



REBEL ALLIANCE

Fall 2020

ALTMAR-PARISH-WILLIAMSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Academics at its best • Pursuit of excellence • Where students come first.

Elementary Spirit Week

*Thank you to All
Who Supported the
Miles for Music 5K*

About \$3,500 was raised during this year's virtual Miles for Music 5K held in September. We are so thankful for everyone that continues to support music education.



A message from the APW Board President

As we feel the air changing and see the leaves begin to change, it is a sure sign that fall is in the air. Just as the seasons change, the way we educate our children has changed with these unprecedented times.

By the time this article reaches the community, we will have had the opportunity to be engaged with our students for over a month. It is awesome to hear our staff say how great it is to have students back in the building. They are all so excited, and that shows their level of care for the children of our community.

The district is working hard to ensure that we still provide the best possible educational experience for our students during these difficult times. We have not had to educate in this manner before, and there is no playbook written to guide our way. I assure you we have great staff that are working hard to do the best they can while following the guidance that has been provided to be sure everyone remains healthy and safe.

As we work to educate the children of our community, we value your input as community members in working to achieve this goal. I encourage our community members to get involved and work with the board and the district to continue to provide a great education for our students.

Until next time, please stay safe, stay healthy, be patient and be kind.

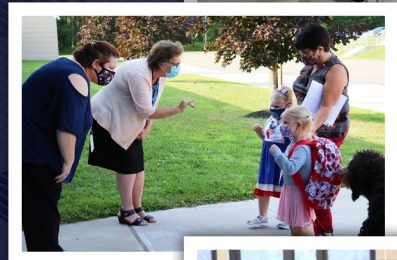
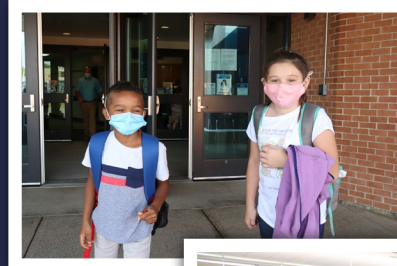
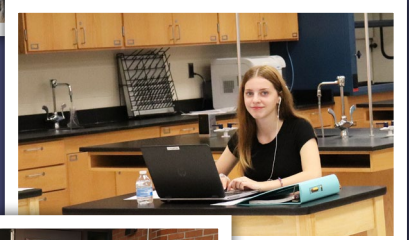
Thank you,

Mark Mattison
President, Board of Education



Mark Mattison, President

First Day OF SCHOOL



OCT 19-23 2020 | School Board RECOGNITION WEEK

HONORING LOCALLY ELECTED EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

APW Elementary Welcomes Jared Campbell Via Virtual Performance

Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Elementary School students brought much enthusiasm and excitement to singer/songwriter Jared Campbell's recent virtual school-wide performance.

Livestreamed via YouTube, the motivational speaker's powerful messages of anti-bullying, inclusivity and fun were embedded into each song and story Campbell told. Students and staff members were able to chat with Campbell and share their thoughts via a live chat between sets.

More than 50 people tuned in for the hour-long session before Campbell viewed dozens of those virtual chants for his popular "Superhero" song. Several students, such as Logan Robinson and Emaleigh Harrington, were ecstatic to be mentioned by Campbell after they shared their thoughts and requests. Because Campbell was unable to attend a traditional school-wide performance at APW Elementary, as he has in the past, he made sure to personally thank the staff members for rallying to support the youngest Rebels during trying times.

"Our teachers and educators mean so much to us," he said. "Please know you're appreciated, and are loved, and all students and their family members appreciate all you've done throughout the year."

He ended the YouTube show with "Rebel Ready," a song created just for students and staff members at APW Elementary. Campbell then encouraged all viewers to stay connected and build one another up throughout the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.



Popular singer/songwriter Jared Campbell displays words for Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Elementary School students and staff members to sing along with him during a recent virtual performance.

Superintendent's Message

Hello everyone! Welcome to our COVID-style school year! This year certainly looks different than past school years, but our teachers and students continue to persevere!!!

Teachers are learning a new way to teach as our students are learning about different ways to learn. Is it a struggle?? YES!!! Let's go back to when I talked about making lemonade out of the lemons that 2020 has brought us!

