

# BOMBER BITS

# DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



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September Newsletter

2009

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*The Mission of the Argenta-Oreana School District is to inspire success while building dreams.*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

We would like to welcome back all of our students. We have high expectations for the 2009-2010 school year and hope to see our students excel in the classroom and with extra curricular activities.

The following letter was distributed at registration and is provided again below for those who did not see it:

*Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):*

*The current economic crisis has affected schools across the state. Considerable revenue for our district was cut from the Illinois State Board of Education budget. It is apparent that we must continue to look for ways to save money, while not lowering the standards of education for our students. One area that savings could occur is the production method for the Bomber Bits. An analysis of the costs of producing the Bomber Bits in a hard copy format has yielded an estimated production cost of approximately \$4,500 each year, not to mention the wear and tear on our copiers, and the clerical time needed to produce the copies. As a cost savings measure, we are limiting the number of hard copies of the Bomber Bits that are created and distributed each month. Each month, ten copies of the Bomber Bits will be available on a first come-first serve basis in the elementary, middle, and high school offices.*

*We will continue to provide a digital copy of the Bomber Bits monthly, as we believe the Bomber Bits is an effective communication tool for our district. This newsletter grows and continues to evolve with each issue. School news, district news, and quite often, classroom news, can be found within each edition. Please access the monthly Bomber Bits on the district website: [www.argenta-oreana.org](http://www.argenta-oreana.org).*

*We encourage you to access our website often and to read each edition of the Bomber Bits, as you will find many items of interest and "good news" reports about our district. Mr. Blair does an excellent job posting the Bomber Bits each month. He provides two avenues for those seeking to read the Bomber Bits online:*

- 1. View the entire Bomber Bits as a PDF file; or*
- 2. Click on the link for only those topics and areas that most interest you.*

*We thank the community for your continued support of this district newsletter.*

*We would also like to thank you for your understanding and patience regarding this change.*

*Sincerely,  
A-O Administrative Team*

Sincerely,  
Damian D. Jones, Sr.  
Superintendent

Phone: 795-2313

E-mail: [djones@argenta-oreana.org](mailto:djones@argenta-oreana.org)

# BOARD BRIEFS

On June 8, 2009, the Board held its regular business meeting.

At 6:00 p.m., the meeting convened.

- Alan Hupp, A-O Board President, was appointed the presiding officer of a student discipline hearing.
- The board entered closed session to consider student discipline (Student A).
- The board reentered open session.
- The board entered closed session to consider student discipline (Student A).
- The board reentered open session.
- Official action on student discipline (Student A) occurred.
- The Argenta-Oreana Board of Education further provided:

*The Argenta-Oreana School District is very concerned about bullying and does not tolerate bullying. We take a proactive stance on this subject and we are continually searching for ways to improve our policies and procedures. It is further understood that protecting the safety of our students is our first and greatest responsibility. The consequences for repeat offenders should be stern and escalate in the severity of the consequence.*

- The board entered closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act-5 ILCS 120/2c(1) and c(9), which permits a closed session to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific certified and/or noncertified employee(s).
- The board reentered open session.
- District Administrators provided reports:
  - Ms. Fustin:
    - The summer work and maintenance cleaning and repair process was discussed.
    - Ms. Wilson and I will be interviewing candidates for the playground supervisor position and plan to bring a recommendation to the board in July.
  - Mr. Johnson:
    - No report was provided.
  - Mr. German:
    - The Exit Survey completed by the graduating seniors for 2009 was briefly discussed.
  - Mr. Sheehan:
    - No report was provided.

- Ms. Wilson:
  - I have been working on the end-of-year reports for ISBE and trying to plan for next year's grants, even though they are not yet available through ISBE's electronic filing system.
- Mr. Jones:
  - Tax extension information was discussed.
  - A-O, and all other school districts, remain two payments behind from the state for the Transportation Fund.
  - The Triple I School Board Conference was discussed.
- Review and approval of Board Minutes occurred.
- The approval of Payroll/Bills occurred.
- Personnel Employment
  - Geoff Cowgill resigned as MS Scholastic Bowl coach.
  - Mindi Parsons was hired as district office assistant/bookkeeper.
  - Jennifer Moore was hired as district teacher.
  - Jennifer Lyne was hired as the JV Girls Basketball Coach for the 2009-2010 school year.
  - Shauna Vandervort was hired as the JH Girls Softball Coach for the 2009-2010 school year.
- Action occurred to keep closed session minutes confidential and not for public inspection.
- Adoption of the Prevailing Wage Resolution occurred.
- The Treasurer Bond was renewed.
- The Wastewater Operator Contract was renewed.
- An SIP Day Calendar Waiver was discussed.
- Action occurred to participate in the IEC natural gas consortium.
- The meeting was adjourned.

# BOARD BRIEFS

On July 14, 2009, the Board held its regular business meeting.

At 6:00 p.m., the meeting convened.

