

YOUR SCHOOLS

2019

Aurora City School District

From the Superintendent

By PAT R. CICCATELLI
Superintendent of Schools



I hope everyone had a great close to the school year and is enjoying their summer. As always, it has been a pleasure and a great opportunity to serve as superintendent of this outstanding

district. I want to thank our board of education, faculty, staff and the parents and students for everything they have done to make it another fantastic year. Our district continues to earn accolades for the outstanding achievements by our students and staff. Aurora High School (AHS) was recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the finest high schools in the state of Ohio and in the entire nation. AHS was ranked 9th in the state and 308th in the nation out of more than 25,000 high schools. Both of those rankings put us in the top 1-2% of all schools! The Ohio Department of Education ranked us with an overall grade of "A" as a district; one of only 28 districts to earn that distinction!

Our district continues to improve on its already prestigious status. I am very proud of the great efforts on the parts of our faculty, staff and students! There are several important initiatives that have helped us reach this lofty status. Our Chromebook "One to One" technology initiative (grades 3-12) significantly changed our teaching and has improved learning for our students. We have added more Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the high school, now offering

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U.S. News & World Report 2019 Names Aurora High School #2 in Northeast Ohio, #9 in State of Ohio and #308 Nationally; Earning Gold Status

This year, U.S. News & World Report magazine analyzed over 23,000 public high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and then ranked the 17,245 highest-scoring public high schools in the nation. Aurora High School (AHS) was ranked by the publication at #2 in Northeast Ohio, #9 in the State of Ohio and at #308 in the nation for 2019. This puts AHS in the **top 1%** of high schools in the State and in the nation.

Schools were awarded gold, silver, or bronze medals based on state proficiency standards, college readiness, and teacher/student ratios. The Aurora High School rankings earned the school the distinction of being designated a Gold Medal winner. There were a total of only 500 Gold Medal districts. Aurora High School has attained the U.S. News & World Report Gold Medal



designation for over the last 6 years.

Aurora High School Principal Dr. Paul Milcetic said of the honor, "I am always proud to be the Principal of Aurora High School because I know the great work we do in terms of providing our students exceptional opportunities to learn and thrive in so many ways from academics to athletics to the arts. This type of recognition by US News and

AHS Gold Status p. 2

ASF DONATES \$31,000 TO NEW AHS INNOVATIVE DESIGN CLASS



At the March 18, 2019 Aurora Board of Education meeting, the Board accepted a donation from the Aurora Schools Foundation (ASF) in the amount of \$31,000. The donation was given to fund a new 2019-20 AHS class entitled,

Innovative Design and Progressive Manufacturing.

This new class, based on the current coursework from Case Western Reserve University's center of innovation and entrepreneurship, was brought to fruition by ACSD Director of Technology, Andrew Sams, and AHS science teacher, Dmetri Kourennyi. The two semester class is available for students in grades, 10, 11 and 12 who will earn ½ credit for each semester of the course taken.

In the AHS Program of Studies 2019-20, the class is described as follows: "This year-long course will begin by exploring the design process in deep and formal

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World Report provides further affirmation of what we already know...our students, staff, school district (including district/ Board leadership), and community are exceptional. Additionally, our approach of focusing on students and their needs first (or what we call nurturing their roots) pays dividends in the form of young people who learn, think, and perform at the highest levels. We are grateful to be included and ranked highly with the good company of other excellent public schools in the 2019 U.S. News and World Report Best High School Rankings. That being said, this affirmation will only inspire us to continue to focus on our students and providing the best possible learning environment for them to grow and excel!"

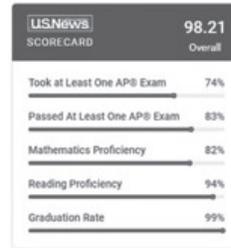
Aurora Schools' Board of Education President, Gerald Kohanski, said, "Congratulations to the staff and students of AHS on the outstanding achievement. Our high school has sustained its excellent performance for some time now, which is indicative of lasting, systemic excellence that is very difficult to achieve."

2019 Rankings

Aurora High School is ranked #308 in the National Rankings. Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation and how well they prepare students for college. Read more about how we rank the Best High Schools.

