

# The Andover Update



WINTER 2021-22

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## Meet the team

### Board of Education

Jennifer Seymour, president | Susan DeVaughn, vice president  
 Bob Baier | Andrew Chaney | Melinda Fritze  
 Carly Haynes | Josh Wells  
 Jamie Bohannon, clerk | Sherame Kneisel, treasurer

### District Administration

**Brett White**, superintendent  
**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  
**Robert Cain**, 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



# Wise fiscal management stretches bond funds



**Brett White,  
Superintendent**

It's been nearly five years since Andover school district voters went to the polls and approved an historic \$188 million bond issue that has transformed our campuses for future generations of students.

As we approach the end of our construction projects, I have been reflecting on the considerable time and effort our Board of Education, bond team partners and district staff members have put into managing tax dollars wisely.

That fiscal responsibility doesn't just apply to bond projects, of course. We realize daily that we have been entrusted with your tax dollars to use in the most efficient way to educate our students, and we don't take that trust for granted.

These construction projects, though, have provided the opportunity to stretch \$188 million as far as it can go, to maximize the investment for taxpayers on behalf of our students and staff. We are proud that the cost of our projects has come in under budget, and we've been able to complete projects on time.

This includes:

- New Andover High School and Meadowlark Elementary School.
- New secured entryways and classroom additions at our elementary schools.
- New Andover Center for Advanced Professional Studies.
- New Jaguar Stadium and renovations/additions at Trojan Stadium.
- New Andover Public Schools Tennis Complex and Andover Public Schools Aquatics Center.
- Renovations and additions at our middle schools and Andover Central High School.
- Turf baseball and softball fields.
- New roofs on many facilities.
- Storm shelters for any building that did not previously have one.
- New District Office, scheduled to be finished in early summer.

That's a lot of new and renovated facilities in less than five years!

Because we were able to come in under budget, the Board of Education in November was able to approve an additional \$2.4 million in supplemental bond projects. These include upgraded HVAC controls at three schools that will allow systems to operate more efficiently; a remodel of the Family and Consumer Sciences room at ACHS to provide equity with the new facility at AHS; parking lot repairs at Cottonwood Elementary School; and renovations to the gym at Sunflower Elementary, including new windows, flooring and painting.

Another positive financial note: In March, the Board took advantage of a favorable bond market to refund approximately \$63 million in bonds approved by voters. Similar to refinancing a home, the action allows the district to pay less interest over the remaining life of the bonds. As a result, district taxpayers will save more than \$3 million through 2034.

We are firm believers that the people of Andover Public Schools — and not the facilities themselves — make our schools a special place to learn and work. But at the same time, having top-notch facilities certainly leads to a safe, welcome learning environment that maximizes opportunities for our students.

We cannot thank you, the voters of the Andover school district, enough for providing these enhancements for our students and staff. We will continue to be good stewards of your tax dollars and ensure those resources are used in ways that benefit students, staff, and our community.

Two of our Board of Education members who have been invaluable during the bond projects are retiring at the end of their terms in December. Thank you to Bob Baier, who served four years on our Board. Bob was a member of our bond oversight committee that met monthly during the projects. As a principal in Andover for eighteen years, Bob's understanding of school facilities and keen insights were so beneficial throughout the projects.

Thanks also to Carly Haynes, who has made a profound influence on not only our district facilities, but many aspects of Andover Public Schools over the past 35 years. She is one of the longest-serving Board of Education members in the state of Kansas. Carly's passion for doing what is best for students and her commitment to ensuring that we provide an outstanding education to all of our kids has shaped the direction of our district in countless ways. Thank you to Bob and Carly for your dedicated service to Andover Public Schools!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brett White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# ROCKET PLAN

*Students collaborate for project to help kids in need*

Santa has a new ride this season, and it's all thanks to Andover students.

Santa's Rocketship is the sleek, souped-up, present-delivering creation of fourth-graders at Sunflower Elementary in collaboration with juniors and seniors at the Andover Center for Advanced Professional Studies.

And while the rocket — complete with a racing stripe — certainly looks cool, this project was about a whole lot more than appearance.

"I think they see the big picture of the whole project," says Melinda VanBuren, a fourth-grade teacher. "It's all about helping others."

This is the second year for the sleigh project. Fourth-graders and CAPS students worked together two years ago before it was paused for a year due to Covid.

First Sunflower students broke out into groups: designing, building, decorating, fundraising and advertising.

"I think the fact they choose makes them more invested," says Micaela Miller, another fourth-grade teacher.

