



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 XLVI

No. 2

NOVEMBER 2024

From the Administrator's Desk

By Mr. Kevin Yeske

I hope this message reaches you while you, your family, and loved ones are enjoying what has been a very pleasant August, September, and October. The outstanding weather has provided extended time outside for students and staff as we take advantage of the dwindling daylight hours. In the district, we are preparing for winter while also looking forward to what the remainder of the year will bring.

As many of you are aware, the school district is considering a referendum in the spring of 2025. This would be a referendum to maintain buildings - not to fund salaries, benefits, or other related items. It would be to borrow money above the limit that is allowed through the local levy limit established by the state. To gather information from the community regarding a possible referendum in the spring, a survey will be sent to each district address that outlines the three parts being considered as possible referendum questions. I will attempt to explain what each part is but encourage you to read and complete the survey when you receive it in the mail this month.

The first question involves maintaining our current buildings and grounds. In 1998, 26 years ago, the Tim and Vicki Anderson gymnasium, library, and elementary classroom wings were constructed through a building referendum supported by the community residents. I'm assuming that the passage of that referendum was accomplished with the thought that this should last 20-25 years which is the expected life span of roofs, boilers, asphalt surfaces, and most things mechanical. We have now reached the point where some of these items are failing and need to be replaced to last the next 20-25 years. The funding for building or maintenance projects is not included in equalization aid or other grants available through federal or state programs. This is evidenced by the fact that almost half of the school districts in

the state in the year 2024 have gone to referendum to receive local support to address building, maintenance, or operational needs. Specifically in our situation, we have roofs that are between 26-31 years old that are flat rubber membranes that are beginning to fail. We have patched some holes and seams that have opened up but the time to replace or risk catastrophic failure is here. Our track asphalt surface was paved in 1998. It received a rubberized surface that year and was resurfaced with a rubberized surface again in 2013. The life expectancy of the rubber surface is 8-10 years. We got 11 out of the current surface which is great but not the problem. The problem lies in the asphalt surface it adheres to. The asphalt is cracking and opening up large fissures making it unsafe to run on. The inside lanes have no rubber surface left. The drain tiles that once allowed water to be funneled to the east ditch are no longer functioning. As a result, the school district will no longer be able to host any competitions on the track until it is replaced. Track companies will no longer fill the cracks or guarantee any work done until the asphalt surface is removed and replaced. The science rooms in the secondary building are original rooms when the school was erected in 1965. The cabinets, plumbing, electricity, gas, and asbestos flooring need to be removed, replaced, and upgraded to meet the needs of our current population of students. Boilers, electrical systems, air handlers, and other mechanical equipment, some installed with the original buildings in 1965, are still operational but beginning to fail. Finding replacement parts for equipment 25-60 years old is nearly impossible. Within the elementary school, temporary walls were put up in 1998 as the classroom wings were added to the building. Those temporary walls which contain some classrooms, offices, bathrooms, and storage areas limit the capabilities of what has to be accomplished with our students at the elementary school. The walls themselves are 2" thick and contain no electrical outlets, telephone, or other communication cables

necessary for meeting the needs of 20th-century learners. Our elementary school population continues to grow which is a positive thing. Unfortunately, the temporary walls installed in 1998 have taken on the image of being permanent which doesn't meet the changing needs of education and our enrollment. The cost to complete these projects is 4.3 million dollars. The impact upon property owners within the district would be an increase of \$7 in taxes per year for every \$100,000 of property owned for the next 20 years.

The second questions involve adding new areas to the district to address the growing needs of the community, students, and education. At this time, we do not have a dedicated space for music, drama, or any community groups to perform in. We have a stage in the gym at the high school built in 1965 but it is outdated, small, and currently doubles as storage for wrestling mats and equipment for our junior high school wrestling program. Coupled with the lack of a performance area for music, drama, 4H, FFA, or other community events, the cafeteria continues to be an area of congestion and overcrowding. Through expansion and creation of an auditorium and expanded cafeteria, both of these concerns could be addressed. The cost of this expansion paired with the 4.3 million dollar maintenance request mentioned above would cost \$82 per year for every \$100,000 of property value.

