



ATTICA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

UPDATE

Winter 2026



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1ST GRADERS GO FOR GOLD AT MEASUREMENT OLYMPICS

The 2026 Winter Olympics were great and all, but you know what was even better?

Why, the MEASUREMENT Olympics, of course!

Before February Break and in honor of the Milan-Cortina games, first graders down at Attica Elementary participated in four events designed to test not only their athletic abilities, but their ability to measure their performance.

First graders competed in speed skating, long jump, curling and hockey, charting their performance after each event.

It was a great way to get our kiddos' blood, and brains, a pumpin'!

Scan the QR code above using the camera app on your smartphone to see highlights from the Measurement Olympics at Attica Elementary School.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Exciting Capital Improvement Project Progress



As the seasons begin to change, so too does our school district, with visible progress continuing on the capital improvement project approved by voters in May 2024.

Work began in earnest at the elementary school over Winter Recess, and I am pleased to share that Phase I is nearing completion on Prospect Street. This phase includes the creation of two new first-floor suites designed to enhance both safety and student support.

The new nurse's suite, located adjacent to the main entrance, will streamline the process for families picking up students, eliminating the need to enter the main school. Additionally, a centralized behavioral support suite will bring together our school counselor and psychologists, fostering stronger collaboration and more coordinated care for students.

As Phase I concludes, we will transition into Phase II. This next stage includes a comprehensive renovation of the elementary library and STEAM space, improvements to the parking lot and traffic flow for buses and parent pick-up/drop-off, and the addition of a new playground and covered outdoor canopy area.

Construction on the playground is anticipated to begin in April, while parking lot and traffic pattern improvements are scheduled for the summer months when school is not in session.

This spring, residents will also see the start of construction on a new maintenance facility. This 60' x 85' building, located south of the middle school parking lot near Alumni Field and the entrance to our

nature trail, will provide essential space for storing district vehicles and equipment, improving efficiency and long-term operations.

Looking ahead, the full capital project is expected to be completed by January 2027. When finished, our district will benefit from enhanced safety features, updated infrastructure, and modernized learning environments that better support student success.

I remain deeply grateful for the community's support in approving this project. Your investment reflects a shared commitment to our students and the future of our district. These improvements will not only create safer and more engaging spaces, but also expand opportunities for learning, innovation, and growth.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools, students, and staff.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kiel Illg
Superintendent of Schools



An artist's rendering of the new playground that will be installed at Attica Elementary School. We expect work to begin on this Phase II project element in April.



A look at progress on the new nurse's suite at Attica Elementary School, which will be located immediately adjacent to the main building entrance, eliminating the need for parents to enter the school proper when picking up their students.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS KICK UP THEIR BOOTS AT STUDENT COUNCIL DANCE



Photos courtesy of Elizabeth Kowalski and Mary Beth Brotherton-Hardie

Yee-haw! Our middle school student council put on a western-themed dance for our middle school students earlier this month and boy did our students have a rip-roarin' good time!

In addition to the line-dancing and mechanical bull rides, we also had a contest for the best-dressed cowpoke.

Congratulations to Jackson Bennett, our best-dressed cowboy, and to Callie Nikiel, our best-dressed cowgirl!

Oh, and let's not forget Bentley Geedy, who put up the longest bull ride of the evening at a whopping 55 seconds!

MEAT BIRD PROJECT COMES FULL CIRCLE



Photos courtesy of Alyssa Wright

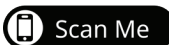
You may remember our intro to agriculture students' meat bird project that we highlighted back in October when the birds were being loaded up and taken to HLW Acres for processing.

Well earlier this month, students got to enjoy the final step of the process — preparing and cooking the chickens they helped raise!

Students worked together in our classroom kitchen to turn one of their chickens into two delicious dishes: Chicken wing dip and a chicken pot pie. Along the way, they practiced important life skills like food preparation, kitchen safety and teamwork while developing a more comprehensive understanding of where our food comes from.

"Experiences like this help students connect the entire process of food production — from raising livestock to preparing a meal," said Alyssa Wright, our intro to agriculture teacher. "It's always exciting to see their hard work come full circle and them get to enjoy the delicious results together!"

