

YOUR SCHOOLS

2023

Aurora City School District

From the Superintendent

By MIKE ROBERTO
Superintendent of Schools



As the 2022-2023 School Year came to an end there were many causes for celebrations as well as excitement for the upcoming school year. Since our last *Your Schools* publication in February both the winter and spring

sports seasons brought in several Suburban League titles to Greenmen Nation including Girls' and Boys' Swimming, Wrestling, Softball, and Baseball. In the arts we were treated to the Spring Musical *Bye, Bye, Birdie* under the direction of **Rob Albrecht** and the District Art Show which featured work ranging from our 3rd graders up through our Advanced Placement artists at AHS. Spring Concerts for Orchestra (grades 4-12), Choir (2nd-12th), and Band (5th-12th) also filled the auditorium with beautiful music so needless to say there was a lot going on in our district outside of the school day for the community as well as during the school day with the community.

This spring, in our **Service Learning Class** facilitated by **Melissa Foster** (AHS), young people were tasked to find a servant leader in the community, interview them, and write a paper. Six of these servant leaders, including Aurora Board of Education member **Mike Acomb** representing Aurora Youth Football, then came to AHS to talk with the class about their service. It was a great example of meeting our district's goal of getting the schools out into the community and the community into the schools. Thanks also go out to the other five servant leaders who spoke at AHS including **Eddy Cheyfitz** (Believe in Dreams), **Ron Clarke** (Rescue Village), **Liz Sutter** (Aurora Relief Fund), **Grant Cromeens** (Silver Creek Church),

Superintendent continued on p. 3

13TH ANNUAL OUTSTANDING GREENMEN AWARDS



1st Row: Eddie Nabring - **Grant Thieding**; Jenna Schadle - **Ava Hernandez**; Melissa Foster - **Medha Kishore**; Toni Taylor - **Mitchel Ganzhorn**; Melissa Lindley - **Lulu McGhee**; Monika Biro - **Maime Blados**
2nd Row: Mike Rubin - **Charlie Carpenter**; Sarah Dixon - **Gianna Malie**; Nick Kukarola - **Reid Gavalier**; Kelley Mehallis - **Alayna Brooker**; Jay Price - **Zach Anzells**; Eric Head - **Selah DuRoss**

Congratulations are in order for the AHS 2023 Outstanding Greenmen and their selected Honored Educators. The AHS Outstanding Greenmen Banquet was held at the Barrington Country Club on April 6, 2023. The AHS staff evaluates and then votes for seniors based on characteristics including, **Academics, Service/Work, School Participation, Leadership, and Character**. After being chosen, the Outstanding Greenmen then selected an "Honored Educator" who they

felt has made a significant impact on their educational path within the Aurora Schools.

AHS Principal, Mike Hayes, said, "Congratulations to the 12 AHS seniors and their Honored Educators for being recognized at the 13th Annual Outstanding Greenmen Awards! The evening was an inspirational reminder of the power of compassion and human connection!"

ACSD BOASTS 3 AHS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

The Aurora City School District would like to congratulate the three Aurora High School Class of 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSF) Finalist students, **Leo Diamantis, Kate Liang, and Phoebe Yao**.

According to the NMSF 2023 Finalists press release, "The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state."

To become a Finalist, a Semifinalist must submit a detailed scholarship application, have an outstanding high school academic record, be endorsed by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT® or ACT® scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test." In 2023, every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit Scholarship \$2,500 scholarships with award winners announced beginning in April and concluding in July of 2023.

Aurora High School Principal, Mike Hayes, said, "Congrats to the 2023 AHS National Merit Finalists Kate Liang, Leo Diamantis and Phoebe Yao! They represent the elite of the elite across the country! Way to make Greenmen Nation Proud."