Another option to address the overcrowding and space needs would be to add a community fitness center and wrestling/archery space to the north end of the Tim and Vicki Anderson gymnasium. We currently have nearly 30 wrestlers out for wrestling. The wrestling room built in 1998 was designed to accommodate 18 wrestlers at the most. We cannot safely put 30 wrestlers in a space designed for 18. As a result, this year we will be moving our high school wrestling practices to a gym which displaces a basketball team to a different time. This in turn displaces youth basketball teams which begin as early as 3rd grade to practicing less or later into the evenings. This is not advantageous for students and families at any level. Our archery program continues to grow with over 70 students participating last year and more expected this year. They also have to use the gym to accommodate the distance and space requirements to compete. This creates more conflict in the scheduling of precious gym time. Evidence of this is the fact that our three gyms which sat empty except for a couple of Saturdays during the winter months as little as a couple of years ago, are now filled with practices and events from Friday evenings through Sunday evenings almost every weekend beginning in December through March. A dedicated wrestling/archery space would allow these activities to be

scheduled out of the gyms where hoops are needed for basketball and provide for those requesting the gym space to be accommodated earlier rather than extending past 8:00 p.m. on school nights. A community fitness center would be available for the community to use and would contain weight machines, exercise bikes, treadmills, and other equipment that would be available through keyless access from the outside for those possessing a fob. The cost of this addition with the 4.3 million dollar maintenance proposal mentioned previously would be \$124 per year for each \$100,000 of property value.

The survey will provide more information and detail regarding each of these options. The survey is being conducted by an independent company who will collect and compile the results to inform the Board of Education what options mentioned would be supported. The results of the survey will be shared with the Board of Education at the December meeting. Based on the results of the survey, any referendum questions moving forward will have to be written and approved by the Board in January. If the Board of Education determines that they wish to pursue any of the three options or combinations mentioned above in an April referendum, more specific details, listening sessions, construction design, and community feedback opportunities will be frequent beginning at the end of January and concluding before a vote on the first Tuesday of April.

I am proud of our small community and our ability to see the quality of what our schools can offer. We have an increasing enrollment when most of our neighbors have a declining number of students. Our open enrollment numbers continue to rival those of our big neighbors that surround us. I'd like to think this is because of our location, facilities, small class sizes, variety of student organizations and opportunities that extend beyond the school day, individualized learning, and a willingness to work together with our students, staff, and community to achieve more.

As always, if you have questions regarding the survey, the items contained within, or other matters related to the general operations of the district, please feel free to call me at 715-652-2117 or email me at kyeske@aubschools.com

Community Connection Coffee Club

The Community Connection Coffee Club is held on the first and third Wednesday of the month. CCCC is from 8:00- 9:15 a.m. in the New Gym Lobby.

From the Elementary

Principal's Desk

By Mr. Andrew Scharenbroch

As the seasons turn to the cooler weather the elementary school continues to strive for excellence and provide amazing opportunities for all students every day. Throughout the early months of the school year the students have been able to utilize the greatest classroom: the school forest. Along with getting outside into nature the students are using the Marleen Knutson Learning Center and discovering great experiences in a variety of ways. The School Forest continues to provide endless learning opportunities in a safe environment that fosters curiosity, exploration, and creativity.

Also mark your calendars for the Grades 3-5 Christmas Concert in the elementary gym at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. on December 17. Grades K-2 will be in the springtime.

*Please remember to label your child's coat, gloves, hats, etc as the weather gets colder. The lost and found table continues to get more and more full.

*Please read with your child every night or have them read independently!

Thank you again to everyone as we continue the learning and positive growth here at AES! Go Eagles!

School Closing Information

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.

From the Middle/High School

Principal's Desk

By Mr. Steve Van Wyhe

Dear Parents, Students, Guardians, and Community Members,

The school year has been off to a great start! Our seniors started the first day of school with a "Senior Sunrise", with many of our seniors gathering to watch the sunrise before the first day of school. It was neat to see their excitement, as they were preparing for their final year of school. As I write this, we are just wrapping up the first quarter.

