6	7:00pm	@ Spencer
12/8	9:30am	Invitational @ Tomah 9:30am
12/13	7:00pm	@ Stanley
12/20	7:00pm	@ Abbotsford
12/28	8:00am	@ River Falls
12/29	8:00am	@ River Falls
1/5	9:00am	Invitational @ Cadott
1/10	7:00pm	vs Cadott/Thorp @ Altoona
1/12	9:30am	Invitational @ Chippewa Falls
1/17	7:00pm	@ Thorp
1/19	9:30am	Invitational @ Shell Lake
1/24	7:00pm	vs Thorp @ Regis
2/2	10:00am	Cloverbelt Conference Tournament @ Spencer



BOYS RAM HOCKEY

Varsity

All bold/gold are **HOME** games played in the Altoona Hobbs Ice Arena.

Tue	11/20	7:00pm	@ Menomonie Fanetti Ice Arena
Tue	11/27	7:00pm	vs Pacelli @ Ice Hawk Arena, Stevens Point
Fri	11/30	7:00pm	vs Merrill @ MARC (Merrill Area Rec. Center)
Tue	12/04	7:00pm	vs Baldwin-Woodville @ Baldwin United Civic Center
Fri	12/07	6:00pm	Chequamegon
Thu	12/13	7:00pm	New Richmond
Fri	12/14	7:15pm	Tournament @ Marshfield Area Ice Arena
Sat	12/15	11:00am	Tournament @ Marshfield Area Ice Arena
Tue	12/18	7:00pm	Barron
Thu	12/27	11:00am	Tournament @ Menomonie Dunn County & Fanetti Ice Arenas
Fri	12/28	11:00am	Tournament @ Menomonie Dunn County & Fanetti Ice Arenas
Thu	01/03	7:00pm	vs Somerset @ Somerset Civic Center
Tue	01/08	7:00pm	Amery
Thu	01/10	7:00pm	Baldwin-Woodville
Sat	01/12	2:00pm	Chequamegon Park Falls Area Rec. Arena
Tue	01/15	7:00pm	Grantsburg Siren Lodge Ice Arena
Fri	01/18	7:00pm	Black River Falls
Tue	01/22	7:00pm	vs New Richmond @ New Richmond Sports Center
Thu	01/24	7:00pm	Somerset
Tue	01/29	7:00pm	Hayward
Thu	01/31	7:00pm	vs Amery @ Amery Ice Arena
Fri	02/01	7:00pm	Kasson-Mantorville
Thu	02/07	7:00pm	vs Medford @ Simek Recreational Center
Fri	02/08	7:00pm	Ashland



GIRLS ECA STARS HOCKEY

Varsity

All bold/blue are **HOME** games played in the Eau Claire Hobbs Ice Arena.

Tue	11/13	6:00PM	Scrimmage vs. Somerset				
Sat	11/17	2:00PM	vs Superior				
Fri	11/23	2:30PM	vs Hayward @ Mosinee Rec. Center				
Sat	11/24	TBD	DC Everest				
Thu	11/29	7:00PM	Onalaska				
Tue	12/04	7:00PM	Black River Falls				
Sat	12/08	1:00PM	Hayward				
Thu	12/13	5:00PM	vs Chippewa Falls/Menomonie				
Sat	12/15	2:00PM	vs Green Bay East				
Tue	12/18	6:00PM	DC Everest				
Thu	12/20	8:00PM	Somerset				
Thu	12/27	11:00am	vs FC Stars @ Tri County Ice Arena				
		3:00pm	vs Fond du Lac @ Tri County Ice Arena				
Fri	12/28	TBD	@ Tri County Ice Arena				
				Thu	01/03	5:00PM	vs Hudson
				Mon	01/07	6:00PM	vs Somerset
				Thu	01/10	6:00PM	River Falls
				Tue	01/15	5:00PM	vs Viroqua
				Thu	01/17	7:00PM	Chippewa Falls/Menomonie
				Sat	01/19	6:00PM	vs Superior
				Mon	01/21	6:00PM	vs DC Everest Coop
				Thu	01/24	7:00PM	Hudson
				Thu	01/31	5:00PM	vs River Falls
				Tue	02/05	5:00PM	vs Black River Falls
				Tue	02/12	7:00PM	vs Marshfield

JV

All bold/blue are **HOME** games played in the Eau Claire Hobbs Ice Arena.

