



# All Aboard-RAILS Review

## From the Desk of the Superintendent

This summer has been a summer of work for our staff in the school district. Our maintenance staff have gone above and beyond the call of duty in cleaning, moving, painting, and otherwise doing every conceivable task necessary to move teachers and classrooms in preparation for a new school year and the opening of our new Altoona Intermediate School. I can't say enough to commend our excellent staff for what they have accomplished to make sure everything is ready for every teacher and every student later this month!

Of course this commendation goes out to our teachers, as well, who have worked hard this summer updating, creating and fine-tuning the curriculum to offer our students from 4K through grade 12 optimum learning opportunities and experiences. Administrators and teachers alike, participated in conferences and workshops this summer to learn new and innovative teaching practices, technological integrations, and collaborative organizational paradigms.

This year offers the students and staff of the School District of Altoona a multitude of innovative opportunities to expand learning beyond pre-existing parameters. With the use of technology we will offer our students and staff a boundless array of educational opportunities to not just meet the needs of all learners but to

surpass their needs to develop their curiosity, imagination and creativity.

Some of the most notable new initiatives to be offered this year begin with the opening of our new intermediate school. We have taken the 4<sup>th</sup> grade out of the elementary school and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade out of the middle school and created a true intermediate school. Students will be mixed in multi-age classrooms with a focus on Project Based Learning. We believe this new school will provide an opportunity for students to build a sense of confidence, success and leadership while developing ownership and responsibility for their learning, and to expand their knowledge and sense of curiosity and creativity. Fourth and fifth graders will also benefit from Spanish and technology education exploratory classes, and elementary students will benefit from foreign language instruction in Spanish as well!

At the middle and high schools we will offer online learning opportunities through Aventa Learning. Middle school students will participate in an introduction to world languages, with all students participating in a semester class focusing on the culture, linguistic concepts and patterns of Spanish, French, German, Chinese and Japanese. They will also gain insight into our multilingual and multicultural world.

At the high school, with few exceptions, sophomore through senior students will have the opportunity to take one of a myriad of classes in an online format. During this first "pilot" year, students will be able to take a class during their study hall. After this first year we will schedule online offerings into the school day.

More technology innovations are made possible, in part, by a \$75,000.00 grant awarded by the Wisconsin Technology Initiative (WTI). The grant will provide interactive whiteboards for classrooms throughout the district, document cameras, projectors, and student response systems, along with teacher training, and a TelePresence device allowing a minimum of two different groups or individuals to see and hear each other and interact to facilitate many learning opportunities.

Along with the grant, the school district purchased over 350 Chromebooks on carts, and 60 iPads. At this time, the Chromebooks will be shared throughout the district. We will evaluate the durability and effectiveness of the devices as we investigate possible 1:1 initiatives for the future.

Last year we took advantage of a financing opportunity that was presented to us to help the district maximize the complicated state school funding formula. Although the media tried to paint a different picture, please rest assured



Dr. Connie Biedron,  
Superintendent

### *In this Issue:*

Superintendent's Update	1
Strategic Plan	2-3
Back to School Information	4-5
Annual Notices	6-7
Moving Procedures	7
Annual Notices	8
Superintendent's Update cont'd	9
Grant Update	9
Community Corner	10-11

Continued on Page 9



## OUR VISION

The vision of the Altoona School District, in partnership with our students, their families, and our community, is to build a foundation for life-long learning and the emotional well-being of our students.

We are dedicated to offering large school opportunities with a small school approach.

*July 15, 2013*

## Strategic Planning—It's Not an Event—It's a Way of Thinking

### OUR MISSION

We strongly believe in:

- Promoting our students' emotional well being and enabling them to meet all the state standards for core subject areas while encouraging competency in problem solving and critical thinking skills;
- Utilizing technology to transform teaching and learning so students can find global opportunities for study or jobs and expand their capacity for celebrating diversity;
- Preparing our students for post-secondary education, or for the contemporary job market;
- Supporting the learning of students with special needs and prepare them for adult life;
- Attracting and retaining strong teachers and evaluating them by measuring their performance, effectiveness and innovation;
- Strategically monitoring and being responsible stewards for the Altoona School District, and always advocating for public education;
- Jointly planning and sharing resources with outside entities including local government, businesses, and non-profit groups;
- Engaging the community by providing unique learning and recreation opportunities for adults and encouraging partnerships between parents, teachers, students and community members.

