



Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools

Home of the Warriors



DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



District News

Classroom News

Activity News

MR. ROBERT DREWS - SUPERINTENDENT

MR. RUDY PEREZ - 7-12 PRINCIPAL & ACTIVITY DIRECTOR | **MR. BEN ELLIS** - PK-6 PRINCIPAL

MRS. LEANDRA MONIE - COUNSELOR | **MR. DUSTIN KRONHOFMAN** - ATHLETIC & ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

www.arapahoewarriors.org

District News with Mr. Drews



AHPS Students and Patrons,

We are very near to the end of our first semester for the 25-26 school year, which means there are a lot of things on the table for 26-27 school year planning. The first draft of the calendar is coming together, and we have a tentative schedule for secondary students to put their course requests in the system soon after returning from the holiday break. But perhaps the most important part of our planning process for the following school year will be the budgeting process. I have created a number of possible budgets for next year, one of which will become the most feasible after our special election on January 13, 2026.

The AHPS Board of Education has scheduled an election to request permission from our patrons to stretch property tax authority by \$750,000 for the upcoming year. This will help us dig out of the hole we were pushed into by the Unicameral back in 2023. We've exhausted most of our savings, and need to rebuild that part of the fiscal picture to be able to just to pay our regular bills without being forced to borrow money. Approval of this request will mean we can be on solid financial footing within 3-4 years, and should be able to keep offering a quality education for our students. If the measure fails, we will still be able to work our way out of the predicament, but it will take quite a few more years, and restrictions on our spending will probably mean some cuts to programming or services in the meantime. Those actions might curtail options we have to serve our kids, and would most likely make some patrons unhappy.

The Board has pledged to get us back to a healthy financial status, while keeping any required cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. They don't want to consider any reductions in staff for the certified or classified personnel, and have shown that the last few years with smaller reductions in other areas. With 60% or more voter approval, we can stay away from those reductions and keep our programs and facilities in the great shape they are today. If you are a registered voter in our district, watch for your ballot after December 22, as the county has determined this to be a mail-in special election. We need everyone to participate in this process to let the board know what direction the public prefers.

District News with Mr. Drews (cont'd)



On a completely separate note, the holiday season is upon us, so I encourage everyone to pause and realize how many reasons we have to be thankful. Appreciate the many opportunities there are to share our time, talents and gifts with one another. We all go through struggles, but we all have blessings in our lives as well. Enjoy your Thanksgiving break, and then enjoy the remaining holiday season by giving smiles to one another and making sure people know that you care about them. On behalf of the faculty and staff at Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools, I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to starting another calendar year on a positive note with all the great educators and students we have at Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools!

**Robert Drews
Superintendent
Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools**



Elementary News

Principal's Message

Hello Warrior Nation,

As December approaches, Mrs. Klein is busy preparing for the Book Fair again. The fair will run from Dec. 1st – Dec. 5th. This is a perfect time for families to come in and look over all the great books at the book fair. Reading is the building block upon which all other knowledge is built. It's important for students to have a strong foundation in reading skills. One way to accomplish that goal is to instill a love of reading at an early age. Mrs. Klein has set a goal of selling 250 books. If students meet this goal, then each class will be able to select their own fun dress up day. Mrs. Klein will also be cruising the halls and stopping into classrooms with her Woot Woot Wagon to give students prizes!



Speaking of December, Mrs. Leising has been working hard to prepare our students for the annual Christmas program. This year the program will be Thursday, December 11th at 7:00pm.

Christmas Break will be here before we know it! There will be a 1:30pm dismissal on Tuesday, December 23rd which also marks the end of Quarter 2 / Semester 1. School will resume on Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Wishing everyone the best this holiday season!

Go Wannions!
Mr. Ellis
Elementary Principal

Principal's Perspective with Mr. Perez

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and things at APS are ramping up for the Winter Sports and Activities. We have had a pretty successful first semester and have many new programs and activities that are being implemented.

Mrs. Hoefs has gotten our junior high students involved in the Junior High Math Counts Competition. They have started to practice and are getting ready for their first competition. We wish them the best of luck.

The District MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) team is developing a District-wide program for our students. They have made progress and hope to roll it out during the second semester. It will be a great addition to the other APS programs. The areas of focus will be Respect, Responsibility and Integrity.

We will also be implementing our Warrior Tribe Families during the second semester. The Tribes will be made of students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade that are randomly selected and will be matched to two certified and on classified staff members. The focus of this program will be to provide a cohesive school made up of many families.