Fri	11/23	2:30pm	vs Hayward @ Mosinee Rec. Center				
Sat	11/24	TBD	@ Mosinee Rec. Center				
Sat	12/08	11:00am	Hayward				
Sat	12/15	4:00pm	vs Green Bay East				
Tue	12/18	8:00pm	DC Everest				
Thu	12/20	6:00pm	Somerset				
Thu	12/27	2:00pm	vs Xavier @ Appleton Family Ice Center				
				Thu	01/03	7:00pm	vs Hudson
				Mon	01/07	8:00pm	vs Somerset
				Thu	01/10	TBD	@ River Falls
				Mon	01/21	8:00pm	vs DC Everest Coop
				Thu	01/24	TBD	@ Hudson
				Thu	01/31	7:00pm	vs River Falls



AHS Girls Tennis doubles team Morgan Dekan & Kate Harris, and singles, Sydney Presler (center) competed at State Tennis this year.



The Cross Country team had a successful season with every runner setting a personal record this season and the Boys Cross Country Team taking 2nd Place in the Cloverbelt Conference. Great job Rails!



2018 seniors Varsity Boys Soccer, Jacob Golat, Austin Watson & Ben Schmid.



Senior Jake Nelson signed his letter of intent on November 14 to play baseball for Madison Technical College in Madison, WI.



Volleyball had a successful season as they became 2018 Conference Champs.



Middle school & high school students filled the hallways to send off three of our students who competed in Special Olympics Bowling. The students were Blake Ploeckelman from the high school and Summerlynn Leber and Jakob Pieper from the middle school. Students placed as follows: Blake - 4th, Jakob - 4th, and Summer - 6th. Great job Railroaders!



We were honored to accept a Spectrum Award of Merit for social media from the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association (WSPRA) today. Ours was one of only four awards given for a social media campaign.



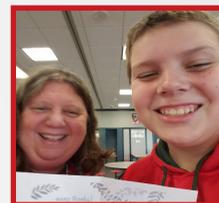
Guest artists Leonardo Da Vinci (Mr. Burgraff) and Frida Kahlo (Ms. Youngberg) visited art classrooms to share their expertise with our students!



Miss Kessler, Mrs. Druckrey, and Mrs. Martell enjoyed a day of learning and professional development with Jan Richardson, a guided reading guru, at the Minnesota Regional Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Conference in St. Paul.



Staff members from across the district worked on the back portion of the 2-mile fitness trail at Altoona Elementary this fall. Additional project work was completed last summer by the Eagle Scouts.



The Altoona AMS took part in a gratitude challenge in November. Various staff members received notes of gratitude.



Altoona staff delivered meals for Thanksgiving to 28 families in the District. Thank you to Altoona United Methodist Church, Family Video, and Red Coal BBQ for donating the food!



Our staff are out and about in the community serving others. Recently, Ms. Gagnon and Ms. Brahan, and another volunteer spent time packing meals for Feed A Child Nyre You!



Altoona staff wore green in support of Girl Scouts Troop 3055 and the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District following the tragic loss of three students and a parent in their district. Numerous staff members from across the district also volunteered their time at Halmstad Elementary when assistance was requested by the Chippewa Falls School District.





TEEN VAPING

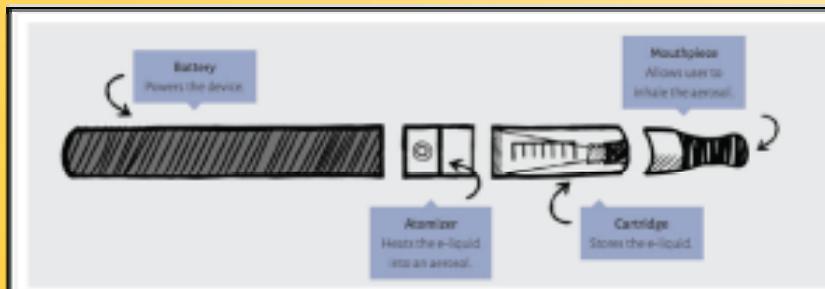


Teen vaping is on the rise. The FDA says teen vaping is an epidemic.

