

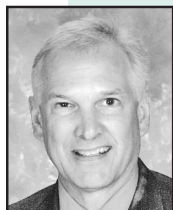
YOUR SCHOOLS

2018

Aurora City School District

From the Superintendent

By PAT R. CICCATELLI
Superintendent of Schools



It has been a pleasure to see our students return to school excited and anxious for a new year! I want to thank our faculty, staff and the parents and students for everything they have done to help

us to hit the ground running toward another successful year.

We enrolled many new students again this summer, and we would like to welcome these families to our community. In total, we enrolled just over 200 new students this summer! Our overall enrollment increased about 20 students and we currently have about 3,000 students in our district.

Congratulations to the faculty, staff and students for earning the highest rating from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE)! The state report cards were released earlier in the school year and the Aurora City Schools was one of 28 districts (out of over 600) to earn the overall grade of "A". More details on our report card can be found on the ODE website. Our test data is outstanding again this year. Our students continued to achieve at the highest level in the state. Our overall district "GPA" score ranked us 9th in the state out of the 611 public school districts in Ohio. Aurora's high ranking statewide is the result of our district-wide alignment to classroom best practices and a rigorous curriculum. Our

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2017-18 School Report Cards



The Ohio Department of Education has released the district report cards for the 2017-18 school year. As has been the case in the past, we are very proud of the academic accomplishments of our students. This year the district report card includes an overall grade. The Aurora City School District is proud to have earned the distinction of receiving an "A" grade for the overall mark. We learned that we were one of only 28 districts out of 611 in Ohio to earn this distinction. 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!

That being said, the state report card results are just one set of data that we use to measure our students' learning.

As has been mentioned in the past, we also look at our ACT & SAT scores, our Advanced Placement scores, other district assessment data, as well as many qualitative measures that are important to student success. We feature many of the opportunities for learning and growth that are not reflected in these tests in our Quality Profile.

The report card grades for each area require some insight and reflection. We will spend time over the next few weeks celebrating our successes and reflecting on our challenges. On the achievement side our scores still rank us in the top 3-5% in the state despite the fact that we earned a "B" as an overall mark. Only six districts in the entire state earned an "A" on this measure. We are very happy with our Progress (Value Added) and Gap Closing scores. These scores demonstrate improvement for each of the measured sub-groups and that we are working to close, or even eliminate, gaps between these cohorts. It is gratifying to see the hard work that has been done by the administration and staff help close these gaps in achievement.

AHS SAFE DECISIONS WEEK 2018

Students at Aurora High School experienced a week of

interactive activities focusing on the use of drugs, drinking and driving, and distracted driving. State Farm Insurance Agent Sean Devins and Don Qualters of Balanced Asset Management partnered together to create Safe Decisions Week which was held September 10-14, 2018.

Safe Decisions

AHS Principal Paul Milcetch explained that Sean Devins contacted him last spring about his ideas to create a program regarding safety for Aurora students. Milcetch said, "Obviously being in the schools we are always interested in partnering with our community, with our parents, to try to bring impactful programs to make a difference for our kids learning environment. We wanted to make it about helping students think

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about their decisions in a way that would keep them safe whether that's drugs, or alcohol, or driving a vehicle in a distracted manner." Milcetic added, "We really wanted to have a positive, proactive and interactive approach to the entire thing." Devins said, "It started out small and then it got big and it turned out to be awesome." Qualters said he loved the idea when approached by Devins. "What I love about this program when Sean and I first started talking about it was that it wasn't reactive to any event that happened or something that happened somewhere else in the country, we just said let's be proactive with the kids and let's encourage them to make safe decisions."

Students were involved with numerous activities during the week that included a simulated impaired driving experience, a table maze game where students wore goggles

to impair their vision in a manner that mimics marijuana use, and a distracted driving simulator that allowed students to feel what it was like to drive a vehicle while distracted. Students also were treated to prize giveaways all week long and a crash vehicle on site as a safety reminder. The week also included booths with safety information available and the kick-off to the new AHS Drug Free Club.

