

AMHS Parent Newsletter – November 2011

Jay Hurder, Principal

It is hard to believe that we have already navigated our first 9 weeks of the 2011-2012 school year. The old saying that time flies as you get older is certainly true. As I mentioned to the students in my announcements last week, I have really enjoyed getting to know them and look forward to what we can accomplish during the next 3 quarters. I appreciate their willingness to adjust to some new procedures and expectations. Although we put two schools together as one 6-12 entity, I believe the transitions, although experiencing some bumps along the way, has been relatively smooth. It will take us all year to identify and address further logistical issues, but I firmly believe we are well on our way to getting everything running smoothly and efficiently.

I would like to thank all the parents who took time to participate in Parent/Teacher Conferences. We know that there is no “one-best-way” to conduct them and satisfy everyone’s schedule and expectations, but we did receive multiple compliments on how they were handled this year. I would also like to personally thank the staff for their efforts in making those two evenings successful. I know that it was a change for some, and I appreciate their willingness to adapt. If you did not get a chance to discuss your student’s performance with a teacher, please contact them. They are always willing to make time for you.

We are also busy developing school improvement initiatives that will allow us to better align our curriculum with the Common Core Standards, articulate that curriculum from grade level to grade level, improve instructional strategies, and looking at how our grading procedures reflect our student’s real academic proficiency. Rest assured that we are doing a lot of self-reflection and that, eventually, will lead to some changes. What those might be are not yet clear, as this is a multiple year endeavor, but understand that all our efforts are focused on giving your children the best educational experience possible. But, as always, that experience is a partnership. Thus, we will all need to work together and take ownership to the educational welfare of this community’s children.

We have some very positive things going on at school lately! I would like to give a quick “shout-out” to our Abingdon Football Commandos for an exciting season. What a great job guys in making the playoffs for the first time in 9 years! We have 18 students being acknowledged at a Board reception for their accomplishments in the first quarter through our “Earning Your Commando Stripes” recognition, whether it is for academic, behavioral, or citizenship accomplishments. We also had 73 students who had perfect attendance who will be recognized at an assembly. Great job students! In addition, Allyson Cordle and Alexa Allison were nominated through GAVC to participate in the SkillsUSA competition in April; Mr. Kilburn took six of our outstanding FFA students to the National Conference in Indianapolis, and Mr. Bernales is launching model rockets as a Math experiment. Wow! Great job everyone!

Again, if you ever wish to chat, please call and/or make an appointment. I can be reached at 462-2338 or email me at jhurder@abingdon.k12.il.us. Also, please check in with Skyward often. It is a great communication tool!

As always, thanks for all you mean to the students of AMHS.