



WELCOME CLASS OF 2028
to the Ambridge Area
High School

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR



Opening
Remarks:
Dr.
Pasquerilla

Superintendent – The
Ambridge Area School
District



Welcome: Dr. Janice Zupsic

Principal – The Ambridge Area School District

Agenda: Thursday, August 15, 2024:



Welcome: Learn of the Educational Staff, Requirements and Resources



Attendance, Expectations at the High School and Questions



Tour and Review Schedule and Visit Educational Booths



High School Administration:



Dr. Pasquerilla –
Superintendent of
The Ambridge Area
School District

Please contact Mrs.
June Mueller for an
Appointment:
724-266-2833, ext.
1263



Dr. Janice Zupsic
Principal Ambridge
High School

Please contact Mrs.
Guerrieri for an
Appointment:
724-266-2833, ext.
2296



Mr. Joseph Lamenza
Assistant Principal Ambridge
High School / Athletic
Director

Please contact Mrs. Kotula
for an Appointment:
724-266-2833, ext. 2380

High School Guidance Counseling Office :



Ms. Chelsea Benedict,
MA, NCC

724-266-2833, ext.
2482

9th – 10th Grade
School Counselor



Mr. Phillip Goerig
MA Ed.

724-266-2833, ext.
2419

11th – 12th Grade
School Counselor



Mrs. Sarah
Schaffer, MSW

724-266-2833,
ext. 2265

Highland
Elementary and
High School Social
Worker



Mrs. Linda Prevost

724-266-2833, ext.
2102

Prevention
Specialist
SAP Coordinator

High School Secretarial and Administrative Assistants:

Mrs. Renee Guerrieri

724-266-2833, ext. 2296

Administrative Assistance

- Contact Administration
- Graduation
- Caps and Gowns

Mrs. Chickos

724-266-2833, ext. 2335

Front Office Secretary

- Attendance
- Work Permits
- Excuses
- Tardies
- Early Dismissal

Mrs. Valerie Misencik

724-266-2833, ext. 2377

Guidance and Foods Service
Secretary

- Guidance Questions
- Contact Counselors / Social Worker / SAP Coordinator
- Transcripts
- Food Service

Mrs. Kotula

724-266-2833, ext. 2380

Athletic Director Secretary

- Athletic Questions / Concerns
- Game Locations
- Contact Athletic Director

Arrival and Dismissal: Average School Day:

- ✓ Please note: Homeroom and 1st period are the same location, period and teacher. **Report to 1st Period start of day.**
- ✓ Arrive early 7:05 AM – Free Breakfast Available
- ✓ 42 minute class periods – All receive Free lunch – Use student ID for pin – if you want additional snacks – at cost snack bar .
- ✓ Nine class periods in a school day
- ✓ Four lunch periods (4, 5, 6, & 7)
- ✓ School ends at 2:26 PM
- ✓ Special bell schedules & assemblies



Homeroom/1st Period starts promptly at 7:30 AM

Breakfast: 7:05 AM – 7:25 AM – Check-in Front Door

Attendance taken promptly at 7:30 AM: Arrive Early

Arrival: Security Protocol / Lockers:

1. All Students are **REQUIRED** to enter through the Front Bridge Entrance at the High School and participate in security protocols.
2. New Evolv scanner will require you to walk through the scanner with your laptop in hand. Other items that will alert are 3 ring binders and umbrellas
3. If the scanner alerts on your person or belongings, you will be asked to go through a secondary search.
4. Student arrival and door opening will begin at 7:05 AM.
5. Busses will drop-off students at the Stadium Entrance at the High School and front entrance.
6. Parents will drop-off students at the Front Bridge Entrance at the High School.
7. Parents are required to show ID at Front Check-In when entering.



School Supplies and Materials:

- **Required:** Please ensure your student has their laptop charged for immediate use on arrival.
- **Laptop Distribution Procedure: Dr. Zupsic Reporting**
- Please ensure student has their laptop and charger, with laptop charged for immediate use on arrival.
- Students are permitted to bring a water bottle for water each day. Water bottle adapters have been installed on water fountains for students to refill during the day.
- Please keep personal items to a minimum to reduce check-in time during morning security protocols.
- Materials can be kept in lockers: Keep lockers locked at all times and do not share with others – All materials in the locker are the responsibility of the student. Do not share combination with others.
- Guidance can give your student locker number, or on their profile in Infinite Campus.



