



# REBEL ALLIANCE

ALTMAR-PARISH-WILLIAMSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL 2023

## APW Elementary Hosts Successful Trunk or Treat Event

The parking lot of the APW Elementary School was filled with ghouls, goblins, superheroes, princesses and more as students and their families participated in "Trunk or Treat."

Staff members, parents and high school students volunteered their time and resources to decorate their trunks, get dressed up and hand out candy. They

were joined by the West Amboy, Altmar, Parish and Williamstown volunteer fire departments who passed out treats from their firetrucks.

The courtyard was filled with games, a photo booth and fresh apple cider. To find their way to these activities, families had to follow a path made of milk jugs that were decorated by the students.

"This is our first year hosting 'Trunk or Treat' and we are amazed at the incredible turnout," said Elementary Principal Dawn Cooley. "Seeing all of the smiles has made everyone's hard work worth it!"

APW Elementary staff came up with the idea for this event as part of their ongoing effort to merge the school and the community.



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## A message from the APW Superintendent



Dr. Naomi Ryfun,  
Superintendent

### *Have you ever wondered how we make decisions at APW?*

As the Superintendent, I work with different teams to make informed and responsible decisions that benefit our students, staff, and the entire community. Here's a brief overview of our decision-making process. Every decision we make centers around our main goal: to provide diverse opportunities

and a competitive education for all learners. Anchoring our decisions to our district's vision, mission, and core beliefs ensures that our choices contribute to the long-term goals of the district and the well-being of our students.

To guide these decisions, we rely on data and research. Academic performance, budgets, and programming needs help inform our choices. We also seek input from the school community because it's not just about numbers. Your input is important to us. We gather feedback from teachers, parents, students, school board members, and the community through meetings, surveys, and committees. Your thoughts and ideas help us make well-rounded and inclusive decisions.

Additionally, we are committed to making decisions that address the needs of every student, ensuring equity and access. No matter a student's background or circumstances, we aim to provide an education that will put each student on his or her individually chosen path to success.

Now, when it comes to financial decisions, we allocate resources carefully to meet our educational goals while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Careful consideration goes into decision-making. We weigh the potential risks and benefits of each choice, minimizing negative consequences when possible. Of course, we also follow local, state, and federal laws and regulations so that our choices stay within the legal boundaries.

To keep everyone in the loop, clear and timely communication is important. We want you to know about decisions that affect our district. Board meetings, newsletters, notices sent home, and our district website are all great sources of information regarding decisions that are made at APW.

But it's not just about making decisions; it's also about owning them. We take responsibility for our choices. If things don't go as planned, we review and adjust our approach. This accountability ensures that we're always striving for improvement, which keeps us growing as a teaching and learning organization.

We encourage you to be part of the decision-making process by attending meetings, providing feedback, and participating in school-related activities. Your involvement is critical to our success.

In summary, our decision-making process is about putting the best interests of our students and community first. We're committed to making thoughtful, well-informed, and responsible decisions to create a better learning environment for everyone. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make our district even stronger!

Warmly,  
Dr. Naomi Ryfun  
APW Superintendent of Schools

## Sixth Grade Students from APW Selected for All County Music Festival

Exceptional sixth grade band and chorus students from APW recently performed at the Oswego All County Elementary Music Festival in November.

The two-day festival was held at G. Ray Bodley High School in Fulton and was comprised of sixth grade musicians from every Oswego County School District.

"Students are selected by their band and chorus teachers based on a series of criteria," explained Gwen Fosdick, Elementary General Music and Chorus Director. "Each musician must show high musical skill, independence, responsibility and leadership qualities."

The following band students were selected by Band Director Michele Madden: Savannah Stevens, Alec Millerschin, Hunter Zielinski, John Poel, Jacob Wheeler, Jayden Bush and Edward Butterworth.

The following students were selected by Fosdick for chorus: Morgan Bellamy, Cayden Collins, Brayden Harrington, Piper Finnerty, Jason Purple and Kinsley Hauck.

Once students were selected, they devoted additional time at home and at school to prepare multiple high-level pieces of music, which they later performed at the festival alongside 100 other students.



Front Row: Piper Finnerty, Kinsley Hauck, Brayden Harrington, Jason Purple, Cayden Collins and Morgan Bellamy  
Back Row: Alex Millerschin, Edward Butterworth, Jacob Wheeler, John Poel, Hunter Zielinski, Savannah Stevens and Jayden Busch



# A Letter from the School Board President



Shawn Clark  
President

***What a great time to be a Rebel!*** School is in full session, fall sports have concluded, mid marking period report cards have come out, and we are ramping up for our winter sports, holiday concerts and so much more. To keep up on the most recent information regarding upcoming events, please visit the school website at [www.apwschools.org](http://www.apwschools.org).

