
HIGHLIGHTS

Argo Community High School



SEPTEMBER 2023

www.argohs.net

Latest News from ACHS District 217



Welcome Back, Argonauts!

Greetings Argonaut Community,

We have a lot to look forward to in the 2023-2024 school year. As always, we are committed to working with students and parents/guardians to provide academic support, a safe learning environment, and a space that is inclusive of all. Recently, we celebrated the unveiling of the Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Memorial Walkway. The hope is that it not only honors a renowned alumna but also serves as a reminder of the need to continue Mrs. Till-Mobley's fight to advance equity and racial justice. It is important to study our past to build our future.

Argo Community High School was just named a U.S. News & World Report Best High School for the fourth year in a row. This is such a great accomplishment and speaks to the dedication of our faculty, staff, and all of you. In the last couple of months, we also applied for the National Blue-Ribbon School Award and are anxiously awaiting a response.

Construction started on the new Pass Gate Annex, which will be completed in fall 2024. This will be a centralized location for pickups and drop offs and will also offer additional common space for students and the community. New security measures are being researched to ensure the safety of all those in our building and surrounding areas.

Distinguished Alumni nomination applications will be accepted beginning later this month through October 2023. Alumni Night festivities will take place in January 2024. Along with Distinguished Alumni nominations, we will have our annual Homecoming festivities on September 8 and September 9. While it was only a few weeks ago that we celebrated our 2023 graduates, we are now looking ahead at how best to celebrate our 100th graduating class- the Class of 2024. Please check our website at www.argohs.net for more details.

Argo Community High School could not do what it does without the support of our community. We are fortunate to count on engaged parents who collaborate with our teachers to support their students. Our local elected officials, village leaders, and business community are also great advocates and partners as we continue to develop additional ways for them to participate in the growth of our students and community.

Our goal at Argo Community High School is to build and strengthen a collaborative atmosphere that is dedicated to always working in the best interest of our students. We appreciate the important connections being made between our students, teachers, staff, feeder schools, and entire community. I encourage you to become more involved in our efforts and activities and help us continue to MAKE EVERYDAY COUNT and SAIL ONTO VICTORY.

Take care,

Dr. William C. Toullos, Ed.D.
Superintendent

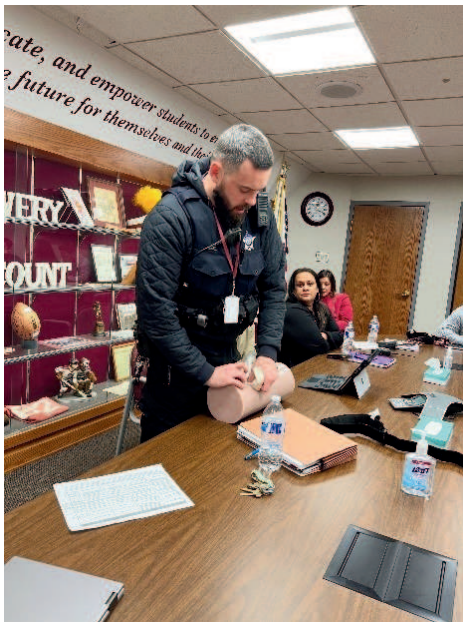
Principal's Office

School Safety:



Argo Community High School prides itself on maintaining a secure environment for students, staff, and faculty. Central to this mission is our Threat Assessment Team, an essential and committed group responsible for the oversight of all safety procedures within the school.

This team is comprised of a variety of different educational employees including School Resource Officers, Administrators, Teachers, Social Workers, School Psychologists, and Student Supervisors who share a common goal of providing a safe and conducive learning environment. Our Threat Assessment Team has played a pivotal role in the implementation of a variety of safety measures, which collectively have significantly enhanced our school's security profile. In December all members of the Threat Assessment Team participated in Stop The Bleed Training that was conducted by Officer Antoine and Officer Snee.



This past October, several members of our Threat Assessment Team attended the National Threat Assessment Conference for Educational Institutions which provided a wealth of information for the team to consider. Additionally, in December several of our Deans and School Resource Officers became certified in ALICE Training which is widely considered the premier violent critical incident response framework available.

In addition to our large network of traditional security cameras, Argo has implemented the use of Flock cameras across the campus. These high-tech surveillance cameras enable a comprehensive monitoring system, designed to mitigate potential threats while allowing swift response to any unexpected incidents. The security cameras are monitored in real time, ensuring immediate action by law enforcement when required and offering an additional layer of security for everyone within our school.

Principal's Office

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Further reinforcing our commitment to safety, we've appointed a Director of Security, Mr. Tim Prince, who works closely with the Threat Assessment Team. The Director of Security's role encompasses overseeing the entire security framework, coordinating with the team to constantly improve and adapt our safety strategies. The addition of Mr. Prince brings years of law enforcement and safety expertise and a profound understanding of the unique security needs of an academic environment.



