

The Andover Update



Fall 2019



What's inside?

03

Better together

04

Construction updates

06

Redesign victories

10

News in brief

12

New app for safety

14

City updates

Our mission

Andover Public Schools prepares learners for a changing world by creating meaningful educational opportunities that equip and empower students to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

Meet the team

Board of Education

Josh Wells, president | Melinda Fritze, vice president
Bob Baier | Andrew Chaney
Carly Haynes | Jennifer Seymour

Jamie Bohannon, clerk | Sherame Kneisel, treasurer

District Administration

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Jill Lachenmayr, assistant superintendent for academic affairs
Dr. Russell Miller, assistant superintendent for human resources
David Jackson, executive director of operations
Sherame Kneisel, chief financial officer
Brad Niessen, director of technology
Terry Rombeck, director of communication
Lisa Smith, director of food service
David Spyles, transportation general manager
Scott Wilson, director of business development

Portrait of a Graduate

Academic preparation

- Has skills and knowledge to pursue life goals
- Has real-world experience to succeed after high school

Collaboration and communication

- Works well with others
- Values teamwork

Innovative thinking

- Thinks critically and independently
- Solves problems creatively

Integrity and character

- Has strong work ethic
- Does the right thing

Resilience

- Learns from mistakes and failures
- Adapts to an ever-changing world



Better together: Collaboration makes our schools stronger



Back in August, our district's entire staff gathered at Andover Central High School for our annual Opening Assembly.

This is the one time during the year when everyone who works for Andover Public Schools is in the same room. It's an important opportunity to kick the year off on the same page. It's also incredibly symbolic: Each of the people in

that room will touch the lives of children in our district and will help to mold them into the people they will become.

This year's Opening Assembly was especially symbolic because it centered on our district's new Portrait of a Graduate. This infographic represents our community's vision for who we want and expect our young people to be by the time they cross the stage and receive their diploma. It was the result of a lot of input from our stakeholders during the 2018-19 year.

The theme of our keynote speaker's address was "Better Together." Steve Dickie, character coach for the WSU men's basketball team, talked about how we can find strength in our differences and that we all have blind spots where others can see clearly. We can accomplish much more together than we can separately.

We see this play out every day in our schools:

- Teacher leaders are guiding redesign to update education for the 21st century. This often involves creating more time for collaboration among educators, classrooms and grade levels.
- Students are empowered to have more choice in what and how they learn. They are learning with and about one another through Morning Meetings, Capturing Kids' Hearts and curriculum that explores social-emotional needs.
- Students are collaborating on project- and problem-based learning opportunities, utilizing one another's strengths to overcome challenges.
- Educators and students are creating community partnerships, bringing in speakers to provide real-world perspectives on academic topics and helping students apply their knowledge.

At the end of our Opening Assembly, one of our music educators, Maureen Berry, sang the song "A Million Dreams." It includes the lines, "I think of what the world could be / A vision of the one I see / A million dreams is all it's gonna take," and "We can live in a world that we design."

These lines are perfect to capture our journey. Our vision is our Portrait of a Graduate, and we are designing education around making that vision a reality for each of our students.

The key is that both our vision and the path to get there require all of us — staff, parents, community members — to work closely together on behalf of our students.

When it comes to serving our students, we truly are better together.

Do you have a minimum of
60 college credit hours?
Would you like a
part-time job with flexible hours?
Do you want to
make a difference in children's lives?

Andover Public Schools is looking for individuals to join our team of qualified Substitute Teachers

For more information please contact Donna Ray, USD 385 Substitute Coordinator, at 316-218-4660 or rayd@usd385.org.

If you already have your standard or emergency substitute license and are interested in working for us, please apply at applitrack.com/andover/onlineapp/.

Disclaimer: Holding a Substitute License and submitting an application does not guarantee employment for Andover Public Schools. We strive to maintain a specific number of Substitute Teachers and hire according to those numbers; all job offers are based on experience and qualifications and are contingent upon a successful nationwide background check.



Fall 2020: Time to celebrate in Andover!

We're less than a year away from the completion of six major bond-funded construction projects at Andover Public Schools!

Here's an update on these projects. Additions and renovations at elementary schools, turf baseball and softball fields, some miscellaneous athletic projects and Andover Central High School already are complete. The only remaining projects after these are the district swimming facility, District Office and work on the east side of the current District Stadium.

