

School District of Auburndale

DISTRICT MIRROR

To provide a safe environment to encourage the desire for life-long learning and success utilizing resources effectively and efficiently.

www.aubschools.com

VOLUME XLIII

No. 2

NOVEMBER 2023

From the Administrator's Desk

By Mr. Kevin Yeske

It is my hope that this edition of the District Mirror finds you settling into the realization that fall is turning into winter and the new schedule of the school day in September has become a routine that all have grown accustomed to.

At the October board meeting the School Board approved the 2023-2024 budget for the school district. The local tax levy for this year will be \$2,769,308 or \$38,310 more than what was levied last year. This amount represents a 1.4% increase despite our district student enrollment average increasing 9 students. The property values for the district increased 14.7% while the State of Wisconsin increased our general aid 1.3%. To compensate for the increased property values, the mill rate or the amount of money you will be taxed for will decrease from \$6.88 to \$6.09 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If your property is appraised at \$100,000, your school district taxes this year will be \$79 LESS than your school tax bill last year.

I also want to inform you regarding the financial situation of the district moving forward. As mentioned above, this year's budget is balanced but next year's budget will see a significant reduction in revenues provided by the Federal government. Specifically, the Federal Government provided each public school ESSER funds during the pandemic as a means to keep schools open and students attending in person. The ESSER funds is an acronym for **E**lementary and **S**econdary **S**chool **E**mergency **R**elief. It was a three year funding program provided by the Federal government that could be used to hire additional staff to keep classes small, provide mental health support to staff and students during the pandemic, and in general

provide for the supplies to keep people more safe during those unprecedented times from 2020 to now. This year, the ESSER money will run out. It was money that was provided and had to be claimed and spent for the last three years, not saved to be used later. With the revenue limits placed upon public education by the state, some of these positions and programs supported through ESSER funds will have to be funded and paid for by other funding.

We, the School Board, administration, business office, and staff are having and will continue to have discussions regarding how we can provide quality education with the resources that we have. It is our hope that we can find a way to keep the quality staff and programs that currently exist after the ESSER money to fund them is gone. More information regarding the financial impact and the district's subsequent response will be provided later this year as discussions occur and decisions are made.

Yours in Education,

Kevin Yeske
District Administrator



From the Elementary

Principal's Desk

By Mr. Andrew Scharenbroch

It has been a busy time at the elementary school and we are well into the school year now. The routines have become commonplace as the weather begins to turn cooler. Students are continuing to learn the academics as well as social growth. Students in all grade levels have taken many field trips to learn outside of the classroom. Our 4th grade went to Madison to see the state capitol building, 3rd grade went to a cranberry marsh, and many other fun adventures.

Our students also did well on their Forward Exam. This exam is given to 3-5 grade students and measures their academic achievement. In both math and language arts, AES scored above the state average. In math especially, we averaged almost 80% proficient and advanced. In 3rd grade, 60% in 4th grade, and 55% in 5th grade! Outstanding job by everyone! We continue to focus on individualized learning and helping students learn and grow daily from a challenging and focused curriculum along with amazing teachers and dedicated paraprofessionals!

Thank you to all parents/guardians who came to Parent Teacher Conferences. Your involvement in your child's educational journey is imperative to their success. The triangle of learning; teacher, student, and parent must all work together to see success!

We welcome volunteers in our building to read with students and assist our teachers. Also, if you would like to donate clean coats, gloves, and hats to our C.A.R.E. program it would be appreciated. Gently worn children's boots are welcome too. Please contact the school office if interested in donating or volunteering! Stay safe and well and have a great autumn season!



Scholarship Donors

The Auburndale Community Foundation Scholarships have been available to our Auburndale Senior Class for over 25 years. The scholarships are sponsored by community members, alumni of Auburndale and various organizations and businesses. We are grateful for all our scholarship donors. Without the continued support of our community, these scholarships would not be possible. If you are interested in how our scholarship process works, or about sponsoring a scholarship please contact Mrs. Jodi Ertl at (715)652-2115 ext. 2120 or by email jertl@aubschools.com.