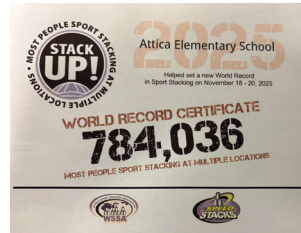
Did you miss our video highlighting students' meat bird project last October? Watch it on our YouTube channel by scanning the QR code at left using the camera app on your smartphone.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLERS HELP SET NEW WORLD RECORD



Photos courtesy of Shawn Fromwiller



How cool is this? Back in November, our elementary school students took part in the World Sport Stacking Association's Stack Up challenge in an attempt to set a new world record for most sport stackers in a three-day period.

Every single one of our elementary school students took part in this challenge during their physical education classes with Mr. Shawn Fromwiller or Mr. Anthony Ianni.

The world record attempt was successful with 784,036 stackers around the world and right here in Attica topping the old record of 752,632 by more than 30,000 - incredible!

Great job, Attica Elementary School, on helping set a new world record!

YOUNG LEARNERS CELEBRATE BIG MILESTONES

Students at Attica Elementary marked a pair of monumental milestones last month down on Prospect Street.

First up was Mrs. Audra Landis's kindergarten class who, on Monday, Feb 23, celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing up as 100-year-olds!

Landis's students also:

- Drew self portraits of what students will look like when they are 100 years old, adding wrinkles and white hair to these self portraits!
- Completed 100 exercises (jumping jacks, pushups, lunges, squats, star jumps)
- Worked in groups to stack 100 cups
- Played a partner game rolling dice and moving spaces to see who could get to 100 first
- Recorded observations of what a lollipop looks like after 100 licks
- Counted out 100 pieces of cereal and created Froot Loop necklaces

The following day - Tuesday, Feb. 24 - our first graders decided to get in on the action by celebrating the 101st day of school by dressing up as - you guessed it - the 101 dalmations!



Photos courtesy of Audra Landis, Marcia Danahy, Alyssa Allein and Dylah Fagan

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAM HEADED TO STATE FINALS



Photo courtesy of Stacey Donahue

and presenting a humorous performance about an original tall tale. The team was required to include in their tale a hero or heroine that performed an incredible feat, a unique explanation of how something began or came to be and a surprise for the audience. Team members also had to incorporate into their performance a visual weather effect to convey an emotion.

Join us in sending a huge congratulations to our Division 2 Problem 5 Odyssey of the Mind team for capturing second place at OM Regionals last month and punching their ticket to the New York State Finals in Syracuse!

This year's Problem 5, "The Taller Tales of John Jivery," tasked teams with creating

Our Division 2 Problem 5 team took second place with 268.02 points.

Congratulations to our Regionals team members Emma Hixon, Madelyn Meyer, Ellie Meyer, Amber Dykstra, Amara Brinkman and Clairra Devel on their second place finish!

Unfortunately, Emma is unable to attend the state finals but fortunately, new team member April Edwards hit the ground running. She's worked hard to memorize all of her lines within the last couple of weeks and has even helped the team tweak the script, scenery and costuming to make the overall performance even better!

Also competing in OM Regionals at Mount Morris Central Schools last month were:

- Our Division 2 Problem 2 team of Kayla Copeland, April Edwards, Ellie Keem, Phebe Wheeler and Charlotte Eddy, who took third place in the "Lost in OMERland" technical problem with 289.59 points.
- Our Division 1 Problem 3 team of Hannah Greis, Amelia Gallese, Madelyn Sabatino and Gavin Gross, who took second place in "The Epic Quest" classics problem with 327.10 points, missing out on first place by a mere 1.53 points!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHLETES CAPTURE 8TH STRAIGHT TITLE

Our middle school math team finished out the 2025-26 season on a high note last month as they earned a piece of the Interscholastic Math Competition title!

After the scores from their third and final meet at Genesee Community College were added to the scores from their previous two meets this season, our mathletes found themselves in a dead heat with Byron-Bergen atop the 9-team league.

Both teams earned a total of 295 points across their three meets and were named co-Interscholastic Math Competition champions.