Vaping is something that the City of Altoona and the School District of Altoona take very serious. At school, the consequence for both vapes and tobacco could be a school suspension. Many students do not feel vaping is harmful. Listed below is some important information we would like to share with you.

WHAT IS A VAPE?*

- Vapes—Vaping devices can look very different from one another. Some look like fake cigarettes, others look more like USB flashdrives, and others are large and elaborate. Some people even take the time to make and “mod” their own.
- Batteries—Vapes typically take rechargeable batteries and some can even be recharged through USB ports.
- eJuice—There is a plethora of juices that people vape. They can contain elements of marijuana, smell fruity, or contain nicotine (which most do).

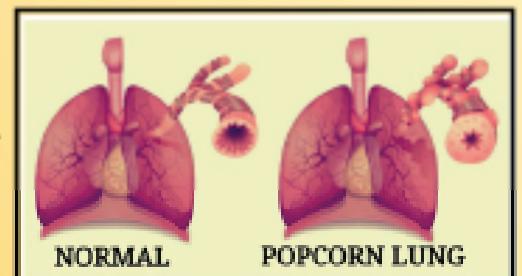


HOW AN E-CIGARETTE WORKS*

E-cigarettes create an aerosol by using a battery to heat up liquid that usually contains nicotine, flavorings, and other additives. Users inhale this aerosol into their lungs. E-cigarettes can also be used to deliver cannabinoids such as marijuana and other drugs.

HOW IT IMPACTS OUR BODIES*

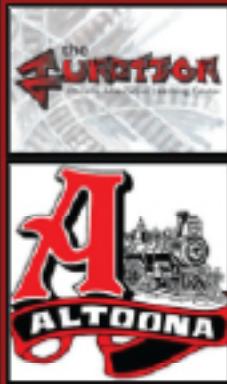
Vaping has been linked to chronic bronchitis, bloody sores, lung wounds that won't heal, and even cancer. The picture to the right shows a potential risk of vaping - popcorn lung. Popcorn lung is a serious lung disease linked to a chemical that is used in some vaping liquids.



*“Special Update: Vaping”, <https://www.smores.com/td0s1-special-update-vaping> (This information was designed for a Vaping newsletter for the Wachusett Regional High School community)

The government estimates the number of children using electronic cigarettes is 2 million.

PBS News Hour has created a video that demonstrates examples of electronic cigarettes and gives information that will help parents and students understand more about these products and risks. Please take the time to view this video at: <https://www.pbs.org/video/teen-vaping-1531870790/>



**2 Breakfasts,
2 Lunches,
2 Dinners &
Snacks**

Totally Confidential!

Weekend Meals Grades 7-12

Who is eligible to sign-up? Families who are facing financial difficulties and need some extra assistance.

How does this program work? Every Friday, meals will be available for the students to pick up in the counseling offices

Junction students plan deliveries to ensure meals are kid friendly. They also take delivery, stock shelves, and package and deliver meals to school counselors who then distribute the meals.

THIS THANKSGIVING, WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE ALTOONA STUDENTS WITH:

- 325 LBS OF FOOD
- CROCKPOTS
- CAN OPENERS

All families receive a:



- Crockpot
- Can opener
- Recipe book!

Organized by AHS Junction

Sponsored by:
Feed a Child Nyrø You Feed My People Food Bank

How do I sign my child(ren)up ? Please fill out this form and send it to your child's school counselor

Weekend Food Pantry

Child's Name

Grade/Age

Parent/Guardian Name:

Signature:

NOTICE OF EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN WHO RESIDE IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The School District of Altoona offers students who reside in the district, a variety of educational options.

The District’s primary educational pathway and instructional program for students involves a progression from 4-year-old kindergarten through grade 12, leading to a high school diploma.

The District’s schools and each school’s most recent state-assigned performance category and ranking are listed below:

School:	2017/18 Performance Category & Ranking:
Altoona Elementary School (grades 4K-3)	Exceeds Expectations – 81.2
Altoona Intermediate School (grades 4-5)	Significantly Exceeds Expectations – 83.1
Altoona Middle School (grades 6-8)	Exceeds Expectations – 81.3
Altoona High School (grades 9-12)	Exceeds Expectations – 75.2

The full version of the District’s most recent school and school district accountability report, as issued by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction under section 115.385 of the state statutes, can be accessed via the following page on the District’s website: <http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/schoolreportcards.cfm>

The District offers its 4K program at several community-based locations other than the elementary school that is listed above.