All rankings:

- #308 in National Rankings
- #9 in Ohio High Schools



AUTHOR TERRI LIBENSON VISITED HARMON

On Friday, April 26, 2019, local author and creator of the internationally syndicated Reuben Award-winning comic strip, *The Pajama Diaries*, **TERRI LIBENSON**, was a featured guest as a part of Harmon School's Language Arts Festival. Libenson addressed student assemblies on the creative writing process and how her graphic novel *Invisible Emmie* was developed and published. Her presentation included a live drawing with students. Ten percent of sales from student purchased books was donated



to the Harmon/ High PTO. This event was made possible through a generous Aurora Schools Foundation grant and the hard work of Harmon School Media Center Director **MARY BECKSTROM**.



Mary Beckstrom and Author Terri Libenson



HOMELESS HOOKUP CLE STOPS AT AHS

Homeless Hookup CLE began as a grass roots organization that handed out small provisional items to the homeless. Founder Dean Roff, once a homeless Gulf War vet, would take what little extra items he had when working and share it with the homeless. This kindness grew into what is now Roff's non-profit Homeless Hookup CLE organization. Their mission, "is to help restore dignity to the homeless community by providing basic hygiene items, as well as offering compassion."

With the generous donation of a completely rebuilt and cleaned up RV from the firefighters of Lakewood Fire House Station One, the organization now has it's own motorhome that has been modified to include a shower, barber's chair, clothing closet and table to eat on.

The Aurora Service Learning Class and AHS instructor Melissa Foster sponsored an AHS visit by Roff and the homeless hygiene unit on May 22nd. Roff spoke to students and then provided a tour of the RV to interested students. The following week AHS instructor Rose Brown and senior Ali Martin volunteered with Roth. If you would like to learn more or make donations, go to homelesshookupcle.com. A Homeless Hookup CLE Wishlist can also be found on Amazon.com through a link on their website.



AHS students toured the modified RV



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.

Class of 2019

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams
Eleanor Roosevelt



2019 OUTSTANDING GREENMEN



1st Row Sitting (left to right): Ashley Foster, Andrew Garr, Sydney Trem, Olivia Cymanski, Brynn Sesny, Taylor Burick, Maya Duskocil

2nd Row (left to right): Gayle Lewis, Amy Kringeta, Jen Simmerman, Maya Duskocil, Colin McNamara, Katy Fellenstein, Laura Bell-Peters, Monika Biro, Jay Price

3rd Row (left to right): Mike Rubin, Jason Bibza, Jacob French, Drew Albrecht, Shayla Sellers, Annie Walker, Dave Munson, Nick Kukarola, Erika Greenberg

EXCEL TECC AHS 2018-19 AWARD WINNERS:

Ryan Kacmar ~ Performing Arts Academy - National Technical Honor Society Inductee

Samantha Ryai ~ Cosmetology - Hillcrest Rotary Award

PROM KING AND QUEEN 2019



Congratulations to the Class of 2019 Prom King **Anthony Turchi** and Queen **Jena Garr**

Congratulations to **Andy Garr** for being named "Senior of the Year."



Congratulations to **ASLHEY RUEHR**, the AHS Drug Free Club student winner of the Chevy Equinox 2-year lease, generously provided courtesy of **Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora**.

Superintendent – Continued from p. 1

24 different courses that have a college level curriculum. Over 950 students at AHS completed AP courses and the corresponding exam. We offer numerous courses and school clubs that provide opportunities for our students to apply their knowledge and to use their critical thinking skills.

Our students continue to shine both inside and outside of the classroom. Inside the classroom, 44 of our students graduated Summa Cum Laude (4.0 GPA or higher for all four years). Outside of the classroom, there are many reasons to celebrate. Congratulations to the Academic Challenge team. They were Portage County champs, 3rd in the state and competed at the National Tournament in Atlanta. Three of our athletic teams earned Suburban League championships this year; congratulations to Girls' Basketball, Girls' Soccer, and Wrestling for earning titles! In the visual arts programs, our students continue to achieve at the highest levels. Numerous students earned Gold Key status at the state level. Congratulations to senior Emma Duckham who had her artwork selected as a "Top Twenty-five" honor in the 2019 Ohio

Governor's Youth Art Exhibition. Two AHS Orchestra students, Ricky John and Samantha St. John, performed with the Cleveland Contemporary Youth Orchestra. These are just some of our outstanding accomplishments.