Technology:

Our Technology Department oversees a variety of safety hardware and software. These advanced technologies aid in risk detection, response coordination, and ensure effective communication during emergencies. Electronic door locks have been installed throughout the school to provide controlled access to our facilities. These locks allow entry only to authorized personnel, thus safeguarding our students and staff during school hours. Some of the tools we employ include digital mapping of our school layout for first responders, software capable of risk detection through scanning the digital environment, and an anonymous reporting system. This system empowers students, staff, and community members to share any safety concerns.



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Teaching & Learning Development



Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) – Argo Community High School is excited to share the resounding success of our TLC under the leadership of Dr. Laura Jervis. In its first year of operation, the TLC has been a place of support for students, significantly impacting academic outcomes.

The TLC operates during all periods of the school day, ensuring accessibility for all students, regardless of their class schedules. This constant support creates a culture of continual learning, reinforcing the importance of consistent effort in academic pursuits.

A dedicated team of four full-time instructional aides assists students across all academic subjects, providing the necessary help to complete assignments, craft well-written papers, and make up for any missed quizzes or tests. This unique initiative creates an inclusive, supportive space for students to overcome academic challenges.

"We are immensely proud of the impact our center has made," said Dr. Jervis. "Our primary goal was always to encourage students to reach their full academic potential. Seeing this progress is extremely rewarding."

Paper.Co - Argo Community High School is pleased to announce the continuation of providing Paper.co, an innovative online learning platform, to all its students. This service provides free academic support 24/7, ensuring that students have access to assistance whenever they need it, even beyond school hours.

Paper.co offers a multitude of resources for students, ranging from study materials, learning aids, and real-time tutoring across a broad spectrum of subjects. The platform's goal is to aid students in their academic journey, offering support for homework, test preparation, and deepening subject understanding. Paper.co provided over 2,000 tutoring sessions and almost 4,000 writing reviews for Argo students!

By continuing to offer this service, Argo Community High School reaffirms its commitment to harnessing technology to bolster education, ensuring every student has access to the tools they need for academic success.

Teaching & Learning Development

Continued...



Celebrating Perfect Scores on AP Exams – In the 2022-2023 academic year, 71 Argo students achieved a perfect AP score of 5 on their exams. Dr. Cotter, the Principal, along with Assistant Principal Mr. Dagues and Administration Assistants, Ms. Young and Mrs. Willis, teamed up with the Division/Assistant Chair of Humanities, Mr. Lettiere, and Mr. Bryan McCormack, to personally deliver 'AP High 5' congratulatory signs to each student's home. Argo Community High School and all its staff members take pride in acknowledging and rejoicing over the exceptional academic accomplishments of its students.

Faraday Bags – During the 2022-2023 school year, ACHS implemented the use of Faraday bags in all classrooms. This initiative was introduced not to curtail the use of technology, but rather to promote its responsible usage. ACHS will continue to utilize this for the 2023-2024 school year. We believe this will enhance students' learning experience and help them develop better digital habits.

New Teacher Academy (NTA) - With a significant number of veteran teachers approaching retirement in the next five to eight years, Argo High School has proactively established the New Teacher Academy (NTA), a comprehensive orientation and mentorship program for new educators to ACHS.

Recognizing the valuable role that experienced teachers play in shaping our educational community, the NTA is designed to harness their wisdom and experience, facilitating its transfer to the incoming generation of educators. The program pairs new teachers with veteran educators, providing them with the guidance and support necessary to excel in their roles. In addition, the NTA includes bi-monthly themed meetings held throughout the school year. These meetings serve as an interactive platform for discussions on a wide range of pedagogical topics, fostering a vibrant learning community.

This new initiative demonstrates Argo Community High School's commitment to maintaining its high standards of teaching and learning, ensuring the continuity of its values, culture, and innovative approach to education in the coming years.

Student Experiences & Community Engagement



Kicking It Off

The Assistant Principal of Student Experiences and Community Engagement was able to start the year off with visits to over seventy-five community establishments, municipalities, and libraries. It was nice to meet people from all these places and start to form working relationships with them. Calendars for the high school events were handed out to each establishment so they could both advertise and be aware of big events at Argo!

Student Input

A student advisory committee was formed for all activity events. It is comprised of recommendations from coaches, sponsors, teachers, deans, and administration. These 30+ students meet once a month to help brainstorm ideas for new events and existing events. As I have always believed students will be more invested and engaged if they have a say in the process. These students were the highlight of many of my days, with their creativity and openness to make our events better.



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Homecoming Fall 2023

For the second year we hosted the dance outside for our students with the theme of Candyland! We had the largest turnout of students since I came to Argo in 2016. Over 850 students attended the dance. We also were able to host the beloved senior flag football competition. The parade, pep assembly, spirit days and window painting were a few of the other traditional Homecoming events that were held.

