

# Austintown Local School District

## Community Newsletter



### A message from Superintendent David Cappuzzello:

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! I hope you had a relaxing summer with family and friends, and are recharged for a great year of learning. As Superintendent, there is no better feeling than the start of a new school year. Regardless of your role or title, we are all part of the Austintown family and share in the excitement and anticipation that comes with our students in the classroom five days a week.

If you are new to the district, I welcome you to our wonderful school system, where you can find the resources and support you need to be successful. If you are returning, welcome back! As I embark on my fourth year as your superintendent, I am pleased to report that we have not only made many physical changes to our campus to make it more attractive, we have also added many educational programs and courses Kindergarten through Grade 12. In the high school alone, we have added twenty-two new courses in the past three years.

District-wide we want to ensure that we provide a rigorous and equitable educational experience to all students. We know that learning recovery will be a priority as we continue to navigate through the year. Federal ESSER funds will be used to enhance student supports, including mental health support. Together, we navigated the challenges of the last few years by bridging the gap. We also built strong relationships and partnerships so that education and collaboration could continue. If we've learned anything from this pandemic, it's been to adjust and adapt, and we are committed to doing just that.

I look forward to the new school year, and I thank you for your dedication to our District, our community, and the students and families that we serve. I wish everyone a great first day and a productive school year.

### Best Wishes to the following 2021-2022 Retirees:

Wilma Almasi-Dorhn	Mary Kay Hartzell	Kristin O'Neill	Pamela Spears
Suzanne Bonanno	Dwight Hicks	Loretta Ratliff	Darlene Wiery
Cynthia Clemens	Cheryl Hudson	Frank Sabatino	Diane Wylam
Jeff Gessler	Christine Kinnick	Jeff Sabo	



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# Austintown Elementary School



- Our 5-Star Falcon Fives Pre-Kindergarten Program engaged in the highest quality education for all preschool students and their families. Along with the Early Learning standards taught, the curriculum used paralleled what our Kindergarten students were learning.
- Holiday room parties were back in action this school year! The students were treated to Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day activities and treats. It was exciting to allow our parents back into the building.
- The AES Art Department hosted their annual (virtual this year!) Art Show. Here, PK-2 artwork was displayed online for purchase. Select students moved on to the district art show for their efforts too!
- This year at AES, students in grades K-2 had the opportunity to participate in both intervention and enrichment activities after school. Intervention classes concentrated on phonemic awareness and phonics. The program was sponsored by United Way and its focus was STEM activities. OH WOW! taught one class per week to our promising scientists.
- The United Way also sponsored an online tutoring program called VELLO. This pilot program allowed for one classroom to receive daily virtual tutoring in reading with an adult in the community.
- The positive behavior matrix was fully implemented this year. Students were rewarded with peace sign necklaces, respect bracelets, and try your best beads as they were caught following the matrix.
- Red Ribbon Week was celebrated by students signing a drug free pledge. There were also activities completed in the classrooms and daily dress themes.
- Grades PK-2 participated in various stations during Fun Day, such as Little Drummers, Yoga, and Let's Go Fishing. Treats were also provided. Our students had so much fun in the sun!



