



REBEL ALLIANCE

ALTMAR-PARISH-WILLIAMSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL 2024

A message from the APW Superintendent

Dear APW Families and Community,



Dr. Naomi Ryfun,
Superintendent

It has been exciting to see our students back in classrooms engaged in learning and participating in the opportunities our district offers. Our schools have been bustling during the day and evening, between sports, Spirit Week, Homecoming, Fire Safety Week, Open House and our annual Thanksgiving Dinner for our local senior citizens.

We have additional holiday events coming up, including the Elementary and JSHS Band and Chorus concerts in December. You won't want to miss the display of student talent, so be sure to come out and enjoy some great entertainment!

As a reminder, you can reach your child's teachers and receive district updates on ParentSquare. If you haven't signed up for notifications on ParentSquare, you may want to do so as we approach the winter season. While it's hard to start thinking about snow already, ParentSquare will be a source of information for weather-related cancelations and closings moving forward. Below is the QR code to sign up, or you can download it from the App Store or Google Play. The Parent Resources page on our website also has information about how to access ParentSquare so you can stay informed about what is happening in our district on a regular basis.

We look forward to continuing to partner with you so your child has the best possible experience here at APW! Thank you for your continued support as we work together to Make it Count To Infinity and Beyond!

Warmly,
Dr. Naomi Ryfun
APW Superintendent of Schools

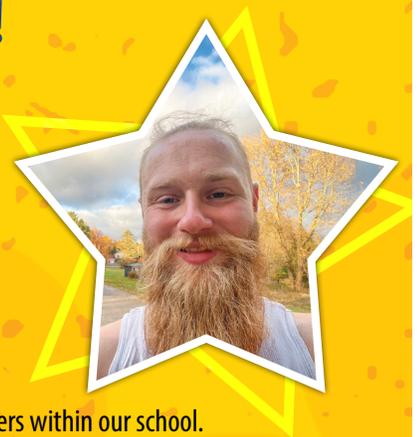


SCAN ME!

Introducing the 2024-2025 APW ex officio student board member, Bruce Flanagan!

1. *What is your role as the APW ex officio board member?*

My role is to ensure that student interests are being upheld within the school. By serving in this position, I can follow up on activities that concern students and staff regarding various matters within our school.



2. *How were you selected for this position?*

The Student Government elects the ex officio board member from the current membership at the start of the school year. The candidates are selected based on a volunteer basis. There are no restrictions upon who can volunteer; however, the candidates typically consist of upperclassmen.

3. *What extracurriculars/clubs/programs are you currently involved in?*

I am currently the president of Student Government, treasurer of Drama Club, treasurer of Parade Band, treasurer of Tri-M Music Honor Society, on the varsity football team and a member of Modern Band. I am also currently earning my associate degree in humanities and social sciences with the dual-enrollment college program with Onondaga Community College.

4. *What are your plans after college?*

After earning my bachelor's degree in political science and attending law school, I intend to practice criminal law. I hope to run for Congress after creating my own law firm and eventually president in 2045.

APW JSHS throws another exciting pep rally!

APW JSHS brought the energy with an unforgettable fall pep rally packed with wild and crazy games and fierce competition!



Award-winning musician returns to APW Elementary

APW Elementary’s favorite singer/songwriter, Jared Campbell, returned to kick off another year of the school’s “Rebel Ready” campaign.

Campbell’s upbeat rock performances combined catchy tunes with powerful messages about respect, responsibility, bullying prevention, self-worth and kindness, all things that encompass what it means to be “Rebel Ready.”

“My goal is for students to walk away with my songs in their head and more importantly, the messages in their heart,” said Campbell, who has been recognized by Billboard Magazine as one of the top independent musicians in the Northeast.

Originally from upstate New York with ties to Oswego County, Campbell has performed in schools and venues across the country, inspiring thousands with his heartfelt songs and motivational message.

The concert was made possible through the Arts-in-Education program in partnership with CiTi BOCES.

