



# TIGER TRACKS

## AKRON MIDDLE SCHOOL

May 1, 2024

Edition 9

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

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Greetings and Nya:wëh sgë:nö' Middle School Parents,

It truly is amazing how fast the school year has gone by. With just under two months remaining in the 23-24 school year, it is important that we all finish on a strong note. With that, we are proud of our student participation and efforts in the NYS ELA testing. As you may know, NYS shifted to computer based assessments for 8th grade this year and our students and staff stepped up to the challenge! This month, our students will be taking the NYS Math assessment on May 7th and 8th.

Overall, assessments are a tool to help educators gauge mastery of content and allow us the opportunity to reteach based on performance. As the year begins to wind down, we encourage students to work hard, attend school daily, be on time, and ask for help! We continue to encourage students and parents to check grades regularly.

Please refer to the calendar in this month's newsletter as we have several events planned for students. For our 8th grade families, save the date! On June 14th we will host our 8th grade semi-formal dance and on June 18th we will host our 8th Grade Scholastic Awards Program. More information will be shared in the upcoming weeks.

For those of you who may not know, Mrs. Fial will be transitioning to her new role as Director of Special Education beginning May 1st. She will be working with the current Interim Director of Special Education and will be supporting both the MS and HS through the end of the school year. We have begun the hiring process for the new MS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director and look forward to sharing that information with you.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. GO Tigers!

Mr. Caprio & Mrs. Fial

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MEET THE  
CANDIDATES

The last quarter of the year is under way! The month of May brings about our School Board Elections and Budget Vote. Again this year the PTA is honored to host a Meet the Candidates Night. Meet the Candidates Night will be held at

6:00pm in the Multipurpose room (MPR) on Tuesday, March 14, 2024, directly preceding the budget hearing, which will follow at 7:00pm in the Auditorium.

*Sponsored By*



# Student Support Services

## Parent Tips to Help with End of Year Burnout!

- 1. Be Honest and Provide Guidance:** Help your child understand that learning should feel challenging and at some points, may even be a bit overwhelming! Remind them that this is normal, and help provide suggestions and expectations for things that may help.
  - a. staying 9th period
  - b. talking to/emailing the teacher
  - c. reviewing notes
- 2. Create and Enforce Daily Routines:** Schedules and routines are comforting for all of us. Knowing what to expect can help them work through difficult tasks and make sure they are both mentally and physically ready for what comes their way.
  - a. plan a scheduled time for homework
  - b. schedule opportunities for free time
  - c. remove electronics from bedrooms each night
  - d. place packed backpack and charged chromebook in an agreed upon location each night
- 3. Keep Scheduled Homework Times Reasonable:** Helping your child set up a homework schedule and expectations help homework to not be forgotten or get overwhelming.
  - a. break up long term assignments over several nights/weeks
  - b. get up and stretch or get a snack every 20-30 minutes
- 4. Eliminate Distractions** If a child is distracted, homework can seem like it takes "all night".
  - a. hold on to your child's phone until homework is complete
  - b. turn off TV
  - c. set up homework place that is well lit and has all supplies available
- 5. Schedule Down Time:** Knowing there is a time each day to just relax can help us all remain focused and motivated to complete our work/tasks to be able to take advantage of our down time.

***Summer will be here before we know it, let's end this school year strong!***



1 - AFA Chiavetta's BBQ - Lower Concessions  
1 - AEA Bake Sale - Lower Concessions  
7 - NYS Math Assessments  
8 - NYS Math Assessments  
8 - MS Tech Club Meeting  
**12 - Mother's Day**  
14 - MS Tech Wars @ ECC City Campus  
14 - Meet the BOE Candidates - MPR  
14 - Annual Budget Hearing- AUD  
14 - BOE Meeting - HS Cafe  
15 - NYS Science Assessment - 8th Grade  
15 - MS Tech Club Meeting  
17 - MS NA Traditional Pottery Field Trip - MPR  
17 - MS Govt. Elections - during all lunches  
20 - MP4 Progress Reports available online

21 - 12:00pm-9:00pm Annual Budget Vote  
21 - 5:00pm-9:00pm District Wide Art Show  
22 - Ineligible List  
22 - MS Tech Club Meeting  
**27 - Memorial Day - No School**  
29 - MS Tech Club Meeting  
29 - BOE Meeting- HS Cafe  
30 - Student of the Month Lunches  
30 - CC! Ice Cream Celebration  
31 - My Brothers Keeper Conference - SUNY EF  
31 - MS Darian Lake Musical Festival  
31 - NA Students - Lockport Unity Festival



## MS LUNCH MENU for May



AMS Lunch menus can be accessed each month through our school website, [www.akronschools.org](http://www.akronschools.org) or click on the picture of the **May 2024** menu for the link.