As a part of the outreach program, several speakers were also featured at both AHS and Harmon Middle School. The speakers included Rose DeRoia, a local mother who lost her son Tommy in 2016 to a drug overdose and Katelin Franklin of

Impact Teen Driver Speaker who flew in from California to present, "What Do You Consider Lethal?" to students. Franklin's son died as a result of distracted driving and shared her message and talked to Harmon School students about making responsible decisions.

The week culminated in a "Grey-Out" for safety on Friday. Students were encouraged to wear their Grey Out Safe Decisions spirit wear or wear grey clothing and attend the Grey Out Greenmen home football game against Tallmadge. Coaches were given special grey shirts and Devins and Qualters donated the specially designed grey football uniforms with Safe Decisions Week patches to the players. Devins said that along with the speaker presentations, "The football game was my highlight of the week, to see the community come together."

This program has had even a broader impact after the week ended. Devins explained that through social media, "Word got out around Cleveland, word got out around Ohio and we are proud to say that we kind of created this thing, the school district, Don and I. It has now traveled to several states and we got the attention of the Governor's Office recently." Both Devins and Qualters hope to continue the program at AHS in the future.



AHS Safe Decisions Week Sponsors Don Qualters (left) and Sean Devins (right) attended the Grey Out Greenmen football game.



LEIGHTON, MILLER AND HARMON SCHOOLS WELCOME ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Harmon School Assistant Principal Staci Albanese

Harmon Middle School began the new school year with the addition of new Assistant Principal Staci Albanese. Albanese explained, "I feel fortunate to be moving into a position with the Aurora City Schools where there is a commitment to meaningful instruction to increase student achievement."



Albanese has spent the last 19 years in education and recently moved to Aurora with her husband Joe and two sons, Nolan, a sophomore at AHS, and Nate who is a 6th grader. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Cleveland State University and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Ursuline College.

Albanese began her career in education teaching fourth grade in the Willoughby-Eastlake School District. She said, "I transitioned into administration and served two years as the assistant principal at Lakeview Intermediate in Stow. This was followed by an opportunity to move to Nardon Hills Lee Eaton Elementary as the associate principal for two years. I then moved to Riverside where I served for two years as the assistant principal at LaMuth Middle School." She was then the principal of Northfield Elementary School in the Nardon Hills City School District for five years before accepting the position in the Aurora Schools. Albanese

See Assistant Principals p. 3



YOUR SCHOOLS

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Editor: Stacey DeAnna

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.

Assistant Principals — Continued from p. 2

added, "Each avenue has afforded me many wonderful experiences, and I fully anticipate that my move to the Aurora City Schools will provide me with more opportunities to learn and grow as a leader."

Miller/Leighton School Assistant Principal Maria Goodman

A new but familiar face in the Aurora City School District has moved to the assistant principal position at the Miller/Leighton School buildings. Maria Goodman, a 3rd Grade Language Arts teacher at Leighton School in Aurora, accepted the position as the new Miller/Leighton School assistant principal at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.



Goodman explained, "I hold an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education and a Masters' Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Administration. My family and I reside in Aurora, and we love the small town community feel where

there are numerous opportunities for recreation, friendships, and of course our amazing educational system." Her husband, Noah Goodman, also teaches in the Aurora School District as the 7th Grade Math and Social Studies teacher at Harmon School. She has a 5th grader, Amelia, and her son Cole is a 1st grader.

Goodman explained, "I have been an Aurora educator for the past 15 years and I am beyond grateful to continue to support our students, staff and families in this new capacity. During this first quarter of the school year, it has been such a humbling experience transitioning from the classroom to the assistant principal role. This new position allows myself to support our elementary students as they first enter the district at Miller School as well as support our older elementary students as they move from grades 3-5 at Leighton School. I believe building strong relationships with our students is the heart of what we do. Seeing our students grow academically, socially and emotionally from week to week, shows the impact we have on our children today."

Superintendent — Continued from p. 1

state report card scores demonstrate that students are meeting these higher standards and are future ready!

