



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.

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From the Administrator's Desk

By Mr. Kevin Yeske

I am hoping that this edition of the District Mirror is received with the warm and seasonal conditions that are occurring as I am writing this the last week of February. I will admit that the changing of seasons this year is one that I don't recall happening in my recent memory. No snow in January and February with temperatures in the 40's, 50's, and even 60's at times. For those accustomed to the brutality of central Wisconsin winters, this is something no one would have predicted.

In school, as spring begins, we use this time to begin preparing for the next school year with budget, staffing, programming, curriculum, and calendar discussions and decisions that have to be made. I want to explain a couple that were the topic of many discussions thus far.

In October and November, we looked at the possibility of expanding our 4K program from all day, 2 days/week to full days, 5 days/week as most of our neighboring districts do or are currently expanding to next year. With the new legislation coming from the state surrounding the reading expectations of elementary students and studies done that correlate with higher achievement from everyday/all day 4K, we felt a need to inquire if the community would be in favor of this change. A survey was sent out to thirty eight families who have a child who will be eligible to attend 4K next year to determine if they would support a change from 2 days to 5 days/week for their child. Of the thirty eight surveys mailed, twenty were returned. From the surveys collected, twelve were in support of the 5 days/week change while eight preferred to keep it as it is currently being run. Eighteen surveys were never returned. Based upon this response, the School Board elected to not change anything this year but may revisit this again in the future as more information is collected. It is important

to recognize and acknowledge that we currently have 40 students signed up for Pre-K for next year which is the lowest number of students for any grade level in our district at this time. For comparison purposes, this year's Pre-K class which will be moving to kindergarten next year is 64 students.

One of the challenges of working in public education is having to balance what is best for the community and what is best for our students, staff, and employees. This was evidenced by our desire to change the school calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. Each year, every public school district in the state receives a school report card that measures student academic achievement, student growth, and other education program data collected each spring. This is then shared with the students, families, and community as a means of providing evidence that the local school system is meeting the educational standards as set forth by the state. Auburndale elementary and secondary schools consistently score in the "meets expectations" but trends have developed in math and reading that demonstrate that we have work to do at selected grade levels, within selected groups of students, and students having exceptional educational needs. In order to address these concerns, implement the new state required third grade reading promotion policy, and match our classroom learning targets with the Wisconsin state standards in all grade levels, we need to find time to do this. Since most, if not all, of this work requires collecting student learning data when students are present, this needs to be done while students and staff are in session. It was our intention to shorten one day of the week one hour to provide staff the opportunity to address student learning needs and align our curriculum with the state standards across all grade levels. Our current calendar or schedule does not have professional development or in-service days scheduled for this to happen outside of a day in October and another in November. We could have added more professional development/in-service days

—continued on next page.

(cont.) during the year but this would move back the last day of school well into June which I think we all agree would not be best for anyone. Based upon the feedback and concerns expressed by the community and parents regarding the late start calendar, we returned to the normal starting and ending times that have been in place for years. Building administrators carved out a little time during our school day in each building to free up staff to meet to discuss the items mentioned, as well as, added some additional in-service time during the year. It is our hope that this time will allow us to meet the expectations and changes that the state has initiated and anticipates will occur. Very few people embrace change as a positive thing when it becomes an inconvenience. We understand that and are hopeful that we can adjust our staff schedules to meet the demands of the state without resulting in hardships for our families. Thank you for supporting, questioning, or seeking clarification regarding these matters and how they affect all of us.

The last thing I want to bring attention to is our facilities. In 1998, twenty six years ago, the residents of this community made a commitment to build and renovate the school buildings. In 1998, the three wings at the elementary school were added that currently house our Kindergarten through 5th Grade students. That year, the wrestling space, Tim Anderson Gymnasium, library, lobby, locker rooms, and the rubberized track were built. Like your homes, the life expectancy for the roofs, boilers, air handlers, and flooring is 25-30 years. Roofs are beginning to leak, flooring is wearing thin, and our buildings are not being as energy efficient as they were when everything was new 26 years ago. The asphalt base on the track is like any road surface in Wisconsin. The rubber surface that covers the asphalt is designed to last 8-10 years. The original surface lasted from 1998 to 2011 (13 years) when it was replaced with the current rubberized surface (which is 13 years old). We have been very fortunate to have two rubberized coatings to last twenty-six years when realistically we should have had three or four in that expected time. The current surface is peeling, worn thin, has cracks, and has lost its elasticity and needs to be replaced soon in order to continue to host track meets on it. We have two science rooms in the high school built in the 60's that have the original flooring, pipes, furniture, and counters that are failing and need replacement. In 1998, the residents made the commitment to build and renovate the aforementioned additions with the understanding that they would need attention and upkeep in the future. Over the next couple of years, the school will once again be asking the residents of the community to support these projects that the residents set in motion in 1998. I will be sharing more on these matters once the cost, timelines, and details are determined. As always, contact me with questions or concerns.