Transportation: ABC Transit

- **AM Arrival:** Buses drop off in front of the building on arrival 7:05 – 7:20 AM
- **PM Dismissal:** Students will be dismissed at 2:26 PM
- **PM – All busses are lined up at the Front Entrance of the High School by bus number for dismissal.**
- Bus Assignments: Students must ride the bus they are assigned to.
- Any student wishing to ride another bus home or to school on a specific day **are required** to present a written parent note in the morning to the front office in order to receive a temporary bus pass to present to the driver.
- NO students will be permitted to ride another bus without a written bus pass.
- Changes to routes and transportation questions: (724) 266-2833, x1203
- All school rules and policies are enforced on the busses and can result in disciplinary action according to school code. All busses are equipped with cameras and sound systems.



Important Communication Information:

- Please ensure you are signed up for the Bridger Blast: Bridger Blast's are communication about all events at the district level.
- In your e-mail, please spell your whole name, student/students you should be receiving messages from and your up-to-date phone number and e-mail if not receiving messages
- Please contact support at helpdesk@ambridge.k12.pa.us
- Infinite Campus: We are no longer using the Tyler Portal System. Please check your mail and e-mail about how to access the Infinite Campus Portal.
- Infinite Campus will have a list of all student grades, assignments, and classwork. Please refer to Infinite Campus for all grades and academic information.

Welcome: Mr. Lamenza



Assistant Principal & Athletic
Director – The Ambridge Area
School District





Procedures and Discipline:

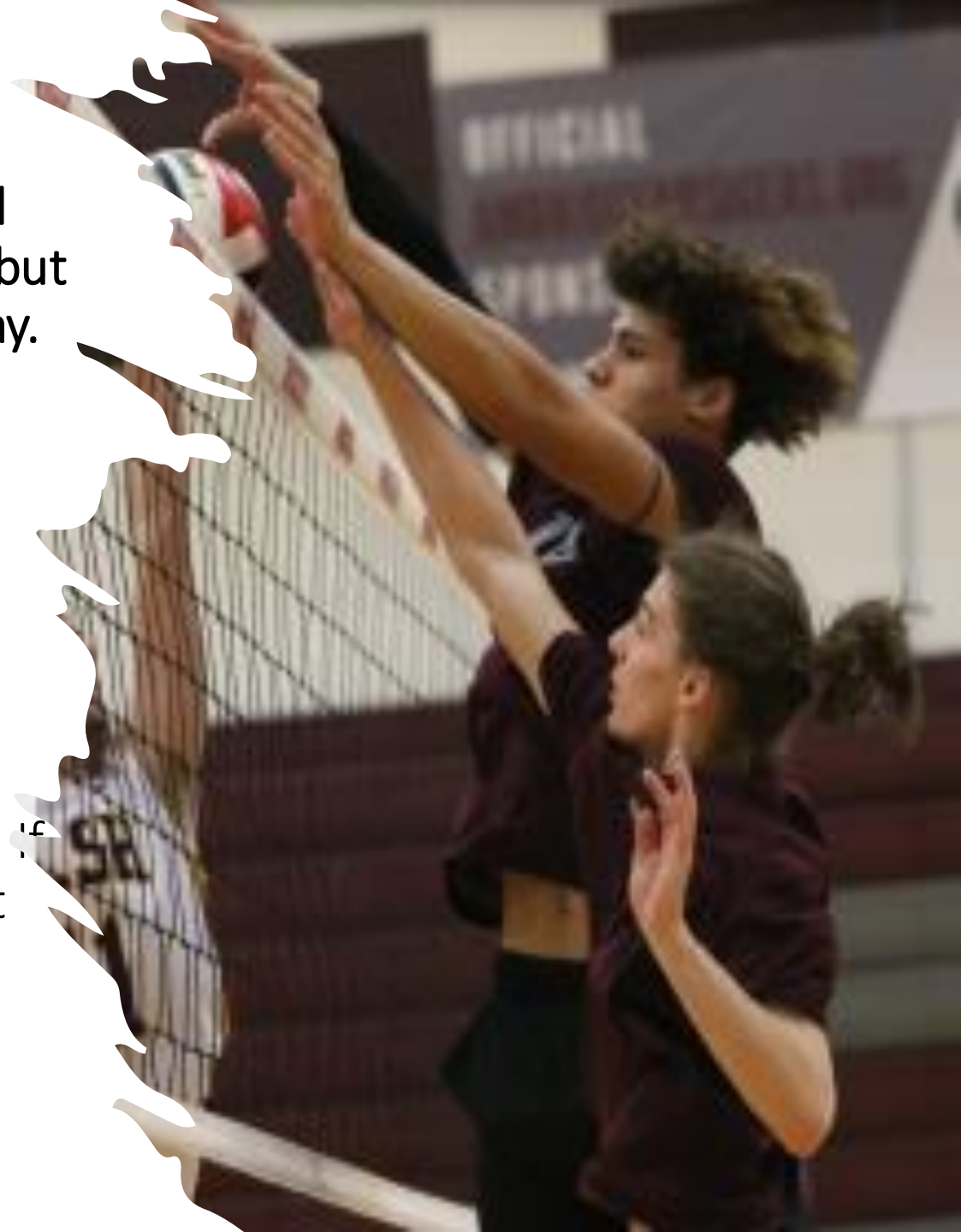
- **Detention** - What can result in detention? Truancy, Policy Violations – Skipping Class, Late to Class, Tardiness to School.
- **Written Warning** – 1-5 tardies
- 6-9 tardies Administrative Detention
- 10-15 tardies 2 Administration Detentions
- 15+: In School Suspension, Out of School Suspension, Loss of Social Privileges including but not limited to students ability to participate in school dances, clubs, trips, field trips, use of parking pass, approved work permit, keystone rewards, athletic activities, sports and other privileges determined by administration.
- **Bullying** of any kind including Cyber Bullying will not be tolerated and will result in loss of privileges.
- **Suspension:** After-school activities, dances, and limiting student participation is a direct result of Discipline.
- **Dress Code** – It is Enforced – Student Handbook
- Please consider when applying for Post-Secondary Education and Careers/Employment discipline is reviewed if a Level III or higher