We have over 260 new AHS alumni due to our recent graduation. The ceremony at Parkside was a great event in a beautiful facility. It was a special evening for the graduates and their families. The class of 2019 benefited from a total of 7.3 million dollars of scholarships! This includes over \$160,000 in local scholarship money. Thank you to the numerous organizations that support our students as they move on to higher education. Our graduates will be attending schools from the United States Military Academy to Columbia University. The two schools that will become home for the greatest number of our graduates: Kent State University and The Ohio State University.

There have been positive changes to our district landscape. Last fall, our stadium turf and track surfaces were replaced and new scoreboards and time clocks were installed. This fall we look forward to six new tennis courts at the high school. We have gone 12 years without any courts and we look forward to welcoming our

tennis teams and the community back to our campus to play on these beautiful new courts.

One final share about our district; the amount of community service and support that is provided by our students, staff and community is truly amazing. Our "Aurora for Others" fundraiser raised over \$9,000 for three separate charities and our AHS Service Learning course and National Honor Society provide financial support to many charities. There are literally too many examples to mention here, but I am moved and touched by the generosity and compassion of our students and staff.

Our success is due to the skills and hard work of our staff and the tremendous support from the community. We appreciate the great partnership we have with our many stakeholders. Now, and throughout the year, my door is always open and I encourage feedback and ideas. My goal as superintendent is to move the district forward in our quest to not only continue, but to exceed our current excellence. I am looking forward to another terrific year in 2019-2020.

Pat Ciccantelli
Superintendent

Who's Who & What's New

Harmon 7th grader **Philip Yao** finished in 1st place overall at the Akron District **MathCounts tournament** and qualified for the State tournament in Columbus. He then placed 11th out of 197 middle school students at State. In the Countdown round he finished 4th out of the top 16 students. Congratulations Philip!



Cleveland Council of World Affairs

Several students including, **Maya Duskocil, Ashley Foster, Cheyenne Settecase, Karson Taylor, and Sydney Trem**, attended the **Cleveland Council of World Affairs** where they actively participated in discussions. Thank you to AHS English Teacher, **Rose Brown**, and former AHS Principal, **Dr. Linda Robertson**, for affording these students this opportunity.

What a great time our **Exceptional Students** had at the **Winter Bash**. Thank you to **Alisa Deininger, Mary Beth Heiman, Megan Janzig, Victor Torres**, and our special education staff for sponsoring the dance and inviting students from Field, Kent Roosevelt, Ravenna and Solon. They enjoyed lots of food, games and dancing.

Congratulations to the **Destination Imagination Team - Eva & Isabella Clements, Aurora Fabec, Abby Kaufman, Emma Lang, Addy Natko and Hailey Tucker** who won 1st place in the District 15 Improvisation Challenge and headed to State competition.

Two AHS Orchestra students, **Ricky John** and **Samantha St. John**, performed with the **Cleveland Contemporary Youth Orchestra**. Students from over 80 different school districts in Ohio audition to perform with this world renowned orchestra that has performed with illustrious artists such as, Melissa Ethridge, Kenny Loggins, and others.

Congratulations to the **4 Way Speech Competition** winners, **Caroline Eggett** (1st Place), **Tatum Miller** (Runner-Up), and **Taylor Burrick** (2nd

Runner-Up) who competed in a finals contest to determine our representatives moving on to the district tournament. ACSD Board Vice President **Pam Mehallis** coordinated the contest.

Charlie Carpenter, Reece Emrik, and Krish Patel are members of a six team Brain Bots robotics team. They're the first Northeast Ohio team ever to qualify for the **First Lego League World Festival** in Detroit, an international Championship event.



Superintendent **Pat Ciccantelli** speaks at **Aurora's State of the City** banquet on February 20, 2019.

Congratulations to **Annie Walker** and the **Quiz Bowl team** on their outstanding season and postseason.

Alexis Torer earned a third place finish in the Arts Poetica portion of the esteemed **2019 Ohio Poetry Association** student contest.

Congratulations to ACSD Principal, **Mike Janatovich** and Assistant Principal, **Maria Goodman** who were selected to publish a feature story that ran in the **OAESA Principal Navigator** magazine in the Spring 2019 edition. It is titled *Shifting our Lens*.



