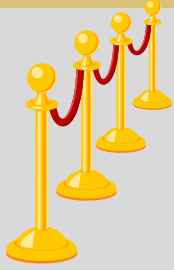
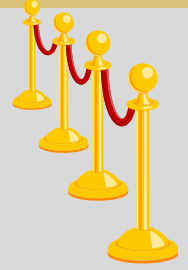


AMBRIDGE AREA

Bridger Bulletin
Spring 2024



Hall of Honor Inductees



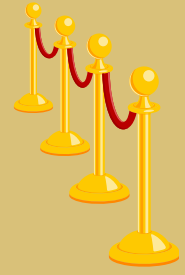
Frank Strano, 1965 Graduate



Frank Strano was born in Ambridge and grew up on Church Street to working class parents. His father was a steelworker and had a part-time home remodeling business. His mother was a homemaker. Frank attended Fourth Ward and Park Road schools for the first eight years of his education and graduated from Ambridge High School in 1965. Upon graduating from Duquesne University, he worked at Jones and Laughlin in Aliquippa as an industrial engineer. After three years, along with his two brothers and father, they expanded the part time home remodeling business into a full-time business. It became the largest home remodeling business in Beaver County. Eventually, a building was purchased to store materials for upcoming remodeling projects and soon contractors began purchasing these materials as well.



Hall of Honor Inductees



Frank Strano

A representative from the hardware industry approached Frank to expand the store's inventory. Thus, the origins of Ambridge Do It Best began. The hardware store outgrew its location and purchased property on the Ohio River Boulevard from the American Bridge company and in 1995, the store opened in its present location. As a Do It Best store, sales have greatly increased and the store has expanded several times. The store is expanding once again with the addition of 7,000 square feet of new retail space. Frank and his son David also own Incom Supply of Pittsburgh which serves industrial accounts and a Benjamin Moore paint store in East Liberty.



Frank has won awards and has been featured in trade magazines. Two awards are the Ben Franklin Award from Beaver County and the prestigious Beacon Award which honors the industry's top retailer in the United States. Frank and Christine have one son David and his fiancé Lauren, one daughter Sara Yannessa and her husband Christian. Both Sara and Christian are teachers in the Ambridge Area School District and have two children, Nico and Leo. Frank and his wife Christine, who also grew up in Ambridge, are members of Saint Luke the Evangelist church. They are great believers in supporting the Ambridge area communities and wish to thank these communities for supporting their business throughout the years.

Hall of Honor Inductees

General (Retired) David D. Thompson, 1981 Graduate



Following graduation from Ambridge Area High School, General Thompson attended the United States Air Force Academy. He commissioned into the United States Air Force in 1985, serving over 38 years in the Air and Space Forces.

General Thompson's career included assignments as a rocket test engineer, satellite acquisition officer, Assistant Professor of Astronautics and Space Shuttle launch team member. He commanded space operations units at the squadron, group and wing levels, deployed to Southwest Asia supporting the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and served in senior leadership positions at the Air Force Warfare Center, National Reconnaissance Office, Air Force Space Command, United States Strategic Command and Headquarters United States Space Force.



Hall of Honor Inductees

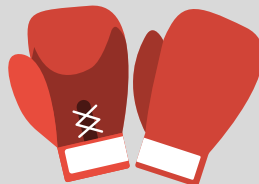
General (Retired) David D. Thompson

General Thompson finished his military career by playing a key role in the creation of the United States Space Force, the nation's first new military branch in 73 years, and served as its first Vice Chief of Space Operations, the #2 military officer in that branch of service. His military decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, National Reconnaissance Office Gold Medal for Excellence, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit and Defense Distinguished Service Medal.



General Thompson earned a B.S. in Astronautical Engineering from the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), an M.S. in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Purdue University, and an M.S. in National Security Industrial Policy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF). He is an Olmsted Scholar and graduate of Air Command and Staff College, Air War College and the Senior Acquisition Course of National Defense University. Thompson is a distinguished graduate of USAFA and ICAF, and a Distinguished Engineering Alumnus of Purdue University.

