

# The Andover Update

**Ready to soar**  
ACHS senior's pilot  
career ready to take off

**SPRING/SUMMER 2024**



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## Meet the team

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**Sherame Kneisel**, chief financial officer  
**Aaron Miller**, director of food service  
**Brad Niessen**, director of technology  
**Terry Rombeck**, director of communication

## 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



## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

# School community working to navigate out-of-district enrollment



**Brett White,**  
**Superintendent**

Two years ago, the Kansas Legislature approved a new law that requires all school districts to accept students who live outside district boundaries, if there is capacity to do so. This law will go into effect in the 2024-25 school year.

This change will impact some districts more than others. Many districts, particularly in areas seeing population declines, have accepted out-of-district students for years.

Others, including Andover, have

restricted enrollment to in-district students.

Beginning last fall and continuing this spring, we set out to develop policies and procedures that would allow us to comply with the law while having minimal impact on classrooms.

During this process, we gathered feedback from our District Site Council, our Superintendent's Student Advisory Team and a committee consisting of educators, parents and community members.

The law requires districts to calculate their capacity per grade level per school in grades K-8, and by school in grades 9-12. If out-of-district student applications exceed the number of spots available, the district will hold a lottery to determine which students are accepted. Districts will receive state funding for out-of-district students each year.

Our classroom size guidelines were key in determining our capacity figures. We know there may be residential growth in our district this year, so we allowed a 10 percent buffer between expected enrollment and our actual capacity. In other words, when expected enrollment hits 90 percent of the actual capacity, we will no longer accept out-of-district students in that grade level or school.

Out-of-district children of staff members will continue to be allowed to attend Andover Public Schools. We also expanded the categories of out-of-district students who will not be subject to the lottery to include children of substitute teachers who work at least 40 days a year

and Rule 10 coaches. The law already provides lottery exceptions for children of military members and, in future years, siblings of students who already have been admitted to Andover Public Schools.

The out-of-district application period runs through June 30, with notification of accepted students by July 15. We have the opportunity to alter our capacity numbers each year and adjust to our district's situation.

We will continue to update you on how this new law affects our district. Thank you for your support of Andover Public Schools.

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For more information and FAQs, scan the QR Code  
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# FLYING HIGH



## *Sky's the limit for Jaguar graduate*

Zaydie Ladner admits she flies a plane better than she drives a car. Given her career ambitions, that's OK.

The Andover Central High School senior is using an early start in aviation to propel her to a career as a pilot.

"I like that it is something I can do by myself," Zaydie says. "The independence part is very rewarding. And I just like to fly and see the views."

Zaydie followed in the footsteps of her father, a private pilot, and her brother, who flies for United Airlines, by earning her pilot's license last year. She took a discovery flight in January and earned her license in October.

"It's brought the three of us really close," she says.

Along the line her brother, Baylee, gave her important life advice: "Don't compare yourself to others. You're on your own timeline."

"I learned a lot about myself, being strong and not giving up," she says. "When you solo, you have nothing but yourself. You have to rely on yourself."

She says it's been interesting applying some of her knowledge from ACHS, especially in physics, when she's in the air.

She has about 90 hours of flight time, mainly in a rented Cessna 172. She tries to fly every few weeks as she gears up to attend the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, where she will major in commercial aviation.

"I wanted to have the college experience," Zaydie says. "I

wanted to have friends outside aviation."

She wants to follow in her brother's footsteps and be an airline pilot. Her dream is to fly a Boeing 777.

Only about 8 percent of commercial pilots are women, and Zaydie wants to advocate for more girls to dream of careers in aviation.

"I don't know where it will take me," she says. "The aviation community is really small. I want to support and encourage other girls to be involved, to make it seem less intimidating."

For now, though, she's focused on walking across the graduation stage, even if she's daydreaming of being in the sky.

"I'm excited for graduation," she says. "As much as I love it here, I'm ready for my next steps."



Zaydie participates in senior walkthrough at Sunflower Elementary.