Teacher Appreciation Day was Tuesday, May 7, 2019 and the Aurora City School District would like to thank our teachers for the caring, dedication and commitment to Aurora's students that has made us one of the top school districts in the State and recognized nationally for our excellence. We thank you and appreciate all that you do!



Over 30 Aurora Schools' students participated in the Goodyear **STEM Career Day** where over 600 students attended. Activities included creating an anesthesia mask to fit over zoo animals (science), manipulating a car on a test track (technology), designing and testing

the strength of robots (engineering), and using geometry to build a catapult to launch ping pong balls into a basket (Math). It was a very informative and fun event for all participants.



STEM Career Day



Good luck to our employees who have retired or moved on from the district. Thank you for all you did during your many years of service. They are: **Ginger Biales, Richard Fredrick, Mike Lipnos, Sandy Lucas, Tricia Perry, Michelle Plevich, Julie Troman, and Paula Will**.



FASHION FOR COMPASSION CHARITY FASHION SHOW

The AHS Interact Club created and completely organized a Fashion for Compassion fashion show that took place on Saturday, February 23, 2019. The proceeds of \$1,500 from this event went to the Sandy Hook Promise non-profit organization to prevent school violence. AHS now has a SAVE Promise Club which is supported by the AHS Service Learning Class and the Interact Club. The Sandy Hook Promise Program is based in Newtown, Connecticut, "with the intent to honor all victims of gun violence by turning our tragedy into a moment of transformation by providing programs and practices that protect children and prevent the senseless, tragic loss of life."

The fashion show was held in conjunction with the Sandy Hook Promise Organization's sponsored, If You See Something, Say Something campaign, which encourages people to alert adults or law enforcement if they see something

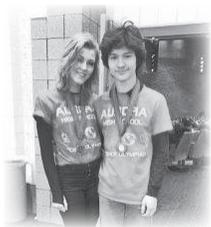
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CLASS ACTS

The **ACSD TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT** received the **OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD 2018** for "excellence in financial reporting in accordance with GAAP and compliance with applicable laws for the fiscal year ended 2018." Congratulations to Treasurer's Department employees, **WILLIAM VOLOSIN**, (Treasurer), **DIANE EBIE** (Payroll) and **PAM PROCHASKA** (Accounts Payable).



Congratulations to our two **EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION 2019 AWARD WINNERS**. Our classified staff winner is **FRED BLUNT** and our certified staff winner is **MELISSA FOSTER**. These two outstanding employees are very deserving of this award! They were nominated by one of their colleagues and selected by a committee of their peers. They were recognized by the Board of Education at their May 2019 meeting.



AHS students **SARAH COCHRAN** (left) and **ALEX POLIVKA** won 1st place in Sound of Music at the **MENTOR SCIENCE TOURNAMENT** in February.

Congratulations to **WENDY KRISTELL** who was chosen as a **STATE WINNER** in the **LEGIONNAIRES' OF OHIO 2018-19 AMERICANISM AND GOVERNMENT TEST**. She and other winners attended the official trip to Washington D.C. in March.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER STACEY SLACKFORD-BARNES organized the district's annual 98.1 KDD Have A Heart Do Your Part 2019 Radiothon supporting **AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**. This year's donations totaling \$2,285 was the highest amount ever raised. Over 50 AHS students helped "stuff" the 150 Build-A-Bears

into their bear condos on February 8th and delivered them to the children on February 14th. Over the past 10 years, the school district and seniors have donated over 960 Build-A-Bears to children at the hospital and approximately \$6,500.00 in cash. Special thanks to **MELISSA FOSTER, JOHN LOGALBO, DOC MUNSON** and **MIKE RUBIN** and **JEN KURTZ SFERRA** for all their help.



AHS Science Teacher **JOHN LOGALBO** volunteered for this year's Build-A-Bear "stuffing"

The **AHS SYMPHONIC BAND** earned an **OMEA SUPERIOR RATING** at the recent OMEA contest. Band Director, Lindsey Draime said, "It was truly an amazing performance and the students are thrilled. I am in awe at their musical talents and achievements. This group of young musicians is a true exemplar of the Aurora community."