Andover Middle School

Masonry work is complete on the gym and locker room portion of AMS. Precast concrete panels that will make up the structure of the gym and wrestling room were delivered in early November, making the gym visible from Andover Road. Work is underway on the eighth-grade science addition. Additions and renovations will be complete for the start of the 2020-21 school year.



Andover Central Middle School

Work is underway at ACMS. Utilities have been relocated, which allowed earthwork to start on the new gym addition. The concrete foundation is complete for the gym and wrestling room area, and the masonry has begun on the locker room portion. Work is also underway on the eighth-grade science addition. Additions and renovations will be complete for the start of the 2020-21 school year.



Andover High School

With nearly 200 workers working on site every day, AHS is progressing on schedule. Masonry work is complete. Windows and the roof are nearing completion, HVAC was turned on just before Thanksgiving and the interior finishes are moving right along. The auditorium ceiling is going in and cabinets are going into the classrooms. The new building will be complete for the start of the 2020-21 school year, with the attached district swimming facility completed by the spring of 2021.

Jaguar Stadium and Andover Public Schools Tennis Complex

The existing stadium that serves ACMS and ACHS has been demolished to make way for the new stadium. A lot of the ground work for the site had already taken place. Nearly 250,000 cubic yards of dirt have been moved for the stadium, the Andover Public Schools Tennis Complex and Yorktown Parkway. Masonry is complete on the locker room buildings and the concessions stand that will serve both facilities. Utilities are nearing completion on the site. The stadium and complex will be complete for fall sports in 2020.



Meadowlark Elementary

Nearly 90 workers have been on site daily at the new Meadowlark Elementary, which has made the school progress quickly near 13th and 159th streets. Concrete foundation and concrete slabs are complete, and masonry is nearing 75 percent completion. Structural steel is approximately 60 percent complete. Meadowlark is on track for school to start for the 2020-21 school year.



Andover Center for Advanced Professional Studies

The Andover CAPS building is underway, also near 13th and 159th streets. Concrete foundations are complete and the slab is complete. Precast concrete has been set for the storm shelter, and steel in that area is complete. The remaining structural steel work has begun, and the building “skeleton” is really starting to take shape. CAPS is scheduled to be complete for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Early victories: Schools seeing benefits of redesign work

Educators at four Andover schools spent the 2018-19 school year researching how they might better meet the educational needs of their students. As part of the Kansans Can School Redesign Project, educators worked to re-imagine education based on four principles:

- Student success skills: There is an integrated approach to develop student social-emotional growth.
- Personalized learning: Teachers support students to have choice over their time, place, pace and path.
- Community partnerships: Partnerships are based on mutually beneficial relationships and collaboration.
- Real-world application: Project-based learning, internships and civic engagement make learning relevant.

Now that some of those redesign projects have launched, here are some of the early results principals, teachers and students are seeing this school year.

Cottonwood Elementary

Redesign victory: Explorations

Description: Many Thursday mornings, Cottonwood students from different grade levels gather to explore a common interest.

Shari Rooks, principal



“From my perspective, redesign has created more opportunities for dreaming and collaboration. Explorations has been my favorite part of redesign. It has been fun getting to know the kids on a different level, watching them try new things like cross-stitch, dancing, paper airplane building and drumming. We are trying to connect with our community to bring in other resources. We look forward to growing this part of redesign in the future.”

Bethany Fox, fifth-grade teacher

“Explorations is helping us build relationships at Cottonwood. Classes are led by teachers, paraeducators, parents and community members. It’s a time to learn something new or expand knowledge in an area that interests each student. We have a wide range of classes including Spanish Club, baking, drama, science, coding, crafting, Walking Club and photography, just to name a few. Because grade levels are mixed, students and adults get to make connections that might not have otherwise happened.”



Brynn Orban, fifth-grader

“Explorations helps me make more friends in other grades, and I get to pick things I’m interested in. I liked learning yoga moves and how to be calmer through the day.”

Meadowlark Elementary School

Redesign victory: Crews

Description: Crews are an opportunity for students from different grade levels to get to know one another through team-building activities and other unifying activities.