# Austintown Intermediate School



- AIS held a virtual Open House in September. Families were able to meet and greet their child's teachers to help build the foundation of a successful school year. The month ended with AIS Spirit Week and students settled into their PBIS routines and expectations beautifully!
- October never disappoints! Our 2nd annual indoor Halloween parade, that we live streamed, was a huge success! Students (and staff!) showed off their costumes and costume winners were chosen to wrap up a much needed festive experience for all of our students.
- In November, we had a lot to be thankful for. Our community came together for another great Boosterthon and students enjoyed dancing the day away! 3rd grade students did an amazing job on the Fall ELA State Test and families came in to connect with staff for our Fall Conference Night.
- For the 8th year, our building was an official Toys For Tots collection location, partnering with the Mahoning Valley Marines to collect toys at Christmas. Once again, as a result of the generosity of our AIS families we continued our streak as the TOP TOY COLLECTOR in the district!
- Falcon Friends was a huge hit this year! Every adult and staff member in the building got paired up with a selection of students in each grade. Students and staff enjoyed getting to know new faces in the building and forming relationships with one another. We love our Falcon Friends!
- Love was in the air in February! Students brought in Valentine's Day boxes and wow, did we love them! We also loved our PTA book fair, as well as our Art Department's Annual Art Show. AIS students are extremely talented and it was awesome to see their scope of work.
- We had luck on our side in March! Students were rocking out our state tests when we also celebrated PI Day with math riddles and puzzles all over the building. COSI added to the fun with days of in-house science experiments. Last, but not least, was our Staff vs. Student Charity Basketball Game. The staff kept their winning streak alive but our 5th grade participants were winners! We raised over \$4,400 for Purple Cat and Gabba Camp.
- May brings the culminating trip of the year for 5th grade students, the annual Camp Fitch trip! A huge thank you to our high school camp counselors, our AIS staff members, and everyone else involved for making this special event possible.
- PTA sponsored FUN DAYS took place for all three grade levels and it was again an amazing day. It was held at Fitch stadium on the field and included many fun physical activities and games. Our PTA is the best and we thank them for all they do!



# Austintown Middle School

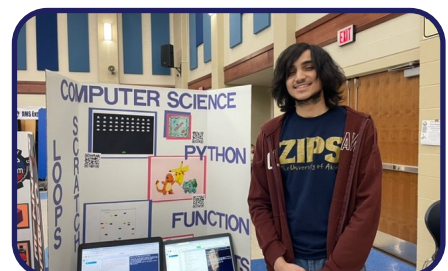


- The AMS Wrestlers finished 2nd at the Eastern Ohio Wrestling League Tournament. Davanzo Tate took home the most valuable wrestler award.
- Our AMS Drama Club put on their production of Rapunzel in March with hundreds of guests attending each night.
- AMS 7th and 8th Grade Band students participated in the OMEA District 5 Solo & Ensemble Adjudicated Event in April. All school ensembles earned a superior (1) or excellent (2) rating.
- With the help of Austintown Community Church, Beagley Oaks Nursing Home, Big Reach Center of Hope and the United Way, we were able to provide food and gift cards to over 100 families in need this past holiday season.
- AMS Boys Cross Country won the Boys Division of the Mahoning County Cross Country Championship Meet.
- Over one hundred Grade 8 students, who were interested in pursuing skilled trades, attended the Mahoning Valley Skilled Trades Expo.
- AMS students took an all-school field trip in February to see a Phantoms Hockey game.
- OH WOW! held an after school science enrichment program at AMS. Students enjoyed exploring different topics in science including building their own Mars Lander.
- The Austintown Alumni Association awarded Michelle Benich, Kari Knight, Marc Pupino and Jaclyn Senich grants to fund projects in their classrooms.
- Four AMS students were selected as honorees in the Student Holocaust Writing/Media Contest held by the Jewish Community Relations Council. Selected students were: Noah Bolen, Dominic Boano, Alexis Beaudis and Mia Foley.



# Austintown Fitch High School

- Fitch High School kicked off the year with our student run Link Crew Freshman Orientation. Freshmen were welcomed by our Link leaders for welcoming activities, group tours, and introduction to their schedules.
- Fall Spirit Week was held as a buildup to Homecoming. Students participated in Vacation Day, Senior Citizen Day, Cowboys and Country Club, Throwback Thursdays, and Friday Falcon Spirit Wear.
- Fitch High School collected over 1,500 toys for the 2021 Toy Drive.
- Our Annual Veterans Day Assembly was held in person once again! This year's speaker was Colonel Kevin C. Riley, a former Commander of the 910th Mission Support Group and former Air Force Reserve Commander at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station. He also our Senior Aerospace Science Instructor.
- The interest for American Sign Language continues to grow. Next year Fitch will offer six classes of ASL, year 1 through 3.
- The Fitch Speech Team had another successful season, qualifying three for the nationals; Brock Kusky in Informative Speaking, Armand Giovannone in International Extemporaneous Speaking, and Brooke May in Dramatic Interpretation.
- Our Fitch Drama Club performed The Music Man in the Spring, with a cast and pit orchestra of over sixty people. The pit orchestra for this musical was the largest of any Fitch Drama Club production to date.
- The art department added new courses such as art history and advanced ceramics.
- The Fitch Skilled Trades Class restored the Gazebo at the Austintown 9/11 Memorial. The class also built benches for the front of Fitch for students and staff to enjoy.
- JROTC was invited to the Vienna Air Base, and spending the day touring the base.
- National Honor Society held its 84th Annual Induction Ceremony! Seventy-eight new members were inducted this year.
- Spring Prom was held at the Maronite Center, with over four hundred students in attendance.