If you would like a paper copy please reach out to the Middle School Office.



The Tiger's Den will be open the first two weeks of May during 9th period. The store will be closed from May 15 - May 28.

As the warm weather begins to roll around the Tiger's Den has you covered with our short sleeve t-shirts. We have both adult and youth tiger apparel year round for your school spirit needs.

The Tiger's Den school store takes debit/credit cards and Apple Pay!

Follow us @akronschoolstore on Instagram! We post updates on promotions, sampling, and everything the school store has to offer.



The final Spanish Club meeting will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024 from 2:37-4:23 pm in Mrs. Bergman's classroom (M128). Please confirm your plan to attend with Mrs. Bergman by Thursday, May 9th. ¡Muchas gracias! We hope to see you there!



Please refer to our [Parent Letter for Regents/AP Review](#) for information regarding Regents Exams and AP Exams. Please reach out directly to teachers should you have a question,



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. This is an opportunity to bring recognition and awareness to mental health issues and reduce the stigma and barriers associated with mental health care. There will be opportunities for students to engage in different self-care and coping skill opportunities throughout the month, so stay tuned for more information! If you have questions or are in need of referrals to mental health supports, please don't hesitate to contact me at [kbowen@akronk12.org](mailto:kbowen@akronk12.org) or (716) 542-5070.



# Congratulations

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Computer Science 6 - Alex Kempston  
 ELA 6 - Mac Jonathan  
 Math 6 - Emsley Stuber  
 Reading/Writing 6 - Reese Addesa  
 Science 6 - Hannah Kowalski  
 Social Studies 6 - Rockee Poodry

ELA 7 - Anna Schneider  
 Math - Emily Callard & Chris Blask  
 Robotics 7 - Clara Bogdan  
 Science 7 - Quinten VanPelt  
 Seneca 7 - Eileen Thomas  
 Social Studies 7 - Emmie Chase  
 Spanish 7 - Olivia Maciuba

Academic Achievement - Reese Addesa, Drew Borden,  
 Abigail Schlabach, Emsley Stuber & Myla Vaillancourt

ELA 8 - Olivia Outten  
 Math 8 - Nathaniel Gehl  
 Science 8 - Michael McDonald  
 Seneca 8 - Daniel Piechowicz-Poodry  
 Social Studies 8 - Kelsey McIntyre  
 Spanish 8 - Sophia Brady  
 ALC - Nathan Priebe  
 Art 7 - Emmie Chase  
 Band - David Drier & Nula Vaillancourt  
 CDE - Mackenzie Tomporowski & Jackson Schlabach  
 Chorus - Carson Flanders  
 Health 7/8 - Jillian Bower  
 Music 7 - Brian Stempniak  
 Orchestra - Annabella Rodriguez  
 PE 6/7/8 - Chase Hastrich  
 Reading AIS - Camden Jendresky  
 SRO 7 - Otis Stevens, Mitchel Krieger & Asa Blackchief

## CHARACTER COUNTS *Darian Papia - Advisor*



For the month of May, AMS students will be focusing on being a caring student and good citizen for Character Counts. Students can earn Tiger Tickets by displaying the following:

### **Caring**

- Be Kind
- Be Compassionate
- Express Gratitude

### **Citizenship**

- Be a good neighbor
- Protect the environment
- Make choices that protect the safety and rights of others



*During the month of April, students, faculty and staff focused on the Pillar: Respect & Trustworthiness. The following students were selected and enjoyed a CC! Ice Cream Celebration on Thursday, April 25, 2024.*

8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Chase Hastrich Cassie Judge Kiley Kumpf Molly Ohar	Emily Callard Megynn Cocco Ctac Murray Berusha Pragle Jacob Sommers	Nick Grier Lillian Leonard Aleece O'Malley Conner Rooney Taylor Swendsen

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICE (SRO)

**SEXTORTION** – the practice of extorting money or sexual favors from someone by threatening to reveal evidence of their sexual activity, usually inappropriate images.

Sextortion is more common than most people think. Homeland Security Investigations received more than 3000 reports in 2022 alone. One current trend targets young boys and girls. Predators pretend to be young girls or boys and feign romantic interest in the victim on social media sites or gaming platforms.