There are several important changes as our 2018-19 school year begins. Our students in grades 6-12 began their fourth year with Chromebooks; this year we purchased new devices for these students and moved the existing Chromebooks to Leighton and Craddock. We added a Drug Free Club at the high school. We upgraded our stadium with new turf, a new track surface, new scoreboards and 25 second clocks. This is a great facility and these changes provide a safe and premier opportunity for our students to excel.

Want to find out more about all of the great accomplishments of our staff and students? Our district produced a Quality Profile again this year which is posted on our website. It highlights many of the qualities

and achievements in academics, fine arts, athletic programs, etc., that make our district so special.

Speaking of great accomplishments, Craddock /Miller Elementary Principal, Julie Troman, has been nominated for the prestigious Ohio National Distinguished Principal Award. The award winner will be announced later this school year. Congratulations and good-luck to Julie!

Now, and throughout the year, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. 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 school year!

Pat Ciccantelli
Superintendent

THE ACSD NAMES MICHAEL MAGLIONICO DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES



The Aurora Board of Education has named Michael Maglionico as the Aurora City School District's new Director of Special Services. The Board voted in favor of the hiring 5-0 at its regular Board meeting on July 23, 2018.

The Aurora City Schools' Special Services staff provides support to approximately 10% of the student population. This includes students with special education needs (9.4%) and students with Limited English Proficient needs (.7%). In addition to the special education support, the special services staff provides gifted instruction/support as well as gifted assessment opportunities for the Aurora City Schools' student population.

Maglionico's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree from Cleveland State University and a Masters in Educational Leadership degree from Kent State University. He also has a license to teach individuals with disabilities and holds both a Principal's License and a Superintendent's License.

Maglionico, who has experience as a special education teacher in the Ravenna Schools, also has a background as the special education supervisor at the Geauga County ESC and as a principal and director of pupil services at Crestwood Schools in Mantua, Ohio.

Aurora School Board President, Gerald Kohanski, said of the new hire, "Aurora's Special Education Department provides critical intervention services to a growing number of students. The school district is fortunate to be able to hire an excellent, skilled, and very experienced professional educator like Mike Maglionico to lead this important function."

Pat Ciccantelli, Superintendent of the Aurora City Schools, stated, "Mike is an outstanding educator and an experienced administrator. He will be a great fit on our administrative team and we are very excited to have him join our district. Mike is very student-centered and his goals align with the initiatives in our district."

After having spent several months in his new position, Maglionico explained that the most gratifying piece of his job is, "To see student learning and to see students become successful as they progress through our programs."

Who's Who & What's New

SHANNON GAGEL replaced Heather Keenan as the Gifted Coordinator

KATHLEEN BERRY replaced Vicki Wolf as the Library Assistant

LAURIE KRIZANSKY replaced Kathy O'Haire as the Special Service Secretary

VICKI WOLF replaced Sherry Rogalski as the Miller School Secretary

MICHELLE LUKASIK replaced Laurie Berger as the AHS Secretary

JENNIFER HILTY replaced Sharron Weingart as the AHS Guidance Secretary

Please note that a **NEW NO LEFT TURN TRAFFIC SIGN** with restricted hours has been erected on Greenmen Way at the entrance to the front of the high school parking lot entrance. This will help keep the pickup and drop-off car lines move more efficiently.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

CABLE 9 is now known as **COMMUNITY FOCUS**. Community Focus serves the cable needs of seven local communities and can be seen on Spectrum Channel 1021. The Aurora Schools' **SPOTLIGHT ON AURORA SCHOOLS** cable television show can be seen with new topics and guests every month on Community Focus.



Please check your voicemail messages or the district website for more information when a school district AllCall message has been sent. The secretaries become inundated with phone calls after AllCall messages are sent and parents don't check their voicemail messages and immediately contact the secretaries instead. This ties up the telephone lines and hampers their ability to handle pressing concerns to explain the AllCall message information to parents.

