

AMERY MIDDLE SCHOOL

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER



Amery Middle School is a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School!



Amery Middle School was among 356 schools recognized nationwide this fall as the 2024 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools. This prestigious recognition highlights schools that excel in academic performance or make significant strides in closing achievement gaps among different student groups.

AMS Principal Tom Bensen and Guidance Counselor Kate Weisenbeck accepted the award on Nov. 8 in Washington D.C. (right). Congratulations to all who contributed in any way to this achievement!



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AMS phone numbers:

(715) 268-9771

Office ext. 303

Attendance ext. 302



Follow the School District of Amery on social media!

AMS state rating 'significantly exceeds expectations'



AMS REPORT CARD

- AMS score of 92.6 is rated 9th out of 385 middle schools in Wisconsin (top 2%).
- AMS has the highest overall score in the CESA #11 region and Middle Border Conference.
- AMS students' growth score of 100 is the highest in Wisconsin (1st out of 385 middle schools).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2024



- Dec. 6 6th Grade Field Trip to Minneapolis Children's Theatre, " How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
- Dec. 17 MS Concert: 6:30 pm 6th Gr. & MS Jazz Band, 7:30 pm MS Choirs @ HS Auditorium
- Dec. 23-Jan. 1 NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break

2025

- Jan. 13-18 Story Book Theatre Auditions (Rehearsals & Performances)
- Jan. 20 Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL
- Jan. 22 End of Term 3
- Jan. 31 First Semester Reward Day
- Feb. 3 Freshman Registration Night for 8th Graders
- Feb. 10 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-8 pm
- Feb. 13 MS Solo & Ensemble @ Unity 4-8 pm
- Feb. 13 In-Service Day (morning) & Parent/Teacher Conferences 1-8 pm
- Feb. 13-14 NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 20 AMS Winter Dance 6-8 pm
- March 7 End of Trimester 2 and Term 4
- March 18 Large Group Music Contest @ TBD 4-9 pm
- March 24-28 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
- April 2-11 6th-8th Grade State Forward Exam
- April 17 MS Fine Arts Concert: 6:30 pm Choirs, 7:30 pm Bands @ MS Gym
- April 18 NO SCHOOL
- April 21-25 Spring Fling Week!
- April 24 End of Term 5
- May 2025 ** 6th Grade Pioneer Village Field Trip **TBD
- May 2025 ** 7th Grade Civics Field Trip **TBD
- May 2025 ** 8th Grade All Skills Career Day **TBD
- May 9 Genius Hour Community Expo 9-10:30 am/8th Grade Youth Jam 11:30 am -3 pm
- May 26 NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day/Cadet Band Parade
- June 5 End of Trimester 3 and Term 6 - 2nd Semester Reward Day



** = Event Window (Exact Dates TBD)



THE WARRIOR WAY: RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY • SAFETY



NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



By Tom Bensen

I hope you all enjoy the upcoming holiday season. We are excited to be closing out the first half of the school year, and we are pleased with how hard students have worked this year. In this newsletter you will find some important dates coming up in the next two months that I want to bring to your attention:

Second Trimester: We are busy with the start of our second trimester. Students have started their second set of classes and their third applied arts class.

First-Semester Reward Day: First-semester reward day is schedule for Friday, Jan. 31, 2025. Students who do not receive more than five Level 2 and/or 3 infractions over the length of the entire semester are eligible for the off-campus reward options. We are still working on plans for reward day, and a form will be distributed to students soon. In the past, we have held events such as skating at the Amery Ice Arena, skiing or tubing at Trollhaugen, bowling, etc.

Freshman Registration Night: To help our students transition from 8th to 9th grade, we will be holding the freshman registration night the evening of Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at Amery High School. More information will be provided on this event at a later date. This registration session is for all 8th-grade students and their parents. In the past, parents and students had the opportunity to learn more about the high-school schedule, how the high school operates, what classes students must take, what classes students can choose from, and how the high-school credit system works. It is our goal for parents and students to leave the registration night with a general understanding of what courses they must take now so that they are better prepared to meet their personal goals and objectives. Students will also be receiving their high-school class registration forms at this meeting

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Our second set of Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, Feb. 10, from 4 to 8 PM and on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 1 to 8 PM. Again, the format for conferences will be in-person as well as remote options like we had last fall.