For more information about Jared Campbell, visit his website at jaredcampbell.com



Jared Campbell performs in front of the APW Elementary student body.

APW Elementary Celebrates Positive Character Traits with PBIS Program



APW Elementary students show off their PBIS awards during the first assembly of the school year.

APW Elementary School recently launched a new monthly assembly centered around the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework.

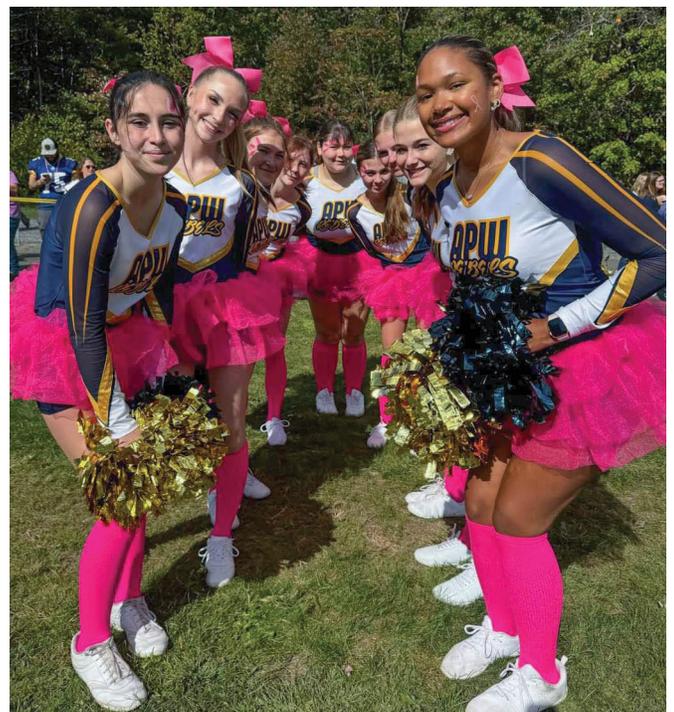
The PBIS program encourages students to be “Rebel Ready” by promoting respect, responsibility and safety within the school community. Each month, students focus on a specific character trait to foster positive behaviors.

In September, the spotlight was on “responsibility,” with each grade nominating students who demonstrated this trait. These students were celebrated at the first PBIS assembly of the year, where they enjoyed VIP seating, received certificates and had their photos taken.

“These monthly assemblies offer an excellent opportunity for our school to celebrate students who embody the values of being Rebel Ready,” said APW Elementary Principal Dawn Cooley.

APW Cheerleaders Raise Money for Breast Cancer Awareness

The APW JSHS Fall Cheerleading Team raised \$416 for breast cancer awareness during the APW vs Phoenix football game. The team also passed out pink ribbons for everyone who attended the game to show solidarity and support for those affected by breast cancer.



Pesticide Notification

Dear Parents, Guardians, 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.

APW proudly represents New York as sole Ocean Guardian School at Lake Ontario’s National Marine Sanctuary Dedication

Representing the only Ocean Guardian School in New York, APW’s Conservation Club recently attended the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary Dedication Ceremony, held at the William S. Cahill Pier in Oswego.

Invited by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), club members joined government officials, community members, and NOAA representatives to celebrate this historic occasion.

The designation of Lake Ontario as the 19th Marine Sanctuary in the United States —and the first in New York waters — signifies a commitment to preserving its rich maritime history. According to NOAA, the sanctuary encompasses Eastern Lake Ontario and consists of “an extraordinary collection of 41 known shipwrecks and one known submerged aircraft, among the best preserved in the world.”

Led by advisor Jessica Halsey, the APW Conservation Club has been dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship through school and community-based projects. Their commitment to protecting local watersheds, oceans and marine sanctuaries has earned them designation as an official NOAA Ocean Guardian School for the fourth year in a row.