In addition to all the great things that are happening each day in our schools, you will see noticeable things happening with our capital improvement project. Currently the music rooms are offline, and classes are being held in other parts of the building; the auditorium has been gutted; and construction on the new fire wall between the auditorium and the music rooms has begun. The IT suite has been completely renovated, new carpeting and heating units have been installed in the district office, the pavement and the fuel tank have been replaced at the bus garage, new sidewalks have been installed at

the JSHS, and the kitchen and cafeteria have been completely remodeled and renovated to be able to prepare some foods on site as opposed to just warming foods. Beginning in the spring, you will see renovations begin on the upstairs portion of the JSHS. Later in the 2024 year, we hope to begin phase three of the project at the elementary school.

I say all this to let you know that it is a great time to be a Rebel. We have seen increased numbers in our athletic teams, our buildings are being renovated to provide up to date learning environments for our students, and we are thankful to you for your support.

The board meets on the second Thursday of every month for our monthly board meeting and on the fourth Thursday of each month for our committee meetings. You are invited and welcome to attend each of these meetings.

Shawn Clark  
APW BOE President

## Elementary School Days





## Pesticide Notification

Dear Parent, Guardian, and School Staff:

New York State Education Law Section 409-H requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year, on school property.

Schools must also advise parents and staff members that they have the right to ask to be informed 48 hours before the application of pesticides (with specific exceptions, as listed below) and that the APW Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notifications.

The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72-hours following an application;
- anti-microbial products;
- nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- the application of EPA designate=d biopesticides;
- the application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR1 52.25;
- the use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school(s), please notify our pesticide representative. Mr. David Poore, Director of Facilities, APW School District, 641 County Route 22, PO Box 97, Parish, NY 13131.

For further information on these requirements you may contact Mr. Poore at 315-625- 5245 or fax 315-625-5244.

## Asbestos Management Plan

As provided under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District hereby makes known the steps it has undertaken to comply with AHERA and the availability of asbestos management plans.

Beginning in 1989, all district owned facilities were inspected for asbestos and management plans were developed for each building according to the requirements of AHERA. Triennial reinspection's are conducted every three years. Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES of Syracuse, NY completed the 2019 AHERA Triennial inspection and update to the asbestos management plan.

Periodic Surveillance of asbestos containing building materials is conducted every six months.

All custodial and maintenance staff have undergone 2-hour Asbestos Awareness Training and provided appropriate instruction.

All response actions taken are within federal and state guidelines.

Limited amounts of asbestos-containing materials remain within the High School. Friable materials are generally inaccessible to students and staff members. Appropriate measures have been implemented to ensure the materials are not disturbed.

Management Plans and records may be viewed at the Buildings & Grounds Office, (Transportation Building, 641 County Rte. 22, Parish, NY 13131) during office hours from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information, please contact the District Asbestos Designee: David Poore, Director of Facilities, 315-625-5245.



## Annual Fire Inspection Notification

Notice is hereby given that the annual fire/safety inspection of the school buildings of the APW Central School District for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, and employees therein, has been completed and the report thereof is available at the district office of APW Central School District for inspection by all interested persons.

As a direct result of staff safety awareness and due to the constant, diligent attention given to safety concerns on a day-to-day basis, the fire/safety inspection report was excellent and the fire inspector was impressed with the outstanding condition of our buildings.



# Local Volunteer Fire Departments Teach APW Elementary Students about Fire Prevention

Elementary students at Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District participated in Fire Prevention Week, a national week of observance where children, adults and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire.

Volunteer fire departments from West Amboy, Williamstown, Altmar and Parish spent two days at the school leading presentations, showing off their gear and equipment, and giving tours of their firetrucks.

Because mere seconds in a fire can mean the difference between a safe escape or a tragedy, students were also encouraged to continue educating themselves and their families about fire prevention.

Since 1922 the National Fire Protection Association has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest-running public health observance in the country.



*With the help of local volunteer fire departments, students at APW Elementary School learn about fire safety and prevention.*

# Environmental Science Students Visit the Salmon River Fish Hatchery

An environmental science class from APW JSHS recently attended a field trip at the Salmon River Fish Hatchery in Altmar.

Built in 1980, the Salmon River Fish Hatchery supplies fish for more than 100 public waters including Lake Ontario, and stocks approximately 3.5 million trout and salmon each year.

"It is amazing that this hatchery has such a huge environmental and economic impact and is right in our back yard" said Tanya Rutter, the environmental science teacher who talked about the importance of bringing her high school students on the fieldtrip.

Her class spent their time touring the hatchery grounds including the spawn house and the new viewing decks overlooking the Salmon River. Students concluded their tour by listening to an educational presentation about the history of salmon in this area and the science behind the stocking process.





## APW Submits Record Number of Students to Prestigious All-State Music Program



Six students from APW's music program are chosen to represent the district within the regional Area All-State Festival. Top row, from left: Junior Bruce Flanigan, junior Camden Haynes and sophomore Sawyer Oakes.