- After the Pledge of Allegiance occurred, the board entered closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act-5 ILCS 120/2c(1), which permits a closed session to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific certified and/or noncertified employee(s).
- The board entered open session.
- District Administrators provided reports:
  - Ms. Fustin:
    - No report was provided.
  - Mr. German:
    - The request for a band drum line was discussed. Research will occur into establishing a line item on the district budget for marching band.
  - Mr. Sheehan:
    - No report was provided.
  - Mr. Jones:
    - The failure of the State of Illinois to process and forward several payments for the Education Fund and Transportation Fund during the appropriate fiscal year was discussed at length. The district ended the last fiscal year \$430,180.26 behind in payments from the state (school district fiscal years end on June 30<sup>th</sup>). As of the board meeting, the district remained \$232,666.19 behind in payments from the state.
    - The difficulty of budgeting when so much is unknown was discussed. Many vital and important programs are still on the cutting block at the state level. It is unknown which programs and at what level programs will be funded. It is also impossible to predict whether payments will be forwarded to the district on time for the current fiscal year.
    - A recent purchase and the process for placing four Smart Boards were discussed.
- Review and approval of Board Minutes occurred.
- The approval of Payroll/Bills occurred.
- Personnel Employment
  - Jacque Talley resigned as MS/HS custodian.
  - Holley Ravenscraft resigned as Head Boys Jr. High Track Coach.
  - Sara Poland resigned as HS math teacher.
  - Steve Morrell was hired as a full time custodian.
  - Karla Denzler was hired as an Elementary School Cafeteria/Playground Supervisor.
  - Ericka Pearson was hired as a district teacher (assigned to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts).
  - Ericka Pearson was hired as MS Cheerleading Coach.
  - Holley Ravenscraft was hired as Assistant Jr. High Track Coach.

- Formal board approval of the band trip to Disney World occurred. The trip will occur March 23 to 28, 2010.
- The Budget Hearing date, time, and location was set as follows:
  - September 14, 2009
  - 5:45 p.m.
  - Argenta-Oreana MS/HS Library
- The meeting was adjourned.

# BOARD BRIEFS

On August 10, 2009, the Board held its regular business meeting.

At 6:00 p.m., the meeting convened.

- After the Pledge of Allegiance occurred, the board entered closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act-5 ILCS 120/2c(1), which permits a closed session to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific certified and/or noncertified employee(s).
- The board entered open session.
- District Administrators provided reports:
  - Ms. Fustin:
    - Registration was successful at the elementary school. Presently, we have approximately 430 students registered, with 80 pre-k students to add to that number.
    - Bids were obtained for the updating/replacing the ovens/stoves in the kitchen.
  - Mr. German:
    - Welcomed Mr. Sheehan who officially started last week as HS / MS Assistant Principal and Athletic Director.
    - Provided a “Thank you” to all who helped with registration last week, including staff and Student Council Members.
    - An update was provided regarding the HS not making AYP, as well as communication and action taking place regarding school improvement in the 2009-2010 school year.
  - Mr. Johnson:
    - Softball try-outs were recently conducted. The Lady Bombers will host their 1<sup>st</sup> game with Clinton Jr. High on Tuesday, August 11.
    - Approximately 90% of our anticipated returning students registered on Registration Day. To date, thirteen (13) new students have registered for school.
    - The MS is anticipating that the new lockers in the locker rooms will be installed by Friday, August 13.
    - Fall Portraits will be held on September 3. Open House will be held from 6:00-8:00 PM on September 16.
  - Mr. Sheehan:
    - The HS Girls Track Team received IHSA All Academic recognition.
    - Middle School Softball completed tryouts and has 18 girls participating.
    - Middle School Baseball completed tryouts and has 16 boys participating.
    - Fall Sports meeting will be held on August 11, 2009 at 5:30 pm.
    - CPR/AED training and certification was provided for new coaches and new PE teachers.
  - Ms. Wilson:
    - An overview of grants for the 2009-2010 year was provided as part of Mr. Jones’ budget presentation.

- Mr. Jones:
  - The buildings and grounds look good, and our summer crew has had a very productive summer.
  - The rough draft of a new agreement for Macon-Piatt Special Education District was discussed.
  - A budget presentation occurred.
- Review and approval of Board Minutes occurred.
- The approval of Payroll/Bills occurred.
- Personnel Employment
  - Kami Meador resigned as Varsity Girls Softball Coach.
  - Scott Smith was hired as a district teacher (assigned to HS Science).
  - Brian Marquis was hired as a district teacher (assigned to HS Mathematics).
  - Jennifer Lyne was hired as Yearbook Sponsor.
- Summer Curricular Grant presentations occurred.
- Discussion was provided regarding damaged/faulty windows. The board approved a Health Life Safety Amendment to replace the damaged windows at the Elementary School.
- Bread and Milk bids were discussed. IBC received the bread bid and Prairie Farms received the milk bid for 2009-2010.
- The 2009-2010 Transportation Contract was approved.
- Mr. Sheehan and Mr. German discussed officials' fees for the Okaw Conference. The fees were raised as proposed.
- Facility Usage requests were granted.
- The meeting was adjourned.

# A-O HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! We are very excited about the opportunities available to our students during this school year.

Your students may have already shared with you some changes that have been implemented in our schedule this year. We have added another class period which we are referring to as “Flex Period.” This class period will be utilized in a variety of ways throughout the school year. First and foremost, this is an academic period. There will be times when students are given time during “Flex Period” to work on homework. Students are expected to bring something to read every day to “Flex Period.” This time will also be used throughout the year to help prepare our Juniors for the PSAE that they will be taking in April of 2010. We will also be using this time for organizational meetings, rather than having to take time out of core curriculum classes. We will be providing additional information regarding the “Flex Period” throughout the year.

We are glad to welcome four new teachers to the High School this year. Ms. Maggie Gleason and Mr. Scott Smith have joined our Science Department, Ms. Jennifer Lyne has joined our English Department, and Mr. Bryan Marquis has joined our Math Department. Please welcome these individuals to AOHS.