Academic Eligibility: Athletics

Grades: Eligibility will now be checked on the last school day of every week. Most of the time that will be Friday, but if we have a short week, it will be checked on the last day.

Eligibility: E-mails sent to principals and coaches on the last day of the school week. Coaches will communicate with the student-athletes and parents about academic and attendance eligibility issues. Please direct questions to the Athletic Director.

- **Academic requirements: Student-athletes must be passing four full-credit (4* 1.00 credit) classes weekly.** If they fail to meet the PIAA requirements- they are out from Sunday through Saturday.
- **Failure to meet this requirement=ineligibility**



Academic Eligibility: Athletics

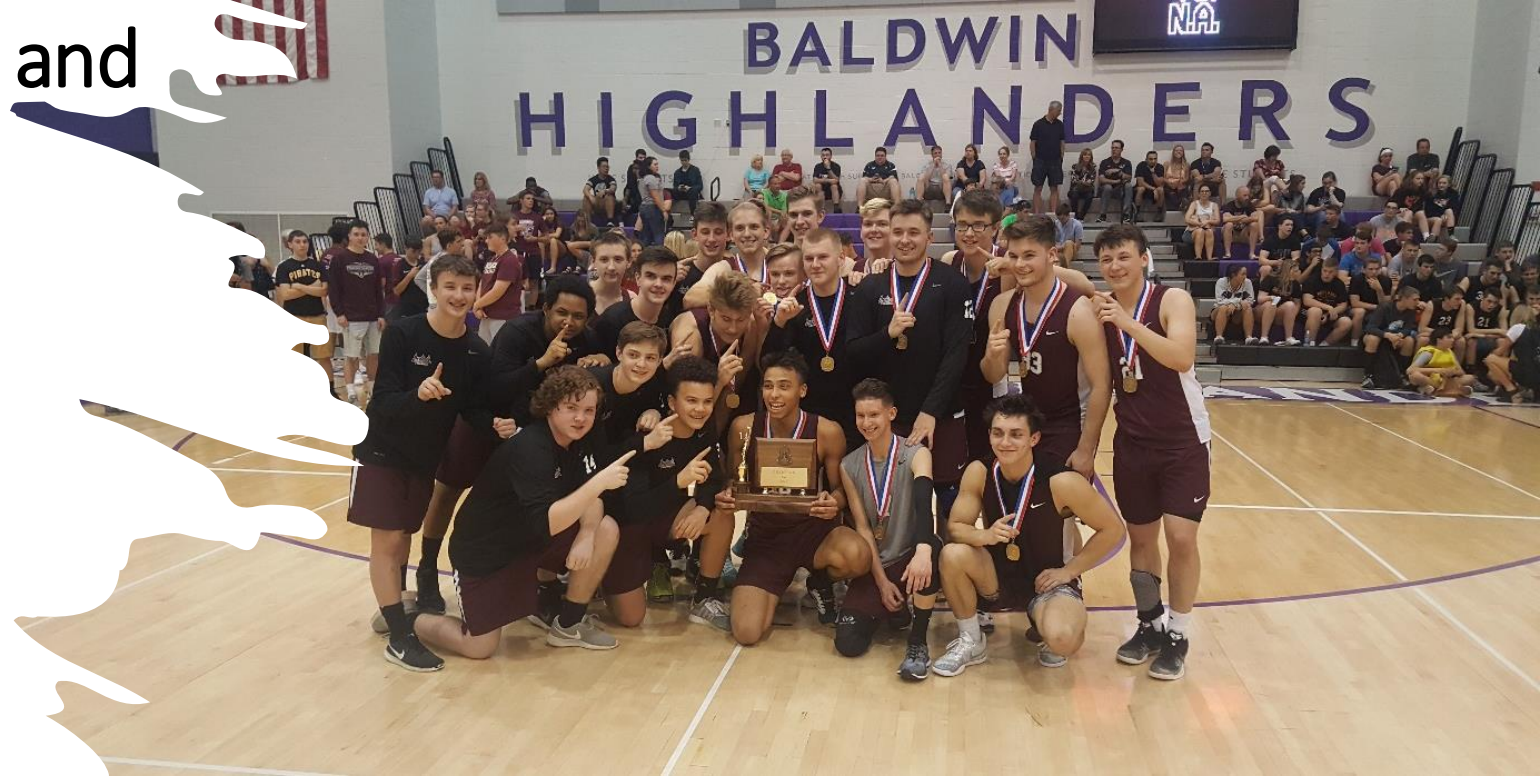
Grades: Eligibility will now be checked on the last school day of every week. Most of the time that will be Friday, but if we have a short week, it will be checked on the last day.