*July 2, 2012*

*Top Photo: Altoona High School Blood Drive 2013  
Bottom Photo: Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast 2013*

## OUR STRATEGIC GOALS & OBJECTIVES



### Strategic Goal 1: Address the learning needs of the whole student

- Objective 1: Address the emotional well-being of each student
- Objective 2: Graduate students who are college- and career- ready to compete in the global marketplace

### Strategic Goal 2: Recognize and embrace the pivotal role of technology within our classrooms providing for 21st Century learning

- Objective 1: Use integrated technology to develop opportunities for staff and students

### Strategic Goal 3: Recruit, develop and retain highly motivated and effective staff

- Objective 1: Recruit and Hire best staff
- Objective 2: Develop and retain highly qualified staff

### Strategic Goal 4: Practice good stewardship of resources

- Objective 1: Provide and maintain safe facilities that support instructional and recreational programming
- Objective 2: Advocate for improved public education funding
- Objective 3: Maintain and promote financial stability that directly supports educational initiatives
- Objective 4: Develop policy to govern advertising and sponsorships of the schools

### Strategic Goal 5: Build trusting relationships and partnerships with the community

- Objective 1: Create open lines of communication with the community
- Objective 2: Develop relationships with other educational institutions
- Objective 3: Expand and develop volunteer resources in the school district
- Objective 4: Develop adult education program

### Strategic Planning Cycle

#### Step 1

50+ community members, parents, students and staff committed many hours in 2011 to set the stage and help guide our district into the future!

#### Step 2

Carefully considering the Committee's input, the Board adopted the Vision and Mission

#### Step 3

Always referring back to the Vision and Mission, the board drafted Goals and Objectives as well the "details—what, when, who"

#### Step 5

The board asked for feedback from the Committee and staff

#### Step 6

Revisions made over a period of work sessions

#### Step 7

Goals, Objectives and "details\*" adopted

\*Details:

[www.altoona.k12.wi.us/  
community/  
strategicplanning.cfm](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/community/strategicplanning.cfm)

July 15, 2013

## Back to School Information 2013

### Registration for New Students

Students who are *new to the Altoona school district* will register on Wednesday, **August 21, 9 AM to noon** in the Commons Addition, 1827 Bartlett Avenue. Required documents include birth certificate and proof of residency. Even if you have already completed and turned in your enrollment paperwork, you may want to attend. Tours will be given and representatives from support services (food and transportation) will be available.

If you cannot attend, please contact your school office when it reopens on August 19. See Contact information on the right.

### School Calendar 2013/14

School Offices Reopen	Aug 19
Teachers Return	Aug 28
Ice Cream Social	Aug 28
First Student Day, 9-12	Sept 3 ▶
Elementary Orientation	Sept 3 ▶
Intermediate Orientation	Sept 3 ▶
Middle School Orientation	Sept 3 ▶
First Student Day, K-8	Sept 4 ▶
End of Quarter 1	Nov 5
End of Trimester 1	Nov 22
End of Semester 1	Jan 17
End of Trimester 2	Feb 28
End of Quarter 3	Apr 1
Last Day of School	June 11
Make-up Days	June 12-13

#### No School for Students:

Inservice Day	Oct 11
Thanksgiving Break	Nov 27-29
Winter Holiday Break	Dec 23-Jan 1
Inservice Day	Jan 20
Inservice Day	Feb 7
Spring Break	Mar 17-21
Spring Break	Apr 18
Inservice Day	Apr 21
Memorial Day	May 26

## We Welcome You!

### Regular School Schedule & Contact Information

Pedersen Elementary School (K-3) - 715-839-6050

#### Regular School Day:

8:20 AM to 3:30 PM

Arrival time for walkers—no earlier than —8:10 AM  
(7:50 AM if participating in breakfast program)

Altoona Intermediate School (4-5) - 715-839-6030

#### Regular School Day:

8:20 AM to 3:30 PM

Arrival time for walkers—no earlier than —8:00 AM  
(7:50 AM if participating in breakfast program)

Altoona Middle School (6-8) - 715-839-6030

#### Regular School Day:

7:45 AM to 3:00 PM

Arrival time for walkers—no earlier than —7:15 AM

Altoona High School (9-12) - 715-839-6031

#### Regular School Day:

7:45 AM to 3:00 PM

Arrival time—no earlier than 7:30 AM



Student Transit- 715-839-5116

### First Student Days-Welcome Back to School Day & First Student Day:

#### Grades K-8:

Students in grades kindergarten through eight and their parents will attend “Welcome Back to School Day” on September 3.

