

YOUR SCHOOLS

2019

Aurora City School District

From the Superintendent

By PAT R. CICCANTELLI
Superintendent of Schools



We are well into the second grading period of the school year and the winter holiday season is waiting just around the corner. We have been very busy in the district over the last three

months with tributes to 9/11, Veterans Day programs, the Homecoming activities, the Aurora Alumni Association Hall of Fame inductions, the 8th grade class trip to Washington, D.C., the Service Learning Class' homeless experience, our annual band show, the high school's fall play Harvey and much more!

We learned this fall that we were only one of a select group of districts that earned an overall grade of an "A" on the state report card. We are in an even more select group of districts that earned that distinction for the second consecutive year! We are very proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff.

We began the school year with new principals at Craddock and Miller Elementary. We welcomed **Kim Menta** as our new Craddock Principal. Kim was formerly an elementary principal in the West Geauga district. Our new principal at Miller is Maria Goodman. Maria taught at Leighton Elementary for several years and was the assistant principal there last year.

We are finalizing our plan to develop a Strategic Vision for the district. Thank you to the staff, parents and community

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ACSD EARNS "A" ON STATE OF OHIO 2018-19 REPORT CARD

The Ohio Department of Education has released the district report cards for the 2018-19 school year. The Aurora City School District is proud to have earned the distinction of receiving an "A" grade for the overall mark. Superintendent, Pat Ciccantelli, shared, "It is an exciting time for the Aurora City Schools! We received notice that for the second consecutive year our district has earned the highest marks from the Ohio Department of Education as we have been awarded an overall grade of an "A" on our state report card. Only a handful of districts in Ohio earned this distinction." He added, "Congratulations to the Board of Education, administration, faculty, staff and especially the students for this level

of success! The outstanding scores on these assessments help confirm that our students and staff are doing an incredible job!"

Ohio State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Paolo DeMaria, sent a congratulatory email stating, "Congratulations on the overall A that your district received on the 2018-2019 Ohio School Report Card! Your district is one of only 31 districts in the state that achieved this highest mark. While the report cards are not the only measure of a district's success, you, your teachers, your staff and your community should be proud of this accomplishment."

NEW ACSD ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS TAKE OVER



Kim Menta



Maria Goodman

The Aurora City School District has welcomed two new elementary principals to begin the 2019-20 school year. Leighton School Assistant Principal, Maria Goodman, was named the Miller Elementary School Principal. She will also continue her duties as the Leighton

School Assistant Principal. Kim Menta was approved by the Aurora Board of Education as the new Craddock Elementary School principal who replaced former Craddock Principal, Julie Troman.

Goodman said of her new position, "So now moving to this new role as the Principal of Miller, I still feel I'm using a variety of my skill sets the same way I did last year with a little bit more responsibility." She explained, "I found I have made an impact on all the students I had in the classroom for so many years and the greater grade level I was working

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AURORA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEW TENNIS COURTS

The Aurora City School District (ACSD) held an inauguration celebration to introduce their new tennis courts on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. On hand at the tennis courts for the event were ACSD and City of Aurora officials, along with the Boys' and Girls' coach and tennis teams.

The new tennis courts are located between Harmon Middle School and the Aurora High School's Veterans Stadium. Nagle Athletic Surfaces was contracted for the project which began construction at the beginning of June and was completed by August 20, 2019. According to Aurora Schools' Treasurer, William Volosin, the cost of the completed project was 400,000. The ACSD and the City of Aurora collaborated on the restoration of the existing tennis courts with the city contributing a total of \$100,000 to the tennis court construction project.

The new tennis courts allow both the girls and boys tennis teams to utilize the courts for practices and home matches and gives the students in physical education classes the opportunity to also use the courts. Previously, the District rented tennis court facility space from Barrington and the Western Reserve Racquet and Fitness Club at a yearly cost of approximately \$10,000, according to ACSD Treasurer, Volosin. When the courts are not being used by the tennis teams or physical education classes, the community is invited and encouraged to enjoy the new courts. The courts have also been lined to include Pickleball game dimensions. Pickleball is currently a popular outdoor game, which is played on tennis courts and combines the elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis.