Some of the specific education programs offered to eligible students who are enrolled in and attending the District’s schools include the following:

- Early childhood special education (for students who are at least 3 years old but not yet school-age)
- Special education for students with disabilities
- English language learner education
- Gifted and talented education
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs
- Individualized program and curriculum modifications
- Alternative education program (Grades 10-12)
- At-risk education (e.g., for students identified as being at-risk of not graduating from high school)
- Summer school programming

Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, educational options for students who are enrolled in School District of Altoona that involve part- time attendance at an educational institution other than a school of the School District of Altoona include the following:

- Part-Time Open Enrollment, which
 - provides opportunities for students in high school grades to take up to two courses at a time at a nonresident district; and
 - is subject to state and local eligibility requirements, including space availability, consistency with a students’ Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) if applicable, and cost to the District.
- Early College Credit Program, which
 - provides opportunities for students in the high school grades at certain institutions of higher education in Wisconsin; and
 - is subject to state and local eligibility requirements.

Additional educational options for children who reside in the District that involve full-time enrollment/attendance at a school, program, or other educational institution that is not a school or instrumentality of the School District of Altoona include the following:

- High school students meeting certain age and other eligibility requirements may be permitted to attend a technical college or certain other programs for the purpose of completing a program leading to the student’s high school graduation or to a high school equivalency diploma.
- Full-time Open Enrollment involving physical attendance in a public school of a nonresident school district or attendance through a virtual charter school that is associated with a nonresident school district.
- Beginning in the 2016/17 school year, a child with a disability who meets the program’s specific eligibility requirements may apply to attend an eligible, participating private school under a scholarship awarded through the state’s “Special Needs Scholarship Program,” as established under section 115.7915 of the state statutes.
- Enrollment in a private school participating in the Wisconsin parental choice program. The following participating private schools and each school’s most recent state-assigned performance category is provided, if available:

School:	2017/18 Performance Category & Ranking:
Regis Catholic Schools	
St. Mary’s Elementary School	State-assigned performance ranking: NR-Data
1828 Lynn Avenue	(2017/18 Insufficient data to produce a score)
Altoona WI 54720	

- Enrollment in a private school of the family’s choosing (at the family’s own cost, as applicable).
- Enrollment in a home-based private educational program as provided under state law.

Educational options for children who reside in the School District of Altoona but who are enrolled in and attending a private school or home-based private educational program include the following:

- Such students have the opportunity to attend summer school classes/programs offered in the District.
- Private school students in the high school grades have the opportunity to apply for approval to take up two courses per semester in a District school, pursuant to section 118.145(4) of the state statutes.
- Students who are enrolled in a home-based private educational program have the opportunity to:
 - Apply for approval to take up two courses per semester in public schools as provided under section 118.53.
 - Participate in District interscholastic athletics and other District extracurricular activities as provided under section 118.133.

For more information about any of the educational options listed in this notice, please contact the District’s main administrative office (715)839-6032 or the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

VARYING SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT ESTABLISHED TO HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED

by Alan McCutcheon, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services

Over the past three years, the School District of Altoona has continued to develop services and supports for its students, particularly students with academic, social, emotional, or behavioral barriers that impact their learning and growth. The purpose of this article is to highlight two specific systems of support that have seen continuous improvement over the past two years, and to note the positive impact these systems have had on students' learning.

Academic & Behavior Resource Centers

Our pupil services team (consisting of special education teachers, paraprofessionals, school counselors, school psychologists, and administration) have worked collaboratively on developing resource centers in our buildings, ranging from Kindergarten through eighth grade.

These resource centers are staffed all day, in order to provide students with timely breaks and interventions that allow the student to become safe, calm, and ready to learn once again.

The staff are trained with tools and techniques to de-escalate a situation and to ensure students are given the space they need to process their range of emotions.

Students may also receive academic support and assistance to help transition effectively back to their classrooms. Each student is provided with their own specific plan, so that the individual needs of the learner are identified and addressed through this system of support.