Upcoming Board Meetings

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office Board Room.

Meeting location may change. Agendas are posted on the school website and building entrances 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

From the Middle/High School Principal's Desk

By. Mr. Steve Van Wyhe

As another school year passes the midpoint, I feel very fortunate to be working in the Auburndale School District. We have a dedicated teaching staff, who go above and beyond to meet the needs of our students. Our families value the education their children receive. Our monthly community coffees have been well attended by many who care about our district.

One of our building goals this school year has been to get our teachers together to collaborate. Weekly, our teachers have been meeting with others in their teaching area. These meetings have allowed us to make sure our teaching is meeting the standards.

We have continued to recognize students who demonstrate outstanding character with our student of the month program. These students are recognized at a student assembly and on our Facebook page. If you recognize a student who wins this honor, be sure to tell them to keep up the good work!

Communication between the school and families is critical for the success of our students. Our teachers post grades on our Infinite Campus system where families can log in to monitor their progress. If you have any issues getting signed up for this, please contact me and I will help you out.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope to see you at one of our community coffees. They are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 8:00-9:30 at the HS building.

Go Eagles!

From the Elementary

Principal's Desk

By Mr. Andrew Scharenbroch

Spring birds are starting to show, and maple syrup aromas are starting to fill the Auburndale countryside as we start heading towards the end of another school year! However, in the few months left the students and staff will be very busy! We have our state required Forward Exam for grades 3-5, as well as other end of the year assessments to look for student growth and development academically!

Coming in April we'll release the summer school classes. Sign up your child for some amazing classes that will challenge them in a variety of ways. We will be holding summer school in June and August this year. Also, this spring we will be visiting our outstanding outdoor classroom, the SCHOOL FOREST! During the winter months students were able to snow shoe and look for animal tracks, as well as other learning experiences beyond the classroom. Mr. Nagel will be teaching maple syrup making, and teachers will take students into nature to expand the classroom and learn about the world! It is such a gem to have in this district and we are very fortunate for our students to have this resource.

Please watch for some more updates in the summer as we prepare for the 24-25 school year.

Again, another big THANK YOU to all families for making AES the best place to learn.

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.

Parent Informational Nights!

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.

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.

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?

If a night is cancelled or rescheduled, it will be posted on the school website.

Veterans Duck Trip to the Dells

The Community Leadership class is sponsoring the Annual Veterans Duck Trip to the Dells for veterans and active service members. The class has fundraised for this day to recognize and honor our military service members. The Ducks Trip to the Dells is Wednesday, May 1. We will ride the Original Wisconsin Ducks and then have lunch. If you are a veteran or active service member interested in participating, please contact Joren Anderson at 715-652-2115 ext 2250 or janderson@aubschools.com by Friday, April 5. Please include your name, address, phone number, and shirt size. If you already have a shirt from a previous Ducks Trip, please let me know that you have a shirt and wear it on May 1. Participating veterans will receive an agenda for the day's event in April.

The public is welcome to send off the veterans from the high school at 8:05 a.m. and welcome them home at the high school around 2:45 p.m. Anyone who wishes to write letters, send cards, coloring pages, etc. to be given to the veterans for "Mail Call," please have them mailed by April 26. You can address it to a specific veteran on the trip or "Honored Veteran" and mail to P.O. Box 139 Auburndale, WI 54412.