Finally, the High School Quiz Bowl team will host a Trivia Night on December 6th at 7:00 pm. The cost of participating will be \$40 per team. Each team will consist of 4 members. If you cannot get enough people to develop a team, come anyway and you will be placed with a team. Food and drinks will be provided, COme join the fun!

Don't forget to attend our 7th-12th grade Crstimas concert on December 22 at 7:00 pm!

Counselor's Corner with Mrs. LeAndra Monie

Greetings Warrior Nation,

It seems that when we arrive at this point in time, I find myself wondering, "How did the first semester slip by so quickly? As always, life can be pretty busy in the counselor's office. In October, the Student Council put together a wonderful week of mental awareness activities which I had the opportunity to be part of. The final week in October is always Red Ribbon Week which focuses on drug awareness and dangers. The members of the junior class were given the ASVAB test on October 29 and the sophomores took the Pre-ACT test on November 6th.

A representative from the Education Quest office in Kearney was here during the afternoon of November 5th and worked with several parents in completing their FAFSA form.

Juniors and Seniors who are interested in taking early college classes through Central Community College next semester can and should be enrolling now in order to get spots for classes they want before they are full. They can stop in to my office and I will help them get that done. Information regarding local scholarships will be made available after the first of the year.

Counselor's Corner with Mrs. LeAndra Monie (cont'd)

As I probably mentioned earlier, I am teaching a quarter-long junior high career exploration class. I was able to secure grant money from Education Quest in order to take our junior high students to a college visit at UNK on December 3rd. Students will get to see the different departments, the student union, library, and even eat at the student cafeteria. This trip will involve students from the Quarter 1 and 2 career classes. Another trip will be scheduled for students in Quarter 3 and 4 in the Spring.

The Elementary Leadership team has been busy this fall this fall facilitating a Halloween kindness challenge called We've Been Booed and they participated in the Veteran's Day Program. I'm sure you will find them facilitating some type of Christmas activity in December as well.

In the business of winter sports, semester finals, and Christmas parties, I would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas season.

Mrs Monie

WORDS FROM WINNIE

Merry Christmas Warriors! It's me again-Warrior Winnie the Therapy Dog! The other day I was reading an article published by Love and Logic. This is a company started by Charles Fay that works in the area of parenting as well as education and stresses the concept of natural consequences. You may be wondering—this dog reads? Yep, sure do. I just don't have opposable thumbs so typing is hard. Anyway, I wanted to pass along some well-written information from an article titled, Teaching Kids Accountability and Self-Control.

There seems to be an epidemic of entitlement in kids. When kids are held captive by the beast of entitlement, they must be encouraged to take positive risks that provide opportunities to develop different beliefs. The only way to see the benefits of personal responsibility is by doing something positive and experiencing the intrinsic joy it provides. Entitled children must also experience difficulties so they learn that they can overcome challenges through perseverance. Here are some examples of how you can help your kids shift from a sense of entitlement to healthy expectations.

Expect Kids to Solve Their Problems

Whenever kids encounter difficulties, ask lots of questions like, "What do you think you're going to do?" and "What's your plan?" You can also add, "I'm interested to see how you solve this." As kids experience challenges, convey the expectation that they will work through them. This will prevent them from expecting someone else to solve all their problems.

Expect Kids to Contribute

Chores are the #1 antidote to entitlement. Kids who contribute appreciate what they have and are far less likely to take the contributions of others for granted. Get them contributing to the household and family, and watch entitlement disappear.

Expect Kids to Earn the Things They Get

This doesn't mean we don't give kids gifts or commit unsolicited acts of love. But for things they often ask for, we can ask how they plan to pay for them or earn them. From purchases, to playing sports, to driving, avoid making things free. Instead, expect kids to work to earn all or part and see if they don't appreciate those things the most.

When kids expect others to solve their problems, entitlement grows. One of the most effective ways to shift that mindset is by giving kids the tools to think for themselves.



Tech Tip - How To:

- **View Activity Calendar**

1. Use the following link:

<https://www.rpac-ne.org/public/genie/751/school/2/>

- **Subscribe/Sync Activity Calendar to iCal & Google Calendar**

iCal - Apple (Mac/iPhone)

1. Open the Calendar App on your Apple device

2. Add a new calendar subscription:

a. (Mac) File->New Calendar Subscription

b. (iPhone) Calendars → Add Calendar → New Calendar From Subscription

3. Past the following link (including webcal://):

- **webcal://srv2-**

advancedview.rschooltoday.com/public/conference/ical/u/3e338ee18220e2ad82bbd0aa1df40552

4. Click Subscribe

5. It will load/sync the activity calendar and will then let you change some settings (name, color, refresh rate)

6. *Mine defaulted to refresh every week, I'd switch this to daily.