- Attendance requirements: Accumulation of more than twenty (20) days of unexcused absences: Student will be ineligible to participate in athletics (inter-school practice, scrimmage or contest) until the student has been in attendance for a total of forty-five (45) school days following the student's twentieth (20th) day of absence, which may fall into the following school year.
- Final Spring grades determine Fall Eligibility – If you fail a class and do not meet 4 (1.00) credit classes, **you will not be eligible to practice in the summer or play in the Fall without credit recovery.**
- **If a student has In School Suspension, he/she will not be permitted to practice or play that day. In School Suspension will be treated the same as Out of School Suspension when it comes to extracurriculars.**



Academic Eligibility: Athletics and NCAA

- All students are required to maintain Academic Eligibility to remain active in their athletic team – Passing 4 (1.00) credit classes
- Please review the Student Handbook for Academic Eligibility
- Play a sport at Division I, II, III, and club/participation levels – NCAA website – Make an appointment with Athletic Director to ensure meeting requirements – Sign-up for the NCAA portal as soon as possible.
- Any sports, eligibility and coaching related questions – Required to be directed to the Athletic Director – Contact Mr. Joseph Lamenza at 724-266-2833, ext. 2235



School Nurse:

Medication at school: If your student requires daily medication: Nurse must administer all medications – Please bring a properly labeled container from the pharmacy with original prescription label on the bottle/box – Required to drop off directly to the Nurse. The nurse will keep the medication and can administer as prescribed on the label.