Academic Honor Roll

The School District of Auburndale honors students who excel academically in middle and high school. To be recognized for high honors a student must achieve a grade point average (GPA) of 3.7 or higher and for honors a 3.0 to 3.699. Congratulations to the following students who obtained the GPA for their first semester:

High Honors 3.7-4.0

Seniors: Kaden Anderson, Maggie Baltus, Joseph Bauer, Abigail Bauer, Brady Becker, Elizabeth Becker, Jordan Clark, Ryan Czaikowski, Kiana David, Shea Fabisiak, Brayden, Haffenbredl, Logan Hardinger, Berkley Katzner, Regynn Lau, Sherrill Lueck, Makayla Mauer, Mason Meissner, Emmett Nieman, Rachel Pankratz, Lucas Peterson, Natalia Santiago, Evelyn Schmitt, Evan Scholl, Hope Schulte, Dakota Specht, Samantha Stanton, Nicholas Steines, Paige Swensen, Brett Thiel, Caden Weinfurter

Juniors: Taylor Anderson, Emily Becker, Jasmine Bilgrien, James Binder, Alexis Fait, Derek Godard, Liliana Grube, McKenzie Keuffer, Mya Krings, Lakota Marcott, Leah Martinez, Genevieve Nelsen, James Norby, Blake Raab, Emily Van Asten

Sophomores: Kylie Anderson, Danika Blomberg, Tabitha Brandl, Brody Braunsky, Jasmine Draeger, Sydney Lobner, Joshua Lundgren, Abigail Post, Zane Scholl, Olivia Smrz, Ila Sundberg-Frank, Trevor Trowbridge

Freshmen: William Akins, Lilyana Bellanti, Kyle Bohman, Audrey Brown, Breleigh Grimm, Jaxon Grube, Rose Hasenohrl, Isaac Kloos, Chesney Nagel, Mark Norby, Rumor Rademan, Jalynn Scherr, Grace Schulte, River Skinner, Alana Steines, Raymond Teska, Brenna Thiel, Alivia Wolf

Eighth: Marti Anderson, Daelynn Blomberg, Aurora Blum, Gavin Genett, Austin Hilgart, Ella Lang, Lakota Nemeck, Corbin Nikolay, Nora Teska, Carson Weiler, Jayden Weiler

Seventh: Isaac Aschenbrenner, Emma Budtke, Waylon Budtke, Sawyer Cypress, Alana Cherney, Beck Dammann, Ainsley Halverson, Maximus Krings,

Thomas Krings, Ella Kumm, Emily Lundgren, Benjamin Martin, Ameilia Meidl, Kylee Melby, Aubrey Richardson, Kaden Turner, Landon Walter, Ella Weichelt, Avery Wilson, Jacob Wolf

Sixth: Madelin Akins, Jacob Brandl, Sedonia Cypress, Abby Czaikowski, Haley Dupee, Shelby Eckes, Samantha Flick, Madison Grube, Hadlee Huser, Chloe Johnson, Mason Kloos, Jacob Matticks, Landry Nagel,

Aubree Niznik, Gracelynn Roberson, Aiden Schmitt, Ryan Schreiber, Alexis Scott, Teyvin Smith, Elizabeth Teska, Blair Thiel, Carleigh Weiler, Noah Wellach, Lucas Xiong

Honors 3.0-3.699:

Seniors: Kaitlin Brandl, Aden Cherney, Ryder Cherney, Sawyer Cherney, Jayden Dallman, Ella Dillinger, Taylor Kieffer, Waylen Kissner, Preston Mayer, Camden Mereles, Sonya Merritt, Rylee Rennhack, Ruth Suazo

Juniors: Thomas Aue, Shanden Blank, Anna Budtke, Keegan Empey, Aether Gonzalez, Tyson Gotz, Nathan Haagenson, Evan Haferman, Isabella Himebauch, Alden Jensen, Molly Jewell, Matthew Korbal, Hailey Reshel, Kylie Rucinski, Ryan Theisen, Dominic Vine, Colton Weiler, Brodie Wolf

Sophomores: Julian Anderson, Dawson Baird, Tevin Bauer, Coleman Becker, Evan Bohman, Sophia Chase, Kennedy Crane, Jocelyn Doescher, Calvin Flick, Robyn Gonzalez, Rylee Graf, Savannah Grosskopf, Samantha Kadrlik, Jay Kearns, Wyatt Malsin, Luz Martinez, Koby Nagel, Nikita Pilz, Mallorie Plawman, Dawson Raab, Emily Reshel, Hunter Richardson, Colleen Schmitt, Jesse Schunke, Logan Sparks, Madysen Van Asten, Nathan Van Wyhe, Ayden Wargowsky, Brooklyn Weiler, Peyton Weinfurter, Sidney Wolff

Freshmen: Brayden Anderson, Jacob Bohman, Alexis Godard, Carter Grassl, Morgan Griesbach, Gracie Hasenohrl, Myah Katzenberger, Leila Kumm, Moises Martinez, Alayna Richardson, Adler Soppe, Russell Teska, Adam Wechorek

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(Honors Cont.)