Parents and students should plan to spend 30 to 60 minutes at school at a convenient time between 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM or 3:30 to 6:00 PM. More information will be coming from your schools. This is a required school day.

The Regular Schedule shown at the top of this page will be followed beginning September 4. Busing for K-8 students will also begin on September 4.

#### Grades 9-12:

The first day of school for high school students is Tuesday, September 3. **Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 will be dismissed at 11:30 AM. Freshmen will be in attendance for the full-day.**

### Fees & Food 2013-2014

<i>School Fees:</i>	Grade:	K-3	4-8	9-12	
	Cost:	\$5	\$12	\$20*	*includes class dues

*Meal Prices:* All regular price student and adult lunch meals were increased by 10¢.

Detailed information along with the National School Lunch eligibility forms for free or reduced price meals will be mailed to families in mid-August. 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 beginning August 19 or online anytime (go to E-Funds on Parent Tab at: [www.altoona.k12.wi.us](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us)).

## Back to School Information 2013



1st Day of Busing for high school Students is Tuesday, September 3.

1st Day of Busing for all K-8 students is Wednesday, September 4. For more information about the schedules, see page 4.

### Bus Information

Bus information including bus stop, route number, and times will be mailed to families eligible for transportation by mid-August. If you have any questions/concerns, address changes, or daycare needs, please call the Student Transit office at 715-839-5116.

Please note that there will be new route numbers for the elementary routes this fall. This

has no effect on the actual routes but will result in a better fit for our internal routing structure.

As a reminder, students are expected to ride the bus assigned to their area. In the event of a temporary bus stop change, a note from the parent is needed to get on or off the bus at a location other than a student's usual stop. The written parental permission should

be turned in to the school office in the morning before the first bell. Office staff will verify and issue a bus pass, which can be picked up before dismissal.

Please have your bus students at their bus stop at least five minutes early and wait a safe distance from the roadway. Remember to approach the bus only after it has fully

stopped and the driver has given the signal to board. The drivers will remind students about safe school bus, and school bus stop, practices. For more bus safety information please visit [http://www.student-transit.com/bus\\_safety\\_tips.htm](http://www.student-transit.com/bus_safety_tips.htm). Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in 2013/14.

### Absentee/Activity Hotline

Call: 715-839-6095

For Altoona High School - Enter a 1 and follow the prompts

For Altoona Middle or Intermediate Schools - Enter a 2 and follow the prompts

For Pedersen Elementary School - Enter a 3 and follow the prompts

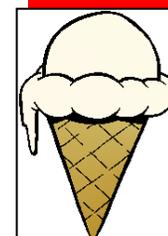
### Student Absence Procedures

As per Wisc. Statutes 118.15(3)(b), parents or guardians are required to provide a written explanation of absences at the time the student returns to school, or in the case of anticipated absences, prior to the absence.

This is in addition to reporting the absence on the Absentee Hotline 715-839-6095.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### Back to School Ice Cream Social



August 28  
5:30-7 PM  
10th St Park

(Rain site:  
Hobbs Sports Center, 2300  
Spooner Ave)

### Parental Rights – Did you Know?

**Parental Rights—Pupil Records** School districts must give full rights with regard to pupil records to either parent, unless there is a court order or other legally binding document relating to divorce, separation or custody that specifically revokes these rights. A parent may release records to a stepparent, but the stepparent has no independent right to the record *unless the stepparent is a legal guardian*.

**Special Education Records** When a special education student turns 18, all special education invitations and results are sent to the student unless the student gives written permission for release of information to the parent.

**Consolidated Elementary & Secondary Education Act** The public is invited to review the Consolidated Elementary and Secondary Education Act application and provide input. Call Karen Henry, 715-839-6224.

**Student Immunizations** By state law, students must provide dates of immunizations upon admission to school. Call the Health Department at 715-839-2876, for more information about immunizations or contact your school office when it reopens on August 19.

## Child Development Day: Annual Early Childhood Screening

The school district will sponsor "Child Development Day" on **October 3, 2013 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the middle school upper gym** (1903 Bartlett Ave). This cooperative screening model is designed to meet three goals: (1) to educate families concerning normal child growth and development; (2) to develop community awareness of resources available in the areas of education, child care, medical/health and family support services; (3) to identify young children who are in need of further assessment in the areas of physical, sensory, or developmental (personal/social, adap-



Child Development Day  
October 3—8 AM to 5 PM

Especially designed for our  
2 1/2 to 3 1/2 year old  
population!

tive, gross and fine motor, communication, cognition).