Photo courtesy of Adam Landphair

Even more impressive than our team's first place finish? The fact that they've done so for 8 straight years - not too shabby, mathletes!

Congratulations to this year's middle school mathletes - eighth graders Karma Ollivierra, Eden Domes, Lucia Eddy, Ally Landphair and Faye Cannon and seventh graders Tatyana Ennis, Mason Pilc, Caden Morrison, Avery Nelson and Clairra Devel.

A TORNADO OF TALENT CAST, CREW SHINE IN 'THE WIZARD OF OZ'

Drama Club cast and crew came together on our Performing Arts Center stage in February for two incredible performances of L. Frank Baum's timeless classic, "The Wizard of Oz"!

Our students have been laboring since last November to pull this challenging show off and boy did they deliver on every front.

The singing, the dancing and the acting was all top tier and a true reflection not only of the talent of our students, but of their hard work and dedication.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended one (or both) of our performances and supported this incredible group of students, directors, choreographers, costume designers and Munchkin-wranglers - we appreciate you!



Scan the QR code above using the camera app on your smartphone to see part of the sneak peek our cast and crew performed for their fellow students before opening night.



HEARTBEAT OF ATTICA

ASKING QUESTIONS AND TAKING RISKS



Photos courtesy of Laura Steves

Students are pictured gluing down their Dada style collage poems. Some students were given random items from around the art room and some were given strange places within the room to glue their poem down for an exquisitely chaotic experience.



Students in Ms. Steves' Studio In Art classes are diving into one of the most unusual and rebellious movements in modern art: Dada. Artists of this movement, which began as a response to World War I, challenged the very definition of art. Instead of focusing on traditional beauty or technical skill, Dada artists embraced humor, absurdity, and experimentation as a way to question the society around them.

Their goal was simple but radical: Shake up the art world and encourage people to think differently about creativity.

In the classroom, students are exploring these ideas through hands-on projects inspired by Dada techniques. Using magazines,

newspapers and everyday objects, they experiment with collage, randomly-generated poetry and performance art. These projects encourage creativity, risk-taking and a willingness to see ordinary materials in unexpected ways.

The unit also sparks lively discussion among students about a question that artists and audiences have debated for more than a century: What makes something art? By exploring Dada's playful and unconventional spirit, students discover that art can be thought-provoking, humorous, and even a little strange.

Units like this highlight how art education encourages students not only to develop creative skills, but also to think critically, challenge assumptions and express their own perspectives. Sometimes, the most meaningful creativity begins when students are invited to break the rules.

Ms. Steves would like to thank her colleagues, many of whom were unexpected audiences to several performances of "DADADADADADADA" during their classes throughout the week of the Dada Art unit.

Thank you for being good sports and for being a safe space where these students felt comfortable enough to stand up in the middle of class and perform a chaotic Dada 'poem' for you and the rest of the class!

WINTER SPORTS

BOYS INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Our varsity boys squad took 6th place at the Rochester Winter Track League Championships at SUNY Brockport and 3rd at the Section V Class B2 Championships at RIT.

Leading the way for the Blue Devils at sectionals was senior Tim Lamparelli, who took 1st in the shot put and 2nd in the weight throw and traveled to Staten Island earlier this month to compete in shot put at the New York State Indoor Track & Field Championships.

Preston Bannister was also a sectional champion for the Blue Devils as he cleared 11 feet to capture the pole vault event.

Eli Lathigee took third in both the 55-meter hurdles (8.87) and high jump (5 feet, 11 inches) at RIT and was also 5th in the long jump with a distance of 19 feet, 2 inches.

Tim, Preston and Eli were named GRAA All-Stars.



GIRLS INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Our varsity girls squad took 8th at the Rochester Winter Track League Championships at SUNY Brockport and 9th at the Section V Class B2 Championships at RIT.

The Blue Devils saw several prominent performances at sectionals, including from:

- Lauren Nelson, who took 1st in pole vault, clearing 9 feet, 6 inches.
- Addyson Zawilski, who took 4th in long jump with a distance of 16 feet, 6 inches, and 6th in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 9.92.
- Blakely Pratt, who took 4th in triple jump (32 feet, 8 inches) and 7th in long jump (15 feet, 8 inches).