Eighth: Breanna Aue, Elayna Aue, Arsenius Baltus, Jaxon Braunsky, Tyden Dorshorst, Lilyana Harless, Kara Heeg, Logan Holmes, Cayden Jantz, Conner Johnson, Sawyer Malsin, William Martinez, Amelia Pleet, Joscelin Raab, Addylinn Scholl, Isabella Weber

Seventh: Dresden Baird, Treyton Becker, Cloey Bell, Jacob Boushon, Abigail Boyer, Andrew Brandl, Parker Burgess, Jackson Crane, Sunny Dorshorst, Ethan Frischman, Thomas Grzesiak, Owen Kieliszewski, Tucker Kunding, Cristal Martinez Sanchez, Paydin Parker, Adyn Reno, Abigail Schmidt, Lydia Schunke, Jaxon Skoug, Aiko Skow, Landyn Taft, Bennet Tilberg, Abigail Vollert, Baya Weinfurter

Sixth: Cheyenne Clark, Chase Faulkner, Blake Graf, Anna Grzesiak, Owen Hardesty, Ava Hasenohrl, August Jinsky, Axel Larsen, Madden Meissner, Braxton Paul, Garrett Pavlik, Ayden Pilsner, Jackson Plemon, Golda Reindl, Ivy Seidel, Jackson Seidl, Natalie Spreeman, Adam Van Camp, Brielle Vruwink, Tara Weber, Camdyn Weichelt

Senior Awards Night

Get ready to celebrate the Senior Class of 2024 on Wednesday, May 15th at 6:30 pm in the Tim Anderson Gymnasium (located in the Auburndale High School). Please mark your calendars to spend the evening recognizing the accomplishments of our seniors over the course of their high school career. A small reception will follow the ceremony. All are welcome to attend.

Visit our YouTube Page!

Can't make an event but able to watch online? Visit our school's YouTube page! Head to youtube.com and search "Auburndale Videos." We stream various assemblies, board meetings, and now sporting events in the new gym. Our staff volunteer their time and skills to make this available to the public. Please understand that not all events can be recorded or live-streamed.

Marawood Conference Art Immersion Day

The 2024 Marawood Conference Art Immersion Day and Competition was held at Center for Visual Art on February 21, 2024. Students attending Immersion Day were Rylee Rennhack, Jayden Dallman, Brooklyn Weiler, and Kylie Christie. Students participated in an art class run by CVA staff and guest artists. Art entered into the competition included work from Brooklyn Weiler, Natalia Santiago, Jayden Dallman, Kylee Christie, and Mya Krings. Natalia Santiago received the Marawood All Conference Art Award.

Further, student artwork by Natalia Santiago, Brooklyn Weiler, Lakota Marcott, and Kylie Rucinski were entered into the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Student Art Exhibition. CVA Student Art Show was held from February 21 through March 17, 2024. Center for Visual Arts Leigh Yawkey Woodson Student exhibit will be held from March 2 through March 31, 2024.

Elementary Artists of the Month

Visit our school website to view elementary artists of the month. Go to www.aubschools.com > Schools > Elementary School > Artists of the Month. You will see the art on display near the elementary gym/district office, main elementary lobby, and throughout the school.



State DECA Conference Results

Congratulations to Alexis Fait for taking 6th place in the Food Marketing Series at the State DECA Conference. Also taking awards were McKenzie Keuffer in Quick Serve Restaurant Series and Ila Sundberg-Frank in the Principles of Hospitality Series. McKenzie Keuffer was also selected for the Leadership Academy program. Alexis and McKenzie will move on to represent Auburndale at the International Career Development in California at the end of April. Also competing for Auburndale were Leah Martinez, Gen Nelsen and Jasmine Draeger. DECA is an international student organization for students interested in careers in marketing, management, and entrepreneurship. The group is advised by Mr. David Jicinsky.

Direct Admission @ Mid-State!

Submitted by MSTC Admissions Office

All 2024 high school seniors in the Mid-State Technical College district are automatically accepted to Mid-State upon graduation through our Direct Admission opportunity!