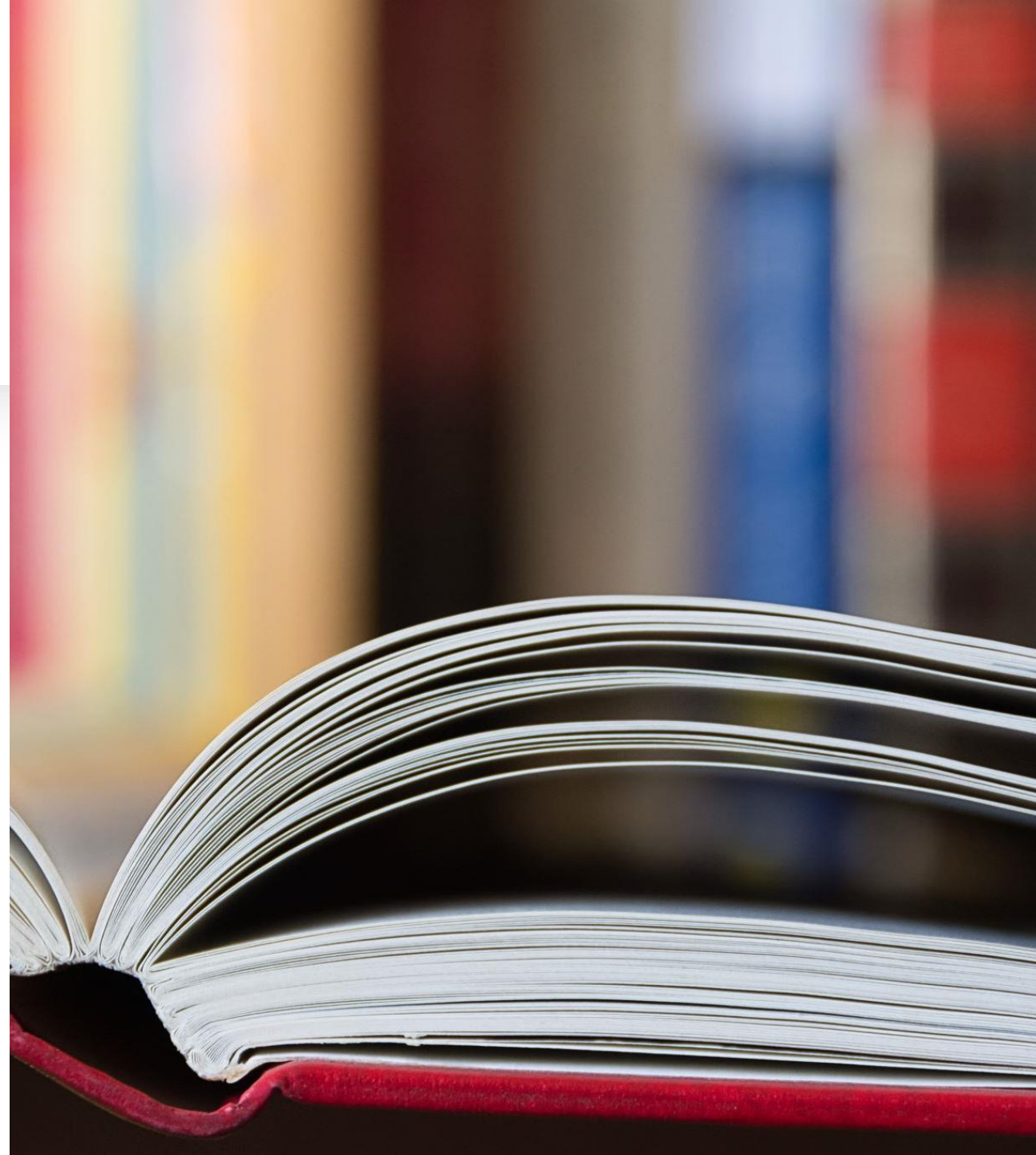
- Exception=students may carry an inhaler but must inform the nurse.
- Health Screenings are Required
- **Please complete and return Emergency Cards / HIPPA Forms*** Any changes to guardianship/address please see the front office / provide an documentation necessary and please make sure any changes: emergency contact / Phone / Guardianship are recorded and on file
- Please ensure you have a pass for the nurses office.
- Please call: 724-266-2833 Ext. 2443 with any questions for medications or for the school nurse.



Further Information:

For all Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines, please reference the AAHS 2024-2025 Student Handbook and Course of Studies Book which will be available on-line at:

www.ambridge.k12.pa.us



Student Support

SARAH SCHAFFER, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER



LINDA PREVOST, PREVENTION SPECIALIST

Attendance: How does attendance work at the high school?

- ATTENDANCE MATTERS!!!
- STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT AND ENGAGED during every class every day.
- To move through the security line quickly, students should plan to arrive at school as close to 7:05 AM as possible.
- Homeroom (1st Period) attendance is taken at 7:30 AM. Please arrive to class promptly.
- If a student must arrive late or leave early, they must bring a signed parent/guardian note or parental e-mail to the front office (Lori Chickos, lori.chickos@ambridge.k12.pa.us)



Attendance: How does attendance work at the high school?

- Each student is permitted **10** parent excuses per school year for absences.
- If a student is absent due to medical reasons, documentation is required from a medical professional.
- **IEP or 504 Plan DOES NOT = MEDICAL EXCUSE – REQUIRED** to have a Doctor note to excuse for any tardiness, absences that exceed school policy by doctor turned into Mrs. Schaffer.
- Questions about attendance, student marked absent for a period/day/late call, and/or all attendance questions are to be directed to Mrs. Chickos at 724-266-2833, ext. 2335 And/or will be directed to Ms. Schaffer ext. 2265.
- Pennsylvania School Code requires that all students ages 6-18 **must** attend school.

Attendance Notification Timeline and Excuses:

After (1) one unexcused absence, parents will receive an automated phone call.

After (3) three unexcused absences, a letter will be sent home requesting that parents/guardians turn excuses in.