Gerald Kohanski introduced the tennis courts at the event and said, "The Aurora City School District is happy to inaugurate six new tennis courts that will provide our girls and boys high school tennis teams with a home court that they have lacked for the last several years. The

refurbishment of these courts will also allow the schools to eliminate \$10,000 in annual fees to rent home court space off our campus.

Thanks to the leadership of the Board of Education and Superintendent Pat Ciccantelli we were not only able to provide a first-class facility but also will provide the community with six Pickleball courts.

When courts are not being used by the schools for tennis matches and physical education activities, they will be available to the community. We would like to acknowledge the leadership of Mayor Ann Womer Benjamin who spearheaded the contribution by the City of \$100,000 to help defray the school's total completed cost of \$400,000. We are happy to have the City as a valued associate in the construction of the courts and believe this project will benefit both our students and the community at large."

Pat Ciccantelli stated, "We are very appreciative of the support of the board of education and the City of Aurora to provide the financial support for these beautiful courts. They were long overdue and it is a joy to see tennis being played again on our campus."

Aurora Tennis Coach, Dania Rinicella, added, "They are beautiful! The kids are so excited and I am so happy to have a home. We would love to see lots of fans coming out to the matches now that we are on campus."



Members of the Aurora School's girls' and boys' tennis teams gathered with city and school officials for the dedication of the new tennis courts.



Tennis Court Inauguration (left to right): Miriam Conner, Amy McDougald Eckard, Ann Womer Benjamin, Gerald Kohanski, Pat Ciccantelli, Stephen Sabulsky, Laura Holman, John Kudley, and Dania Rinicella.



SCHOOL BUILDING SAFETY DRILLS CONDUCTED

The safety of the children, staff and guests at each of our schools is extremely important to us. To maintain a safe environment for our children to learn and grow, it is necessary to practice our emergency and crisis response plans throughout the school year by having drills designed to exercise our procedures. Throughout the year, fire drills, tornado/ weather drills, and safety drills are conducted.

Once every three years, the state of Ohio requires all school districts to complete a full scale evacuation drill as one of their required safety drills. Last spring, in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies, district administrators began planning for the full-scale drill. All school buildings in the Aurora City School District completed this type of drill in the month of October.



YOUR SCHOOLS

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Your Schools is a publication of the Aurora City School District. Its purpose is to keep residents of Aurora informed of current events and progress in the Aurora City Schools and to foster pride and a continuous communication link between the schools and the community.

Your Schools has been awarded the "Mark of Excellence" and "Best of the Best" Awards by the Ohio Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association for service as a school district newsletter. *Your Schools* is a quarterly publication, mailed to all residents of Aurora. For information, comments, or story ideas, e-mail Editor Stacey DeAnna at: yourschools@aurora-schools.org.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY VAPING PRESENTATION

During the Aurora Schools' Teacher Professional Development Day on October 14, 2019, the owner of Vapor House, Adrian Delgado, and mechanical modification expert, Brett Duncan, gave a presentation to help teachers better understand vaping and smoking devices. Vapor House is located at 9761 OH-14, in Streetsboro, OH.

They shared their knowledge on equipment, accessories, Eliquids, and pods. The pair also answered questions on the differences between THC cartridges and nicotine cartridges and devices that are used to smoke each one. The health effects of black market products versus approved products was also discussed. Delgado and Duncan explained the cutting method of the Eliquids with vitamin E, a synthetic byproduct, and the ability of a user to create their own Eliquids.

The teachers were then given the opportunity to hold the devices and see how each one is used. Legal sale of the products was discussed, along with the sale of unethical sales that have been turned down by Vapor House. Delgado and Duncan also provided statistics for the teachers and included conversation regarding deterring student usage of the products.



Vapor House Owner, Adrian Delgado (left), stands next to Mechanical Mod Expert, Brett Duncan (right), and ACSD Safety Resource Officer Michelle Ice.



