



Avonworth School District 2023 Annual Report



Mission Statement

The Avonworth School District empowers students through authentic experiences to become innovative thinkers and creative contributors to our world.

Belief Statements

We believe:

1. Students' strengths and talents are nurtured in a safe and supportive environment.
2. The school district supports diversity, empathy, and respect.
3. Developing essential skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, and communication prepares students to navigate a complex world.
4. Learning takes place within and beyond our school walls.
5. The school district and community partner for mutual benefit.

Table of Contents

Financial Information	3
Construction Update	4-5
School Safety Update	6
Assessment Data	7
Stay Connected	8-9
Avonworth School District Creates Classrooms for All	10-11
Academics	12-14
Athletics	15-17
Arts	18-20
Avonworth	21-23
Hall of Distinction	24-25
Board, Administrative Team/ District Contact Info	26

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Avonworth School Community Members,

I am proud to present you with the 2023 Avonworth School District Annual Report. There are so many exciting things happening in our School District. It is an honor to share the successes of our staff and students.

I want to acknowledge that you are receiving this annual report at a different time of year than we have provided it in the past. Typically, we have aimed to send a report toward the beginning of a school year highlighting the previous school year. However, much of our data is not available at that time.

Moving forward, our report will cover a calendar year – January - December. This cycle enables us to share the most up-to-date information, such as school performance data, budget information, etc., with the school community.

The Annual Report provides our school community with important information about our schools, achievements, and fiscal operations. In each Annual Report, we also try to broaden our relationship with our school community. In the Stay Connected section of the report, community members interested in receiving updates from the district are encouraged to sign up for these emails. Also, we are asking parents/guardians, community members, business owners, and alums to sign up, if interested, to support our students. Please see the Stay Connected section for additional information on these initiatives.

This Annual Report also includes an update on our secondary campus construction, which broke ground on June 5, 2023. This project is necessary to address the district's growing enrollment, which has increased 14% from 2004 to 2014 and another 25% from 2014 to today. When finished, the project will provide our students, staff, and school community with a state-of-the-art educational facility designed to maximize student learning.

The past 18 months have continued to provide evidence of the amazing students and school community we proudly serve. Accomplishments were abundant, covering the full spectrum of athletics, activities, and academics. Additionally, our staff continues to evolve the school experience for our students as we work to fulfill the vision of our current strategic plan. With a focus on student well-being, student advisory programming is being developed and implemented. To help students see their value and potential in the world, career exploration programming is being developed and refined across the district. Lastly, our staff and administration remain committed to providing Avonworth students with the highest quality educational programming.

The 2023-2024 school year brings a time of growth and renewal in various ways. We will watch the transformation of our secondary campus occur throughout the school year. We continue our focus on developing strategies and actions outlined in our strategic plan while also beginning to prepare for the development of our next strategic plan. Similar to the foundations being constructed for the building project, our staff is laying the foundation for the ongoing success and growth of Avonworth students.

We hope you are as excited as we are about today and the future of the Avonworth School District. We have so much to be proud of and to look forward to. Nothing we do is possible without the support of this incredible school community. Thank you for your continued support of the Avonworth School District!