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WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S NEW



AHS Science Olympiad Team – **Barry Wessels** (far left) with **Dmitri Kourennyi** (far right)

Congratulations to the **AHS Science Olympiad Team**, led by **Dmitri Kourennyi** and **Community Volunteer, Barry Wessels**. The team qualified for the State Tournament at Regional competition on March 11, 2023 by earning 3 gold medals, 4 silver medals and 6 bronze medals in events. Overall, the team tied Copley for 2nd place and came in 3rd place due to a tiebreaker. The State Tournament took place on April 29, 2023 at The Ohio State University. Thank you to AHS alumni, **Christina Boehm** and **Zach Francisco**, for volunteering their time to be tournament proctors for this event.



Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine with **Barb Kudley** (left) and **Jodi Roscoe** (right)

Craddock School's Book Fair week included an art show and the addition of their new **Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine** and ribbon cutting celebration. Classrooms went on scavenger hunts to find their Inchy gold coins which were then used to select one book for each classroom library. Thank you to the PTO, librarian, **Barb Kudley** and reading interventionist, **Jodi Roscoe**, for all of their work to make this happen.

Ken Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora, the community partner of the **ACSD Drug Free Club**, offered the senior winner of the club's car contest a new 2-year car lease or \$5,000. Thank you to Ganley Chevrolet General

Manager, **James Reinart**, for his continued support of our Aurora community and school families and helping students to make the right decisions! Congratulations to this year's winner, **Katelyn Creamer**.



AHS Quiz Bowl Team

AHS Quiz Bowl Coach, Annie Walker, and her **Quiz Bowl Team** qualified for the **National Academic Quiz Tournament's 2023 High School National Championship Tournament** in Atlanta, GA on May 26-28th. The team was recognized by the Aurora BOE on March 20th for their achievement.

Rotary
Club of Aurora



Rotary Students of the Month
December 2022 – Harmon ~ **Reid Arnold, Maya Volf**
February 2023 – AHS - **Reid Gavalier, Jenna Van Raepenbusch**
March 2023 – Harmon – **Aiden Abramovich, Elena Mighton**
April 2023 – AHS – **Brady Schambach, Jordan Slaw**



AHS students helped raise all of the funds needed to create the **GO GREENMEN!** mural located in the hallway leading to the AHS varsity gym and cafeteria. Way to go!



Congratulations to **AHS Portage County Honors Breakfast** recipients **Charlie Carpenter** and **Medha Kishore** who were recognized with seniors from across Portage County for their outstanding accomplishments on May 9, 2023.

Congratulations to AHS senior, **Alayna Brooker**, who was selected as an **Ohio Lottery Partners in Education Shining Star** recipient. A video featuring her achievements can be found on the Ohio Lottery website.

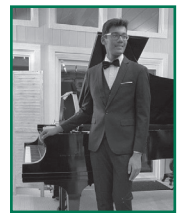


Over 200 bears were boxed and delivered to **Akron Children's Hospital** for the **ACSD Build-A-Bear 2023** campaign. A big thank you goes to **ACSD Instructors, Stacey Slackford-Barns, Mike Rubin, John LoGalbo** and **student volunteers** for all of their hard work in achieving this extremely worthwhile accomplishment.



AHS is looking forward to welcoming their new **Therapy Dog, Queso**, who will join ACSD School Resource Officer, Tony Tritto, at the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.

Congratulations to **Arjun Lokesh** who won first place in the 2023 Grand Prize Virtuoso "Brussels" Piano Competition. He was invited to perform in the world famous recital hall at the Centre for Fine Arts of Brussels. Arjun's younger brother, **Akash**,



also won first place in his category and was invited to perform at the same recital hall. Very impressive accomplishments!



Who's Who continued on p.3



YOUR SCHOOLS

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Your Schools is a publication of the Aurora City School District. Its purpose is to keep residents of Aurora informed of current events and progress in the Aurora City Schools and to foster pride and a continuous communication link between the schools and the community.

Your Schools has been awarded the "Mark of Excellence" and "Best of the Best" Awards by the Ohio Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association for service as a school district newsletter. *Your Schools* is a quarterly publication, mailed to all residents of Aurora. For information, comments, or story ideas, e-mail Editor Stacey DeAnna at: yourschools@aurora-schools.org.