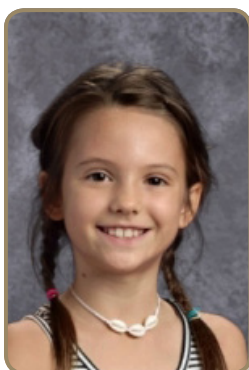
Dana Matheny, principal

“To connect students with other adults and students in other grades, our school has begun an initiative we are calling Crews. Each certified teacher is the captain of a ‘crew’ of about 15 K-5 students. This crew spends time together during Morning Meeting at least twice per month getting to know each other by playing various team building games and doing unifying activities. Recently, each group picked their crew names as well as made a banner that represents each member of the crew. Each student will stay in the same crew for the duration of his or her time at Meadowlark.”

**Sheree Segraves,
third-grade teacher**



“It has been amazing to watch the older students take ownership in helping to guide the younger students through various activities. It is so much fun when my crewmates come up to me during the day to say hello or to share exciting news! It will be fun to watch the crew evolve over the coming years.”



Charlie Felts, fourth-grader

“Crew meetings are pretty fun! I liked making our crew name. Our crew’s name is the Sassy Sharks! The younger kids are pretty easy to work with and I have liked getting to know a new teacher.”

Redesign: What’s next?

Andover Central Middle School and Cottonwood, Meadowlark and Robert Martin elementaries were part of the Gemini II cohort of the Kansas Can School Redesign Project. They researched and piloted their redesign efforts in the 2018-19 school year and are launching them this fall.

Prairie Creek Elementary School and Andover eCademy are researching this school year, with a fall 2020 launch. Plans call for all 11 Andover schools to undergo redesign by the 2021-22 school year.



Robert Martin Elementary School

Redesign victory: Morning Meetings and Second Step

Description: Second Step is a curriculum that helps to teach social-emotional skills. It is being implemented as part of Morning Meetings in each classroom.

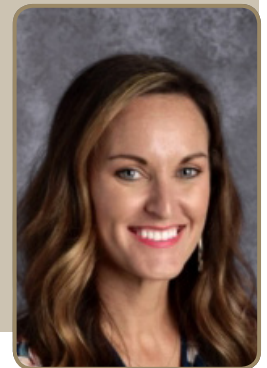
Traci Holder, principal



“The Morning Meeting and Second Step have allowed our students to learn how to interact with each other. We now have the opportunity to discuss situations that our students encounter every day, in a low-stress environment. Students work together to solve a problem presented in a video. When a real-life situation happens, students have the tools to handle the situation independently. Also, team-building and class-building are built into Morning Meeting. These are essential in building a classroom community where students are not afraid to take chances and will stand up for each other.”

Lindsey May, first-grade teacher

“Morning Meeting and the Second Step curriculum have enriched my classroom community immensely. Morning Meeting is an enjoyable time set aside for the students and me to make connections, check in with one another and build friendships. We’re creating a safe classroom environment where students gain social competence while feeling valued, empowered and heard. Morning Meeting has taught my students how to be confident and respectful greeters as well as active listeners. Students gain success skills, problem solving/conflict resolution skills, and experience social and emotional growth. Second Step equips our students with the tools they need to self regulate their emotions and handle conflict effectively. It is evident to see that our students are gaining confidence in themselves and building relationships because of the Morning Meeting components and Second Step lessons.”



Kenzie Franklin, fourth-grader

“Morning Meeting is really fun because we get to share our good things and express with people what you’ve done on the weekend and throughout the week!”

Andover Central Middle School

Redesign victory: Changes to improve students' emotional well-being.

Description: ACMS added Central Time, a daily gathering when teachers lead lessons on character, social/emotional health, college and career readiness, and more. The school also switched from an eight-hour to a six-hour day and made other adjustments aimed at improving student mental health.

Tim Hayden, principal



“Central Time is helping students feel more connected at school. Switching from an eight-hour day to a six-hour day has meant fewer transitions, increased instructional time and less homework. Our redesigned cafeteria, called ‘The Spot,’ gives students more social opportunities, and the addition of second-chance breakfast helps them learn by not being hungry. All of this has led to better attendance, better grades, a reduction in behavior issues, students more engaged in learning and more balance in their lives. Students are happy, which also means happy parents and happy teachers.”

