



Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

November 2021

Inside this Issue

Elementary news;
Third grade science
.....Pg. 2

Secondary School news;
Home and Careers
students learn to
bakePg. 3

Students work together to
create outdoor art
display;
College and Career
Readiness opportunities
for studentsPg. 4

News from the
Counselors;
College search calendar
for juniorsPg. 5

College application tips;
Thank you, Board
members.....Pg. 6

Courses offer advantages;
Grove takes second in
writing competition;
Order your yearbook
today;

Jr./Sr. High concert sched-
uled;
Important test dates
.....Pg. 7

Students learn car
maintenance;
Mark your calendar;
Seeking census data;
School closing info. .Pg. 8

High School cafeteria gets a makeover

The Alfred-Almond High School cafeteria is in the midst of a New York State-inspired makeover. During the summer of 2021, two of the seven wall alcoves left behind from the removal of the old wall-mounted cafeteria tables were transformed into ceramic mosaic art installations. Students from Studio Art and Art 8 worked with Mrs. Powers to design and create themed clay tiles to be permanently installed in the alcove spaces as part of a larger, New York State-themed cafeteria tile piece.

The two completed alcoves represent “Birds of New York State” and “Creatures of New York State.” During the 2019-20 school year, each student in Art 8 chose a NYS bird to study and represent with an additive clay tile. The work of that group was halted as we were sent home on lockdown that year, so it took the following school year to get the 40 bird tiles glazed and ready.

During the 2020-21 school year, each Studio Art student chose an animal, insect or amphibian residing in NYS and worked subtractively on their clay tile. Surrounding installations are a blue mosaic made up of broken tiles reclaimed from the Alfred-Almond pool updates, as well as stamped names of all of the birds and creatures found in the groups.

The remaining five alcoves will be filled in coming years, including one as a make-up legacy project for the group of students who were sixth graders when we went into lockdown in 2019 and their opportunity to create their Sixth-Grade Legacy Project with Mrs. Mix was lost. They are currently eighth-graders and will begin working with Mrs. Powers soon on their New York State-themed tile to be installed this year. Each coming installation will touch on special qualities of New York State, including history, topography, agriculture, flora and fauna, and will appear during the next couple of years. The AACS



maintenance department plans to trim out each alcove with finished oak framing. It’s thrilling to see the positive impact of this project on those who interact in that space daily. Stay tuned for more to come.



Elementary news

Thank you for such a great start to the school year. As challenging as things have been, it is a breath of fresh air to see students, faculty and staff back in the halls at AACS five days a week! As we progress through the remainder of the school year, here are a few reminders to help navigate this unique time:

ROLE OF CLASSROOM TEACHERS

- Provide new instruction and support for ALL students
- Monitor the progress of ALL students, focusing on all areas of instruction
- Offer academic support to those who may be struggling
- Conduct daily check-ins with ALL students
- Maintain communication with families

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Be prepared with all necessary learning materials
- Arrive on time and for the duration of the day
- Visit Google Classroom/SeeSaw daily for assignments and messages from your teacher(s)
- Active participation in classroom discussions, assignment completion and work submission
- Advocate for yourself – ask for help and/or clarification when needed

PARENTAL SUPPORT

- Facilitate academic support, encouragement and motivation for your child
- Support a daily routine for your child
- Become familiar with your child's learning and communication platforms (Google Classroom, SeeSaw, Class Dojo, Remind, emails, text, phone)

- Ensure your child is on track with assignment completion and understanding
- Monitor your child's activity on the internet and/or social media (Google, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, etc.)
- Communicate with your child's teacher regularly

Daily attendance is an expectation. When your child arrives at school, he/she should be on time and ready to learn. If for some reason your child will not be at school, PLEASE contact the Elementary Main Office at 607-276-6525 and let us know the reason and duration of their absence.

Parent drop-off and pick-up will continue to occur at the elementary main entrance. Please be patient with one another as traffic sometimes gets backed up when arriving/leaving school.