8TH GRADE 9-11 TRIBUTE TOUR

Harmon Middle School 8th grade students participated in activities on 9-11-2019 to better understand the historical events of that day. The students in 8th grade had not yet been born when the infamous day in American history occurred in 2001. The students went on a half-day tour of Aurora where they visited first responders and the Aurora Cemetery. They also saw a display at the Aurora Historical Society and attended/performed at the City of Aurora Wreath Laying Ceremony. Harmon School teachers Paul Frankmann and Nancy Tyrell organized the trip.



Aurora Historical Society Visit



Wreath Laying Ceremony

Superintendent – Continued from p. 1

members who have provided feedback through either our focus group meetings or the survey instrument. The feedback we received was very positive and helpful for our steering committee to finish developing the vision for our graduates. We recognized some current and former students and teachers this fall. Congratulations to **Cailor Roche** and **Nate Albanese** from Harmon for being named Rotary students of the month in September and to **Drew Kimes** and **Allie Martin** from the high school for being named Rotary students of the month in October. **Jason Burdett** was selected as the Akron Symphony Orchestra's Music Educator of the year! This is an outstanding honor and he is very deserving of this recognition. Thank you to the Alumni Association for recognizing a new class of Hall of Fame candidates. Congratulations to the Aurora Alumni Association's 2019 Hall of Fame honorees: **Ted Linden** – Honored Educator and **Martin Calfee**– Distinguished Alumni, Class of 1955. Academically, our students continue to shine. AHS had four National Merit Semifinalists; Congratulations to **Ashley Ruehr**, **Sachi Sanghavi**, **Kathryn Walter**, and **Kate Walton** for being our Class of 2020 National Merit Semifinalists! Last fall, over 1.6 million high school Juniors took the PSAT at over 22,000 high schools. Of that initial group of students, 50,000 or 1.5% will be recognized as Commended Scholars, while 16,000

or less than .5% have been named as Semifinalists, and congratulations to our National Merit Commended Students **Ryan Kacmar** and **Alex Polivka**. We have had another successful season for co-curricular activities! Coach Bob Mihalik and the Football Team had an amazing season! They captured the Suburban League title, and qualified for the OHSAA playoffs. They finished the season with a perfect 10-0 record, the first time in over 20 years! Both the Boys' and Girls' Cross Country Teams qualified for the Regional tournament. Congratulations to **Matt Singleton** who qualified for the state championship meet. Both our Boys' and Girls' soccer teams advanced to the district finals as well! Our athletes gave us much to cheer about this fall. Looking ahead, we have many festive holiday concerts scheduled that are free and open to the community. Please come and enjoy the sounds that are sure to get you into the holiday spirit. A schedule of the concerts will be listed on our school website. There are numerous programs where our students and staff raise money for those who are less fortunate during the holiday season; just some of the many philanthropic activities that take place throughout the year. Our students and staff excel at keeping service mindedness in the forefront.

I would like to wish all of our staff, students/families and community members a wonderful holiday season and a winter break filled with family, friends, and joyful celebrations.

Who's Who & What's New

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Watch your student and Aurora City School District events on **Community Focus** (formerly Cable 9) at Spectrum Channel 1021 or go to MyCommunityFocus.org to watch and find air times/dates.



Congratulations to AHS Senior **Grace Caffoe** who was announced as one of the top 25 Semifinalists in the Shining Star CLE 2019 Competition.



On Sunday, October 20, 2019 the **Autism Speaks** organization hosted their annual "Autism Speaks Walk" event in Cleveland. Thank you to Aurora Schools' Intervention Specialist, **Victor Torres**, who once again assembled an ACSD team to support the Autism community.

Each year the **Aurora Alumni Association**, in cooperation with the Aurora Schools' Administration, inducts outstanding individuals into their hall of fame. Congratulations to the Aurora Alumni Association's 2019 inductees. **Martin Calfee** (Class of 1955,) was inducted into the **Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame** and **Ted Linden** was inducted into the Educator Hall of Fame.