Our fall sports teams have been competing and doing very well. As a former Auburndale student-athlete, it is neat to see this generation of students continue to give their best. Please come out and support them at their home events. You can also catch those events online through our streaming. Go Eagles!

On December 16th we will have our Fine Arts night from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. You can browse our students' artwork and watch the choir and band concerts on the same evening. Please come out and show your support!

We are continuing to have our community coffees on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity to stop in and see the neat things that are going on in our district. If you are a veteran, you are also welcome to attend our veteran coffee on the second Tuesday of each month from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m..

Thank you for all your support!

Student Attendance

Just a reminder for parents/guardians to please call the school, 715-652-2115 MS/HS, or 715-652-2812 ES, if your child will not be attending school on any given day. Please tell us the student's name(s) and the reason why s/he is absent. This allows the School

District to meet its obligations regarding the attendance laws that we must operate under. Your call is important to us as we account for every student's attendance on a daily basis. If you have any questions, please call the office at the number listed above.

National Honor Society

On the evening of October 7th, Auburndale High School's current National Honor Society members (Alexis Fait, Emily Van Asten, Leah Martinez, Liliana Grube, Taylor Anderson) welcomed the new inductees (Emily Becker, McKenzie Keuffer, Genevieve Nelsen, Kylie Anderson, Danika Blomberg, Brody Braunsky, Jasmine Draeger, Joshua Lundgren, Olivia Smrz, Trevor Trowbridge) in a brief ceremony.

NHS strives to create enthusiasm for SCHOLARSHIP, stimulates a desire to render SERVICE, promotes LEADERSHIP, and develops CHARACTER in students. Membership in the Auburndale Chapter of NHS is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a faculty council and based on these four qualities. These students have a responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

The Auburndale NHS Chapter was advised by Mr. Timothy Gunderman, with Ms. Kelly Drevlow taking on the role of Chapter Advisor starting this school year.

Congratulations to our new members!



Eighth-Graders Explore Manufacturing on the Heavy Metal Tour®

*By Mrs. CeeJay Auman
8th Grade English Language Arts*

Earlier this month, on October 2nd, our 8th-grade students had the exciting opportunity to participate in the 2024 Heavy Metal Tour®—a field trip that gave them an in-depth look at the world of manufacturing. Over 4,000 students from across Central Wisconsin were involved, including a group from our very own school, who traveled to various local manufacturing sites to explore future career options.

In collaboration with Mid-State and Northcentral Technical Colleges, the Heavy Metal Tour® is designed to introduce students to the many exciting possibilities within the manufacturing industry. For our rural students, it was an incredible opportunity to step outside the classroom and gain hands-on experience that could shape their future career paths.

Our students had the special privilege of exploring three local facilities: Marshfield Utilities, Loos Machine and Automation, and Innovative Machine. A huge thanks to these companies for welcoming our students and giving them firsthand access to the world of manufacturing. During the tour, students witnessed cutting-edge technology, learned about engineering, and saw how products are made—from the design phase to the production line.

One of the standout features of this year's tour was the hands-on approach. Students didn't just observe the process; they were able to engage with the machinery and get a feel for what working in manufacturing is really like. This interactive format made the experience even more memorable and exciting.

Each student was provided with safety glasses and guided through the manufacturing sites by industry professionals who shared their knowledge and answered questions. Every student also received a T-shirt emblazoned with logos from the participating companies, giving them a tangible reminder of the day.

The Heavy Metal Tour® serves as an eye-opener for many students, helping them realize that there are numerous career options available after high school, especially in industries like manufacturing that play a critical role in our local economy. For students who might not be interested in traditional college routes, this tour highlighted pathways that are both fulfilling and vital to our community's future.

We are grateful for the opportunity to take part in this year's Heavy Metal Tour® and extend a special thanks to Marshfield Utilities, Loos Machine and Automation, and Innovative Machine for making it a memorable and educational experience for our students.