The design group worked together to decide what the sleigh — or in this case, rocket ship — would look like. Then, CAPS students in the engineering strand used 3D modeling software to create a digital version of the rocket. The fourth-graders visited CAPS to learn about computer modeling and see how the software is directly connected to the machines that cut the parts. They also were asked if they wanted to make any modifications, which resulted in more flames out the back of the ship.

"It was so cool to see the high-schoolers work with the

fourth-graders on a common goal," says Seth Scriptor, who teaches the CAPS engineering strand. "You could see the connections they were making by working together. I hope the older students helped spark interest among the younger ones."

After the parts were cut out, the build team traveled to CAPS. Using electric screwdrivers/drills, the fourth-graders assembled the pieces to create the rocket. Later, back at Sunflower, the decorating team painted and added details such as icicles to the rocket.

Meanwhile, the fundraising and advertising teams were busy raising money and getting the word about the purpose behind the sled — as a place to donate toys for patients at Children's Mercy Wichita.

"Our students have shown so much compassion," Miller says. "They want to make sure those kids have a good Christmas."

Sunflower students and staff donated toys from Nov. 29-Dec. 8. A group of fourth-graders will deliver the gifts to Children's Mercy Wichita.

Fourth-graders saw the project as a fun way to help others during the holidays. But there were so many other lessons wrapped into it, such as teamwork, communication through writing marketing messages, design and engineering principles, math and financial principles, and empathy and compassion.

"I hope they discovered something they're interested in," says Brooke Cox, another fourth-grade teacher. "Whether it's designing, building, or even just an interest in CAPS. This project just really connected well for our students."



## Andover CAPS highlights this semester



### Business Strand

Students have completed more than 70 hours of job shadowing and client meetings during November. They also are working on six different projects for clients in the areas of marketing, entrepreneurship, sports broadcasting and investing.

A team of four students is competing in the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition. At press time, the team is ranked in the top 15 in the entire world!



### Engineering Strand

Opportunities for engineering students have included:

- Naaman Ritchie with Blake Clotia hosted engineering students for a tour of their industrial casework manufacturing facility.
- Alex Hammel with Spirit AeroSystems presented to students about Spirit's summer internship programs and career opportunities.
- Students attended the Wichita Industrial Trade Show and interacted with vendors from companies that serve the manufacturing industry in Wichita. They learned about the latest technology in machining, CAD/CAM software, digital scanning, additive manufacturing and much more.



### Medical Strand

Students have learned about medication administration, including various types of injections, neurological checks, mental assessments and cardiovascular health.

They also have worked on college preparation, including creating a professional portfolio and completing mock interviews. Students have completed more than 70 hours of job shadowing and have the opportunity to complete simulation labs with the KU School of Medicine.

## What is Andover CAPS?

The Andover Center for Advanced Professional Studies is an opportunity for juniors and seniors at Andover High School and Andover Central High School to learn professional skills and explore career interests before entering college.

Students spend half their day at CAPS. The first part of the semester is learning skills such as how to write a work email, how to dress professionally and how to hold a professional meeting. The rest of the semester is spent meeting with industry professionals, creating mentorship relationships, working on real-world projects for businesses or any other exploration opportunities the students and teachers work together to create.

Currently, CAPS has three "strands," or areas of emphasis: Engineering, Business/Entrepreneurship and Medical. A fourth strand, CAPS Create, is a flexible strand that allows students in any other area of interest to help create their own plan of study.

CAPS gives students the freedom to explore career possibilities to determine what they want to pursue, or just as importantly, what they don't want to pursue. Students also are encouraged to change areas of exploration mid-semester if necessary.

Interested in learning more? Visit [caps.usd385.org](http://caps.usd385.org) or email Brian Gregoire, director of Andover CAPS, at [gregoirb@usd385.org](mailto:gregoirb@usd385.org)



# Aquatics Center opens for swim season

When Jaguar and Trojan swimmers splashed into the new Andover Public Schools Aquatics Center in mid-November, they had a place to call home for the first time.

“This is amazing,” says Allison Craig, who coaches the Andover Central High School swim teams. “It was nice swimming at the YMCA, but especially after winning state last year, it’s really exciting for us to actually have a pool, and a place to show off our talents and have home meets.”

The Aquatics Center, attached to the new Andover High School, will quickly get its time to shine as it hosts home meets for both schools and the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League meet in February. Swimming is a winter sport for boys and a spring sport for girls.

The center features ground-to-ceiling windows on the north side, allowing sunlight to glisten off the clear water.