The beginning of a new school year can be a daunting task whether you are a tentative Freshman or a confident Senior. In order for our students to have the best academic experience, a strong start is vitally important. As parents / guardians and educators, there are some key things that we can do to support the academic development of our students. Included in this edition of the Bomber Bits is an article that outlines some strategies to help make the transition from summer to School Year. Some of the suggestions are more for younger students. However, there are also several ideas that are appropriate for students of all ages. We hope this information is helpful.

We are looking forward to a GREAT year!  
Go Bombers!

Sincerely,

Sean German  
A-OHS Principal  
795-4821 Ext. 1102  
[sgerman@argenta-oreana.org](mailto:sgerman@argenta-oreana.org)

# Tips to make the new school year successful

The Arizona Republic  
Aug. 8, 2007 07:33 AM

## Helping your children succeed in school

- Encourage reading. Make sure your home has lots of reading materials that are appropriate for your child. Show that you value reading by letting your child see you read for pleasure, as well as for routine activities. Get help for your child if he or she has a reading problem.
- Talk with your child. Talk with your child about what is happening at school. Talk in the grocery store about brands and prices of food. Talk about the TV program you are watching together. Talk about what is happening in the book you are reading.
- Monitor homework. Have a special place set aside where your child can study. Set a regular time for homework. Remove distractions, such as the TV, phone or noisy siblings.
- Monitor TV viewing and video game playing. Limit the time you allow your child to watch TV and model good TV viewing habits. Watch TV with your child when you can.
- Encourage your child to use the library. Introduce your child to the library as early as possible. Ask the librarian to tell your child about special programs that he or she might participate in.
- Help your child learn to use the Internet properly and effectively. Spend time online with your child and help him or her locate appropriate Web sites. Monitor the amount of time your child spends online, and teach your child rules for using the Internet safely.
- Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently. Establish rules, and make it clear that your child has to take responsibility for what he does at home and at school. Make your child responsible for getting ready to go to school each morning. Monitor what your child does after school, in the evenings and on weekends.
- Encourage active learning. Listen to your child's ideas and respond to him. Let him or her jump in with questions and opinions when you read books together.

# HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NEWS

## Prairie State Achievement Exam Information

Class of 2010 seniors took the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) in April. Day 1 (ACT) scores for those students were mailed by ACT to the address provided by the student. The PSAE combined scores (Day 1 + Day 2, Work Keys and state developed test) are expected to arrive at the school in September and will then be distributed to students.

As of August 2009, the Fall Retake of the PSAE was eliminated. This change provides significant financial savings for the State. As indicated in the Illinois school code, students must take the PSAE in order to receive a high school diploma. Students classified as being in grade 12 in the spring who have not taken the PSAE must take the test with the juniors in the spring in order to be eligible for graduation.

## ACT Test Dates:

The ACT is the American College Test. The cost of the test is \$32, or \$47 with the writing portion. It is given at Millikin University on the following dates:

<u>Test date:</u>	<u>Registration deadline:</u>
October 24, 2009	September 18, 2009
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009
February 6, 2010	January 5, 2010
April 10, 2009	March 5, 2010
June 12, 2009	May 7, 2010

For more information about the test, go to [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or see Mrs. Young.

## Trustees' Scholarships at Richland Community College

Richland Community College offers an unlimited number of Trustees' Scholarships to any graduating students in the Richland college district who are in the top 10% of their graduating class OR have a 4.375 grade point average on a 5.0 scale at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> semester of high school. A Trustees' Scholarship provides up to two years' tuition.

To apply for the scholarship, students must fill out a Richland Scholarship application, available in March, and have a sealed copy of their high school transcript sent to the Richland Office of Admissions and Records with proof of class rank and GPA, and they must be enrolled at Richland the semester immediately following high school graduation. Students are required to take at least 12 credit hours of 100 level or above courses and must maintain a Richland grade point average of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale).

# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Another year of Bomber athletics is upon us, and I would like to thank all the coaches, players, parents, and volunteers for their continued efforts towards making A-O athletics the best it can be. We encourage you to come out and watch our Middle School and High School athletes compete, and please demonstrate good sportsmanship while at a game. At the Middle School, girls softball and boys baseball are underway and regionals are approaching quickly. High School football, volleyball, cross country, cheerleading, and poms are up and running. Good luck to all fall athletes.

Currently the Argenta-Oreana school district has multiple coaching positions open. The open coaching positions are as follows:

Middle School Boys Track  
Middle School Wrestling  
High School Head Girls' Softball

Freshman Boys' Basketball (Volunteer)  
JV Scholastic Bowl Coach

If anyone is interested in any of these positions please mail me a letter of interest, resume, and an Argenta-Oreana job application (available on the district website) to

Argenta-Oreana High School  
Attn: Dan Sheehan  
500 N. Main  
Argenta, IL 62501

If you are in need of a sports schedule, you can stop by the high school office and pick one up. You can also go to our website [www.argenta-oreana.org](http://www.argenta-oreana.org) and follow the Middle and High School sports schedule link to get any schedule you may need.

This year before every home varsity football game the booster club will have a tailgate. Tailgates will start around 5:30. Come out and enjoy good food and fun!

#### Important Dates

- September 1 - Cross Country Meet (H) @ 4:30 pm
- September 2 - Athletic Booster Club meeting @ 6:30 pm MS/HS Library
- September 3 - Volleyball vs. Deland Weldon (H) 6:15 pm
- September 9 - Softball Regionals Begin (MS)
- September 11 - Football vs. Clinton (H) 7 pm – JFL Night
- September 12 - Shelbyville Tournament (HS Volleyball)
- September 15 - Baseball Regionals Begin (MS)
- September 19, 22, 26 - Connie Casey Classic (MS Girl's Basketball)
- September 19 - Heyworth Tournament (HS Volleyball)
- September 25 – **HOME COMING**: Football vs. Central A & M 7 pm
  - Parade 5:00 pm
  - Chili Supper 5:30 pm

As always, please contact me if you have any questions.

