



# Altoona Intermediate School

## Altoona, Wisconsin



## November 2022 Newsletter

### What's Happening in AIS?

Hello AIS Families! I hope you are having a great Fall season with your child(ren). Fall brings so many fantastic traditions within families and it is wonderful to make those family connections within our own classroom communities. Whether it be walking with friends through the Haunted Classroom at our Halloween party (Mr. Zuiker may or may not have been there) or enjoying the crisp weather at recess, our students are making memories and our staff are very intentional in helping them in that creation. As we get closer to Thanksgiving and the Holiday season, we are looking forward to making those connections within our classroom communities, only making them stronger!

I am hoping you get a chance to read the document in this newsletter that is focused on attendance, and the importance of it. We have some of the best teachers in the game at AIS, but our students cannot be reached when they are not in the building, simple fact. As it stands right now, we are just over a 1% increase (1.07%) in our full day attendance compared to last year. That is a CELEBRATION!! When our students are in the building, we will make progress! As the holiday season approaches, we ask that you please be cognizant of any family trips that you may take. Please be proactive in calling these into school, so our teachers can help prepare students for if they are going to be gone. We take pride in building and sustaining a culture of belonging at AIS, and this increase in full-day attendance is a great product from this work!

We are about a month into our PBIS focus on grit, resiliency, and perseverance. Classrooms are earning GRIT 'leaves' to post on our GRIT

poster in the iZone when they persevere on a task or situation which requires some resiliency and perseverance. When we fill up our GRIT poster with leaves, we will have an all school celebration filled with some interactive games! A topic to consider discussing with your child(ren) could center around the questions, "How do we accomplish hard things?" and "What are the benefits of displaying grit?". Having those conversations with your child makes HUGE connections and growth with the transfer of those skills to school.



# Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

### Resilience:

The ability to cope and move forward in the face of crisis. In other words, it is the ability to tackle challenges when life circumstances are very difficult.

ON OUR SLEEVES

A short reminder to our families of our AIS school policy regarding drinks in the classrooms. *Students are encouraged to bring in water bottles with water. Soda, coffee, kool-aid, and juice are discouraged to maintain a healthy and clean environment. We appreciate you refraining from sending drinks with your child(ren) that could result in a potential spill damaging our floors!*

Additionally, it's a good reminder around election season to discuss with your child the importance of voting! At school, we are intentional with modeling this democratic right to our students, and we appreciate your partnership in doing the same!

# VOTE



Thank you for your partnership with AIS!

Our school thrives when we have strong support from our families and community. I will always finish my insert portion of the newsletter with the same statement I read to students as I close the morning announcements:

*We are so proud of you at AIS. We are here to help guide you through struggle and celebrate your wins with you. Every single one of you plays an important role at AIS, YOU ALL MATTER to our school community. Just in case someone didn't tell you they love you today, you matter, you belong, and you are LOVED at AIS! Have a FANTASTIC day everyone!*

Best,

Cale Zuiker

Altoona Intermediate School Principal

[czuiker@altoona.k12.wi.us](mailto:czuiker@altoona.k12.wi.us)

715-838-7111 ext. 309

"It takes years to build a culture, and you will always be looking to improve it"



## Attendance

### *Why is attendance important?*

Regular attendance in school is very important to a child's learning. When a child is absent more than other children in kindergarten, their achievement in reading, math and general knowledge is lower in 1st grade. Regardless of other challenges a child faces, absences from school negatively impact achievement. The same trends are seen in other grade levels. The more school a child misses, the more difficult it is for that child to stay on pace with peers in learning.

The practice of good attendance not only helps your child learn and grow academically, it also sets good habits for attendance in post-secondary classes and future jobs and careers. Ensuring that your child is attending school sets him or her up for success in the present as well as the future.

### *What does good attendance look like?*

Good attendance means missing less than 10% of school days. Sometimes absences are necessary, such as when a child is ill, however, both *excused* and *unexcused* absences equally affect a child's success in school. In Altoona, we have 191 days of school each year. This means missing less than 19 days of school per year, or less than 2 days per month. For middle school and high school students, it is also important to consider class period attendance to ensure your child isn't missing the same class multiple times for illness, orthodontist or doctor appointments, etc.