Halsey expressed hope that Lake Ontario’s new status as a National Marine Sanctuary would inspire more New York schools to join the Ocean Guardian School program. “Our presence at this ceremony is to show local districts the positive impact this program can have,” she said. “We’re teaching our youth to be responsible environmental stewards while directly contributing to the preservation of our local watersheds.”



APW Conservation Club members who attended the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary Dedication, from left to right: Annaleah Wejko, Advisor Jessica Halsey, Zym Goodberry and Noah Spencer.

“Larceny and Old Lace” performed by APW JSHS Drama Club

The APW Drama Club proudly performed “Larceny and Old Lace” for its fall production. It was a comedic whodunit that followed a pair of sweet but mischievous elderly sisters who had a knack for solving mysteries — and creating a little chaos along the way. The talented students did a fantastic job keeping the audience guessing and laughing until the very end!



APW Students Inspired by Tom Varano's "Emotion Into Art" Performance: A Blend of Art, Music, and Empowerment



Artist Tom Varano paints a portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. for APW JSHS students.

APW JSHS students recently had the unique opportunity to witness the inspiring work of artist, speed painter and motivational speaker Tom Varano during a schoolwide assembly.

A native of upstate New York, Varano travels across the country creating vivid paintings to the sound of captivating music while spreading messages of hope and empowerment to his audience. His program, appropriately named "Emotion Into Art," captures the essence of these themes.

During his visit to APW, Varano painted breathtaking portraits of Martin Luther King Jr., the Statue of Liberty, Robin Williams and Walt Disney. Each portrait was interwoven with inspirational messages spanning a diverse spectrum of topics such as anti-bullying, courage, leadership, dreaming big and kindness.

At the conclusion of the assembly, Varano

gave away copies of his book and announced that he would be generously gifting each four-foot-by-five-foot painting to the school.

Guidance counselor Courtney Streifert emphasized the importance of bringing Varano's performance to the district. "Our current SEL focus is on both suicide prevention and mental health awareness," she explained. "Varano incorporates these topics in his performances in a way that engages students."

"I have spent over a decade inspiring and challenging numerous students, nonprofits and corporations," Varano said on his website. "There is a consistent message throughout my performance: be yourself, be creative, follow your dreams, have faith and take chances. You never know what you might discover. Whatever your passion, do it with all of your heart."



Download the ParentSquare app today!

Stay involved with your student's learning and activities at school. From anywhere.



If you are a community member without children currently attending school in our district and would like to stay up-to-date on APW CSD events and activities, please scan the QR code below!



SCAN ME

Spooky Season Fun at APW Elementary!

October was packed with excitement at APW Elementary as students picked their very own pumpkins from the school's pumpkin patch; tackled a spooky Halloween-themed obstacle course during P.E., loaded up on treats at the annual Trunk or Treat event and showed off their creative costumes during the Halloween parade around the track!



REBEL ALLIANCE



Altmar-Parish-Williamstown
Central School District

District Office
Post Office Box 97
Parish, NY 13131

315-625-5251
www.apwschools.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
ECRWSS
US Postage Paid
Permit Number 9
Parish, NY 13131

POST OFFICE BOXHOLDER
OR RURAL ROUTE PATRON

ACADEMICS AT ITS BEST • PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE • WHERE STUDENTS COME FIRST.

For Important Announcements, Annual Notifications, Events, Contact Information and other information, visit the APW District website at www.APWSchools.org

Fire Prevention Week at APW Elementary

To kick off Fire Prevention Week, Mrs. Harper invited her son, Benjamin Harper, from the Hannibal Fire Department to visit her class. He taught the students about fire prevention and showed off his fire protective gear, even letting some students try his gear on!

Later in the week, fire departments from Altmar, Parish,

Williamstown and West Amboy volunteered their time and resources to educate our students. They explained fire safety, fire prevention and let students walk through their fire trucks and try out their equipment.

A huge thank you to all the firefighters for your time and dedication to keeping our community safe!



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 (640 Co. Rte. 22, Parish, NY 13131; 315-625-5260).