The first resource center was launched in the fall of 2016 to provide support to students in grades 4 through 8.

Named the "Think Tank", it focused on giving students the time and space to process their thoughts, feelings, and emotions, as well as make a plan for having more behavioral success in the classroom.

After its first year of implementation, the district saw a 30% reduction in student behaviors that required significant and intense staff responses from the previous school year (see Graph).

After the initial success of the Think Tank, the concept was expanded to the elementary building. In the fall of 2017, the Academic Behavior Center (ABC) was established, mirroring much of the services provided in the intermediate and middle school.

Following the implementation of the ABC, the district again saw a significant reduction in student behaviors requiring an intense staff response, decreasing the total

number by 85% from the previous year.

As the graph reflects, the district saw an 89% reduction in the intense response to these behaviors in the span of two years.

The work of the team to provide students with a space to use strategies, skills, and supports to return to a calm learning state had very positive effects on students and their ability to engage in their school community and their learning.

School-Based Mental Health Services

In conjunction with providing physical space for students and dedicating quality staff to respond to behavioral needs, the school district has developed a system to assist in delivering mental health services to individual during the school day.

This collaborative work between the district and community-based mental health providers has resulted in a significant increase in the availability of mental health therapists within school buildings through private insurance.

Starting in 2016, the district was able to help 15 students receive mental health services through its clinical partners.

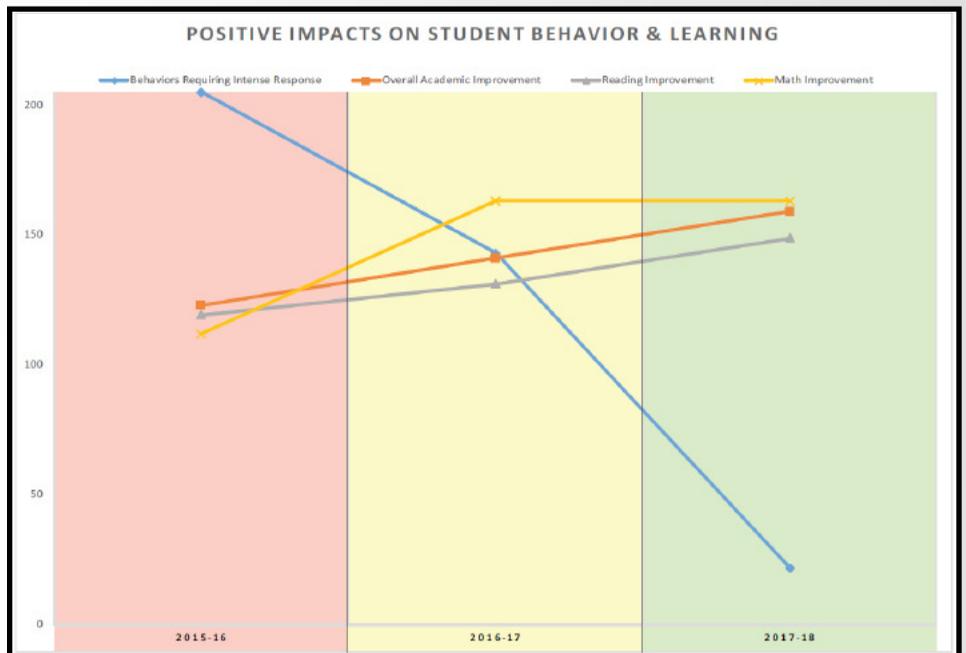
In 2017, the number of providers was expanded, and the total number of students receiving services nearly tripled, increasing to a total of 43 students benefiting.

In the spring of 2017, a collaborative team of school counselors, school psychologists, and administration was able to secure a mental health grant totaling \$75,000 to assist in the expansion of services throughout the district.

This enabled the district to add a part-time mental health coordinator to help the district improve the identification of students who may benefit from mental health services, increase the availability of therapists partnering with the district, and decrease the wait time between referral for services and an initial therapist appointment.

With the first quarter of the 2018-19

continued on PAGE 25



*"Academic Improvement" scores were taken from the district report cards, under the category "Closing Gaps". These report cards can be found at <https://apps2.dpi.wi.gov/reportcards/>. Actual scores were proportionally multiplied to be compared to behavioral data. The proportions are reflective of actual "Closing Gaps" data.