# ANDOVER GRADS

## POWER

# SHOCKER NATION



**KOREY  
ISAACS**

Andover eCademy grad 2024

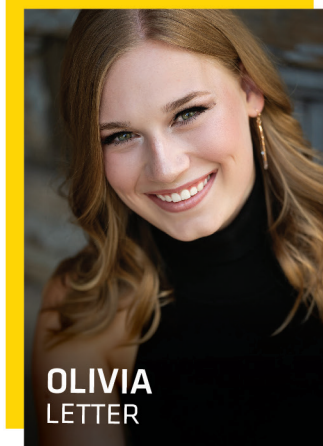
Major: Marketing



**JACOB  
CRABTREE**

Andover HS grad 2024

Major: Music theatre



**OLIVIA  
LETTER**

Andover HS grad 2024

Majors: Engineering  
and music



**CARSON  
BREWER**

Andover Central HS grad 2024

Major: Cybersecurity

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# MUSIC LESSONS

## *Life skills take center stage in annual musicals*

Jeanette Thomison has been looking forward to performing in a school musical for years.

“I’ve seen all the other Sunflower musicals,” she says. “Everyone always seems like they have so much fun. So I’m excited it’s our turn.”

The annual Sunflower Elementary musical has become a tradition for fifth-graders ever since Paden Town arrived as music teacher seven years ago. The capstone project allows students to showcase their singing, acting and dancing skills. But the project is about so much more than a show.

“Everybody wants everybody else to succeed,” he says. “One of my main goals is to develop a sense of responsibility, that

if you begin something you see it through to the end.”

The musical process starts in October, when Town introduces all of the skills it will take for a successful production: Camaraderie. Self-confidence. Communication. Critical thinking. Imagination. Public speaking. Literacy.

Then, in January, rehearsals start three times a week after school. Students also work on the production during music class at school. The show continues to come together until April, when it hits the stage at Andover Central High School.

This year’s show, which was April 19, was “Shrek Jr.” Previous musicals have included “Beauty and the Beast Jr.,” “Aladdin Jr.” and “Seussical Jr.”



Lord Farquaad and cast at this year’s “Shrek” performance.

Town brought the idea of a musical from his previous job in Junction City. He's found that Sunflower staff have been supportive in providing space for sets and extra rehearsal time, and parents have been supportive in gathering costumes, painting backdrops and getting students to rehearsal.

Town requires all students to find a way to participate. This year, that meant 74 fifth-graders.

"Even if you think a musical might not be for you, I tell them to try it and see what happens," he says. "Maybe they're not into singing and dancing, but they like painting and building sets. It's a big project. Seeing the kids' little celebrations along the way is fulfilling. They all grow along the way, watching them realize 'I can do hard things.'"

That was the case for Jerek Guerrero, who played Lord Farquaad in "Shrek Jr."

"At first I was nervous when I got my role, because it's pretty big," he says. "I felt fine after I started memorizing my lines."

He adds: "Mr. Town has big trust in us, believing we can do this."

Sloane Turner, who played Donkey, says she noticed she was learning life skills.

"This really helps me work as a team. I'm not usually the best at that," she says.

Her favorite part? "I get really happy when people laugh when I say a funny line," she says.

Sherri Perry, whose daughter Brielle played Princess Fiona, volunteered with rehearsals. She says she enjoyed watching little successes, such as a shy girl who didn't know if she wanted a speaking part feel comfortable enough on stage that she wants a larger role in her next production.

"Some of these kids don't have confidence, and all of a sudden they do," Perry says. "I think it helps them as they start to move into sixth grade, that they have come together and worked together. They've had so much fun together and made new friends they might not have otherwise met."

"Shrek Jr." was the first show that Town staged when he arrived at Sunflower, which means that the original cast is now graduating. A few of those students came back to help with the show, and still more got to watch the production at ACHS.

Town says he hopes the musical continues to be a bonding experience for future generations of Sunflower fifth-graders.

"This is the last huge project they'll work on as Sunflower kids," he says. "This is their last time they'll have that bond in elementary school, where everything feels safe, before they go off to new things in middle school. They'll always have this shared connection and experience."