From the Middle/High School

Principal's Desk

By Mr. Steve Van Wyhe

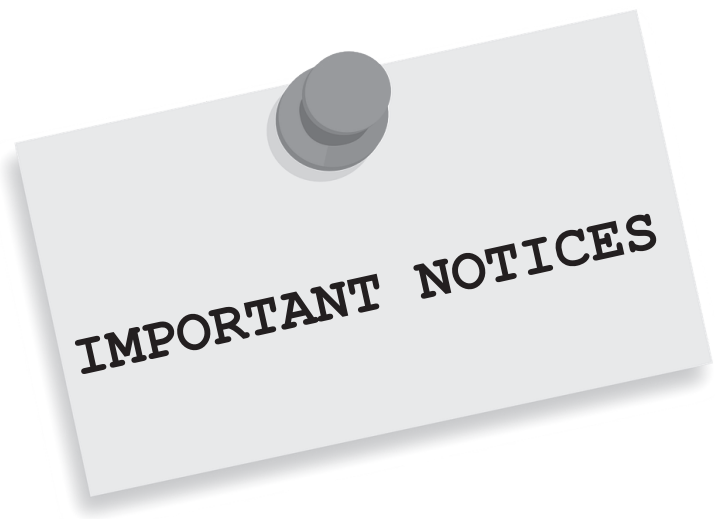
Greetings Auburndale School District Families,

The 2023-24 school year has been off to a great start. In the middle school and high school we have six new teachers who have fit in well into our school. With a nation-wide teaching shortage, we were fortunate to find qualified teachers.

After looking at the feedback from our spring surveys, we have made some changes in the middle school and high school. One of the biggest changes was restricting the use of phones during class time. This change has helped to remove a distraction from our classrooms.

In December, our band will be marching at the Pearl Harbor Parade in Hawaii! We are proud of our band and honored to be a part of the parade. Thank you to all of the community members who have helped make this happen by participating in fundraisers.

Thank you for all of your support for our school! Feel free to contact me if you ever have questions. Go Eagles!



NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

School District of Auburndale

April 2, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the School District of Auburndale, on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term of office for a school board member is three years beginning on Monday, April 22, 2024.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
School Board Member	Sheila Cherney
School Board Member	Kayla N. Gotz

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a Campaign Registration Statement and a Declaration of Candidacy, must be filed with the school district clerk or school district notary no later than 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, in the School District of Auburndale District Office located at 10564 School Street, Auburndale, WI.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

Interested candidates, including incumbent(s), who desire to seek an office can pick up ballot access documents in the School District Office after December 1, 2023. A description of the school district boundaries can be obtained from the District Office.

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Sheila Cherney
School Board Clerk

SALE OF ITEMS NO LONGER USED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AUBURNDALE

The School District of Auburndale has for sale multiple items including: 2013 Ford Super Duty F250, 2006 Ford Freestar, pottery wheels, commercial refrigerator, (8) 20 amp cord reels and more. Items will be published to the Wisconsin Surplus Auction site in the next coming weeks. When the auction opens, a link will be posted on the school website.



It's getting to be that time of year again! School closing information will be relayed through the following media:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| WAOW - Channel 9 | Radio - WAXX 104.5 |
| WSAW - Channel 7 | Radio - WGLX 103.3 |
| | Radio - WOSQ 92.3 |

Parents will also receive Infinite Campus Alerts via text, phone, or email based on preference. Log into your Infinite Campus account to verify your preferred phone number and method of communication. A change request can be made within Infinite Campus or to your school secretary.

