February 2026 Volume XIV Issue 5

THE BRAVE BEAT

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Dear Community Members,

As we move through the winter months, we would like to thank you for your continued support—especially during the recent cold weather and e-learning days. Your flexibility and cooperation have played an important role in helping our students remain engaged and successful, and we truly appreciate your partnership.

With winter sports and activities beginning to wrap up, it has been wonderful to see the growth, effort, and achievements of our students throughout the season. We are grateful to our families for the encouragement and involvement that made these experiences meaningful for our students.

As we approach the end of the third quarter, grading will be concluding soon. This is a great opportunity to review your student's progress and help ensure they remain on track academically. While spring is just around the corner—and with-it longer days and warmer weather—we encourage families to help students stay focused and engaged as we move toward the end of the school year.

Looking ahead, state testing will take place this spring. We ask for your support in encouraging students to give their best effort, get plenty of rest, and arrive at school on time during testing days. Together, we can showcase the hard work and determination our students demonstrate each day.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Working together, we can help ensure our students remain motivated and finish the year on a positive note.

Sincerely,

Jamie Bryan
Superintendent

Preschool Screenings will be March 12-17th this year. There will not be any Pre-K classes these days. If you have any questions please call the preschool at 309-935-6177.



From Mrs. Heitzler's Office

Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR)
Annawan Grade School students in grades 3–8 will participate in one series of Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) online, computer-based tests this school year. These standardized assessments in math, reading, and writing will be administered April 8–10. To minimize disruption to instruction, we plan to complete two assessments per day rather than spreading testing over a two-week period.

Please make every effort to have your child present during testing and avoid scheduling outside appointments if possible. Ensuring students get adequate rest is also important. We hope to provide a breakfast-type snack each day for participating students. These assessments are mandated by the Illinois Department of Education.

Fifth grade and eighth grade will take an online science assessment in April, as required by the Illinois State Board of Education. These tests are scheduled for April 13-17. Each session will consist of three tests, approximately 40 minutes each.

IESA Scholar Attitude Award

I am pleased to announce that this year's IESA Scholar Attitude Award recipient is Adam Jones. To qualify, an eighth-grade student must meet several criteria, including participation in an IESA school activity during both 7th and 8th grade, a minimum GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, and demonstration of outstanding citizenship. Adam will also be recognized at the eighth-grade promotion ceremony for representing our school.

B.U.G. Award Winners
Congratulations to the fourth- and fifth-grade students who earned the B.U.G. (Bring Up Grades) Award for the second quarter. We are proud of your hard work and improvement. Thank you to the Annawan Kiwanis Club for sponsoring and supporting this program.

Please consider supporting Kiwanis Pancake Day on Saturday, February 7, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Annawan Community Center. Funds raised support many Unit #226 organizations and projects.

Honor Roll and High Honor Roll
Congratulations to all students who earned Honor Roll or High Honor Roll for the second quarter. These achievements reflect dedication and effort, and we are very proud of you.

Student Loading and Unloading Procedures

Thank you for your continued cooperation with student drop-off and pick-up procedures. Students should be dropped off at the back of the school in the morning and picked up in front of the school at dismissal. For safety reasons, please do not allow students to move between vehicles or onto the roadway. When possible, pull forward along the curb so we can load multiple vehicles efficiently. Following staff directions helps keep everyone safe.

Vehicles are not permitted to park along the north or west side of the football field for student pick-up. While this may seem convenient, it creates safety concerns and delays. Please follow the same procedures as all families.

Additionally, please avoid parking near the front entrance of the grade school between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m., as buses need access to unload students.

Grade school students should not walk through the high school before or after school unless necessary. Students exiting through the back door (blue hallway) are walkers only. This area is not intended for vehicle pick-up. All student pick-ups should occur at the front of the school.

Dress for the Weather

With cold temperatures and snow, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for daily weather conditions. Recess will be held outdoors unless temperatures are unsafe, so students should be prepared on acceptable days.

Athletics and Activities

Congratulations to our Junior High Boys Basketball teams, cheerleaders, and coaches on a great season. We are proud to be represented at the State competition in Bloomington.

