

Principal's NEWSLETTER



SY 2019-2020 Quarter 4, Vol. 5

Dr. Thomas Whittle, School Principal

Important Dates:

- ⇒ **June 11: AHS Virtual Graduation**
 - ⇒ **June 16: Last Day of School - Half Day for Students 9th to 11th grade**
 - ⇒ **June 17-18: Teacher Workdays**
- SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021**
- ⇒ **August 17: First Day for Teachers**
 - ⇒ **August 24: First Day for Students**

Dear Pirate Community,

After 7 years of service and dedication to Antilles High School, I have made the decision to set sail towards new endeavors. It is with a great sense of triumph for all we've accomplished together that I announce to you all that my time at AHS has come to an end. I have accepted the position as the new DoDEA Fort Campbell High School principal at U.S. Army Fort Campbell, Kentucky. I will forever hold dear to my heart my Pirate family.

Once a Pirate, Always a Pirate!

Dr. Thomas Whittle



Search for:

Dodea Antilles High School

DoDEA Mission:

Educate, Engage and Empower each student to succeed in a dynamic world.

DoDEA Vision:

Excellence in Education for Every Student, Every Day, Everywhere.

Antilles High School Goals

1. Increase student academic achievement in **LITERACY**.
2. Increase student academic achievement in **MATHEMATICS**.

Antilles High School Purpose Statement:

Antilles High School is committed to enriching the lives of all students by facilitating the relevant, holistic and rigorous College and Career Readiness Curriculum that will prepare the students to succeed and to be self-sufficient in a dynamic world.

End of School Year 2019-2020

Greetings Pirate Community! We want to thank you so much for your support as our school year is coming to close. Our Antilles High School students, staff, teachers, parents, and community have demonstrated dedication, commitment and resilience through these hard and uncertain times. **It has definitely made us stronger; Pirate Strong!**

In close coordination with Ft. Buchanan Garrison Command we have developed a plan for our end of year procedures. From May 26 to June 5, Antilles High School students can sign-up to schedule a time to come to school and retrieve personal items from their locker. During the last four days of this school year (June 15 to June 18), all equipment must be returned to AHS. For the safety of all, textbooks, library books and school material dropped off should be placed in plastic bags and left on the tables in the school foyer. Chromebooks will be placed in room 104. **For safety reasons, face covering, plastic gloves and appropriate social/physical distancing will be mandatory. No overlapping, back logging, or grouping will be permitted. Only ONE parent MUST accompany and be present with the student.** For more information on these procedures and to access the sign-up forms to schedule a time to come to school, go to our Antilles High School official website.

The Road Ahead

DoDEA leadership is working diligently on plans for the upcoming school year 2020-2021. Any decisions about the next year will be coordinated with our local installation and shared with our Pirate Community through email, as well as our school website and Facebook page. We encourage you to continue to follow guidelines of the Center of Disease Control (CDC), Fort Buchanan installation, and local health officials to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summer Access to Resources

Students enrolled in a DoDEA school retain their Google account throughout enrollment, including during the summer. Account Removal and Summer Moratorium guidelines are as follows:

- ⇒ Current students and students withdrawing from DoDEA schools after April 15 can retain their Google account throughout the summer. Otherwise, when a student withdraws after August 31, the Google account is removed shortly thereafter.
- ⇒ Google Takeout can be used to save and transfer DoDEA Google account data such as emails, Photos, Google Docs, and Contacts. Students can start the process by going to <https://takeout.google.com>.
- ⇒ Library databases and online books are also available throughout the summer. Students can visit our AHS Library Website for information on how to access these resources.

Class of 2020 Graduation Ceremony

While Covid-19 has disrupted plans for Antilles High School's Senior traditions, we remain committed to celebrating the accomplishments, successes, and resiliency of the Class of 2020. We know that they are facing a challenge of a generation, and we aim to salute them in a manner that is befitting of their tenacity, adaptability, and talents. The senior sponsors, Ms. Diana Figueroa and Ms. Gloria China, have worked very hard to put this year's graduation together for our senior students and their families, with the support of our DoDEA and Garrison leadership, especially during this unprecedented situation. On June 11, 2020 at 5:00 pm, the AHS virtual graduation will be streamed on our official AHS Facebook page. We invite you to join us in this Senior Graduation Facebook Watch Party. **Congratulations Class of 2020!**

Thought and Reflection

with **Dr. Whittle**

Reflection

It is with pen in hand that I scatter a few reflective thoughts of my life over the past seventy-two years. More importantly, my seven years as principal of Antilles High School. My imagination ran wild with possibilities when I got the news that I was coming to Puerto Rico.

The dreams of yesteryear were swimming in my head, for you see, I had visited Puerto Rico in 2002 as principal of Nottoway High School. NHS had a Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Battalion (NJROTC) of 275 student cadets. The chief instructor was Commander Rowles, who sailed in and out of Roosevelt Roads while he was on active duty in the Navy. The chief wanted the cadets to see ships maneuver in and out of the dock at Roosevelt Roads. We visited the rain forest and walked down to the waterfall and back, and visited San Juan.

As I ponder that short experience, I realize the beauty of Puerto Rico as an island, but more importantly, I recognized the beautiful spirit of the Puerto Rican people. There was no sad face anyplace we went, Puerto Rican smiles, and the zest they demonstrated for life was unmatched by any world peoples.

As I sift through my mind's eye in the last seven years, they have gone far too fast. The friendships I developed will never be forgotten, the cultural norms such as kissing on the cheeks, and women, along with men chismorroed all in fun. I reflect on the changes that have come in my own life, like don't take life too seriously, one should enjoy the people as they pass through your life and always respect others, always smile and pay close attention to opportunities that came in life to do good in lives of others. I think back on Maria from the gym, Carlos from the auto craft shop, the countless faces from the Post Exchange, commissary, food court, the VA Hospital, and my AHS family all have made my life richer and worth living. I appreciate the enormous joy as I sojourned in the island paradise and submerged myself in the people's cultural beauty.

As I close out this chapter of my life that includes these seven years as principal of Antilles High School, I realize that I'm loved, respected, and admired by many. I want to let them know that I love them back more now than I can express. Hopefully, this short essay will express my love and compassion for the students, staff, faculty, parents, and community. The time passed too quickly, but the experiences helped me grow personally, professionally, and are rich with enough joy to last the rest of my life. My heart is filled with glee and no regrets only possibilities of what is to come, thank you team, in June this power filled chapter of life's book will close.

Dr. Thomas Whittle