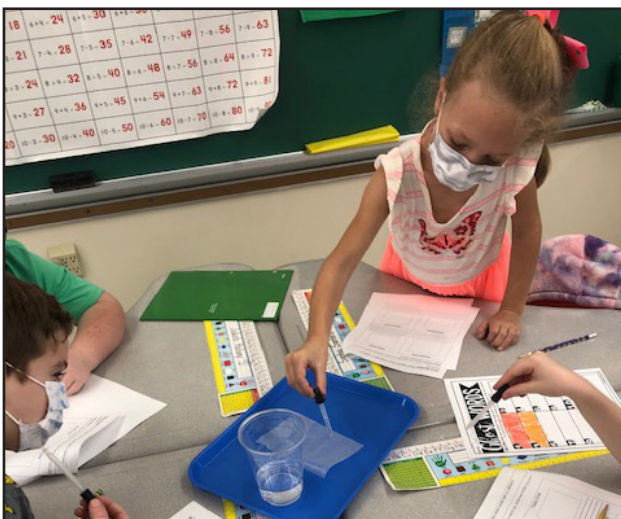
Students have done an excellent job of maintaining health and safety measures while at school. Please continue to practice and encourage handwashing, social distancing, wearing masks and monitoring symptoms while at home. If your child is experiencing symptoms including, but not limited to fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose or diarrhea, please keep him/her home. We will continue to maintain communication with you as the DOH guidelines are continuously changing.

Take care, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Brett Dusinberke
Elementary School Principal

Third-graders enjoy science

Third-graders enjoyed conducting water and climate experiments during a recent science lesson.



Secondary School news

It is so exciting to have everyone back in our buildings five days a week. We truly appreciate the efforts of so many to not only get ready for the school year, but to keep things moving forward. Fall is definitely in the air with the leaves changing and the frost starting to form in the mornings. It is hard to believe we are close to the end of the first marking period on November 12. Please continue talking with your students about their classes and checking on their progress through Parent Portal and Google Classroom. If you are having problems with Parent Portal, please contact Mrs. Mulligan at amulligan@aacssapps.org for help.

There are a few new faces in the secondary building. Mrs. Palmer is teaching Spanish and oversees French. Ms. Sherman teaches Special Education and Ms. Postilli has taken over our computer classes. All three have quickly become great contributors to the Eagle community.

Harmful TikTok challenges are affecting schools across the country and we ask families to help us shut these down quickly. The September challenge encouraged students to vandalize schools and school property. Many school districts, including Alfred-Almond, experienced this trend, with destruction and theft of items in school bathrooms. While a TikTok challenge may seem like an innocent prank to students, it has serious consequences. Not only is the damage expensive to repair, replacements are hard to find

during the pandemic. Additional nationwide TikTok challenges are planned for the rest of the school year, including those that promote physical violence against educators and school staff, vandalism and more. Any action resulting in theft, destruction of property or assault will be dealt with swiftly and severely in accordance with our student handbook and Board of Education policy. Please talk to your student and help us send a message about respecting their school, their teachers and all staff members and classmates.

The majority of students are doing a great job of masking properly. As a reminder, please talk with your student(s). This means the masks cover the nose and the mouth when in the school building. For students who need constant reminders to wear their masks properly, this may become a disciplinary matter, as it is a distraction in classes for teachers to constantly remind students during class.

Great things continue to happen daily in classes, on the athletic fields, in art and music and in CTE, where our students are completing internships. We are looking forward to upcoming concerts and the first quarter marking period Honors donuts. Thank you for your support.

Dr. Melissa Rivers
Secondary School Principal

Home and Careers students learn to bake

The eighth-grade Home and Careers class took the baking world by storm during a recent class. They applied what they learned about the basics of kitchen and food safety and created amazing fruit-filled biscuits.



Students work together to create outdoor art display

Mr. Dineen's Government class, along with Mrs. Mix's art students, are working on weeding, mulching and creating an area for the Elementary Art Program to display their hand-crafted pieces for the school, parents and community. Many hands are involved in this community service project.

Students also planted daffodil bulbs. Next spring, the blooming flowers will be the subject of class paintings.



Career and College Readiness opportunities for students

The district recognizes the importance of helping students prepare for college and career before their senior year. To this end, we provide Middle and High School students with opportunities to develop résumés and cover letters, complete job applications and prepare for interviews. These experiences are essential, whether a student chooses to go to college or chooses a career path right out of high school. In addition, students can participate in internships and job shadowing, which provide valuable experiences in a field of interest.

The district also recognizes the challenges students can encounter when considering their college or career pathway. To support them, each spring, tenth-graders participate in the ASVAB Career Exploration Program by taking the ASVAB test to explore careers in the context of their skills and interests. They then meet with the College and Career Readiness Coordinator to review and discuss their results and possible career paths.

