



Innovate, Lead, Succeed...
LIKE A WARRIOR

School District of Amery | District Newsletter | November 2024



*Amery
Middle School*

is a 2024
**National Blue
Ribbon School**



Amery Middle School is a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School!

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona recognized 356 schools nationwide as the 2024 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools. This prestigious recognition highlights schools that excel in academic performance or make significant strides in closing achievement gaps among different student groups.

Amery Middle School was nominated for narrowing student learning gaps based on strong academic performance and exceptional student growth. On the most recent Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Report Card, Amery Middle School scored 90.1, the ninth highest of ALL middle schools in Wisconsin (top 2%) and the highest of ALL middle schools in CESA 11. The Amery Middle School overall growth score was the fifth highest in Wisconsin (top 1%) and their Math growth score was the highest of ALL Wisconsin middle schools.

Amery Middle School showed academic growth at a higher rate than any middle school in Wisconsin. From the day Amery students enter 6th grade to the day they leave after 8th grade, academically, they show more growth than any other middle school in Wisconsin.

"The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award is a testament to the exceptional achievements of students and educators at each of these schools," said U.S. Secretary of Education Cardona. "The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools are raising the bar for our nation's students, serving as models for effective teaching and intentional collaboration in their schools and communities.

A National Blue Ribbon School award flag displayed in a school's entryway or on a flagpole is a widely recognized emblem of exceptional teaching and learning. These schools serve as models of effective and innovative practices for educators across the nation.

Each nominated school submits a comprehensive application detailing its school culture, programs, assessments, instructional practices, professional development, leadership, family, and community involvement.

The Department invites nominations for the National Blue Ribbon Schools award from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education.

Principal Tom Bensen and Guidance Counselor Kate Weisenbeck will attend the prestigious 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. in November.



What makes Amery Middle School a Blue Ribbon School?



•A school climate that is encouraging and teaches positive behaviors and respect. Students feel recognized, are awarded for positive behaviors, and are encouraged to be kind.



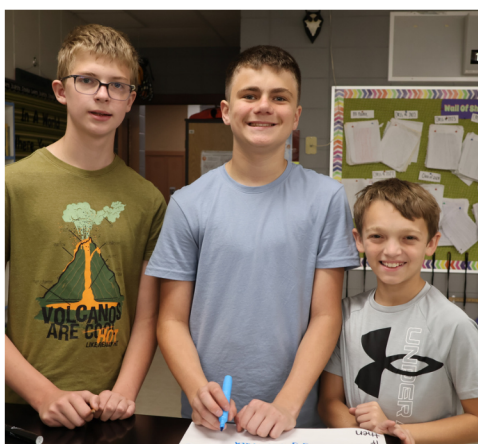
•High expectations. Students are expected to learn at high levels, and there are systems in place to monitor student progress, intervene when necessary, and extend learning as needed.



•Staff believe that all kids can 'grow.' Teachers regularly collaborate through professional learning communities for student success: What do we want our students to know and do? How will we know if they have learned it? What will we do if they haven't learned it? What will we do if they already know it?



•A system of staff collaboration. Teachers work together, utilize data, and focus on teaching a strong curriculum with fidelity. They share common responsibilities for student achievement.



•Excellent community and parent support. The School District of Amery is lucky to belong to a community that enables school staff to concentrate on the positive things happening every day. The Amery-area community values education and supports the school, which leads to great experiences for students.



•Staff professional development. Staff have a voice, a choice, and the flexibility to be creative and lead projects. They feel valued and encouraged, and they are challenged to teach at high levels.



•A schedule for student success. A modified block is utilized to provide adequate instruction time and intervention opportunities. The schedule is built so students can explore all applied arts opportunities (music, art, technology ed) without having to choose and sacrifice the exploration of new interests



VETERANS DAY

November 11th
8:30 am

**Amery High School
Public Program
All are welcome**

AHS Band & Choir

**Guest Speaker
Jordan Morfitt**

**Graduate of
Amery High School and
the U.S. Military Academy
at West Point.**



From the District Administrator

Welcome back to school from the School District of Amery! There is so much to be excited about. After nearly two years, referendum work at the high school and elementary school, as well as throughout our school grounds, is nearly complete. The upgrades to our schools are a magnificent change to the landscape of Amery education. Just as exciting are the updates to our athletic facilities. In a matter of about six months our athletic complex has been transformed into a facility with some of the best playing fields in northwestern Wisconsin.