COMMUNITY FOCUS LIVESTREAM EVENT ON VAPING

Expert panelists from the **U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration** and the **Summit County Public Health Department** met for a live stream event featuring the topic of vaping. It took place on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. This timely and extremely important event was a community partnership between the Aurora City School District, the Nardon Hills City School District, and the Twinsburg City School District. You can join these live stream events at My Community Focus on the Community

Focus webpage or on YouTube.



The Aurora City School District is currently in the process of creating a new strategic vision which will outline the skills and competencies students need to be successful when they leave the district. The Board of Education and administrators held a **Parent/Community Strategic Planning Focus Group Meeting** and invited parents and community members to participate in the process at a meeting on November 4, 2019. Feedback is essential and their input was invaluable in guiding the development of the strategic vision. Thank you to those that participated.



QUALITY PROFILE 2018-19 NOW AVAILABLE

The **ACSD 2018-19 Quality Profile** is now available and can be found on the aurora-schools.org website under Quick Links. This profile provides a deeper insight into the many programs and their successes that characterize the outstanding education our students receive both inside and outside the classroom.



The **Liberty Ford** Aurora's Manager, **Greg Davis** (center), presents the Aurora BOE and PTO co-president, **Monica Kimes**, with a check for \$4,380 that was donated as a part of the **Liberty Ford Drive 4UR School** community fundraising event.

FINALFORMS

The Aurora City School District has partnered with **FinalForms**, an online forms and data management service, that is being used to replace paper forms. FinalForms allows parents to complete and sign enrollment, back-to-school, and interscholastic athletic participation forms for students and then saves data and pre-populates it from season-to-season and year-to-year. The service offers parents a time saving way to accurately complete student forms on a timely basis.

THUNDER OVER AURORA WAS BOOMING



DRUG FREE CLUB FIELD GOAL KICK

James Reinart, General Manager at Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora, sponsored a pre-game field goal kick competition at the Aurora Greenmen vs. Padua football game on September 20, 2019. This event was planned to promote the AHS Drug Free Club now in its second year. Nine students participated in the event with Bryson Pozniak and Mason Bizjack both ultimately kicking 40-yard field goals. They split the prize of \$500 which was donated by Ganley. Ganley also produced a promotional video about the event and stated on their website, "Why Drug Free Club? It is our duty as business and community leaders to help motivate our youth to live healthy life styles!"



CLASS ACTS

EDDIE NABRING and the **AHS MARCHING BAND** provided a surprise musical ending to the **TEACHER OPENING DAY PROGRAM** on August 13, 2019. The staff members enjoyed the entertainment and were touched to see and hear the students perform for them.



Liberty Ford of Aurora featured Craddock Elementary School staff members,

Lindsay Krickovich and Sue Leko, and 2nd grade students in their television commercial that aired throughout the month of October 2019. They also provided pumpkins to each 2nd grade student. Craddock School Principal, Kim Menta, said, "We are very grateful for their support of the Aurora City Schools!" The commercial can be seen by going to the Youtube site online and searching for: Fall is here and so is the new 2020 Explorer.

MELISSA FOSTER wrote a successful grant application to the **AURORA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION** to provide the **INTERACT CLUB** with funds to support the dance held by teachers **VICTOR TORRES** and **MARYBETH HEIMAN DANCE**. The dance for students with special needs has been hosted at the Aurora Schools' and includes students from neighboring schools with more severe special needs. This dance will again take place in 2019-20.



Congratulations to the **2019 Homecoming King Alex Bibza** and **Queen Kate Walton**



NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK has been designated the week of October 21 -25, 2019 by the Ohio Department of Transportation. In Ohio, nearly 800,000 children on 15,000 buses are transported every school day, traveling more than one million miles per day to achieve this. It is important to remind drivers to be cautious when driving around buses and in school zones. Student safety is at a greater risk when they are outside the bus waiting

at the bus stop. Thank you to our **AURORA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUS DRIVERS** for all of the care and precautions they take every day to make sure our students arrive safely to their destination.

