October Volume XV Issue 2

THE BRAVE BEAT

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Dear Annawan School Community,

It's hard to believe that fall—and harvest season—are already here! Our students are nearing the end of the first quarter, and we are proud of the work they continue to do both in and out of the classroom. Our students have been busy participating in athletics, band, FFA and other activities. If you have the opportunity, I encourage you to come out and support them. Having family and community members in the stands and at our events means more to our students than you may realize.

Each fall, I also like to take a few moments to remind families about our district's emergency preparedness plans. While we hope we never have to use them, being prepared and having a well-practiced plan is an important part of keeping our students and staff safe.

Annawan Schools works closely with neighboring school districts in Henry and Stark Counties, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Regional Office of Education #28, and local emergency responders to prepare for a variety of situations.

Certain emergencies—such as a hazardous material incident on the interstate or railway, severe weather, or another unexpected event—could require us to evacuate the school. If that were necessary, students and staff would first move to a designated off-site location. This allows us to move everyone away from a potentially unsafe area while also keeping the school grounds clear for emergency personnel.

From there, our coordinated emergency plan would take effect. If necessary, neighboring school districts would assist with transportation to a designated reunification site where parents and guardians could safely meet their children. The reunification location would be communicated to families at the time of the emergency so that we can best manage traffic, emergency response, and student safety.

We understand that thinking about emergencies can be unsettling. However, preparation is one of the best tools we have. We regularly review and practice our procedures so that our students and staff know what to do should an emergency occur.

Another area that continues to require everyone's attention is online and social media safety. Schools across Illinois and throughout the country continue to deal with threats and concerning messages posted online. At Annawan Schools, we take every report seriously and work with law enforcement when appropriate to determine the level of risk.

Parents and guardians can help by talking with students about responsible social media use and reminding them that what they post, share, or forward online can have very real consequences. Just as importantly, please reinforce a simple message with your children: If you see or hear something concerning, tell an adult. Students speaking up can play an important role in keeping everyone safe.

Finally, thank you for the continued support you provide our students, staff, and schools. We are fortunate to have a community that takes such pride in Annawan Schools, and we look forward to a successful fall.

For our families and neighbors involved in agriculture, we wish you a safe and successful harvest. And for all of us, please use a little extra patience and caution on our roads as combines, tractors, and other farm equipment become more common over the next several weeks.

Thank you for helping us make Annawan Schools a safe, supportive place for our students to learn and grow.

Sincerely,



Jamie Bryan

Welcome Our New Teachers!



Pictured from left to right: Ms. Moe (5th Grade), Mrs. Arnold (1st Grade), Mrs. Schehl (Music), and Ms. Kloepping (HS Agriculture).

From Mrs. Heitzler's Office

A Great Start to the School Year!

What a wonderful beginning to the school year! Our students have done an outstanding job settling into their classroom routines, getting to know their teachers, and reconnecting with friends. It has been exciting to see the energy and enthusiasm throughout our elementary and junior high buildings.

As we move into the cooler fall months, please remember to send your child to school prepared for changing temperatures. Students spend time outside for recess, and dressing in layers is a great way to help them stay comfortable throughout the day.

I also want to recognize our amazing teachers and staff. Their dedication, patience, and commitment to our students make a tremendous difference every day. Thank you to our parents and families as well for partnering with us. When families and schools work together, our students have the greatest opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

Welcome to Our New Staff Members!

We are excited to welcome several new faces to Annawan School District this year! We are especially happy to have **Mrs. Schehl** taking on a new role within our music and band program and to welcome **Mrs. Arnold** as our new first grade teacher. **Ms. Moe** will be teaching our 5th graders this year, too!

We are thrilled to have these staff members join our school family and look forward to all they will bring to our students and our school community. We are off to a strong start and are looking forward to a successful fall filled with learning, activities, and school spirit!

Welcome, New Annawan Families!

A special welcome goes out to all of the families who are new to the Annawan School District. We are excited to have you as part of our school community!

