



September 2017

MSD Highlights

Metropolitan School District of Steuben County

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Superintendent's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank everyone for an outstanding start to another school year at the Metropolitan School District of Steuben County. It is always exciting to see our school buildings once again full of students who are ready and eager to learn. We strive to build upon this excitement for learning by providing the best educational programming available to our students. Our top priority is to ensure that each and every student takes advantage of the numerous learning opportunities that are provided to them.

Our faculty and staff members are true professionals who work hard to meet the educational needs of our students. This is accomplished by holding true to our mission to provide all learners with challenging, engaging, and innovative educational experiences that inspire them to be tomorrow's leaders. Our programs support exploration, creativity, and individual development while offering instructional support for every student. M.S.D. of Steuben County also provides numerous opportunities for our students to participate in performing arts, academic competitions, student organizations, athletics, and many other activities.

Even the best educational programs accomplish very little if students are not prepared or willing to take advantage of them. The key to long-term success is to make students responsible for their own learning. The desire and motivation to be successful has to come from within each individual. High expectations for student learning and achievement must continue outside the classroom. It takes the support and involvement of the entire community for our students to reach their full potential.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to have your child attend our school district. I hope that you feel welcome in our schools and take advantage of opportunities to become involved in school activities. Parents are always encouraged to be part of the educational process at M.S.D. of Steuben County. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brent A. Wilson
Superintendent

Ryan Park Elementary

Welcome back! Ryan Park staff and students are gearing up for another fantastic school year! As we zoom focus on the school year ahead, we are excited for the learning experiences and opportunities that happen daily at our school. Our awesome staff will focus on great instruction and planning learning opportunities for all students, helping each succeed and grow. Our amazing students will focus on learning, creating, analyzing, and exploring, taking every opportunity to grow to be their best. We will continue to highlight accomplishments through our celebrations, showcasing talent and learning through social media, and exploring our creative side through our Makerspace. Be sure to follow our journey on our school website and on our Twitter feed, @RyanParkRhinos.

Ryan Park Elementary is welcoming new faces this year. Welcome Mallory Hartman and Amanda Simmons as our kindergarten teachers, Lisa Chard as one of our 2nd grade teachers, and Ann Antos as our 4th grade teacher. While not new faces at Ryan Park, Rosie Brandt is now our counselor/assistant principal. Jennifer Wilson has moved to 3rd grade, and Kristin Sheets and Michele Davis have moved to 5th grade. We are very excited to have them on board, along with all returning staff. Our goal at Ryan Park is to help our students achieve to their fullest potential. We are confident that this year will continue the great reputation Ryan Park has had in the past in empowering learners, helping every child be successful.

Our focus will be building a stronger school community while we celebrate the joy of education. We look forward to leaving a positive footprint on the 2017-2018 school year!

Angola Middle School

Angola Middle School is off to a Great start! We continued the tradition of lining up and high-fiving every student as they entered the building on the first day. Our teachers have some big goals, and we are excited to work together in order to achieve great things.

Welcome to the following new staff members:

- Alex Fimbianti: 8th Language Arts
- Amy Sams: 8th Social Studies
- Ryan Stellhorn: 7th Science and Geography
- Jennifer Klink-Fee: 6th Reading
- Amy Aldred: 6th Reading and Language Arts
- Beth Thomas: Art
- Tiffani Bater: Instructional Assistant
- Jodie Baade: Instructional Assistant



Parents and Guardians:

- Please keep sending in the updated demographic information to our office. We are updating emails, cell phone and work changes as we receive them

School Communication:

Our goal is to provide the best possible education experience for all of the students that come through our doors. To help us achieve that goal, I want to make you aware of some communication tools we use:

- AMS webpage: www.ams.mssteuben.k12.in.us
 - o Google Master Calendar (you can put this on your phone for free)
 - o Powerschool (student attendance, grades, teacher email)
- Twitter
 - o Mr. Bounds is @angolamiddle
 - o Mr. Lantz is @stevellantz1

Hendry Park Elementary

Hendry Park Roadrunners hit the ground running for the 2017-18 school year! Welcome back all staff, students, families, and community members for another year of learning at Hendry Park Elementary School, and a special welcome to all of those new to our building this year.