2023 Volleyball Season

By Coach Kate

The varsity volleyball team finished its season 12-18. Throughout the season we had some exciting wins and disappointing losses. The girls continued to play hard, no matter the outcome of the match. I am very proud of all the girls in the program and am very excited to see what the future holds. Thank you to our seniors: Maggie Baltus (768 career digs), Regynn Lau (266 career digs) and Dakota Specht (142 career kills). You will be greatly missed. Thank you for your dedication, your talents, and your sportsmanship. I've enjoyed being a small part of your lives as athletes.

The volleyball girls will return next year ready and excited to play!

Individual Honors this season:

Maggie Baltus – Second Team All-Conference
Sidney Wolff and Chesney Nagel - Honorable Mention



Homecoming 2023

During the week of September 24-30, Auburn High School held its annual Homecoming festivities. The week consisted of Homecoming games and competitions between the senior high classes. Placing first was the Senior Class (2024), second, was the Junior Class (2025), third place was the Sophomore Class (2026), and the Freshmen Class in fourth place (2027). On Friday, September 29, the high school students participated in a Homecoming Service Day in the morning. Students decorated and delivered pumpkins to residents, chalk decorated in front of AHS sidewalks, worked with students at the Elementary School, and assisted in local cleanup around town, along with local roadside cleanup



and the Auburn Park. In the evening, the annual Homecoming parade was held. It was led by the Stratford-Auburn VFW, followed by the Auburn Band, and continued with over twenty school-affiliated floats, community businesses, along with the local fire departments. Thank you to all who participated in the parade to make it another successful year. The football team beat Abbotsford 34-31. On Saturday, September 30, the Homecoming Dance was held with the theme of "Under the Sea." The "Family Dance" was well attended by elementary students and their families. Homecoming Court members were Sawyer Cherney, Waylon Kissner, Ethan Onsager, Abby Becker, Kaitlin Brandl, Ashley Bravener, Shea Fabisiak, Taylor Kieffer, Rachel Pankratz, Rylee Rennhack, and Paige Swensen. Congratulations to King Greg Brummund and Queen Allis Teska!

2023 Cross Country Season

The Auburndale Cross Country team had a competitive 2023 schedule. At the Marawood Conference Meet at Frey Field, the varsity girls' team placed 6th, and the varsity boys' placed 8th. Rose Hasenohrl placed 18th and Hope Schulte placed 24th earning both Honorable Mention accolades. The Sectional Meet was hosted at Colby on October 21. The boys' team placed 13th with James Binder finishing 42nd, Brody Braunsky- 53rd, Sawyer Cherney- 63rd, Jaxon Grube- 64th, and Ethan Spindler - 79th. The girls' team earned 5th place with Rose Hasenohrl finishing 16th, Hope Schulte- 23rd, Grace Hasenohrl- 34th, Grace Schulte- 42nd, Alivia Wolf- 46th, and Addison Plemon- 63rd. Thank you for Mark Frey hosting the Auburndale Meet on Tuesday, October 3, and to all who supported the Cross Country programs throughout the season.

Veterans Recognition Night

On Friday, September 15 at the Auburndale vs. Pittsville football game, the High School Student Council and Community Leadership Class honored over 50 veterans and active service members. Veterans were treated to coffee, cake, neck warmers, and challenge coins in the Tim Anderson Gym Lobby. A special recognition was given to Otis Kath, a WWII Army Veteran who turned 100 years old that day. Students throughout the district made him homemade cards to celebrate his birthday! Each veteran's name was announced with their branch of service before the game and remained on the field for the National Anthem. After each team scored, the Wisconsin National Guard fired a Howitzer. Thank you to all of the veterans and active service members who participated. Thank you for your service to our country and our freedoms!



