



Ann Arbor Public Schools

Superintendent Update

Board of Education

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

We are approaching the end of October - the ninth week of the 2023-2024 school year - and we are finishing the end of the first quarter of the school year. We are thankful for the hard work of our school and district teams, our parents and members of the community as we all work together to support our students in their learning and growth and our beautiful AAPS neighborhood schools.

Skyline Junior Wins Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition

Congratulations to Skyline junior Minji Kim on winning the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Competition. Students in grades 7-12 from across the state of Michigan were eligible to participate.

Four finalists competed on Saturday, October 14, at Eastern Michigan University, with the winner receiving a \$1,000 cash prize and the opportunity to perform at the A2SO's *Link Up* youth concert, presented in partnership with Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. More [information on the competition and Kim is available in this AAPS District News article](#).

Congratulations, Minji Kim and Skyline High School!

A2 STEAM Art Teacher Wins Statewide Recognition

The Michigan Art Education Association has selected **Rachel Jensen, A2 STEAM art teacher**, as the **MAEA's 2023 Middle Level Art Educator of the Year**. She will receive the award during the annual MAEA Conference in Ann Arbor this Saturday, Oct. 28.

Jensen was nominated by Clague Middle School art teacher Sara Griesinger, who calls her a fierce advocate for the visual arts and equity in all AAPS classrooms.

"She is a natural leader, always showing professionalism while staying true to the needs of our programs," says Griesinger. "Her passion for the arts is apparent in her participation with the Michigan Art Education Association, where she serves as the middle-level division chair as well as a co-chair for our upcoming conference in Ann Arbor. She is someone I can go to for a productive, thoughtful, honest conversation about art education. We are fortunate to have her on our AAPS team." [Learn more about Jensen in her AAPS District News Exceptional Profile here](#).

Highlights of Rec & Ed Summer/Fall Update 2023

We are delighted to share highlights of our Rec & Ed Summer/Fall Update, including reporting a strong enrollment in Summer Early Childhood Programs (571 in preschool classes and 563 enrollments in Safety Town) as well as more than three thousand additional summer camp and class enrollments.

Additionally, there were 1,139 Summer Sports League enrollments.

We are grateful for the 130 High School volunteers who invested their time this summer as camp counselors to serve as role models to younger students.

This Fall, Rec and Ed programs are off to a strong start with programs across Early Childhood, Youth Enrichment and Youth Team Sports Enrollments, and as always, robust participation - more than 3,000 enrollments - in Adult Team Sports (1,500) and in Enrichment, Fitness and Yoga (1,700); this is almost a 20% increase over Fall 2022.

In AAPS Before/After care, we have experienced a 14% increase in students enrolled, 250 students total, compared to 22-23, and one additional Rec & Ed after care program has reopened so far this year, the combined program at Allen/Pittsfield.

17% of students enrolled have a 25%-100% fee waiver/scholarship to help support their enrollment. The continuing partnership with Child Care Network to provide additional scholarships has awarded \$270,000 scholarships this year.

Seven High School students are currently working as High School After Care Assistants, and more are coming on board this team AAPS this fall! The team is leveraging a paid campaign on Indeed to generate more applicants.

Inclement Weather Update 2023-2024

It's the season, as we approach colder weather, that we are sharing reminders about our AAPS winter weather processes.

This year we will follow our [well-established protocols for determining when winter/inclement weather closures](#) are needed; we work in collaboration with the City of Ann Arbor, AAPS Durham transportation and County roads teams and other agencies. An important part of the process is that members of our AAPS team drive the roads overnight across the district during possible inclement weather to obtain real-time information.

We will notify all students, staff and families of any change in school day plans as far in advance as possible to support our families in making necessary arrangements. As soon as a weather-related school decision is made, we will share the announcement across all AAPS communication channels: email, phone, social media and media outlets.

Families who have moved or changed phone or email contacts should reach out to the front office in your school to ensure your contact information is updated.

Please note that snow days will be observed as traditional snow days this year; inclement weather days during this 2023-2024 season will result in the cancellation of all AAPS classes *and activities* for the day, so teams and organizations should plan ahead for this possibility. Also, a reminder that six inclement weather/emergency days are already built into the annual calendar.

If, at some point during the year, we are nearing the use of the six state-provided snow days in the AAPS, we will notify staff, students, parents and families of any potential next steps that may be needed and any adjustments required to the inclement weather protocol.

Human Resources

Members of our Human Resources team will be out at the Fall EMU Career Fair on Wednesday, Nov 8, 2023, from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm. We will continue to update these job fair activities as the Human Resources team continues its efforts to recruit talent for the AAPS.

Technology

We're just finishing up Cybersecurity Awareness Month, although we treat every day as a #BeCyberAware kind of day! To finish the month off strong, we recently checked all staff and student passwords against a nationally compiled password breach database.

We are happy to report that only 20 staff members and 5 students will need to change their passwords now due to potential compromise. It is truly impressive that our 20,000+ end-users have secure passwords today (meaning end-users aren't likely reusing their passwords in other areas of their life, thus less likely to become compromised!

Moving forward, we are following the [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\) Digital Identity Guidelines](#), [NIST Special Publication 800-63B Digital Identity Guidelines](#) and any other additional password protocols recommended by [CISA](#) for password changing protocols.

Freeman Environmental Center

The Freeman Environmental Center team is hosting a meeting with the Graham Scholars from the University of Michigan team on October 27th at 4:30 pm at Freeman. The purpose of the meeting is to provide them with a tour of the AAPS Freeman Environmental Center, go through the plant propagation document that they have created and respond to any queries they may have. Coert Ambrosino and Dave Szczygiel will present and facilitate this meeting.

[Plant Propagation at the Freeman Environmental Education Center](#)

Capital Programs and Physical Properties

A Parent Update on Building Renovation Planning for **Slauson Middle School** took place last evening at 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm in the Slauson Library. A presentation was shared outlining the comprehensive building design approach developed for Slauson and included a time for questions and conversation.

The AAPS capital project team, AAPS leadership, Slauson school leadership and teachers have been working throughout 2023 with the local architectural team, Quinn Evans, developing a renovation design that creates a modern school based on future-focused high-performing educational principles.

Communication from the AAPS

To stay up-to-date with daily updates and information on school and district activities, you may want to follow us on social media.

- Twitter [@A2Schools](#) and [@A2SchoolsSuper](#)
- On Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/AnnArborPublicSchools>
- Subscribe to our A2Schools podcast at: <https://a2schools.buzzsprout.com>
- AAPS YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/AnnArborPublicSchools>.

We also regularly share updates on the work of the Board of Education in the [BOE Update Newsletters](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in the Ann Arbor Public Schools, and for the opportunity to share this Superintendent Update this evening.

Sincerely,



Jeanice Kerr Swift
Superintendent of Schools
Ann Arbor Public Schools