Best of luck to the Junior High Girls Volleyball teams and coaches as they continue their regular season.

Good luck to our Scholastic Bowl team and Mrs. DeMay as their season begins on February 10. Home matches will be held in the Media Center.

Sporting Event Expectations

For the safety of everyone, students and spectators are expected to remain seated during games. Please have children visit concessions, restrooms, or water fountains only between games or during halftime. Elementary students should remain seated with their parents and not play in the corners of the gym. Your cooperation helps ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Thank you for your continued support of Annawan Grade School.

Mrs. Heitzler



Spelling Bee Finalists



Pictured front row: Madon Huber and Kirsten Thompson Back row: Hayden Heitzler, Anna Nordstrom, Adam Jones, and William Earley.

Spelling Bee Winner



Congratulations to Adam Jones! He is our spelling bee champion! Good luck to you Adam, as you move on to the next round!

B.U. G. Award Winners



Pictured front row: Kinley Wells, Kalan Kidd, Rhett Gilbraith, Tate Ebbert, Blake Koning, Stella Nimrick, Sylis Kueter, Gabriella Specht. Second row: Jase Wolf, Ellie Wells, Georgia Walls, Mckynlee Shrum, Emma Nordstrom, Dominic Dudley, and Everett Kuelper. Third row: Lily Koester, Carter Izral, Harper Hasbrook, Noah Lang, Evan Anderson, Jeremiah Grimes. Fourth row presenters: Tom Newman, Albert Hulting, and Terry Lancaster.



LIZ WIED
President
KIM PARK
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EMILY DORNFELD
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Annawan Unit District 226