Respectfully,

Jeffrey M. Hadley, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

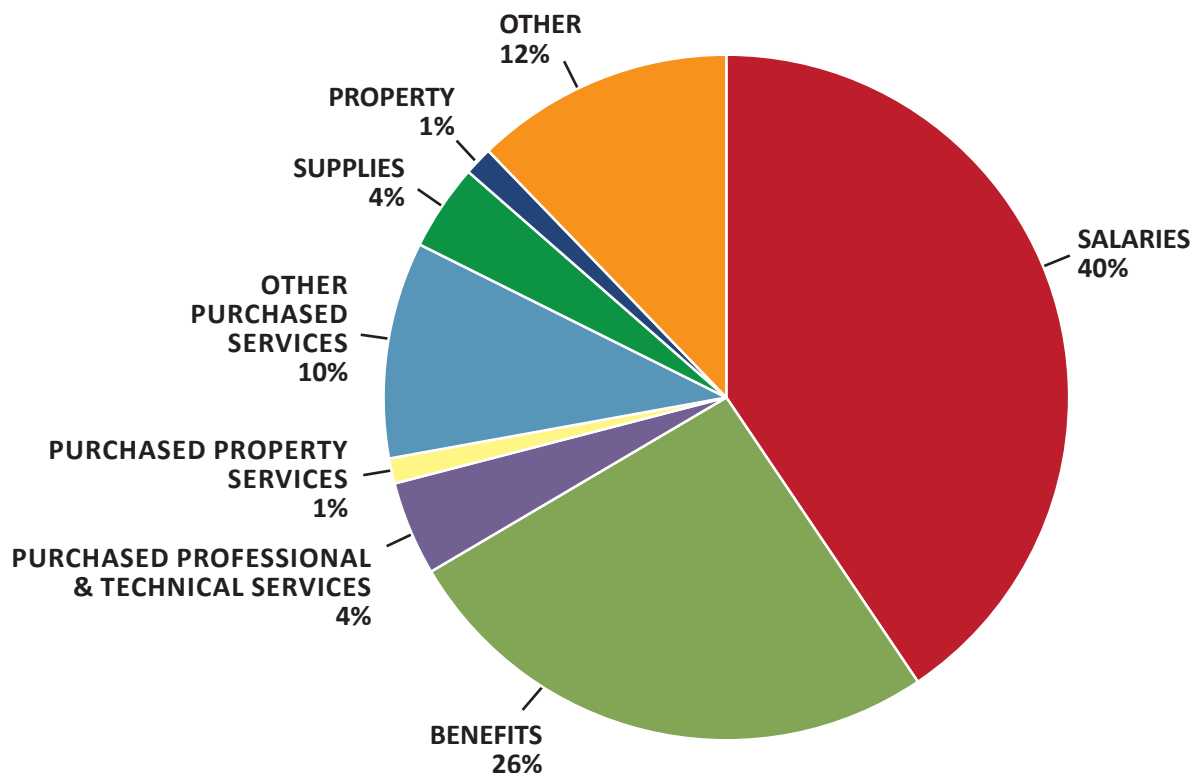




FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Major Expenditure Categories	Budgeted 2022-2023	Actual Results 2022-2023
Salaries	\$15,610,692	\$15,397,753
Benefits	\$10,170,250	\$9,852,789
Purchased Professional And Technical Services (incl. audit, solicitor, security, AIU, therapies)	\$1,862,181	\$1,686,102
Purchased Property Services (incl. water/sewage, repairs & maint.)	\$582,073	\$450,175
Other Purchased Services (incl. student transportation, insurance, tuition)	\$3,853,746	\$3,877,348
Supplies	\$1,821,586	\$1,547,010
Property	\$510,461	\$510,508
Other (incl. fees, debt service, fund transfers, contingency)	\$3,846,171	\$4,637,463
TOTAL	\$38,257,160	\$37,959,148

2022-2023 BUDGET





CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

In June of 2023, the Avonworth School District broke ground on a construction project on the district's secondary campus. This project became necessary to address the district's growing enrollment, which has increased 14% from 2004 to 2014 and another 25% from 2014 to today. Currently, the secondary building houses grades 7-12. The project will address space issues at the secondary campus by adding high school and middle school classrooms. Additionally, a new administrative addition is being added to create one main entrance for the middle/high school as opposed to the two separate entrances the building had in the past. Lastly, once completed, the increased space in the secondary building will allow us to bring our sixth-grade students back to the secondary campus, which opens up space at Avonworth Elementary School.