Congratulations to senior **EMMA DUCKHAM** who had her artwork selected as a **"TOP TWENTY FIVE"** honor in the **2019 OHIO GOVERNOR'S YOUTH ART EXHIBITION**. Her artwork was selected from more than 11,000 works which were entered in fifteen regions from around the state. She received the **GOVERNOR'S ART OF EXCELLENCE AWARD** at a ceremony in May.

On February 16, 2019 the **OMEA SOLO AND ENSEMBLE ADJUDICATED EVENT** was held. Congratulations to the students who participated in this year's competition. For a complete listing of participants and their ratings, please go to our district website (aurora-schools.org) news article.

Congratulations to the Harmon students who were inducted into the **NATIONAL JUNIOR BETA CLUB**. This is the **ACSD CHAPTER'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY**. Thank you to advisors **LAQUITA TIMBERLAKE** and **MELISSA CROGHAN** for preparing the students for this dignified ceremony.



Several **AHS INTERACT CLUB** members visited Independence Village in Aurora to **"HEAR THEIR STORY"** from veteran

residents. The students record their experiences in order to help collect and preserve their recollections. They plan on continuing the series in the future.



AHS Interact Club with veterans at Independence Village

May 6, 2019 was set aside by the Ohio State Legislature as **SCHOOL BUS DRIVER RECOGNITION DAY**. A great big **"Thank You"** goes to all of our district bus drivers whose care and dedication make it possible for students to be transported safely to school every day.



Thank you to our Craddock and Miller School's **AURORA READS PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS** who provide additional reading support and enrichment to students

and small groups. These dedicated volunteers came to our schools all year long and their help is immeasurable.

Fifth grade students and teacher **KERI STOYLE** visited **INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE** as a part of the **SENIOR-STUDENT INTERGENERATIONAL PARTNERSHIP (SSIP)** which had a different focus for the seniors and students each month. It was a wonderful opportunity for both generations to interact.



Miller School Dental Assembly



The ACSD annual spring art show took place at AHS on April 12-14, 2019 and was held in conjunction with the Aurora High School musical Into the Woods. It is always a great opportunity before or after the play to view the many wonderful art pieces that our extremely talented and hard-working art students have created.



SPORT REPORT

WILL MCGHEE became the **7TH 2-TIME DISTRICT WRESTLING CHAMPION IN AHS HISTORY**. Way to go!

LAUREN TINCHER placed 15th in the long jump **CORRINE HENDERSON** placed 17th in the pole vault at the **DIVISION I STATE TRACK AND FIELD MEET** while **LAUREN TINCHER** placed 15th in the long jump.

Senior **DREW ALBRECHT** brought back a bronze medal from **DIVISION II STATE DIVING MEET** on February 20, 2019 in Canton. Albrecht was named the **SUBURBAN LEAGUE BOY'S SWIMMER/DIVER OF THE YEAR**.

Congratulations to **DYLAN FISHBACK** who is the 7th freshman to ever make it to **STATE COMPETITION** in Greenmen wrestling history.



The **AHS GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM** finished their most successful season ever. They finished their season with a **RECORD NUMBER OF WINS** at 24-2 and came away with the **FIRST DISTRICT TITLE** in school history. **COACH ERIKA GREENBERG** was named **DISTRICT COACH OF THE YEAR** and **SHYANNE SELLERS** was named **FIRST TEAM ALL DISTRICT**.

Fifth grade student, **RILEY VERESPEJ**, won the all-around state title and bars titles at the **USA GYMNASTICS STATE COMPETITION** at Bowling Green State University.

Final State rankings for Greenmen wrestlers:

- #126 **JACK GORMAN** 8th in Ohio
- #132 **KYLE PETERSEN** 8th in Ohio
- #145 **ANDY GARR** 3rd in Ohio
- #152 **DYLAN FISHBACK** 2nd in Ohio
- #160 **WILL MCGHEE** 7th in Ohio
- #170 **ETHAN ANDERSON** 6th in Ohio
- #195 **COLIN MCNAMARA** 2nd in Ohio

GRAHAM ALDREDGE finished 7th in the 300-meter hurdles in the **DIVISION I STATE TRACK AND FIELD MEET** at OSU.



Colin McNamara on the podium after taking 2nd in the State (#195)

ALEESE ANGELO was named as Aurora's **MOST VALUABLE SOFTBALL PLAYER**.