Tech Tip - How To:

• Subscribe/Sync Activity Calendar to iCal & Google Calendar

Google Calendar (Android)

1. Open Google Calendar on a Desktop Browser on your Computer and sign into your main Google Account
a. <https://calendar.google.com/>
2. On the left-hand side menu scroll all the way to the bottom to 'Other Calendars' and click the '+' sign and choose 'From URL' and paste the full link below:
 - `webcal://srv2-advancedview.rschooltoday.com/public/conference/ical/u/3e338ee18220e2ad82bbd0aa1df40552`
3. Click 'Add calendar'
4. You can then edit the Name and Color of the calendar
5. Then, you can click the menu button on your calendar app on your phone, then click on your email you used to import the calendar and make sure the School calendar is checked. If you still don't see them you may have to click 'Sync Now' to resync after making the changes.

Tech Tip - How To:

- **View/Print Specific Season Schedules (Web)**

1. Go to the Activity Calendar Site
 - <https://www.rpac-ne.org/public/genie/751/school/2/>
2. Click 'View Schedules' on the right-hand side
3. Check your desired sport/activity or choose as many as you wish
4. Click 'View'
5. Click the 'Print' icon and print the generated schedule

***You can also watch/follow this tutorial video as well that goes through all the steps above:**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g4CT7jQVQ-JCrpEAEAAa95GnI_Sm-MB8/view?usp=sharing

Mrs. Bergquist

Beginning Speech

Ms. Bergquist's English Classes have been learning to organize and write a five paragraph paper. We started the year with one simple paragraph organized around a topic sentence, details which support the topic sentence, and a summary sentence. We are now learning to combine our topic into a more detailed and structured five paragraph format. For our topics, we are using the John Wooden Pyramid of Success.

Wooden, author of the book, *They Call Me Coach* used his famous Pyramid of success in developing the character of his players throughout his long and successful basketball coaching career at UCLA. Each week we use one character trait from the pyramid to explore how specific positive traits impact our daily decisions - and ultimately our lifelong success.

For example, on Monday, we introduce the character trait and discuss what that trait means as well as how it looks in our life. One recent block is Self-Control. Wooden's definition emphasizes: (1) Self Control is control over our emotions, (2) our emotional control is always on display, and (3) good judgement and common sense are essential to achieving self control. We discuss examples of how self control might look and how lack of self control might look in our everyday lives. This becomes the thesis paragraph of our paper.

On Tuesdays, we write a paragraph about a time when we did not exercise self control and the outcomes of this choice. Wednesdays bring a paragraph about a time when we did choose to exhibit self control and how this experience turned out for the better. Thursday's paragraph is about what we have observed about self control by watching the choices and experiences of those around us. The final paragraph is a summary of why self control is important and what it says about us as individuals or as a society.

I urge you to read some of these very enlightening, thought provoking, and interesting pieces of work. Your students are so very observant.

Writing is vital to critical thinking. We gain a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us by reading, writing, and discussing. Being able to think and then express those thoughts simply and clearly is vital to communication. Communication is vital to human relationships. Human relationships are vital to harmonious living.

George Orwell once said, "If people cannot write well, they cannot think well, and if they cannot think well, others will do their thinking for them."

Arapahoe Student Council: Semester Highlights & What's Next!

**THE WARRIOR STUDENT COUNCIL HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK THIS YEAR
BRINGING SCHOOL SPIRIT, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE TO LIFE!**

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR:

HOMECOMING WEEK: STUCO PLANNED AND LED AN EXCITING SPIRIT WEEK, THEMED DRESS-UP DAYS, AND A MEMORABLE HOMECOMING DANCE.

TRIBAL TOKENS PROGRAM: OUR REPRESENTATIVES CREATED AND PRESENTED THE "TRIBAL TOKENS" ACADEMIC INCENTIVE PROPOSAL TO ADMINISTRATION — AN IDEA THAT CELEBRATES STUDENT EFFORT, LEADERSHIP, AND SCHOOL PRIDE.

BOARD MEETING BREAKFAST: STUCO OFFICERS HOSTED A SPECIAL BREAKFAST AND PRESENTATION FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, SHOWCASING STUDENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES AND SCHOOL CLIMATE GOALS.

FUNDRAISERS & SERVICE: WE RAN OUR FIRST HOT CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER DURING THE FALL MONTHS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH.