This screening and information day is designed for children who will be 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 years old by September 1, 2013 and live in the Altoona school district. If you did not have a school-age child enrolled in the Altoona school district during the past school year, or if you have recently moved into the district, please call 715-839-6033 to verify that your child(ren) is/are listed on our school census. Call 715-832-5543 to schedule your appointment for

screening.

## Teacher Qualifications

Federal law requires that we share with you the qualifications of teachers our school district. There are questions you may ask, including:

- Is my child's teacher licensed to teach the grades or subjects assigned?
- Has the state waived any requirements for my child's teacher?
- What was the college major of my child's teacher?
- What degrees does my child's teacher hold?
- Are there instructional aides working with my child? If so, what are their qualifications?

All teachers in Wisconsin schools have at least a bachelor's degree. In our district, teachers are fully licensed for their assignment, and 75% have a Master's Degree. If you want to see the state qualification for your child's teacher you may ask us or find it on the DPI website at <http://tepd.dpi.wi.gov/licensing/license-lookup-introduction>. Contact your school principal, with other questions pertaining to teacher qualifications.

## Annual Notice Concerning Pupil Records

As per Wisconsin Statute 118.125, the School District of Altoona maintains pupil records for all students enrolled in the district's schools. State and federal laws require that the maintenance of such records assure their confidentiality. Accordingly, only school personnel, parents or guardians, or adult pupils, and courts are granted access to records unless parents or adult pupils grant permission. Adult students, or the parent or guardian of a minor pupil, may inspect records kept by the school. Additionally, they may challenge the content if they believe it to be inaccurate or misleading.

The school may disclose personally identifiable information (grade reports, test scores, etc.) from the pupil records of an adult student to parents/guardians without the written consent of the adult student, if the adult student is a dependent of his/her parent or guardian unless the adult student has informed the school, in writing, that the information may not be disclosed.

**Directory Data:** State law allows for the release of "directory data" to parties outside the school unless parents or an adult student request exception to its release. **Unless so notified in writing to the building principal by September 30, 2013, the following directory data will be released upon request to authorized parties:**

Students (PK-6): pupil's name, date and place of birth, address, telephone number, student's photograph, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, awards received, and the name of the school most recently attended.

Secondary students (7-12): pupil's name, date and place of birth, address, telephone number, student's photograph, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, photographs, degrees and awards received, and the name of the school most recently attended.

Unless a written exception is received, student directories, including the student's name and telephone number will be available.

Parents and adult students have the following rights concerning student records in accordance with Altoona school district policies:

1. The right to inspect, review and obtain copies of student records upon request to the building principal. This request must be made in writing to the appropriate building principal. All information must be provided within two weeks of the request.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's school records if they believe the records are inaccurate or misleading. This request must be made in writing directly to the appropriate building principal.
3. The right to consent to the disclosure of the student's school records except to the extent state and federal law authorizes disclosure without consent, which includes the transfer of student school records to another school district.

4. The right to deny the release of student directory data (as noted under Pupil Records, on the left).

5. The right to file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office of the U.S. Department of Education.

### Records Maintenance & Destruction

While students are attending school, their records will be maintained in the school of attendance. Upon transfer of the student to another school operated by the district, the records shall be transferred to that school. When a student ceases to be enrolled, records shall be maintained as follows:

- All **behavioral records** will be destroyed one year after the date the student graduated from or last attended the school unless the adult student (or parent if the student is a minor) gives permission for the records to be maintained for a longer period. Where such written permission is received, behavioral records will be destroyed ten years after the date the student graduated from or last attended the

school or as per the Wisconsin Records Retention Schedule. Permission forms for the retention of behavioral records are available in the school guidance office. "**Behavioral Records**" include, but are not necessarily limited to: standardized achievement tests, personality evaluations, evaluations of educational needs, health care records other than a student's immunization records, teacher evaluations other than grades (e.g. progress reports), and statements related to the student's behavior.

• **Progress records** will be maintained in the school office 50 years after the date the student graduated or last attended the school or as per the Wisconsin Records Retention Schedule. "**Progress Records**" include, but are not limited to: a statement of courses taken by the student, grades received in these courses, attendance records, immunization records and records of the student's extracurricular activities.