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annawan226.org

Annawan Grade School
2nd Quarter Honor Roll 2025-2026
January 9, 2026

Honor Roll

6th Grade

Madison Childs	Charlie Frankenreider	Madon Huber	Emmy Platt

7th Grade

Cole Dybek	Lillian Jannie	Kylie Klockenga	Parker Wilson
Paxton Wilson			

8th Grade

Hayden Heitzler	Paxon Huber	Steven Johnson	Catelynn Stanley

High Honor Roll

6th Grade

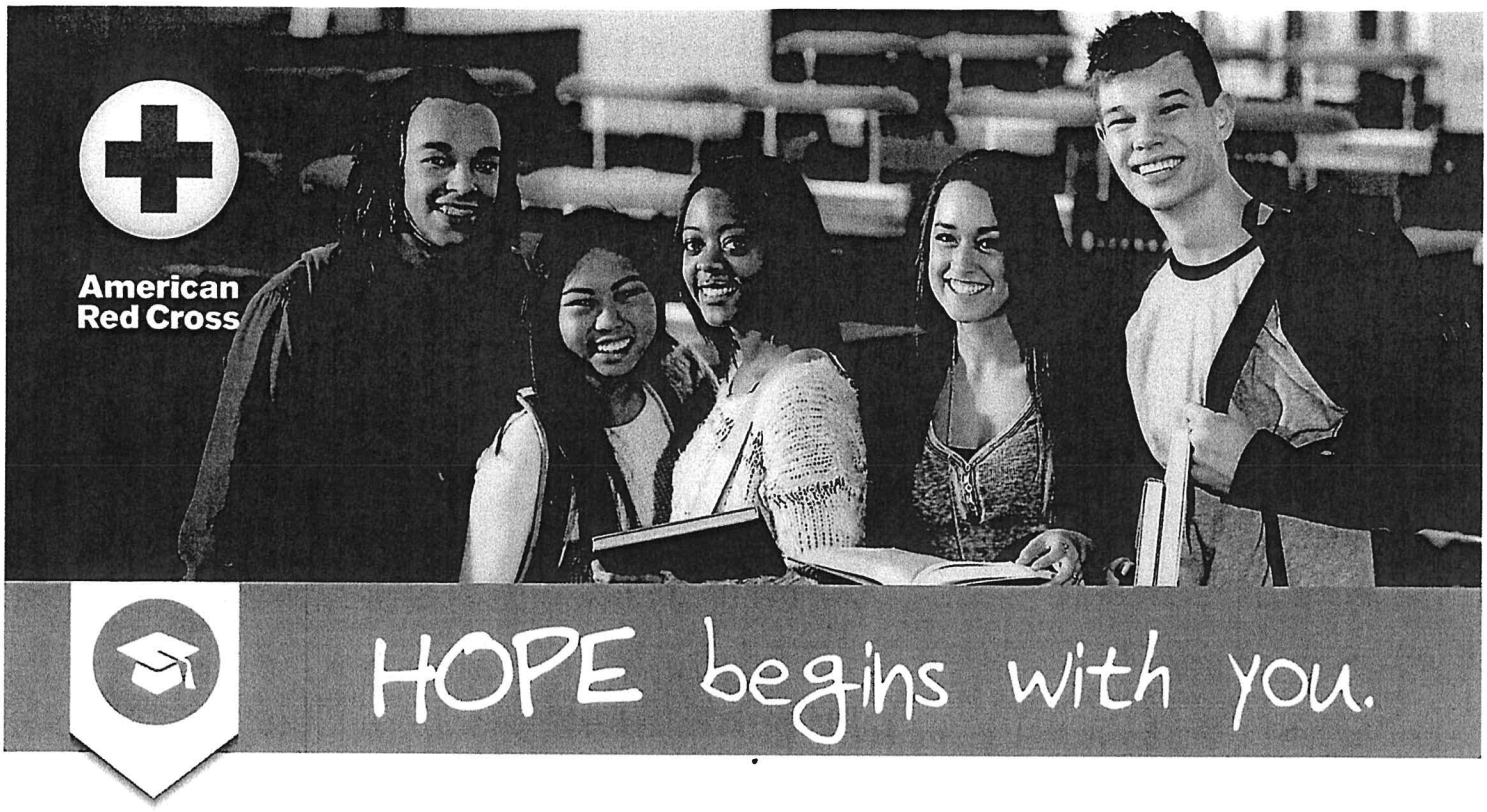
William Earley	Alexandria Fleming	Landry Koning	Kenton Stoller

7th Grade

Iyla Anderson	Amarah Drinkall	Ava Hakes	Khloe Kidd
Olive Nimrick	Anna Nordstrom	Matthew Smith	Alivea VanUnnik
Jackson Wolf			

8th Grade

Easton Ebbert	Grear Gustafson	Karson Gustafson	Adam Jones
Keaton Matney	Mason McCadden	Lyla McCauley	Abi Steele
Peter Wied	Kyler Witte	Kinley Rico	