Additionally, students are given an opportunity to create an electronic portfolio to demonstrate their post-secondary and workforce readiness using a fully-featured web application. An electronic portfolio (e-portfolio) is a purposeful collection of sample student work, demonstrations and artifacts that showcase students' learning progression, achievement and evidence of what students can do.

The collection can include essays and papers (text-based), blogs, multimedia (recordings of demonstrations, interviews, presentations, etc.) and graphics.

All juniors and seniors are eligible to attend one of the many Career and Technical Education Programs on the GST BOCES Wildwood Campus. While attending a specific program of interest, students will gain first-hand knowledge of workplace etiquette, industry certifications, licensure, work-based learning hours and transferable employability skills. Students are still able to earn a Regents or Advanced Regents Diploma when enrolled in a CTE program. One notable statistic that stands out is the positive placement rate for students attending a Career and Technical Education program. During the past five years, Alfred-Almond students successfully completing a two-year CTE program have been positively placed at an average of 95.12 percent in employment, post-secondary or the military. This placement rate is exceptional and represents students who are working diligently in their respective fields and continuing to be successful after graduation.

For additional information or questions, don't hesitate to contact College and Career Readiness Coordinator Tom Murphy at tmurphy@acsapp.com.

News from the Counselors

Juniors are working with Mr. McAneny on their junior interviews. Juniors should be busy researching post-secondary schools and exploring their career options. Students are learning how to use web resources for their college/career search. They are educated on the importance of college entrance exams (PSAT, SAT and ACT), grade point average and rigor of class schedule (AP classes, Regents classes), as well as involvement in sports and/or clubs and community activities to be a well-rounded student.

Students are encouraged to use the Guidance Direct Program to facilitate their career search. Juniors are encouraged to attend college tours and open houses, meet with college representatives at school and take the appropriate entrance exams recommended by colleges.

The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a comprehensive assessment program that measures college readiness and provides students with the tools they need to plan for the future. The test is offered each year at A-A in mid-October for juniors. The PSAT measures skills in critical reading, mathematics and writing. It also prepares students for the SAT. The PSAT also is used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a means of screening entrants in its annual competition for recognition and college scholarships. On average, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT score 120 points higher on the SAT than those who do not.

Juniors also are encouraged to take the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) in March, May and/or June (test dates are offered year round). Parents of juniors were mailed a letter stating the deadline dates for this test. The SAT helps colleges and universities identify students who could succeed at their institutions. It also assesses critical reading, mathematical reasoning and writing skills. The SAT is an internationally recognized, accurate measure of college readiness and scholarship potential.

The ACT is similar to the SAT. It also is a national college admission and placement examination. It covers the subject areas of English, math, reading, science and writing. The ACT is more curriculum-based versus aptitude-based. It is offered year-round at designated schools. Retakes for both the SAT and ACT are encouraged to improve your score. Some colleges recommend that students take the SAT subject test(s) as well.

Alfred-Almond offers review sessions for the SAT/ACT in February and March. For test review, go to:

www.collegeboard.com

www.act.org

www.guidancedirect.com

www.khanacademy.org

College search calendar for juniors

September: Start your college/job search by reviewing as many college/career guides, catalogs and resources as possible. Put together a list of roughly ten colleges/employers in which you are interested. Plan to apply to at least three to five schools/employers. Become familiar with the school counselors' office (SCO) and its resources.



Attend the college fair at Hornell High School. Register for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) in the SCO. Prepare at collegeboard.com/psat. Please use Guidance Direct to access colleges/careers.

October: Attend college fairs. Create a list of your interests, special talents and educational and/or career goals. Take the PSAT/NMSQT. Inquire about Advanced Placement (AP) or summer college courses that may be available to you. Start learning about the colleges you're considering.

November: Consider the characteristics a college or job should have to meet your needs. Think about size, location, cost/earning potential, courses/job requirements, teaching staff/supervisors, facilities and social activities and opportunities.

December: Write or call colleges/work places you are seriously considering and request information (course guide books, application and financial aid). Investigate scholarship opportunities. Look for your PSAT/NMSQT score report. Start planning to take the SAT I and/or SAT II exams, if necessary. You also may need to take the ACT. Check with the schools you are interested in for specific testing requirements. Ask your high school counselor about registration deadlines.