Career Exploration Opportunities for Auburndale Students

As a means of preparing our juniors and seniors for careers after high school, we, The School District of Auburndale, are gathering information, developing plans, and working through the specific details on how this task may be accomplished. We are hoping that a career programming opportunity or “job shadow” experience can take place beginning with the 2024-2025 School Year with full implementation by the 2025-2026 School Year. We need your help in making this a successful experience and opportunity for our students and community to both benefit. If you work in a business that would support job shadowing, where students can learn the expectations and requirements of a career field, please contact me via email or phone call. Job shadowing can range from several hours to several weeks, depending on the employer's preference and availability. I would like to get a contact/business list of people or businesses that would be willing to support our students as they move from high school into their next careers while also supporting local businesses who may need to train and find workers for the future. I would consider local businesses to be within 20 miles of Auburndale. I am hoping to have a meeting to share what this program could look like with those interested in it in February or March. I can be reached at kyeske@aubschools.com or at 715-652-2117.

Veterans on Main Class of 2024

The Community Leadership class is able to display 29 Veteran banners on Main Street in Auburndale from Memorial Day through Veterans Day in 2024. To sponsor a banner, it costs \$350 and the sponsor receives the banner, a proof of the banner, along with five *Veterans on Main* booklets. The proceeds of this program go towards sponsoring our Veterans Duck Trip to Wisconsin Dells, local veterans on the Never Forgotten Honor Flights, and eventually a Veterans Memorial within our school district. If you are interested in sponsoring a Veterans on Main Banner for the Class of 2024, please contact Joren Anderson janderson@aubschools.com or call 715-652-2115 ext. 2250.

Open Enrollment for 24-25 School Year

The regular open enrollment application period for the 2024-25 school year is open February - April, 2024. Parents must apply online.

Who should apply?

- Nonresidents who are interested in attending Auburndale
- Siblings of open-enrolled students who have not yet attended Auburndale, but would like to
- Students who are currently attending through a Current Year Tuition Waiver or Additional Year Tuition Waiver

Visit dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment for more information.

Cardio & Weight Room

Key fobs are available in the high school office to purchase for \$10 a year. There is a list of rules/expectations for using the weight room, cardio room, or walking the hallways. There is also a waiver to sign before utilizing the fob. Call ahead: 715-652-2115. Thank you!

Hours during the school year:

5:30-7:30 a.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m.



Great Apple Crunch Day

October 12, 2023

Top: Elementary students

Right: MS/HS students

Community Connection Coffee Club

First and Third Wednesday's at 8:00 a.m.

HS Gym Lobby

Hosted by Community

Leadership Students



Upcoming Board Meetings

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

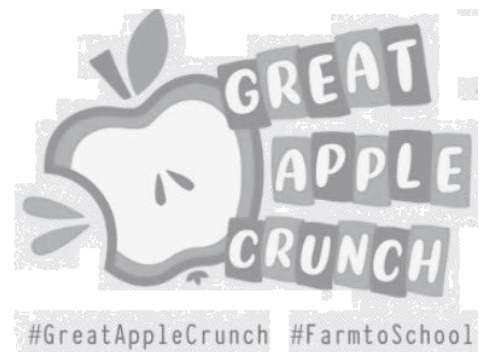
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the MS/
HS Library Media Center.



New School Caring Closet

The Auburndale Student Services Department has been busy creating a new School Caring Closet located in the Auburndale Middle/High School building! The Caring Closet has donated clothes, personal hygiene items, and food that is available to any student in need. Currently, The Caring Closet will only keep school-age clothes on hand and will only be available to students during school hours.

The Caring Closet is all donation based and is currently looking for the following items:

- Shelving Units (for canned goods and bins of clothes)
- Deodorants* (female & male)
- Shampoo/Conditioner*
- Body Wash/Soap* & Loofahs/Washcloths
- Laundry Detergent Pods*
- Tampons/Pads*
- Bath Towels
- Clothing hangers
- Clothing racks

**ALL personal hygiene donations must be NEW & UNOPENED*



C.A.R.E. Program

C.A.R.E.-Community of Auburndale Reaching Everyone provides assistance to Auburndale School District families whose children attend the Auburndale elementary or high school. During the holiday season, families can be sponsored to receive needed items such as clothes, coats and school supplies. The program is funded by our caring community members such as businesses, residents, and alumni of Auburndale. If interested in supporting the C.A.R.E. Program, monetary donations can be made out to the School District of Auburndale with a note indicating C.A.R.E. Program.