2018 - 2019 WINTER SPORTS GPA'S
BASED OFF 2ND QUARTER GRADES 2018 - 2019

TEAM	GPA
GYMNASTICS	4.38
GIRLS' BASKETBALL	3.61
GIRLS' SWIMMING	3.57
BOYS' SWIMMING	3.53
CHEERLEADING	3.48
BOYS' BASKETBALL	3.20
HOCKEY	3.17
WRESTLING	2.94
WINTER SPORTS AVERAGE	3.49

Congratulations to **GRAHAM ALDREDGE** who was selected by the **NORTHEASTERN OHIO CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION'S SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARDS COMMITTEE** as an all-around student athlete with 235 schools represented. Coach Jim Harbaugh of Michigan was the presenter.



Recent graduate Graham Aldredge who honored at the 2018 Scholar-Athlete Awards in Westlake

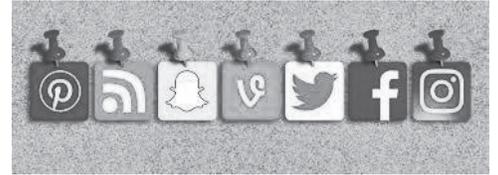


It's official. Our **GREENMEN NATION** was named the **MOST SPIRITED STUDENT SECTION IN**

OHIO and was presented with the **2019 GOLDEN MEGAPHONE AWARD** in Columbus, Ohio on March 22, 2019.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

COMMUNITY FOCUS ON INTERNET SAFETY LIVE STREAM EVENT ~ *The Scary Truth About #Social Media*



In a day and age when children are so often using many social media outlets, it is important as parents to know how these sites can be hazardous and how to monitor a child's usage.

To that end, on March 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Commander, David Frattare, and area law enforcement professionals from Aurora, Macedonia and Twinsburg police departments gathered together for a Community Focus (formerly Cable 9) live stream event regarding internet safety entitled, "The Scary Truth About #Social Media." Topics included, Online Predators - Grooming, Gaming, Vault Applications, Filters, Know Your Child's Information, Cyberbullying, and Sexting. Aurora Schools' Superintendent, Pat Ciccantelli, who initiated the live stream concept, was also the mediator for the event where questions were taken live.

This first unique and interactive live stream series event provided crucial information parents need to keep their child safe on social media platforms. The intention is to continue providing topical live stream presentations in the near future.





ACADEMIC SIGNING DAY

Congratulations to the four students who were honored at the annual AHS Academic Signing Day on Friday, May 10, 2019. The signing day is held to congratulate and celebrate the accomplishments of AHS students who received a merit based scholarship from the university they will be attending that meets or exceeds 50% of the total direct cost of attending the university or enrolled in a university with a highly selective acceptance rate (15% or less) of the students who apply.



Students (seated, left to right): **Graham Aldredge** - West Point Academy; **Gustav Burkhardt** - University of Cincinnati; **Andrew Garr** - Columbia University; **Haley Ross** - Marietta College. Back Row (left to right): Superintendent, Pat Ciccantelli; AHS Principal, Paul Milcetch; AHS Assistant Principal, Brian Brookhart and Aurora BOE President, Gerald Kohanski.

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Sandy Hook – Continued from p. 4

suspicious. Superintendent Pat Ciccantelli said, “One of the biggest components [to safety] is being proactive not reactive.”

Thank you to the sponsors of the show: Winds of Change, A Bit of Skirt, Abigail’s of Aurora, Francesca’s, Nike, and Nautica.



ASF Donates- Continued from p. 1

terms, with an application toward human-centered design and engineering, along with both additive and subtractive manufacturing. This elective will fuse the latest, most progressive, student-centered paradigms in human learning with among some of the most advanced technologies, including 3D printing, laser cutting, 3D modeling, and electronics; immersing and challenging participants through every facet of the design lifecycle. Actual products are created that solve actual real-world problems in and beyond the Aurora City Schools and the Aurora community. This elective brings together the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM), providing each learner the opportunity to create and learn in an innovative, high-energy, and ambitious environment. Beyond that, and with the creation of actual product that adds unique value to some dynamic of society, we will explore avenues of monetization, requiring analysis involving marketing, economics, e-commerce, and scaling of process to meet market demand.”