During the summer of 2023, the first phase of the project was completed, which included the following:

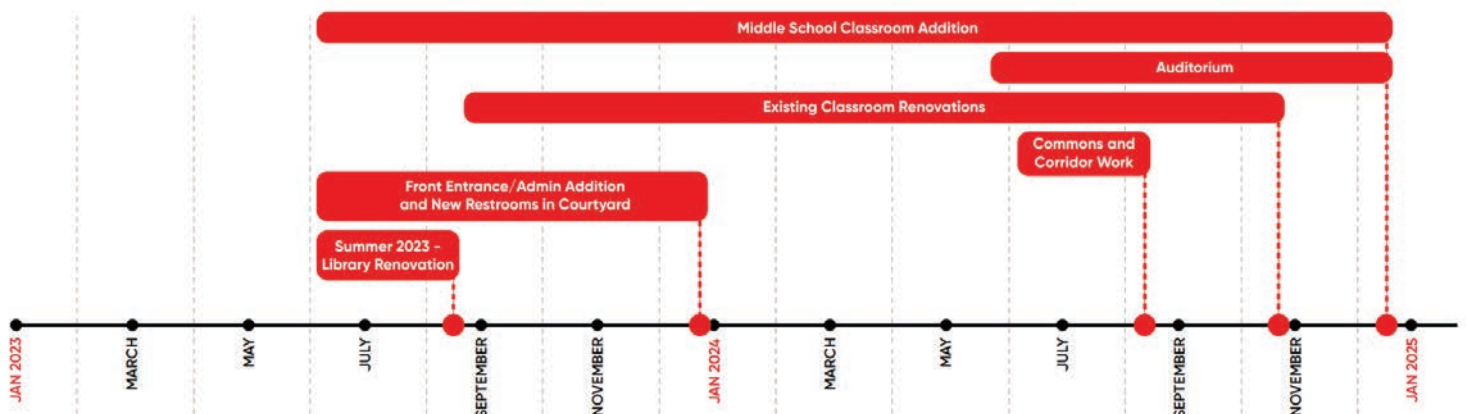
- Technology Office
- Three smaller classroom/office spaces
- Seven new classroom spaces
- New library with three study rooms

After the start of the school year, the project shifted to classroom renovations, construction of the new middle/high school administrative addition, new bathrooms in the back hallway of the high school, and foundation work for the two-story middle school addition.

The project continues to progress on its scheduled timeline. Early January brought a significant milestone in the project timeline with the opening of the new administrative addition. This addition includes the new main entrance to the middle/high school, the main office for the middle/high



Construction Schedule





CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

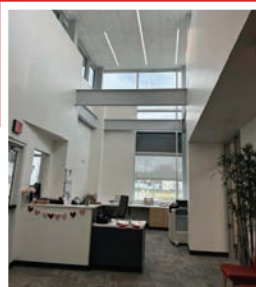


school, administrative offices, the athletic director's office, a nursing suite, and a counseling suite. The new administrative addition opened on January 16, 2024.

As the project continues into the second half of the 2023-2024 school year, classroom renovations continue in the high school, and the erection of steel for the middle school addition is getting close to completion. We are excited to see the middle school addition begin to take shape when it gets to having a roof and construction begins on the inside.

Once the school year is completed, a lot of work is scheduled for completion over the summer. In addition to the continued construction of the middle school addition, all of the site work on the outside of the building and the renovation of the commons/cafe areas will be completed before students return on September 3, 2024. The substantial completion date for the project is December 18, 2024.

For the most up-to-date information, scan the QR code to visit the construction section of our website.





SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE

The safety of our students and staff is a priority at Avonworth School District.

The district is fortunate to have a positive and collaborative relationship with the Ohio Township Police Department (OTPD), the Ohio Township Fire Department (OTFD), and other local municipality support. Corporal Chris Simcoviak continues to serve as our full-time School Resource Officer (SRO). This is made possible through a Memorandum of Understanding between the district and the Ohio Township Police Department.

Starting this school year, the district has contracted with Gittings Protective Security Inc. for additional after-school hours security. They provide the district with a security guard on the secondary campus during evening hours.

Proactively approaching safety is the best way to maintain a safe environment. We work hard to find ways to be proactive in identifying students and families in need of assistance. We do this by utilizing all available resources. Forging relationships between students, parents, teachers, staff, and administration is paramount to maintaining a supportive culture. The school fosters this through mentoring programs, advisory, and connections programs. The district aims for all students to have a go-to adult in their school. A team approach allows adults to become aware of student needs and proactively address them.