Exponential Theater Growth

David Hernandez has completely revamped and reinvigorated our theater members and productions. Honestly, I have no words except to say that David has committed to making this program the best it can be and every day he surprises me with innovative ideas, passion, and dedication to this program. In addition, he created a series of interviews with past theater alumni and plans to celebrate them and one hundred years of Argo theater this coming school year!



Student Experiences & Community Engagement

Continued...



Alumni Night

We had our Alumni After Party at the newly opened Chesters, it was a phenomenal success raising money for our Argo Higher education Fund. Speaking of Alumni do not forget it is time once again to induct Distinguished Alumni. If you know someone worthy of this great honor because of their accomplishments and community contributions please nominate them by October 1st, 2023. The application can be found on the Argo Website.

Activities Shoutouts

- Lucian Bogdan was awarded Chess Coach of the Year!
- Speech held its first ever Speech Showcase for parents and students!
- Argo Gaming came in third place in sectionals!
- Megan Fitzgerald was elected as the Illinois Music Education Association District 1 President
- Speech took an unprecedented five students to compete in sectionals!
- We held three pep assemblies, one for each Sport/Activity season so all students could be celebrated.
- We celebrated our Special Olympics basketball team with a Pack the Place game! Coaches Shaughnessy and Hutchinson made this first ever event happen!

Graduation 2023

Again, we express our immense gratitude to The Village of Bedford Park's support of our second commencement ceremony held at the Wintrust Sports Complex. The generous contributions- both financial and community resources- were very much appreciated by the Class of 2023. We are looking forward to continuing to grow and foster student participation and success in 2023-2024.



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*...we express our
immense
gratitude to The
Village of
Bedford Park...”*

Activities Highlights:



Athletic Highlights:

2023 COLLEGE COMMITMENTS



ARGO ARGONAUTS

Mahmoud Ghanayem

Boys Volleyball St. Xavier University

Johnathan Walker

Football University of Wisconsin-Stout

Leslie Garcia

Girls Track Moraine Valley Community College

Andrea Mendez

Girls Soccer Prairie State College

Apollonia Guerrero

Girls Basketball Oakton College

Davonte Evans

Football University of Wisconsin-Stout

Christian Correa

Football North Park University

Caylah Boyd

Girls Track Elmhurst College

Juan Villa

Wrestling Morton College

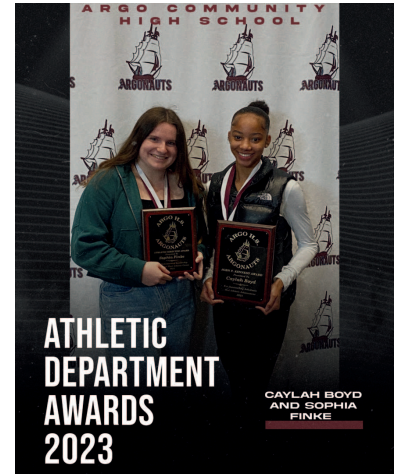
Demario Eddins

Boys Basketball Waubensee Community College

Rosie

Ruscio-Shaughnessy

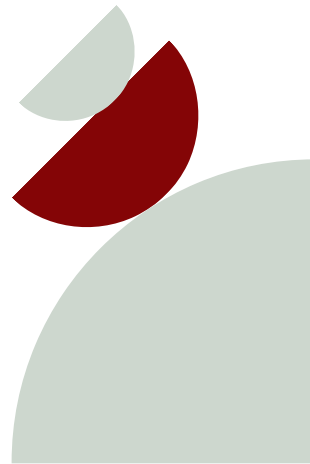
Girls Volleyball Morton College



Athletic Highlights:

A graphic featuring a large, stylized letter 'A' in the background. In the top right corner is a smaller 'A' logo. The text reads:

MICHELLE
KIOLTYKA HEREDIA
IHSA State
Qualifier
SSC WRESTLING
CONFERENCE
CHAMPION



Important Dates for 2023-2024:



Homecoming Games 9.8.23

4:30 p.m. Junior Varsity

7:00 p.m. Varsity

Homecoming 9.9.23

8:00 a.m. Community Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Parade

10:30 a.m. Stacey Ziccardi Dedication

12:00 p.m. Alumni Soccer Game

Distinguished Alumni Banquet 1.25.24

Alumni Night 1.26.24

**ARGO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**



*Dr. Dan Kozal
President*



*Mr. Nicholas Caprio
Vice President*



*Dr. Jennifer Grenier
Secretary*



Mrs. Diane Ponce



Mrs. Luz Rangel-Raymond



Mrs. Lauren Vasquez



Mrs. Catherine Jozwiak



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Summit, IL 60501