AN ALLERGY AWARE ENVIRONMENT REQUIRES ASSISTANCE FROM EVERYONE

by Anita Schubring, RN, School District Nurse

Students with allergies face many day-to-day challenges which, in the school environment, may cause concern for their safety, their ability to learn, and their social and emotional well-being.

The School District of Altoona is committed to creating a safe environment to protect the health of students with severe allergies.

The risk of exposure to allergens for a student is reduced when the school staff, parent/guardian and community members work together to develop a safe place for these students.

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can involve several body systems, lead to death if untreated and is a growing public health problem. Anaphylaxis is deadly to children as well as adults.

It is estimated that 100 to 200 hundred people die each year from allergy-related reactions, and approximately 50 people die from insect sting reactions.

The goal of the district anaphylaxis guidelines are to create an allergy aware environment. The management of students at risk of life-threatening allergies is a shared responsibility among the individ-

ual, parents, the school system and health care providers.

We have chosen to follow these guidelines: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/allergy/FARE.NSBA.SchoolGuidelines.pdf>

15 Million People in America have Food Allergies and they can be Life Threatening

The infographic consists of eight circular images arranged in a 2x4 grid. Each circle contains a different food item and a white label with the allergen name in all caps. The allergens are: PEANUTS (peanuts), TREE NUTS (almonds), MILK (milk), EGGS (eggs), WHEAT (wheat), SOY (soybeans), FISH (fish), and SHELLFISH (shellfish).

VARYING SYSTEMS con.

school year in the books, the district is already seeing significant improvements in all areas.

Student Learning

The school district is committed to the positive learning experience for all students.

Our vision to Engage, Equip, and Empower applies to all individual dimensions, including students' emotional, social, relational, and intellectual needs. The graph included in this article reflects the academic growth that students have experienced in the past three years.

While we have seen a significant decrease in the behaviors that have required intense staff response, we have seen an increase in students' overall academic performance, and their growth in both reading and math.

The scores reflected in the graph come from our district report card, generated by student performance on our annual state assessment, known as the Forward Exam.

In short, students who have historically struggled to make academic gains have seen a 29% increase in their overall

growth, a 25% increase in their reading growth, and a 46% increase in their math growth.

While these two systems highlighted have played only a part in the overall success of the district, the overarching support for learners throughout the district is reflected in our students' success.

Community Support

Without the support of the school board and the community, neither the resource centers nor the school-based mental health system would have been possible.

The referendum supported by the school board and approved by voters in the fall of 2014 resulted in the ability to intentionally set aside space for these systems of support.

Without these dedicated resources, these opportunities to improve services for students would not have been brought to fruition. Through continued support from the community, we anticipate ongoing growth in student learning, as we work toward making this a safe and welcoming learning environment for every student to be engaged, equipped, and empowered.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALTOONA

Family Resource Guide

Resources for school, home, and community
Supporting students with disabilities

Tara Brilomy
715.839.6031
OR VISIT THE DISTRICT WEBSITE AT
WWW.ALTOONA.K12.WI.US

1901 BARTLETT AVE
ALTOONA, WI 54720

Welcome to the School District of Altoona's Family Resource Guide!
Our goal is to provide support for students with disabilities in our district by providing families with education resources, technical assistance, support and community connections.

Railroader Family Resource Guide

A guide covering education, assistance and support for all children with disabilities. The guide is available on our website or by stopping by the Pupil Services Office.

Questions regarding special education can be directed to Alan McCutcheon, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services via email amccutcheon@altoona.k12.wi.us or by calling 715-839-6031 ext. 311.

DISTRICT'S TAX LEVY AND MILL RATE DECREASE FOR ANOTHER YEAR

by Michael Markgren, Business Manager

General state funding is a highly complex formula based two elements:

1. The property valuation per member
2. The shared costs per member.

Each individual school district's position is compared to that of each of Wisconsin's school districts as a whole.

State aid is always based on the property valuation and shared costs per member of the previous year. Altoona continues to be a fairly highly aided District, approximately 70%.

