

A LETTER FROM MR HARRINGTON

Greetings AMS Families -

I would like to welcome all of our new families and our returning families to the 2018-19 school year at Anacortes Middle School. We have had a great start to the school year! We are so grateful for the support of our AMS families. I want to express my appreciation to the AMS staff and PTSA for their excellent work for another great kickoff to a school year! As I am writing this, we are preparing to take our 6th graders to Camp Orkila. This is a great opportunity for students to meet new friends, gain leadership skills, and have some fun at camp!

Our Open Houses were well attended which sends us the message that our parents are involved in their student's academic future. It was a pleasure meeting parents and students and I look forward to getting to know more of you. We truly have great students at AMS! I look forward to the great accomplishments these three groups will bring to our school!

You will receive your student's SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) scores this month. As our teachers and students continue their work in aligning the standards, I believe we will see continued improvement with our results. Compared to results of top performing schools that we have identified, our scores are right in the average of these schools. Our staff will begin working to identify areas of improvement and will continue to work with students to address gaps.

I hope the first few weeks of school have brought an easy transition to AMS. Transitions to a new building and to the next grade level can be overwhelming. It is our hope that students feel welcomed and a part of the middle school family. Our staff is committed

to making your student's middle school years a positive and enjoyable experience. If you have any concerns, please know that our teachers, counselors, and administration are here to help.

I would like to remind parents that our drop off/pick up is in the back upper parking lot of the school. I know many park on the streets, please remind your students to use the crosswalks for safety.

I would like to end this first edition of the newsletter with our school mission and beliefs. We have set very high standards here at the middle school and work hard to support all of our students.

MISSION

Anacortes Middle School provides a challenging, supportive, and safe environment to encourage academic and social success for all.

BELIEFS

- All students can learn
- Learning is our priority
- Students' basic needs must be met in order for learning to occur
- Staff, students, parents, and community members share the responsibility for supporting an effective learning environment
- Students grow intellectually in a nurturing environment

I am very excited about this year and look forward to meeting each of you at some point. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please call me at 503-1230.

Patrick Harrington
Principal



MESSAGE FROM MR. PERKINS

Greetings and welcome to another fabulous year at AMS! It's been such a great start with the students and staff with lots going on. Thank you, parents for making it happen. Let me tell you about a

few of the events happening right now:

- Cross Country is in full swing with over 60+ 7th and 8th grade harriers ready to take on all comers! Coach Templeton and Coach Graham are leading an experienced bunch this year and I thank them for building a great program.
- Girls' Soccer is underway with Coach Martin and Coach Ramsdell at the helm of a solid group. They are ready for action on the pitch.
- Co-ed Golf has started and Coach Schelling is instructing his troops with swings, putts and etiquette whilst on the sod.
- Boy's and Girl's 6th grade Intramurals starts up soon; listen during the bulletin or go to our website for days and times. My thanks to Coach Holtgeerts, Coach Cicotte, and Coach Swapp for their efforts!
- *PARENTS* - want to see the sports schedules for the entire year? Go to NWCathletics.com and subscribe! It's

free and you can also see all of the high school events. We won't be handing out paper schedules anymore, but will have it in the bulletin, as well.

- New things happening within the school: **No more computers at lunch.** Computers and cell phones may only be out during class time with teacher permission. Only. Period. No hand held games either...research is coming out now showing the effects of too much non-academic screen time.
- Speaking of phones, I am the person that deals with the harassment, bullying, and threatening things that happen occasionally. Those events, sadly, happen late at night, on their phones, with each other, while at their home. Please disconnect kids at bedtime from technology. Sleepy, disengaged, grumpy students are tough to teach. Thanks.

That's about it. Thank you for letting us enjoy your students each day, they are a kick!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 360-503-1245

Mark Perkins

A LETTER FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT:

Hello AMS families-

My name is Jeanine Dickison, and I am the Middle School PTSA President for the next two years. I am the proud mama of an 8th & 6th grader, and so happy for one drop off again! I agreed to be the PTSA President on one condition, that my friends help me. And that's how Heather Monkman - VP, Romany Kerr - Treasurer, and Rachael Kretchmer - Secretary, and I started this adventure.

We met on my deck over the summer and really delved into the question: What can we do to REALLY make a difference in the lives of the MS students, families, and staff? We brainstormed a long list of ideas including: Mental Health Awareness Campaign, Hallway Security Cameras, and Hawk TV Equipment

Funding. We've presented some of our ideas from our brainstorming session to Mr. Harrington, school counselors Mr. Flynn and Ms. Newall, and Resource Officer Dotzauer. They are receptive and are assisting us in turning these ideas into reality. Stay tuned for great things!!!

We're still learning the ropes, and are so grateful to all of our volunteers that have stepped up to help us. We cannot do anything without all of you. Volunteers are the ones who make great things happen - Birthday Cupcakes, Hospitality, Spirit Wear, Cookie Friday, Dances, Open House, and our BIG Fall fundraiser coming up. We need your help to keep these programs and activities going. We have many opportunities for you to volunteer--as little or as much as you're willing to give. It all adds up to us having an amazing year!

Jeanine Dickison
AMS PTSA president
<https://www.anacortesptsa.com>



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

These students were chosen by AMS staff for their academic excellence or classroom performance

HAWK PRIDE AWARD

These students were nominated by AMS staff for displaying some type of good citizenship and behavior

Cody Cox	7th	Swapp	Connor Kelly	8th	Dunham
Zach Harris	7th	Swapp	Rosario Bonilla	8th	Dunham
Lydia Crezee	8th	Morgenthaler	Dylan Wilingham	6th	Ruckdaschel

Grace Johnston	6th	Ruckdaschel
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Meet Office Dotzauer!