It starts when a child responds to an online request to expose themselves on a webcam or send inappropriate photos to their new online “friend”. The next thing these children know is their new friend threatens to post the photos publicly – unless they provide more explicit photos or send money.

This terrifying and dehumanizing violation feeds on the victim’s shame. The emotional result for victims – especially kids – is devastating.

You can protect your child against sextortion by monitoring their online activity and letting them know that they can talk to you about anything without being judged. If someone you know is victimized, contact your local police or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.



*The Cab from MS Government*  
*From the voices of Connor Rooney & Cris King*

The end of the year is fast approaching! In the Month of May we are looking forward to student elections and the planning of the 8th grade end of year dance.

Elections are going to be held in each student lunch during early May. Students will have the opportunity to vote on real machines from the Erie County Board of Elections! Students, YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!!

The theme this year for the 8th grade dance is “City of lights”. This is a semi-formal dance to celebrate our 8th grade class! The dance will be on June 14 from 7-9pm. We hope to see all 8th graders there!

June will be here before we know it, stay focused and finish out this year strong!

**#OneAkron**



**Hello Akron Middle School Parents,**

It's that time of year again. Be sure to capture your students' middle school memories with this years' Akron Middle School yearbook from Varsity. **Orders are due by May 18th** and can only be made online. You can find a link to the order page on the Akron website [akronschoools.org](http://akronschoools.org) under the quick link “Order Your Yearbook.” The middle school code is #21939. It is a hardcover book with a cost of \$24. Thank you for your support.

Kimberly Northem  
ES/MS Yearbook Advisor

*Order your*  
**YEARBOOK**  
*Here*





## ATTENTION 6TH & 7TH GRADERS:

Tech Leadership Seminar AKA "Tech Buddies" is an elective offered by Mrs. O'Malley in the 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR. It is open to students that will be in 7th and 8th grade NEXT YEAR with an interest in learning new technological skills and a talent for working with younger children.

In this class you will learn how to use technologies and then coach elementary student show to use them.

Some examples include:

**SIGN UP  
OUTSIDE OF  
M201!**

ROBOTICS WITH OZOBOTS & MICROBITS  
CODING WITH OZOBLOCKLY & MAKE CODE  
SIMPLE MACHINES, SIMULATIONS, CAD AND 3D PRINTING  
WITH TINKERCAD

**QUESTIONS?  
SEE  
MRS. O'MALLEY**

**THIS WILL BE OFFERED EVERYOTHER DAY DURING SEMESTER 1 AND AGAIN DURING SEMESTER 2. SPACE AND SCHEDULING IS LIMITED, SO KNOW IF YOU SIGN UP, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE YOU ARE IN. YOU WILL FIND OUT LATER THIS SUMMER WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR SCHEDULE.**



# NATIVE AMERICAN NEWS

Happy May!

I can't believe the school year is almost over! Time is flying! As we head into the 4th and final marking period of the year, I want to encourage all students to finish the school year strong! My last day in the building will be April 29th, as I am going out on maternity leave. If parents/guardians need to contact the NAO, I ask that you get in touch with either Jodi Patterson (716) 542-5013 or Antoinette Abrams-Hill (716) 542-5050 x3119. They will be able to assist you with whatever you may need.

Nya:wëh!!



Mrs. Brittany Smoke  
MS Native American Home-School Counselor  
716-542-5040 x6226

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## Student Support Services - *Summer Camps!*

Please note there are several exciting two week Summer Camp opportunities for Middle School students over the summer.



Middle School Summer Camp

"Summer at the Center"

For Campers Entering Grades 6 through 9

### **Harkness Camp**

is at the Harkness Career and Technical Center, located at 99 Aero Drive in Cheektowaga. Campers participate in a series of four camps of their choosing, from Camp Culinar and Flair for Fasio to the Mini Veterinary School and Future First Responders. These camps are designed to engage students in exciting and interactive activities that make learning fun.

### **Calspan Camp**

will be at our new Calspan Career and Technical center, located at 4411 Genesee Street in Cheektowaga (across from the Airport). Campers will complete projects that cover topics including Video Production and Recording Arts, Digital Media and Photography.

If you are interested, here is the link to find out more information, including costs, dates and registration.

<https://www.e1b.org/en/k-12-education-programs/summer-camp.aspx>



**Battle of the Books Finale**  
**May 2, 2024**  
**Connor Middle School, Grand Island**



Stay tuned for results!