“It’s so nice because many of the pools around this area feel more like a dungeon because there are no windows,” says Kelsie Biebighauser, who coaches the Andover High School boys team. “The windows are great to add that natural light. It’s a nice pool.”

The center was among the \$188 million in facility enhancements approved by voters in May 2017. It is among the final projects to be completed.

Swimmers say they appreciate having their own place to call home.

“It’s really nice because when we come in here, it’s just us,” says AHS senior Carter Champlin. “The water’s crystal clear. No one’s in it. When you get in, it’s your pool.”

Matt Hurst is the maintenance employee charged with making sure the water stays crystal clear and chemically balanced. He completed a certification course, visited with other pool managers and worked with various contractors to get the pool operational.

Though the chemical system is automatic, Hurst must test the chemical levels every day to ensure safety. He also backwashes the pool filter and vacuums the pool. All of the 287,000 gallons go through the filtration system every six hours.

Though he’s not a swimmer, he takes pride in making sure the facility is in top condition for the high school teams.

“This is my office,” he says. “I mean, I get a giant pool to be around all day and enjoy.”

The symbolism of having both the Jaguar and Trojan logos on the center’s wall — and that the pool represents all of Andover — is not lost on the swimmers.

“Although there is that rivalry there, it’s kind of nice for Andover,” says Ethan Finney, an ACHS sophomore swimmer. “We’re like brothers, right? We have a mutual understanding with each other, and it’s nice to be able to share the pool.”

## Pool facts

**Location:** Attached to Andover High School  
**Lanes:** 8  
**Depth:** 4.5 to 12 feet

**Diving boards:** 2  
**Water capacity:** 287,000 gallons  
**Other amenities:** Locker rooms, coaches’ offices, spectator seating

# Bond projects nearing completion

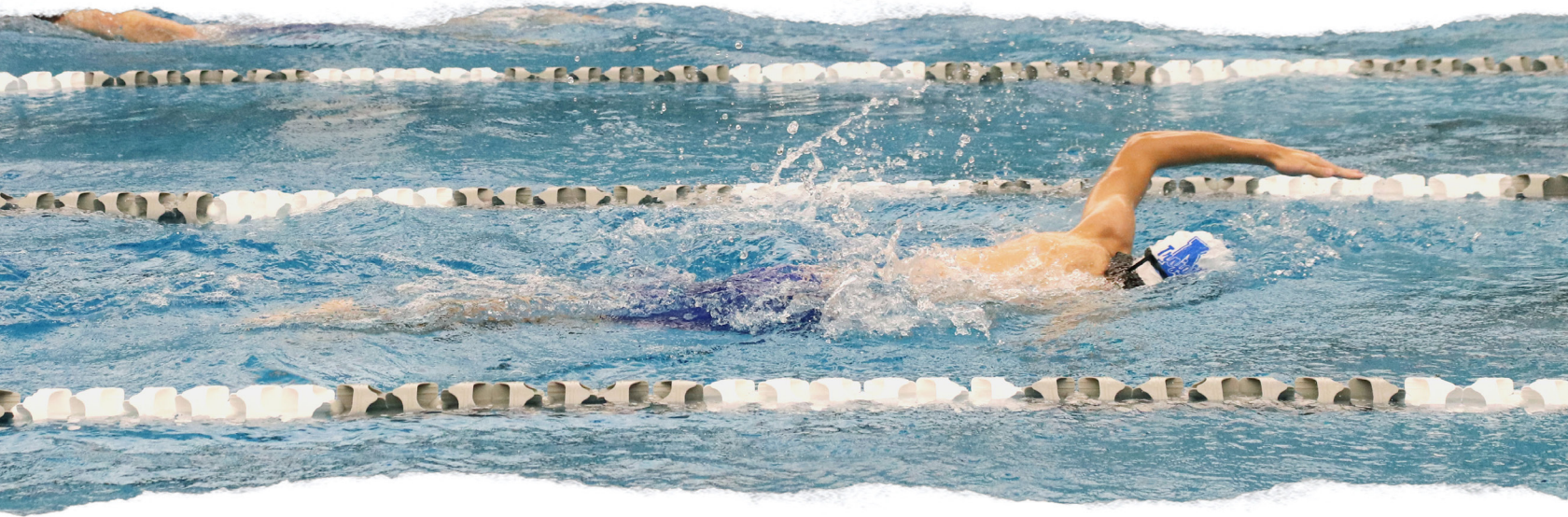
Crews are nearing the completion of the \$188 million in bond-funded construction projects approved by voters in May 2017.