After (7) seven unexcused absences, student and parent will be asked to attend a truancy meeting with Ms. Schaffer and the Beaver County Truancy Prevention Team.

If students continue to accumulated an excessive amount of unexcused absences, the school is required to file to the magistrate office for truancy which can result in fines / fees.

SAP Coordinator (Student Assistance Program):

SAP is a confidential and voluntary program which provides support to students who are facing barriers that may be impacting their academic or personal life. Our goal is to help your child succeed in school.

- I will work with you and your student to access services at school and in your community if you or your child is having troubling in or out of school with the following concerns including, but not limited to:
 - Changes in Friend Group
 - Social or Emotional Concerns
 - Cutting Class
 - Excessive Tardiness
 - Engaging in Classroom Disturbance
 - Concerns in regard to Mental Well-Being
 - Lying
 - Sudden Drop in Grades
 - Poor School Attendance
 - Lack of Interest in Extracurricular Activities
 - Defying Authority

Student Support



- Ms. Schaffer and Mrs. Prevost can also assist in connecting you and your child with services if you have experienced a death of a loved one, grief/loss, divorce, separation, re-location and social/emotional and academic concerns that impede learning.
- Homelessness / Need help accessing Resources

If you need assistance and would like to speak about the above issues for your student, and/or would like to sign your student up for our SAP team services, please visit Mrs. Prevost office in the Guidance Area after the orientation or call directly at 724-266-2833, ext. 2102

You may also e-mail: hsprevention@ambridge.k12.pa.us

PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING SPEAKERS OUTSIDE THE AUDITORIUM:

The Agencies below may provide In-School Counseling Services for Students at the Ambridge Area High School:
Please see Mrs. Prevost for a Referral if requesting in-school counseling services through WPPC or The Psych and Learning Center

- WESTERN PA PSYCH CARE AND COUNSELING (WPPC) POSITIVE STEPS
- The PSYCHOLOGY AND LEARNING CENTER:

Referral Reasons: ADHD, Anxiety Disorders, Depression, Truancy, Bullying, Anger/Frustration, Social/Emotional Concern

Behaviors of Concerns: Difficulty making friends, school avoidance/refusal, frequent school discipline

Referrals Made by: Parent / Self-Referral / Teacher or Guidance counselor

Individual/group and family counseling available during the School Day

**Ms. Benedict, MA, NCC
9-10th Grade**

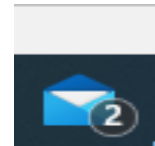


**Professional School Counselor –
The Ambridge Area School District**



First, a Few Reminders:

1. NCAA and Here to College Hand-Outs
2. Bridger Blast: Please ensure signed up
3. **School E-mail:** Please use your school e-mail when communicating with academic staff and formal agencies
4. E-mail is set-up on the laptop on bottom Icon Bar



5. School E-mail Format:

1. First two numbers of graduation year (27)
2. First two initials of first name
3. Full last name
4. Last two digits of student ID Number (6 digit number on your student profile) @ambridgearea.org

1. i.e. 27basmith44@ambridgearea.org





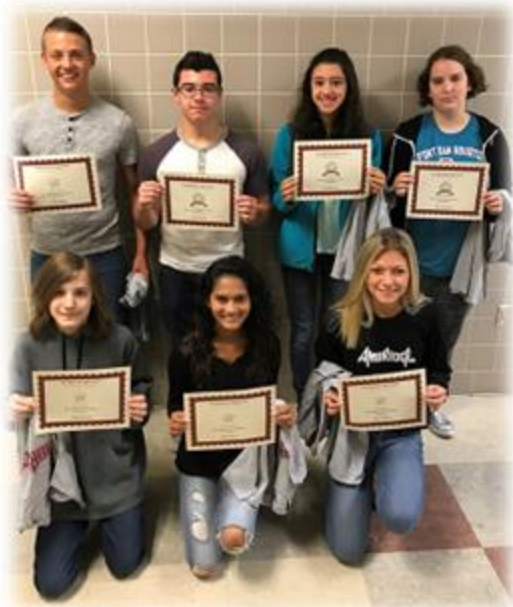
How to Best Utilize the Guidance Office:

