Acushnet Public Schools

District News

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Message From The Superintendent






Celebrating Our Co-Op Partners: Amanda Frejuste & Antone Abdelmalak

At Acushnet Public Schools, we are incredibly proud of the strong partnerships we have built with our neighboring districts and educational institutions. Today, I am especially pleased to recognize two outstanding students from Greater New Bedford Regional Voc-Tech High School's STEAM Engineering Program who have become valued members of our Wildcat Team.

Amanda Frejuste, a senior, and Antone Abdelmalak, a junior, joined our district through the co-op program after successfully emerging as the top candidates from a competitive pool of student applicants. From the very beginning, it has been clear why they were selected.

Each morning, Amanda and Antone begin their day by conducting the boiler checklist and performing essential morning maintenance. They carefully review all levels and controls to ensure our systems are operating safely and efficiently. They monitor temperatures across our school buildings and make any necessary adjustments to maintain comfortable learning environments for our students and staff.

In addition to these daily responsibilities, they assist with minor repairs and the cleaning of univents, perform general maintenance and mechanical system repairs, and support a wide range of building operations. They have also worked alongside our maintenance team on plumbing repairs, custodial projects, and organizing the maintenance shop – including managing tool inventory. Their willingness to step in wherever needed speaks volumes about their work ethic and professionalism.

The behind-the-scenes work of facilities and maintenance is critical to the success of our schools. Safe, warm, clean, and well-functioning buildings allow our educators to focus on teaching and our students to focus on learning. Amanda and Antone play an important role in making that happen each day.

We are grateful for their strong work ethic and the high-quality training they have received through the STEAM Engineering Program at Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech. They represent the very best of career and technical education – applying their skills in real-world settings and making meaningful contributions to our school community.

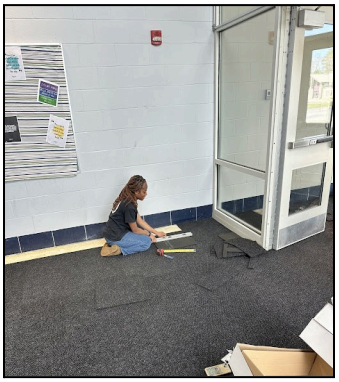
Amanda and Antone, thank you for the amazing work you are doing. The entire Wildcat Team appreciates you!

With appreciation,

Dr. Paula J. Bailey
Superintendent
Acushnet Public Schools

#WildcatPride #TwoSchoolsONEDistrict #WildcatsAimingHigh





Student Services

Hello families!

I am pleased to have the pleasure of working with our new English Language (EL) Teacher, Teah Keogh. She jumped right in and organized the most recent administration of WIDA testing. Our EL students maintained progress from the last period. I look forward to seeing them make measurable gains as she continues to build relationships and provide high quality instruction.

Our paraprofessional staff has been engaging in professional development with a trainer who specializes in understanding the antecedents behind student behavior. She is providing knowledge and insight on student profiles, common traits based on disability, and best practice to help with the implementation of strategies that assist our students with academic readiness.

We recently collaborated with a consulting group to complete a special education audit. This process will assist the district in analyzing strengths and needs.

On April 28th, the staff worked on unpacking priority standards for educator evaluation. I noticed a high level of engagement and collegiality.

It is wonderful to see the momentum continue this spring toward all efforts to provide our students with the best learning experiences and care.

I look forward to continuing to participate in these impactful initiatives.

Be Well!
Colleen Doyle
Director of Student Services

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Grant - Stakeholder Input Opportunity

On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was passed into law, reauthorizing the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and replacing the most recent reauthorization of ESEA, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). The law includes provisions to help ensure improved outcomes for all students receiving elementary and secondary education.

Each year, the Acushnet Public Schools (APS) receives the following Title grant funding:
Title I - Improving basic programs operated by local school districts
Title II - Building systems of support for excellent teaching and leading
Title III - Creating safe, healthy and supportive, high-quality educational learning environments for all

As part of the process for creating a districtwide plan, APS is seeking stakeholder (Parent/Families/Guardians, paraprofessionals, teachers, principals, other school leaders, students, community-based organizations, local government representatives, and others with relevant expertise) consultation to improve title grants activities to meet the grant's purposes.