We encourage all of our families to stay involved in their child's education, attend school activities, communicate with teachers, and take advantage of the many opportunities our school has to offer. We are always happy to welcome new families to Annawan!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on the evenings of **October 7th and October 8th from 3:45–7:15 p.m.**

Conferences will be held in your child's classroom. Please check in as you enter the building. Teachers will be reaching out to families to arrange a conference time that works well for everyone.

These conferences provide a valuable opportunity for parents and teachers to connect, share information, celebrate student progress, and discuss ways we can work together to support each child's academic, social, and emotional growth.

All students in **Kindergarten through 5th grade** will be invited to participate in a conference

with their homeroom teacher. Junior High parents who would like to meet with one or more of their child's teachers are welcome to contact the office at **309-935-6623** to arrange a meeting.

Please remember that you never have to wait for conferences to communicate with your child's teacher. We encourage parents to reach out throughout the school year whenever questions or concerns arise.

Following conferences, families will receive a brief survey. Your feedback is important to us and helps us continue to improve the conference experience and better serve our students and families.

Grandparents' Days

We are excited to welcome grandparents and special family members into our school for **Grandparents' Days on November 5th and November 6th!**

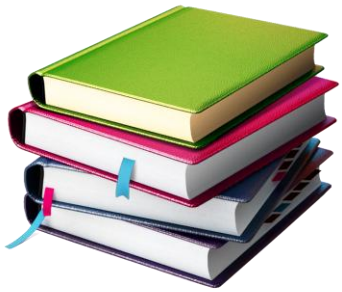
Grandparents are invited to spend part of the morning at school with their grandchildren. Guests may arrive at 8:00 a.m. and stay until their grandchild leaves for lunch or lunch recess.

Students and grandparents will be invited to enjoy donuts and drinks together in the gymnasium.

Grandparent's Day Schedule:

- Preschool: 8:00–10:15 a.m. — (Dismissal)
- Kindergarten–2nd Grade: 8:00–10:40 a.m. — (Lunch)
- 3rd–8th Grade: 8:00–10:50 a.m. — (Lunch/Recess)

We look forward to another special opportunity for our students to share their school day with the important people in their lives!



Book Fair

Our annual **Scholastic Book Fair** will return in November!

The Book Fair will be open to students **November 2nd–6th** and will coincide with Grandparents' Days on Thursday and Friday. Last year's Book Fair was a huge success, and we especially enjoyed seeing grandparents' shop for books with their grandchildren.

We hope to see our students and families take advantage of this great opportunity to discover some new books and build their home libraries!

Halloween Fun!

Halloween is always an exciting time at school!

Students in **Kindergarten through 5th grade** will be invited to wear costumes to school. Our Halloween Parade will take place on **Friday October 30th**, which will be an early dismissal day at **11:35 a.m**.

The parade will begin at **10:30 a.m.** Students will start at the Grade School entrance and make their way toward the High School entrance.

Weather permitting, the parade will take place outside so families can line the parking lot and cheer on our students. We love having our families be part of this fun tradition!

Preschool will follow a separate Halloween schedule. Preschool families should watch for additional information in the preschool newsletter.

Veterans Day Assembly

On **November 11th at 9:00 a.m.**, we will gather together for our annual **Veterans Day Assembly.**

This special event is open to the public, and we encourage our families and community members to join us as we recognize and honor the veterans who have served our country.

It is an important tradition at Annawan and a meaningful opportunity for our students to learn about service, sacrifice, and gratitude.

We hope you will join us!

ACES

ACES is a wonderful community organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing the educational and social experiences of Annawan students and staff.

Throughout the year, ACES help provide classroom resources, supports educational opportunities and experiences, raises funds, and creates opportunities for students, families, and staff to connect.

ACES meet on the **first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.** Please follow the ACES Facebook page for meeting locations and updates.

Questions can also be directed to annawanaces@gmail.com.

We are grateful for everything ACES do to support our school!

Thank You for Supporting Our Teachers!

A special thank-you goes to the **ACES parent group** for organizing Amazon Wish Lists for our teachers.