Forward Exam: Students at Amery Middle School will take the Forward Exam the week of April 7-11. In addition, 8th-grade students will have testing April 2-3. More information on the Forward Exam will come at a later date.

If you have any questions about these items or on any other matter, please call the school at 268-9771, ext. 303.



Go Amery Warriors!

Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences

Monday, February 10: 4-8 PM & Thursday, February 13: 1-8 PM

Parent-teacher conferences will be held over the phone OR in person.

Parents will be able to sign up to schedule times with each teacher (same format we ran in the fall).

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the office at clausenh@amerysd.k12.wi.us or (715) 268-9771, ext. 303.



News from the School Nurse



'Tis the season for respiratory illnesses. Taking the following actions on a daily basis can help stop the spread of germs:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your nose, eyes and mouth.
- Stay home and away from others if you feel sick.
- Avoid being around others who are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, and encourage children to do the same.

Have a healthy holiday season!

Stuff gone astray?

Is your student missing a shoe? Has their favorite sweatshirt gone missing? Is their wardrobe suddenly wanting?? Your student's abandoned things may be among the assortment languishing in the Amery Middle School lost-and-found rack located near the gym doors. Please check it out if you're in the building, encourage your student to look it over, and let's reunite your student with their stray stuff!



AMERY COMMUNITY *Education*

LEARN MORE AND PRE-REGISTER WITH COMMUNITY ED UNLESS THE DESCRIPTION SAYS OTHERWISE. USE THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT OR VISIT THE 'COMMUNITY' TAB OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE:
amerysd.k12.wi.us/community/



SNOWMOBILE SAFETY: DNR CERTIFICATION

For ages 11+. Certificate is valid at age 12. Three mandatory classes: Dec 2, 3 & 5 from 5:30-8:30p.
Ryan Jordan, Polk Co Rec Patrol Deputy **\$10**

MYSTERIES OF THE NIGHT SKY: PLANETARIUM!

Join us in Clear Lake for a 30-minute experience in the portable planetarium featuring a panoramic view of the night sky as stars shift in various seasons and from different locations. Explore cosmic events: Northern Lights, shooting stars, meteor showers, and more.
Wed, Dec 4; thirty-minute time slots between 4-9:30p
CESA 11 Portable Planetarium **\$19**

BASKETBALL OPEN GYM FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

- Grades 4-12; younger are welcome with an adult.
- Sundays 1:30-5:30p
- Middle School
- Enter through the North doors.
- Bring your own basketball & clean gym shoes.

FAMILY OPEN GYM

- Adults must stay.
- Bring clean gym shoes.
- Intermediate School
- Enter through the North doors.
- 2-4p
- 1st & 3rd Sundays
- Nov-March

PICKLEBALL OPEN GYM

- Bring your own paddle if you have one.
- High School
- \$5 per night OR pre-buy a \$24 family membership. Bring exact change.
- 6-8p on Wednesdays through March 12
- Closed 11/27, 12/25, 1/1

Storybook Theater & Amery youth present 'Goldilocks & The Three Bears'

Auditions include grades 6-8!

Join us in this thrilling whodunnit to figure out who exactly broke into the Bear Family's home, ate their porridge, sat in all their chairs, and slept in her beds!

Please register online for each child who plans to audition. This is to ensure we have each child's contact information. There is no charge for children to audition or participate. Storybook Theatre will furnish all props and costumes; everything else is funded through ticket sales.

WHO CAN AUDITION? Amery children in grades 3-8

AUDITIONS: Monday, January 13 from 3:30—5:30 p.m. in the Amery High School Auditorium.

PRACTICES: January 13-17 (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday everyone from 3:25-7:45 p.m.) (Tuesday will be scheduled rehearsal times depending on role assigned.) (Friday from 3:25 until after the show.)

Do not audition if you are not available to practice for the full week and if you cannot attend BOTH shows. Plans for bussing students after school from the Intermediate and Middle Schools to the High School will be provided via each school office. Lien 3rd grade Montessori students will be walked from the elementary to the high school.

PERFORMANCES - AHS Auditorium

- Friday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. AND Saturday, January 18 at 10:30 a.m.
- General Admission Tickets - \$7 in advance or \$8 at the door.
Ages 5 and under free. Advance tickets available the week of the show from Chet Johnson Drug, the Intermediate and Middle School offices.

Hosted by Amery Community Education
Ticket income is used to pay show expenses



Goldilocks & The Three Bears