Andrew Potter, language arts teacher

“The goal of Central Time is to help students with their social-emotional well-being and individualized plans of study, from understanding their own changing emotions to gaining a better grasp on post-secondary options available. The lessons and activities we commit to involve a large amount of self-reflection, class discussion, and team-building activities, which have all led to a number of changes in classrooms. We have seen this through students opening up more about the challenges they are facing (emotional and academic) and being able to speak openly about these challenges in front of others. Students themselves are appearing to be happier and more regulated throughout the day, with an overall decrease in the number of office referrals compared to last year. Additionally, these open and honest communications have allowed us to know our students to a higher degree, which then assists us in catching concerning behavior before it becomes critical.”



Maddie Page, eighth-grader



“The best part of redesign is the new length of classes. We used to have eight classes to go to per day, but now we have six. This makes the school day seem to go more quickly. Another reason I like the new class schedule is we get five minutes to get to the next class. Last year, we got four minutes to get to our next class. An extra minute may not seem like a big difference, but people have to understand that students have to leave their class, go to their locker and grab textbooks or journals, possibly go to the bathroom, and be able to sit down in their seats by the time the bell rings. An extra minute helps us to do all of that, and sometimes allows us to be social since we don't always get to in our classes. The new schedule also allows us to have a class called Central Time, which I personally like.”

Belew named finalist for Kansas Teacher of the Year



Kara Belew, social studies teacher at Andover Central High School, has been named one of eight finalists for Kansas Teacher of the Year.

Belew, who is in her fourth year in Andover, teaches history, government and politics to juniors and seniors.

This year, 131 educators from across the state were nominated for Teacher of the Year. Committees representing teachers,

administrators and higher education selected regional finalists.

The mission of the Kansas Teacher of the Year program is to build and utilize a network of exemplary teachers who are leaders in the improvement of schools, student performance and the teaching profession. The Teacher of the Year serves as an ambassador for education in Kansas, making public appearances across the state and nation.

Justice, judge visit with Andover students

Students at Andover Central High School had a first-hand look at the state's justice system during a visit in October.

Justice Eric S. Rosen of the Kansas Supreme Court and District Court Judge John E. Sanders spoke to students at ACHS. Topics included the process for hearing

cases, the differences between district and appellate courts, why they pursued a legal career and much more.

The Supreme Court heard a pair of cases that evening in El Dorado.

Ukrainian educators visit Andover eCademy

A group of educators from Ukraine visited our district in October to learn about Andover eCademy.

The educators, who were hosted by the Rotary Club of Hutchinson, were in Kansas to learn about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) as well as alternative forms of education. While in Andover, they heard an overview of eCademy, watched lessons that were under way and talked with staff members.

Andover eCademy blends virtual learning with in-person lessons to create a unique educational experience. Learn more at andoveracademy.org.



Victoria Bay and Keegan Hallmark



Victoria Bay and Keegan Hallmark have been named Andover's nominees for the Horizon Award presented through the Kansas State Department of Education.

Bay teaches social studies at Andover Central Middle School. She is known for decorating her room as landmarks and creating rap songs to help her students learn history.

Hallmark teaches science and personal finance at Andover Middle School. He is passionate about creating hands-on lessons that make science real for his students.

The award honors outstanding educators in their second year of teaching. Statewide winners will be announced in January.

Susan DeVaughn



Susan DeVaughn has been elected to the Andover Board of Education. DeVaughn, who will join the board in January, is a familiar face around the district. She has been active in The Foundation for Andover Schools and Educate Andover, among other organizations. She replaces Matt Forney, who resigned

Dr. Kristen Kuhlmann



Dr. Kristen Kuhlmann, principal at Andover High School, has been named Area IV Principal of the Year by the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals.

Dr. Kuhlmann is in her fourth year in Andover.

Julia Miller



Julia Miller, choir director at ACHS and ACMS, has been named the Prelude Award winner for the year from the Kansas Choral Directors Association. The award goes to outstanding choir directors in the first five years of their career. Miller is in her 5th year in Andover.