Please mail your donation to the attention of:

C.A.R.E. Program
School District of Auburndale
P. O. Box 139
Auburndale, WI 54412



Parent Informational Nights!

Join Auburndale School District the last Monday of every month for a parent informational meeting in the Elementary Little Theater! There will be refreshments! Here is the schedule for the school year!

WHO: Samantha Phillips, Auburndale's Mental Health Coordinator and/or guest speakers will be presenting to all age group parents of Auburndale School District.

WHEN: 6 p.m.—7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month* (*conflicts with holidays, moved date)

WHERE: Auburndale Elementary Little Theater

WHY: Mental Health has always been in our community, schools, and homes. We want to support and bring awareness to our parents.

November 27, 2023: Bullying effects on mental health

***December 18, 2023:** Self-regulation for parents and children

January 29, 2024: Eating disorders and building self-esteem

February 26, 2024: Teen dating violence and impact on mental health

March 25, 2024: Hidden in plain sight: Mock Teen Bedroom

April 29, 2024: Stress Awareness and Mindfulness

***May 20, 2024:** Are you just mad or are you angry?

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AUBURNDALE
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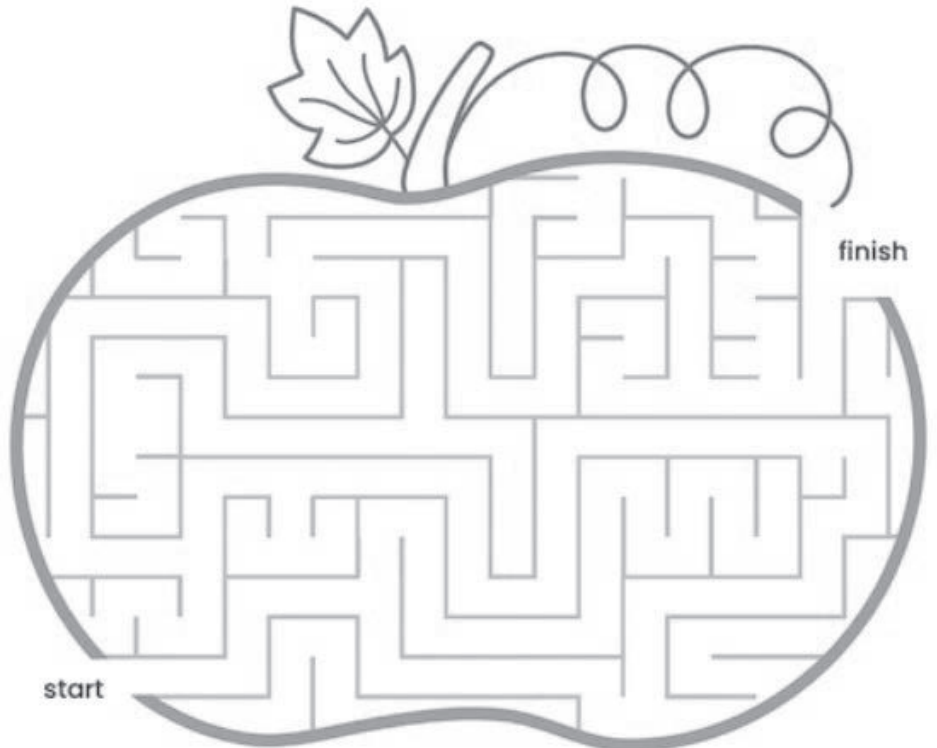
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THANKSGIVING FALL
CRANBERRIES STUFFING
PUMKIN PIE THANKFUL
CORNUCOPIA HARVEST
GATHERING GOBBLE
TURKEY FAMILY
CIDER GRATEFUL



Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

I am thankful for..



Sources: wordsearch.com, tinybeans.com