Call Joyce Orth at 839-6032 for information about policies pertaining to pupil records.

## Delayed Placement for Five-Year Olds: Policy JEA and Procedure JEA-R

The district's 4 year-old kindergarten (4k) program is intended for children turning four years of age from September 1 through the previous September 2. The kindergarten program is intended for children turning five years of age from September 1 through the previous September 2.

Families requesting to delay kindergarten entrance and enroll their kindergarten-eligible child in the 4K program should contact the building principal to discuss the district's procedures for delayed placement. Requests to delay must be made by January 30 of the school year prior to enrollment.

**Procedure:** It is believed that parents are children's

primary and most important caregivers and educators. Therefore, the decision to delay the entry of a kindergarten-eligible child and enroll that child in the district's 4K program will be derived by a team composed of the child's parents and appropriate school personnel (typically the 4K coordinator, building principal, early childhood certified teacher, and school psychologist). There are a variety of reasons for requesting a delayed placement and many factors to consider in making this decision. To ensure fairness and consistency in making these decisions, the following procedures will be followed.

- A meeting shall be held between school personnel

and the parents to discuss the reasons for requesting a delayed placement and to gather information about the child. School personnel will share information on current practices and curriculum in the district's 4K and kindergarten programs. School personnel will also share and discuss possible positive and negative effects of delayed placements found in research.

- A screening and/or evaluation will be conducted by the school psychologist or certified early childhood professional to determine the child's potential to benefit from a delayed placement in the 4K program or the child's potential to be successful in the kindergarten program.

The evaluation shall be at no cost to the parents. If the child has an Individualized Education Plan and a delayed placement is being considered, the parents and appropriate school personnel will make the decision following the established special education procedures and regulations.

- Factors to be considered for delayed placement requests include the child's: Health and physical development; Social and emotional development; Language development and communication; Approach to learning; Cognition and general knowledge; Age and date of birth; Previous educational experience; Options for alternate activities during the school

year being considered; Possible long-term effects (both positive and negative) of the decision.

After the previous steps have been completed, the parents and school personnel will meet again to go over the results of the evaluation and decide the appropriateness of the child's delayed placement.

The decision for the placement of the child will be made by the end of February and finalized following a six-week trial period in the fall. After the trial period, the principal in consultation with the teacher and school psychologist will determine if the child is to continue in the program.

## Nondiscrimination Policy

The School District of Altoona is committed to equal educational opportunity for all students in the district. Pursuant to 118.13, Wisc. Statutes, and PI 9, no person may be denied participation in, be denied benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extra-curricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity, on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. This policy also prohibits discrimination under related federal statutes, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (sex), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (handicap). The school district will identify, evaluate, and provide an appropriate public education to students who are handicapped within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Complaint procedures allow the aggrieved to file a written complaint with Karen Henry, 839-6224. Unless the parties otherwise agree in writing the procedure requires that we acknowledge the complaint within 45 days and issue a determination within 90 days.

## Special Education Referral & Evaluation Procedures

Upon request, the School District of Altoona is required to evaluate a child or student (hereafter called child) for eligibility for special education services. A request for evaluation is known as a referral. When the district receives a referral, the district will appoint an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine if the child has a disability, and they need special education services. The district locates, identifies, and evaluates all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private (including religious) schools, elementary schools and secondary schools lo-

cated in the school district.

A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker, or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability has a legal duty to refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent that the referral will be made.

Others, including parents, who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability, may also refer the child, including a homeless



Annual Notice to Parents & Individuals Required to Make Referrals

child, to the school district in which the child resides.

Referrals must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. A referral may be made by contacting the Director of Special Education, School District of Altoona at 715-839-6224 or by writing him/her at 1903 Bartlett Avenue, Altoona WI 54720.



## Moving?

In addition to extending the application period from three weeks to three months (February through April), 2011 Wisconsin Act 114 created seven criteria under which a parent may apply for open enrollment outside the regular application period. If you move out of the school district and wish keep you child(ren) enrolled in their school, fill out a "Request for Exception to the Application Period" form using the "best interests of child" criteria. The form and criteria are located at: <http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/parents/openenrollment.cfm> or call Joyce Orth, 715-839-6032 or Char Lynum, 715-839-6033.