Who's Who continued from p.2



ACSD Intervention Specialist, **Victor Torres**, was proud to be a part of the inaugural **Council for Exceptional Children** leadership cohort. Thank you to Victor for all you do for our district and our students.

This year's **Rotary Club's Four-Way Speech Contest** had four winners with **Kamryn Taylor** winning first place (\$250), **Jane Gerdes** earning second place (\$150), **Maddie Holohan** taking third place (\$50) and **Jenny Laoweerayothin** (\$50) placing fourth. Because of the impressive nature of the speeches, an anonymous donor gave all our contestants an additional \$250. Thank you to English teacher **Kate White** for facilitating Aurora's participation.



Congratulations to **Xavier Board**, **Joe Janzig** and **Thomas Sobodosh** who were recognized as the **2023 AHS Underclassmen Visionary Students of the Year** for their ongoing commitment to upholding the roots of the ACSD strategic vision.

Superintendent - Continued from p.1

and **Eddie Van Pelt** (Vimby). The seniors in **Toni Taylor's** English class also connected to the community as they had the privilege to listen to Aurora Police Officer and School Resource Officer (SRO) **Tony Tritto** share his experience in Afghanistan while serving in the military. Toni invited Tony to speak because the seniors were in the middle of reading *The Kite Runner* which takes place in Afghanistan and so much of the culture and history of this far away land came to life for these students as Tony shared pictures, information, and some very interesting stories. What a great way to take advantage of a primary resource right here in the ACSD while getting another community member into the schools. One last example of our school community connections for this spring took place when we welcomed Ohio House Representative **Gail Pavliga**, from our own House District 72, who visited Leighton and was given a little tour by Leighton Principal **Michelle Nizen** which included stops in **Sarah Most** and **Lori Heller's** fourth grade classrooms. While on the tour Representative Pavliga mentioned wanting to say hello to



The over 200 **AHS Drug Free Club** members who optionally commit to a healthy lifestyle were treated to a free Kona icee during lunch in April. **Jack** (left), **Grace** and **Frank Berendt**

Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra members from AHS include **Grace, Frank and Jack Berendt**. The students perform four concerts per year at Severance Hall. The **Akron Orchestra Youth Orchestra** students included **Julia-Marie Cooch, Philip Yao** and **Alex Jin** (Contemporary).



The **Aurora PTO's** partnered with **Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora** to proudly present, "Magic Gives Back!" on May 7, 2023 at Solon High School.

The Las Vegas style variety and magic illusion show offered families a fun evening and while earning funds for both PTOs. Thank you to Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora for sponsoring this event.

The **AHS Z Club** hosted a **Think Pink Gala** and donated the funds to the **Susan G. Komen Fund**.

This year's nominees for the **Dazzle Awards** in **Best Ensemble/Chorus** and **Best Scenic Design** includes the AHS spring musical **Bye Bye Birdie**. The Dazzle awards inspire and honor excellence in high school musical theater and recognize the importance of musical theater and arts education in the Northeast Ohio community.

third grade teacher **Jen Bindus** who testified about the Third Grade Reading Guarantee (HB117) in Columbus earlier in the year. Ironically, not two minutes later Jen walked around the corner and they got to touch base. Finally, Representative Pavliga sat down with Michelle Nizen, Assistant Superintendent **Paul Milcetic** and me to discuss what is happening in Columbus and we were also able to share our ideas and concerns for public education. It was a great discussion and we appreciated the Aurora-Columbus connections.