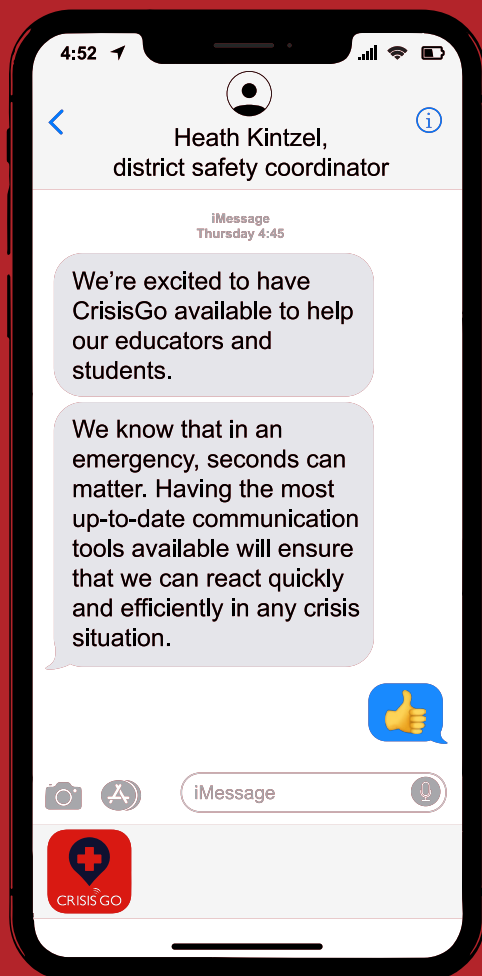
Doug Snyder



Doug Snyder, boys golf coach at ACHS, has been named Golf Coach of the Year by the Kansas Coaches Association. The Jaguars won the 5A state championship in May, Snyder's eighth state title as coach.

Andover educators soon will have a new tool to help their students and themselves be safer.

CrisisGo, a phone-based app that aids in communication during crisis events, will be available beginning in the spring semester.



Andover Public Schools chose to pursue CrisisGo after an extensive evaluation process of it and other crisis apps. Staff members at three schools – Andover High, Andover Central High and Prairie Creek Elementary – were trained in August and have been piloting the app during drills and real-life situations since then.

Training for staff in the remainder of the schools will begin in January. Specifically, CrisisGo allows staff members to:

- **Alert their colleagues that there is an emergency situation.**
- **Communicate during the event.**
- **Account for students to know who is safe and who needs to be located.**

CrisisGo is the latest of several safety enhancements made by Andover Public Schools in recent years. Others include the construction of secured entry and storm shelters at schools.



Save the date!



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Andover Schools**

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Viva Las Vegas,

a gala to benefit
Andover Public Schools

7-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020
Wichita Sports Forum, 2668 N Greenwich Ct.

More information available soon at
FundAndoverSchools.org





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Parent meetings at 6 p.m. Jan. 8 at Prairie Creek and at Robert Martin elementaries. Applications open 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 20

Visit usd385.org/PreK for more details.

Many accomplishments during 19 years in city leadership



Ben Lawrence,
Andover mayor

I want to take a moment to reflect on the last 19 years of being involved in Andover government. It's hard to believe it all started with a bet from a buddy back in 2001. We were talking about things we thought could be changed here in Andover, and he said no one would vote for me if I ran for City Council. Of course I had to prove him wrong, so I ran and was elected. After spending two years as a councilmember, I decided I enjoyed it so much that I wanted to run for mayor. In 2003, I was elected mayor and am proud of what our city has accomplished during these last 16 years.

The city has benefited greatly from the residents allowing us to have temporary sales tax increases to help pay for projects. The Andover Public Library, which was funded by a sales tax increase voted on by Andover residents, opened in Central Park in 2008. The library is also a FEMA shelter. In August 2010, residents approved a 1-cent sales tax increase, allowing us to build a new City Hall in Central Park, which also has a FEMA shelter. The building opened in 2011 and was paid in full in 2013. In 2015, residents approved a 0.75% sales tax increase to purchase a new ladder truck for our Andover

Fire-Rescue, build a new Street Shop, and also a new restroom in Central Park which is a certified FEMA shelter open at all times. Although we were planning on a five-year period to pay for these items, the amount of revenue that came in exceeded our expectations and we were able to drop the tax two years earlier than expected.

A 5-acre park was added to the Cornerstone addition in 2011, giving kids a place to play in the area. In Central Park we added not one, but two dog parks for our citizens to use and allow their dogs to socialize with others. We've also developed the Redbud Trail, repurposing the old BNSF railroad line into a walking/biking path. We continue to work with the Andover-Augusta RailTrail Initiative volunteers to better the trail and provide yet another amenity to our residents and visitors.