Lauren and Addyson were named GRAA All-Stars.



Scan the QR code at left using the camera app on your smartphone to see Tim Lamparelli's Walk of Champions before leaving for the New York State Indoor Track & Field Championships.



COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING

Our varsity cheer squad put up first place finishes at Mercy's Paws Up, Gates-Chili's Spartan Showdown and Honeoye Falls-Lima's Cougar Classic competitions.

After a disappointing showing at the GRAA Championships, the Blue Devils bounced back at the Section V Class D1 Championships, taking 4th place among 11 competing teams.

"Overall, we had a great season," said Head Coach Teri Wildey. "We had a few ups and downs, but as a team we pulled through everything and our season ended very well."

Ella Lewinski and Casey Salmon were named Genesee Region All-Stars while Ella was also selected to participate in the Ronald McDonald All-Star Game.



Photo courtesy of Teri Wildey



Photo courtesy of Brennan Bezon

BOYS BASKETBALL

Our varsity boys basketball team went 7-13 this season, losing to Red Creek, 52-59, in the first round of the Section V Class B2 tournament.

"Our team had quite the mix of players on it this year with four seniors, four juniors and four sophomores," said Head Coach Rob Crowley. "All of the boys worked hard throughout the season. Our four seniors, Isaac Herman, Josh Diehl, Rocco Soccio and Miguel Cebrian Pena, will be missed and we want to thank them for all their hard work and effort over the years. At the same time, I know our younger guys are ready to put the work in to come back ready to improve next season."

One of the highlights of the season was when our team traveled to Cleveland in December

to take on Alexander in an exhibition game at Rocket Arena, home of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

While the game didn't go as our squad hoped - the team lost, 44-58 to the Trojans - our boys enjoyed the trip and the once-in-a-lifetime experience of playing in an NBA arena.

While in Cleveland, our boys took in some of the downtown sights, enjoyed a meal together and took in the Cleveland Cavaliers-Chicago Bulls game immediately before their own.

Blake Kines was selected as a Genesee Region League All-Star and was selected to the Attica Holiday Tournament All-Tournament Team. He finished with 18 points and nearly 13 rebounds per game on the season.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Our varsity girls basketball team went 3-17 this season, losing to Mynderse, 20-56, in the first round of the Section V Class B2 tournament.

A season highlight was our squad's 50-48, double-overtime win over Kendall. With the Feb. 5 win, the Blue Devils avenged a blowout, 13-51 loss to the Eagles from earlier in the season.

This year's squad was led by Meghan Gersitz, who finished the season averaging 7.2 points and 11.5 rebounds per game.

Other key contributors were Alyssa Elmore (6.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg) and Corrin Orłowski (6.3 ppg, 7 rpg).



Photos courtesy of Brennan Bezon

WRESTLING



It was a successful season for our joint, Attica-Batavia varsity wrestling team, which won the Monroe County Division 3 League Championship, put up a regular season record of 10-7 and took 5th place at the Section

V Class A2 Championships in Spencerport.

"We had impressive wins over Eden, who was Section VI's small school state dual meet representative," said Head Coach Lance Bannister. "We also defeated Section VI's 4th ranked large school Orchard Park.

Leading the way this season were Micheal Minter, who won 18 matches and placed 6th at sectionals at 132 lbs; Blake Donohue, who won 28 matches at 118 and 126 lbs and captured first at the Ken-Ton Invitational at 118 lbs; and Preston Bannister, who won 31 matches at 126 and 132 lbs to bring his career wins total to 121, and was named a Monroe County All-Star for the third time.



Photos courtesy of Mark Gutman/
Batavia Daily News

WINTER SPORTS

BOYS SWIMMING

Perseverance. That's the word that comes to Head Coach Heather Smith's mind when she thinks back on the boys varsity swim season.

"This season wasn't just about times on the board or places on the podium," Smith said. "It was about early mornings when the water felt colder than usual. It was about pushing through tough sets when their bodies wanted to stop. It was about showing up, every single day. Even when progress felt slow."