We are also extremely grateful to the parents, families, and community members who purchased items from the lists. Your generosity

directly supports our classrooms and our students.

We know that many purchases were made anonymously, so we want to make sure we take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who contributed! Your kindness and support mean so much to our staff.

Fall Sports

Our fall sports seasons are underway, and we are excited to see our students representing Annawan!

Our Junior High girls are getting started with basketball, while our boys are wrapping up baseball and preparing to transition into Junior High football.

We encourage families and community members to come out and support our student- athletes. Sports schedules can be found under "Events" on the Annawan app or on the school district website.

Good luck to all of our athletes this fall!

Spirit Fridays!

It's time to show your **Annawan school spirit!**

Every Friday, students are encouraged to wear their Titan or Brave gear to school. Let's fill our hallways with school pride and show our students how much we support them!

Go Braves! Go Titans!

As we continue into the school year, I want to thank our students, families, teachers, staff, and community for making Annawan such a special place to learn and grow. I am excited about all that is ahead and look forward to a fantastic school year together!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heitzler

Parents & Guardians:

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. As everyone comes together in close contact the risk of respiratory and other illnesses being passed from person to person increases. While we want to keep students in school, we are also aware there will be times when it is best to keep them at home. Please consider the following guidelines when you are deciding whether to keep your child home or send them to school:

1. **Fever 100 degrees or Higher**
    - Can return to school after being fever free for at least 24 hours, without taking fever-reducing medications (Tylenol/ibuprofen).
    - Do not send to school if your child is still not themselves or over tired.
2. **Rash**
    - Can return to school after speaking with the doctor to know the cause/diagnosis.
    - Stay home if unknown cause or the rash is bothersome.
        - **Hand, Foot, Mouth**
            - ❖ fever, mouth sores, and skin rash (typically on palms of hands and soles of feet)
            - ❖ May return when fever free (See #1) and no new spots "popping up" and the old ones crusted over. This may take 4-8 days.
3. **Head Lice**
    - No nits/live bugs allowed at school.
    - May return the day after treatment has been done and no live lice are present.
4. **Vomiting/Diarrhea**
    - Must be vomit/diarrhea free for at least 24 hours prior to returning to school.
    - Do not send if they are pale, off in color and/or not themselves.
5. **Coughing/Stuffy/Runny Nose/Strep Throat**
    - Stay home if cough is persistent or barky sounding and/or constant runny nose.
    - Cannot return to school with strep throat until on antibiotics for a full 24 hours and fever free (See #1).
6. **Pink Eye**
    - Drainage/red/itchy/crusty eyes
    - Cannot return to school until on antibiotic drops for a full 24 hours.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students healthy! If you have questions please contact the school nurse, Mrs. Gray.

***Please email or call the office when your student will not be at school.**

Menus

School: Annawan Grade School
School: Annawan Grade School
Meal: All
Month: October 2026