Dan Sheehan  
HS/MS Athletic Director and Assistant Principal  
Phone: 795-4821 ext. 1103  
E-mail [dsheehan@argenta-oreana.org](mailto:dsheehan@argenta-oreana.org)

## **AO MS/HS MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS AND NOTES**

**Welcome back! We're excited about a great year ahead of us. Our groups at the high school and middle school will be busy all year long with performances, so be on the lookout for us.**

**The Marching Band will be underway this Friday as the football season begins. The Middle School Pep Band will begin playing for games in the near future as well.**

**Don't be surprised if you have a music student ask you to support our annual fundraiser. We will begin on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and wrap up our sale on September 11<sup>th</sup>. All of the proceeds of this sale will directly benefit your child's Music Education. Thanks in advance for your help and cooperation.**

**If you need a group to perform, please contact Mrs. DeSutter or Mr. Waddell, and we will do what we can to accommodate your request.**

## **A-O SPORTS BOOSTER CLUB NEWS**

### **JOIN THE TOUCHDOWN CLUB**

Membership \$10.00 Pledge \$1.00 per touchdown

\*At the end of the football season the Booster Club will mail out the total amount due to each member.

EXAMPLE: 20 touchdowns all year--\$20.00 due

\*Each membership bought entitles you to a free meal at each tailgate

\*All the proceeds go right back to benefit the AO HS and MS athletes. You will receive a punch card to present at the tailgates.

## **A-O MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS**

### **NEW STAFF AT AOMS**

On behalf of the students and staff at Argenta-Oreana Middle School, I would like to introduce our new staff as we enter the 2009-2010 school year. Ericka Pearson is our new 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts instructor and Cheerleader Coach. Shauna Vandervort is our new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Special Education instructor and Softball Coach.

### **MS PATT REPRESENTATION NEEDED**

The middle school students need your help! During the last few years, middle school PATT representation has declined. As a parent or guardian, you can become involved in assisting the PATT by being a middle school representative. The PATT meetings will be conducted each month at 6:00 PM at the Elementary Building. The initial meeting will be conducted on September 8 at 6:00 PM at the Elementary Building.

Additional meetings are scheduled for: October 13, November 10, January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13 & May 11.

### **PARENTS/GUARDIANS HELPING CHILDREN**

Frequently we are asked by parents or guardians, "What can we do to help our children?" Here are a few ideas we have gathered for you.

- Help develop your children's social skills.
- Take time to set good examples and teach children social skills and behaviors. Getting along with others is an essential social skill.
- Take time to talk to your children.
- Be a role model.
- Celebrate accomplishments!
- Reward children for their accomplishments and good behavior. Emphasize the positives!
- Avoid creating stress for children by over involvement in activities.

We hope these ideas are useful to you.

#### 2009-2010 POSITIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

Cook- Middle/High School (3 hour position)

MS Scholastic Bowl Coach

MS Wrestling Coach

MS Boys Track Coach

#### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

September 2 Farm Progress Show-Half Day of Student Attendance; 11:30 AM  
Student Dismissal

September 3 Fall Portraits-8:15 AM-MS/HS Cafeteria

September 7 Labor Day- No School

September 8 PATT Meeting; 6:00 PM- Elementary Building

September 14-18 Scholastic Book Fair

September 16 Open House- 6:00-8:00 PM

October 5 Portrait Re-Takes

October 9 In-Service Day; 11:30 Student Dismissal

Mr. Steve Johnson, Principal  
Argenta-Oreana Middle School  
200 E. East Street  
Argenta, IL 62501  
217-795-2163  
[sjohnson@argenta-oreana.org](mailto:sjohnson@argenta-oreana.org)

## **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR SEPTEMBER 14-18<sup>TH</sup>**

Students from Argenta-Oreana Middle/High School will host a special Book Fair from Scholastic on September 14-18th in the Argenta-Oreana Middle/High Library. This book fair is being held to help raise funds for books and Accelerated Reader prizes for the A/R store in January.

The book fair will be open each day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and feature a wide range of books for young teens and adults, including mystery and adventure novels, fantasy trilogies, sports guides, manga, and the latest bestsellers from more than 150 publishers.

On Wednesday, September 16th from 6 to 8 pm, the book fair will be open during the school's Open House. Parents, children, teachers, and the community are invited to attend. Please mark your calendars for this fun event!

## **IMPORTANT CURRICULUM CHANGE MIDDLE SCHOOL AMERICAN HISTORY I AND II**

As of the 2009-2010 school, the U.S. Constitution, Illinois Constitution, and Flag Code will be taught in the 7th grade, as opposed to being taught in the 8th grade. All students must pass the U.S. Constitution, Illinois Constitution, and Flag Codes tests in order to be promoted to high school. In the 7th grade, this will be taught

during the end of the second quarter into the beginning of third quarter. Since this is the transition year, Constitution and Flag Code will also be taught in the 8th grade.

## STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

How to tell if your child is really sick - Should your child miss school?

Parents are often faced with children complaining of not feeling well on school days. The right decision must be made as to whether the child is really sick and should be kept home or if the complaint is minor and the child should go to school. The following information is not intended as medical advice, but is designed to provide guidelines to follow until your physician can be contacted. Be sure to contact your doctor without delay when your child is sick.