With the completion of the Aquatics Center this fall, the last major remaining bond project is the new District Office. The office, which will house district administration and information technology, is scheduled to open early summer 2022 at 1432 N. Andover Road. It will feature a multipurpose room that will be used for professional learning and Board of Education meetings. The facility,

which cost approximately \$6 million, will be just under 20,000 square feet.

District Office has been housed in the former Meadowlark Elementary School at 1411 N. Main St. during construction.

Because projects came in under budget, work will soon begin on supplemental projects that will be funded through bond revenue. See Superintendent Brett White's letter on page 3 for more on those projects.



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# Forming positive habits for the whole family

*By Alysia Rich, family engagement consultant*

Have you ever noticed that bad habits seem easy to pick up, while the positive habits can seem difficult to master? Check out the tips below to help you, and everyone in your family, create positive, lasting habits!

## Positive habits help to

- Build a sense of responsibility and independence
- Increase productivity
- Boost self-esteem and increase emotional well-being
- Lower stress

\*For further explanation and more strategies to help your family, watch the September, October or November Family Talk sessions at [usd385.org/family-resources](http://usd385.org/family-resources) and use the handouts provided to begin making a plan.

## STEPS TO CREATE POSITIVE HABITS

START



1

Consider the identity you want to create.



Ex: I am someone who gives my best effort in school.

2



Brainstorm behaviors that someone with that identity would display.

Ex: Someone who gives their best effort in school arrives on time, completes work and asks questions.

4



List the actions you will need to take in order for that behavior to occur.

Ex: Get homework done when I get home; take my work with me to the appropriate class; make sure I have my work turned in before I leave class.



Choose one new behavior from your list that you would like to make a habit.

Ex: A new behavior I want to focus on is turning my homework in on time.

3

Choose one action to develop into a habit.

5



Ex: I will check that I have my work turned in at the end of class

FINISH



## Upcoming Dates

*Family Talk is a monthly, virtual meeting designed to help your student be their best. Here are upcoming topics.*

- **January 11** - Reflecting, celebrating and looking ahead
- **February 15** - Supporting our children's mental health
- **March 29** - Tackling tough topics
- **April 26** - Support learning over the summer
- **May 3** - How to avoid the "summer slump"



# news in brief

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## Horizon Award nominees



**Schmoll**



**Schmidt**

Madison Schmoll, band director at Andover Middle School and other north-side schools, and Kari Schmidt, third-grade teacher at Meadowlark Elementary, are the 2021-22 Andover Public Schools nominees for the Kansas Horizon Award. The award recognizes outstanding educators who are in their second year in the classroom.

## Teacher of the Year nominee

Allison Weide, fourth-grade teacher at Meadowlark Elementary, is the Andover Public Schools nominee for Kansas Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Weide is known for creative projects such as turning her students into travel agents to learn about social studies, A Night at the Oscars, when students dress for the red carpet and discuss the books they read during the year, and determine Best Villain, Best Lead Male Character, etc.; and a Passion Project, in which students complete a project near and dear to their heart.



**Weide**

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## Four students named National Merit Semifinalists



**Norris**



**Ng**



**Lee**



**Hippisley**

Jacob Norris and Melissa Ng of Andover Central High School, and Daul Lee and John Hippisley of Andover High School were named 2021 National Merit Semifinalists. They are among the top approximately 1 percent of high school seniors who took the PSAT exam last year.

### STATE CHAMPIONS



Congratulations to the Andover High School girls' tennis team, which won the 5A state championship in October. The team, coached by Stephen Alexander and Mark Cross, earned 46 points, easily cruising to the top spot over second-place Salina Central.

## Andover introducing orchestra in 2022-23

After two years of delay due to Covid, Andover Public Schools will implement an orchestra program beginning in the 2022-23 school year.

In early December, parents of students in grades 4-11 received a survey gauging interest in orchestra. Results of that survey will help guide many of the decisions regarding the details of the program, which will be announced this spring.

As part of bond-funded construction approved by voters in May 2017, each middle school and high school now has a dedicated orchestra room for rehearsals.

# We're thankful for your support to move Andover forward



**Ronnie Price,  
Andover mayor**

The holiday season is upon us and what better time to reflect as we have so much to be thankful for in our community. Andover is second to none in my humble opinion. When I reference the Andover community, I'm referring to Andover citizens and the 385 school district. Let's face it, we don't let the line that is 159th Street separate us from being a strongly connected community.