## Tobacco Free Schools

The Wisconsin Legislature enacted Senate Bill 142 requiring local school boards to prohibit the use of all tobacco products on premises owned or rented by, or under the control of, a school board. In response to the legislative mandate the Altoona Board of Education maintains the following policy: *The use of tobacco shall be prohibited at all times on school premises. "School premises" include all property owned by, rented by or under the control of the School District of Altoona. The administrative staff shall inform students, staff, and the general public about this policy and shall establish*



*enforcement.*

This policy prohibits the use of tobacco products on school premises by all persons.

For example, citizens attending athletic events are requested to refrain from using tobacco products while on school property. The superintendent and principals are charged with the responsibility to encourage/ ensure compliance with school board policies.

Thank you for your cooperation

## Asbestos

In accordance with the requirements of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986, enacted by congress, the School District of Altoona maintains an asbestos management plan for our facilities. A copy of the asbestos management plan is available for your inspection in the district office during regular office hours.

Any questions should be directed to Greg Johnson, Maintenance Team Supervisor, 1903 Bartlett Avenue, Altoona, WI 54720.

## Animals on School Property

No live animals may be brought into school district buildings, transported on school buses, or permitted on school grounds except as outlined below:

Animals may be brought into the classroom for educational purposes. However, they must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled. Persons bringing animals into the school should receive prior permission from the supervising teacher.

1. Teachers are to check with the school principal regarding any known allergies existing among students in the classroom prior to granting permission. If allergies exist, parents must be contacted for further direction.
2. Teachers must assume primary responsibility for the humane and proper treatment of any animal in

the classroom.

3. Teachers must be aware of state laws regulating sale, distribution, and handling of animals.
4. Only the teacher, or students designated by the teacher, are to handle the animals.
5. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher must make arrangements for their care and safety.
6. Teachers with questions regarding proper care, feeding and handling of animals should contact the science resource teacher or science department head.
7. Animals are not to be transported on school buses.
8. All experiments using live animals must have prior approval of the building administrator.
9. If a staff member or student has been bitten by



an animal where skin has been pierced, the incident must be reported immediately to the school office by the supervising adult. Principals are to assume responsibility to notify public health authorities and to impound for observation.

Public health authorities will determine the appropriate term of confinement of the animal and method of observation.

Other exemptions include:

1. Animals trained to assist persons who are physically impaired shall have unlimited access to district property when being used for that purpose.
2. Animals under the control of public safety officials shall have unlimited access to district property for exercise, educational, and public relations pur-

poses. Proper notification of such visits shall be left to the discretion of the controller of such animals. Use of these animals by law enforcement officials is under the jurisdiction of state and federal law and is not covered by this policy.

The presence of animals in school buildings or on school property shall also be subject to local laws and ordinances pertaining to animal control. Such laws and ordinances may vary depending on the location of the building/property.

Violation of this policy will result in parent contact and removal of the animal from school property. Refusal to cooperate will lead to disciplinary action. If an adult violates the policy as set forth above, the appropriate law enforcement agency will be contacted and action taken.



## From the Desk of Superintendent — continued from Page 1

that this step was investigated by our attorney and proven to be legal and effective. We pursued this avenue of budget development to follow the directive, you, our constituents gave us in our most recent community survey, “Find other sources of operational funding.” As a result we were able to pay off a substantial amount of debt, which will free up dollars for a more direct and positive impact on student learning. According to initial funding disclosures by the state, our state aid will increase by about \$700,000 and help keep the tax levy stable.

Those of you who have children or grandchildren in the elementary school can attest to the fact that they are “busting at the seams!” We have been fortunate to have a steady growth in student population. This steady growth helps us in the area of

state aid, but at the same time, we find ourselves with no place left to turn to find more space for our students. The crowding in the elementary school is having a negative effect on student behavior and learning. Therefore, to help us plan for our schools of tomorrow, the district commissioned demographic population and facilities studies of our complex. The board also appointed a committee of board members, staff and community members to review the studies and come back to the board with recommendations. That committee, the “Demographic Trends and Facilities Planning Committee” is in the final stages of analyzing the data to come up with options to present to the board. You can view the reports and keep up with the committee’s progress on our website;

[www.altoona.k12.wi.us](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us). The board also hired the survey team at School Perceptions to create a survey vehicle that will be sent to all district residents to outline our current state and gather input for our future. You should look for this survey to come out at the end of September or the beginning of October.

Although we were sorry to lose a vast amount of knowledge and experience when several of our long-term and highly-respected teachers retired at the end of the year, I am proud to say that we are fortunate to hire some excellent new staff members. Click on the STAFF tab on the website to visit webpage’s featuring our retirees and new staff.

