



# Ansbach Middle High School Parent Newsletter January 2013

## A Letter from the AMHS principal --

Dear Parents and Sponsors,

The monthly newsletter is a great way of providing an avenue of communication between the school and home, and communication is a huge issue for both parents and the school. Many parents might feel that they are not really sure what is going on with their child in school because when you ask your child, "How school was today?" and they most often say, "Fine" and then go to their room or disappear outside to play. Sometimes there is a story, and it is filled with the daytime drama of life in the teenage years. The school does try to get information to parents answering the question, "How is my child doing in school?" through various means, and the most common mode is simply GradeSpeed, which allows you to track the progress of work completion or grades. This often falls short because GradeSpeed is only as effective as the turnaround time it takes to grade and record work, and it does not give parents any feedback regarding why a student earned a particular grade. Individual feedback is normally provided by comments on papers, so parents would need to really see the actual assignment after it has been reviewed. Teachers frequently use rubrics, as well, which give explanations for numbers, and they provide a rating system. This form of communication is essential in the world of assessment because students learn best when they are given feedback about the quality of their work and what they could do to improve. While many parents would appreciate phone calls, most situations involving phone calls are unfortunately not for positive reports. The school also provides a daily bulletin, and many people have commented about the great quality of the layout and design since Mr. Fisher began providing great student artwork. He and Mrs. Fisher work together to really spruce up the presentation of the daily bulletin. It looks great every day, and I appreciate that. The school really would like to encourage parents to contact us directly if you have questions about your child's progress in school, or if there is a situation you would like to report. You can visit our web page at <http://www.ansb-hs.eu.dodea.edu>, and many of our teachers are developing web pages on what is called E-Portal. You will see this link on our web page, and I am including it here. <http://ansmhs.bdso.eportalnow.net> (password is ansmh4402). If you want to call us, the phone number is CIV 09802-83-2808 or DSN 467-2808. The school would like to do all it can to continue giving you information about the school, upcoming events and requirements for individual classes, and if we left something out, let us know. Better yet, stop by and say hello and let's talk.

-Mr. David Carlisle, Principal



## Continuous School Improvement

**Ansbach Middle High School Vision:** Ansbach Middle High School is committed to ensuring that all students will be able to function independently in an increasingly global and diverse world.

**School Improvement Goal 1:** By 2013, all students will increase their problem-solving skills (thinking sequentially and logically) across the curriculum, as measured by Terra Nova Multiple Assessments 3rd Edition, PSAT, and a local problem-solving assessment.

**School Improvement Goal 2:** By 2013, all students will increase their writing proficiency in all content areas through a focus on editing skills, as measured by Terra Nova Multiple Assessments, PSAT, and a local writing assessment.

Continuous school improvement is, for all intents and purposes, the business plan for education. Schools should try continuously and consistently to improve the various aspects of the education provided to students each day. I believe that the five AdvancEd standards (Purpose and Direction; Governance and Leadership; Teaching and Assessing for Learning; Resources and Support Systems; Using Results for Continuous Improvement) serve as the guide for all decisions made within classrooms and school. Continuous school improvement is an ongoing commitment to improving the education of students by involving all stakeholders in a systematic process of data analysis, planning, implementation, and evaluation in order to drive all decisions.

Our goal at Ansbach Middle High School is to ensure that all students will be able to function independently in an increasingly global and diverse world. For the past few months, the staff has been analyzing the skills identified in the various assessments (PSAT, SRI, TerraNova, SAT, ACT, Local Assessments, etc.) administered. This will culminate in the development of a list of essential skills and best practices for teaching those skills to all students. The purpose is to ensure that the students of AMHS are 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners. We want our students to be successful in an every changing world—we need your help! Your input is invaluable to the school improvement process, and we welcome you to help use data to inform instruction. Mark your calendar for the afternoon of February 1<sup>st</sup> staff for the next CSI in-service. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute to the development of the list of essential skills, please contact me at [kaki.strosnider@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:kaki.strosnider@eu.dodea.edu). Kaki Strosnider Romy Kerstetter CSI Co-Chairs

# ~Counselor's Corner~

## NCAA Eligibility

Does your child think they have the ability to be a college athlete? If your answer is yes, then you need to get started on the process to become eligible.

The NIAAA now offers free webinars for parents and students on the NCAA Eligibility requirements for those students who desire an athletic scholarship.