January: Prepare for college entrance exams (SAT/ACT). The SCO usually arranges for a free SAT preparation course that is team-taught by English and math teachers here at AACCS (six evening sessions). The SCO has SAT preparation programs on computers. Attend financial aid nights if you haven't already done so. During any college visits, make sure you meet with an admissions counselor and a financial aid officer to find out what types of aid are available.

February: Start seriously investigating private scholarships and other student aid programs. Ask your teachers and counselor if any local organizations offer free use of a scholarship search program.

Continued on page 6

College application tips for seniors

Currently, Mrs. Boone is completing interviews with each senior. These meetings take place to assist and solidify future plans. For most seniors, this is the time of year when they will begin the important task of applying to colleges. Regardless of the number of colleges to which students apply, the following process will help avoid confusion and unnecessary delays.

Step 1

When registering for the ACT or SAT, designate which colleges are to receive your score reports. Most colleges require that you send “official test scores” directly from the test center (at an additional cost).

Step 2

Complete the college application forms online. The Common Application site and the SUNY online application site are good starting places (see Mrs. Boone to find out which colleges use it). It is a good idea to make a copy of the application. Students can also download and print applications from the college website. If the application requires a teacher and/or counselor recommendation, arrange for those immediately.

Step 3

Students applying online will need a credit card number for the application fee. Students mailing their application will need to enclose a check for the appropriate amount. Do not send cash.

Step 4

An official high school transcript will need to be sent to the college from the School Counselor’s Office either electronically or by mail. Students applying online through the Common Application can electronically invite their counselor and teachers to submit the necessary information. This information will be uploaded electronically by the teachers and/or Mrs. Boone. Students applying online to SUNY may print a transcript request form that needs to go to the SCO. If you would like Mrs. Boone to check your online applications before sending them electronically, please see her.

Step 5

Don’t delay, act today!

Reminder: Seniors need to start their FAFSA applications beginning Oct. 1.

Thank you, Board members

School Board Recognition Week was October 18-22. This is a time to promote awareness and understanding of the important work performed by school board members.

We’d like to extend our sincere appreciation to our Board of Education members for selflessly serving our students and communities on behalf of faculty, staff and the leadership team.

These members dedicate countless hours far beyond the two meetings per month, ensuring our school is helping every child learn at a higher level and providing accountability to our communities.

Please know how much your service is respected and valued, as well as your continued support. Thank you.



A-A Board Members (l-r): John D'Angelo, Jason Burdick, Earl Pierce, Nadine Shardlow, Gary Acker

College search calendar, continued

March: Continue to gather and evaluate information on colleges and jobs. Continue to investigate financial aid resources of the colleges you are most interested in. Call or write for applications and more information. Register for the June ACT.

April: If you decide to retake either the SAT or ACT after receiving your scores from the first administration, plan for when you will do so. SAT retake registration may be called in over the phone (fee involved) or submitted online at www.collegeboard.com. Begin scheduling visits to the top five schools of your choice. If appropriate, set up an interview and/or an overnight visit. Begin preparing essays for college admissions and scholarship applications.

May: Look into volunteer work/internships, career-related employment opportunities, on campus academic experiences at a college or university and travel opportunities. These kinds of experiences may give you material for major decisions, college essays and transcript building. Colleges like to see more than strict academics on a transcript. Continue to research scholarship opportunities.

June: Prepare for Regents and final exams. Take the SAT if you have not already. Start drafting your résumé. If you have the opportunity, visit as many colleges on your list as possible. Obtain a summer job that might be related to your career interests.

Courses offer advantages

Alfred-Almond Central School currently offers nine Advanced Placement classes, six ACE classes, one Alfred University and two Alfred State classes taught at A-A, as well as online Alfred State and Corning Community College classes. Students who are planning to go to college should take advantage of these opportunities. Taking these classes while in high school can be a great benefit during both the college application process and undergraduate life. Below are four reasons why students should consider AP classes in high school:

1. Strengthen Your High School Transcript

Most colleges would agree that the most important part of an application is a student's academic record (transcript). Admissions offices want to see that students have participated in the most challenging courses available. Success in these courses demonstrate that a student is prepared for the next level. At A-A, the most challenging courses offered are high school college classes.