# Valedictorian Spotlight



Erin Burke



Cassidy Claypoole



Meghan Crump



Sophia DiRenzo



Nicholas Foley



Alivia Franklin



Armand Giovannone



Amber Higginbotham



Dominic Kapics



Anthony Kluchar



Brock Kusky



Alyssa Ruggles



Logan Smrek



Jaymes Soles



Kamryn Zeock






## Senior Stats

*What they have accomplished:*

**341** earned  
their diploma



**1** received a   
**34** on the ACT  
(a perfect ACT score is a 36)

**6.2** million dollars in scholarships offered

**5** enlisted and/or plan  
to serve in the military



**15** valedictorians



**75**  
took Advanced  
Placement (AP)  
courses this year

**23** graduated from  
our online programs



**6** students earned  
athletic scholarships

**82** National Honor Society members



**1,318**

College Credit Plus  
hours were earned  
this year by the  
class of **2022**

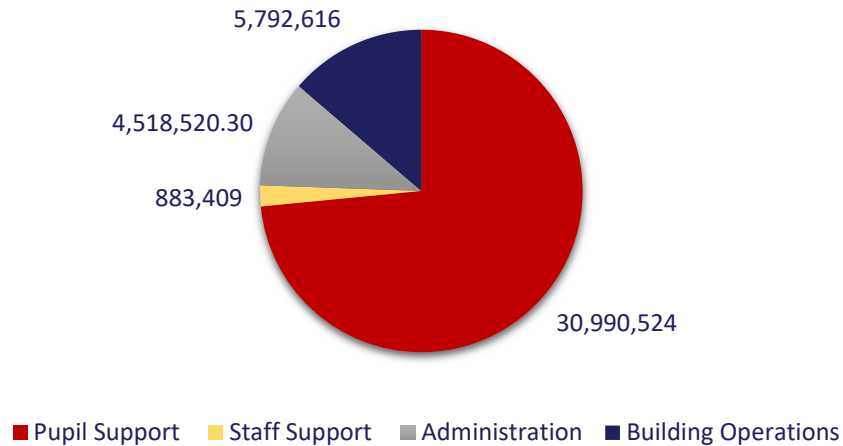
**85** students  
graduated with honors

**136**

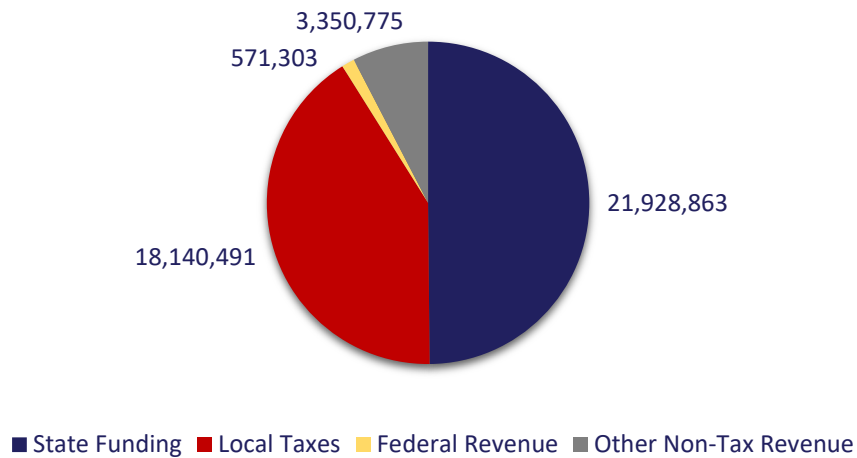
were honored by the  
PTSA for maintaining a  
3.5 GPA or higher.

# Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2022

## WHERE THE MONEY GOES



## WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



**Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction** was presented to the Austintown Local School District for excellence in financial reporting related to the Annual Financial Report and compliance with applicable laws for the previous fiscal year.





# #FalconStrong





# Falcon Flex Hybrid Learning Program



Hello,

My name is Renee Houser and I am the new Director of Alternative Learning Programs in the district. While I am new to my position, I am not new to Austintown Local Schools. I have been a teacher in Austintown for twelve years and served as the Dean of our online and alternative learning programs, HOPE/FPO last year.

I am excited to announce that we have made some positive changes to our online learning program, starting with a name change, addition of new staff, renovations of the building, mid-day bussing, addition of Career Based Intervention and ROTC programs, and a more flexible approach to learning. I am excited and grateful to have the opportunity to work with our team in serving the students and families of Austintown, who are seeking a more flexible learning environment.

## Program Highlights

- The Falcon Flex Hybrid Learning Program is an extension of the Austintown Local Schools created to give students the flexibility to choose their learning model based on their needs. Through hybrid learning, students and faculty can embrace the benefits of online education while retaining the perks of in-person instruction in a flexible format.
- The Falcon Flex learning center, located at the former Lynn Kirk Elementary School, allows for more one-on-one support between students and teachers.
- Our staff consists of fully licensed Austintown High School and Middle School teachers, a full time licensed Guidance Counselor and Intervention Specialist.
- The Falcon Flex program offers a curriculum that is aligned with the high school and middle school and offers a variety of options for electives, including foreign languages. Students participating in the Falcon Flex program can participate in all extracurricular activities offered through the high school and middle school.

**If you are interested in learning more about our program, please visit our district website and look for Falcon Flex under the Programs tab or email [rhouser@austintownschoools.org](mailto:rhouser@austintownschoools.org).**

## Food Service Update

The USDA Child Nutrition Program waivers, which have allowed us to serve free meals to all students for the past two school years, have ended. This means we are required to return to pre-pandemic operations for the 2022-2023 school year.

Student meals will be priced based on the student's eligibility of free or reduced price meal benefits. Without an approved application, meals will be charged at the paid price for each grade level. Meal applications are available online at <https://family.titank12.com/>.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your household's free or reduced application, please call the Food Service Office at 330-797-3900 ext. 1316 or visit our website at [AFFoodServices.com](http://AFFoodServices.com).

Meal Prices: Breakfast is \$2.00 for all grade levels; Lunch is \$3.00 for Pre-K thru 8, and \$3.25 for 9-12.



# 2022-2023 District Calendar

AUGUST '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

	Instructional Days
	Closed
	Staff only (AEA)/No students
	Graduation
	End of nine weeks
	Conference week
	Half Day of school

SEPTEMBER '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

FEBRUARY '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Notable Days	
August 25-26	Teacher Days
August 29	First day for students
August 29	First Day Kindergarten (A-M)
August 30	First Day Kindergarten (N-Z)
October 14	NEOE Day-No students
January 20	Hephner Wrestling Tournament
March 3-4	Host Speech State Tournament
April 7-14	Spring Break
May 21	Graduation
May 26	Last day for students (1/2 day)

OCTOBER '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MARCH '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

NOVEMBER '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

APRIL '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

MAY '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



## **Austintown Local School District**

700 S. Raccoon Road

Austintown, OH 44515



### **Looking for Transportation Information?**

*Scan the QR code provided or visit  
[austintownschools.org/Content/transportation](https://austintownschools.org/Content/transportation)  
for bus routes, the My Stop App, and important  
updates for the upcoming school year!*