Congratulations to AHS Senior **CHAD HARRIS** who was an alternate performer in the **SHINING STAR CLE 2018 SINGING COMPETITION** held by the Montefiore senior healthcare facilities network.



Thank you to a team of educators and students who represented the Aurora Schools at the **DOWN SYNDROME JOY WALK** at Sunny Lake Park and the **CLEVELAND AUTISM SPEAKS WALK**.



Autism Speaks Aurora Schools' Representatives: (left to right) **VICTOR TORRES**, **ALISA DEININGER**, and **JENNIFER LOUDON**



Down Syndrome Joy Walk Aurora Schools' Representatives: (left to right) **PAM KING**, **MEGAN HALKO** and **JENNIFER LOUDON**

MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS JOIN THE DISTRICT

In an effort to be mindful of safety concerns, the ACSD has hired several new mental health professionals to assist in counseling and intervention measures for students at risk. If parents or students are in need of help, please contact:

KRISTEN CARMEN - Counselor
- kcarmen@aurora-schools.org

KELLY SZYDLOWSKI - Case Manager
- kszydowski@aurora-schools.org

The **AURORA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** has inducted **ARTHUR GEIGEL II** into the **HONORED EDUCATOR AND STAFF MEMBER HALL OF FAME** along with **JAKE BAECHLE**, Class of 2016, who was inducted into the **ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**. Congratulations to both.



NEWLY CREATED AHS DRUG FREE CLUB

Aurora High School has announced the creation of a new Drug Free Club that began at the start of the 2018-19 school year. The purpose of this new club is to cultivate a healthy lifestyle for students. The club is run as an opt-in program where students and parents opt-in by signing a permission slip for random drug testing.

The objective of the club is to offer students a way of diffusing awkward situations with their peers. This would allow them to avoid peer pressure by using the drug club as a scapegoat. The program is designed to be non-punitive and any student that does test positive during a random drug test will not face any penalties from school district administration.

The drug testing will be done by Great Lakes Biomedical and is 100% confidential. Upon completion of the testing, the Medical Review Officer will finalize the results and will notify the parent/guardian of any positive testing result. Results will not be released to any other party without written consent of the parent/guardian. If a positive test result occurs, the parent/guardian may request counseling or follow up testing within the program. In order to be considered a member of the club in good standing, students must have clean results. Otherwise, they cannot be certified as "drug free."

Research has shown that preventing drug abuse can benefit communities both non-monetarily and monetarily. For every dollar spent on drug abuse prevention, communities can save between \$4.00 - \$5.00 in costs for drug abuse treatment and counseling.

AHS Principal, Paul Milcetic, explained that, "There will be multiple incentives and benefits throughout the school year for club members in good standing. The biggest prize is eligibility for a drawing in May where one lucky AHS student

CLASS ACTS



Ms. McArthur's 1st Grade Class Celebrated **Patriot Day** with Aurora Emergency Service Personnel



Lauren Skonieczny's 2nd Grade Class Sent Their Caterpillars Off as Butterflies

Henry Ninda, an educator from Uganda, is visiting the Aurora Schools to learn more about student-centered learning curriculum, higher order thinking and management. **Alisa Deninger** has planned his trip, coordinated his discussions and hosted his visit.



Henry Ninda speaks to the AHS International Club

The Record-Courier newspaper has begun a monthly gallery that celebrates amazing teachers in Portage County, which includes photos and biographies of each of the ten teachers featured. Congratulations to Aurora Schools' 7th Grade Language Arts teacher **LaQuita Timberlake** who appeared as an Amazing Teacher in the first gallery in September 2018.

AHS Choir Instructor **Sara Dixon** took seven AHS Choir students to perform at the **Kent State All-Star Choir Festival** at the beginning of October. They learned seven pieces of challenging music in less than two days and performed them in concert.



Aurora City School Students Performed at the Kent State All-Star Choir Festival



OSBA MEDIA HONOR ROLL AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Spectrum TV's Community Focus Program Director **Dennis Suchetka** for being named to the **Ohio School Boards Association's Media Honor Roll**. The Honor Roll recognizes print and broadcast news media representatives for fair, balanced and accurate reporting in public schools. The Honor Roll recipients were featured in the October 2018 OSBA Journal and received certificates.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP 2018 COMMENDED STUDENTS

Congratulations to the National Merit Scholarship 2018 Commended Students from the AHS Class of 2019.



