



The Knightly News

by Supt. Shannon Cheek

Update on projects the school district will be completing this summer

Good morning, afternoon or evening Knights. I hope you have had a great week up to this point and are looking forward to the weekend ahead. I thought it might be helpful and informative to discuss some of the great work our district has done this year and provide you with a brief update on some of the projects that we will be working on and completing this Summer.

We are wrapping up year two of a three year school improvement project that involves a comprehensive review of our curriculum, curriculum alignment, and assessment development and alignment to the required state standards. The overarching goal of the three year plan is to provide our students with the staff, resources and aligned standards to enable all to achieve educational excellence. The staff has been diligently working and utilizing the designated school improvement time to identify priority standards, build

a scope and sequence for each grade level and content area, and develop and align common assessments across the district that are aligned to the state standards. We will be working over the summer to post on our website the results of our work up to this point. We hope that the information posted will be useful for families in identifying what is being taught and when material is being covered. The focus for us as a district next year, the final year in the school improvement plan/project, will be to continue to work on our assessments and analyze those assessment results as a district. This work will ensure us the opportunity to align our curriculum, instruction and assessment across grade levels and across all buildings. We will also be able to identify what areas we do well and what challenges we need to focus on as a district.

We have also been piloting a new Math curriculum for the district. At the April Board of

Education meeting a presentation was made for the potential adoption of a new curriculum for both the grade schools as well as the majority of the high school. We are hopeful that a formal request will be granted for the adoption of the new curriculum at the May Board of Education meeting.

The work that the staff has been able to complete up to this point is incredible and I'm proud of the continued efforts they make to maximize the learning opportunities we provide for all students. It has been refreshing and exciting to witness the levels of collaboration amongst our staff and the passion for creating the best environment for learning.

We also continue to forge ahead with various building projects this year and into the summer. One of the main projects for the Summer is resurfacing the track. We have definitely received the maximum life out of the current surface and we are excited for the new track to be installed. This will

be a complete overhaul which will include a new surface and freshly painted lines.

This school year we replaced the gym scoreboard and are scheduled to replace the football scoreboard this summer. Those two items were funded by the newly developed corporate sponsorship program, athletic boosters, and private donations. We are confident that the new football scoreboard will add to the excitement and pride that the addition of the gym scoreboard provided this past winter.

A major project that will begin immediately after school dismisses for the summer is adding air conditioning to Arthur Grade School, replacing a boiler at Lovington Grade School, replacing A/C units at Lovington Grade School, and adding A/C to the gymnasium at Lovington Grade School. The improvements being made in the grade schools will enhance the learning environments for both the staff and the students and we are ex-

cited to have them completed.

We have authorized the bidding process to take place for the repair and or possible replacement of some of the parking lots/playgrounds in the district. Many of our parking lots are in need of repair and if the bids are secured we will begin to address some of those concerns this summer/fall. We will not be able to tackle all of the work needed at once but we will at least start the process of addressing the areas that fall within budget for the first year. As we progress in the years to come we hope to continue to address more and more parking lot and playground concerns.

Finally, we will be diligently cleaning, polishing and preparing each building this summer for the upcoming school year. The maintenance and custodial staff at Arthur CUSD 305 do an excellent job of collaborating, and coordinating their schedules in order to maximize the amount of work that can be completed over the

course of the summer. The collaboration and coordination of schedules will be especially important this summer as we have a lot of projects taking place that will ultimately disrupt the normal process of preparing the buildings for students in August.

So you can see there is a lot going on at Arthur CUSD 305. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or are just curious about anything related to the district, please feel free to reach out to the district office at 217-543-2511 and schedule an appointment to visit. I'm also more than happy to schedule a tour of any of our facilities. I really enjoy discussing the district and would welcome that opportunity with any and all of you. I hope you have a great rest of your week and enjoy the upcoming weekend.

Sincerely,
Mr. Shannon Cheek
Superintendent
Arthur CUSD #305

CUSD 305

from page 1

got wrong and how to rework the problem. There is also the opportunity for students to download the app where it allows them to have the math textbook on their phone and/or computer. This way, they do not have to take the book home, and they can highlight items in the book that they find helpful.

The curriculum is easy to learn and a new teacher could have the ability to walk in and have no problem learning what they are supposed to do. Teachers can also go in and customize and edit assignment problems for the students.