Mid-State is partnering with local high schools to advance the 60 Forward initiative by **removing perceived admissions barriers to our college by admitting all 2024 seniors.**

The Lumina Foundation's A Stronger Nation Report reported that 60 percent of our national workforce, aged 25–64, will need a post-secondary credential by 2025 to meet the demands of industry and provide a stronger personal economic future. In response, the Wisconsin Technical Colleges, the UW System, and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities created the 60 Forward Initiative, agreeing on the goal of increased postsecondary attainment of **60 percent by 2027**. Currently, Wisconsin's post-secondary attainment rates vary by county but range from 24–62 percent.

Mid-State's partnerships with Auburndale High School help to support this important national initiative to increase our state's post-secondary attainment rate. The initiative will result in **increased earning potential and economic mobility** for students and a skilled workforce for Wisconsin's employers.

There are no drawbacks or cost for simply being admitted to Mid-State. Only the benefit of additional options and ease of entry should your child decide to enroll.

Even students who already have post-graduation plans will also be admitted providing seamless transfer back to the Mid-State district if their plans change. Our data indicates that just **over 50 percent of high school students attend a technical college 1–2 years after they graduate from high school**, and a large share of them start at a university and then transfer to a technical college.

Next steps for Auburndale High School Seniors...

Confirm your admission and select your program clicking the **"I'm Coming to Mid-State"** button:
<https://www.mstc.edu/direct-admission>.

2024 Seniors and their parents/guardians are invited to the **Admit Day celebration on the Wisconsin Rapids Campus on Friday, May 3**. RSVP to this event here - <https://www.mstc.edu/event/2024-5-3/admit-day>.

Parents/Guardians – what to stay in the know about your student's post-secondary plan? Sign up to get on our [email list](#). Great for 9-12 grade parents/guardians.

Reach out to Kaitlyn Gessert, College Outreach Coordinator for any questions or help with program decisions!
[email: Kaitlyn.Gessert@mstc.edu or phone: 715.389.7052]



2023 Admit Day attendees who have committed to attending Mid-State upon graduating from high school, Mid-State's mascot, Grit, and Mid-State's president, Dr. Shelly Mondeik, show their Mid-State pride by holding up cougar paws, on the Wisconsin Rapids Campus.

2023 Football Season

By Coach Jay Anderson

The 2023-24 season went very well for the High School Football program. The Varsity team put in great effort and once again was led by a very solid group of seniors. These seniors were... Kaden Anderson, Greg Brummund, Aden Cherney, Mason Meissner, Emmitt Nieman, Ethan Onsager, Michael Pongratz, Evan Scholl, and Brett Thiel. The Football program also received great support from Senior Managers Evelyn Schmitt and Shea Fabisiak and Game Film operator Nicholas Steines..

This group of Seniors led the football team to a 10 win and 2 loss season and to Level Three of the WIAA Playoffs. The ten win season marks just the third time in school history that a team had a double-digit win total. Congratulations!

The Varsity football team produced a lot of fond memories and accomplishments. A few of which were shutouts against Milwaukee Hamilton and Big Foot to start the season. A very tough, hard-fought win at Oconto Falls, the last-second Homecoming win against Abbotsford, and the two playoff victories against Marathon and Coleman.

With the team success, there almost always follows with a lot of individual honors. While we had a lot of individuals deserving of post-season awards, not everyone always gets what they may deserve... unfortunately. With that being said, here are the individual award winners:

ALL CONFERENCE

Kaden Anderson - First-Team All-Conference Linebacker
(Also made All Region and Channel 7 Allstar)

Greg Brummund - First-Team All-Conference Offensive Lineman

Aden Cherney - First-Team All-Conference Kicker

Evan Scholl - First-Team All-Conference Runningback

Blake Raab - First-Team All-Conference Defensive Back

Brett Theil - Second-Team All-Conference

Blake Raab - Second-Team All-Conference Receiver

Kaden Anderson - Honorable Mention All-Conference Quarterback

Aden Cherney - Honorable Mention All-Conference Receiver

Mason Meissner - Honorable Mention All-Conference Defensive Back

Colton Weiler - Honorable Mention All-Conference Linebacker

I would like to thank the players and managers in the program, the parents, and all the coaches. Go Eagles!

Gorell Christmas Around the World

The 3rd graders recently completed their traditional Christmas Around the World unit on Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas in England, and Christmas in Mexico. Some of the activities the students participated in were creating a handmade ornament, playing dreydl, drinking wassail, and making a pinata. The students used various supplies that were donated by former teacher, Steve Gorell. The students enjoyed learning about different cultures and traditions around the world.