AHS National Merit Commended Scholars: (middle - left to right) **Kameron Fry**, **Wendy Kristell**, and **Aaron Giganti**

Congratulations to **Craddock and Miller Elementary School Principal, Julie Troman**, who has been nominated for the prestigious **Ohio National Distinguished Principal Award** by the **Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators**. Good luck to Julie!

PE COLLABORATION WITH JAPANESE SCHOLARS



Japanese Scholars Visit (left to right) Dr. Takahiro Sato, Dr. Yutaka Sato, Gretchen Jessel, Dr. Miki Seida, Dr. Satoshi Yoshino

Craddock School Physical Education Instructor Gretchen Jessel has been working with Dr. Takahiro Sato, an Associate Professor at Kent State University in the School of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Studies for the last five years. Sato has been traveling from the U.S. to Japan helping to create a global collaborative program between the two countries. Sato has helped to establish global physical education (PE) cross cultural studies with teachers in America in a study called "Jugyokenkyu". This allows professionalization for teachers by studying video, lesson plans and discussing the lesson process. Jessel explained, "Through him I share teacher education and teaching information with his colleagues in Japan about how physical education is taught in the U.S. and more specifically how I teach here at Craddock School."

In September, three visitor representatives from the Ministry of Education in Japan met with Jessel to observe and ask questions as she demonstrated curriculum and discussed the similarities and differences between the two countries. Visitors included, Dr. Miki Seida, Director of the Higashi Hiroshima School District; Dr. Satoshi Yoshino, currently at The Ohio State University as an Associate Professor who teaches and studies American education specifically in sports, physical activity and physical education and Dr. Yutaka Sato who is the Director of Teacher Training, Department of Sport Education of Culture and Sport Policy at the Tooin University of Yokohama.

Jessel further explained, "I have also helped Dr. Sato with another Japanese Professor, Dr. Naoki Suzuki, who received a grant for studying elementary PE class handout materials for children in Japan, South Korea, China, and the U.S. I am one of Suzuki's American teachers whom he can gather information about PE in the U.S. and Ohio."

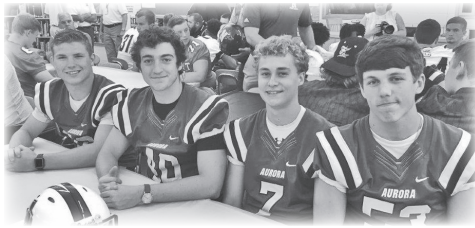
See Japanese Scholars p. 8

SPORT REPORT



GAME OF THE WEEK

The Aurora Greenmen vs. Tallmadge football matchup on Friday, September 14, 2018 was the overwhelming choice in **WKYC.com's GAME OF THE WEEK** voting poll (65%) and was featured as their Game of the Week. WKYC was at the game and called all the action live via audio stream on WKYC.com, the WKYC app, and the WKYC Facebook page. Highlights were also featured on the 11 o'clock news that night.



Aurora Greenmen Senior Football Captains (left to right): **COLIN MCNAMARA, JACK ARNOLD, GRAHAM ALDREDGE, JUSTIN LOVELL** at the annual Suburban League Media Kickoff in Cuyahoga Falls in July.



Friday Night Football

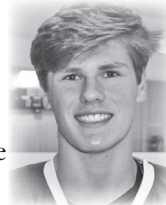


Congrats to **KARSEN ZABELL** and **MATT SINGLETON** for qualifying for the **CROSS COUNTRY STATE MEET**.



Sponsors of the AHS Safe Decisions Week, **DON QUALTERS** (left) and **SEAN DEVINS** (right) unveil the specially made uniforms they had created and donated to the players as a part of the **"GREY OUT" FOOTBALL GAME** against Tallmadge on September 14, 2018.