- Please ensure you have a pass from your academic teacher of record, nurse. Students will not be permitted into guidance without a pass unless determined an Emergency.
- Check-in with Mrs. Misencik, Guidance Secretary to schedule an appointment or meet with the appropriate Guidance team member.
- **Social-Emotional Concerns: Anxiety, School Refusal, Bullying Concerns, Friendships, Transition Support, Student Assistance Services, Sign-up for In-School Counseling:** Please speak with Mrs. Prevost today after the presentation or during the school year.
- **Attendance, Vacation, Out-of-School, Truancy Concerns:** Please speak with Mrs. Schaffer to discuss any attendance and or concerns of School Truancy
- **Academic/Post-Secondary Planning/Educational Support:** Please check in with Mr. Goerig (11-12th grade counselor) Ms. Benedict (9-10th) - In times of testing we may not always be available, please leave your name and request with Mrs. Misencik in the Guidance Office
- First 2-3 weeks processing several hundred schedule changes, new students and records. Please allow time for processing e-mails, and please call 724-266-2833, ext. 2377 if requesting a meeting time.

Graduation requirements:



| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ENGLISH: | 4 CREDITS |
| SOCIAL STUDIES: | 4 CREDITS |
| SCIENCE: | 3 or 4 *CREDITS (7 Total of Science/Math) |
| MATH: | 3 or 4* CREDITS (7 Total of Science/Math) |
| HEALTH AND PE: | 2.0 CREDITS |
| Total ELECTIVES*: | 6.5 CREDITS |
| Cumulative Senior Project: | 1.0 CREDITS |



24.5 Total Credits Needed for Graduation: Language: Spanish or Italian I, II or III / Honors Plane/Solid – Plane/Solid Geometry / Algebra II / Honors Algebra II / Advanced or College Prep English 9 count for MS for credit – no GPA but will be listed on transcript

Language not required: College University 2- Years of a Language

4 Years Math / 4 Years Science: Check Specific College Application / NCAA Requirements – Must maintain 4 1.00 credit classes and passing



CLASSES THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION:

1. **Social Studies** – American Cultures I / Honors American Cultures
2. **English** – Practical English 9 / College Prep English / Advanced English 9 / Advanced 10
3. **Science** – Life Science / Biology/ Honors Biology
4. **Math** - Algebra I through Honors Plane / Solid Geometry
5. **Health & PE** – Can take the following year
6. **Notice: Period 10** – Cyber Class because did not fit in your schedule. Edgenuity self-paced class. Students will receive an e-mail on how to log-in to their class the first day. Please see the Cyber Coordinator in the Media Center for information on how to log into the Cyber Class.
7. **Study Seminar:** Assisted Study Hall – Qualify will see it on your schedule

In order to be in STEEL DRUM I, II or STEEL DRUM, MUST BE IN BAND OR A PERFORMING ART (CHORUS)

HEALTH AND PE REQUIREMENT:

Classes may be offered at the same time, resulting in the student having Health and PE II prior to Health and PE I.

Dress code will be discussed with the academic teacher.

Required for graduation: Health and PE I, Health and PE II, Health and PE III, PE level IV: Fitness Walking, Team Sports, Racquet Sports, etc.

Classes can be offered in various order: Health and PE II, Health and PE I, PE IV.

PE IV (Nutrition and Fitness / Fitness Walking, etc.)

Format: Monday – Friday: H & PE I

GYM – Monday, Wednesday, Friday (.3 Credit)

HEALTH – Tuesday, Thursday (.2 Credit)

Total = 0.5 Credits



How do I schedule an appointment to make a course correction:

Please note, all courses requested may not be on your students schedule. Courses are scheduled due to when classes are offered, availability, demands and openings.

Classes may be offered at the same time, resulting in the student choosing another option or elective at that time.

Approved Changes Take Priority:

- Missing a Class
- Incorrect Class or Grade Level
- All Core Classes are recommended based on Teacher Referrals

Schedule Changes:

1. Contact Mrs. Misencik, Guidance Secretary, to set-up a an appointment with the appropriate School Counselor to discuss any questions or corrections.
2. Limited Schedule changes will take place during orientation – Priority missing class schedules / wrong class
3. Students can fill out forms first week of school
4. Please call 724-266-2833, ext. 2377 or e-mail vmisencik@ambridge.k12.pa.us

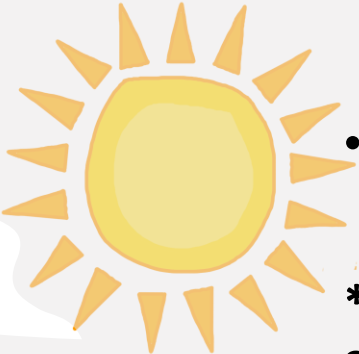
- 9th and 10th Grade: Ms. Benedict
- 11th and 12th Grade: Mr. Goerig

4. If you need to speak to someone about a concern/Social-Emotional / 504 / IEP / Reach out: Mrs. Prevost and Mrs. Sarah Schaffer in the Guidance Office after Orientation

Grading Terms:

Please contact the Academic Teacher First with academic questions/concerns/grade and assignment questions.