Since students will not only be designing, but creating in this class, they need to have access to high tech equipment. To help fund this class, Sams and Kourennyi had been investigating ways to secure funds, including local businesses and grants. One of the grant applications was submitted to the Aurora Schools Foundation.

ASF Vice President, Rob Bates, explained, “The greatest obstacle we encounter at the ASF is community visibility. There are so many terrific organizations supporting specific school programs or sports. It is difficult for ASF to stand out in the community when our mission is less finite.

At our October 2018 ASF board meeting it was decided that we look for a larger, tangible program to support in the \$50,000 range. We were preparing a news release to present to the Aurora City

Schools when the special grant request fell in our lap. At our next monthly meeting, the Innovative Design and Progressive Manufacturing class grant was presented. It was exactly the type of imaginative, creative program we seek out, but on a larger scale – most funded grants are \$2,500. We decided to invite the Andrew Sams and Dmetri Kourennyi to our December board meeting to discuss their vision of the class and how the grant money would be used. At our January board meeting ASF approved funding \$31,000 – our largest grant in quite some time. It was exactly the type of impactful program we want to support. We are very excited for Andrew and Dmetri, but we can’t wait to see what the Aurora High School students create and market.”

Sams said, “When a person, younger or older, discovers that they can meaningfully change and influence their world through creative acts, it broadens their view of the world and their place within it. We now have a design lab at Aurora High School, thanks to the hugely generous support of the Aurora School Foundations, and the support of the Aurora PTO, where generations of young people for years to come will be making this discovery about themselves.”



Aurora School Board Members (left to right): Stephen Sabulsky, Miriam Conner, Pam Mehallis, Zena Elliott and Gerald Kohanski, accept a check from ASF Vice President, Rob Bates (center, left). AHS teacher Dmetri Kourennyi (center, right) holds the check next to ASF representatives: Brittney Braydich, Gary Brookhart, Steve Fleming and Kurtis Zabell with Superintendent, Pat Ciccantelli in the back row.



ACSD RENEWAL LEVY PASSES

The Aurora City School District and the Aurora Board of Education would like to thank our community members for your support of our recent permanent improvement renewal levy on the May 7, 2019 ballot. Without your continued support we would not have been able to achieve our current status as top rated on both local and national levels, which includes our latest accolade ranking of #2 in Northeast Ohio, #9 in Ohio and #308 nationally in U.S. News and World Report’s Best High Schools article for 2019.

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Dated Material

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Gerald P. Kohanski, President
 Pam Mehallis, Vice President
 Zena Elliott
 Miriam Conner
 Stephen Sabulsky

ADMINISTRATION

Pat Ciccantelli, Superintendent of Schools
 William Volosin, Treasurer
 Mike Roberto, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

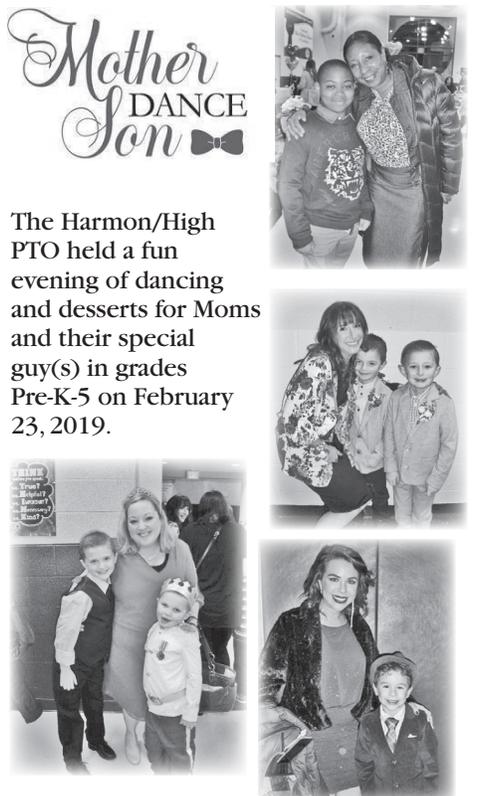
ECRWSS
Postal Customer

PRINCESS PROM SHINED



Mother
 DANCE
Son

The Harmon/High PTO held a fun evening of dancing and desserts for Moms and their special guy(s) in grades Pre-K-5 on February 23, 2019.



Special Olympics