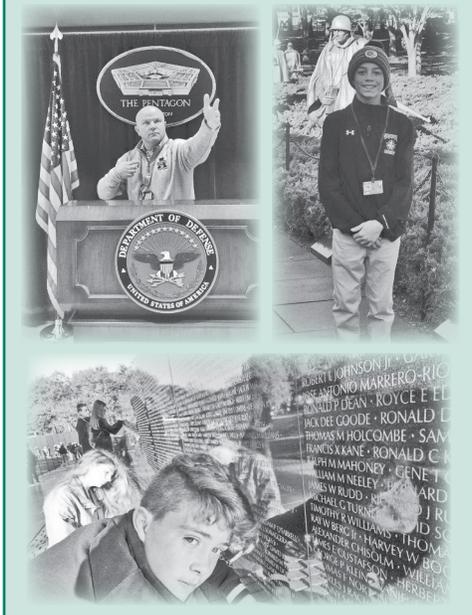
The **KENT STATE INTERNATIONAL LEADERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM (ILEP)** has been discontinued. A **FULBRIGHT TEA GLOBAL VISITING TEACHER PROGRAM** is now in place and the Aurora Schools' 2019 hosts and visitors are: Mary Pat Pavicic - **OLENA LUKISNETS** - Ukraine; Barbara Cook - **MARIA STOYANOVA** - Bulgaria; Gayle Lewis - **NADINA NICOLICI**- Romania; Kate White - **IDA AVDIBEGOVIC**- Bosnia-Herzegovina; Kevin Wilcox - **SHPEND LATIFI**- Macedonia. Thank you to our family hosts.



The Aurora City School District has added speed bumps to Greenmen Way, the private road that runs from E. Pioneer Road next to Aurora High School/Harmon to Aurora-Hudson Road. These speed bumps are an added safety

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8TH GRADERS VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C.



AHS SAFE DECISIONS WEEK

The AHS Safe Decisions Week, sponsored again this year by Sean Devins from State Farm Insurance and Don Qualters of Balanced Asset Management, took place the week of September 9-13, 2019. This is the second year for the Safe Decisions Week of events.

This year's events included a fair in the gym including a University Hospital's simulated driving car track, giveaways and games. On Tuesday, there were activities located in the parking lot during lunches which included the State Farm Share the Road Truck, the DEA/FBI Tactical/Educational truck, and the "I Promise" Monster Truck. Thursday featured a Think Fast Interactive Game Show in the auditorium and at the end of the day on Friday, a Grey Out Football Pep Rally was held that included the Safe Decisions special uniforms in camouflage and grey. During the Aurora vs. Twinsburg football game, numerous community groups provided tents with information and giveaways along with a helicopter fly over.

AHS Principal, Dr. Paul Milcetic, said, "We encouraged students to be involved, participate, learn, and enjoy the week dedicated to students and helping them to make the best decisions possible for a healthy present and a positive future."



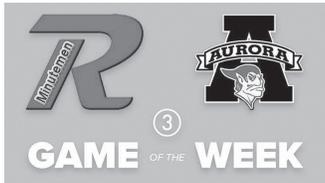
SPORT REPORT

Aurora Greenmen **CROSS COUNTRY BOYS' and GIRLS' TEAMS** both advanced to the OHSAA Regionals. Runner **MATT SINGLETON** qualified for State Competition. Way to go Matt!

The **BOYS' GOLF TEAM** took a 3rd place finish in the American Conference at the final Suburban League tournament of the season.



The **GREENMEN FOOTBALL TEAM** was voted as the winner of the **FOX 8 FRIDAY NIGHT TOUCHDOWN GAME OF THE WEEK #7**. Aurora took 1st place in the Suburban League American Conference with a win over Barberton 31-7. The game was given extended coverage on-air during the television broadcast of the Friday Night Touchdown sports segment and online at the Friday Night Football webpage. To view highlights from the game, go online to the Fox 8 Friday Night Touchdown webpage.