2. Develop College-Level Skills

College classes require critical thinking skills that are required of college students. The ability to write essays and problem solve successfully are just two of the skills necessary to succeed in college.

3. Save Money

Taking several college classes may allow students to graduate from college a semester or even a year early. In the long run, this could save thousands of dollars.

4. Choose a Major Sooner

College courses provide an in-depth introduction to a specific subject area and also may fulfill a general education requirement. This means you may have more room in your schedule to explore different fields earlier in your college program.

Order your 2022 yearbook today

The 2022 ALCEN Yearbook is now available to purchase. This year, all books must be ordered online. Please follow the directions to order your book:

- Go to www.jostens.com
- Click the link: Order Your Yearbook Today
- Search for Alfred-Almond Central High School
- It will then ask you to input your information

The cost of the book is \$50 plus tax.

Thank you for supporting the Alfred-Almond Yearbook!

Grove takes second in writing competition

Alfred-Almond's Abigail Grove has been named as a second place winner in the Ayn Rand Society's international writing competition. Now a senior, Abby submitted her entry as an assignment in her AP Language and Composition class taught by Mrs. Kress last school year. Abby is one of only nine students chosen from hundreds of international applicants



to receive recognition for the 2021 competition, and will receive the society's second highest monetary award of \$1,000.

Jr./Sr. High concert scheduled

The Jr. and Sr. High Choirs, along with the Sr. High Concert and Jazz Bands, will have their first performance of the year in November. "A Night on Broadway" will take place on Thursday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. The concert will feature selections from *Hamilton*, *Cats*, *Newsies*, and more.

Important test dates

SAT I & II

Date	Reg. Deadline	Test Center
12/4/21	11/4/21	Hornell or Geneseo
3/12/21	2/11/21	Geneseo or Wellsville
5/7/22	4/8/22	Hornell
6/4/22	5/5/22	Geneseo

ACT

Date	Reg. Deadline	Test Center
12/11/21	11/5/21	Wellsville
2/12/22	1/7/22	Check act.org
4/2/22	2/25/22	Hammondsport
6/11/22	5/6/22	Wellsville

POSTAL PATRON

Alfred-Almond Central School
6795 Rte. 21
Almond, New York 14804
Return Services Requested

U.S. Postage Paid
Alfred, New York 14802
Permit No. 20
Non-Profit Organization

Mark your calendar

- Veterans Day–No School November 11
 - Parent-Teacher ConferencesNovember 22-23
(Elementary dismissal at 11:50 a.m. both days)
 - Thanksgiving Recess – No SchoolNovember 24-26
 - Holiday Recess–No School.....December 23, 2021-
January 2, 2022
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School..... January 17
 - Superintendent’s Conference Day –
No School for Students January 31
 - Winter Recess February 21-25
- The conference day scheduled for March 21, 2022 was moved to September 28, 2021.*

Seeking census data

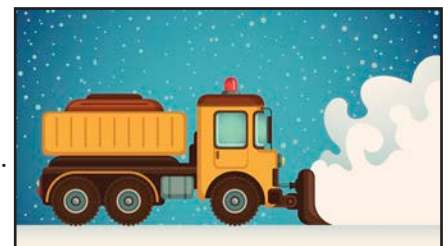
Each year, district residents receive a census data card in the mail requesting important information concerning all children living in the household from birth through age 21. The information collected is *vital* for the district to plan staffing structures and attain precise information of district preschool students.

If you have not returned your census card this year, please do so as soon as possible. Your help with compiling this information is greatly appreciated and critical for planning purposes. If you did not receive a census card, or need an additional copy, please contact Bryan Burdick at 607-276-6565 or at bburdick@aacsapps.com.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and helping us best plan for the educational needs of A-A children.

School closing information

As a reminder to parents, it is sometimes necessary to close school because winter weather conditions make it unsafe for students to walk or ride to school. Should it be necessary to close school, you will receive an



automated message notifying you of this occurrence. For additional information on school closings, please listen to one of the following radio or TV stations:
WLEA 1480 AM WLSV 790 AM WKPQ 105.3 FM
WCKR 92.1 FM WJQZ 103.5 FM WZKZ 101.1 FM
WKBW-TV (Buffalo) WETM-TV (Elmira)

Students learn car maintenance

Mr. Levey’s Home maintenance course just finished a unit on basic car maintenance. Students learned about the basics under the hood, tire tread depth and how to change a tire.