**FEVER** is a warning that all is not right with the body. Check for fever with a thermometer. **It is district policy that a child should NOT be sent to school with a temperature of 99.4 degrees or higher.** Do not allow the child to return to school until he/she has been **free of fever for 24 hours without the use of medication to reduce the fever.**

**COLD/COUGH/SORE THROAT.** A child with a heavy cold and hacking cough belongs home in bed, even if there is no fever. Students must have a written note from parents and initialed in the office to use cough drops at school *for a limited and specific amount of time.* Students are NOT to bring other cough or cold remedies to school.

If your child complains of a sore throat and has no other symptoms, he may go to school. If white spots can be seen in the back of the throat, or if a fever is present, keep your child home and call your physician.

A **RASH** may be one of the first signs of a childhood illness. A rash may cover the entire body or may appear in only one area. Do not send a child with a rash to school until your doctor has said it is not contagious.

**DRAINING WOUNDS.** If your child has any break in their skin that is draining in any way, the wound must be covered by a band aid/dressing until it is dry/no longer draining. If your child is diagnosed with MRSA, the wound must be covered until it is completely healed. The school must be notified if you child is diagnosed with MRSA.

**STOMACHACHE/VOMITING/DIARRHEA.** Consult your doctor if your child has a stomachache that is persistent or severe enough to limit activity. If vomiting occurs, keep your child at home until he/she can keep food down. A child with diarrhea should be kept at home. Call your physician if symptoms persist.

**HEADACHE.** A child whose only complaint is a headache usually need not be kept at home. However it may be a symptom of another problem. Should you want your child to have pain relief medication, please give it at home.

**\*\*IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS\*\***—the NUMBER ONE way the spread of infection can be reduced is by FREQUENT AND ADEQUATE HAND WASHING. Children should be instructed to KEEP FINGERS AND OBJECTS OUT OF THEIR MOUTHS. Also, avoid or limit contact with infected persons when possible. Cover the nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing to limit the spread infection (cough/sneeze into your elbow or into a tissue and throw tissue away immediately).

PLEASE CHECK THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE UNDER “STUDENT HEALTH” FOR INFORMATION ON KEEPING YOUR STUDENT AND FAMILY HEALTHY, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON THE H1N1 VIRUS (SWINE FLU), AND AS ALWAYS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE ME WITH YOUR QUESTIONS.

Joanne Witts, RN  
Student Health Services

## A-O ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

### WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to yet another great school year. We have started our year with successful kindergarten and pre-k parent nights. Both had very high attendance!!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or make an appointment to speak to your child’s teacher or the principal. Together let’s make this year the best it can be for ALL students.

### ATTENDANCE IS TOP PRIORITY

Your child’s teacher will do their best to help your child learn and succeed in school, but there’s one thing only you can do....Get Him/Her to School Every Day. Show your child and his teachers that you know attendance counts.

Tell your child how important school is.

Make dental and other appointments during non-school hours (if possible).

Avoid taking your child out of school on exam days.

Keep track of your child’s absences. See if there are any patterns that need to be addressed.

Discuss the consequences of missing school→Not understanding assignments, needing to do make up work, and missing out on friendships.

Talk to the teacher if your child regularly doesn’t want to go to school.

### TIPS ON A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Help your child lay the foundation for a successful year by getting off to a good start. Read with your child every day. Research shows that children who are read to each day do better in school. Help your child finish assignments on time. Help her make a chart and check off completed work. Assist your child in establishing a routine for doing homework: same time, same place every day. Meet your child’s teacher. Establish a regular bedtime for your child.

### WELCOME NEW STAFF

Please join me in welcoming our new staff.

Mrs. Karla Denzler	Playground Supervisor
Mrs. Heather Champion	First Grade Teacher
Miss Cally Pryor	Second Grade Teacher
Miss Jenny Moore	Elementary Music Teacher
Miss Andrea Trusner	Elementary Librarian
Mrs. Crystal Sunderland	Administrative Assistant

Sue Fustin

Argenta-Oreana Elementary School Principal

Phone: 468-2412

E-mail: [fustins@argenta-oreana.org](mailto:fustins@argenta-oreana.org)

# THANK YOU

The 3rd grade teachers would like to thank the members of the Argenta Presbyterian Church for collecting school supplies this year. Several students were able to benefit from this generosity. As teachers, we really appreciate the support, too. It's wonderful to be a part of a community where people help one another. Thanks again for reaching out and caring about others.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Beckett  
Nancy Stupek  
Heather Reed  
Sunny Taylor

## ELEMENTARY LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome back to another great year! I'm excited about being the librarian at Argenta-Oreana Elementary and am looking forward to all the great things that will be happening!

Come out on September 16th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for our open house. Representatives from the public library will be here to sign you up for a library card if you need one. You just need to bring proof of residency such as a utility bill. It's a fast, free, and painless process that will put thousands of free resources at your fingertips.

I want to extend a thank you to the Decatur Rotary Club #180 for their generous donation to our library. Students now, and for years to come, will benefit from their gift.

Volunteers are always welcome in the library. Basic tasks include checking in, checking out, shelving or pulling books, and laminating, just to name a few. If you are interested, please email me at [trusner@argenta-oreana.org](mailto:trusner@argenta-oreana.org) to discuss what times will work out the best. Volunteering is a great opportunity to support your child's education.

Miss Andrea Trusner  
Elementary School Librarian

## PREKINDERGARTEN NEWS

Our prekindergarten program provides a positive early start for students. Our hope is that parents will participate in their children's learning as we all work together to help their children grow socially, emotionally, intellectually, and physically. We strive to build a bridge between home and school that will continue throughout all of the child's schooling.