We have implemented many economic development tools. The Neighborhood Revitalization Plan allows new and/or rehabilitation projects local tax rebates. Andover Road Business Improvement grants have benefited many businesses on our main thoroughfare as they make exterior improvements. Countless Industrial Revenue Bonds, and most recently our first ever TIF District, have also been utilized to help Andover businesses grow and succeed. The most obvious recent improvements to Andover Road has been the burial of power lines from US 54 to 13th Street and the widening of south Andover Road.

One of the most rewarding projects I had the privilege to lead was the creation of the Capitol Federal Amphitheater®. After several years of hosting concerts in the park using temporary stages, we decided to develop a permanent facility that can be used for a variety of events, from concerts to plays and ballets, and movies shown on the screens. We've just wrapped up our second year of the facility being open and are gaining traction on making Andover a destination.

Andover continues to grow; our school system is a great contributor to that. The city is working with Andover Public Schools to ensure we continue to do our part to accommodate the new facilities approved in the latest bond issue. The expansion of Yorktown Road will give access to schools and facilities at the Andover Central campus.

New faces on City Council

The recent Nov. 5 election will bring some new faces to the Andover City Council in 2020.

With current Mayor Ben Lawrence choosing not to run another term, the residents have chosen to fill the mayoral seat with resident Ronnie Price.

Three City Council seats also were up for grabs. Incumbent Troy Tabor reclaimed his seat, and newcomers Tim Berry and Shelby Carselowey will be joining the council.

Thank you Mayor Lawrence and Council members Caroline Hale and Greg Schneider for your service to our community.

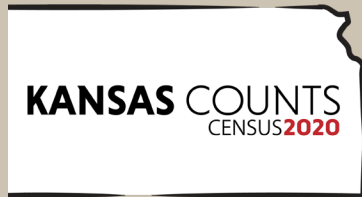
There are even more exciting things on the horizon for Andover, and I am confident the city staff will continue to make excellent recommendations to the Council for the future of Andover. Andover is a great place to call home, and I want to encourage all of you to show your support for our community by shopping local, supporting our schools, participating in our community events, volunteering your time and talents when you can, and voting in elections.

Thank you all for allowing me to lead this great community for so long. I look forward to spending more time with my family and being an engaged Andover citizen.

Ben Lawrence
Mayor of Andover

What you should know about the 2020 Census

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau does a count of the population. The census is vital to our community in



that the data ensures fair Congressional representation by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well

as the redistricting of state legislature, county and city councils, and voting districts.

While this is important, an even more important reason to do your part and complete the census is that accurate information is critical to planning for future growth, development and social needs of Andover. State and federal funding for social and other programs are made, in part, on census data. Businesses and real estate developers

also use census data to decide where to build.

In fiscal year 2016, Kansas received more than \$6 billion through 55 federal spending programs guided by data from the 2010 census. This is approximately \$2,082 per person in federal funding. If even one household in Andover is missed, Andover could miss out on \$58,712.40 in federal funding over the next 10 years until the next census.

Census information is confidential, and federal law prohibits any public or private agency from gaining access to this data. Census Day is April 1, 2020. Data collection will begin in March 2020 and will continue through August 2020. Households will receive a postcard with instructions for completing the census in March. You can respond in four ways: online, over the phone, by mail or by responding to a census enumerator in person. For more information visit kansascounts.org.

Hometown Christmas scheduled for Dec. 12



Hometown Christmas is quickly approaching! This year's event is from 5:30-8 p.m. Dec. 12.

The annual event transforms Andover Central Park into a winter wonderland with luminaries, illuminated trees and activities for the whole family. The evening kicks off with a tree-lighting ceremony and the arrival of Santa Claus, followed by a chili cook-off at the Lodge, s'mores around a fire pit with Andover first responders, hot beverages and children's activities in the library, and much more!

Attendees are encouraged to donate toys, canned goods and cash to benefit Caring and Sharing and the Andover Food Bank.

To sponsor or volunteer at the event, please contact Katie Cork at 316-733-1303. Look for more information in the coming weeks at andoverks.com/htc. Also, you'll want to make sure to like us on Facebook!

City offices to close for holidays

To allow employees to spend time with their families, all non-emergency city departments will be closed the following dates:

- Christmas – Wednesday, Dec. 25
- New Year's Day – Wednesday, Jan. 1

Emergency personnel will be available and ready to assist should they be needed.



Andover Public Schools
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