Go to this link, to view both webinars:  
<http://www.freerecruitingwebinar.org/>

Be prepared well in advance in order even to be considered!

## Need Money for College?

January 1 is the magic date when prospective college students may begin the application process for Federal Aid. The process begins by visiting the following website, [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov), and establishing your account. After reviewing the information and options for completing the FAFSA, you must login and begin the process. What is the FAFSA? It is the Free Application for Student Aid, and you should never be charged for completion of this form. If you are advised of a payment due, then you are on the wrong website.

For more information before getting started, visit the DODEA Europe home page at [www.dodea.edu/europe](http://www.dodea.edu/europe), where there are various videos to assist with the process.

SAT : The next SAT test date at AMHS is May 4, and the last day to register is April 5. All 2014 graduates planning to apply to college should take this important exam.



## The Ansbach Middle/High School German–American Exchange Program

*An opportunity to get a taste of each other's culture*

By Herr Koerner

Every year a large number of students take part in our German-American Exchange Program. We have four German partner schools in the area. Usually the exchange consists of visiting each other's school for one day each. Every student picks a partner at the beginning of the day. Hosts and guests will then stay together spending their time in all classes as well as during break and lunch. There is always an activity involving the entire group at the end of the day in order to get to know each other better. This can be sports or a tour of points of interest in each other's "world." With one of our partner schools, we have established a two-day exchange, including an overnight stay with the host families of our Ansbach MHS students.

After introducing themselves to each other the students could pick each other's partners. It is always amazing how fast teenagers can do this.

After spending the school day together, the entire group took a bus to the airfield. Mr. Derek Hyde, the school liaison officer, had organized a real highlight by having an Apache helicopter flown over from Illesheim.

The pilots gave an excellent explanation of the aircraft and answered many questions. All students were allowed to sit in the cockpit. Of course, no one wanted to miss that opportunity. A tour of the tower completed the event. After school our students took their partners home giving the

German guests a taste of American culture and providing more time to get to know each other better. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, everybody was back at school spending a seven-period day together. At 3:00 p.m. our guests took their bus home. In February they will meet their partners again – this time in Heilsbronn. Our students are excited and look forward to the upcoming return visit – including staying at their German partner's house. This will make their stay in Germany an unforgettable event.

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## AMHS Drama Class

By Anna Dore

“Self-esteem booster, empowering, self-improvement, and a way to come over shyness” were all phrases Mrs. Lucas used to describe **MS Drama Class**. Mrs. Lucas, the teacher of middle school drama, said her class is very “performance-based” and that it allows her to connect with her students on different levels. She is able to see her students’ creative side, not only in their acting skills, but also in their writing skills. The middle school drama class must, write, direct and produce their own plays. Skylar, 7<sup>th</sup> grader, said her favorite job was to direct and act because it gave her a chance to express herself.



**High School Drama Class** is slightly different than middle school drama. The high school drama class taught by Mrs. Teall plans to go a step further from in-class performances and put on a production for the school and community to watch. Mrs. Teall explained that drama is completely different than any other class. Drama class is a skills-based curriculum that emphasizes public speaking, style and delivery, body language, and creative expression. She added that “It’s also a chance to leave reality behind and enter a fantasy world.”

### High School Drama Class Presents

*And Then There Was One*  
By Michael Druce

**Where:** Multi-Purpose Room

**When:** January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 @ 1:50 p.m.

**Who’s Invited:** Students and community

Drama is not only about acting and directing; it also provides students with first-hand experience of sound engineering and set construction. Students who do not have acting parts can work on sound, lights, or stage sets to transform the stage into a scene that comes straight out of the play itself.

## HS Journalism Class

By Carlos Velazquez

Journalism is the activity of journalists engaged in the preparation of written, visual or audio material intended for dissemination through public media with reference to factual, ongoing events of public concern. It is intended to inform society about itself and to make public things that would otherwise be private.



### Examples of AHS student journalism –

Weebly Webpage  
Parent Newsletters  
Student News Magazines  
Publicity Posters  
Program Bulletin

Ansbach HS journalism students learn how to use many different media and incorporate new technology. They develop real-world publishing skills that can help students with their future jobs. Mrs. Teall, journalism teacher, believes that the differentiated curriculum allows students to make more personal choices.



Visit the Journalism Weebly Page Media Blog for local movie schedules:

<http://ansmhs.bdso.eportalnow.net>  
(password **ansmh4402**).