College Credits in High School

High School students can earn college credits while still in high school in a variety of ways. Auburndale High School offers Dual Credit courses in Agriculture, Business, English, Family & Consumer Sciences, Health, & Tech Ed. **Dual Credit** courses are taught by our Auburndale High School staff utilizing Mid-State Technical College standards. Students in those courses can opt to receive both HS credits and MSTC College Credits at the same time with no cost to the student. In the 2022-2023 school year, Auburndale students took a total of 685 college credits saving them a total of \$101,464! Similar to Dual Credit, Auburndale offers **CAPP** Physics in coordination with UW-Oshkosh. Students taking CAPP Physics can earn 5 college credits for free without stepping out of their Auburndale classroom.

AP Courses are another option for students to earn college credits. AP Courses are offered with Auburndale teachers as well as through Distance Learning. At the completion of the AP Course students can opt to take an AP Exam and earn 3+ credits based on their scores.

We continue to offer multiple options through our **Early College Credit Program** and **Start College Now Program**. Students with a 3.0 GPA or higher can request to take college courses at any UW, Private, or Technical College in the state. Course tuition is covered by the Auburndale School District as long as the course is approved by the School Board and successfully completed by the student. These college courses can be taken through Distance Learning, online, or on the college campus. Applications for these programs are located in the Counseling Office and are due by September 10th for Spring Semester courses and February 10th for Fall Semester courses.

Students interested in any of these amazing opportunities should schedule a meeting with Ms. Binder, the Middle/High School Counselor.

The Kindness Closet

The Auburndale Kindness Closet is up and running this school year. The Kindness Closet is located in the Auburndale Middle/High School building and is open during school hours or by appointment. The Closet is filled with gently used and new clothes and shoes, personal hygiene supplies, and non-perishable food items. If you or someone you know needs help, please fill out the Request Form on the district website (under Resources) or reach out to the Counseling Office.

At this time, we are currently accepting the following donations:

- Deodorants & Body Sprays (Must be unopened)
- Shampoo & Conditioner (Must be unopened)
- Non-perishable food items such as noodles, pasta sauces, cereal, canned soups, etc.
- Laundry Detergent
- Little girls size 7-8 clothing
- Mens size 2X-3X clothing
- Socks & Underwear of all sizes (Must be unopened)

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 at jertl@aubschools.com.

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 CARE Program, monetary donations can be made out to the School District of Auburndale (with a note indicating CARE Program). Please mail your donation to the attention of: CARE Program, School District of Auburndale, P. O. Box 139, Auburndale, WI 54412.

Meet the Auburndale Staff

Tanya Hilgart

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

6 Years



- **Career:** My 1st year at Auburndale I worked as a Special Ed. Aide at the Elementary. My 2nd year I was hired as a Business Teacher/Keyboarding instructor for both schools. Now I teach Accounting, Finance, and Personal Finance at the MSHS.
- **Other Jobs:** When I was 16 I worked at Shopko Optical and transferred locations during college. After college I became the Optical Manager at Shopko, Marshfield. Then I became an Accounting Manager at Security Health Plan. After several years, I decided my true calling was to become a teacher which was my original plan when I started college. I went back to school while working full time and earned my Master's in Curriculum and Instruction and now I have my dream job of being a teacher!
- **Favorite Job Outside of Education:** I love being a mom!

- **Family:** I have been married for 18 years to my high school sweetheart, Adam. Together we have Austin, Levi, Adelynne, and Ellie.
- **Hometown:** My family moved from Greenwood to Auburndale before 3rd grade. I am an Auburndale graduate and now reside with my family in Bethel.
- **Most Memorable Vacation:** A road trip our family took out East in 2022. One of our stops was Washington, D.C. and we explored D.C. nightlife from 9pm - midnight. The atmosphere and views were amazing at night. We were able to speak to security guards who gave us tips on where to take the best pictures. With not many people around, there were no lines to worry about either. I highly recommend visiting Washington, D.C. at night if you have the opportunity to do so!
- **Secret Talent:** I can touch the tip of my nose with my tongue!
- **Favorite Food:** Sushi from Matsu Ya!
- **Hobbies:** Camping, UTV trail riding, reading, and spending time with my family.
- **Any Pets:** We have a small hobby farm that consists of four cattle, 30+ chickens, and one kitty, Princess Peach.
- **Who inspired you to pursue the career you have today:** No one in particular, but instead I felt a calling to work with children.
- **Best advice for someone starting their career:** Simply, be kind! Treat everyone the way you want to be treated.