After earning All District recognition in basketball and baseball at Ambridge, Thompson was a member of two National Championship boxing teams at the Air Force, where he earned All American honors and was the 1985 National Collegiate Heavyweight Boxing Champion.



District News

Stronger Connections Grant

Great News for Ambridge Area School District: \$583,370 Grant Secured to Boost Safety and Support



The Ambridge Area School District was awarded the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) in the amount of \$583,370.00 to enhance mental health supports and safety within the schools.

Ambridge is excited for the opportunity and will use the funds to enhance Mental Health Supports through the Rachel's Challenge Program for Students, Staff and Community and Prevention Network Mental Health Supports in all 5 schools and fund our Elementary School Counselor.

In addition, the district will be purchasing two EVOLV double lane security scanners for our Middle School and High School.

District News

The Drowsy Chaperone Wins 4 Henry Mancini Musical Theatre Awards



Congratulations to the cast, crew, staff and volunteers of “The Drowsy Chaperone” on their 4 Henry Mancini Musical Theatre Awards wins!

Best Scenic Design Budget 2

Best Costume Design Budget 2

Best Lighting Design Budget 2

Best Supporting Actor- Pietro Pucci (Aldolpho)



High School Highlights

Prom

The 2024 Grand March “Enchanted Forest” and Prom were hosted by the AAHS Junior Class. The Junior class officers and Prom Committee are advised by Ms. Nicole Connolly.



Prom Committee members:

Hannah Larimore (not pictured)
Madison Kozak
Reanna Ramirez
Scarlett Truskowski
Megan Conover
Lily Denny (not pictured)
Madelyn Palmer (not pictured)
Summer Hartman (not pictured)

The Junior Class officers:

Mara Ilko-President
Sheridan Olenic-Vice President
Kaetlin Caylao-Treasurer
Danica Marovich-Secretary (not pictured)
Savanna Jones-Historian

Congratulations to the 2024 AAHS Prom Court! (pictured left to right):

Alivea Bupp and Alec Fustich
Emma Cain and Preston Korol
Zyra Chickos and Kemagne Phillips
Kylee Morrow and Pietro Pucci
Ava Timmons and Grant Uvodich

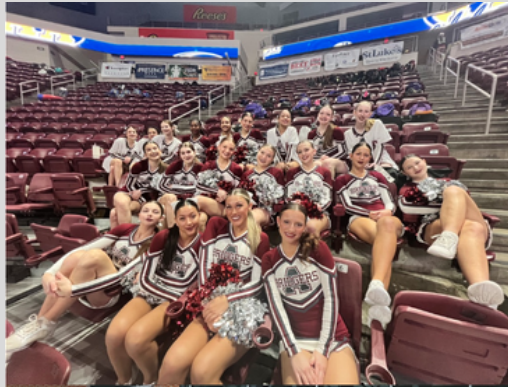
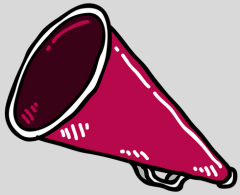


The 2024 AAHS Prom King and Queen were Grant Uvodich and Alivea Bupp.

High School Highlights

Bridger Cheerleaders Finish in the Top Five at State Finals

Ambridge Area High School's Competitive Cheer Team made school history by placing fifth in the 2A Small Varsity division at the 2024 PIAA Competitive Spirit State Championship, on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Giant Center in Hershey. This achievement marks the team's first-ever qualification for the state competition.



Coach Phillips expressed immense pride in the team's achievement, emphasizing the dedication and perseverance that led to this groundbreaking moment for the Ambridge Area High School cheer program.

"This accomplishment is the result of months of hard work, countless hours of practice, and unwavering commitment from each member of the team. Coach Amanda and I are incredibly proud of their achievements and the positive representation they have brought to our school," said Coach Phillips.