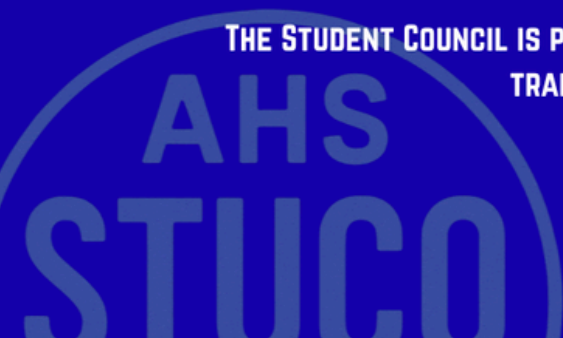
THANKSGIVING CANNED FOOD DRIVE: STUDENT COUNCIL ORGANIZED A SCHOOL-WIDE COLLECTION (PRE-K THROUGH 12TH GRADE) TO SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED, WITH THE WINNING CLASS EARNING AN ICE CREAM PARTY!

WHAT'S COMING UP:

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION PROJECTS: OUR GOAL IS TO CONTINUE CONNECTING WITH STAFF, STUDENTS, AND THE WIDER ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY THROUGH THANK-YOU EVENTS AND SERVICE INITIATIVES.

SCHOOL SPIRIT EXPANSION: MORE WARRIOR PRIDE ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT-LED SURPRISES ARE IN THE WORKS — SO STAY TUNED!

THE STUDENT COUNCIL IS PROUD OF WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED AND EXCITED TO KEEP BUILDING TRADITIONS THAT UNITE OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY. ❤️





SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We are hosting our Scholastic Book Fair
December 1st-5th in our school library!

MONDAY
3:40-4:30

TUESDAY
3:40-4:30

WEDNESDAY
3:40-4:30

THURSDAY
3:40-7:00

FRIDAY
2:30-3:00



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Preview our book fair, shop online, set up an eWallet, or donate to Share the Fair
by visiting our website below!

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/arapahoeelementaryschool1>

Mr. Kronhofman

AD News

We are finished with the fall sports season. The Volleyball team had their 1st winning season since 2013. Unified Bowling still has a few competitions left. Play Production finished 3rd in the RPAC East. Winter sports (Basketball, Bowling, & Wrestling) and activities (Speech) will start practices on November 17.



Mrs. Leising

Vocal Music

From the Podium



Christmas concerts are just around the corner. The music room is filled with Christmas music and we are excited to do our part to help make your Christmas season feel a little brighter. You will have two opportunities to hear some Christmas music from the Arapahoe school students!



Thursday, December 11 - K-6 Christmas program
(More information will follow as the date approaches)



Monday, December 22 - 7-12 Christmas Concert

AHPS 5/6 Band

DECEMBER EDITION

WARRIOR
BAND

6th Grade Band

6th Grade Band has been working hard to develop their musicianship skills. One key focus this semester has been learning to play, mimic, and create simple musical patterns. This skill strengthens the connection between their ears and their instruments, helping each student become confident performers.

During our Veterans Day Program, 6th Grade Band proudly performed America the Beautiful (right).



6th Grade Performing
America the Beautiful

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR BAND



5th Grade Band

The 5th Grade Band has been hard at work learning the fundamentals of playing their instruments. Students are working through the Essential Elements book, focusing on note names, rhythms, and developing strong pattern recognition in their performances. They are also learning proper articulation—using the tongue to start notes cleanly rather than “huffing and puffing” from the chest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

 Tuesday, December 16, 2025 - K-6 Music Concert @ 7PM

 Monday, December 22, 2025 - 7-12 Music Concert @ 7PM

Parents/Guardians - Join us on Sports You!



Mr. Mues

5/6 Science

The 5th and 6th grade classes are continually working to broaden their knowledge base of the scientific world. This starts with formulating a hypothesis, then testing and experimenting with different challenges. The class is asked to provide evidence and reasoning to those answers and they are becoming better scientists each and every day. The fifth grade has spent much of the first part of the year exploring the life sciences such as food webs, matter cycles, and ecosystems.

We've been down to the outdoor classroom looking for evidence of life. Many students conquered their fear of handling red worms or "red wigglers" as they are known. These organisms are some of the best decomposers in the known world. Students were able to test what environment they like best and even take some home for their flower gardens or pumpkin patch.

The sixth grade has been observing and learning about living things as well, but these organisms can't be seen with the naked eye. Cells are the smallest living thing said to be alive. Students have been viewing unicellular protists, bacterial cells, and even some non-living things such as sand. They will continue to study how these cells make more complex tissues, organs, and organ systems as we move forward.

JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

DECEMBER 2025

1	Elsie Strand	8
2	Lilly Helms	8
3	Audrey Fortney	8
4	Kynnleigh Tidyman	7
12	Nevaeh Wendland	7
13	Harper Sisson	7
14	Abigail Helms	7
15	Kyleigh Shifflet	7
20	Kinley Christensen	8
21	Elizabeth Magorian	8
22	Genevieve Fisher	8
23	Halle Farner	8
24	Kayleen Diaz	8
25	Julieanna Meininger	8
31	Rheanna Metzger	7

Head Coach: Kaitlin Spaulding
Assistant Coach: Kaylea Schutz

These 15 girls make up our Lady Warrior Junior High Basketball Team. They will play 7 regular season games with one tournament against surrounding area teams. These girls bring a lot of talent to the court and show even more determination. This group of girls is aggressive and scrappy - they will be fun to watch!

We look forward to a well rounded season!

#GOWARRIORS #beawarrior
#warriorpride



Computer Apps

By: Mr. Stagemeyer

I teach both a Computer Apps I & II classes. The Computer Apps I class is a Freshman-level class that is a Semester long, while Computer Apps II is taken by mainly Juniors and is a full academic year.

Computer Apps I - Introduction to Graphic Design/Video Editing Apps, Google Apps (Docs/Sheets), AI Concepts/Prompt Writing/Ethics, Digital Citizenship, Block/Text Coding, and more.

Computer Apps II - More advanced look into coding, software and hardware. Primarily working with our OmTech 100W Industrial Laser Engraver (2x3 ft. working area) and we plan on having various products ready to sell by the time we get back from Christmas Break including: coasters, cutting boards, keychains, and more.

We would like to save up enough money to buy a Rotary Axis for Tumblers/Mugs and an enclosed Water Chiller.



The Warrior Within

Capture Your Memories – Order Your Yearbook Today!

Don't miss out on preserving your unforgettable school moments! Our exclusive yearbooks are now available for just \$45, but only if you order by October 31st.

Secure your copy and cherish the memories for years to come!



To place your order, contact Mrs. Dirgo at riley.dirgo@arapahoewarriors.com. Alternatively, you can pick up an order form directly from the school office. Act fast – this limited-time offer won't last forever!

Child Find

Child find is...

A process required by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) to identify, locate, and evaluate all children from birth through 21 years of age who may have disabilities and may need early intervention or special education services. It is a process to ensure children with identified needs can receive the help they need to succeed as early as possible.

How are children identified and located?

Anyone concerned about a child's speech, learning, behavior, or development can request a Child Find (an evaluation for early intervention or special education). The school district must have written permission/consent from the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) before conducting an evaluation.

What is a multidisciplinary evaluation?

A multidisciplinary evaluation will involve observations and assessments with the child and input from family. A meeting will be held to determine eligibility for early intervention or special education services and written summary of the results will be provided to the family.

Who should I contact about making a Child Find request?

For a child Birth to three years of age, contact the local Early Development Network Service Coordinators for the ESU 11 area, which can be reached at 308.398.6567.

For children ages 3 to 21, please contact the AHPS office at 308-962-5458 for information regarding your concerns for your child.

Stay in the know!

**DOWNLOAD
OUR APP TODAY!**



Visit arapahoewarriors.org
to learn more about
our school.

School Hours:

8am - 3:40pm M-Th

8am - 2:30pm Fridays

Breakfast is served

daily from

7:30am - 7:50am

Sign up at

schoolbeacon.com

**to get alerts via text or
email for any school
changes or updates!**

**WILL YOUR STUDENT BE
ABSENT BUT DON'T
HAVE TIME TO CALL?**

Please email us:

attendance@arapahoewarriors.org



Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

Getting started with e~Funds for Schools Mobile Website

CREATING A NEW ACCOUNT

***Lunch Accounts Only**

1. Go to: <https://payments.efundsforschools.com/v3/districts/56682>
2. Click on **Create an Account**.
3. Provide Requested Information.
4. Click **Create Account**.

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT – STUDENTS

***Call the office if you need your family ID#**

1. Log into your account.
2. Select **Manage Students** under **Manage Account**.
3. Enter student Last Name and Family or Student ID#.
4. Select **Add Student(s)**.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 to add additional students.

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT - PAYMENT INFORMATION

1. Log into your Account
2. Select **Payment Methods** under **Payment Settings**.
3. Select **New Credit Card** or **New Direct Debit** to add new payment information.
4. After entering all required information, read Consent and select **Add** to save information to account.

MAKE A PAYMENT

1. Select type of payment you would like to make.
2. Select student.
3. Enter amount of payment.
4. Select **Begin Checkout**.
5. Choose payment method or enter new method.
6. Review items and total.
7. Select **Pay Now**.