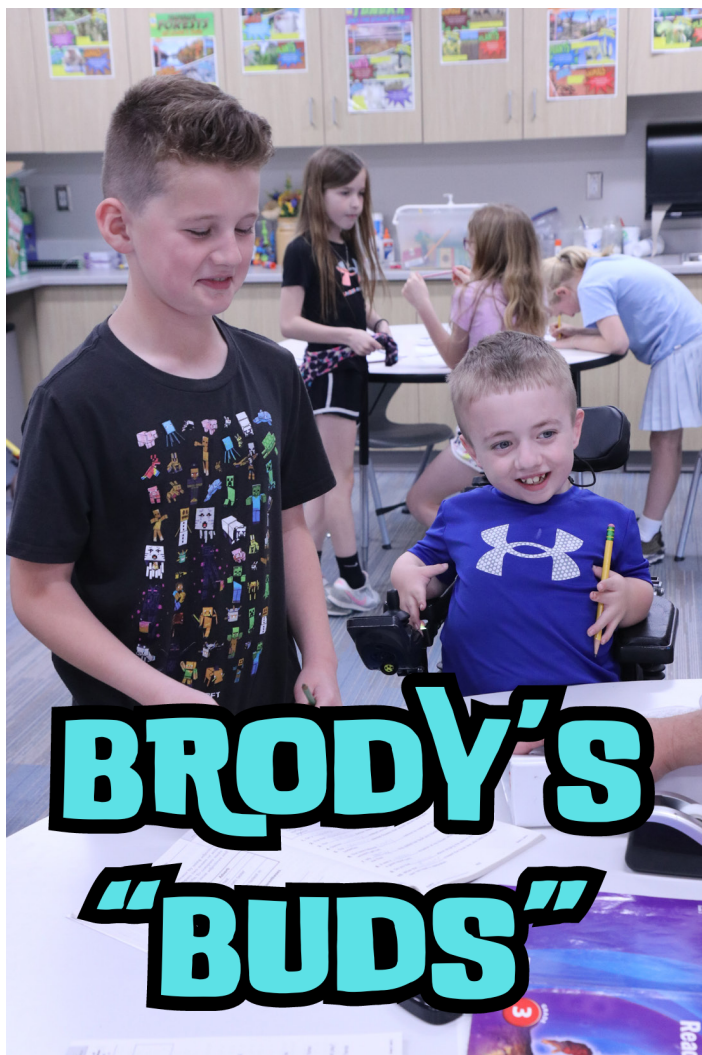
**Paden Town teaches choreography to students.**

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## *Classmates cheer on peer with rare dwarfism*

Everyone knows Brody Stanley.

“Everybody at Meadowlark is my buddy,” he says.

That’s clear at the Meadowlark Elementary Miler’s Club, where he completes a mile circuit once a week, when the sound of “Brody! Brody!” fills the air. It’s clear during PE, when the same happens during a class roller skating competition. And it’s clear during a class Halloween party, where students instinctively help him reach items he needs.

“He’s just Brody to them,” Brody’s mom, Marcella, says of his classmates. “It’s not a thing to them. He’s their bud. He’s always been included in things.”

Brody, a Meadowlark third-grader, was born with the genetic condition Diastrophic Dysplasia, one of approximately 300 types of dwarfism. It occurs in

approximately one in 500,000 people. His parents learned he would have dwarfism around 20 weeks into pregnancy.

He’s already experienced multiple surgeries, starting with one to correct a cleft palate. He had two neck surgeries, when he was 3 and 4. First-grade brought a surgery to place rods in his back for scoliosis, and second grade brought surgery on his feet.

Brody has missed school for the surgeries and trips to Wilmington, Del., where he receives medical care. But he’s still thriving in school.

“There’s not a right or wrong way, or a rulebook with dwarfism,” Marcella Stanley says. “It’s letting Brody figure out what he is going to do and when he’s going to do it.”

The Stanleys moved to Andover, in part, because of Andover Public Schools’ reputation for caring for students with special needs. They’ve been impressed with Meadowlark’s ability to make sure Brody is taken care of and included. That might mean buying a special pair of scissors, providing a shorter basketball goal, or making phone calls to make sure a field trip destination can accommodate his needs.

“We don’t have to worry about anything – they already think of everything,” says Mike Stanley, Brody’s father. “They do a good job adapting some things so he can be involved. He feels very included.”