Aurora High School sophomore **PATRICK MURRAY** was recently featured in **CLEVELAND CLINIC PATIENT STORIES**, a Clinic website posting that lets readers "hear the inspiring stories of real Cleveland Clinic patients." Murray, a hockey defender on the AHS varsity hockey team, was diagnosed with a heart condition that causes abnormal rhythms that can cause sudden death. After surgery, Murray was back on the ice in just 2 weeks. To read more about his story, go the Cleveland Clinic website.



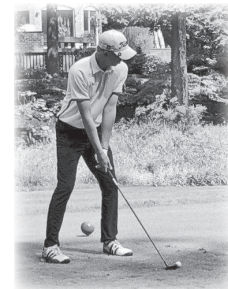
The **BOYS' SOCCER TEAM'S** season ended in the District Semi Final game 7-2 against host Chagrin Falls.



Congratulations to the **GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY SUBURBAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS**



COACH WILSON and the **GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM** earned the **SUBURBAN LEAGUE 2018 CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE**. The team's stellar season came to an end after being defeated by Revere in the District Final. Great job on a fantastic season.



Congratulations to **LUKE RADIS** for making it all the way to the **OHSAA GOLF DISTRICTS**.

OLIVIA WERVEY took on the duties of **GREENMEN VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM WATER GIRL**.



Thank You Aurora Schools Foundation

Aurora Schools Foundation awards over \$30,000 annually in grant money to support our teachers and students. Grants support innovative, imaginative, and

creative programs, experiences, or opportunities that would not otherwise be available to the students of the Aurora Schools. Over the years, we have sponsored grants for Elementary Music Instruments, High School Media Center Equipment, Leighton Outdoor Learning Center, Destination Imagination Teams, Racket Power Fitness Program for Disadvantaged, Playground Equipment, After-Prom, Linda Tacl Allenspach Community Patio and so many more.

We can do more! This year our goal is to award \$50,000 in grants.

Aurora Schools Foundation awards five \$1,000 scholarships a year to graduating seniors.

Currently, ASF administers Two Aurora Schools Foundation Scholarships, The City of Aurora Bicentennial Scholarship, The Linda Allenspach Scholarship and The Sonal Sanghani Diversity Scholarship. Our goal is to grow our endowment so we can award even more scholarships in the future.

The Aurora Schools Foundation exists to enhance the educational experience of Aurora City Schools. Learn more about us by visiting www.auroraschoolsfoundation.org

VETERANS STADIUM TRACK AND TURF REPLACEMENT

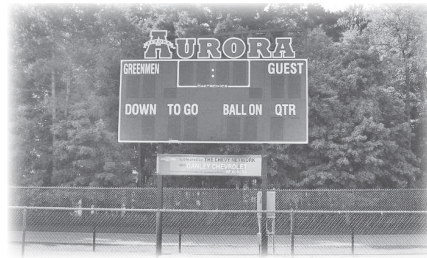


The Aurora High School's Veterans Stadium 2018 summer football field replacement construction project was completed in time for the fall sports season. According to Superintendent Pat Ciccantelli, "The new facility is beautiful and the new surfaces provide a safe place for our athletes to compete. This project was completed within budget and was available for use by our sports teams for the fall sports season."

Both the high school track and field were replaced due to wear that was beginning to make the surfaces unsafe for student athletes to continue to use without a safety risk. The decision was then made to replace them. Construction company bids were considered and the project was awarded to Astro Turf. The total projected cost for the project was \$503,500. This was an overall savings of approximately \$100,000 over the next closest bid for the project. Ciccantelli said, "We received an excellent product and a great installation and I'm very happy with the end result." The track was 16 years old and the field was last replaced in 2008. The life expectancy on a running track is 15 years and typically 10 years for a turf football field.

Athletic Directory/Facilities Manager, Paul Powers, stated, "This was a project that was very important to have completed for the safety of our athletes. The condition of both the track and field had deteriorated over the years, as they do, and the summer months were the perfect time to complete the renovations. Our athletes have come back to facilities that are safe and the quality will allow them to compete at the highest level."