Meet the Auburndale Staff

Jim Peterson

How long have you worked in the School District of Auburndale:
Since 1999



- **Family:** Wife Betty and two children, both Auburndale graduates, James ('05) and Katie ('07)
- **Hometown:** Crystal Lake, Illinois
- **Most Memorable Vacation:** Summer of 1997 my family drove to South Dakota, Wyoming, and North Dakota. We visited Badlands National Park, Custer State Park, Wind Cave, Mt. Rushmore, Deadwood, Devil's Tower, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and the Dickinson (ND) Dinosaur Museum. We also stopped at some notorious tourist attractions including The Corn Palace, Wall Drug, and Bear Country USA.
- **Secret Talent Nobody Knows About:** I enjoy cooking, and have won several cooking competitions.

- **Any Pets:** We have a 2 year old Labrador retriever named Ruby
- **Favorite Food:** Too difficult to choose.
- **Hobbies/Relaxation Activities:** geocaching, hunting, hiking; pretty much anything outdoors
- **Retirement Plans:** We want to do some traveling, eventually visiting all 50 states (36 so far). We are also excited to have more time for therapy dog visits.
- **Favorite job outside education:** My first degree was in Forestry. In the early to mid 1980s I had my own business, Peterson Silvicultural Services, providing site preparation and wildlife management practices on DNR and Forest Service lands.
- **The best part about working in education:** When a student doesn't understand a concept, then suddenly the "light turns on."
- **Who inspired you to pursue the career you have today:** My mother was an elementary school teacher (2nd, 4th, and 6th grades)
- **Best advice for someone starting their career:** Find something that you love doing!

Mr. Peterson is retiring at the end of the 23-24 school year from his 5th Grade teaching position. Thank you, Mr. Peterson, for your 25 years of service! Enjoy your retirement!

Meet the Auburndale Staff

Steve Voss

How long have you worked in the School District of Auburndale:
Since 1989



- **Family:** I've been married to my wife Tammy for 35 years and we have 5 adult children and 1 grandson. Our kids live in Minneapolis, La Crosse, and New Berlin so we spend a lot of time going from city to city visiting them on weekends.
- **Hometown:** I grew up in Loyal on a dairy farm and attended UWEC for my elementary degree.
- **Most Memorable Vacation:** We have had many memorable summer vacations. Each summer we have headed west usually to the states of Colorado or Montana and completed several hikes in the Rocky Mountains. We've had a few trips to the NE exploring Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine.
- **Favorite Food:** My favorite foods include: hamburgers, brats, steak, shrimp, and pasta

- **Hobbies/Relaxation Activities:** In the summer and retirement you can find me at the Y in the morning, biking the countryside around Marshfield, or kayaking. After an inch or two of rain, I'll be kayaking on the Little Eau Pleine, Yellow River, Eau Claire River, or the East Fork of the Black River. If there's fast moving water, I'll be there.
- **Summer Vacation Plans:** My future vacation plans will be to head to the Rocky Mountains this summer and Hawaii in the near future.
- **Best Part of Working in Education:** My favorite part about working in education has been the interaction with the 3rd graders over my career and how a teacher can have an impact on their lives. I've taught over 600 students in my classroom alone, and it's rewarding to see what they are now doing as adults. I enjoy visiting with them each time I see them and even teaching many of their children.
- **Who Inspired You to Pursue the Career You Have Today:** My inspiration to enter into the teaching profession came from my interest in sports. Teaching allowed me to travel a path to be involved in athletics. Even though I enjoyed coaching my whole career, my favorite part of my job was teaching 3rd graders every day. There were very few days in 35 years where I haven't enjoyed my job.
- **Best Advice for Someone Starting their Career:** My best advice to someone starting their career in elementary education are to greet each child every morning, smile, show an interest in every child, keep their parents in the loop, and make learning fun!

Mr. Voss is retiring from his 3rd Grade teaching position at the end of the 23-24 school year and wishes to return as a substitute teacher. Thank you for your 35 years of service!