Each of our five team members - Brielle Baker, Matthew Donohue, Sam Dunlap, Makayla

Kurtowicz and Emmett Vincton - grew by leaps and bounds this season and not just as swimmers, but as teammates and as young men and women.

"The times will fade, but the perseverance this team built in this pool will carry into classrooms, careers and life," Smith said. "I hope they're proud of the work they put in and what they achieved - I certainly am."

A huge congratulations to Sam Dunlap who took third place in the 50-yard freestyle (23.51) and 3rd place in the 100-yard freestyle (51.07) at the Section V Class C Championships in Webster.



Photo courtesy of Heather Smith

As a team, our varsity boys squad placed 4th in the Genesee Region and 11th in Class C.

Sam was named a Genesee Region All-Star while Makayla earned an honorable mention recognition.



Photo courtesy of Heather Smith

GIRLS SWIMMING

This season was a testament to dedication, growth and resilience, said Head Coach Heather Smith.

"From the first day of practice to the final meet, the commitment to improvement was evident," she said. "Throughout the season, there was noticeable progress both in and out of the water. Technique became more refined, endurance improved, and race strategies grew smarter and more confident. Time drops and new PRs reflected the hard work put in at practice, but even more impressive was the mental growth this team displayed."

Our girls team placed 6th overall in the Genesee Region and swam away with two All-Stars: Junior Nadia Wesolowski and senior Madelyn Burger. Freshman Quinn Jerge received an honorable mention recognition.

Madelyn and Nadia also led the way for the Blue Devils at the GRNO Championships in February. Madelyn took 13th in the 200-yard freestyle (2:35.94) and 21st in the 100-yard freestyle (1:11.47) while Nadia took 19th in the 50-yard freestyle (21.22) and 18th in the 100-yard freestyle (1:11.23).

With just one senior - Madelyn Burger - set to graduate, Smith said she's excited about next season and what the future holds for Attica's girls swim program.

"The progress we made sets a strong foundation for future goals," Smith said. "With continued focus, discipline, and passion, the next season holds even greater potential."

COMMITTEE CONTINUING WORK ON DISTRICTWIDE GRADING RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the past few months, members of our grading review committee have met multiple times to continue their discussions of how to improve our district's student grading practices.

This committee was born of our district's strategic plan, finalized in July 2025, explained Matt Stroud, our district's director of curriculum, instruction and technology.

"One of the things that emerged from that strategic planning process was a commitment to looking at our grading policies and developing a set of guidelines and best practices," said Stroud. "Basically, we want to make sure we're being intentional about why we're grading and

how we're grading and do a better job of communicating that to our families."

Past committee meetings have centered on examining the current research and best practices related to student grading.

The committee's been working with Stephanie Burns and Jessica Petrosino, members of the Genesee Valley BOCES School Improvement Team, on the effort.

"They've got a lot of experience and expertise in this area that they've been able to bring to bear for us," said Stroud.

TRAINING ADDRESSES YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

continued from page 10

Now that the committee has a firm understanding of best practices, members have been turning their attention to compiling data about current grading practices at Attica's elementary, middle and high school levels.

"We'll be comparing it to the research and seeing what areas we can improve and where we're good," Stroud said.

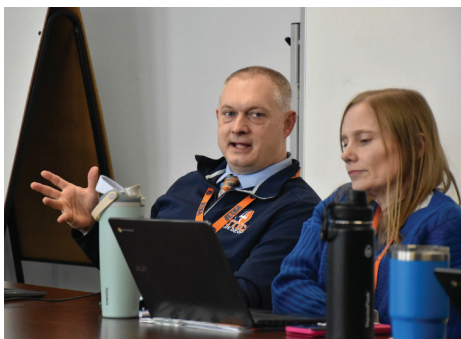
The committee is scheduled to meet again in early April and plans on releasing its recommendations shortly thereafter, sometime this spring.

It's important to note, said Stroud, that decisions about whether to adopt potential changes to grading policies recommended by the committee will be up to school principals and building leadership teams.

"What we're not doing is implementing a top down, one size fits all grading approach," he said. "As a committee, we're going to be offering recommendations. It'll be up to our individual school buildings whether they want to implement those recommendations and to what extent."