Academic Year: 2026-27

October				
M	**Tu**	**W**	**Th**	**F**
28 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Pancake on a Stick Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Soft Shell Taco w/ Lettuce & Cheese Corn or Fresh Veggies Apple Crisp or Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	29 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Waffles & Sausage Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Hotdog on a Bun Baked Beans or Fresh Veggies Strawberries or Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	30 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Breakfast Pizza Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Crispy Chicken Sand. Oven Fries or Fresh Veggies Orange or Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	1 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Sausage & Egg Burrito Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Tenderloin on Bun Steamed Broccoli or Fresh Veggie Cup Peaches or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	2 **Breakfast:** Biscuit & Gravy Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Bosco Cheese Stick w/ Marinara Sauce Steamed Carrots or Fresh Veggie Cup Pears or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk
5 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Pancake on a Stick Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Pulled Pork Sand. on Bun Baked Beans or Fresh Veggie Cup Mix Fruit or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	6 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Tornado Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Crispito w/ lettuce & Cheese Corn or Fresh Veggie Cup Applesauce or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	7 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Breakfast Pizza Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes W/ Gravy or Fresh Veggie Cup Pineapple or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	8 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Cinnamon Roll Sausage Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Pepperoni Pizza Mixed Veggies or Fresh Veggie Cup Peaches or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	9
12	13 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Pancake on Stick Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Max Cheese Stick W/ Marinara Sauce Peas or Fresh Fruit Cup Pears or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	14 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Breakfast Pizza Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Chicken Strip Wrap W/ Lettuce & Cheese Green Beans of Fresh Veggie Cup Mixed Fruit or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	15 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Sausage & Egg Biscuit Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Pulled BBQ Pork Nachos Corn Or Fresh Veggie Cup Applesauce of Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	16 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Biscuit & Gravy Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Tony's Cheese Pizza Mix Veggies of Fresh Veggie Cup Pineapple or Fresh fruit Cup Choice of Milk
19 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Pancake on Stick Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Turkey Club on Sub Bun Steamed Carrots or Fresh Veggie Cup Peaches or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	20 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST French Toast Sausage Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Hamburger on Bun Oven Fries or Fresh Veggie Cup Pears or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	21 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Breakfast Pizza Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Popcorn Chicken Mac & Cheese Peas or Fresh Veggie Cup Applesauce or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	22 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Sausage & Egg Burrito Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Hot Dog or Chili Dog Baked Beans or Fresh Veggie Cup Mixed Fruit or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	23 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Cinnamon Roll Sausage Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Taco Salad W/ Lettuce & Cheese Doritos Corn or Fresh Veggie Cup Pineapple or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of MIlk
26 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Pancake on Stick Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Corn Dog Baked Beans or Fresh Veggie Cup Peaches or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	27 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Waffles Sausage Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH BBQ Rib Sand. on Bun Oven Fries or Fresh Veggie Cup Pears or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	28 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Breakfast Pizza Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Crispy or Spicey Chicken Sand. on Bun Peas or Fresh Veggie Cup Applesauce or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	29 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Pancakes Sausage Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Pizza Hut (Pepperoni) Corn or Fresh Veggie cup Mixed Fruit or Fresh Fruit Cup Choice of Milk	30 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Biscuit & Gravy Choice of Fruit Choice Of Milk LUNCH- TO GO 11:35 OUT P B & J Carrots Apple Slices Choice of Milk