NEW VETERANS STADIUM SCOREBOARD DONATED BY GANLEY CHEVROLET



On behalf of the Board of Education and the Aurora City Schools I would like to thank Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora for their generosity in providing us with a new, badly needed, modern scoreboard for our stadium. General Manager James Reinart and his staff have been very supportive of our schools in many different ways. It is certainly gratifying to see a local business step up and provide much needed financial input into our district.

Hopefully, when making their own purchases, our community's residents will remember those local companies like Ganley Chevrolet that provide donations and other support. Ganley is setting a great example for responsible corporate citizenship and support of education in Aurora.

Thank you again for your generosity.
GERALD KOHANSKI - Aurora School Board President



Congratulations to the AHS Homecoming 2018 **King Colin McNamara** & **Queen Taylor Burick**

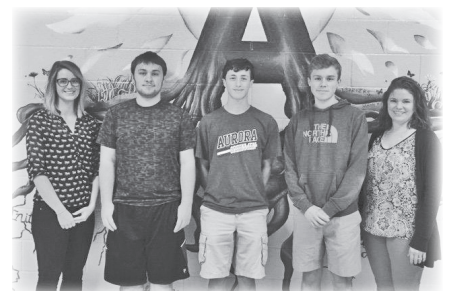


THUNDER OVER AURORA – BOOMING SUCCESS



AHS NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS 2017-18 ANNOUNCED

The Class of 2019 boasts three National Merit Award Semifinalists. Congratulations to (middle, left to right) Gustav Burkhardt, Joey Esposito, and Ricky John who joined the ranks of 16,000 (less than .5%) of the original 1.6 million students who have been named Semifinalists. Esposito also earned the elusive combination of a 36 and 1600 (perfect scores) on both the ACT and SAT!



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ECRWSS Postal Customer

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November 2018

Your Schools

HANNAH KULAWIAK WINS SHINING STAR CLE 2018 COMPETITION



Aurora High School Senior and Dazzle Award Finalist, Hannah Kulawiak, took top honors at the Shining Star CLE 2018 singing scholarship competition held by the Montefiore senior healthcare facilities network. The sold-out finalist competition was held at the Ohio Theater in Playhouse Square on October 7, 2018.

Montefiore started the competition two years ago as a new way to raise awareness and funds to support their Alzheimer's and Dementia unit within their facility. Because music affects so many areas of the brain, it can touch areas of the brain that may not be damaged by the disease. The music helps people with the disease reconnect with memories that are triggered by the music.

This year's competition featured nearly 200 students representing approximately 80 high schools in eight counties, including home-schooled students who auditioned. Kulawiak's rendition of the Academy Award nominated "Journey To The Past," from Anastasia earned her the first place award and the \$10,000 college scholarship. Along with her scholarship, Kulawiak will also perform with the Cleveland Pops Orchestra at Severance Hall. As a bonus prize, the Aurora High School music department will receive \$2,500. Congratulations to Hannah on an outstanding achievement.

Drug Free – Continued from p. 4

(with a driver's license) will win a 2-year lease for a new Chevy Equinox courtesy of Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora. To be eligible for this drawing, students must be a Drug Free Club member in good standing and have earned a PRIDE Card. All Drug Free Club members will automatically earn one PRIDE Card from Paul Milcetic with the ability to earn other cards as well."

The AHS advisors for the new club are Melissa Foster, Stephanie Duncan and Mary Beth Heiman. Approximately 200 students have joined the club as of late September 2018.



Japanese Scholars – Continued from p. 5

Jessel added, "This is a great opportunity for PE to be recognized as a global educational curriculum which it is typically not noted for. I have learned a great deal working with Dr. Sato of KSU and his colleagues in Japan. Our topics of conversation have included everything from parent volunteers in the gymnasium to gender segregated physical education classes and uniforms. I have been able to observe Japanese PE curriculum and lesson plans, as well as, discuss the future of PE from a global perspective. I feel honored to be part of this project".