The word "struggle" has many synonyms, including fight, brawl, melee, free-for-all, battle. Does a teacher's work day and a student's school day feel like a battle, a fight and sometimes a free-for-all? This year? YES. Other words to be used in place of "struggle" are effort, exertion, work and great effort. These are CHARACTER words! Rather than viewing the different type of school year we are having as a melee or a brawl, think about the character traits that all of us are being exposed to as we "struggle" to get through it. We are ALL putting great effort into our work/school - we are all building positive character traits as we move through this together!!

Please continue to persevere and make the very most out of the terrible situation we have been handed. Keep building positive character traits!!

CharacterCounts.org names the Six Pillars of Character:

Trustworthiness: We are learning to trust that the people in our lives are doing their very best through a very difficult time for everyone.

Respect: We are learning to be patient with one another – not too quick to judge as we are all doing things very differently and need that patience.

Responsibility: We are learning that things don't always get handed to us. Sometimes we need to ask questions or take more time to look for something.

Fairness: We are learning that life is not fair – Isn't that what we are always told when we are disappointed?? COVID has proven this to us. This isn't fair and we have no control over it 😞

Caring: We are learning how important it is to care for others; find out how they are doing, see if there is something we can do to make this time easier for them. Why have we learned this? Because we have people who care for us and we've seen and felt what a difference it makes when we know that people care about us.

Citizenship: It seems the phrase "We are all in this together" is a resounding theme among communities and groups throughout our COVID "crisis." Being part of a team helps individuals and groups of people get through tough times.

Thank you APW community! For your strength, resilience and perseverance! We are becoming better people, together – one day at a time!

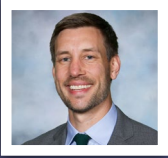
Sincerely,

Lynn Rhone
APW Superintendent



A Day in the Life of a Principal

October is National Principals Month, and we'd like to take a quick peek into the daily life of our two amazing principals here at APW!



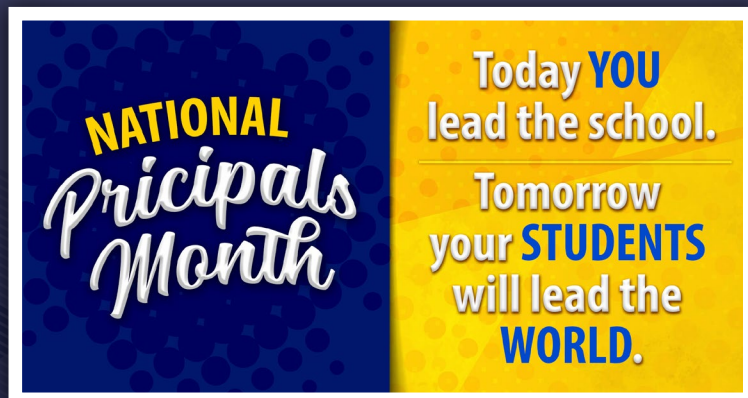
Joseph Olsen
APW Junior-Senior High School Principal

What is a typical day like for you?

Every day, I greet students when they come in; it's about being visible. We make an effort to get into every classroom, every day and see what instruction looks like. We attend various committee meetings and there may be a few teacher evaluations.

What is your favorite part of being a principal?

It's just working with the kids, meeting their needs and building relationships.



Julie Woolson
APW Elementary Principal

What is a typical day like for you?

I try to make my rounds around the building and into classrooms throughout the day to visit with kids and staff and see what's going on. I also try to check out online materials and videos teachers have posted. There is also a huge instructional component to the job--curricula, assessments, etc. Emails are always a part of the day--as is putting out fires (not literally speaking). I also try to speak to staff and parents when they call, email me or stop in.

What is your favorite part of being a principal?

I love our kids--always have--always will. They are amazing children. I love my staff, families and community. We may disagree at times, but I believe we are all trying to do what's best for the kids.

NYSSBA Presents APW Schools with 'Champion of Change' Award

The New York State School Boards Association presented Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Junior-Senior High School with a 'Champion of Change' award for its best traits Positivity Project character campaign work that started last year.

NYSSBA Director of Member Relations Barry Entwistle presented a 'Champion of Change' banner to the board of education during the September board meeting that will be hung in the school building.