Finally, throughout late May and early June 2023, the Aurora City Schools hosted several open house sessions for interested community members, parents, students, and educators to learn about and provide feedback on the master plan options currently being considered by the district. With aging infrastructure and a growing population as the primary considerations in the process, the district has been developing facility solutions to meet the needs of the district. Over 160 people attended who learned about the process, asked questions,

AHS "LET IT RAIN" UMBRELLA PROJECT



The AHS Art Department held its 2022-23 "Let It Rain" fundraising contest as a part of The Umbrella Project. Students voted for their favorite painted umbrella created by the art department students

by dropping money into collection jars located next to each umbrella. The student with the most "votes" advanced to Round 2 of judging for a chance to win a LEAF (Lead, Educate, Advance, Facilitate) Umbrella Project scholarship. The proceeds from the contest benefited the AHS Art Department and LEAF to purchase additional art supplies. Congratulations to **Lauren Baka, Hazel Breyer, Coby Connor, Paul Davet, Autumn Devincintis, Selah Durooss, Elakia Vadivelan**, and **Phoebe Yao** who moved were named as Top 50 entries and advanced to Round 2 judging.

Lauren Baka, Hazel Breyer, Elakia Vadivelan, and **Phoebe Yao** then moved on to the Top 25 winners category where the umbrellas were auctioned off at the Singing in the Rain Live Auction Benefit at Great Lakes Mall. Congratulations also go to the Excel TECC CADD juniors team of **James Blaser** (Aurora) and Peter Regas (Mayfield) for taking first place in the LEAF Ohio Umbrella Engineering Challenge. Thank you to the Aurora Schools Foundation for the grant money used to buy back 12 LEAF umbrellas the art students created to display in the halls at AHS and Harmon School as inspiration. To learn more about LEAF and this fundraiser go to: <https://mycommunityfocus.app/programs/leaf-umbrella-project>.

and provided feedback on the issues facing Aurora City Schools. Each attendee had the chance to insert their feedback in an online survey to be considered as plans develop.

While still early in the process, the district gathered feedback from the community on the two plans that are being explored and will continue to incorporate this into the planning process. If you would like to learn more, and see the plans that were presented at the open house, please go to our district website at www.aurora-schools.org and click on the ACSD Facilities Master Plan Project link on the top right hand side of the webpage.

I hope you enjoy the time this summer with family and friends and look forward to seeing everyone in August as we look toward the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Go Greenmen!

Mike

SPORT REPORT



Congratulations to **Carolyn Jakosh** for being selected as one of the recipients of the **Sportsmanship Award** among 120 gymnasts at sectionals.



Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated the week of May 9 - 16, 2023 and the Aurora City School District would like to thank our teachers and entire staff for the caring, dedication and commitment to Aurora's students. That commitment has made us one of the top school districts in the State of Ohio and recognized nationally for our excellence. We thank you and appreciate all that you do every day!

Congratulations **Tyler Ertle** and **Hannah Rogge** on receiving the **OHSAA Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Awards** for 2023.



to the state meet bringing back a 4th place finish. Way to go!

Hannah Salgado State Bound in Gymnastics



Johnny Green, Quinn Gorman, Gio Kaplan, Michael Kennedy, Reese Sesny, and Cole Walton. AHS sophomores **Luke** and **Johnny Green** (D1-113-pound class) then qualified for the **OHSAA Division I State Wrestling Tournament!** **Johnny Green** brought home a 5th place (D1-113-pound class) title and **Luke Green** (D1-106-pound class) brought back an 8th place in State competition.



Swimming/Diving members **Nate New, Xander Roy,** and **Alayna Brooker** (pictured) represented our Greenmen Nation at States. Four-time qualifier for States, Alayna Brooker, earned

a 5th place finish in the 100 Breast Stroke in State competition. **Coach Mehallis** has much to be proud of!

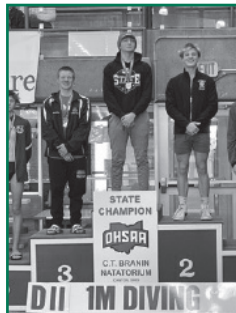


Congratulations to the **Girls Track Team** on their District Finals competition appearance. They also won the **John Kudley Track Invitational** while the **Boys' Track Team** which finished second in the invitational.