This presentation of math curriculums was for information purposes only and the board will be voting and adopting them in the near future at one of the next board meetings.

Jared Bladow presented the donation program, Purposity to the board. Purposity comes from the two words purpose and generosity. On its website, it states, "Purposity comes from the core belief that humanity finds purpose through generosity." (<https://www.purposity.com/>). By using this website/app, it makes it easier to give certain needs to schools and non-profit organizations. Those groups can sign up, create an account, and list what their needs are. Then individuals can sign up for an account, download the app so that they can see the list of different needs that are being requested. From there, they can help provide those needs to that specific organization or school.

Both the donor and school

and/or organization are completely anonymous. When the need is fulfilled, it is shipped to the receiver. Bladow stated that the typical average need ranges to about \$30.

Other items that were discussed include:

-The district received \$10,780 in donations. The bulk of that were donors who graciously donated funds for the senior trip. "When we need something, our community definitely steps up," commented Superintendent Cheek. The Knights Sports Boosters donated \$2,000 for hurdles. Tight Line Braid donated \$300 to the Bass Fishing Team. Below are all of the donors who helped fund the senior trip:

- Arthur Flower Shop - \$100.00
- Jackie Larck - \$30.00
- Derrick and Jennifer Ingram - \$300.00
- John and Sharon Daily - \$500.00
- Anonymous - \$1000.00
- Julie and Jesse Thompson - \$200.00
- La Cascada - \$4920.00
- The Homestead Bakery - \$230.00
- Mr. and Mrs. Wes Fredrick - \$200.00
- Mr. and Mrs. John Watkins - \$1000.00

-The following non-certified job descriptions were approved: Building Secretary, Custodian, Director of Maintenance, Elementary Principal, High School Principal, Paraprofessional, Special Education Coordinator, Superintendent, Tech Director, Special Education Coordinator, Tech Director, Unit Secretary and Bookkeeper.

-During the Superintendent's Report, Cheek reported

the following:

•We continue to work with Davis Houk for the AGS/LGS Summer A/C project

•Some core samples of the parking lots were taken in April. In May, the district will go to get some bids, and then those bids will be awarded in June.

•The district will be working on an amended budget to see which projects they will be able to do.

•The scoreboard has come in early, which means there will be an early installation. The district will also be looking at some possible landscaping options.

•Some of the summer projects to be done include track resurfacing, AC project at AGS and LGS and some of the playing fields will be getting fertilized.

-Cheek announced that this was his fourth year as the Superintendent in the district. He is still very grateful for the opportunity. He also wanted to express his gratitude towards the district staff and administration as they went through the curriculum adoption process. Cheek was also very grateful for the community support for the senior trip. Approximately 780 cinnamon rolls were sold to people within the communities. "People step up and businesses step up," said Cheek.

Personnel Report April 19, 2023

Certified:

•Recommend for hire, Taylor Horn as the Social Worker/Guidance Counselor for AHGS for the 2023-2024 school year

•Accept the letter of resignation from Anna Shroyer effective at the end of the school year

•Accept the letter of resignation of Keeley Houser as the Speech and Language Pathologist effective at the end of the school year

•Accept the letter of resignation of Kayla Huckelby as English teacher at the high school effective at the end of the school year

•Accept the letter of resignation of Kendall Huffman as English teacher, Class Sponsor, Mentor Program Coordinator, Yearbook Sponsor, National Honor Society Sponsor, at the high school effective at the end of the school year

•Accept the letter of resignation of Nathan Anastas as Social Studies teacher at the high school effective at the end of the school year

•Accept the letter of resignation for Bryton Ragon as 6th grade teacher at AGS at the end

of the school year

•Accept the letter of resignation for Roger Panches as 5th grade teacher at AGS

•Accept the letter of resignation for Megan Brown as Special Education teacher at AHGS

•Recommend for hire Mitch Wilson, Summer School Driver's Education

•Recommend for hire Catey Baldwin, Summer School APEX

•Recommend for hire Kayla Huckelby for Summer School English

Non-Certified:

•Accept the letter of resignation from Megan Miller as the Secretary at AGS

•Accept the letter of resignation from Justin Woodard as Assistant Director of Maintenance