Prekindergarten Staff:  
Holly Ravenscraft, Teacher  
Maryanne Nein, Assistant  
Elizabeth Tabaka, Teacher  
Jonie Schleifenbaum, Assistant  
Cheryl VandeVoorde, Pre-K Family Coordinator  
Dana Isaacson and Cheryl Stoddard, 0-3 Family Coordinators  
Paula Wilson, Program Director

## PROJECT P.R.I.D.E.

If you have never had a prekindergarten student in our program, you may not know about Project P.R.I.D.E. Project P.R.I.D.E. is a prekindergarten program developed by Cheryl VandeVoorde, a former prekindergarten teacher, in conjunction with Gerber State Bank. This program encourages parents to start saving for their child's college education by opening a savings account in their child's name at Gerber State Bank. The children also learn the importance of saving money as they make monthly deposits into their accounts. The P.R.I.D.E. acronym stands for **Partnerships that Recognize the Importance of Devotion to Education**.

### *Calendar of Events for September:*

September 3 – First day of classes for Pre-K

September 7 – No School

September 8 – Bus Safety Presentation with Bus Garage (AM & PM classes)

September 11 – Coffee Chat for Parents

September 16 – Open House

September 17 – Oreana Library (PM classes only)

September 22 – Tour of Gerber State Bank to kick-off Project P.R.I.D.E. (AM & PM classes)

## PARENT PLACE NEWS

The Parent Place is located in the modular classroom east of the A-O Elementary School. The Parent Place houses the A-O District Parent Lending Library containing books, magazines, videos and other resources on topics of interest to families. Parents are invited to stop by and browse through our library and other resource materials. Our regular office hours are as follows, and you may also stop by anytime the "WELCOME" flag is out.

- Monday 8:15-11:15
- Tuesday 8:15-11:00
- Wednesday 1:30-2:45
- Thursday 8:15-9:15

### Upcoming Events:

September 1 – ***Teddy Bear Picnic***, 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Prairie Park in Argenta. This is our first Family Fun Night of the year. Bring the family and join us for dinner and teddy bear activities. We'll provide table service, hot dogs, BBQ, buns, chips, and drinks. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Don't forget your teddy bear!

September 3 – ***Lapsit***, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Oreana Library. Our theme is "Wheels and Things That Go."

September 11 – ***Coffee Chat***, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Each month our meeting will focus on a different aspect of family life. This month you will have a chance to meet other parents and ask any questions you may have about school. We will also discuss ways to help your children learn at home. Babysitting is provided.

September 18 – ***Great Expectations***, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Parent Place. This is a support group for "expecting" and "new" parents. All are welcome. Babysitting will be provided.

September 22 – ***Morning Open Play***, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Parent Place. Come get acquainted (or re-acquainted) and tell us about your summer while your little ones play.

September 22 – ***Afternoon Open Play***, 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the Parent Place. Come get acquainted (or re-acquainted) and tell us about your summer while your little ones play.

### ***Important note for Growing Together Families:***

***We are going to try sending out our monthly newsletter by email to those of you who have internet access. Please send us your email address at [parentplace@argenta-oreana.org](mailto:parentplace@argenta-oreana.org). If you don't have an email address, we will still send you a hard copy of the monthly newsletter.***

## **P.A.T.T. NEWS**

PATT: Parents and Teachers Together is an organization of Argenta-Oreana Elementary and Middle School staff, family, and friends devoted to supporting student achievement. We embrace the guiding belief that “the foundation for life-long learning is a responsibility shared by family, community, and school.” We want to be known as more than a fund-raising organization.

However, fund-raising is an important part of what we do. Our budget for field trips for grades Prekindergarten through eighth grade will be \$7,000 this year, as we provide \$700 for each grade level. Field trips provide students with learning opportunities that are not possible in the classroom. Last year we funded staff requests totaling nearly \$3,000 while in previous years, requests have been funded for up to nearly \$6,000.

Plans are underway to support our students with more than just funds this year. We will be hosting a variety of learning workshops designed to assist parents as they help students learn and practice skills. We will also be providing volunteer training workshops for anyone interested in volunteering in our schools.

All parents, teachers, staff, and family members of students in the Argenta-Oreana Elementary and Middle Schools are automatically members of PATT. There are no dues or fees required. Each person attending gets one vote in our business meetings. Come join us for our first meeting on the second Tuesday of September, September 8 in the Betty Albright Memorial Library at the elementary school in Oreana. We have moved our meeting time to 6:00, and we will provide child care at our meetings in an effort to help you get home and get your children ready for bed in a timely manner.

Among the business items at this meeting will be the election of the office of President. We want to welcome back our faithful attendees and meet many new families this year. See you on September 8 at 6:00!

## **ARGENTA-OREANA EXTRA-CURRICULAR**

### **THE PLAYER**

1. He/She is clean and plays hard. Plays for the love of the game.
2. Wins without boasting, loses without excuses, and never quits.
3. Respects officials and accepts their decisions without question.
4. Never forgets that he/she represents his/her school.

### **THE COACH**

1. Inspires in his/her athletes a love for the game and the desire to win.
2. Teaches them that it is better to lose fairly than to win unfairly.
3. Leads players and spectators to respect officials by setting a good example.
4. Is the type of person he/she wants his/her athletes to be.

### **THE OFFICIAL**

1. Knows the rules.
2. Is fair and firm in all decisions. Calls them as he/she sees them.
3. Treats players and coaches courteously and demands the same treatment.
4. Knows the game is for the athletes, and lets them have the spotlight.