Annawan High School-Healthcare Careers Club
Blood Drive

Location: High School Gym

Drive Date: February 18th

Time: 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

Contact information: Mrs. Gray, School Nurse
309-935-6781
dgray@annawan226.org

RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

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Annawan Jr/Sr High School - February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2 6:00 PM B JH BKB @ OPEN 6:00 PM Cancelled G JV BKB Galva Jr/Sr High School 7:30 PM Cancelled G V BKB Galva Jr/Sr High School	3 6:00 PM B FS BKB Princeville High School 7:30 PM B V BKB Princeville High School	4 6:00 PM Cancelled G JV BKB @ Ridgewood Coop 7:30 PM Cancelled G V BKB @ Ridgewood Coop	5 TBA B JH BKB @ OPEN 4:00 PM C V BWL @ Cambridge Junior/Senior High School 5:30 PM G JH VB Wethersfield Jr/Sr HS	6 6:00 PM B FS BKB @ CO-OP ROWVA/Williamsfield 7:30 PM B V BKB @ CO-OP ROWVA/Williamsfield	7 TBA B JH BKB @ OPEN TBA Cancelled G V BKB @ OPEN
8	9 TBA Cancelled G V BKB @ OPEN 5:30 PM G JH VB Visitation School-Kewanee	10 6:00 PM B FS BKB @ Galva Jr/Sr High School 7:30 PM B V BKB @ Galva Jr/Sr High School	11 TBA Cancelled G V BKB @ OPEN 5:30 PM G JH VB CO-OP ROWVA/Williamsfield	12 TBA B JH BKB @ OPEN 4:00 PM C V BWL @ Galva Jr/Sr High School 6:00 PM B FS BKB Ridgewood Coop 7:30 PM B V BKB Ridgewood Coop	13	14 TBA B V BKB @ OPEN TBA Cancelled G V BKB @ OPEN
15	16 NO SCHOOL PRESIDENTS' DAY TBA B V BKB @ OPEN TBA Cancelled G V BKB @ OPEN 5:30 PM G JH VB Galva Jr/Sr High School	17 TBA Cancelled G V BKB @ OPEN	18 TBA B V BKB @ OPEN 5:30 PM G JH VB @ United Junior High	19 TBA Cancelled G V BKB @ OPEN 4:00 PM C V BWL @ Alwood High School	20 TBA Cancelled G V BKB @ OPEN TBA G JH VB @ OPEN	21 TBA G JH VB @ OPEN
22	23 TBA B V BKB @ OPEN TBA G JH VB @ OPEN	24 TBA Cancelled G V BKB @ OPEN TBA G JH VB @ OPEN	25 TBA B V BKB @ OPEN TBA G JH VB @ OPEN	26 TBA Cancelled G V BKB @ OPEN TBA G JH VB @ OPEN 4:00 PM C V BWL Conference Tri	27 Dismissal 11:35 AM TBA B V BKB @ OPEN	28 TBA G JH VB @ OPEN TBA C V BWL @ OPEN

Annawan High School
2025 Fall Semester Honor Roll

High Honor Roll (3.6 or above):

Seniors: Lillie Bowen*, Ethan DeMay*, Gage Harden, Maddux Heitzler*, Tyra Jones*, Kyla Ledet, Elaine Maupin*, Caleb McCadden*, Landen Park*, Karsyn Rico*, Ryan Rosenow, Reilly Samolinski*, Audra Smith, Makayla Smith*, Bella Warren*, Aleigha Witte*

Juniors: Aaliyah Hayes*, Daniel Heston*, Aaron Jones, Jackson Nanninga*, Sophia Samolinski*, Drew Sherbeyn*, MaKenna VerKruyse*, Aaden VerStraete, Alexis Wilson*

Sophomores: Pierce Childs, Lauren Davis, Cole Dynes, Baylor Frankenreider, Tessa Gripp, Nathan Harker, Tiana Jones, Kaleb Klockenga, Elynn Manuel, Payson Shrum*, Miles Wied*

Freshmen: Alexander Attig, Josie Hakes, Ayvarie Parker, Lilly Sanders, Emmy Thompson

Honor Roll (3.1 to 3.5):

Seniors: Wyatt DeSplinter, Keagan Gradert, Elise Manuel, Nicaliah Thurston

Juniors: Owen Anderson, Gavin Gustafson, Kasen Specht, Lealla Steele

Sophomores: Kayden DeMuynck, Jaton Huber, Brody Schwenneker

Freshmen: Alaina Drinkall, Carson Jagers, Mason Medema, Lucian Steele

** denotes 4.0 GPA*

Annawan vs Visitation

Pink Night

Monday, February 9th, 2026
At Annawan @ 5:30pm

PLEASE WEAR PINK TO THE GAME!

- 50/50 Raffle
- $1 Serving Game between games

All proceeds will be donated in memory of Diane Savage and her fight against breast cancer.

ANNAWAN PRESCHOOL PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Now is the time to pre-register your child to be screened for preschool for next fall. Children must be 3 years old by Sept 1, 2026 to be eligible. The screening will be conducted in March 2026. All children must be screened to determine eligibility. Those who return this registration form will be contacted to set up a screening appointment.