I want to thank the citizens of Andover for trusting their local elected officials and city staff members by passing the sales tax overwhelmingly (2 to 1) in the Nov. 2 election. I want to thank everyone involved for getting information out so the electorate could make an informed decision before casting their ballots. It was all-hands-on-deck and as a team we worked hard to get this Family Future Forward tax proposal in the public's hands in a timely manner. Based on the Fire Department's Comprehensive Analysis of Fire Service Report, which was completed in 2017, the need for a fire station south of U.S. 54/400 was shared. The newly created Andover Parks and Recreation Playbook 2030, which resulted from input by City elected officials, staff, residents and local businesses, guided the recommendations for the proposed 13th Street Sports Park Projects. The Andover Parks & Recreation Playbook 2030 was accomplished part and parcel through a scientific survey sent out to many Andover citizens for their views of Andover Parks and Recreation going forward. We also created a Parks and Recreation

Advisory Board, made up of various individuals from our community, focusing on inclusiveness through as many avenues as possible. I have no doubt Andover will be an example set for others to follow and as a community we will be proud of what we have accomplished.

We won't let you, the citizens of Andover, down! We will work hard to realize these improvements as efficiently and as effectively as possible while always being mindful of the taxpayer dollars.

I also want to thank the public for getting out to vote. It's a blessing to have an engaged and caring community that pays attention to local elections and understands the importance of each vote.

I look forward to continuing to work with the three City Council incumbents re-elected to their seats and advancing Andover to all it can be for all citizens of Andover. We have put in a lot of work the last two years together and we will continue to push forward.

In this holiday season, take time to reflect while being excited about going forward as a close-knit community. Spend time with family and friends and be thankful as we close out 2021.

Thank all of you so very much for the pleasure of serving as your mayor, as I am truly humbled by the opportunity to serve you and your families.

Happy holidays. Be safe, healthy and happy.

Ronnie Price, Mayor  
City of Andover

# Thank You

## for saying



**1 cent  
Temporary  
Sales Tax Increase**



# YES!



**2ND FIRE STATION  
LOCATED  
SOUTH OF US HWY 54**



**REDESIGN OF  
13TH STREET  
SPORTS PARK**

# What's next: Future Family Forward projects

On Nov. 2, Andover citizens voted to approve the temporary 1 percent sales tax. Because of this, the City of Andover will be able to continue providing high levels of public safety and quality of life services for the City's current and future chapters.

The sales tax will fund a second fire, rescue and emergency medical services station south of U.S. 54/400 and improvements to the City's Parks and Recreation system. The use of a sales tax collects money from both visitors and residents and relieves the burden of funding through property tax, which only Andover residents pay. The temporary 1 percent sales tax will end no later than eight years. The estimated cost of these projects is approximately \$17 million.

The process for building and equipping the new Fire Station #2 at the corner of Minneha Avenue and Andover Road has already begun, with GLMV as our architect. They will begin working with the design team to have a preliminary design completed in February 2022. Construction documents, bidding and awarding of project contractors is slated to take place in the third quarter of 2022, with ground breaking to begin in late August of 2022.

For the design and construction of a reimagined 13th Street Sports Park, PEC has been hired as the lead engineering firm for Phases 1 and 2. The upcoming months will be filled with stakeholder meetings and design concepts, development of construction documents, and bidding and awarding of contractors in 2nd quarter of 2022.



## Phase 1: \$3.2 million – Tentative construction start date of June 2022 with estimated completion by June 2023.

- 5 new ball diamonds (relocation of existing with proper drainage added and addition of 1 new one)
- New concession stand/restroom building
- A 240-space parking lot
- New playground with adjacent picnic shelter north of the parking lot and another shelter and restroom south of the parking lot
- New basketball court
- 2 new sand volleyball courts
- Conversion of large areas of turf grass to native grass meadow
- New network of multi-modal trails that take advantage of the site's natural amenities and setting.

## Phase 2: \$2.5 million – Tentative start date of June 2022 with estimated completion in 2023

- Destination playground (i.e. one people come specifically to play on and see!)
- Splash pad
- New parking lot
- Adult fitness area (outdoor)
- A "Great Lawn" gathering area
- New picnic shelters/restrooms
- 8 outdoor racket sport courts

## Phase 3: \$4.5 million – Tentative start date in 2023 with opening in late 2025 or 2026

- Build new Community Center (double the size of the current Andover Community Center) with classrooms, a walking track and a regulation-size basketball court
- Wayfinding kiosks and signage
- Convert current Community Center to Maintenance Building for Parks Department
- Convert current tennis courts to meadow for nature walk/observation space



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