Way to go **Vince Cannata** on his hard fought **Districts** tennis match 2-hour thriller where he eventually lost a 3rd set tie-breaker 7-9.

Colton McCrae won 3rd place in the State diving competition. Congratulations! You made Greenmen Nation very proud!



Congratulations to the **Aurora Softball Team** who won their third consecutive **Suburban League Championship** with a dominating 18-5 victory over Highland. Pitcher **McKennah Metzger** was named 1st team All-Conference, 1st team All-District, 1st team State of Ohio Conference Player of the Year, Conference Pitcher of the Year, single season high school HR record! **Metzger** was highlighted as the **Ohio Lottery Partners in Education Shining Star** program for the week of May 12, 2023. She will be heading to Kent State University to play softball in the fall. Her video can be found at Cleveland.com.

Max Bailey, Cam Good, Nate New and **Xander Roy** all headed to State Track competition in the 200 Medley Relay, 200 Free Relay.

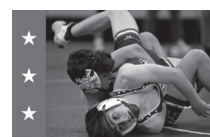


Gymnastics Team at Sectionals

The **AHS Greenmen Gymnastics Team** advanced to **District** competition as a team after placing 3rd out of 20 teams in Sectionals. This was a first in the history of the AHS gymnastics program! **Kaitlin Zgonc** and **Hannah Salgado** advanced to Districts in the individual competition and **Salgado** advanced



The junior **Class of 2024** girls team beat the seniors in a 20-8 victory in the **AHS Powderpuff** annual game.



LUKE GREEN
2023 state placer (W/D1 106)



JOHNNY GREEN
2023 state placer (W/D1 113)

Congratulations to Greenmen wrestling **Coaches Johnson** and **Tritto**, who had eight District qualifiers: **Kyle Bizjack, Luke Green,**



Congratulations to Zach Nemet and **Grace Barto** on receiving the **2023 AHS Outstanding Male and Female Athlete Awards.**

ROBERTO DELIVERS 2023 STATE OF THE SCHOOLS ADDRESS



The Aurora City School District's Superintendent, Mike Roberto, presented his State of the Schools' address during the City of Aurora's State of the City luncheon on March 15, 2023. This year's annual luncheon was held at the Bertram Inn & Conference Center. Roberto explained that, "This year I will be completing my third year as superintendent of the schools, but it is the first out from under the cloud of the pandemic."

Roberto shared that it has been a little over a year since he introduced the district's new strategic vision, which can be found on the district website, saying that it focuses on the district mantra, Aurora Learners – Future Ready.

Roberto went on to explain that, "Starting with the 2021-2022 school year and moving forward school districts in Ohio are being rated on a 5-star scale with 3 stars meaning a district is meeting state requirements and 4 or 5 stars meaning the district exceeds or significantly exceeds the state expectations for particular components (Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation Rate, Early Literacy) as measured by the Ohio Department of Education. The ACSD was one of only twelve districts out of over 600 in Ohio to earn 5 stars." He added, "Our goal as educators is not to raise test scores, but to help raise human beings. That is the narrative we would like you to take away from this report card...a narrative of Aurora Learners who are Future Ready."

While Roberto feels that the Aurora community is supportive of the district narrative, he added, "to be honest I believe folks outside the district recognize the value of Aurora Schools as well. Aurora seems to be a popular place lately..." which led to his update on the district's potential new construction need. Roberto went on to explain, "The need to look into potential new construction is two-fold. The first is a side effect of a strong state report card and a near perfect Special Education Profile. That is to say, young families want to bring their children to Aurora because of the strong school system. The second is centered around the fact that there is now more available housing for families to move into the district. Expansions in existing developments, such as Hawthorn, along

with several additional new developments throughout the city, have made Aurora a destination district for families with children. As an example, since the end of May, we have had over 55 new students move into the district. It appears to be the beginning of enrollment growth similar to the late 1990s which led to the construction of Leighton Intermediate School in 2001." The search for potential new construction began in March 2023 and resulted in the Aurora BOE approving the ThenDesign Architectural (TDA) firm based in Willoughby to take the lead on researching the potential construction research. The district then held staff/community open houses to gather resident feedback in the spring. Roberto said, "Although we are in the early stages of a long process, we are excited for the journey. Over the next year we, along with TDA, will be holding meetings and completing research to determine if the community is willing to support construction of a new school and if so, what type of school would best fit within the district."