Before that April meeting however, the committee will be reviewing feedback from students, teachers, parents and student caregivers collected via online surveys and in-person focus groups.

"What it comes down to is that grading is the primary tool we have to communicate to students and families about their progress in school," said Stroud. "We want to make sure they understand what grades are showing and that when we grade, we're capturing what our students know and are able to do as accurately as possible."



During their Jan. 23 professional learning day, nearly three dozen faculty and staff assembled in the multipurpose room down at Attica Elementary for a training on how to become mental health first responders.

This professional learning opportunity helped give our staff the tools to recognize signs of mental health challenges, offer initial support and connect individuals with professionals within our school community who can help.

As teachers see and interact with their students on a daily basis, they're well-positioned to notice signs and changes that could be indicative of mental health challenges and take action to help our students address those challenges.

Liesl Schoonraad, a program coordinator with the Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center, led the training, which covered everything from commonly diagnosed mental disorders to the spectrum of interventions for those confronting mental health challenges.

One of our strategic plan commitments is to ensure that all faculty and staff are trained in this area and this training is an important step in strengthening student and staff well-being across our district.



Photo courtesy of Alecia Kaus

We're proud to announce our district is a 2026 recipient of the Genesee Valley School Boards Association's Excellence in Student Services Award!

The award was presented Jan. 24 during Genesee Valley BOCES's annual Legislative Leadership Day at Letchworth Central Schools in recognition of our district's Fresh Connections Club.

The club, which launched in 2024, brings middle school students together every couple of weeks after school to plant, harvest, prepare and enjoy food as a means of building connections to local ingredients and producers while gaining practical life skills through hands-on learning.

Club advisors Becky Sphar and Jenelle Bauer accepted the award last month alongside Attica Middle School Principal Paul Clark.

"Winning this award means a lot because it recognizes the heart of what Fresh Connections is really about," said Sphar, a family and consumer sciences teacher. "The club exists to help students build meaningful connections to food, to their community, and to one another.

CLUB EARNS 'STUDENT SERVICES' AWARD

"The impact has been incredibly positive," added Bauer, a special education teacher. "Students gain confidence, learn practical skills, and feel a real sense of belonging and pride in what they're creating together."

The club is currently supported through farm to school grant secured by the district and while the exact timeline and long-term funding plan are still being determined, the goal is to sustain the spirit and impact of Fresh Connections well beyond the grant period.

Sphar and Bauer also praised their fellow club advisors, teachers assistants Melissa Brooks and Bethany Smith, as well as Meaghan Matuszak, our district's assistant superintendent of business and operations, for making the club such a success.

"Meaghan's leadership in securing the funding for this program and the continued guidance and support she provides has been invaluable," said the pair. "Just as important has been the encouragement from our administration, along with the support of parents and community members, whose involvement and belief in our students have truly helped the club grow and thrive."

FFA COMPETES AT DISTRICTS



Attica FFA members headed to Letchworth Central Schools last month to compete in New York FFA's District 9 competitions.

Their hard work, dedication, and confidence truly paid off as we had several members place highly in their chosen events:

- **Addison Day:** 1st place, Sr. Creed-Speaking
- **Sam Zawilski:** 2nd place, Jr. Creed-Speaking
- **Liesel Hyman:** 5th place, Jr. Creed-Speaking

- **Evelyn King:** 7th place, Jr. Creed-Speaking
- **Norah Sphar:** 6th place, Jr. Creed-Speaking
- **Caden Morrison:** 2nd place, Jr. Extemporaneous-Speaking

With their strong showings at districts, Caden, Addison, Norah, Liesel and Sam also qualified for the Western Region Sub-States competition at Alfred State College in March. Best of luck to them!

2 REP ATTICA AT STATE FFA CONVENTION

Last month, two of our Attica FFA members, Addison Day and Madelyn Burger, headed to Albany for the New York FFA's State Leaders' Experience.

In our state capitol, Addison and Madelyn learned about ag issues and solutions and how they can be a voice for agriculture.

They also had the opportunity to meet and talk with other representatives of other FFA chapters from across New York and share ideas with them.

The pair even had the chance to meet with a few state legislators to discuss ag and ideas of how to improve our Attica chapter along with our county.