When Brody got a power wheelchair last year, the school put up a sign that reads “Brody’s garage,” where he parks the chair. He splits time between using the chair and a walker.

“Brody is just like the other students in so many ways and I truly believe that his peers view him the same way too,” says Dana Matheny, Meadowlark principal. “So many of the ways in which the students help Brody have become second nature to them. He is their classmate and friend. It is not uncommon to see a student hand him a writing utensil, move materials for him to navigate his wheelchair, or hand him something that he has dropped. They assist him all the while seeing him as a student that can achieve success just like they do.”

Away from school, Brody enjoys playing Roblox. He participates in adaptive track and has participated in swimming and bowling through Miracle League of Wichita.

At Meadowlark, he’s glad to be surrounded by classmates and staff who just see him as Brody.

“I’m way more similar to people than they realize,” he says.

That’s exactly the way Matheny wants students and staff to view Brody.



“I hope that school, specifically Meadowlark, will be a place that Brody feels like he can be his best self,” she says. “I hope that the staff who works with Brody continue to challenge him academically and hold him to a high standard because he is able to meet that standard.

“I hope that Brody feels respected when being supported by the special education staff as they work to ensure that his learning environment is functional. I hope that Brody continues to advocate for himself and is proud of being a Meadowlark All-Star.”



## AMS student uses pageant win to help peers

When Averie Mountain was crowned Miss Kansas' Teen in March, she was representing her classmates at Andover Middle School.

The AMS eighth-grader's platform involves advocating for students with special needs and providing opportunities for inclusion.

“There's always more to be done,” Averie says.

Averie's interest in helping children with special needs goes back to age 3, when she spent time with a special needs cheer team at the gym owned by her mother, Kristin.

“These were my best friends,” Averie says. “I didn't treat them any differently.”

Averie began competing in pageants at the age of 4.

For the past five years, she has hosted “Just a Kid Like Me” throughout the Midwest, giving all children a chance to have a fun camp experience. She currently is spending one hour per day as an aide in the Functional Applied Academics (FAA) classroom at AMS.

She'll be thinking about her AMS classmates when she heads to the Miss America's Teen competition in January in Orlando.

“I've wanted to be a special education teacher since I was 7,” Averie says. “I want to help students get the life skills they need for when they are out of school.”



Averie learns she won Miss Kansas' Teen. (Photo: Rachael Lanier Studios)



Averie and friends at a Just a Kid Like Me camp.



Camden Broderick, eighth-grader at Andover Middle School, harvests greens in Jalayne Bacon's class.

# GROWING KNOWLEDGE

## *Garden projects teach lessons in botany, health*

It's mid-morning on a Tuesday, and eighth-graders at Andover Middle School are eating salad for breakfast.

Nearby, a 6-foot-tall hydroponic system glows with lettuce and other greens. On the other side of the room are paper bowls filled with a variety of salad toppings.

"Think about all the nutrition you are putting into your body," health teacher Jalayne Bacon tells them. "You're going to feel so good today."

The hydroponic system is one of several in the district, most of which were funded through grants. It's a hands-on way to teach about botany and health year-round.

Hydroponics allow plants to grow without soil. Nutrient-rich water flows throughout the system to "feed" the plant, while growing lights provide substitute sunlight.

Bacon says having the green tower in her classroom is a constant reminder for students to live a healthy life, while the water flowing through the system provides soothing

white noise. She's had the system since 2020.

"We talk about nutrition – which vitamins and minerals we need, and what health benefits we get out of eating leafy greens," Bacon says. "We are boosting our immune system, increasing vitamin and mineral intake, and reducing heart disease and cancer risk. And then there's the taste – how much better freshly harvested greens taste. A lot of students say, 'This is the best salad I've ever had.'"

Lillian Harris, an eighth-grader, says these Salad Parties, as they're known, are a highlight of health class.

"It's something a lot of us look forward to," she says. "It's great food to eat for breakfast – it powers us through the day. I definitely feel better and feel energized."

Peyton Newman, also an eighth-grader, says she enjoys the hands-on experience of growing her own food. Students help check water and nutrient levels as part of the process.

"I know how fresh it is," she says. "I feel like it helps us learn what good food tastes like. It's so much better than processed food."