Meet the Auburndale Staff

Maria Miller

How long have you worked in the School District of Auburndale:
Since 1988



- **Family:** Husband Robert (Bob) and 1 son, Steve. Bob and Steve are both Auburndale graduates. Bob (1978) and Steve (2012).
- **Hometown:** Bloomer, WI. Moved to Boyceville, WI in 4th grade. I am a 1979 graduate of Boyceville High.
- **Most Memorable Vacation:** That is a hard question to answer. They are all important and memorable to me. Golfing trips to Florida, girlfriend vacations to Hawaii, San Antonio, Galveston, New York City, Las Vegas, and Savannah, and visiting my family in the Netherlands.
- **Any Pets:** I have 2 cats. Squeak, the diva, and Pipa, the scaredy cat.
- **Favorite Food:** American, Italian, Mexican, and Chinese, anything involving pasta!!

- **Hobbies/Relaxation Activities:** Traveling, reading, and spending time with my family, especially my 94-year-old mom!!
- **Summer Plans:** Traveling to Nevada, taking random day trips with my mom, and any last minute trips that come up.
- **Favorite job outside education:** I was a CNA while working my way through college. I really enjoyed working with the elderly!
- **The best part about working in education:** For me, it's the relationships that I built with my 2nd graders. I love working with those 7/8 year olds! I will also miss working with the amazing staff that I have had the pleasure to work with as well!
- **Who inspired you to pursue the career you have today:** I would have to say my late bather, Bill. He taught K-12 students in a one room school house back in the 1950's. Later, he was my 6th grade teacher, which is when I caught the teaching bug, and was also a junior high principal.
- **Best advice for someone starting their career:** Be passionate, and love what you do! Remember, patience is a virtue.

Mrs. Miller is retiring at the end of the 23-24 school year. She has been a 2nd Grade Teacher at Auburndale Elementary for 36 years!

Enjoy your retirement, Mrs. Miller—you've earned it!

Middle School Math League

A middle school math league competition was held at Edgar High School on January 10, 2024. Participants competed individually and in teams of four within the following categories: fractions, decimals, percents, algebra, geometry, as well as individual and group problem solving. Participants were also mixed with individuals from other schools and competed in a STEM event. Daelynn Blomberg, Kara Heeg, and Isaac Aschenbrenner earned medals, and Treyton Becker was part of the team that placed first in the STEM event. Other participants included Austin Hilgart, Wyatt Pavlik, Andrew Brandl, and Alana Cherney. Congratulations!



Crystal Apple Award

Congratulations to Joren Anderson for being selected as a Crystal Apple Award winner! Joren has been a high school social studies teacher at Auburndale for the last 11 years. Joren is very involved at our school and in our community. Besides being a social studies teacher, she is also our varsity cross country coach, as well as the leader of our student council. Joren lives in our community, and she is also involved with the local community. She is extremely involved with our local veteran's groups. She plans and organizes our veteran's day program each year. She even organizes a trip for our local veterans each year with the help of her leadership class. Joren cares tremendously about the content that she teaches, which passes on to her students. She plans lessons that engage students, drawing from her first-hand experiences. She takes advantage of opportunities that further her own education, so she can pass those skills onto the next generation. Congratulations Joren!



4K Registration and Open Enrollment for the 24-25 School Year

4K Registration can be done online or through the elementary office. For 4K, your child must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2024. For Kindergarten, your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2024. **If your child is already in our 4K program this year, there is no need to register them for Kindergarten. Questions regarding Elementary registration can be emailed to Lacey at lasmussen@abschools.com**

****Open Enrollment for students who live outside the Auburndale School District closes April 30. Open Enrollment must be completed through the DPI website. Applications will be approved/denied in May. Questions about Open Enrollment can be emailed to Casey at districtoffice@abschools.com**

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Spring Scrambler

Directions: Unscramble the words. Each word contains a circled letter. Unscramble the circled letter to find the hidden word!

a d d f f(i) l o _____

e h i n n(s) s u _____

(e) f l o r w _____

(g) h o r t w _____

(i) l p t u _____

a d e g(n) r _____

a b e l l(m) r u _____

a d i n o p(r) r _____

a c e j k(t) _____

d d e l(p) u _____

Answer Key: daffodil, sunshine, flower, growth, tulip, garden, umbrella, raindrop, jacket, puddle. Hidden Word: springtime

Riddle Me This..

1. Why is April the cleanest month?
2. What do flowers and trampolines have in common?
3. What has to be broken before you can use it?
4. What do you call the Easter bunny the day after Easter?
5. How do birds communicate?
6. How did the flower when the car race?
7. What goes up when the rain comes down?

Answer Key: 1. Because it showers 2. They both like springs 3. an egg 4. Tired 5. They Twitter 6. It put the petal to the medal 7. An umbrella