Photo courtesy of Alyssa Wright

PANCAKE BREAKFAST, SPRING RAFFLE RAISES \$7,300



Thank you to everyone who came out to support Attica FFA's annual Pancake Breakfast and Attica Partners for Agriculture's Spring Raffle last month!

More than 340 amazing community members were served at the breakfast thanks to the hard work of our nearly 40 dedicated FFA students who helped cook, serve, and clean up with smiles on their faces.

A huge thank you to our community - your support means the world to our chapter and helps make opportunities like this possible for our students. We're so lucky to be part of such a supportive community - thank you for showing up for FFA!

Another thank you to our amazing parents and community supporters who helped keep the kitchen running smoothly throughout the morning.

From flipping pancakes to organizing and jumping in wherever needed, your support behind the scenes made the entire morning a success. We truly couldn't have done it without you!

And one final thank you to the Attica Partners for Agriculture, who chose to donate all the proceeds from its spring raffle to our FFA program - an incredibly generous gesture!



Photos courtesy of Alyssa Wright/Attica FFA

MAPLE SEASON ARRIVES

Sap is flowing here on our Attica Central Schools campus!

Before February Recess, FFA members headed out into the woods behind our middle and high schools and ran 500 feet of mainline to and fro among the 100 or so trees they tap.

In 2023 - the most recent year FFA recorded production - our district's taps produced 26 gallons of maple syrup, so we're hoping to top that this year!



ATTICA FEATURED IN USDA AD CAMPAIGN



This past August, USDA sent a team to Attica to interview students, staff and local food producers about our district's food service program and educational offerings. The result of that summertime trip is the video linked at the QR code below!

"This funding has been a boon to our district's food service program and has not only allowed us to continue promoting a culture of healthy eating within our schools, but enabled a variety of experiential and hands-on learning opportunities for our students in everything from agriculture to horticulture to the culinary arts," said Meaghan Matuszak, Attica's Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations. "We're incredibly grateful to USDA not only for its generous grant funding, but for choosing to highlight our district. We've got some pretty amazing people and programs here in Attica and we're thrilled that more people are going to know about it!"



The U.S. Department of Agriculture chose to highlight Attica Central Schools as a grant recipient through its Supporting Community Agriculture and Local Education Systems, or SCALES, program!

USDA awarded our district a \$150,000 SCALES grant back in 2024 after a highly competitive application process that saw just 12 school districts across the country receive funding,



In making its funding decisions, USDA prioritized districts that were committed to building partnerships across "all aspects of the food system, including growers and producers, food distributors and processors, and businesses that facilitate purchasing and preparation."



Scan the QR code at left using the camera app on your smartphone to see USDA's video highlighting our district's ag education programming.

ALUMNI PANEL OFFERS STUDENTS REAL WORLD ADVICE

We welcomed a few familiar faces back to Attica earlier this school year to speak with our students about life after high school.

Attica alum assembled in the high school library for a Lunch & Learn to share with our current students a bit about their experiences following their first semester of college.

Some tips shared our alumni shared were:

- Make a routine to help with your transition.
- When looking at schools and careers consider what's best for YOU.
- Be sure to incorporate time for studying but also time for yourself.
- AI is a great tool but you cannot use it as the end all be all - you will get caught and it really just cheats you out of getting the education you're spending money on.

Thank you to all our alumni for stopping by:

- **Catharine Struzik:** St. John Fisher University
- **Lily Wheeler:** Genesee Community College



Photo courtesy of Dustin Gardner

- **Victor Santos-Rios:** Rochester Institute of Technology
- **Noah Attebery:** University at Buffalo
- **Zoey Berggren:** Syracuse University
- **Nolan Rzepka:** Alfred State College
- **Josh Kubik:** SUNY Canton

'SOMETHING GOOD' VIDEO SHOOTS HELP SPARK GRATITUDE IN MIDDLE, HIGH SCHOOLS



On a couple of occasions over the past few months, we've set up a camera and a microphone in our middle and high school hallways along with a sign bearing a simple message: "Tell us something good that happened recently."