Bottom row, from left: Sophomore Leah Tanner, senior Jordan Korzeniewski and sophomore Peri Lovenguth.

The music department at the APW JSHS is pleased to announce the selection of six students to the Area All-State Festival. Three students have been chosen to demonstrate their talents in the Area All-State Chorus with another three nominated for the Area-All State Band. The selection

represents a record number of participants from the school.

The Area All-State ensembles are comprised of the region's best student musicians, drawing members from local area schools. APW attends the Zone 5 Area All-State Festival, which comprises all districts in Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis counties. Students are selected based on their successful NYSSMA Solo Festival scores from the previous spring, and

participation is often compared to athletes being selected as section or regional all-stars.

This year, the Zone 5 All-State Chorus members will include tenors Sawyer Oakes and Peri Lovenguth (both sophomores) and junior and bass Camden Haynes. Senior Jordan Korzeniewski on flute, junior Bruce Flanigan on trumpet, and sophomore Leah Tanner on bass clarinet will join the Zone 5 All-State Band.

"I am very proud of their hard work over the course of the last year and during the preparation of their solos," said Richard Haynes, who had the pleasure of teaching all six of the nominees both this year and last. "Their dedication to the APW music program is appreciated and it's great to see their talents recognized."

Last year, Haynes coached five students into All-State ensembles, then a record number for the school's music program. This year's six attendees set another even greater school record.

Selected students worked alongside Haynes to prepare their concert music ahead of the two-day festival, which was held at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music on the weekend of November 17-18.

## APW Elementary Students Attend Uplifting Rock Concert

APW Elementary rebels recently rocked out alongside award-winning singer/songwriter Jared Campbell.

Donning their blue and gold, students packed the gymnasium to learn about being "Rebel Ready!" and listen to their favorite performer sing about respect, responsibility, bullying prevention, and kindness for all.

Campbell said his primary goal is to "encourage the students to walk away feeling 'AWESOME' about themselves, while understanding that everyone has value."

Campbell has been acknowledged by Billboard Magazine as one of the top independent musicians in the northeast. He is from upstate New York with ties to Oswego County and has performed for thousands of people and schools across the country.

The concert was made possible through the Arts in Education program with Citi BOCES.



Jared Campbell returned to APW Elementary School Sept. 15 to perform positive and encouraging rock songs.



# APW Students Participate in Career Connections Expos at CiTi BOCES

Middle and high school students from APW recently attended the Manufacturing and Agriculture Expos held at the CiTi BOCES Mexico campus.

Students were able to learn about each industry by watching demonstrations, participating in hands-on activities and engaging with more than 50 different industry representatives.

One of the manufacturers in attendance was Felix Schoeller of Pulaski. According to their HR manager Jessica Kolenda, the day

provided a mutually beneficial experience.

"We are given a chance to market our name and brand while explaining that there are amazing career opportunities with great wages and benefits in our hometowns," Kolenda said.

The expos were two of several career exploration and workforce development opportunities that CiTi is providing all students in Oswego County as part of its Career Connection Series.



## 37th Annual Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner

*Hosted by APW JSHS Student Government*





# REBEL ALLIANCE



Altmar-Parish-Williamstown

Central School District

District Office

Post Office Box 97

Parish, NY 13131

315-625-5251

[www.apwschools.org](http://www.apwschools.org)

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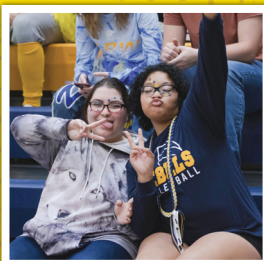
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For Important Announcements, Annual Notifications, Events, Contact Information and other information,  
visit the APW District website at [www.APWSchools.org](http://www.APWSchools.org)

## Pep Rally at APW JSHS

*APW Rebels have spirit! Check out these photos from our Homecoming Pep Rally!*



**WHERE THE  
GOLDEN SUNSET  
MELLOW  
TINTS THE  
WESTERN SKY,  
PROUDLY STANDS  
OUR ALMA MATER  
A.P.W. HIGH.  
SING THE CHORUS.  
LIFT IT UPWARD  
IN HER PRAISES VIE.  
HAIL TO THEE,  
OUR ALMA MATER,  
A.P.W. HIGH**

The APW Central School District in accordance with the Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in the educational programs or activities it operates. This includes recruitment and employment of employees; pay and benefits; counseling services for students; access by students to educational programs, courses and activities. The District's Title IX Compliance Coordinators are Jennifer O'Malley (639 Co. Rt. 22, Parish, NY 13131; 315-625-5222) and Crystal Reynolds (639 Co. Rt. 22, Parish, NY 13131; 315-625-5260).