"When we talk about character traits and positivity, it's much needed in our society today," said Entwistle. "It's great to see a district taking the time to help teach kids and help them experience what these traits look like. The work you are doing now will pay dividends in the future."

Teachers Chris Hogan and Evan Masterson spearheaded the development of the Positivity Project, which teaches 24 character strengths that students come to understand, engage with and reflect upon.

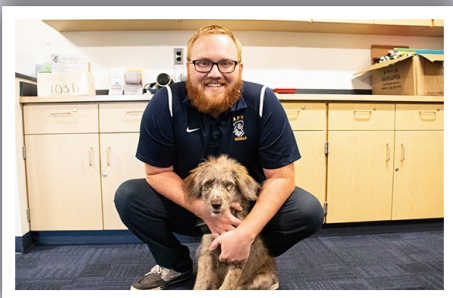
"We can't wait to continue doing all sorts of activities with our students this year," said Masterson.

"It took many people and moving pieces to get this going, and I want to thank our board of education and our staff for giving us this opportunity," said Hogan.



APW is presented with the NYSSBA 'Champion of Change' award. From left, teacher Chris Hogan, NYSSBA Director of Member Relations Barry Entwistle and teacher Evan Masterson.

Therapy Dogs Join APW Schools Staff



Shannon Tanner pictured with Bernie.
Rick Algie pictured with Gemma.

Altmar-Parish Williamstown Central School District has two new staff members to support students throughout the school year: Bernie and Gemma, certified therapy dogs.

Bernie is a 9-month-old Bernedoodle and Gemma is a 5-month-old Ausidoodle, both of whom will support APW students with social and emotional learning needs.

Certified through the AKC Kennel Club, the hope is that the presence of the dogs may help children gain confidence and decrease anxiety, leading to increased school attendance, improved learning outcomes and overall enhancement of relationships with peers and teachers.

The dogs will work in the high school guidance office alongside counselor Rick Algie and behavior specialist Shannon Tanner, both of whom remain passionate about the use of therapy dogs in schools.

“We believe that it can benefit children in so many ways and have already seen in a difference with staff and students interacting with the dogs,” Tanner said. “Especially given all that has happened since March, it couldn’t be a more appropriate time to have this program start!”

Algie and Tanner believe that increase in comfortability in the school environment will help students learn how to express their feelings and enter into more trusting relationships as a result of experiencing trust and unconditional love.

Bernie and Gemma helped kick-off the 2020-2021 school year with meet-and-greets and visitations during “brain break” times upon teacher request. Throughout the year, they will be housed in the guidance office and also be utilized for de-escalation of behavior situations.

Pappa says that APW Central School District helped prepare her for her future by providing experiences to grow and learn. She remembers Coach Kling who always pushed her to do her best. She is thankful for the opportunity to attend the New Vision program, where she chose social work as her career of choice. Want us to feature an APW alum that you know? Email pr@apw.cnyric.org.

What is the Alumni Spotlight? The Alumni Spotlight was designed with the intention of showcasing the amazing students who have walked the halls of Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District. We wanted to show that students have been and will continually be successful after graduating from APW. #RebelReady

Announcements

Sports Boosters is actively meeting to support our athletes during these challenging times. Meetings are generally held on the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. and are currently being held virtually. If you would like to join us, please contact the Sports Boosters Facebook page @RebelsSportsBoosters.

Reminder there is a spectator limit of two persons per athlete for all sporting events. Tickets will be given to each athlete and no one will be allowed to attend if they do not have a ticket.

The annual Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner will be drive-thru this year.

Committee meetings started in September - all are welcome.

Meal distribution times are Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and 4 to 6 p.m. Call (315) 625-5227 for more information. Online meal ordering link can be found at apwschools.org/ChildNutrition

APW Senior Earns NYS Triple C Award



APW senior James Winnie proudly accepts the Triple C Award from the New York State Attorney General's Office, of which he was nominated for by science teacher Cathy Goulet, standing at right.

James Winnie, a senior at Altmar-Parish Williamstown Junior-Senior High School, was recently honored with the Triple C Award from the New York State Attorney General's Office.