An additional proactive measure taken beginning in the 2023-2024 school year has been closing the secondary campus, including Lenzner Field/Track, to the community during the school day. This decision was made to ensure the safety of staff and students. During the school day, outdoor spaces, including Lenzner Stadium, are utilized as extensions of the classroom. We appreciate the help of the school community by remaining off of the secondary campus and not using Lenzner Field/Track during the school day. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Avonworth School District also continues to ensure measures are in place to meet the mental health needs of our students. Funding from the various school safety grants has allowed the district to enhance these systems. These funds supported hiring additional mental health support, including a licensed professional counselor and social worker. Each school building has a full-time, highly qualified school counselor on-site. Our school counselors provide numerous support to our students, including classroom lessons, individual consultation, and group support. Our counselors are also critical components of each building's Student Assistance Program teams, which seek to connect students and families with additional support.

The Safe2Say Something (S2SS) anonymous reporting system runs effectively throughout the district. Safe2Say Something is a school safety program that teaches students, educators, and administrators to recognize the signs and signals of individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others. Safe2Say is also an anonymous reporting system. Anyone can make a report through the Safe2Say app, website, or 24/7 Crisis Center Hotline. All staff and students have been provided an orientation on the Safe2Say Something reporting system and a link to the Safe2Say Something reporting system is available on the district website.

Additionally, Avonworth School District staff have participated in various safety-related training. Listed below are some of the training staff members have received to prepare them to provide a safe environment and respond in case of emergencies:

- Run, Hide, Fight
- A.L.I.C.E (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate)
- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention
- Stop the Bleed
- NARCAN - Opioid Overdose Treatment
- Training from the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals
- Managing Bias in Threat Assessment
- Food Allergies/ Anaphylaxis/Diabetes

As always, if you see or hear something concerning, please report it to a school official, police officer or via Safe to Say. Thank you for your continued support of school safety.





ASSESSMENT DATA



Enrollment per Building (2022-2023)

APC	475
AES	635
AMS	299
AHS	581
AHS	581
TOTAL	1,990

PSSA Proficiency

(Scoring proficient or advanced on tests taken in the 2022-2023 school year)

	Reading	Math	Science
Elementary	72.0%	66.7%	88.0%
Elementary State Average	54.0%	44.5%	74.0%
Middle School	76.0%	59.5%	85.0%
Middle School State Average	53.5%	29.5%	57.0%

State Keystone Proficiency

The 2022-2023 scores of eleventh-grade students

Algebra I (AMS and AHS)	Biology	Literature
35%	53%	86%

Advanced Placement/College in High School Student Achievement

- 94 students enrolled in at least one AP course.
- 86 students took 163 AP tests.
- In 2023, 78% of AP exams taken by ASD students received a score of 3 or above of a possible 5.
- 307 students took at least one CHS course
- Avonworth High School earned a bronze 2023 AP School Honor Roll distinction.

A.W. Beattie Career Center

The NOCTI Exam is the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute Exam. Students who attend A.W. Beattie Career Center during high school take the exam at the end of their program of study to demonstrate competency in the skills needed to perform at a high level in their chosen career.

- **88.2%** of our Beattie students who took the NOCTI exam last year scored Advanced and Competent.



There are many ways to stay connected!

Whether you are interested in school board and financial related information or you want to read about the accomplishments of our students and staff, we have you covered!

The Avonworth School District will NOT share your email with any other organization.

Social Media

Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram or X and stay up-to-date with all of the latest news and events.



Facebook

www.facebook.com/AvonworthSD/



Instagram

www.instagram.com/avonworthsd/



www.X.com/avonworthschool

Email News and Updates

Parents and guardians will automatically receive email communication from the district as well as their child's school and teachers throughout the school year.

If you are a member of the community who does not have a child in the district, we encourage you to sign up to receive important school district updates via email. Topics may include:

- School Board Meetings and Updates
- Financial/ Budget Information
- Construction Updates
- Community Event Information

To sign up, scan the QR code or visit URL below.