Roberto also voiced concerns about two concerns coming from legislation in Columbus. One is Ohio Governor De Wine's intention to expand the EdChoice Program which increases the income eligibility threshold from 250% TO 400% of the federal poverty level to qualify students for the income-based version of the EdChoice program. The second is the SB11 is titled the "Parent Education Freedom Act" but is labeled the "Backpack Bill" by many because it allows public school dollars to be carried away to non-public schools. This is a concern to public schools because funding for school vouchers comes from the same line-item in the state budget which funds public schools.

AHS EARNS SECOND PURPLE STAR DESIGNATION



Congratulations are in store once again for Aurora High School (AHS) for earning another Purple Star Award from the Ohio Department of Education's Purple Star Advisory Board. This is the second consecutive time AHS has earned this award. When awarded with the Purple Star Award, schools receive the recognition that lasts for three years. The Purple Star Award is given to military friendly schools who have shown a major commitment to students and families in the military. In order to earn this honor, a school must have a trained school liaison who is required to complete a rigorous application process which includes providing



AHS Principal, **Mike Hayes**, and AHS students, **Charlie Carpenter**, **Allie DeSapri**, **Vikas Duvvuri**, **Payton Griffith**, and **Dmirty Volf**, were special guests at the City of Aurora's State of the City luncheon in February. This event allowed them to get a glimpse of local government and valuable insight into Aurora's progress and future plans.

Roberto concluded with, "Now despite these concerns, the faculty and staff of the Aurora Schools continue to provide a first class education opportunity with a focus on our commitment to putting kids first by providing them with a safe nurturing learning environment. We are deeply committed to protecting and promoting the strengths of Aurora; and undoubtedly one of them is the Aurora Schools. I'm honored to lead this wonderful school system in such a great community and we appreciate the amazing support you give to our district. It is truly a fantastic time to be an Aurora Greenmen."

all of the requirements needed to earn the award. School district requirements include, supplying resources on the district website, providing a process to connect with military families and supporting various military related school activities. Several military examples of activities sponsored by AHS include, the Veterans Day Dinner/Celebration and the Hoodies for Heroes Fundraiser. Counselor Kalee Oberlin is once again the ACSD military family liaison. Superintendent, Mike Roberto, said of the honor, "Receiving this recognition is a testament to Aurora's community-values as well as the extensive efforts staff and stakeholders have gone to hosting events like the Veterans' Day Luncheon and Hoodies for Heroes Fundraiser supporting our country's military and their families."

CLASS ACTS



A **BIG CONGRATULATIONS** goes out to **REID GAVALIER** who was named the **AHS CLASS OF 2023 SENIOR OF THE YEAR!** This is a greatly deserved recognition for Gavalier.

Thank you to **AHS CHOIR INSTRUCTOR, SARAH DIXON**, who made sure her students visited Aurora's **ANNA MARIA ASSISTED LIVING CENTER** for Valentine's Day. The students sang for the residents providing them with a "sweet treat" on their Valentine's Day.

AHS teachers, **KAREN BAKER** and **JESSICA TRESKO**, applied for and received a grant from the **AURORA SCHOOLS**



FOUNDATION to bring cast members from the **GREAT LAKES THEATRE COMPANY'S** production of Rome & Juliet to AHS. AHS teachers, **KATE WHITE** and **JENESS KINGTON**, then collaborated to give all the 9th grade English Language Arts classes the innovative opportunity to work with the visiting actors while performing some of the scenes.

All of the ACSD K-3 teachers completed **MANDATORY DYSLEXIA TRAINING** during **STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY** on March 6, 2023.