Nominated by his science teacher, Cathy Goulet, Winnie received the award because he has continued to display courage, commitment and character. According to a letter signed by state attorney general Letitia James, the "tenacity, spirit and determination" to develop the

mind and strengthen character from Winnie and fellow Triple C Award honorees also has inspired her to continue on the path of success.

"I know these qualities will enable today's students to stand out and succeed," she wrote in the letter.

Principal Joseph Olsen presented Winnie with the award and encouraged the 12th-grader to keep up the excellent work throughout his senior year and beyond.

Scott Stanard Expands Role at APW Schools as Athletic Coordinator

A love of athletics and passion for helping children has led Scott Stanard to further his career with Altmar-Parish-Williamstown School District as athletic coordinator.

Stanard has coached various sports in the district throughout the past 11 years and became a seventh-grade teaching assistant six years ago. He recently expanded his role to now include the district athletic coordinator position.

"I just wanted to have a hand in helping kids have the best experience possible," he said.

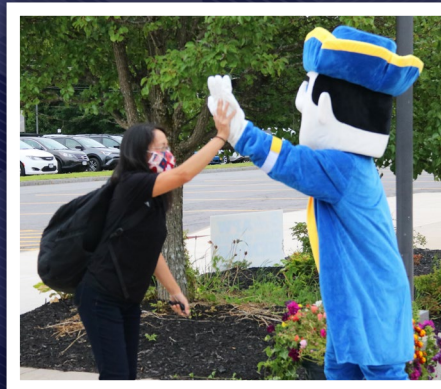
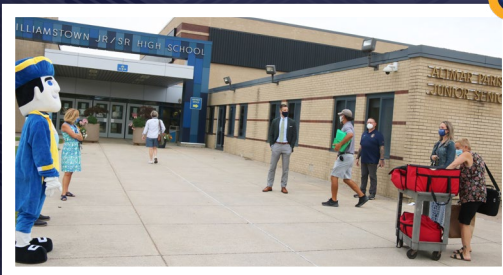
Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, Stanard said he will look forward to being creative in keeping students interested in athletics and building teams back up to full capacity. The 1990 graduate of APW Junior-Senior High School said he knows how important athletics is to small towns, and he is encouraged by the support the community has for the program.

Stanard obtained his recreation and leisure services degree from Mohawk Valley Community College and received his coaching certification.



APW School District welcomes Scott Stanard to the role of athletic coordinator.

Staff Orientation



Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District staff members were welcomed back for an orientation to get #RebelReady for the school year!

WELCOME New Staff

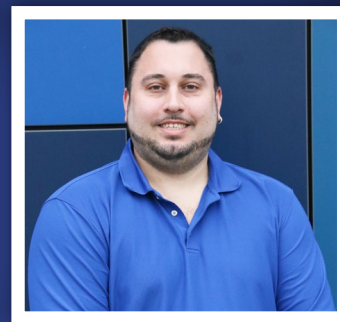
Please help us welcome these new staff members to the Rebel family: Kaylee Spack (Elementary), Courtney Cross (FACS), Nicholas Johnson (Math)!



Kaylee Spack



Courtney Cross



Nicholas Johnson

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 reinspections 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.

REBEL ALLIANCE

Altmar-Parish-Williamstown
Central School District
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Post Office Box 97
Parish, NY 13131

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www.apwschools.org

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

News from the APW PTSA

The APW Central School District PTSA is anxious and excited to make some adjustments for this upcoming 20-21 school year. We are brainstorming ideas of all the different ways that we can continue to add depth and enhancements to the learning environment for our APW students and community.

While many of our typical events and activities were cancelled last spring, and may not be possible this fall, we were very fortunate to offer yard signs to the graduating seniors and the transitioning sixth graders to help to celebrate their accomplishments in a new and unconventional way! Our group also helped to coordinate the effort to create the 'Home of the Rebels' banners and we sponsored one that can help to celebrate our district for years to come!

Looking forward, now is the time for us to gather new members and new ideas to help to promote learning and fun throughout the APW Central School District! Please reach out to our Facebook pages and/or any of our current members to join us in making this transition to include a fun, exciting, and enhancing learning environment for all students throughout the entire district!

FOLLOW US!



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@apwrebels



@apw_rebels



APW CSD

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