Hats off to the custodial and maintenance staff who did a wonderful job getting our building ready. Hendry Park library has brand new carpeting and the school continues to offer a clean and appealing atmosphere for our students. We have several classrooms that now offer flexible seating for our students. Be sure to ask your child if they have Oodles in their room.

All Hendry Park staff members will work together to achieve the mission of providing a safe and caring learning environment for all students. The staff is committed to developing students into trustworthy, responsible, respectful, self-directed learners. Establishing and maintaining collaborative partnerships with families and the community is also an important part of the mission for Hendry Park staff.

Hendry Park doors open for students at 7:40 am when students have the opportunity to eat a nutritious breakfast prepared by our amazing Food Services Department. If not eating breakfast at school, students can choose to play cards and board games in the library, go to the Creation Station, practice Tae Kwan Do with Master Shepherd, learn sign language with Mrs. Baumgardner, go to the English Learning Lab with Mrs. Flint, or get help with homework before the academic day begins.

There is so much to look forward to at Hendry Park Elementary School this year!



Carlin Park Elementary

Carlin Park Cardinals welcome *all of our MSD community back to school for the 2017-2018 school year. The beginning of this year has been busy and productive! We welcome a few new staff members to our team:*

- Mrs. Sue Shollenberger - Title I Reading Teacher
- Mrs. Sarah Robinson - Title I Instructional Assistant
- Mrs. Jen Wiggins - reassigned to 3rd grade
- Mrs. Amanda (Jolin) Ference - reassigned to 1st grade
- Mrs. Tammy Heierman - Media Assistant
- Mr. Bradley Stavitzke - Special Education Instructional Assistant



We kicked the year off with our Open House Picnic, graciously sponsored by the Booster Club. Mr. George Gilbert and Mr. Garry Osborn grilled over 300 hot dogs for our students and their families! The Booster Club is also providing a cool t-shirt to all our staff and students. There's a catch - students must first pass the first level of our Accelerated Reader program! The Cardinals can do it!

Angola High School

Angola High School has some new faces to start the school year.

Jennifer Sears is the Health Occupations Education (H.O.E.) Coordinator at AHS. Prior to coming to AHS she worked as a registered nurse in the family practice office setting with several area physicians. She continues to work as a camp nurse during the summer months and occasional weekends. Jennifer earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Indiana Wesleyan University. Having benefited over the years as a result of her own experience in the H.O.E program at AHS, it is her desire to see this valuable program continue to prepare high school students for future careers in health care.

Valerie Berger is teaching chemistry and integrated chemistry and physics at AHS. Before coming to AHS Valerie taught chemistry and physics (including AP) at DeKalb High School. She earned her bachelor's degree from Creighton University and her master's degree from the University of Iowa. Valerie is also serving as newspaper sponsor at AHS. She is excited about working with all the wonderful faculty and staff at AHS and throughout MSD!

Brad Peterson is a Health Teacher at AHS. He also is the head girls' track and field coach and the assistant cross country coach for both boys' and girls' teams. Before coming to AHS, he was a health/PE/weightlifting instructor at the high school and college levels. He also has coached both cross country and track for 20 years at the high school and the college level. He attended Ball State University and received a bachelor's degree in both English and Physical Education. He received his Master's Degree in Administration from Indiana University. Brad is looking forward to getting back to the area as he was born and raised in Fort Wayne and this is where his family resides. He looks forward to meeting the staff members at AHS and getting involved with the community of Angola.

Kristen Maksimchuk is joining the Math Department at AHS. She will be teaching Algebra I and Algebra IB this school year. This is her 12th year teaching Math. She most recently taught at Prairie Heights High School. Kristen earned her bachelor's degree at Trine University. Along with teaching, she will also be a Student Council Co-Sponsor this school year. Kristen is looking forward to being "home". She has been a resident of Angola for the past 15 years and is finally going to be a teacher in her own community! She is also looking forward to integrating more technology in the math classroom.