IF YOUR CHILD IS ATTENDING PREK THIS YEAR THEY DO NOT NEED TO FILL OUT A FORM

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **Student's Legal Name: First:** _____ **Middle:** _____ **Last:** _____
- **Street Address & P.O. Box #** _____
  Town: _____
  County you reside in: _____
- **Birthdate:** _____ **Sex:** _____ **Male** _____ **Female**
- **Race: (check one)** _____**White** _____**Black/African American** _____**Hispanic/Latino** _____**Multi-racial**_____**Asian**_____**American Indian/Alaskan Natl.** _____**Native Hawaiian/Other**
- **Social Security Number:** _____ **Grade:** _____
- **Does anyone in your home speak a language other than English Yes** _____ **No** ____
  What language? _____
- **Does your child speak a language other than English? Yes** _____ **No** _____
  What language? _____

(Optional) Is either parent or guardian of the student a member of the military who is either currently deployed or expects to be deployed during the school year? Yes _____

- **Parent or Guardian:** _____
  Address: _____
  Primary Contact Number: _____
  Father's Name & Phone Number _____
- **Father Work Number & Employer:** _____
  Mother's Name & Phone Number _____
  Mother's Maiden Name: _____
- **Mother Work Number & Employer:** _____
- **Emergency Contact (someone other than parent/guardian):** _____
  Phone Number: _____
  Emergency Contact: _____
  Phone Number: _____
- **Doctor's Name:** _____
  Phone Number: _____
- **Allergies/Health Concerns** _____
  Does your child ride the bus? _____
- **I grant Annawan Unit 226 permission to seek medical attention for my son/daughter if I can not be contacted and to share the above health information with personnel who have a need to know.**
  Signature: _____
  Date: _____
- PARENT SIGNATURE _____

Please complete the entire form and return it to the Grade School office by Feb 27, 2026

IF YOUR CHILD IS ALREADY IN THE PROGRAM THEY ARE AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR.

The status of the program will depend upon receiving state funding for the 2026-27 school year.

Menus

School: Annawan Grade School
School: Annawan Grade School
Meal: All
Month: February 2026
Academic Year: 2025-26

February				
M	**Tu**	**W**	**Th**	**F**
2 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Pancake on a Stick Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Hot Dog on Bun Baked Beans or Fresh Veggies Peaches or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Egg and Cheese Burrito Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Tony's Cheese Pizza Mix Veggies or Fresh Veggies Pears or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	4 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Pop-Tart Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Chicken Strip Wrap Corn or Fresh Veggies Applesauce of Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	5 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Cinnamon Roll Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Tenderloin on Bun Green Beans or Fresh Veggies Mix Fruit or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	6 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Uncrustable Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH B.B.Q. Rib on Bun Oven Fries or Fresh Veggies Pineapple or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk
9 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Tony's Breakfast Pizza Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Max Cheese Stick Mix Veggies or Fresh Veggies Peaches or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	10 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Waffles & Sausage Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Pepperoni Pizza Corn or Fresh Veggies Pears or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	11 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Egg & Cheese Omelet with Potatoes & Toast Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Manwich on Bun Smiley Potatoes or Fresh Veggies Applesauce or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	12 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Biscuit and Gravy Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Crispy Chicken Patty on Bun Green Beans or Fresh Veggies Mix Fruit or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	13 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Mini Donuts Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Soft Shell Taco Refried Beans or Fresh Veggies Pineapple or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk
16	17 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Pancakes & Sausage Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Hamburger on Bun Oven Fries or Fresh Veggies Peaches or Fresh Fruit Choice Of Milk	18 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Egg & Cheese Biscuit Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup or Fresh Veggies Pears or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	19 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Egg & Cheese Burrito Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes/Gravy or Fresh Veggies Applesauce or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	20 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Mini Cinnis Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Pizza Hut (Cheese) Green Beans or Fresh Veggies Mix Fruit or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk
23 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST French Toast & Sausage Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Bosco Cheese Stick Corn or Fresh Veggies Peaches or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	24 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Tornado Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Crispitos Refried Beans or Fresh Veggies Pears or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	25 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Tony's Breakfast Pizza Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Side Salad or Fresh Veggies Applesauce or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	26 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Cinnamon Roll Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Corn Dog Baked Beans or Fresh Veggies Mix Fruit or Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	27 **Breakfast:** BREAKFAST Kitchens Choice Choice of Fruit Choice of Milk LUNCH Sack Lunch to Go Uncrustable Carrots Apple Choice of Milk