•Accept the letter of resignation from Brock Hayse as LGS Janitor

•Recommend for hire Justin Woodard as the Director of Maintenance replacing Mr. Coleman on June 1, 2023

•Recommend for hire Brock Hayse as the Assistant Director of Maintenance replacing Justin Woodard on June 1, 2023

Extra-Curricular:

•Recommend for approval, John Hershberger for a volunteer bass fishing coach

•Recommend for approval, James Kazel for a volunteer bass fishing coach

Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School Principal's Report

1. Ms. Ford's Marketing Class is currently doing a project and have created three products that they are selling. The profits are used for a class lunch with the remainder donated to a non-profit organization that has not been chosen yet. This year, the class is selling sword keychains, knights sunglasses, and t-shirts with the District 305 map on the back.

2. On April 1 the Fine Arts Department in conjunction with the Fine Arts Boosters held our annual Dessert Theater. Grades 6 - 12 Band, Chorus and Visual Arts participated in this event. Seniors were showcased in all areas with the visual arts students meeting and greeting by their senior art shows the hour before performances started. Senior music students were showcased with various solo performances throughout the event.

3. National Honor Society recently held its 2023 Induction ceremony. Sixteen new members were inducted. The keynote speaker was Jared Bladow, and he discussed the importance of community and giving

back. During his talk, he mentioned a book titled, The Traveler's Gift by Andy Andrews. After the ceremony, a group of anonymous community members gifted every NHS student a copy of the book! New Inductees were: Kaci Beachy, Maggie Benedict, Victoria Carter, Mackenzie Condill, Faeryn Davison, Layla Deel, Lillian Edwards, Sara Herschberger, Miah Malin, Emmalee Nall, Alayna Plank, Dylan Price, Danaysha Stutzman, Lucy Wilber, Evanger Wiley, and Addison Yeakel

4. Through candy cane sales and ugly sweater day, Student Council raised \$100 that they are donating to Shriners Children's Hospital through the Atwood Shriner's group. The two blood drives at the school collected a total of 46 units of blood, so they will be able to award two \$250 scholarships. Student Council elections for the 2023-2024 school year are being held on April 25, 2023.

5. Plans for the Senior Trip are underway. We anticipate 73 students attending along with 7 faculty chaperones. ALAH HS Activity Report - February 2023. This class marks the 68th year for this tradition.

6. The High School Construction Class built four new benches for the Softball Field.

7. Visual Arts students will be attending the "Love for the Arts" conference workshop at Eastern Illinois University on April 28th. They will be entering art work in an art show as well as attending hands-on workshops and having a guest speaker talk to them about careers in the Visual Arts.

8. This year's prom, A Whole New World, is on May 6 at Penn Station. The prom committee

has been very busy working on decorating ideas, song lists, and food and drink menus.

9. Rotary Student of the Month nominees were: Nathan Tighe, Maddie Schweighar, Levi Ward, Skyler Graham, Parker Dick, Anna Rawlins, Emma Forman, Seth Savage, Sierra Binion, Sierra Peeler, Noah Shoemaker, Kaulin Morfey, Brody Loudon, Jakhany Medina, Savannah Butcher, Daylon Doggett, Oscar Quintero, Kimberly Krutinger, Brooklyn Gingerich, Bianca Corona, Lindsay Rohacs, and Mattessa Barnes. The winner, Jakhany Medina was named at a nominee breakfast held in the library during flex period.

Upcoming Dates:

May 6 - Prom @ 7 p.m.
May 9 - Spring Concert @ 7 p.m.
May 10 - Honors Night @ 7 p.m.
May 11 - Honors Program
May 17 - Seniors Visit grade schools, pictures, and luncheon (also seniors last day)
May 21 - Baccalaureate @ 5 p.m.
May 26 - Graduation @ 7 p.m.

Arthur Grade School Principal's Report

State Testing: One big task in front of AGS recently was our annual state testing. Teachers and students worked very hard over the first week of April. We look forward to seeing the growth in our students and to celebrate our students and staff.

Scholastic Bowl: A very exciting night took place on March 30 when AGS took down the undefeated team from Cerro Gordo to win the JHOC Scholastic Bowl Meet. Topping 7 other teams, we were very proud to see our school in the

See CUSD 305 on page 10