## Elementary growth

Meanwhile, fourth-graders at Wheatland Elementary School have been learning to run their own hydroponic system. Teacher Todd Flory received a grant last summer from the nonprofit Green Our Planet that provided a large commercial hydroponic system and 19 smaller systems for Wheatland classrooms.

He says he did most of the pH and nutrient testing in the fall, but students have been given more responsibility as the year has progressed.

“My students now help out with adding more water to the system’s reservoir, testing the nutrient level, testing the pH, and pruning the plants,” Flory says. “It’s important for my students to take ownership and responsibility for the system and the plants, rather than just be passive observers.”

Flory says Green Our Planet, which advocates and supports school gardens, provides grade-level lessons that align with state science standards. For fourth-grade, it aligns with the standard that states, “Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior and reproduction.” It also ties to learning about nutrition and healthy eating.

They enjoyed eating lettuce they harvested in December and will sample beans, peas and tomatoes this spring.

Fourth-grader Esha Meka says her mother gardens at home, and helping there and at school allowed her to better understand learning about plants.

“You can read about it in a book,” Esha says, “but you don’t

always know what it means.”

Flory says many students are surprised to learn that plants don’t need soil to survive. That was the case with student Natasha Pignataro.

“I didn’t know you could grow things inside,” she says. “I felt a lot better about eating the lettuce because we grew it.”

Flory says he hopes the hydroponic systems in the district continue to provide lessons in botany and nutrition.

“Hopefully it will make them appreciate where some of their food comes from,” he says, “and to be more open to trying different foods that they may not have tried or thought that they didn’t like.”



Tenley Hershey, fourth-grader at Wheatland Elementary, tends to the school’s hydroponic system. At top, spinach grows in Todd Flory’s classroom.

## FIELD

## REFEREE SUBSTITUTES ON THE SIDELINES

Stuart Schake says he sometimes has 100,000 people simultaneously telling him how bad he is at his weekend job.

So handling a roomful of 25 high school students during the week? Easy.

Schake is in his second year serving as a substitute teacher in Andover Public Schools. On weekends, he can be seen on national TV, officiating Big 12 football games.

“I want to give back to kids,” Schake says. “I try to bring a lot of fun to what I do.”

The El Dorado native played football at Fort Scott Community College and Pittsburg State University, then planned to be a teacher. At the time, though, he found it wasn't a good fit and entered a career in sales.

More recently, though, he's felt a calling to go back to the classroom. He's found substitute teaching to be a good complement to his busy late-week travel schedules for football.

The two career paths have plenty in common, he says. Communication is key to both, as is setting expectations. On the field, he talks to players about what he's watching

for so he doesn't throw a flag. In the classroom, he tells students, “Today we're going to do the right things” in explaining behavior expectations.

Schake got into officiating as a way to stay involved in sports. He started calling high school basketball and football games, moved his way up into the small college football ranks and began as an umpire in the Big 12 in 2018.

He refereed bowl games and plenty of big-time rivalries, such as the Sunflower Showdown and Nebraska vs. Oklahoma.

When students discover his officiating job, he's happy to discuss it with them. He talks about the behind-the-scenes workers such as equipment managers, video producers, trainers and others who support the teams.

“I like to remind them that the players on the field are just a fraction of what's going on,” he says. “Schools have hundreds of people involved in making these programs run. I encourage them just to get involved in something.”

Schake says whether it's in the classroom or on the field, he's learned that “the world is small,” especially if you take time to get to know people.

“It's all about the relationships you build,” he says. “It's a lot more than calling a football game.”

And the same thing goes in Andover, he says. The friendly rivalries between the middle schools and high schools make it a pleasant place to substitute.

“The neat thing about Andover is you have great competition between the two schools,” he says. “They preach and teach the same things. They're both great schools with a drive to be successful.”



Schake chats with ACMS students during a sub appearance.



Schake referees an Oklahoma/Texas game.