We hope you enjoy the new look of our newsletter. In our continued effort to improve communication and be as transpar-

ent as possible, we plan to send a RAILS Review three or four times over the course of the year. I will continue my monthly community-based communication sessions on the first Wednesday of the month at the Altoona Family Restaurant at 8:00 a.m. and on the third Tuesday of the month at the Altoona Public Library at 6:30 p.m. I enjoy meeting community members to discuss education issues in general or specific issues that pertain to our district.

I cannot express how much I have enjoyed being a part of the fantastic School District of Altoona this past school year and getting to know the parents and community members. I look forward to continuing to develop positive relationships and work with you to serve our students.

- - Dr. Connie Biedron,  
Superintendent

“If we teach today’s students as we taught yesterday’s, we rob them of tomorrow.”

John Dewey

Just In!  
Just In!

More Grant News!

In addition to the \$75,000.00 grant awarded by the Wisconsin Technology Initiative (WTI), we just received word that the Altoona Middle School has received a LEA Cohort Grant of \$15,000 a year for a five year period. The grant, which is funded by the Wisconsin State Personnel Development Grant, will assign significant resources to the middle school to facilitate implementation of evidence-based, effective professional learning communities to improve outcomes for students with disabilities!

In other grant news, the Race to the Top application has reopened and deadlines have been set. Placing 43rd overall in the last round, the CESA 10 Consortium has already started the application process. Student, parent, teacher, board and community feedback is needed from each of the 29 CESA 10 school districts. More information will be coming telling you how to give feedback and/or write a letter in support of the grant application.

## Community Corner

Our schools are the center of the community bringing together many partners to support children, youth, families and learning.

The District vision just revisited and revised in July, puts it in these terms, *“The vision of the Altoona School District, in partnership with our students, their families, and our community, is to build a foundation for life-long learning and the emotional well-being of our students. We are dedicated to offering large school opportunities with a small school approach .”*

Building upon the District’s Vision and Mission, in July the school board adopted Goals and Objectives that promote life-long learning, the

well-being of our students and large school opportunities. When you review the Goals and Objectives (pages 2-3), you will see that one of the ways that the board will support life-long learning, student’ well-being and large-school opportunities, is through partnerships that engage the community.

Goal 5 in particular, captures this concept whereby, *“We will build relationships and partnerships with the community through open lines of communication, by developing relationships with other educational institutions, by expanding and developing volunteer resources, and by developing an adult education program.”*



We’re excited to see expanded opportunities and partnerships within our community as these goals come to life; and we look forward to seeing how these partnerships go on to positively impact student learning in our school district community! —  
Joyce Orth, 715-839-6032  
jorth@altoona.k12.wi.us

The vision of the Altoona School District, in partnership with our students, their families, and our community, is to build a foundation for life-long learning and the emotional well-being of our students. We are dedicated to offering large school opportunities with a small school approach.

## Your School Board: Community Perspective

The School Board is happy to join Joyce Orth in reaching out to our community. In fact, the makeup of the Board represents all parts of the community. Robin Elvig and Dave Rowe are parents of students now attending district schools.

Helen Drawbert and Brad Poquette are parents of student who have completed their education at Altoona. Finally, Mike Hilger has older children, and he represents the retired and senior citizens of the community—so we feel comfortable reaching out to the whole community, and we

listen to what you tell us.

We want you to come to and participate in our regular meetings, which generally occur at 6:30 PM on the first and third Mondays of each month. We also hope that you look at and bookmark the Altoona District website [www.altoona.k12.wi.us](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us), which provides a wealth of information (even pictures of us), not to mention our phone numbers and email addresses, all available under the heading “District.”

We are working towards continuous improvement in our students, staff, administration and

ourselves. This process has taken many hours with administration and staff. And it has involved decisions that have not been easy. From now on, we will communicate with you more fully about goals and plans for the District either personally, or with the written information and meetings.

The School Board will ask for your input and keep you informed with more frequent newsletters, through survey processes, and through committees such as our Budget Development Committee and our Demographic

Trends and Facilities Planning Committee, both of which have staff and community representation.

In addition, starting on September 16, a board member will be available before our second meeting of the month (usually on the third Monday of the month) from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. to meet and greet community members!

Please keep in touch with us so we can work together as a community to encourage and celebrate the accomplishments of the Altoona School District!