Hello AMS Families,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to everyone. I am Officer Travis Dotzauer and I work full-time as your School Resource Officer at Anacortes High School and Anacortes Middle School. I split my time between both schools, so I have the great fortune of meeting and getting to know your students for their entire secondary careers.



The School Resource Officer, or SRO, is part of a nationally recognized program involving the placement of a commissioned law enforcement officer within the schools. It allows the SRO to work closely with the school administration and students to help provide a safe learning environment.

My role as an SRO is multi-faceted and has a variety of functions at the high school and middle school including being a visible, active presence on campus dealing with legal issues, such as drugs, alcohol and thefts; conferencing with students, parents and staff members to assist with problems; and conferring with school administrators to develop strategies to prevent or minimize dangerous situations on or near campus. The most important part of my position is getting to know the students and being an additional resource for them at the schools.

Looking forward to a great school year! Go Hawks!

Ofc. Travis Dotzauer

Please feel free to contact me at (360) 503-1358

AMS SPIRIT WEAR UPDATE:

Thank you to everyone who helped support the AMS students and the PTSA with your purchases of the **NEW** AMS Spirit Wear! Orders are being processed now and should be available for pickup the beginning of October. We will post more information on Skyward and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to email Heather:

anacortesms.pts@gmail.com



Counselor's Corner

Getting to know the Counselors

Shawn Flynn (A-K)

Renae Newall (L-Z)

Monique Starkovich - Registrar Secretary

Heather Malone - School Psychologist

Kara Fox - Counseling Intern

All 6th grade students recently visited the Counseling Center. Renae Newall and Shawn Flynn spoke to students about how to access services, what we offer, and introduced the adults working in the Counseling Center. The Counseling Center Orientation enables students to know how to seek support. We enjoyed getting to meet all of the new middle school students!

ANACORTES COLLEGE AND CAREER OUTREACH (ACCO) RETURNS SEPTEMBER 17th

Note the name change: Previously Anacortes College Outreach (ACO), we are now Anacortes College and Career Outreach (ACCO).

7th through 11th grade students and their families are invited to ACCO's monthly get-togethers, where we share essential information to help you get started on your early college planning / preparation (emphasis on early). You'll learn how to identify and evaluate your best college "fit", how to become a student that colleges want to recruit and admit, and how to strategize and position yourself for receiving the best possible financial aid.

This year (toward the end of the semester), ACCO will provide information on alternative educational pathways, including community and technical education, apprenticeship, and the trades.

We will meet once a month during the Fall semester for a total of four meetings. These sessions will be repeated during the Spring semester. Ideally students and parents will attend the ACCO sessions in together, but students or parents are also welcome to come by themselves... whatever is convenient. This year there is one session for middle and high schoolers together.

September 17 6:30-8:00 pm AHS library "How to Go to College and Get Someone Else to (help) Pay For It" sneak peek: October 11 6:30-8:00 pm AHS library Guest Speaker Admissions Officer from Pomona College "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Pomona...and Anything Else You Want to Know About College Admissions" and Prepare for the College Fair and Develop a Relationship with



Colleges of Interest

Follow and like us on Facebook @AnacortesCollegeOutreach where we curate postings of timely and relevant information and articles.

Bring your questions to our September meeting, or feel free to email me:

AnacortesCollegeOutreach@ASD103.org.

Look forward to seeing you on the 17th,

Shay Schual-Berke Anacortes College and Career Outreach Coordinator
AnacortesCollegeOutreach@ASD

Anacortes School District AMS After School Arts Program



Grades: 6th, 7th and 8th
Wednesdays: 2:15-3:45 p.m.
Room 101 at AMS
\$75
Instructor: Jackie Davison

LET'S BAKE II

In this class, students will learn how to bake Cookies, Cupcakes and Brownies from scratch! Kids will follow a new recipe each class using the proper equipment, measuring techniques and cooking methods. They will also practice safety and learn how to keep their work area clean and organized. At the end of each class, they get to enjoy what they created! Yum!

Middle School Class Dates
Wednesdays: 10/3; 10/10; 10/17; 10/24; 10/31; 11/7
Dates reflect district calendar for conference, holidays and in-service days

Anacortes School District After School Arts Program REGISTRATION FORM

LET'S BAKE-AMS

Mail registration and payment to Anacortes School District: 2200 M Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221
Registrations & payments must be received by Thursday, September 27th.
Free and Reduced rates available. Please contact 360-503-1219 for additional forms.

Student: _____ Grade: _____ E-mail: _____
Payment form (cash/check): _____ Check Number: _____ Amount Paid:\$ _____
Address: _____
Parent/Guardian: _____ Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____ Emergency name & Phone: _____
Signature of parent/guardian: _____
Health concerns: _____

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER:

- Sept. 19th-21st- 6th graders off to Camp Orkila
- Sept. 25th- Fall Fundraiser begins (more info to come)
- Sept. 28th-No School for Staff Development day



Newsletter for the Anacortes Middle School and the AMS PTSA 8.2.60

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www.ams.asd103.org

Patrick Harrington - **Principal**
Mark Perkins - **Ass't Principal**

PTSA Board Members

Jeanine Dickison-President
Heather Monkman-Vice-President
Rachel Kretchmer-Secretary
Romany Kerr-Treasurer

Newsletter Editors

Romany Kerr &
Heather Monkman