### *How can I help my child if he or she must miss school?*

Being as PROactive as possible is the best way to help your child when they must miss school. Being in communication with their teacher, whether it be through a phone call, Remind text message, or email, being as proactive as possible allows your child's teacher to prepare any work or instruction that they may miss.

Additionally, an excuse from a doctor, coded as a 'Medical Excuse' does not count against your child's attendance days. If your child needs to miss excessive days of school due to a medical reason, please work to obtain a written note from your medical provider.

### *Where can I find support for my child's attendance?*

We realize that every family faces challenges— illness, transportation, child care, or scheduling demands. Please let us know if your family needs help dealing with these challenges to your child's good school attendance. We will do our best to help your family ensure that your child's school attendance stays on track.

Jessica Bucki - AIS Administrative Assistant - (715) 838-7111 ext. 301

Kyle Rundquist - AIS/AMS Dean of Students - (715) 839-6030 ext. 383

Cale Zuiker - AIS Principal - (715) 838-7111 ext. 309

[Romero, M., and Lee, Y. \(2007\). A National Portrait of Chronic Absenteeism in the Early Grades. New York, NY: The National Center for Children in Poverty.](#)

<http://www.nccp.org/publication/present-engaged-and-accounted-for-the-critical-importance-of-addressing-chronic-absence-in-the-early-grades/>

# 4th Grade Updates

## Legends

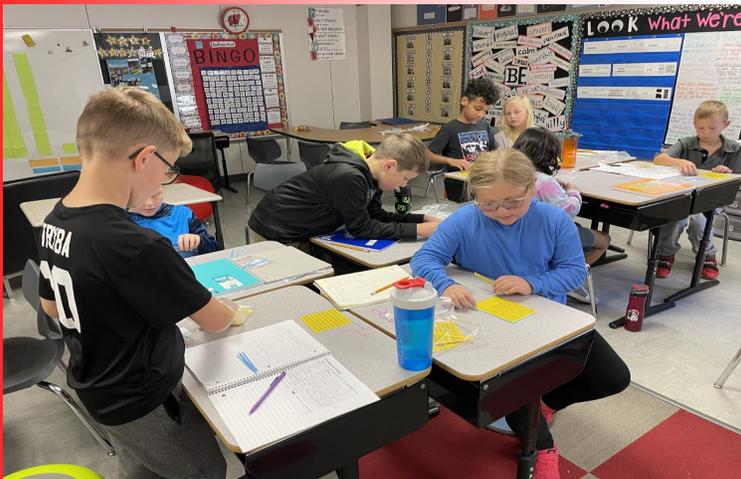
by Keyanna & Dania

In ELA we have been learning about legends. A legend is a story that combines fiction and facts and explains how something in nature came to be. We've read legends like Lone Bird, The Woman in the Moon, The Origin of the Pleiades, and How the Deer Got its Horns. We have been identifying story elements, character traits, and themes. In writing we have been learning about writing and to revise our story. We've also used dialogue and description.

## Science: *The Human Machine*

By: *Bryan and Kylie*

In this unit of science we learned about how our fingers work with our tendons to bend our fingers. With that, we made a paper finger with a string that we pulled so the finger model would bend. Then we learned what makes people blind. With that we made an eye model that we folded, taped, and looked through with a cornea lens. We also learned why animals can see better in the dark than us. With that, we used the eye model, and we experimented with a partner, closing our eyes and opening their eyes to see their pupils shrink! And that's what we've learned in science so far!



# 4th Grade Multiplication Strategies

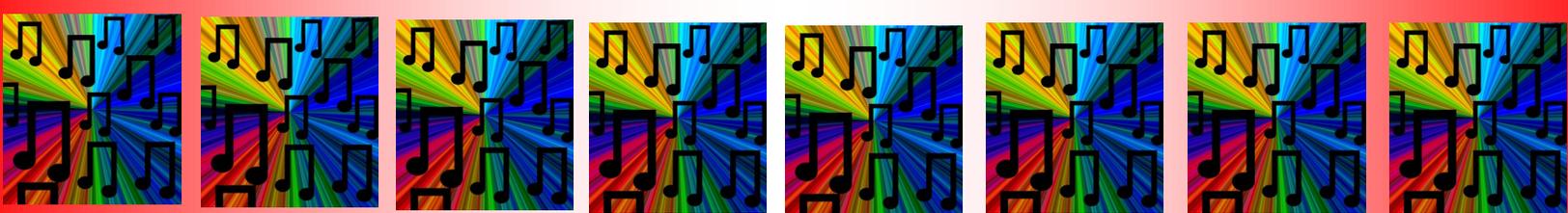
by Emma, Reese and Haylie

In this unit we are learning some multiplication strategies. And some of the ways we have learned are a ratio table, arrays, and open arrays. Also we have been working with base ten pieces to help us solve big numbers like  $12 \times 16$ . We have also been working with multi step problems.

A handwritten ratio table on lined paper for the problem  $12 \times 16$ . The table is set up as follows:

1	16
2	32
4	64
8	128
12	192

A handwritten array diagram on lined paper for the problem  $12 \times 16$ . The array is a large rectangle divided into two smaller rectangles. The left side is labeled '12' and the top is labeled '16'. The two smaller rectangles are labeled  $10 \times 10 = 100$  and  $2 \times 10 = 20$ . To the right of the array, the final result is written as  $12 \times 16 = 192$ .



Meet Mrs. Lauren Lierman! What are AIS students up to in MUSIC?



## 5th Grade:

Fifth grade musicians have been working hard on their musical skills! We started the year with learning how to read Bass Clef and the Grand Staff note names. Over the past few weeks, we've been working on how to read a score and sing a song with piano accompaniment, using the song Thank You, Soldiers. The fifth graders will perform this at the Veteran's Day Assembly on November 11th. Students are beginning work on bucket drumming to learn new and more complex rhythms. In our day to day, outside of our big topics, students sing, dance, and play, in a tuneful, beautiful, and artful way! We use many different activities to preview and solidify musical concepts.

## 4th Grade:

Fourth grade musicians started the year off with introductory name compositions. After that, we jumped right into preparing for recorders! Students are very excited to get recorders in their hands. We have spent the last few weeks learning MI RE DO patterns on recorder. Students know how to read these patterns with a "new" DO (G), as well as how their fingers should look for playing each note. Students will soon learn recorder breath support and begin fully playing! When not working on recorder, students are playing fun music games, doing activities, and singing songs. As in elementary school, we focus on being tuneful, beautiful, and artful. Students were especially excited to learn a Halloween song called Black and Gold, which layered different ostinati (short, repeated patterns) like "Pumpkin pie," "Shriek shriek, everything is black," and "Spooky scary Halloween."

# What have 5th Graders been up to?

## 5th Grade Goes on a Field Trip

By: Liam P and Chloe B



On Tuesday, October 11, 2022, the entire 5th grade took a field trip to the Pioneer Village Museum in Cameron, Wisconsin. One of the coolest things we did was old time baseball. We also made corn husk dolls or made a bracelet. We made a peg at the carpenter building. We used an old timer, telephone and telegraph. We went to an old one room school that closed in 1962. We went to an old town hall and made a family tree paper. We went into an old train station and climbed up a ladder that went to seats on the train. We got to see an old house and learned how the people that lived there lived their lives.



We learned about how the people in the 1800's to 1900's cleaned their clothes. There was an old pump we used to pump water into a big bucket. The jail that was there was really cool and there was a pillory there. There was an old amazing kitchen there and the woman there gave us cookies! There was a church there that was really cool that had a bible that was in a different language. The blacksmith there was making a hook that was for hanging a pot over a fire to cook stuff. There was a pen full of chickens. The trip was awesome.



# AIS 4th & 5th Grade News for Parents

A space has been created to house outside youth organization information specific to the Altoona community. The intent is for our families to access information from the website or be directed to find their information. It's at a no-frills-only-bulleted beginning stage. Not all programs are listed, which is addressed on the right side of the screen. Any feedback you wish to provide would be appreciated.

<https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/community/community-youth-organizations>

LOOK AT ALL OF THE SMILING FACES! AIS STUDENTS  
CELEBRATED WITH A PARTY AND FUN GAMES!