*“Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life.  
It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient.  
It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop.”*

Dorothy Height

## Community Corner: Programs, Events, Offerings for the Community

### Offerings/Opportunities:

#### Free Admission—Ongoing for Residents age 60+

Altoona school district residents 60 years of age or older can pick up a free guest pass at the Altoona High School office. It's good for all activities including regular season athletic events.

#### Senior Tax Exchange Program (STEP)-Ongoing

Provides an opportunity for social security eligible citizens to work in the schools in exchange for a property tax credit of up to \$429 per household, per school year.

Eligibility: age 62 or older, own your home and reside in the Altoona School District

Info: [http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/community/step\\_program.cfm](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/community/step_program.cfm) or call Joyce Orth 715-839-6032

### Face to Face Communication Opportunities:

#### Coffee with Connie—Ongoing

The first Wednesday of the month  
8 AM until conversations end, Altoona Family Restaurant

#### Conversations with Connie—Ongoing

The third Tuesday of the month  
6:30—7:30 PM, Altoona Public Library

#### Regular Board Meetings—Ongoing

On the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the Month, 6:30 PM

On the 2nd Meeting of the Month (starting on September 16) : A board member will be available to meet and greet community members starting at 5:30 PM

Check the Schedule for exceptions: <http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/meetings1315.cfm>

#### Annual Meeting/Budget Hearing—October 28

Monday, October 28, 6:30 PM, Altoona Commons Addition, 1827 Bartlett Ave

Check the Website to Confirm location & view the booklet in mid-October

### Online Communication Opportunities:

#### Open Forum—Ask a Question Online

Ask: <http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/openforum.cfm>

Answer: <http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/openforumqanda.cfm>

#### Got Good News?

We have an ear for education-related news pertaining to our students, staff, school board and education partners.

Tell us about it: <http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/goodnews.cfm>

#### Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/altoonaschooldistrict>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AltoonaSup>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AltoonaSD>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/altoonaschools/>

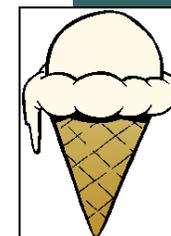
YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/AltoonaSchools>

For your convenience direct links are available on the left side navigation on the website [www.altoona.k12.wi.us](http://www.altoona.k12.wi.us)

*Connect with us*



## Back to School Ice Cream Social



August 28  
5:30—7 PM  
10th St Park

(Rain site: Hobbs  
Sports Center, 2300  
Spoooner Ave)



School District of Altoona

Phone: 715-839-6032  
Fax: 715-839-6066  
E-mail: jorth@altoona.k12.wi.us

We're Social! Join our network:  
[altoona.k12.wi.us](http://altoona.k12.wi.us)  
[facebook.com/altoonaschooldistrict](https://facebook.com/altoonaschooldistrict)  
[pinterest.com/altoonaschools](https://pinterest.com/altoonaschools)  
[twitter.com/AltoonaSup](https://twitter.com/AltoonaSup)  
[twitter.com/AltoonaSD](https://twitter.com/AltoonaSD)  
[youtube.com/user/AltoonaSchools](https://youtube.com/user/AltoonaSchools)

Let "life-long learning;" the "emotional well-being of our students;" and "large school opportunities with a small school approach" define us.

School District of Altoona  
1903 Bartlett Ave  
Altoona WI 54720

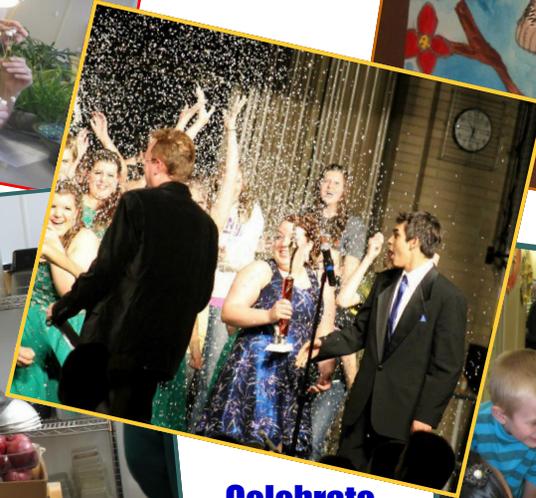
**Projects!**



**The Arts**



*Service*



**Celebrate Success!**



**Volunteers!**

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Eau Claire WI  
Permit No. 1557

ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER