



School District of Altoona

RailroaderReview

Engage • Equip • Empower

"Offering large school opportunities with a small school approach."



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A Note From Our Superintendent

Dear community members,

We have had a great start to the school year! And, we are excited to see the feedback from our community alive in our schools today. In May of 2021, 60 community stakeholders joined us in discussing their vision of the future of the community of Altoona along with what knowledge, skills, and experiences they believe students need to be ready to thrive and lead in the Altoona of tomorrow. Their input led to us, as a district, developing a new commitment, to create **Tomorrow-Ready Citizens** today! We have organized our pursuit of this important work into **Academic Outcomes**, **Future Ready Outcomes**, **Personal Success Outcomes**, and **Operational Outcomes**.

We are grateful for the opportunity to build the future of our community. To demonstrate our on-going commitment to ensuring our community's feedback comes to life in our schools, this newsletter will continue to be organized by our four outcome areas and will showcase the student learning, programs, and opportunities in our schools.

Additionally, we hope you will check out the 2022-2023 School District of Altoona Annual Report. We have included a link to the electronic version as well as information about how to request a paper copy below.

The future of Altoona is walking through the halls of our schools together. Through our shared commitment to our students, we have the opportunity to make the Altoona of tomorrow the best it has ever been.

My best,
Heidi Eliopoulos
Dr. Heidi Eliopoulos
Superintendent



2022-2023 Annual Report

To access the report, scan the QR code or click the link provided below. If you prefer a printed copy of the 2022-2023 Annual Report, please contact Lisa Boss at 715-839-6032.



<https://tinyurl.com/AltoonaRpt22-23>



Board of Education



Left to Right: Rich Hager, Hillarie Roth, Jeremy Zook, Lauren Otto, and Rick Risler.

MEETINGS

Regular Meetings of the Board of Education are typically held on the third Monday of the month and begin at 6:30 pm, unless otherwise posted. Meetings are held in the District Office at 1903 Bartlett Avenue.

AGENDAS AND MINUTES

Board meeting agendas, packets, and minutes are posted on the Board of Education website. Paper copies of the agenda or minutes can be requested by calling the district office at 715-839-6032.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

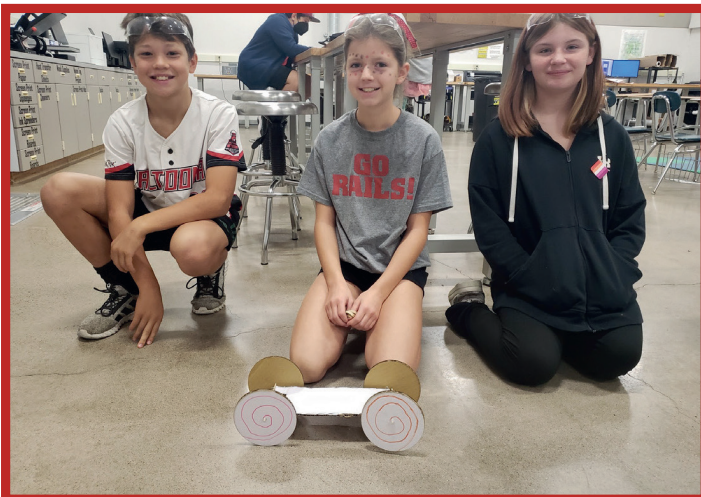
Additional information about Board meetings, contacting Board members, or participating in public comment may be found on the Board website (<https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/school-board/>).

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR THE BOARD?

If you have a desire to run for the Board of Education, we invite you to attend an informative session on Thursday, November 9th, at 6:00 pm in the District Office. During this meeting, you will have the opportunity to:

- Understand the roles and responsibilities associated with being a Board member
- Familiarize yourself with the Board's governance model
- Learn about the time commitments involved in Board membership
- Get insights into the nomination process for inclusion on the ballot.

April 2, 2024, marks Election Day, featuring a single available seat on the ballot. For further details and access to meeting information, visit: <https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/district/school-board>



Students working in the Fab Lab.



High School Students attending the Build My Future Field Trip.

ACADEMIC OUTCOMES



Learning Together: Professional Development

The School District of Altoona staff engage in learning throughout the year to best support students and each other. Staff learned from experts in areas such as professional learning communities, using student data for educational decision-making, and implementing strategies to address students' diverse needs. The process of learning remains ongoing, not just for students, but also for the dedicated staff members of the School District of Altoona!

Elementary Math Learning: How Did that Happen?

In Fall 2022, Altoona Elementary School embarked on an exciting math journey by introducing a new resource called Bridges. The impact was remarkable, with both students and staff witnessing significant improvements in math skills right from the start—a cause for celebration! The teaching approach involves revisiting key concepts multiple times through spirals and integrating hands-on learning activities to keep students engaged. Through this method, students are equipped with various problem-solving strategies, ensuring that everyone can excel at a high level.

Celebrating Literacy with Ginormous Pumpkins

In late September, the School District of Altoona joined forces with the City of Altoona to take part in the Ginormous Pumpkin Event at River Prairie. Ahead of the event, 2nd-grade students from Altoona Elementary had the chance to explore the colossal pumpkins up close. This engaging activity aligned with themes in both Science and Reading.

During the event, Altoona Elementary set up a booth to promote literacy activities with a Fall BINGO game. Despite the rain, the day brimmed with enjoyable activities and stood as a delightful celebration of community!



FUTURE-READY OUTCOMES



Chippewa Valley Technical College Simulation Camp

In collaboration with CVTC and the School District of Altoona, 9th and 10th grade students embarked on a four-day exploration of diverse healthcare domains, including Medical Laboratory Technician, Medical Assistant, Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, and Radiography. This experience emphasized the significance of collaboration among healthcare professionals, illustrating how various healthcare sectors unite to deliver optimal patient care. Students had the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities such as conducting assessments, drawing blood, and simulating the placement of a breathing tube on a mannequin patient. Additionally, they successfully earned their CPR certification.

Empowering Minds: The Evolution of our Computer Science Course

At our school, students from grades 1 through 12 receive their own Chromebooks, which they start using for homework from grade 6 onwards. Even our youngest learners in kindergarten are introduced to technology through regular classes where they learn essential skills such as logging in, typing, and using educational software programs. Importantly, we emphasize internet safety and responsibility at age-appropriate levels. Here at Altoona Elementary School, we believe in starting early to equip our students with vital digital literacy skills, ensuring they are prepared for the challenges of tomorrow!



PERSONAL SUCCESS OUTCOMES



Empowering Students: The Courage Retreat Experience

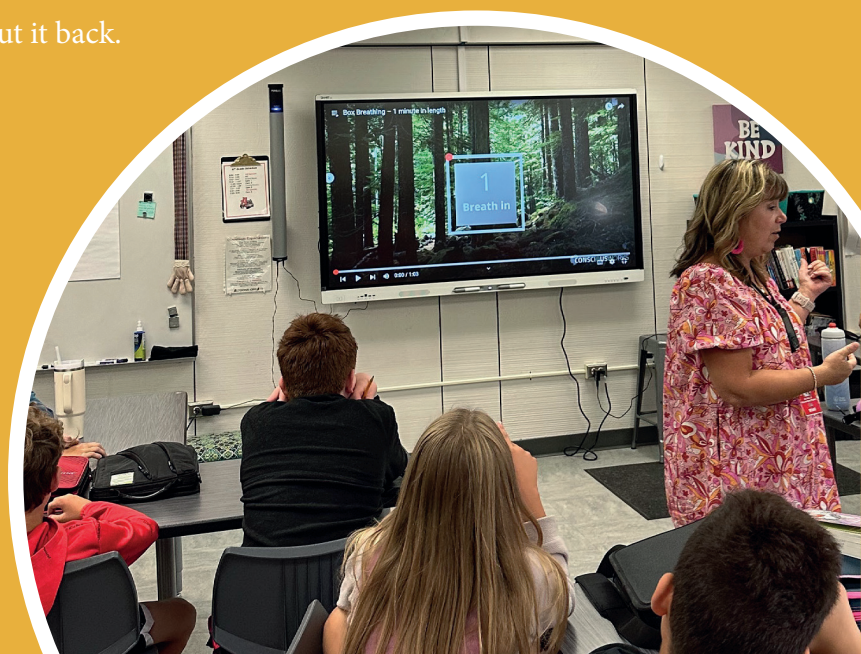
After a COVID-induced hiatus, the Courage Retreat made a triumphant return in Spring 2023! This retreat is a vital component of the Social/Emotional Curriculum for Altoona Middle School. The 7th-grade students visited UW-Eau Claire, while the 8th-grade students engaged in activities at Valley Sports Academy, who generously provided their facility for our use. Alongside the middle schoolers, 25 high school mentors added to the excitement and enthusiasm by leading various small group activities. Facilitated by Youth Frontiers, an organization based in Minneapolis, the Courage Retreat aimed to achieve the following key learning objectives:

1. Identify personal fears and understand that everyone has them.
2. Commit to acting with courage to make school a better place.
3. Deepen relationships with classmates to break down social barriers.

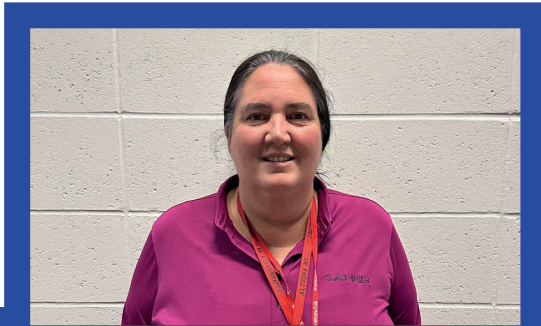
Supporting Emotional Regulation Through Mindfulness

One of the district's annual goals centers on enhancing students' emotional regulation, a crucial factor in their academic achievements. Proficiency in this skill is evident through the capacity to manage and respond suitably to various experiences or emotions. To promote positive coping mechanisms, several staff members have integrated mindfulness activities into their lessons. Here are some examples of the strategies they are implementing:

- Take a calming tool from the tool box. Use it and put it back.
- Take deep breaths (e.g. box breathing)
- Take a short walk with teacher permission
- Talk with a trusted adult about the situation
- Verbally advocate for academic needs during class



OPERATIONAL OUTCOMES

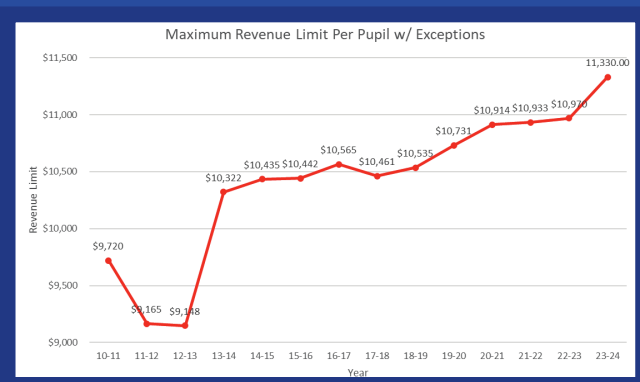
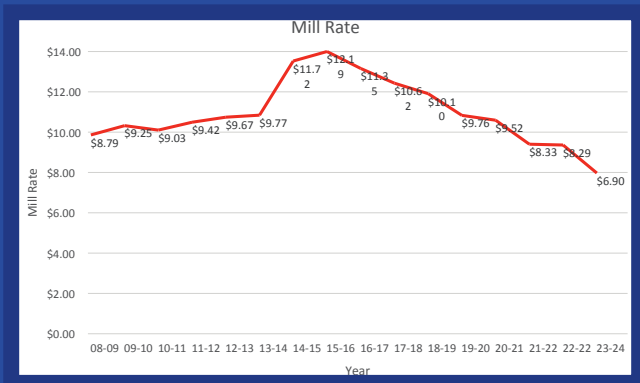


Meet Our New Food Service Director

Altoona is pleased to introduce Cherie Bundrant as the recently appointed Food Service Director. Food and Nutrition Services are provided by the Taher Food Service Management Company.

Financial Trends

The mill rate plays a crucial role in determining property taxes nationwide, signifying the tax amount owed for every dollar of a property's assessed value. The following section outlines the financial trends specific to Altoona.





SAVE THE DATE

2024 SUMMER SCHOOL

SESSION 1: JUNE 10TH-JUNE 27TH

SESSION 2: JULY 10TH-JULY 24TH

[HTTPS://WWW.ALTOONA.K12.WI.US/PARENTS/SUMMER-PROGRAMS](https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/parents/summer-programs)



2023-2024
**ALTOONA ATHLETICS
& ACTIVITIES**

<https://www.gorails.net>



Altoona Athletics Calendar:

<https://middleborderconference.org/public/genie/91/school/664/>

Altoona's School Store, The Red Zone: New Leadership and New Merchandise

Under the supervision of Mel Calkins, a teacher and National Honor Society Advisor at Altoona High School, the school store, recognized as The Red Zone, has experienced a remarkable transformation. The store now features a revitalized look, a diverse selection of new merchandise, and an active involvement opportunity for members of the student council in managing its operations. The Red Zone is located in the high school building.

The store will initially operate with specific hours, which are available for viewing here: <https://tinyurl.com/3284btpr>



Statebound : This Team is on Fire

The Altoona Girls Tennis Team has undeniably left a lasting impression on the tennis courts of Western Wisconsin over the past two seasons. Their remarkable achievements include three-time Conference championships and two appearances at the state level. Altoona, the #2 seeded team took on #3 Xavier in the 2023 Girls State Tennis Team Championships on Friday, October 20th at Nielsen Stadium in Madison.

Congratulations to Josie Reчек, who secured a spot in the top 16 in 1 singles; Sofie Bach and Katelyn Beltz, who performed admirably to reach the top 8 in 2 doubles; and Bella Bauer and Josie Rondestvedt, clinching the impressive 3rd position in 1 doubles at the 2023 WIAA Girls Tennis Individual Championship held from Thursday to Saturday, October 12th-14th. Well done on these outstanding achievements!

(Photo Top Left: From left to right, the 2 Doubles Team, Katelyn Beltz and Sofie Bach; 1 Singles player Josie Reчек; and the 2 Doubles Team, Bella Bauer and Josie Rondestvedt, heading to the Individual State Tournament. Photo Top Middle: A team photo taken during the Individual State Tournament. Photo Top Right: The team captured in a photo after the Conference Championship match in Amery.)



Congratulations to the Boys Cross Country Team for clinching the top spot in the Middle Border Conference Invitational at Prescott on October 12th. Joseph Ludy, Jude Kane, and Mason Hoepner made First Team All-Conference, while Levi Day earned a well-deserved Second Team All-Conference. Ryan Stanislawski and Ethan Michaels received Honorable Mention. Additionally, congratulations to Ava Gunderson from the Altoona Girls Team who also received Honorable Mention. (Photo Above: The Altoona Boys taking an early lead in the home Invite at Tower Ridge).



A.D. Office Newsletter

The Athletics/Activities Department will be sending out monthly newsletters to highlight students and provide important updates for families and the Altoona community. These newsletters will be linked in communications of building principals throughout the school year.

For the October 2023 Issue, go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/ysz42z3m>



The post-season journey for the Altoona/Fall Creek Boys Soccer Team kicked off with a regional game against Holmen on Tuesday, October 17th. Congratulations to Dallen Robinson (11) and Robbie Downie (10) for earning Middle Border Conference First Team All-Conference Honors, and a well-deserved recognition to Levi Goebel (10) who received 2nd Team honors. (Photo: Altoona celebrating a goal against the SCC Panthers.)



Congratulations to the Girls Volleyball Team members for their outstanding achievements in earning Middle Border All Conference Honors. Breeley Gluch (11) received First Team recognition, Brayln Siverling (10) was honored with Second Team, and Emma Lima (11) received an Honorable Mention. Accolades were announced during the annual meeting on October 17th. (Photo: Altoona competing against the Ellsworth Panthers.)





Contact Information

District Office

1903 Bartlett Avenue, Altoona, WI 54720 | 715-839-6032 | Fax: 715-839-6066
<https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/>

Superintendent, Dr. Heidi Eliopoulos, heliopoulos@altoona.k12.wi.us

Executive Assistant, Lisa Boss, lboss@altoona.k12.wi.us

Director of Finance and Operations, Dr. Brian Misfeldt, bmisfeldt@altoona.k12.wi.us

Human Resources, Payroll, and Benefits Coordinator, Peggy McKillip, pmckillip@altoona.k12.wi.us

District Accountant/Accounts Payable Specialist, Elys Bohl, ebohl@altoona.k12.wi.us

Support Services

Director of Student Services / Special Education, Missy Lesik, mlesik@altoona.k12.wi.us

Student Services Administrative Assistant, Kimberly Pearson, kpearson@altoona.k12.wi.us

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Amy Dahms, adahms@altoona.k12.wi.us

Director of Future Ready Learning, Sarah Radcliffe, sradcliffe@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 5012

Future Ready Learning Administrative Assistant / District Registrar & Open Enrollment Coordinator
Emilee Perkins, eperkins@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext 5013

Director of Food Service, Cherie Bundrant, cbundrant@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 4034

Student Transit, Brandon Birkenholz, bbirkenholz@student-transit.com, 715-839-5116

Buildings & Grounds

Supervisor / Maintenance & Custodial, Tim Chmelik, tchmelik@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 3039

Athletics/Activities Department

711 7th St W, Altoona WI 54720 | Phone: 715-839-6031 | Fax: 715-839-7334

Director of Athletics/Activities, Elissa Upward, eupward@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 4016

A.D. Administrative Assistant, Shasta Mohr, smohr@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 5060

Grace Lutheran Afterschool Care

Tyler Papierniak, tyler.papierniak@graceluthfound.com

Office Phone: 715-832-3003 ext. 20181

Altoona High School (9th – 12th Grades)

711 7th St W, Altoona WI 54720 | Phone: 715-839-6031 | Fax: 715-839-6028

High School Principal, Becky Bauer, rbauer@altoona.k12.wi.us

High School Assistant Principal, Chad Hanson, chanson@altoona.k12.wi.us

High School Administrative Assistant, Melissa Buss, mbuss@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 4000

High School Administrative Assistant, Tessa Ginder, tginder@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 4001

Altoona Middle School (6th – 8th Grades)

1903 Bartlett Ave, Altoona WI 54720 | Phone: 715-839-6030 | Fax: 715-839-6099

Middle School Principal, Steven Buss, sbuss@altoona.k12.wi.us

Middle/Intermediate School Dean of Students, Kyle Rundquist, krundquist@altoona.k12.wi.us

Middle School Administrative Assistant, Lori Watt, lwatt@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 3000

Altoona Intermediate School (4th – 5th Grades)

1903 Bartlett Ave, Altoona WI 54720 | Phone: 715-838-7111 | Fax: 715-839-6099

Intermediate Principal, Cale Zuiker, czuiker@altoona.k12.wi.us

Altoona Elementary School (5K-3rd Grades)

157 Bartlett Ave, Altoona WI 54720 | Phone: 715-839-6050 | Fax: 715-839-6166

Elementary School Principal, Leslie Lancette, llancette@altoona.k12.wi.us

Elementary School Assistant Principal, Ashley Minaker, aminaker@altoona.k12.wi.us

Elementary School Administrative Assistant, Shannon Ross, sross@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 2000

Elementary School Administrative Assistant, Christina Moore, cmoore@altoona.k12.wi.us, ext. 2001

Early Childhood Program / 4-Year Old Kindergarten

754 Bartlett Ave, Altoona WI 54720 | Phone: 715-838-7350

4K Coordinator, Laura Trachsel, ltrachsel@altoona.k12.wi.us

Altoona Virtual Academy

Virtual Learning Coordinator, Lindsey Jentsch

ljentsch@altoona.k12.wi.us

Boys & Girls Club

Site Director, Hannah Dolgner, hdolgner@cvclubs.org

715-838-7358



Visitor Procedures

School District of Altoona
1903 Bartlett Ave.
Altoona WI 54720

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Eau Claire WI
Permit No. 1557

We want our schools to be open and welcoming places for our families, volunteers, and the community. At the same time, it is important that they are safe and secure places for our students and staff.

Visitors to our schools are kindly requested to call in advance and schedule an appointment with the staff member they intend to visit. Unplanned visits may not always be accommodated due to staff schedules.

All visitors are required to do the following:

- Bring your driver's license (or government identification card). At your first visit to our school, you will use a self-service kiosk to scan your driver's license or identification card for a criminal background check.
- Wear the visitor's badge in a place that is easily visible to staff and students.
- Remain in the specific area of the building where your meeting or visit is scheduled.
- Check out at the kiosk after your visit.

Thank you for your help in keeping our schools safe!

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

2023-2024 CONCERT DATES

- 7PM Monday, November 13, 2023 - HS Choir, Auditorium
- 6:30PM Monday, December 4, 2023 - MS Choir, Auditorium
- 7PM Monday, December 11, 2023 - MS/HS Band Winter Concert, HS Gym
- 7PM Monday, February 12, 2024 - HS Choir/Show Choirs, HS Gym
- 7PM Monday, March 11, 2024 - MS/HS Band Winter Concert, HS Gym
- 6:30PM Monday, May 6, 2024 - MS Band/Choir, HS Gym
- 7PM Monday, May 13th, 2024 - HS Band/Choir, HS Gym