# Andover USD 385

## 2024-25 District Calendar



### 2024

July					August					September				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5				1	2	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30	30				

October					November					December				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4					1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		25	26	27	28	29	30	31			

### 2025

January					February					March				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31						31				

April					May					June				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4				1	2	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30	30				

July	
16	Online registration begins
August	
5-7	New teachers report
8	Professional learning day
9	Flex work day
12-13	Professional learning day
14	First day, grades 1-6, 9 and new students in grades 10-12
15	First day, grades 7-8 and 10-12
19	First day, kindergarten, Pre-K and Early Learning
September	
2	Labor Day
23	Professional learning day
October	
17	End of first quarter
18	All schools closed; Morning flex work day
November	
4	Professional learning day
25	Conference credit day
26-29	Thanksgiving break
December	
20	End of second quarter; dismiss two hours early
23	Morning flex work day
24-Jan 1	Holiday break
January	
2-3	Professional learning day
20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February	
17	Professional learning day
March	
13	End of third quarter
14	Morning flex work day
17-21	Spring break
April	
18	Conference credit day
21	Professional learning day
May	
8	eCademy graduation
11	AHS and ACHS graduations
22	Last day for students; dismiss two hours early
23	Morning flex work day
26	Memorial Day

- School not in session
- All schools closed - Teacher professional learning
- All schools closed - Teacher flex work day
- All schools closed - Conference credit day
- All schools closed - Parent/Teacher evening conferences
- Registration begins
- └ End of Quarter

This calendar may be altered at the discretion of the Board of Education and/or the administration. The policies of the Board of Education of USD 385 prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion and sex in all programs and activities of the district. Additionally, discrimination on the basis of age is prohibited in employment. Equal Opportunity Employer. Adopted by the Board of Education 1/8/2024.

1st quarter: 45 student days  
 2nd quarter: 39 student days  
 3rd quarter: 47 student days  
 4th quarter: 42 student days

# 2023-24 ANDOVER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

Each year, the Andover Board of Education honors staff, volunteers and community partners who make Andover Public Schools a special place to work and learn.

**Spark Award (individual staff member who plays an instrumental role district-wide):** Ed Scarry, events facility manager

**Gold Key Award (individual, business or community/civic organization that makes outstanding contributions to the district):** Andover Fire-Rescue

**Golden Apple Award (outstanding certified staff member):** Angela Bateman, district audiologist; Traci Crusinberry, Meadowlark Elementary; Brylee Elmore, Andover eCademy; Amber Fetters, Andover Middle School; Todd Flory, Wheatland Elementary; Josh Hatfield, Robert Martin Elementary; Allison Hesterman, Cottonwood Elementary; Stacey King, extended learning facilitator; Katherine Meyer, Prairie Creek Elementary; Rachael Neibling, Andover High School; Joe Pomatto,

Andover Central Middle School; Seth Scriptor, Andover Center for Advanced Professional Studies; Lacey Woods, Andover Central High School; Erin Ybarra, Sunflower Elementary.

**Bright Red Apple Award (outstanding newer certified staff):** Chris Barscewski, Meadowlark; Kassidy Bratton, Prairie Creek; Kim Brouillette, ACMS; Lexie Bullinger, Robert Martin; Rebekah Hutchinson, ACHS; Keyghan Reed, AHS.

**School Bell Award (outstanding classified staff):** Darian Blundell, AMS; Leon Hiebert, First Student; Roma Mekonnen, eCademy; Deb Sokolosky, Prairie Creek; Peggy Stramel, Cottonwood.

**Helping Hand Award (school volunteer):** Jennifer Clay, Wheatland; Teri and Mitch Gee, ACHS; Phil Hamilton, Sunflower; Jen and Andy Seaton, AHS; Lindsay Triplett, Prairie Creek.

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# Andover Public Library

MAY 31ST - JULY 31ST



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## ADVENTURE — BEGINS AT — YOUR LIBRARY.

**Summer Reading Program**  
5/31 Summer Reading Kickoff with Mad Science  
Sponsored by Collision Center of Andover  
and Andover Towing and Recovery

6/28 Sedgwick County Zoo, ZooReach Program  
7/9 Jefferson Knapp Author Talk  
Sponsored by Vorando

7/31 End of Summer Reading Party

### Summer Storytimes

June 3rd - July 30th

#### Twos Time age: 2 yrs.

Mon. @ 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m.

