

ORIOLE UPDATE

WINTER 2023



The future site of Avon's third middle school. Visit avon-schools.org/growth for more.

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Avon Education Foundation fundraiser information brought to you by our generous sponsor, Performance Services

A Foundation for the Future

From the Superintendent



While many Indiana school corporations decline in enrollment, more people continue choosing to raise their families in our great community. Demographic studies indicate our student enrollment will continue increasing in the coming decade. **At their December meeting, the Avon Board of School Trustees selected a strategic growth model that forms a foundation for our future, positioning us to meet the demands of increasing student enrollment.**

See page 2 and avon-schools.org/growth for more detail. In this space, I'd like to answer a few common questions.

What does the plan entail? The new model requires converting our kindergarten-grade 4 elementary schools to kindergarten-grade 5 and our grade 7-8 middle schools to grades 6-8. We will transition Avon Intermediate East and West into separate kindergarten-5 elementary schools and build a new grade 6-8 middle school west of the Prestwick subdivision.

What is the impact on taxpayers? We are able to finance the entire cost of this work as existing debt

is paid off. This project will be completed at no additional cost to taxpayers.

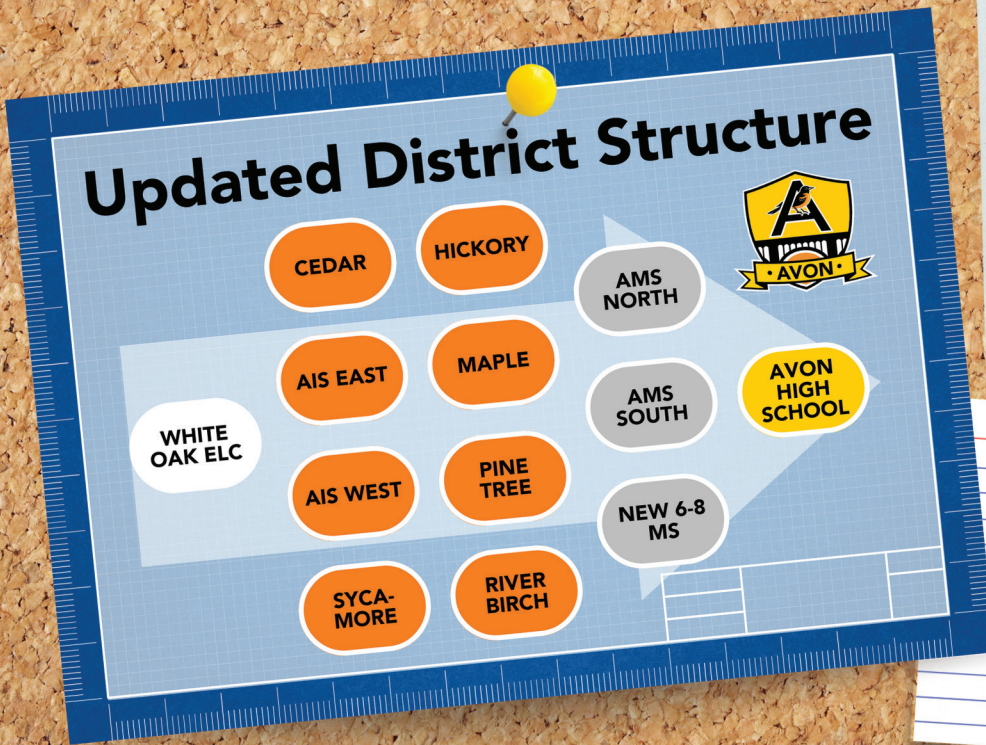
Will we utilize funds from the 2018 referendum? No referendum funds are used for school construction. They are reserved for maintaining class sizes, increasing teacher pay, and supporting students.

This model addresses K-8, but what about Avon High School? A significant expansion and renovation project was approved in 2021. It is also funded without impact to taxpayers or use of referendum funds. It will increase capacity at AHS to 4,000 students and provide needed updates to the 25-year-old building. Construction is underway, and recent information and updates are available at ahs.avon-schools.org/more.

I love living in a community that wants the best for all our students – those we serve now and those we will serve in the near future.

Sincerely,

Scott Wyndham, Ed.D., Superintendent
smwyndham@avon-schools.org



Strategic Expansion

Detailing Avon's Growth Model

River Birch Elementary, our newest school, began serving students in 2010. Since then, district enrollment has grown by more than 2,100 students. In the next decade, it is expected to grow by 1,600 more. After years of utilizing portable classrooms, repurposing spaces, redistricting new housing developments, and creative use of administrative spaces, the time has come to embark upon a major construction project.

In recent months, district leaders created three models for strategic expansion. After multiple faculty and community presentations and careful evaluation of thoughtful feedback from hundreds of individuals, the Board of School Trustees selected a model that positions us for continued growth while ensuring Avon continues to provide excellent learning and teaching environments for all.