Monthly Newsletter

Throughout the school year, Avonworth sends a monthly newsletter that highlights the many outstanding accomplishments of our students, teachers and schools. The newsletter also includes news and event information. To sign up, scan the QR code or visit URL.



STAY IN THE LOOP



Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter,
important updates and/or event information.
You can personalize your preferences
on the sign up form.

<https://forms.gle/KWmN9xc8rAWnRdmr6>



If you are a parent of a current student, you will automatically receive all district communication. You do NOT need to sign up.



Join the 'Lopes Professional Network

In order to best prepare our students for success in an ever changing global society, we must ensure what students are learning in school aligns to current industry standards and needs.

Our goal is to create a professional network of Avonworth alumni and community members who may be willing to partner with the school district and share their expertise with students and staff. Opportunities to get involved may include presenting an overview of your career to students, hosting a job shadow or serving on a career advisory board.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please sign up! Signing up only lets us know you are interested. It does not automatically commit you to anything.



Sign up: <https://forms.gle/ZZJkPXpxVcFVCCA66>

Calling 'Lopes Alums!

We're grateful for the years we spent together, and we'd love to stay in touch from time to time. If you'd like to stay connected with the Avonworth network, please complete the form.



Sign up: <https://forms.gle/pu8AZPpActCTGkqH7>

Volunteer!

Part of what makes our schools so special is the number of parents and community members who are willing to give their time to support our students, staff and schools.

If you would like to volunteer this school year, we recommend that you start the process of getting your clearances if you do not already have them. More information is available on our website.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered over the years. Your support makes a difference!





“MORE ACCEPTED, MORE EMPOWERED, AND MORE VALUED”

AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT CREATES CLASSROOMS FOR ALL

In any other district, she might have been forgotten. Neither ahead of her peers nor behind them, neither extra-outspoken nor ultra-withdrawn, she might have floated through school unnoticed, her strengths unrecognized and her needs unmet. But not in the Avonworth School District, and not in Katie Libbon’s fourth-grade classroom.

It was there that the student first took the RIASEC, a science-backed assessment of her talents and interests. Designed to point her toward possible career paths, the survey told her something valuable — namely, that she was artistic, creative, and had plenty to offer the world.

And one day, during a group project in Libbon’s classroom, the student decided to share it.

“She made a suggestion to her group. Just one little suggestion about how the project should look,” Libbon recalls. “And all of a sudden, she became the go-to girl for her peers. They started coming to her for all things artistic, asking, ‘What do you think about this? What do you think about that?’ And my jaw dropped, because it was just so lovely to see.”

It’s the kind of classroom every student deserves, says Superintendent Jeff Hadley: a place to discover, develop, and assert one’s unique self. The fourth-grader in Libbon’s classroom “now feels more accepted, more empowered, and more valued than she did before,” he says. “And that’s a great example of how we create safer, more equitable environments” in the Avonworth School District.

The drive to build those environments led Hadley and his colleagues to join the Western

Pennsylvania Learning 2025 Alliance, a regional cohort of school districts working together — and with peers around the country — to create student-centered, equity-focused, future-driven schools that prepare every learner for tomorrow.

“Right now, technology is moving faster than ever before,” says Hadley. “And it’s moving slower today than it will for the rest of our lives. We need to think about what that means for our kids. How can we, as educators, better equip them for the future?”

In Avonworth, one answer is World of Work, a framework that builds on the district’s renowned career-exploration program. Using the RIASEC survey, World of Work helps kids discover their unique personalities and skill sets: Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional. Equipped with newfound self-knowledge, students explore careers that match their strengths through classroom projects, hands-on experiences, and visits from real-world professionals.

First developed by the Cajon Valley School District near San Diego, Avonworth and a coalition of other districts from the Western Pennsylvania Learning 2025 Alliance

“Right now, technology is moving faster than ever before,” says Hadley. “And it’s moving slower today than it will for the rest of our lives. We need to think about what that means for our kids. How can we, as educators, better equip them for the future?”

have brought World of Work to the Pittsburgh region, tailoring the framework to the dreams and needs of local students, including the budding young artist in Katie Libbon's classroom.