#### Preschool age: 3 - 5 yrs.

Tues. @ 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays @ 10:30 a.m.

### Friends First Friday

Every 1st Friday of every month at 9:30am  
in the Friends Room.

Sip coffee and enjoy visiting with friends.  
Featuring a new activity every month.

### Bingo (Ages 21 and up), Cost \$5.00

Every 3rd Tuesday of every month in the Gallery.

*May Bingo will be on May 7 instead of May 14.*

Email friendsandoverlibrary@gmail.com to reserve a spot.

### Bunco (Ages 21 and up), Cost \$5.00

A fun, fast moving game of dice.

Every 2nd Monday of every month in the Friends Room.

Email friendsandoverlibrary@gmail.com to reserve a spot.

### American Mahjong

Every Wednesday at 12:30 pm

in the Friends Room.

Drop-in play.



### Lego Club

Every 2nd Thursday! Ages 6&Up.  
Make Lego creations! Legos provided.

### Comic Club

Every last Tuesday! Ages 6&Up. Create  
your own comics and share them!



### Monthly Art Shows

Visit our Gallery to explore diverse art  
exhibitions.

### Open Mic Night & Poetry Night

Every 3rd Thursday from 6-8pm for an  
evening of creativity and expression. All  
ages welcome!

### Arts & Crafts Classes

Experience the joy of creating with our  
ever-changing selection of art and  
craft classes.

### Gardening Classes

Learn and grow with our gardening  
workshops.

# news in brief



## Three Trojans are wrestling champs

Three Andover High School wrestlers won 5A state championships at the state tournament.

Junior Luke Potter won the 132-pound class. Senior Adam Maki was a back-to-back champion in the 138-pound class. And Bradley Trimmell won the 157-pound class. They powered the Trojans to be tournament runners-up.



## AHS swimmers win state

The Andover High School boys swim and dive team won the 5-1A state championship for the second straight year. Event champions were the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Brett Ziser, Eric Witt, Ian Diefenbach and Eli Conard; the 200-yard freestyle relay team of Ziser, David Gott, Diefenbach and Conard; and Conard in the 100-yard freestyle. The team is coached by Kelsie Biebighauser.



## ProStart team wins fourth championship

The culinary management team from Andover Central High School won its fourth straight state championship at the ProStart Kansas competition in March. They competed at the national ProStart competition in Baltimore in April.

To compete, the team created a business plan for a restaurant, Destination Doughnuts, and presented it to judges from the restaurant and hospitality industry. Team members are senior Emma Geier and sophomores Brynn Bond, Jasmine Rader and Madison Triplett. They are coached by Lacey Woods.

## AMS student wins state spelling bee

Carey Chesire, an eighth-grader at Andover Middle School, recently won the Kansas Press Association Sunflower State Spelling Bee in Salina.

Carey's winning word was "Ahuehuete," a type of Mexican cypress tree. He said he studied between 4,500 to 5,000 words to prepare for the bee. Carey now will compete in the nationally televised Scripps National Spelling Bee, which begins May 28 in Washington, D.C. He is believed to be the first Andover student to win the state Spelling Bee.







## Vu named Character Champion

Jasmine Vu is the latest recipient of the Andover Public Schools Character Champion Award.

Vu, who has children attending Andover Middle School and Andover High School, has served as an interpreter to help hire and onboard seven Vietnamese-speaking custodial staff members this school year. Her assistance has helped the district fill much-needed custodial positions, but more than that, her patience and kind demeanor have helped these new staff members feel at home in Andover.

“Jasmine has a servant’s heart,” says Donna Ray, HR specialist. “She cares deeply about people and making their lives better. She is truly one of a kind, and we are blessed she is part of our district and helping to better the lives of new employees and anyone she meets.”

The Board of Education established the Character Champion Award last year. It goes to any student, staff member, volunteer, organization, partner or community member who exemplifies the Integrity and Character trait described in the district’s Portrait of a Graduate; demonstrates a sense of higher purpose through service to the school or community; participates in an act of extraordinary kindness; and consistently demonstrates a high level of empathy and kindness in or around their school.