The Greenmen vs. Minutemen football game on October 25, 2019 earned the most votes and was the **WKYC.com's HIGH SCHOOL GAME OF THE WEEK**. The game was broadcasted live (audio-only) on WKYC.com, their app, 3News Facebook and YouTube pages. In addition to the live broadcast, they aired highlights on their website and on Channel 3 News at 11:00 p.m. that night.



Congratulations to the **GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM** that had an outstanding season and earned the Division II **DISTRICT RUNNER UP** title. They lost (1-0) to Chagrin Falls on October 24, 2019 with less than a minute left to play.

VOLLEYBALL TEAM member **IZZY ZUCKETT** served an AHS record of 10 aces during the team victory over Barberton On October 3, 2019.

For the first time in history, the **AHS VOLLEYBALL TEAM** advanced to the **OHSAA DISTRICT SEMI FINALS**. Congratulations!



The ACSD "**MARVELous**" **Administrators** appeared at the **HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME** on October 4, 2019.



The Aurora **GREENMEN FOOTBALL TEAM** earned the **SUBURBAN CONFERENCE AMERICAN DIVISION TITLE** with an **UNDEFEATED RECORD** of 10-0 and headed to the **PLAYOFFS** for the 14th time in the last 15 years.



The **BOYS' SOCCER TEAM** ended their season at 13-5-1 with a Division II district final loss (3-0) to Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy. The Greenmen took home the **DISTRICT RUNNER UP** title and capped another amazing season of play.

The **BOYS' AND GIRLS' TENNIS TEAMS** played their first home matches in 12 years on the new **ACSD TENNIS COURTS**.

AHS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SEMIFINALISTS/ COMMENDED STUDENTS 2019

The Aurora City School District would like to congratulate the Aurora High School Class of 2020 National Merit Semifinalist and Commended students. The National Merit Scholarship Program has been in existence to recognize students who are high performers on a state and national basis. The top performers are determined by the junior year PSAT. Last fall, over 1.6 million students participated in the PSAT at over 22,000 high schools. Of those students, 50,000 (1.5%) are recognized as Commended scholars, and only 16,000 are named Semifinalists, representing the top .5% of test takers in each state. Semifinalists have the opportunity to apply and compete for 7,500 scholarships with 15,000 students becoming Finalists. Commended students do not continue in the competition, however, some of the students do become candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

Superintendent, Pat Ciccantelli, said, "Congratulations to Ashley Ruehr, Sachi Sanghavi, Kathryn Walter, and Kate Walton for being our Class of 2020 National Merit Semifinalists."

Aurora High School Principal, Paul Milcetic, added, "I would like to congratulate these students, their families and their teachers."



Left to Right: Sachi Sanghavi, Ashley Ruehr, Kathryn Walter, Kate Walton



Left to Right: Alex Polivka and Ryan Kacmar



ACSD ATHLETIC DIRECTOR PAUL POWERS GIVEN NFHS CITATION

Congratulations to Aurora Schools' Athletic Director and Facilities Manager, Paul Powers, who has

been selected as one of only eight 2019 National Federation of State High School Association's citation recipients. Powers was nominated for this award by the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Administration (OIAAA). The award will be presented at the National Athletic Directors Conference as part of the luncheon program, which is scheduled to take place on December, 16, 2019 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland beginning at 12:00 noon.

Powers has been the Aurora School's athletic director since 2008. He said, "I would like to thank the Aurora Board of Education and its president, Jerry Kohanski, for allowing me to be involved in outside professional organizations to benefit the Aurora community."

OIAAA Executive Director, Bruce Brown, stated, "Paul Powers is a leader. He has been a leader in Ohio throughout his

administrative career and has willingly assumed a leadership role at all levels of the profession. He has helped create and promote a wide range of educational programs for his peers and coaches throughout our state. The OIAAA Summer Institute, local and state conferences and his direct involvement with growing his district and state associations are evidence of the commitment Paul has made to the profession of education-based athletics."