For the third year in a row, there is great news for the School District of Altoona property tax payers. The School Tax Levy will be decreasing by about \$52,000.

The better news is that the Mill Rate, which is the levy rate per \$1,000 of property, is going from \$10.62 down to \$10.10. A home valued at \$150,000 will pay, on

average, \$78.00 less in school property taxes. This will vary depending on your property's Fair Market Value versus what it was last year.

The major contributor to the reduction is a District Valuation increase of a healthy 4.31%. While some of this increase is due to rising home values, much of it is contributed to new construction.

A real savings to the average tax payer.

As you can see to the right, Altoona's Mill Rate is in the lower half of CESA 12, yet our recent School Report Card ranks #3 just missing out on Significantly Exceeding Expectations.

We are getting tremendous results for our local investment in education.

I would like to thank our top-notch staff for making this happen. I couldn't work with a better crew!

Work District Name	Work County Name	Work CESA	2018-19 Mill Rate
Ladysmith	Rusk	10	13.81
Cedull Community	Chippewa	10	12.87
Augusta	Eau Claire	10	12.48
Gilman	Taylor	10	11.78
Gilmenon	Buffalo	10	11.53
Altoona 2016-17	Eau Claire	10	11.36
Eleva-Strum	Trempealeau	10	11.10
New Auburn	Chippewa	10	11.07
Osseo-Fairchild	Trempealeau	10	10.99
Spencer	Marathon	10	10.97
Granton Area	Clark	10	10.88
Greenwood	Clark	10	10.85
Altoona 2017-18	Eau Claire	10	10.62
Mondovi	Buffalo	10	10.46
Flambeau	Rusk	10	10.33
Fall Creek	Eau Claire	10	10.31
Bloomer	Chippewa	10	10.19
Altoona 2018-19	Eau Claire	10	10.10
Albionford	Clark	10	10.08
Chippewa Falls Area Unified	Chippewa	10	9.29
Loyal	Clark	10	9.18
Colby	Clark	10	9.11
Lake Holcombe	Chippewa	10	9.08
Bruce	Rusk	10	8.73
Eau Claire Area	Eau Claire	10	8.52
Thorp	Clark	10	8.48
Medford Area Public	Taylor	10	8.33
Stanley-Boyd Area	Chippewa	10	7.77
Ower-Withee	Clark	10	7.41
Neillsville	Clark	10	7.26
Cornell	Chippewa	10	6.93

Above are the Mill Rates for the Districts in our Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) 10 for 2018-2019.

Free and Reduced Lunch Reminder

Families who may be experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to apply for the free and reduced lunch program. Guidelines change and family circumstances change as well. Applications are available in the high school office, as well as the district office. Many of our families are struggling to make "ends meet" and if they are eligible for assistance, it could really help their family. In addition to, students who meet free and reduced eligibility are often eligible for other programs. However, if an application is not submitted, they cannot receive that service.

Detailed information along with the National School Lunch eligibility forms for free or reduced price meals are included with this mailing on the following pages. Please call 715-839-6056 if you do not receive the mailing. The application form is also available on the website for download.

School breakfast and lunch will be available as of the first regular day of school. Payments can be made online anytime (go to E-Funds on Parent Tab at: www.altoona.k12.wi.us).

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALTOONA

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Simply -

1. Comment on our posts
2. Share our posts
3. Instead of a like use the  OR 

This will help our Page be "Seen" on Facebook. Thank you!



Scan me

Employment at Altoona



<http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/employment.cfm>

The School District of Altoona uses the Wisconsin Education Career Access Network (WECAN) website for the posting and accepting of applications for job openings. When the District has positions available, those openings may be found by accessing the WECAN website. All applications must be submitted via WECAN. *The School District of Altoona does not accept unsolicited applications. Please do not send application materials unless applying for an open position. Unsolicited application materials will not be processed.*

NON-DISCRIMINATION The School District of Altoona is an equal opportunity employer. Personnel hiring and administration in the District are to be conducted so as not to discriminate against applicant or employee on the basis of age, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation, disability/handicap, citizenship status, marital status, pregnancy, national origin, creed, color, political or religious affiliation, genetic information, ancestry, arrest or conviction record, military service, genetic information, use or nonuse of a lawful product off school premises during nonworking hours, declining to attend a meeting or participate in any communication about religious or political matters, or any other reason prohibited by state or federal law. Exceptions to this policy may only be made in accordance with state and federal laws.