AHS SERVICE LEARNING and **INTERACT CLUB** members spent several weekends helping to clean out a storage room at the **AURORA VFW** in February and assisted with a carnival at the **METZENBAUM CENTER** during **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH** in March.

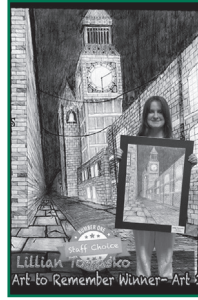
ART CLASS NOTABLES

Congratulations to AHS Underclassmen Artist of the Year, **ELAKIA VADIVELAN**, who added her painted brick to the Artist of the Year brick honor wall in the art room.



CLARA BULTROWICZ
- Pen & Ink

LILLIAN TOMASKO
- Voted #1 by staff in Perspective Drawing - Art Class 1



SLIDER and the **CLE HOT DOGS** visited Miller School on Thursday, May 18th. Students wore Cleveland Guardians gear or red, yellow or white in support of their favorite condiment.



Thank you to the **AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT** for their help in teaching students in the **AHS HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES** how to save lives using **CPR**.

AHS PHYSICS STUDENTS spent **ENGINEER DAY** at **BRIDGESTONE TIRE & RUBBER CO.** learning about tire related physics and concepts.



Thank you to ACSD BOE member, **MIKE ACOMB**, who spoke with the **AHS SERVICE LEARNING CLASS** regarding the importance of servant leadership.

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized by the **AURORA BOE** for being selected in November by the **AMERICAN LEGION** as winners of the **AMERICAN LEGION AMERICANISM AND GOVERNMENT TEST**:

12TH Grade - **SHAMISO MAPOSA, LOGAN ODEN**
11TH Grade - **DAMITRY VOLF, ALEXANDRA YUHASZ**
10TH Grade - **AVANTI CHOLLETI, RILEY LANE**

They earned the highest mark possible out of hundreds of students who took the exam and earned small scholarships along with the opportunity to advance in the competition. Thank you to AHS Instructor **CHRIS RADTKE** who worked with the American Legion to facilitate this endeavor.

GOODYEAR STEM DAY



Students from Harmon School participated in the **GOODYEAR STEM DAY** that took place on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at Firestone High School. The outreach event is to inform and encourage young people (grades 6-12) to pursue opportunities, educationally and professionally, in various science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines by networking, questioning, and learning directly from Goodyear associates.

ACSD **SRO, TONY TRITTO**, was a guest in **TONI TAYLOR'S** AHS senior English class and shared his experiences and pictures from Afghanistan while he was serving in the military. The students were reading *The Kite Runner* which takes place in Afghanistan and Tritto's presentation helped them understand the history and culture of the country.

With over 400,000 **SAT** tests taken nationally in March, 25% of test takers met the both test benchmarks in Reading/Writing and Math. At AHS, 61% of students met both benchmarks meaning the juniors more than doubled the national results.



The **AHS SERVICE LEARNING CLASS** hosted a **"WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES"** event on April 23, 2023 at the AHS track to emphasize spreading awareness to stop bullying and the importance of empathy. Funds raised from the walk were donated to children in need.

Thank you to Craddock School Instructor **TERI HICKEY** who had 402 1st and 2nd graders tie-dye shirts in art class. The shirts were then worn for Craddock's end of year music performance and field day.

A WALK DOWN
MEMORY
Lane

AHS seniors started a new tradition this year by "Walking Down Memory Lane." The senior class headed out to each of the Aurora school buildings on May 16, 2023 and, dressed in their caps and gowns, walked through the school buildings

to the delight of the district students and staff who came out to support them.



>> **COMMENCEMENT 2023** <<

Congratulations to the **Aurora High School Class of 2023** graduates. The 250 seniors graduated on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at Veterans Memorial Stadium at 8:00 p.m. Following the ceremony, a fireworks display capped off the memorable evening!