"The first time I saw [World of Work] in action, it was like something inside me woke up," says Libbon. "I thought, 'This is it. This is the direction we need to go. This is why kids come to school: for their futures.'"

Fellow fourth-grade teacher Jessica Kostewicz agrees. "Every year, we do a science unit that asks students to design a house," she says. "The kids figure out the wiring, take measurements for the flooring, work on the design, and everything else needed for the model house. And usually, when they do a project like that, they want to work with their friends."

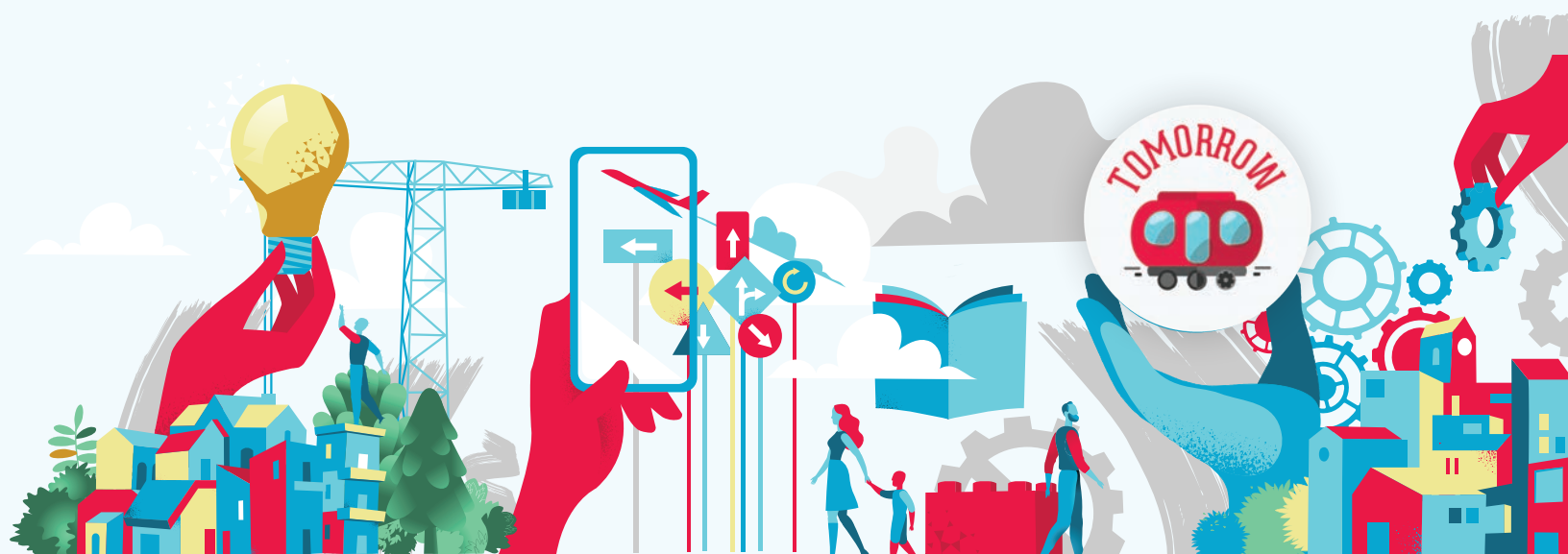
But with World of Work, "They're coming up to me and saying, 'Mrs. Kostewicz, we have someone who's

"The first time I saw [World of Work] in action, it was like something inside me woke up," says Libbon. "I thought, 'This is it. This is the direction we need to go. This is why kids come to school: for their futures.'"

really good at math. They can help with the cost analysis. Now, we need someone who's artistic to help with interior design.' It's so authentic — they get the connection between their lives and what they're learning." Perhaps most importantly, "They start to see themselves as more than just fourth-graders."

The result is excitement, engagement, and an eagerness for more. Though it's still in the pilot phase, Avonworth's fourth-graders have already spoken about World of Work to the district's school board, giving them a taste of civic life and an opportunity to advocate for themselves and their peers.