Mikaela Gerba is an English teacher at AHS. This is her first year teaching after earning her bachelor's degree in education from Trine University. She will be co-sponsoring student council and is looking forward to getting to know all her students this year. She is also excited about starting her career as a teacher!

Gwena Walker is the new Spanish Teacher at AHS. Prior to this, Gwena taught Spanish in private, public, and homeschools. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Purdue University and earned her teaching license through Indiana Wesleyan University. She spent her junior year of college living in Spain and studying at La Universidad Complutense. This is where she gained her fluency. She will be teaching Spanish 1 and 2, and co-sponsoring Spanish Club. She is excited to be a part of such an awesome staff team. Gwena is enthusiastic about getting to know her new students.

Joy Ross has lived in Steuben County for most of her life. She enjoys spending time on our beautiful lakes or curled up with a good book. She is an honor graduate of Trine University where she was editor of the student newspaper. She is also active in Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. Back home at Angola High School, she will be teaching English 9, English 11, and Language Arts Lab. She will also be co-sponsor of the AHS National Honor Society. Joy is excited to share the awesome opportunities available to our students through technology.

Taya Fordanish is Angola High School's new School Counselor for students with last name A-G. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Purdue University in Psychology and a Master's degree from Indiana University in School Counseling. Having an avid passion for counseling and helping students with social and emotional issues, Taya is excited to be at Angola High School. In her free time she enjoys spending time with family and friends at the lake as well as having a knack for re-purposing furniture and antiques into colorful new pieces. She looks forward to becoming a part of the AHS family, meeting all the students and teachers, and having a great, successful school year!

Christopher Seitz is a member of the English Department at Angola High School, teaching English 9, 10, and 12 and directing the Drama Club's productions. Prior to coming to AHS, he worked at Frontier Jr/Sr High School in the Lafayette area, teaching English 11 and coaching the school's speech and debate team. He previously spent five years as an instructor in the Communication Studies department at Ball State University. Christopher has a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and two master's degrees from Ball State University. He is excited to get to know the students, parents, and community of Angola High School.

Amy Opliger will be working in the LD Classroom. For the past five years, Amy has worked as a Behavior Consultant in Steuben County. Amy has also been a classroom teacher for nine years and a school counselor for eight years, including four years at the Jakarta International School in Indonesia. Amy earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from IPFW and her Doctorate from the Union Institute & University. She is looking forward to returning to education and building relationships with students and colleagues.

Deb Johnson will be an Administrative Assistant in the office at Angola High School. For the past three years Deb worked at Woodside Middle School as the secretary. She recently moved to Angola to get married and is enjoying the lake life. She has a Bachelor's degree from Indiana University where she ran on the Track and Field team. Deb is excited to become part of the Angola High School family!

METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF STEUBEN COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
400 South Martha Street
Angola, IN 46703
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Board meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month unless otherwise advertised.

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MSD HIGHLIGHTS DESIGNER
Mrs. Wendy Wilson—665-2854

*All articles are submitted by buildings

**Special thanks goes to Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Gilbert for their input.

2017-2018 Textbook Fees

All textbook and supply fees were due the first day of school, August 16, 2017, and now considered past due. Please see your building secretary to pay your students' fees or if you have questions concerning your textbook and supply fees.

Pleasant Lake Elementary

Pleasant Lake Patriots are off to a wonderful start to their 2017-2018 school year. We would like to welcome new staff members Mr. Allen Cummings as our instructional Aide, Mrs. Debra Sanborn as our Media Center Specialist/Instructional Assistant, Mrs. Sarah Robinson as our ½ time Title 1 assistant, and Mrs. Kelly Falls as our Title 1 teacher. We are working on some fall projects already and the students are hard at work tackling all the challenges being presented.