We would appreciate it if you could take a few moments to provide your **input** on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Grant - Stakeholder Input Survey.

Champ Camp

If you haven't finalized your summer plans yet, now is a perfect time to explore Champ Camp! This program offers a fun and engaging experience where children can spend time with friends in a convenient location, with flexible hours and pricing that compares favorably to many local camps.

We are excited about the possibility of hosting Champ Camp here in Acushnet, and increased enrollment will help make that happen. Should enrollment not reach the needed level, the program may be hosted at a nearby school location, and Champions will keep families informed every step of the way.

The Champions before- and after-school program at AES has been a tremendous success this year, with growing participation and many positive experiences for students. Champ Camp is designed to carry that same energy, connection, and high-quality programming into the summer months!

CHAMP CAMP
CHAMPIONS
GREAT OUTDOORS



Convenience, affordability, and flexibility.

Sign up for full- or part-time camp. Join us for some of the summer or all summer long. Just pick what works for you, and we'll handle the rest.



Safety? It's first.

Our qualified staff is caring, reliable, and basically awesome. When you drop your camper off, you know they're with people (and in environments) you already know and trust.



Curiosity, exploration, and unplugged learning.

With our research-backed curriculum, kids stay plugged into their creativity and curiosity through hands-on experiences, and outside time.



Independence, socialization, and confidence.

Make new friends , practice independence, and stretch their social skills.



Sweet field trips.**

Think outdoor water play, zoos and aquariums, bowling, and other fun destinations in your community.



Weekly refresh.

No two weeks are the same. Each week, a new theme inspires activities to match, like STEM and play.

For more information about Champ Camp visit:
www.discoverchampions.com/landing-pages/summer-break

Angela Ruggeri
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

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Technology

May is Here!!

Security Awareness: Cybercrime and what to look out for.

- Fake Wireless networks in airports, hotels, cafes, restaurants - These are used by criminals to steal passwords and other sensitive data
- Unsecured devices left out that can be accessed by others - leaving a logged in laptop or phone out in a public place, cafe, or event allows someone to access sensitive information.
- Allowing someone to "use" your phone, tablet, or laptop is not good practice.

  With cybercrime rates on the rise, it's important to take proactive measures.

  - **Be Wary of Public Wifi:** Public wifi networks are often unsecured, and make it easy for hackers to intercept your data. Avoid accessing sensitive information, such as work emails, banking, social media. If you must use public wifi, VPN's can be used to help encrypt your connection and possibly protect your data from eavesdropping.
  - **Pay attention to your devices:** Leave devices you don't need at home or work. Never leave devices you have with you unattended. Turn off devices when not in use.
  - **Data matters:** We utilize our devices for everything. If traveling with your personal devices, consider what sensitive data may be on the device. Store data in secure applications. Use strong passwords and 2FA (two factor authentication).
  - **Updates:** Keep your systems updated. Phones, laptops, etc. This will help keep devices secure and safe.

Chromebook Checks
If you notice your child has a damaged or non working Chromebook. Please contact techassistance@acushnetschools.us and we will get back to you as soon as possible!

Parent Portal
Most of our parents have signed into their Aspen Portal account, however if you have not done so.

Please go to our website www.acushnetschools.us and click on Parent Portal on the right of your screen.
You will want to sign in with your login id (usually your email address) and the password that you
used to sign up with. If you have forgotten your password. Click on the Trouble logging in link. This portal will allow you to see your child's information and allow you to make changes to your personal information (phone numbers, email addresses / etc) more easily.

Following these guidelines helps us be a safer community and we are stronger together!