There are many people who have made these changes possible. The members of the Amery Board of Education, past and present, were presented with a plan to address our facility needs. They were also presented with the grand idea of a newly redesigned athletics complex. In both cases, the Board agreed to move forward and made the dream of updated school buildings and improved athletic facilities a reality.

A debt of gratitude is owed to all Amery school staff who have supported the upgrades of the high school and elementary school. Our staff exercised enormous patience as the district progressed through the phases of the work. In the same manner, the members of our athletics advisory committee, comprised of coaches from every sport as well as sports-minded parents and community members, guided the process of upgrading our athletic facilities. This group helped shape the priorities of this complex as they persisted with thoughtful suggestions of what was needed and what might be possible.

A sincere thank you to the members of our administrative and district teams for their dedicated leadership as our buildings and grounds were upgraded. Further, many thanks to the athletic department staff for working tirelessly to iron out the logistics of the new facilities. They made it happen!

We are grateful for George Sigsworth, our director of facilities, and Ryan Pease, our director of grounds, who have monitored the progress of our new athletic facilities every step of the way. From the first changes to the high school in the fall of 2023 through the removal of the first scoop of dirt in May for athletics, they have had the best interests of our schools and the Amery community in mind.

We thank Konny Jorgensen and her family for their endless grace as the district went through the process of purchasing Jorgensen Memorial Field. She and her family patiently supported the process knowing there were brighter days ahead at the ballfields. Their patience has paid off as we will see student-athletes play softball and youth baseball on these beautiful new fields for decades to come.

We have much appreciation to LHB Architects and Kraus Anderson Construction who made the work happen. The district is thankful for the skills and expertise they brought to the projects.

Last and certainly not least, we are excited to present the referendum work and athletic facilities upgrades as an homage to Amery Warriors students and athletes who have paved the way for success. We pay the utmost respect to those who have, for decades, represented the best of Amery with pride. These facilities are a shoutout to those who have come before and to those who will be Warriors in the years to come.

Our new facilities are an investment in our kids of today, but also an investment in the great hopefulness which comes with future generations of Amery Warriors. We enthusiastically look forward to the greatness our kids will bring to Amery with these upgraded buildings and new facilities!

Congratulations, Amery! We did it!

Dr. Shawn Doerfler
District Administrator
School District of Amery



Connect with Amery Schools



District Website
www.amerysd.k12.wi.us



District APP
APP Store or Google Play - free



Facebook
School District of Amery



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YouTube Amery Schools

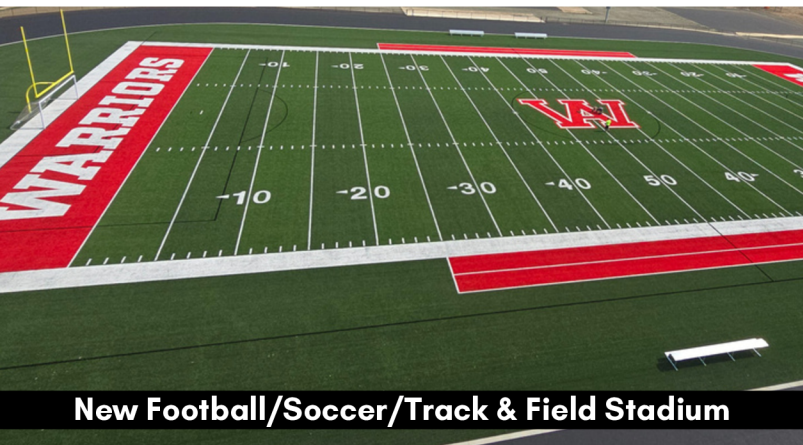


Home Athletic Livestreams
'WE ARE Amery' YouTube



715-268-9771 ext. 272





New Football/Soccer/Track & Field Stadium

Remodeled High School Commons



New 4K & Kindergarten Classroom Addition

New Baseball Fields / Renovated Softball Fields



Remodeled High School Science/Math/Business

Relocated & Remodeled Clubhouse Childcare

AHS Students Get a College Jumpstart



Thanks to six Amery High School (AHS) teachers, the guidance department, and the UW River Falls (UWRF) Dual Academic Credit Program (DACP), several students will graduate from AHS with a significant number of college credits.

The dual enrollment program allows high school students to take college courses and earn college and high school credits simultaneously through courses taught at the high school.

Amery is one of just ten Wisconsin high schools currently partnering with UWRF for dual enrollment.