To Hadley, that's the real value of programs like World of Work. "When we think about what it means to be future-ready, of course we think about work skills and possible jobs," he says. "But being future-ready requires much more than that. It requires students to be citizens. It requires the confidence, tools, and virtues to succeed in a changing world. That's how we'll prepare our kids for tomorrow — whatever tomorrow might bring."





Nation's First Wisdom Squads Meet at Avonworth Primary Center

It was an exciting day at Avonworth Primary Center in January 2023 when more than 100 students from schools throughout Allegheny County came together for a Pittsburgh Wisdom Corridor event!

Each school has created (or is creating) their own "Wisdom Corridor" filled with wisdom found within their own school community thanks to the generous support of the Grable Foundation and Project FUEL.

Thank you to Deepak Ramola, founder of Project FUEL, and Remake Learning for supporting our students as they work together to bring this incredible project to life.

First Hand Experience

On May 23, 2023, forty 8th grade ELA Civics students traveled to the Allegheny County Courthouse to experience the Judicial Branch firsthand!

Students completed a writing assignment in order to be eligible for this enrichment field trip to learn more about our criminal court system. After passing through security, students met with police officers and police dogs from the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office K9 unit.

Then, students were escorted to several different courtrooms to observe real criminal trials.

Common Pleas Judge Beth Lazzara, as well as lawyers from the district attorney's office and a public defender, also took time to talk directly to students visiting their courtroom. Students had previously learned about courtroom procedures and terminology in their ELA Civics classes, but now were able to observe them in action.

After two hours of courtroom drama, students enjoyed lunch (and some ice cream) in the historic Strip District before returning to school.



Sophomore Wins State Championship in Newspaper Writing at Penn State

Sophomore Emma Noss competed at the PA School Press state championship on March 30th, 2023 alongside nearly 100 of the best high school journalists from across Pennsylvania. Competing against a number of juniors and seniors, Emma was able to earn top marks and bring a state championship back to The Avonews for the first time since 2018. Junior Zion Schenk also attended, competing in the Literary Magazine Poetry competition, and earned a top six finish in the state.

Students attended a press conference with a graduating senior who wore the Nittany Lion mascot costume the last three years, asked questions, took detailed notes, and then completed a 300 word newspaper story in one hour.

Student Earns National Academic Honors

Congratulations to our own Breanna McNeil, who was one of 62,000 students from across the country to earn academic honors from the College Board's National Recognition Program! She is awarded the National Hispanic Recognition Award.

These National Recognition Programs grant underrepresented students with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect students with universities across the country, helping them stand out during the admissions process. Colleges and scholarship programs use these honors to identify students from underrepresented groups through College Board's Student Search Service.





Prestigious Award Recipient

One of Avonworth High School's English language learners, Nolvin Buezo Gutierrez, won the prestigious Luminari Award, a merit-based scholarship for students who are in grades 7 to 11.

Two winners are selected based on essay submissions. Nolvin placed first in the competition. He received an all-expense-paid admission to Luminari's I Want to be an Ambassador! Camp. The scholarship has a value of \$1,200.

This camp was a unique opportunity for Nolvin and the other participants to travel to Washington D.C. where he engaged first hand with ambassadors and foreign diplomats. Before departing, he prepared, here in Pittsburgh, with major business leaders and educators who taught him the skills necessary to master the art of diplomacy.

Nolvin's winning essay reflects the fact that he is a thoughtful person, who is already demonstrating great diplomacy skills in his daily life. The camp was a seven day program that took place in June 2023.

The Beattie Road Show

The "Beattie Road Show" visited Avonworth in early February, 2023!

Students in the 8th grade spent the day learning about programs offered at A.W. Beattie Career Center. Students rotated through 5 programs: Emergency Response, Cosmetology, Health & Nursing Sciences, and Sports Medicine, and heard a talk about Aero Engineering and Drone Piloting.