TUTORING: ARRANGE A TIME FROM 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM FOR ADDITIONAL HELP.



- Grading: Every 9-weeks a student will receive a grade.
- Final grades are based on the average of all 9-weeks grades
- Students will ONLY receive credit for 60% and above


***If a student FAILS A COURSE – CREDIT RECOVERY FOR SUMMER SCHOOL AT A COST WILL BE REQUIRED \$150.00 per Course**

| <u>Letter Grade</u> | <u>Percentage</u> | <u>Quality Points</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| A | 90% - to - 100% | 4.0 |
| B | 80% - to - 89% | 3.0 |
| C | 70% - to - 79% | 2.0 |
| D | 60% - to - 69% | 1.0 |
| E | 0 - to - 59 % | 0.0 |

Grading Terms:

- **WEIGHTED COURSES** -- A student must earn an "A," "B," or "C" grade to receive the additional weighted value. A student who receives a "D" will obtain the credit value for the course but not the weighted value. The following is an outline of courses that have additional weight.
- Weighted GPA will be calculated in two steps. The first step is to calculate a "Non-Weighted GPA" on a 4.0 scale. Once this GPA is calculated, an add-on factor for "Advanced Placement" and "Honors" combined with the Non-Weighted GPA in the following manner. All course weight is assigned by course, not by grade level.

*Transcripts can be requested through the High School Guidance Secretary: Mrs. Misencik
vmisencik@ambridge.k12.pa.us

|  | Grade | *Standard Quality Point Average | Honors Course | CIHS & Advanced Placement |
|---|--------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 90-100% | A | 4.0 | 4.5 | 5.0 |
| 80-89% | B | 3.0 | 3.5 | 4.0 |
| 70-79% | C | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 |
| 60-69% | D | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| 59% and Below | E | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Future Outlook: Day One Counts

1. **AP Classes: Advanced Placement** – Credit is dependent on end of Course AP Exam – Please refer to the credit policy for each College and University
2. **Dual Enrollment** – Credit is dependent on transcript and grade-based achievement at end of year. Please refer to the credit policy for each College and University. Please see a full list of Dual Enrollment classes in the Student Handbook
3. **CCBC Academics** – www.ccbc.edu **CCBC Dual Enrollment Academies:**
11th & 12th Grade: Aviation: Air Traffic Controller , etc.
1. **BCCTC (V0-tech): 10th Grade** Cosmetology; **11th grade** – Welding, HVAC, Business Information Systems, etc.



5. National Honor Society: Students must have five semesters (Freshman: Fall (1) / Spring (2) ; Sophomore: Fall (3) / Spring (4) Junior: Fall (5) – application) completed fully for application, and a 3.6 cumulative GPA from five semesters of enrollment at Ambridge High School. This occurs for all students their junior year after the fall start. Sophomores and Freshman are not applicable for the NHS at this time, as their 9th and 10th grade year, and Fall of their 11th grade year is required to be completed in order to be calculated into the GPA qualification for the application.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY -- AAHS is proud to recognize successful students. Selection into the National Honor Society is a great achievement for any student. The selection process begins with academics. Students must qualify with specific grade point averages. Juniors must have a cumulative 3.6 or higher after five semesters. Seniors can qualify with a cumulative 3.6 after seven semesters. In addition to these grade point requirements, students will also be evaluated on their involvement in activities and clubs, as well as character ratings.

Get Involved: Helps with motivation and coming on time!

1. Resume Building
2. Colleges/Universities
3. Involvement with Groups
4. Meet different Peers

SIGN UP IN THE LUNCHROOM

Athletics Include:

B/G Basketball
B/G Cross Country
Football
G/B Soccer
G/B Volleyball
Wrestling
Baseball
Softball
Track & Field
Bridger Belles
Cheerleading
Band Auxiliary
Bowling
Flag Football
Hockey

Clubs Include:

Interact
Bible
Student Council
Adventurers and Ski Club
Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Thespian Club
Math League
Student Council
Language Clubs
Mock Trial
Science
Robotics
Documentary Film
School Musical
Ecology
GSA

Young Women's Leaders
Yearbook
Spanish Club
Italian Club



PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING SPEAKERS OUTSIDE THE AUDITORIUM!

Please visit the outside vendors and booth and begin your tour! We are excited to have you here!