The Ambridge community rallied behind the team, cheering them on every step of the way, even giving them a welcome home escort from Ambridge Police Department, Ambridge Fire Department, Harmony Fire Department, Baden Fire Department, and Economy Fire Department.

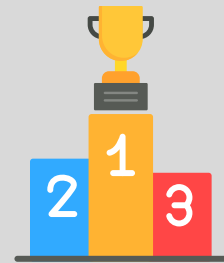
The team traveled to the UCA Nationals February 9-13. We are so proud of these girls and their coaches!

Middle School Highlights

Special Olympics



Beaver County Special Olympics were held Friday, 4/26 at Geneva College.



Our students both participated as athletes and as buddies.
A great day was had by all!

PBIS Field Trip



McConnells Mill PBIS field trip with 6th, 7th, 8th graders from Ambridge Middle School. Grind the Grain tour, Forest Ecology, and Kildo Creek stream study!



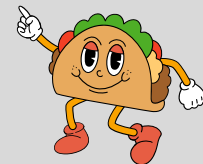
Highland Highlights

Bobcat the Therapy Dog



K-2 students got to meet Bobcat for the first time!

Let's Taco-Bout Books!



Congratulations to Miss Wilson's class who had the most STAR tickets for the third nine weeks! They won a taco party!

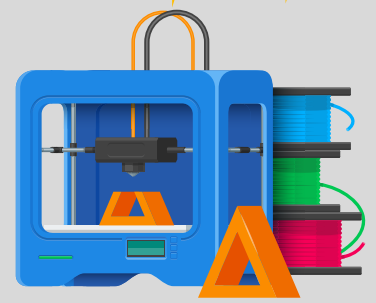
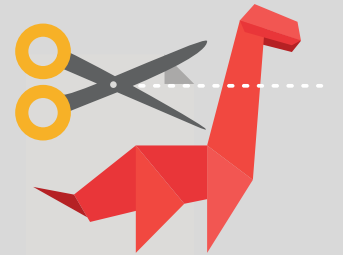
A BIG THANKS to the Highland faculty for supporting our Positive Behavior Program and making this taco party possible!



Highland Highlights

Maker Space

Highland Elementary School had the grand opening of their Maker Space, provided by Matt's Maker Space! Students, teachers and community members enjoyed refreshments and ribbon cutting to commemorate this exciting endeavor!



Maker Spaces are rooms that provide our students opportunities for STEAM exploration and creation! We are so excited to see what they create at Highland!

State Street Elementary Highlights



Art Show



State Street art students got to have their beautiful artwork displayed at the Art Show!



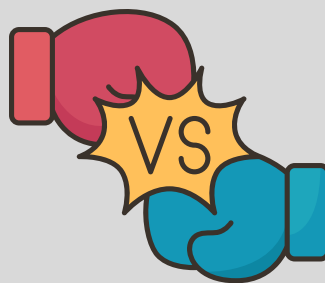
State Street Elementary Highlights



Battle of the Books



Our 5th grade Battle of the Books team had a great time at the competition at Penn State Beaver! They worked really hard preparing for the games and only missed making the finals by 1 point! We are very proud of their effort!



Economy Elementary Highlights

BMX Anti-Bullying Assembly



Classroom highlights for the Spring Semester include third grade Culture Week, fifth grade Civil War Projects, a visit from sixth grade authors and illustrators reading to first grade, the first-grade butterfly release, the first-grade rock garden, and our third-grade contestants competing in the third-grade district-wide Spelling Bee. Way to go Economy!



New Hire for the Tech Department

Kristen Ferguson Joins Ambridge Area School District as the New Technology Director



Kristen Ferguson is joining the Ambridge Area School District as the new Technology Director, bringing with her 12 years of experience in the classroom teaching Spanish and technology experience from Questeq. She looks forward to bringing her passion for education and technology to the exciting things happening at Ambridge!