Meet the Auburndale Staff

Loralei Berry

How long have you worked in the School District of Auburndale:
28 Years!



- **Career:** Before coming to Auburndale, I was a teacher in South Dakota for 5 years.
- **Favorite Job Outside of Education:** Being a leader and educator in my church.
- **Favorite Food:** Pizza

- **Family:** My husband Jason, my son Conner (24), Cameron (21), and Cooper (15).
- **Hometown:** Raymond, South Dakota
- **Most Memorable Vacation:** The many trips back home to see family!
- **Hobbies:** Spending time with my family, travel, reading, and baking!
- **Any Pets:** We have 3 cats: April, Daisy, and Nala.
- **The best part about working in education:** Watching the “light” go on when children get it, the endless smiles that I get each day, and the relationships with my students.
- **Who inspired you to pursue the career you have today:** The teachers I had, especially my first grade teacher!
- **Best advice for someone starting their career:** Start with something you love and build your career around it!



Meet the Auburndale Staff

Devin Damerell

How long have you worked in the School District of Auburndale:
4 Years



- **Career:** I have been in a lot of central WI schools in my 8 years. I started at CESA 5, which brought me to Marshfield - Lincoln, Pittsville, Port Edwards, and Nekoosa. Then I split my time at Loyal and Granton until I settled roots here!
- **Favorite Job Outside of Education:** Being a mom is the best part of who I am!
- **Family:** I have a wonderful husband who has supported all my crazy dreams. I have known him since 2011 and have been married for 7 years. We have a spunky 4-year-old son who keeps us active and always on our toes!
- **Most Memorable Vacation:** Our honeymoon! We drove from Wisconsin to St. Louis to see the arch and a baseball game. From there, we went and visited family in Kentucky where we snuggled kangaroos at Kentucky Down Under (if you've never been - it's a must!) and slowly made our way to the mountains of Tennessee, Nashville, and Wilmington, NC for 4th of July.
- **Favorite Food:** Sushi

- **Any Pets:** Two large dogs: Luna (German Shepard - 5 yo) and Gryffin (Toller/Retriever mix - 1 yo)
- **The best part about working in education:** I love working within the entire district! From 3-year-olds just starting, to watching them cross the stage at graduation. I get to be a small part of their journey. Making the connections and relationships with the students who find school a bit more challenging than most is where my passion lives. The very best part is when students who have been struggling suddenly "get it!" When the ideas click, the light goes on, and they feel that sense of accomplishment - that keeps me going every day.
- **Who inspired you to pursue the career you have today:** Growing up, I watched my dad struggle with reading. He would tell stories about getting into trouble at school and barely passing classes. I watched him overcome these struggles and become a successful adult. I decided early in my college years that I would not let any student struggle through school as much as my dad did.
- **Best advice for someone starting their career:** Take time to be selfish. There will always be more work to do at the end of each day, but in order to be the very best at your job, you need to prioritize self-care!



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SALE OF SCHOOL ITEMS

The School District of Auburndale has for sale multiple items including: Hobart Dishwasher, youth-sized tables, and a potters wheel. 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.

School Board Meeting Schedule

Meeting Times are at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 17, 2024
Monday, August 26, 2024
(Annual Meeting followed by Regular Board Meeting)
Wednesday, September 18, 2024
Wednesday, October 16, 2024
Wednesday, November 20, 2024
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Wednesday, January 22 - Friday, January 24, 2025
(State Education Convention, Quorum of the Board)
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
(Meeting scheduled on 2nd Wednesday to accommodate Senior Awards Night)
Wednesday, June 18, 2025

* Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Agendas are posted on the school website and on the building entrances no less than 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Minutes are posted on the website no more than 45 days after the meeting. All meeting information can be found on the school website under District > School Board of Education.

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

School District of Auburndale
April 1, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the School District of Auburndale, on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 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 28, 2025.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
School Board Member	Scott Karl
School Board Member	Mike Sabel

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 7, 2025, 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 18, 2025.

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, 2024. 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.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2024
Sheila Cherney
School Board Clerk