### **THE SPECTATOR**

1. Never boos a player or official.
2. Appreciates a good play, no matter who makes it.
3. Knows the school gets the blame or praise for his/her conduct.
4. Recognizes the need for more sportsmanship and fewer "sports."

## **Philosophy**

**First and foremost, participation is a privilege, NOT a right.**

It is the philosophy of the Athletic Program at AOHS to provide each individual who is willing to adhere to the rules of good sportsmanship and guidelines of our athletic policies the best possible opportunity to grow morally, physically, socially, and mentally through participation in our program of interscholastic activities.

### **To the Parents**

One of the most important factors in having a successful Athletic Program is the cooperation and support of the parents of our athletes. As a parent of an athlete, it will be necessary to give an extra amount of your time in support of your son or daughter and our school's athletic program. We sincerely hope that these sacrifices and commitments will be a valuable and rewarding experience to both you and your AOHS athlete.

Our coaches are experienced in their fields and have the desire to help all of our athletes become respected, successful, and useful citizens of our community-both now and after graduation. If, as a parent, you feel the need to discuss a particular policy or situation, please call and make arrangements to talk with a coach or the Athletic Director.

Participation in our program requires a large commitment from each athlete. Your cooperation in making your son or daughter punctual for his/her activities will be greatly appreciated.

Finally, we want to thank you for allowing your child to participate.

### **Fan Behavior (IHSA Ruling)**

We strongly encourage our parents and fans to follow the ethics of clean competition and good sportsmanship. IHSA By-Laws state: "Any person found to be in gross violation of the ethics of competition or sportsmanship may be barred from interscholastic contests." These areas will be stressed to our athletes and coaches, and it is the hope of our total program that the parents and fans of our community will lead the way toward good sportsmanship.

The school board may make and enforce reasonable rules of conduct and sportsmanship for athletic and extra-curricular school events. Any person who violates such rules may be denied admission to school events for not more than one year, provided that written 10 days notice of the violation is given such person and a hearing had thereon by the board pursuant to its rules and regulations. The administration of any school may sign complaints as agents of the school against persons committing an offense any school events.(ILCS 5/24-24)

### **To Athletes, Cheerleaders, Scholastic Bowl, Student Council, Band, and Chorus**

Your first responsibility is to acquire a quality education while attending Argenta-Oreana High School.

Every Argenta-Oreana student becomes an extra-curricular participant from the first scheduled fall athletic season practice until the last scheduled spring competition. The extra-curricular code will apply for the entire school year whether the student is currently involved in an extra-curricular activity or planning to be involved in an extra-curricular activity.

As you are a representative of this school, your actions and behavior must be such as to reflect a respected image on yourself, fellow students, your parents, your school and community. You will spend a great amount of time and effort in participation with your respective activity, but hopefully you will find it to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience that will be important to you now and in the years to come.

Any member of the A-O Administration having proven knowledge of any violation of rules will report the incident to the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director and Teacher/Coach will give notification to the participant that he or she has been temporarily suspended from the organization until the appropriate reaction to the breach of rules has been determined.

## PARENT-COACH COMMUNICATION

**Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefits to our children. As parents, when your children become involved in athletics, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach.**

*Communication you should expect from your child's coach:*

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the other players on the team.
- Location and times of all practices and contest.
- Team requirements; i.e. fees, equipment, etc.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

*Communication that the coach should expect from parents:*

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concern in regard to the coach's philosophy/and or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in athletic programs at A-O, they will hopefully experience some rewarding moments. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At that time, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

*Appropriate concerns to discuss with your child's coach:*

- The treatment of your child: mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you hope. Coaches are professionals. They are, at times, forced to make judgment decisions based on what they believe is best for all student-athletes involved. As you may have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those in the following paragraphs, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

*Issues not appropriate to discuss with your child's coach:*

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. This is encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be taken to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

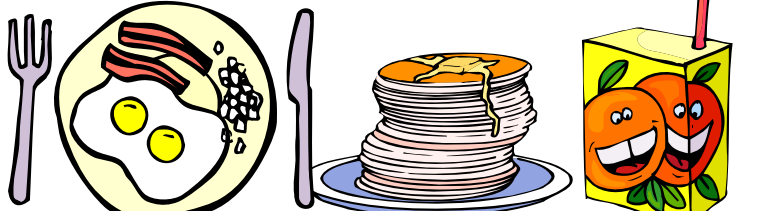
*Procedures to follow if you have a concern to discuss with the coach:*

- Call the school to set up a time to meet with the coach.
- 795-4821 H.S. or 795-4448 J.H.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director and leave a message for the coach.
- Do not confront the coach before or after a practice or a game. These confrontations can be emotional for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.

Research indicates students involved in extra-curricular activities have a greater chance for success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be successful participants in extra-curricular activities are exactly those that will promote successful lives after school.

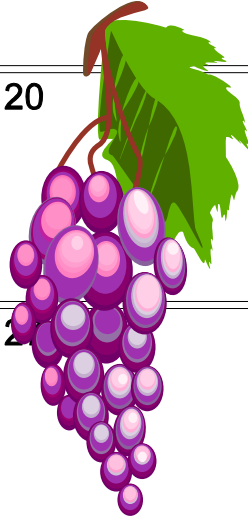
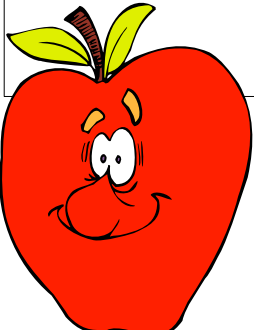
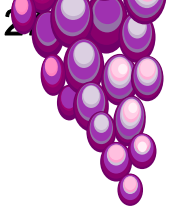