We started in the high school in early December, filming students' responses to the prompt and posting the results in a pair of videos. Our community's response to these was so overwhelmingly positive, we decided to head down to the middle school the following month

to learn about some of the good things going on in our younger students' lives, and the results were no less compelling!

This was an incredibly rewarding endeavor and helped remind our students (and us) that, no matter what challenges you're grappling with or how the world looks, the chances are there's a lot of good things in your life to be grateful for, too.

A special shout out to Monroe Local Schools in Monroe, Ohio, whose 'Something Good' video was featured on The Today Show and inspired us to create our own 'Something Good' videos here in Attica.



Scan Me

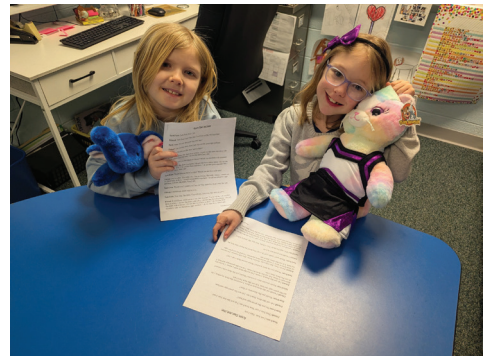
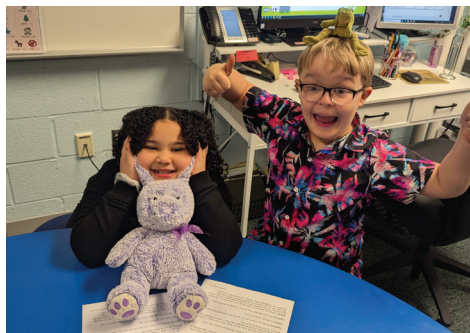
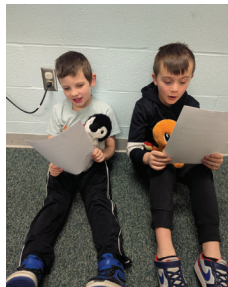
We hope you'll head on over to our YouTube channel by scanning the QR code to the left using the camera app on your smartphone and see some of the good things going on in our students' lives!

READING TAKES CENTER STAGE AT ATTICA ELEMENTARY

The first week of March was Reading Week down at Attica Elementary and boy did our students take full advantage to get in as much reading as they possibly could!

Here's a look at just SOME of the fun stuff our students got up to:

- Throughout the week, our students met up with their book buddies in different grade levels to read together.
- The first floor bulletin board across from the library was filled with photos of our teachers and staff hiding their faces behind the book they're currently reading. It was up to our students to see if they could guess which teacher or staff member was hiding behind the book they're reading.
- Classroom teachers surprised their students each day with DEAR, or drop everything and read, time where, at the drop of a hat, students - you guessed it - dropped everything and read for 15 or 20 minutes.
- Tuesday was Read to a Furry Friend Day and students were encouraged to bring in a stuffed animal from home to read to during DEAR time.
- Throughout the week, we welcomed more than a dozen guest readers into the library to do read-alouds for our students.
- Thanks to the generosity of the Attica Elementary Parent Teacher Group, our students were able to choose a free book to take home! PTG volunteers set up a few tables laden with books and classes came down Thursday and Friday to have students pick one out. Such a wonderful opportunity for our kiddos - many thanks to our PTG for making it possible!
- A special shout out has to go to our food service staff, who arranged a special menu for Reading Week so that each day's lunch options aligned to a different children's book! For example, Thursday, students enjoyed tacos in a bag at lunch to align with the popular children's book, "Dragons Love Tacos," by Adam Rubin.



Photos courtesy of Julie Miller and Melanie Loranty

SOPHOMORES PUT UP STRONG SHOWING AT WINTER PEP RALLY

Shout out to our class of 2028, which earned the comfortable, 200-150 win over our seniors at our winter pep rally last month.

Our four high school classes went head-to-head (-to-head-to-head) across five distinct events - the class cheer, musical chairs, an inflatable mattress relay race, a rock-paper-scissors relay and knockout (the basketball, not the boxing, one).



Scan Me

Scan the QR code above using the camera app on your smartphone for highlights from our high school's winter pep rally last month.

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