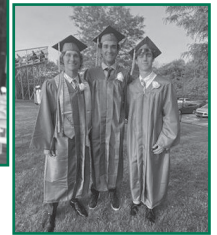
Prom Night

The AHS Class of 2023 enjoyed their Prom Night on Saturday, April 29th at the Signature of Solon Golf and Country Club

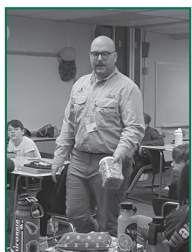


After Prom 2023

The Class of 2023 seniors attended their "Passport Around the World," themed After Prom on April 29, 2023 at Aurora High School. The event took place from 10:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.



CLASS ACTS



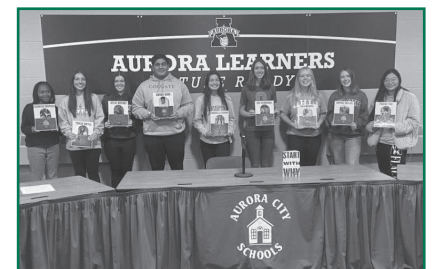
Harmon School 6th graders participated in Water Day on May 30, 2023. Students were treated to a guest speaker, **BEN JUREK**, prior to Water Day. He provided a comprehensive presentation about raising water awareness

to students and discussed how their local organization, Drink Local. Drink Tap. helps run an annual Edgewater Park clean up event. On Water Day, students had a live Zoom call from **ERIN HUBER ROSEN** from Drink Local. Drink Tap. from Uganda where she was showing how they open a new well. Then students carried water jugs around the AHS track to simulate the difficult task of acquiring fresh water from countries where running water is not available. Thanks to the **PORTAGE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION** for their \$500 grant for the speaker and to AHS teachers **KAREN SUNDERHAFT** and **LAURA BELL PETERS** for facilitating this amazing day of learning!



ACADEMIC SIGNING DAY

Congratulations to the nine AHS 10th Annual Academic Signing Day honorees who were recognized on May 8th. Senior recipients are recognized annually for receiving a merit based scholarship from the university they will attend that meets or exceeds 50% of the total direct cost of attending the university and/or matriculation to a university with a highly selective acceptance rate. AHS Principal, Mike Hayes, said, "Congrats to all AHS Academic Day Signees. They've earned incredible merit-based scholarships, matriculated to elite universities and are poised to continue making a profound impact!"



Pictured are the AHS Academic Signing Day 2023 Honorees (left to right): **Shamiso Maposa** (The Ohio State University); **Brigid Boyle** (University of Dayton); **Kylie Bryant** (Otterbein University); **Aarav Dani** (Colgate University); **Annabelle Zamary** (Tufts University); **Ava Hernandez** (The Ohio State University); **Lulu McGhee** (Ohio University); **Brooke Miller** (The Ohio State University); **Phoebe Yao** (Tufts University)

WELCOME BACK GRANDPARENT TEA

Harmon Middle School welcomed back an old favorite event, the Grandparent Tea, on May 3-4, 2023. This year marked the first time the building was able to hold this event since the Covid-19 pandemic. Grandparents/Guests were treated to numerous breakfast items, fruit and drinks to start off their morning with their student.



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DONUT DAYS WERE A HOLE LOT OF FUN! • DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE RECOGNIZED



Donut Days were celebrated again for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic at all of the ACSD elementary school buildings. It was great to see all of the sugary smiles once again!



The award winners for the ACSD 2023 Excellence in Service Awards have been announced. The district would like to congratulate **Stacey Slackford-Barnes** (PE Teacher at Miller School) for Excellence in Teaching, **Milka Begovic** (Paraeducator at Miller School) for Excellence in Classified Service, and both **Lisa Cuneo** and **Ellen Marks** for their Excellence in Service Awards. All of these winners were recognized by the Aurora BOE at their meeting on May 22, 2023. Thank you to each for their dedication to our district and our students. These recognitions were all extremely well deserved!



PRINCESS PROM SPARKLED