Major components of the growth model, depicted above, include:

- All six current elementary schools will switch from kindergarten-grade 4 to kindergarten-grade 5
- Both intermediate schools will become kindergarten-grade 5 elementary schools

- Both middle schools will switch from grades 7-8 to grades 6-8
- We will build a new middle school on property west of Prestwick

The biggest and most obvious change that will be required is a move away from the intermediate school model (grades 5-6). This model has served us well since 2010 when it was incorporated to maximize our district's use of facilities resulting from a season of explosive enrollment growth. By moving 5th-grade students to elementary schools, 6th-grade students to middle schools, and building a new middle school, we eliminate a school transition for students and provide greater access to extracurricular activities in our middle schools. We also position ourselves to continue serving an increasing number of students in excellent learning environments for years to come.

This winter and spring, we will continue planning and preparation for this exciting expansion project. Changes would occur no sooner than the start of the 2025-26 school year. We will continue to provide timely and detailed updates as the project progresses at avon-schools.org/growth.



Making Room for More at AHS

Renovation & Expansion Update

Construction continues at Avon High School. Structural steel has been installed for Phase 1, which remains on schedule for July completion.

The Board has approved Phase 2 and 3. Phase 2 includes major additions to the west and south that are scheduled for completion in winter and summer 2024, respectively. Finally, Phase 3 will be complete in summer 2025. This phase includes classroom and Performing Arts additions and major renovations to the original building.

Stay up to date at ahs.avon-schools.org/more.

Meet our 2023 Lilly Endowment Scholars

Seniors awarded for significant service, leadership skill, and academic achievement

Avon High School seniors Emma Cremeans and Katherine Langford are winners of 2023 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships.

These scholarships are awarded annually to three Hendricks County seniors by the Hendricks County Community Foundation. They provide full tuition – along with a yearly book and equipment stipend – to any Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university.

These prestigious scholarships are awarded on the basis of significant community service, demonstrated leadership skill, and high academic achievement.

Emma will study Illustration at IUPUI so she can pursue a career in studio film production.

Katherine will pursue a degree in Political Science and Applied Statistics at the University of Notre Dame.

We are proud of these well-rounded, high-achieving seniors. They are excellent representatives of the AHS class of '23.

"Winning this scholarship changes my life. Not only does it solidify where I will be going to school, it also allows me to pursue my dreams."

Emma Cremeans



"There were many deserving seniors across Hendricks County. It is an honor to be among the three who were awarded the scholarship."

Katherine Langford



Class of '24 Rising Stars

Four members of the Avon High School class of '24 have achieved the honor of being named Rising Stars by the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP).

Avon juniors Katherine Carew, Gabriel Miller, Liam Hoffman, and AJ Vaddi were recognized along with approximately 1,000 juniors from across the state.

According to IASP, these students are recognized based upon their academic achievements. In a statement, an IASP representative wrote, "Please join IASP in congratulating these students on all they have already achieved, as well as offering support and encouragement as they continue their accomplishments and expand their knowledge, growth, and leadership skills in the future."

Pictured clockwise from top left: Katherine Carew, Gabriel Miller, AJ Vaddi, and Liam Hoffman



AHS Senior, Ironman

This fall, Nick Sommers and his family traveled to Arizona where he was the youngest competitor in a full-distance Ironman triathlon. To complete the race competitors must swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles, and run 26.2 miles. Nick strode across the finish line in 12 hours and 13 minutes, placing in the top 20% of all competitors.

Read full interviews with Nick and Ms. Schmidt — and much more — at avon-schools.org/experience-avon.



Board Certified Educator

AHS Math Teacher Taryn Schmidt distinguished herself as a master of her profession by earning National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. "I have no doubt that this process has made me a stronger teacher," said Ms. Schmidt, only the fifth Indiana Math teacher to earn this distinction.



AVON COMMUNITY
SCHOOL
CORPORATION

7203 East US Highway 36
Avon, IN 46123

ALL
belong · learn · grow
avon-schools.org

It Takes a Community

Avon-Washington Township is one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in central Indiana. We are grateful for the incredible support and investment our community makes in Avon students, educators, and staff. Because of your support, students succeed, educators excel, and we cultivate an unparalleled teaching and learning environment where all belong, learn, and grow.

Did you know there are a number of ways we work to build and maintain community unity, help you remain informed, and facilitate connections?

Coffee & Conversation is a casual, informative interaction with Dr. Wyndham and district leaders over hot coffee and tasty refreshments. Mark your calendar and join us at **7:30 am on February 16 at Carl's Donuts** and **6:30 pm on April 4 at the Avon-Washington Township Public Library**.

The Avon Gold Card provides free access to many athletic and performing arts events for Avon and

Washington Township residents age 65 or older. Call (317) 544-6000 to make an appointment to pick up your Gold Card.

Our **Community Flyers webpage** lists many local events and opportunities available in our community to students and their families. We make it easy to submit and access these educational, arts, community, and athletic opportunities right on our website.

Leader Networks are designed for community and business leaders, religious leaders, local realtors, and individuals who want to learn more so they can support our schools. Avon Schools hosts these events to cultivate close partnerships that result in a better-informed community and better-supported students and educators.

For more information and to get involved, visit avon-schools.org/community.



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MONTE CARLO NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 11
6:00-10:00 PM
WASHINGTON TWP.
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