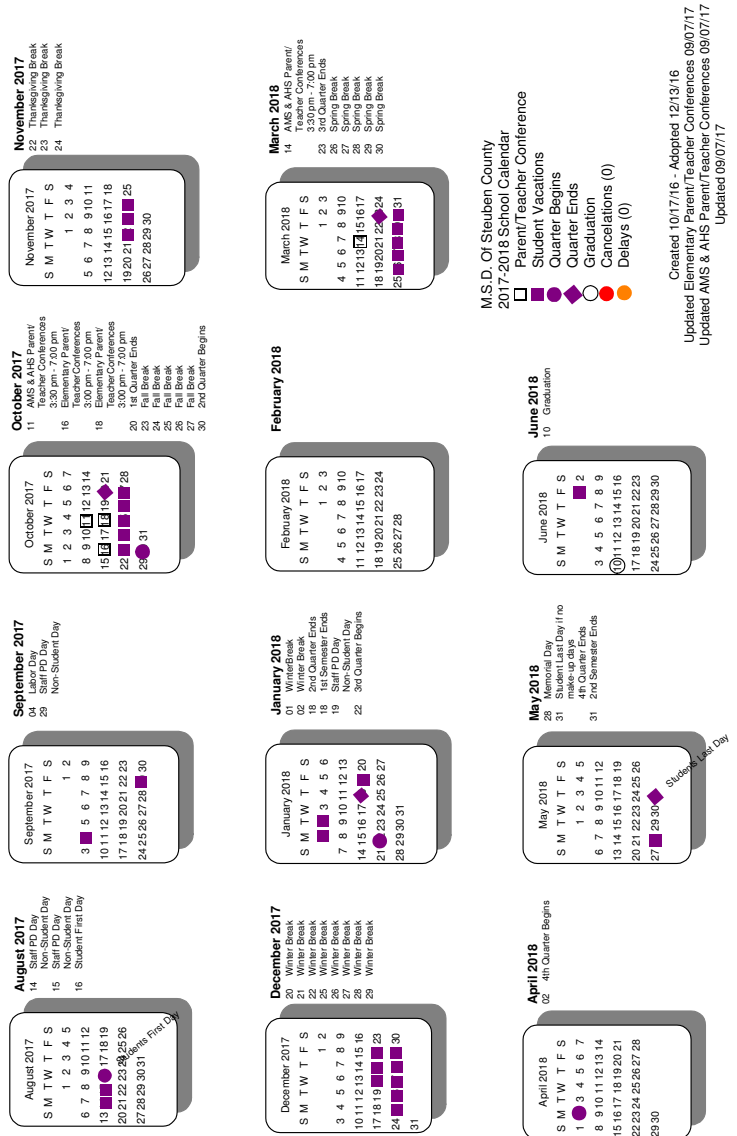
We are excited to be getting our Maker's Space off to a good start this year with school wide monthly challenges that will get those young minds making and creating!

Mrs. Atha has begun a wonderful campaign on character building that enables our super students to recognize others exhibiting excellent character traits such as; Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Fairness, Citizenship, and Caring!

It looks to be a very promising 2017-2018 experience for all our Patriots here at Pleasant Lake Elementary and as the new principal here I am very excited to be a part of this great journey!

Metropolitan School District of Steuben County 2017-2018 Parent Calendar

Additional make-up days may be added after May 31st.



Created 10/17/16 - Adopted 12/13/16
Updated Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences 09/07/17
Updated AHS & AHS Parent/Teacher Conferences 09/07/17
Updated 09/07/17

2017-2018 MSD Calendar

The digital 2017-2018 calendar is on the MSD website www.msdstauben.k12.in.us; "Information", "Events Calendar" and can be viewed by the "Week", "Month" or "Agenda". The calendar is updated with each delay and cancellation as they occur.

3 Hour Delay: If a 3 Hour Delay is called for days of inclement weather, students will begin school 3 hours later than scheduled and 1 hour will be added to the end of that day. If the extended day runs into scheduled after school events, arrangements will be made to hold the activity at a later time or date.