Powers has served as president of the Ohio High School Athletic Association board of directors during the 2018-19 school year. He has been a member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association for 20 years and has been part of the Northeast Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association executive committee since 1995. Powers has also previously served as the Suburban League president. Powers has received many awards during his career, including the OIAAA Citation Award in 2012.

Aurora High School Principal, Dr. Paul Milcetic, said, "We are proud to have Paul

represent us in our school community and for his work done at the state level in his role with the OIAAA and OHSAA, including being its current president. I've had the pleasure of working closely with Paul over the last three years and think extremely highly of him, as do my administrative colleagues, teachers, student-athletes, coaches and parents." Milcetic added, "I believe that he is an asset to the profession of education and, more specifically, the mission of integrating athletics with the high school experience. We are lucky enough to employ him but realize his reach goes beyond the borders of Aurora."



Paul Powers



Congratulations to Aurora Schools' Orchestra Instructor, Jason Burdett, who

was announced as the winner of the Akron Symphony Orchestra's Music Educator of the Year Award 2019. Burdett was nominated by former student Chrysa Kovach. He will be recognized at the Akron Symphony's Orchestra (ASO) concert on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at E.J. Thomas Hall located at The University of Akron. Burdett will be presented with the award onstage by the ASO Music Director, Christopher Wilkins, during the 8:00 p.m. concert. In addition, a \$500 gift sponsored by Trillium Schools will be awarded to the Aurora High School's music program.

Burdett said, "I am really honored to receive this award and I am very grateful for all of the support I have received from administrators, parents, students and my family. Aurora is a great place to work

because the students are so dedicated and the parents are truly involved and supportive of their child's learning. The administration and board of education support music education and understand its importance in helping students to become mature and responsible citizens. My fellow music staff are incredible teachers who encourage and support each other every day. This award really belongs to the entire music department for their dedication to students and their commitment to music education."

Burdett has been the middle school and high school orchestra director in the Aurora City School District for 20 years. Burdett's orchestras have earned "Superior" ratings from the Ohio Music Education Association and have performed internationally. He seeks to inspire students to become lifelong musicians by encouraging students to explore composing, improvisation, performing concertos with the orchestra and the study of music history and world music. In addition to two traditional high school orchestras, Burdett leads a rock orchestra and several ensembles that perform for the community.

Burdett is also busy outside of school, and has played the violin in the Cleveland/Akron area for the past 20 years, including a concert in Playhouse Square with Christian Recording Artist, Michael W. Smith, and as Principle Second of the Tuscarawas Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr. Burdett has also performed on three CD's, the latest with singer/songwriter Jessie Barr called "Along For the Ride," which was released in 2014. Burdett lives in Aurora with his wife Katie and his three daughters Ellie, Aubrey and Julia.

Class Acts – Continued from p. 5

measure meant to deter drivers from speeding and cutting through this area which is frequently populated.



The **Girls' Treble Choir** and **Choir Instructor Sarah Dixon** performed for Board members accompanied by their new Steinway piano at a recent BOE meeting.

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**THE INSIDE
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Elementary Principals- Continued from p. 1

with, but as my career developed I found I had a lot more impact I could offer to the other students, other families in the district and being a community member it just felt right that I was continuously helping others and it was the natural next path.”

Kim Menta, a Bowling Green State University undergraduate, completed her graduate degree in Educational Administration at John Carroll University and began her career as a teacher in Mentor. She moved into an elementary administration position in the Painesville City Schools and came to Aurora from a three year position as principal in the West Geauga Schools.

Menta said of her interest in elementary aged students, “My heart has always been with literacy and while I love all the content areas and they blend so well together, literacy is a part of all of them. Watching children begin to read is incredibly fascinating.” As the new Craddock Principal, Menta explained, “My first priority is establishing solid, positive relationships with everyone involved, all the stakeholders - that’s our students, our staff, that’s our parent base, that’s our community, the administrative team, our Board and that takes time.” Menta added, I’m so happy to be in a place where so many great things are happening.”