Students earning dual enrollment college credit must meet the criteria set by UWRF, complete an application, and pay a \$110 per credit fee or \$60 per credit fee if eligible for free/reduced lunch. This is a savings of over \$300 per credit compared to current tuition and fees for a UWRF college student.

Though Amery DACP credits are earned through UWRF, they may potentially transfer to other 4-year colleges/universities.

In 2021, Amery High School entered the dual-credit partnership with UW River Falls with one Physics course taught by Sam Bosley. Fourteen students completed the Physics course in the first year and earned a total of 42 college credits. The following school year, AHS offered four courses for DACP credit, and seventy-eight students earned a combined total of 225 credits.

The program has continued to grow. Last year, AHS offered seven different DACP courses; this year there will be eight. This fall semester, fifty-three students will potentially earn 193 total college credits.



High school instructors of DACP courses must hold a master's degree in the specified course field and meet the same credentialing standards as UWRF academic staff. Currently, AHS has six teachers qualified to teach UWRF DACP courses.

The high school teachers meet with UWRF faculty mentors prior to and throughout the course terms to ensure the courses are substantially equivalent to the corresponding college courses. The high school teachers are also evaluated and observed by their college faculty mentors.

Nationwide, over the last decade, the number of students earning college credits through dual enrollment programs has more than doubled. The most popular classes are math, engineering, English, Spanish, and medical terminology.

Dual enrollment is different from Advanced Placement classes, which offer high school students a chance to take university-level courses and earn college credit if they pass an assessment test.

According to the Institute of Education Sciences, dual enrollment programs support college credit accumulation and degree attainment in three ways:

- Allowing high school students to experience college-level courses helps them prepare for the social and academic requirements of college while having the additional supports available in high school.
- Students who accumulate college credits early and consistently are more likely to attain a college degree.
- Many dual enrollment programs offer discounted or free tuition, which reduces the overall cost of college and may increase the number of low socioeconomic status students who can attend and complete college.

In addition to saving time and money, DACP courses give students an opportunity to build their confidence as they recognize they can handle college coursework. They will also enter college programs ahead of other students who did not earn DACP credits, which gives them more flexibility when scheduling courses, the benefit of managing smaller course loads, and opportunities to take advantage of study abroad or similar programs.

According to Karen Ganje, AHS Guidance Counselor, "Many school districts do not have the credentialed faculty to offer DACP courses. Amery students are lucky to have six instructors approved to teach at the college level providing opportunities not available in all other schools."

CLASS OF 2025

THREE DACP SUCCESS STORIES . . .



OLIVIA CHAVES

Plans to attend UW River Falls to study Biology.

Will graduate with 14 college credits.

“Being enrolled in the DACP has been beneficial in preparing me for what is expected in homework load and the time and effort you need to put into your assignments or tests. It also motivated me to do better and be more productive when surrounded by people who bring in a higher level of thought and effort towards learning.”

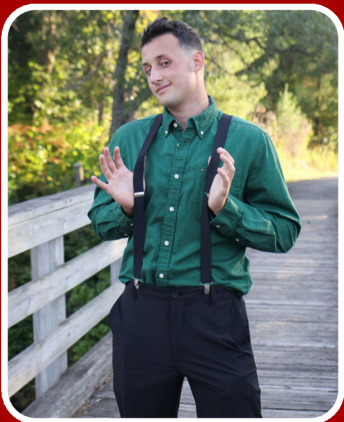


CHARLI BENWARE

Plans to attend Iowa State University or the U of M Twin Cities to study Kinesiology and eventually Physical Therapy.

Will graduate with 21 DACP college credits.

“The DACP classes have been extremely beneficial in preparing me for the rigor of college. Having a general idea of what my classes will be like in terms of the workload will also be beneficial in adapting more quickly into college life.”



SEAN EVENSON

Plans to attend UW Stout to study Electrical Engineering.

Will graduate with 11 DACP college credits.

“The biggest thing, other than saving money from the DACP, would be the amount of time I'm saving by doing it in high school instead of college. This will allow me to get done with college earlier, so I can take the initiative on life.”