SCHOOL BOARD SEARCH BEGINS FOR NEW DISTRICT LEADER

by Robin Elvig, School Board President

Hello to the community of the Altoona School District. As the school board president, I can say I am so proud to be a part of this district and community. We are really going places!

I'd like to welcome Dan Gluch as a new member of the Altoona School Board. Dan is a parent of three children who are going or have gone through the Altoona schools. He is passionate about highly effective education for all students as well as for the district as a whole. He will be a great asset to our school board.

With that, I want to thank Helen Drawbert for her 17 years of service on the Altoona School Board. Helen saw a lot of change in her 17 years on the board, but she never lost her priority of putting the students first when making hard decisions. She was an amazing advocate for the students and Altoona schools. She worked tirelessly for many years to facilitate growing the district into an educational forerunner. I believe her efforts helped achieve just that. We have a district with expert staff who care deeply and use a variety of teaching methods to reach ALL of our students. Helen was a researcher, mentor, communicator, supporter, and continuous learner, and we are grateful for her service.

Dr. Ron Walsh has been with us for 6 months already. He has been doing an excellent job in his 1-year role as interim superintendent. Just as we had hoped, he came in and hit the ground running. He is not only knowledgeable about the roles and responsibilities of a superintendent, but also about those of staff, administrators, and the school board. He has been a helpful mentor to us all. Dr. Walsh's mantra has been "Let's get back to focusing on the students and all of the good things that are going on in this district."

This year the school board has the important responsibility of hiring a new superintendent. The Board has begun the process by selecting a highly recommended and experienced superintendent search firm called School Exec Connect from Minneapolis, MN. Ken Dragseth and Bob Ostlund are the two gentlemen who will be working with our district.

What is the process for selecting a new superintendent?

1. The first step in the process is to seek input from a variety of stakeholder groups about the strengths, challenges, and goals of the Altoona School District. The board also wants input as to the characteristics or skills people would like to see in the next superintendent. A survey on the district's website soliciting this feedback was announced and available from November 19 through November 30. Ken and Bob also spent a whole day meeting with different stakeholder groups on November 26.

Who were the stakeholders?

- Students from middle school and high school
 - Staff from each of the four schools
 - Each of the administrators
 - Parents and Community members who live within the jurisdiction of the Altoona School District
 - Individual school board members
2. On December 3, Ken and Bob will present a "new superintendent profile" to the school board. This profile will be developed from the input from the stakeholders via the meetings and the online survey. The profile will be used to help recruit and evaluate superintendent candidates that are in line with our community's values.
 3. From mid-November until January 8, Ken and Bob will work on recruiting qualified candidates and thoroughly vetting the applicants. The open superintendent position will be advertised nation-wide on five different web sites and journals.
 4. On January 14, Ken and Bob will present the names of a select group of highly qualified candidates to the school board
 5. On January 15 and 16, the school board will conduct the first set of interviews. After the last interview, the board will narrow the choice to two or three finalists.
 6. On January 28 through January 30, the board will conduct their second interviews. More informal interaction may also occur with finalists at this time. This will also be the opportunity in which the community, staff, and students get to hear from the finalists.

What is the stakeholders' role in listening to the finalists?

- Your main role is to assess if there are any specific or follow-up questions you'd like the school board to ask the applicant. If there are, paper will be available for you to write down your question. Ken and Bob will collect these and give them to the school board.
 - You are not responsible for selecting your "favorite" candidate. There won't be any voting at these listening sessions.
7. By the end of the day on January 30, the school board will narrow its candidate choice to one. Of note, if there is not a candidate that overtly seems like a good fit for our superintendent position, the school board will work with School Exec Connect to continue a candidate search.

Thank you for your continued support of the Altoona school district. I look forward to your participation in the listening sessions.

YOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS



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Sedona VanErt

Student Body Representative

For more information regarding policies, agendas, or general questions you may visit the Board of Education page on the school website or contact Joyce Orth, CAP, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary at jorth@altoona.k12.wi.us or by calling (715) 839-6032 ext. 500.



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