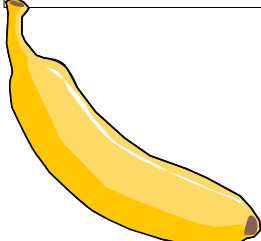
# A-O Elementary Breakfast Menu

# September 2009

		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal & Toast	2 Cereal & Toast	3 Waffles Syrup Sausage Patty or Cereal & Toast	4 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal & Toast	5
Sunday	Monday					
6 Milk & Orange Juice Served Daily	7 NO SCHOOL	8 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal & Toast	9 Cereal & Toast	10 French Toast Syrup Sausage Patty or Cereal & Toast	11 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal & Toast	12
13	14 Cereal & Toast	15 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal & Toast	16 Cereal & Toast	17 Lumberjack Syrup or Cereal & Toast	18 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal & Toast	19
20	21 Cereal & Toast	22 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal & Toast	23 Cereal & Toast	24 Sausage Patty, Egg Cheese, Biscuit or Cereal & Toast	25 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal & Toast	26
27	28 Cereal & Toast	29 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal & Toast	30 Cereal & Toast			

# A-O Elementary Lunch Menu

# September 2009

		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hot dog on bun lettuce salad dressing fruit Teddy Graham Bears milk	2  1/2 DAY NO LUNCH	3  Ravioli bread stick green beans fruit milk	4  Popcorn chicken dinner roll corn fruit milk	5
Sunday	Monday					
6 	7  NO SCHOOL	8  Corn dog fresh veggies/dip fresh fruit Zoo Animal crackers milk	9  Cheeseburger on bun french fries fruit jello milk	10  Chicken & noodles dinner roll mashed potatoes green beans fruit salad milk	11  Pizza lettuce salad dressing fruit milk	12 
13	14  Mini corn dogs peas fruit milk	15  Hamburger on bun tator tots fruit Scooby Doo cookies milk	16  Grilled chicken patty dinner roll mashed potatoes corn fruit milk	17  Spaghetti garlic bread lettuce salad dressing fruit milk	18  Chicken sticks dinner roll green beans fruit milk	19
20 	21  Fish on bun corn fruit Pretzel Goldfish crackers milk	22  Chicken dipper patty BBQ sauce dinner roll mashed potatoes fruit milk	23  Taco meat/soft shell lettuce shredded cheese fruit milk	24  Beef BBQ Rib on bun curly fries fruit jello milk	25  Pizza lettuce salad dressing fruit milk	26 
27 	28  Breakfast Day Pancakes/syrup sausage patty hash brown fruit milk	29  Hot dog on bun corn fresh fruit Bug Bites cookies milk	30  Salisbury steak dinner roll mashed potatoes green beans fruit milk			

# A/O JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH MENU SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday

Monday

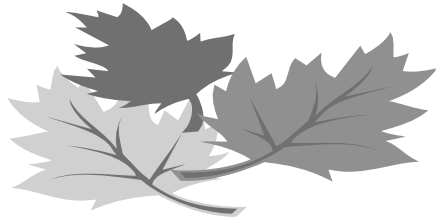
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



		1 STUFFED CRUST PIZZA CORN FRUIT MILK	2 HALF DAY OF SCHOOL NO LUNCH SERVED	3 CHICKEN WRAP: GRILLED CHICKEN ON FLATBREAD, LETTUCE, SHREDDED CHEESE CHIPS, YOGURT FRUIT, MILK	4 PIZZA PUFF LETTUCE SALAD FRUIT MILK	5 BREAKFAST: CEREAL, TOAST, JUICE, MILK ALTERNATE LUNCH: PRE-PACKAGED SALAD, FRUIT, MILK
6	7 NO SCHOOL LABOR DAY	8 HONEY B.B.Q. BEEF RIB ON BUN COLE SLAW CHIPS, FRUIT MILK	9 COUNTRY FRIED STEAK MASHED POTATOES GREEN BEANS ROLL, FRUIT, MILK	10 GRILLED CHICKEN PATTY ON BUN, CALIFORNIA BLEND VEGETABLES FRUIT, MILK	11 HOT DOG ON BUN FRENCH FRIES FRUIT, MILK	12
13	14 BREADED CHICKEN PATTY ON BUN FRENCH FRIES FRUIT, MILK	15 CHICKEN QUESADILLA CORN FRUIT, MILK	16 SALISBURY STEAK MASHED POTATOES PEAS, ROLL FRUIT, MILK	17 BACON CHEESEBURGER ON BUN FRESH VEGGIES CHIPS FRUIT, MILK	18 SOFT TACO : SEASONED BEEF, TORTILLA, LETTUCE, SHREDDED CHEESE, SALSA YOGURT, FRUIT MILK	19
20	21 BEEF FIESTADA CORN ,SALSA FRUIT, MILK	22 CHICKEN STRIPS GREEN BEANS MASHED POTATOES ROLL, FRUIT MILK	23 TACO SALAD SEASONED BEEF, NACHO CHIPS, LETTUCE, SHREDDED CHEESE, SALSA FRUIT, MILK	24 B.B.Q. PORK RIB ON BUN FRENCH FRIES FRUIT, MILK	25 SPICY CHICKEN PATTY ON BUN FRESH VEGETABLES CHIPS FRUIT, MILK	26
27	28 SLOPPY JOE ON BUN CURLY FRIES FRUIT, MILK	29 STUFFED CRUST PIZZA CORN FRUIT, MILK	30 TERIYAKI BEEF NUGGETS COOKED CARROTS AUGRATIN POTATOES BREADSTICK FRUIT, MILK			