Amery HS Course Title Instructor	UWRF Course Title Credits
College Prep/Academic Reading & Writing Danielle Erdrich	ENGL 100 Academic Reading & Writing 3 credits
AP Calculus AB Sam Bosley	MATH 125 Calculus with Early Transcendentals 4 credits
AP Statistics Paula Stevens	MATH 225 Elementary Statistics 4 credits
Physics Sam Bosley	PHYS 114 Conceptual Physics 3 credits
AP Psychology Heidi Moreau	PSYC 101 General Psychology 3 credits
AP Biology Ryan Humpal	BIOL 155 Introductory Biology 4 credits
Astronomy Sam Bosley	PHYS 117 Basic Astronomy 3 credits
AP Physics Sam Bosley	PHYS 131 Calculus Based Physics 5 credits
Introduction to Teaching Ramona Lockwood	TED 100 Introduction to Teaching 3 credits
Educational Psychology for Teachers Ramona Lockwood	TED 250 Educational Psychology for Teachers 3 credits





THIRD GRADE VISITS THE AMERY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Amery third graders were the first school group to visit the new Amery Area Historical Society Museum.

The students were intrigued! The large photo of the old Amery Depot, its namesake signage, and railroad bells greeted students upon entry. Many enjoyed seeing the military uniforms and an actual grenade. The antique cash register, which was almost as big as some of the students, was a jaw-dropper. Students enjoyed sitting at an old school desk, viewing Amery School District artifacts and photos, and seeing a portrait of Mr. & Mrs. Amery.

The visit to the museum correlated well with the third grade Social Studies curriculum. Students recently completed a unit on 'communities,' which included studying the differences between urban, suburban, and rural areas. By partnering with the Amery Area Historical Society, students were able to explore the history of Amery.

They listened intently to stories and were prompted to guess what it was like being a kid many years ago. They were able to see, view, and even touch some of the displays.



- “I loved the baseball uniforms. The butter churn was really, really cool too, but I think the army and air force room was the best of all.” Levi Roos

- “I liked seeing the old anvil and the military helmets.” Wyatt Andersen

- “My favorite thing I saw at the Amery Historical Society is the things they used in the kitchen and looking at what they used in school in the old days.” Jason Valenzuela

- “My favorite thing about the Amery Historical Society is that we learned about old farm stuff. It was sooo fun!” Malia Williams

- “We learned that the museum had 100 year old stuff. There were different helmets from the wars. If you lived on a farm, you could help your family instead of going to school. When you were at school, your desk was really small. We saw an old phone, a bell, a wick, and a butter maker. We thought the field trip was very cool.” Finn Humpal and Spencer Christensen



The field trip was originated by Amery Area Public Library Director Heather Wiarda who was seeking to connect Amery’s past with Amery’s future. As a Historical Society board member and Educational Committee chair, Wiarda was excited to fulfill a library goal of community outreach and a Historical Society goal of providing educational experiences to Amery students.

The visit was also the perfect opportunity for a ‘soft’ introduction to a field trip experience as an Intermediate School student. Upon entering third grade, students are in a new school building, have new routines, and see many

unfamiliar faces. They are no longer in their familiar elementary school surroundings. A shorter field trip to a local business was a perfect fit to ease into the Warrior Way expectations of being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe.

This is bound to be an annual field trip. Exposing these students to their own community’s history is not only purposeful & educational, but it is engaging & fun.

Thanks to Wiarda and museum tour guides Dianna Wise-Haley and Jim Meyer for this excellent experience.

Fall Fun Day

Lien Elementary students enjoyed another beautiful October day at the school F.A.R.M for the annual Lien Elementary Fall Fun Day!

Students participated in bean bag toss and pumpkin tic-tac-toe games, listened to stories, and could get a 'farm' tattoo. PowerUp St Croix Valley provided snacks, and 'Chomp' spent the day flexing muscles, handing out high-fives and hugs, and having fun with everyone.

The 'Barnyard Gang' (Mrs. Henningsgard, Mr. Carey, Mr. Folstad, and Ms. Maino) was rocking in the shed, playing music while students sang and danced.

Students enjoyed a hay wagon ride through the fields and learned about the bee hives and some of the animals cared for by FFA students.

This event is the perfect opportunity for Lien students to get to know our middle and high school FFA students and learn more about our amazing school F.A.R.M.

This is the second year that Lien Specialists (Art, Library, Music, and Physical Education teachers) collaborated with the FFA students, FFA alumni, and PowerUp to create an event that showcased the learning in our classrooms and brought the entire school together to create a memorable experience.

The excitement, laughter, and joy of the day reminds everyone of the great things that happen when the community comes together!



Hay Wagon Rides



Music & Dancing



Farm Tattoos



Stories



Live Music



Fun with Chomp!



Hugs from Chomp!