## FACES IN THE NEWS



**Gabby Day**, senior at AHS, was named a Rudd Scholar. Her scholarship provides a full ride to Kansas State University worth up to \$100,000. She plans to major in architectural engineering.



**Shanda Seibel**, assistant principal at Andover Central Middle School, was named Area 3 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Kansas Principals Association. Seibel is in her third year in her role.



**Laura Scaglione**, assistant principal at Andover High School, recently set a personal record while running the Boston Marathon. She finished in 3:42:23.



**Jocelynn Palacio**, a senior at AHS, was named a Wallace Scholar at the Wichita State University College of Engineering. The program provides more than \$30,000 to attend WSU. She plans to major in aerospace engineering.



**Sophie Thiessen**, senior at AHS, was named concertmaster for the Kansas Music Educators Association’s All-State Full Orchestra. She was one of 38 students representing Andover in KMEA all-state ensembles. She plans to pursue a career as a violinist.



**Jake Sims** will be the new principal at Sunflower Elementary School. He replaces the retiring Molly Nespor. Sims has spent the last year as Multi-Tier Systems of Support coordinator for Andover Public Schools.



**Brianna Oglesby**, kindergarten teacher at Prairie Creek Elementary School, was one of 32 Kansas Horizon Award recipients this year. The award goes to outstanding teachers in their second year in the classroom.



# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Andover Community,

So much progress has been made on the Family Future Forward projects. Andover Fire Station #2 is finished, Fire Station #1 remodel is complete, and both stations are staffed adequately to protect the Andover Fire district. We

have equipped the stations with state-of-the-art equipment to help ensure the safety of our firefighters from chemicals and/or possible carcinogenic material.

The Andover 13th Street Sports Park is nearing completion and will provide recreational amenities, including a splash pad, five new recreational baseball fields, two playgrounds, half-court basketball, four pickle ball courts, sand volleyball and a nice walking trail. This amazing park will bring family fun to the Andover community for years to come. Phase 1 and 2 construction is scheduled to be complete in late June or early July. Be sure and follow Andover Parks and Recreation on Facebook for frequent updates on construction and stay connected for a ribbon cutting event in the summer!

The Heritage Park Plaza is now open for rest and relaxation or to watch a beautiful sunset. Heritage Park runs linear from Douglas and Shay to the Heritage Park Plaza with places to sit and relax. Heritage Square is coming along nicely and the Skyloft apartments are now available to lease. Visit [skyloftsattheheritage.com](http://skyloftsattheheritage.com) for more information or to schedule a tour. Heritage Square also shares updates on their social media channels, showcasing the project as it moves forward.

Exciting news – the Andover YMCA will be opening its doors on Monday, May 20! There will be a public open house on Friday, May 17, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. where guests will be able to walk through the facility and visit with staff.

The City of Andover has entered into a management agreement with ASM Global that will bring a variety of entertainment to the Capitol Federal Amphitheater®. ASM Global has great connections in the entertainment industry, and we are confident that this year will bring a variety of performances for one and all. We will still have many of our favorites like Taco Fest, the Newspring Church concert, and Greater Andover Days. Visit [capitolfederalamphitheater.com](http://capitolfederalamphitheater.com) or follow us on social media for event updates.

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## Follow us on social media

Facebook: City of Andover KS

Twitter: @CityofAndoverKS



# UPCOMING EVENTS

June 15

Burger Battle at Capitol Federal Amphitheater®

June 22

Taco Fest at Capitol Federal Amphitheater®

Sept. 27-29

Greater Andover Days



# MOVIES

*in the park*

Sponsored by  evergy

May 19 • June 23 • Sept. 22 • Oct. 20



## Greater Andover Days

*Friday, September 27 – Sunday, September 29*  
Registration opens May 1 for the parade, food trucks, business/craft expo and more at [www.andoverks.com/GAD](http://www.andoverks.com/GAD)  
Follow our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/greaterandoverdays](http://www.facebook.com/greaterandoverdays)



## Learn what you need to get the job done.

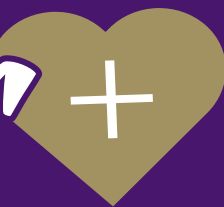
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**GRAB YOUR FALL SAVINGS**

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