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28 **4:30p** Basketball (Girls MS) - Bureau Valley Jr/Sr High School (A) **5:30p Football (Boys F/S) - Eastland-Pearl City (H)** **6p CANCELED - Football (Boys F/S) - Stark County High School (H)** **6p Volleyball (Girls JV) - Stark County High School (H)** **7p Volleyball (Girls V) - Stark County High School (H)**	29 **9a** Golf (Girls V) - OPEN (A) **4:15p** Cross Country (Coed V) - El Paso - Gridley High School (A) **5p** 3-4 Booster Volleyball - DeMay	30 Golf (Boys V) - IHSA Boys Golf Regional (A) **4p** CANCELED - Cross Country (Coed MS) - Rock Falls Meet (A) **5p** 3 - 6 Booster Volleyball - DeMay **5:30p** Football (Boys MS) - Stark County Jr/Sr High School (A) **6p** Volleyball (Girls JV) - United Junior / Senior High School (A) **7p** Volleyball (Girls V) - United Junior / Senior High School (A)	1	2 Baseball (Boys MS) - IESA BB State Finals (A) **7p** Football (Boys V) - Princeville High School (A)	3 Baseball (Boys MS) - IESA BB State Finals (A) Cross Country (Coed V) - Elmwood High School (A) Volleyball (Girls V) - Sterling Tournament (A) **8:30a** Cross Country (Coed V) - Illinois-Iowa Boarder Wars - Riverdale (A) **10a** CANCELED - Basketball (Girls MS) - Lostant Elem School (A) **12p** 5/6 Football **1:30p** 5/6 Football
4	5 Golf (Boys V) - IHSA Boys Golf Sectional (A) **5:30p** Basketball (Girls MS) - Rockridge Jr High School (A) **5:30p** Volleyball (Girls JV) - Wethersfield Jr/Sr HS (A) **6p Football (Boys F/S) - Princeville High School (H)** **6:30p** Volleyball (Girls V) - Wethersfield Jr/Sr HS (A)	6 **4p** Panther Invite **5p** 3-4 Booster Volleyball - DeMay	7 K-8 Picture Retake Day **3:45p** K - 12 Parent Teacher Conferences **5p** 3 - 6 Booster Volleyball - DeMay **5:30p** Football (Boys MS) - Abingdon-Avon Middle/High School (A) **6p Volleyball (Girls JV) - West Central High School (H)** **7p Volleyball (Girls V) - West Central High School (H)**	8 **3:45p** K - 12 Parent Teacher Conferences **4p Cross Country (Coed V) - LTC XC Meet (H)**	9 Cross Country (Coed MS) - IESA XC Sectionals (A) End of 1st Quarter Golf (Boys V) - IHSA Boys Golf State Final (A) No School **7p Football (Boys V) - Wethersfield Homecoming (H)**	10 Golf (Boys V) - IHSA Boys Golf State Final (A) **10a** Cross Country (Coed MS) - IESA XC Sectionals (A)
11	12 No School - Columbus Day **6p** Football (Boys F/S) - Bureau Valley Jr/Sr High School (A) **6p** Volleyball (Girls JV) - Princeville High School (A) **7p** Volleyball (Girls V) - Princeville High School (A)	13 **5p** 3-4 Booster Volleyball - DeMay	14 **5p** 3 - 6 Booster Volleyball - DeMay **5:30p** Basketball (Girls MS) - Galva Jr-Sr High School (A) **5:30p Football (Boys MS) - United Junior / Senior High School (H)** **6p Volleyball (Girls JV) - Pink Night - Rowva-Williamsfield (H)** **7p Volleyball (Girls V) - Pink Night - ROWVA-Williamsfield (H)**	15 **7p** JH/HS Fall Concert	16 **7p Football (Boys V) - Senior Night (H)**	17 Cross Country (Coed MS) - IESA XC State Finals (A) **8a** Volleyball (Girls V) - Mendota Varsity Rally Invite (A) **1p** Cross Country (Coed V) - Peoria Heights High School (A)
18	19 **6p** Football (Boys F/S) - Co-Op ROWVA/Williamsfield (A) **6p Volleyball (Girls JV) - Galva Jr-Sr High School (H)** **7p Volleyball (Girls V) - Senior Night - Galva (H)**	20 **5p** 3-4 Booster Volleyball - DeMay **5:30p Basketball (Girls MS) - United Junior / Senior High School (H)**	21 **5p** 3 - 6 Booster Volleyball - DeMay **5p** Basketball (Girls MS) - Alwood Middle/High School (A) **5:30p Football (Boys MS) - Co-Op ROWVA/Williamsfield (H)** **6p** Volleyball (Girls JV) - Cambridge-Alwood (Ridgewood COOP) (A) **7p** Volleyball (Girls V) - Cambridge-Alwood (Ridgewood COOP) (A)	22	23	24 Cross Country (Coed V) - IHSA XC Regionals (A) Football (Boys V) - IHSA Opening Round FB Playoff (A)
25	26 Volleyball (Girls V) - IHSA Regional (A) **5:30p Basketball (Girls MS) - Stark County Jr/Sr High School (H)**	27 Junior Job Shadow Day Volleyball (Girls V) - IHSA Regional (A) **5p** 3-4 Booster Volleyball - DeMay	28 Volleyball (Girls V) - IHSA Regional (A) **5p** 3 - 6 Booster Volleyball - DeMay **5:30p Basketball (Girls MS) - Cambridge Junior/Senior High School (H)** **5:30p Football (Boys MS) - Bureau Valley Jr/Sr High School (H)**	29 Volleyball (Girls V) - IHSA Regional (A) **5:30p** Basketball (Girls MS) - Orion Middle School (A)	30 **11:35a** 11:35 Dismissal - Teacher Inservice	31 **Cross Country (Coed V) - IHSA XC Sectionals (H)** Football (Boys V) - IHSA First Round FB Playoff (A) JHBBB - games may begin