Friends



Hay Wagon Rides



High School FFA Helpers

AMERY COMMUNITY *Education*

EVERGREEN GNOME WORKSHOP

Add some fun holiday cheer to your front door!



Sat, Nov 23 from 9-11a

Instructor Lisa Lavasseur

Includes all supplies \$59

HOLIDAY SWAG WORKSHOP

Arrange your own farmhouse-style evergreen swag that will last through the holidays.



Mon, Nov 25 from 5:30-7p

Instructor Jess Rabe

Includes all supplies \$39

DOOR/WALL HANGING SIGN

Design and complete a 12" diameter sign using one of many templates including fun holiday designs.



Tues, Nov 26 from 6:30-8:30p

Instructor Carissa from Loganberry Interiors

Includes all supplies \$21

HOLIDAY PORCH POT WORKSHOP

Create your own 10" winter porch pot with Stems from the Heart Floral & Gifts.



Mon, Dec 2 from 6:30-8:30p

Includes all supplies, drinks, & treats. \$69

HOLIDAY COOKIE DECORATING

Learn and practice icing techniques and how to make fun and intricate designs! Go home with 4 decorated cookies, some new skills, and all the supplies to practice on 4 more at home.



Instructor Zoe from Chaos & Coneflowers

Sat, Dec 14 from 9-11a

Includes all supplies \$45

TECHNOLOGY COURSES LIVE ONLINE VIA ZOOM

• How to Use Venmo Safely

Tue, Dec 3 from 12-1p live or view the recording later

• How to Use Uber

Tue, Dec 10 from 12-1p live or view the recording later

• Cell Phones & Parenting - Oh My!

Thu, Dec 12 from 12-1p live or view the recording later

Follow-up support from the instructor is included, and participants are encouraged to reach out with questions before or after a class.

Instructor Nickie Welsh \$25/class

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY: DNR CERTIFICATION

For ages 11+. Certificate is valid at age 12. Three mandatory classes: Dec 2, 3 & 5 from 5:30-8:30p.

Ryan Jordan, Polk Co Rec Patrol Deputy \$10

MYSTERIES OF THE NIGHT SKY: PLANETARIUM!

Join us in Clear Lake for a 30-minute experience in the portable planetarium featuring a panoramic view of the night sky as stars shift in various seasons and from different locations. Explore cosmic events: Northern Lights, shooting stars, meteor showers, and more.

Wed, Dec 4; thirty-minute time slots between 4-8:30p
CESA 11 Portable Planetarium \$19

Day Trips

FROZEN at the Children's Theatre Company!

A perfect Adult/Child/Family trip

Sat, April 26; Showtime 11a

Adults (ages 18-61) \$69

Child/Senior/Military Adults \$59

Fee includes main floor seats, all fees, and school bus transportation.

GREASE at Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

Time to rev up your engines on this day trip!

Wed, April 30; Meal 11:30a; Show 1p

Great seats! \$115

Fee includes meal, show, server gratuity, motorcoach

BASKETBALL OPEN GYM FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

- Grades 4-12; younger are welcome with an adult.
- Sundays 1:30-3:30p
- Middle School
- Enter through the North doors.
- Bring your own basketball & clean gym shoes.

FAMILY OPEN GYM

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

PICKLEBALL OPEN GYM

- Bring your own paddle if you have one.
- High School
- \$3 per night OR pre-buy a \$24 membership. Bring exact change.
- Wednesdays
- 6-8p
- Nov 6 - Mar 12
- Closed 11/27, 12/25, 1/1

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





School District of Amery
543 Minneapolis Avenue
Amery, WI 54001

715-268-9771 ext. 272
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POSTAL PATRON

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AMERY HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS



Game of Tiaras



Advance
ticket sales at
Chet Johnson Drug &
Amery High School.

Tickets at door.

SHOWTIMES

November 7-8-9 at 7 pm
November 10 at 1 pm

TICKETS
\$8.00



CAST

Back L-R: Morgan Leonard, Breana Pitchford, Zoe Bymark, Chayce Luangrath, Arlo Meilahn, David Williamson, Parker Hart, and Harlon Stone'

Middle L-R: Andrew Benner, Morgan Stone, Selah Krech, Zoe Troff, Anna Gould, Aurora White, and Lyla Stone.

Front L-R: Nour Saleh, Sophie Timm, Abby Cody, Hayden Larson, and Grace Williamson. Not pictured: Paige McLain.

Written by Don Zolidis

Directed by Danielle Erdrich