Acushnet Technology Department

Business Office

Business

FY27 Budget: Following a joint meeting of the School Committee, the Board of Selectmen, and the Town Finance Committee to discuss funding for the school department's educational and transportation needs, the Superintendent and School Committee announced their intent to request "a constraints-driven budget" which would require approximately $1 million above the FY26 appropriation (due to inflation of fixed costs that the district has no control over – such as special education costs, transportation, energy, contractual obligations). The district continues to apply for and exhaust all opportunities for grant / alternative funding opportunities. Unfortunately these opportunities generally do not allow for staffing allocation and mainly increase our students' opportunities, versus staffing for current needs.

While the Town had been aiming for level funding, the School Committee and Superintendent presented in detail the significant negative impact such a budget would have on students and staff. Even with a $1 million increase over FY26, the school department will need to eliminate eight positions from a total staff of 132. This would mark the third consecutive year of staff reductions and would leave staffing at a critically low level.

In addition to these staffing cuts, the school department would still need to reduce approximately $250,000 in operational spending, resulting in fewer programs and diminished learning opportunities for students.

The School Committee will continue discussions with Town officials over the coming weeks in hopes of reaching a funding level that better supports students and staff and avoids the most severe impacts outlined in these discussions. To find out more, please visit our website and click on Budget FY27. Please know that your voice matters, Town Meeting is June 15th, 2026.

Facilities

Spring has arrived, and cleanup from the winter snowstorms is underway. All athletic fields are being prepared for the many sporting activities now beginning. Repairs to grass areas, as well as parking lots and curbstones, will continue throughout the spring and summer.

As the school year winds down, this season provides an excellent opportunity to clean and remove broken or unused items from the buildings. This process helps with organization, inventorying supplies, and preparing for the next school year.

The facilities team will also be busy setting up and taking down equipment for the many events planned in the coming months, as well as supporting transitions for students across all grade levels. Every month is a busy one for the facilities team, and their hard work helps ensure everything runs smoothly.

Use of Facilities
Are you or someone you know looking to use our facilities? If so, please utilize our **Facility/Rental Use** website page for further information. We look forward to working with you!

School Nutrition

SBP & NSLP
At APS we participate in the **S**chool **B**reakfast **P**rogram and the **N**ational **S**chool **L**unch **P**rogram. These programs are federally assisted meal programs that are administered at the federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. For fact sheets on these programs please see below!

- **The School Breakfast Program**
- **The National School Lunch Program**

For more information regarding APS' specific School Nutrition Program such as our menus, pre-payment options, nutrition education and more, please visit our **Acushnet Public Schools Food Service** website page.

MySchoolBucks
Curious as to what your children have been purchasing in our school cafeterias - visit **MySchoolBucks**! Under your student's name click "Meals" and then click "Purchase History". Here you will be able to see if your student purchased a meal, a hot or cold "grab and go", doubles, etc.

Transportation
Transportation Registration for SY2026-2027 is now open. Please note that this is an annual requirement. All students must have their planned method of transportation recorded each school year.

Transportation Registration must be completed electronically via a Google Form which you can access below.

AES/FMS Transportation Registration Form
FHS/ORR or NBHS Transportation Registration Form (High School Transportation for Acushnet Resident Students Only)

When completing the registration, if you need to access current information regarding your student or their current means of transportation please utilize their Aspen profile and navigate to the “Transportation” tab. Current bus routes can also be found in the following links:

SY25-26 Acushnet Elementary School Bus Routes and Stops
SY25-26 Ford Middle School Bus Routes and Stops
SY25-26 Acushnet Public Schools Morning Routes & Stops - High Schools
SY25-26 Acushnet Public Schools Afternoon Routes & Stops - High Schools

Please be sure to complete the registration form accurately and timely to guarantee your student(s) consideration for SY2026-2027 school bus transportation.

High School transportation registration must be received by Friday, May 15, 2026

AES and FMS transportation registrations must be received by Friday, June 12, 2026.

If you have any questions regarding the SY2026-2027 transportation registration form, process, or need to make any informational changes after you have submitted your registration(s) please send an email directly to schooltransportation@acushnetschools.us.

Thank you for your investment in our schools!

Aldo Petronio
Business Manager



Acushnet Public Schools



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