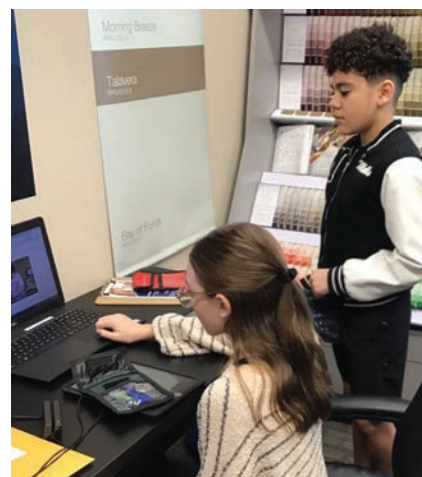


JA Biz Town Brings Real Life Lessons

For six weeks, fifth-grade students had the opportunity to discover and investigate career readiness through a program from Junior Achievement called JA BizTown.

JA BizTown encompasses important aspects of work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy, providing students with a solid foundation in business, economics, and free enterprise education.

The culminating activity required students to work in a simulated environment called BizTown. Students explored their own strengths and interests, applied for a job, experienced the interview process, and on March 1st and 2nd, 2023, worked with other students to operate the business they were assigned.



Teacher Receives Statewide Award

Congratulations to Avonworth's 6th grade math teacher Melissa Costantino-Poruben for being a 2022 Pennsylvania state finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

This award is one of the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teaching. PAEMST was established by Congress in 1983.

Mrs. Constantino-Poruben (pictured here with the Secretary of Education) traveled to Harrisburg for a celebration and to receive the award. She is a four time state finalist.



Fifth Graders Visit the Past

In October 2023, the fifth grade visited Meadowcroft Village to build their knowledge of life in both a 19th-century and a Native American village. In the 19th-century village, students experienced life in the past at a one-room schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop, and a log cabin.

While in the Native American Village, they tried their hand at using an atlatl. We learned about how, in the Monongahela culture, they used all of the gifts of the land. This field trip tied in perfectly with our ELA and Social Studies curriculum.



#BeTheKindKid Campaign Makes a Difference

Avonworth Primary Center celebrated National Food Bank Day by creating birthday cake boxes for the Mt. Nebo Church Food Bank. It's part of the #bethekindkid kindness campaign at school.

Students in classrooms worked together to create the kit which had ingredients to make a birthday cake and party items.

Experience Workshops

In November 2023, 8th Grade Civics students spent a day honoring our nation's veterans by attending the annual Veterans Day Experience Workshop at the Heinz History Center. Twenty-eight students developed questions to ask veterans prior to their field trip to gain eligibility for this unique experience.

At the History Center, veterans from Iraq, Vietnam, Korea, and World War II answered students' questions, shared personal stories, and brought artifacts from their time in the military. Students met in small groups to have more personal interactions with each veteran and learned about their remarkable stories. The heroic actions of these individuals were an inspiration to both students and teachers.

Veterans in attendance included: Lee Wagner (Iraq), Dave Borland (Korea), Larry Woods (Vietnam), Warren Goss (World War II), and former Avonworth teacher, Bob Taylor (World War II - Homefront).



Reimagining Education

The Avonworth School District is proud to be a part of the Western Pennsylvania Learning 2025 Alliance, a cohort of 34 public school districts, that advances student-centered, equity-focused, future-driven school systems that prepare every learner for tomorrow.



Co-led by Pittsburgh-area superintendents and AASA, the School Superintendents Association, the Alliance convenes for workshops and professional development facilitated by world-class experts. With support from The Grable Foundation, these 34 districts are reimagining education and showing the world what school could be.

Academic Excellence

Avonworth Middle School has been re-designated for the fifth time as a Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education Don Eichhorn Schools to Watch 2023-24. They are one of 11 in the state this year.



This is part of a recognition program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. PA Schools to Watch leaders selected the schools for academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structure and processes. Each school was also noted to have strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to assessment and accountability to bring about continuous improvement.



Lady 'Lopes Win Big

Congratulations to the Lady 'Lopes basketball team for clinching the 2023 WPIAL Championship for the first time since 2005! They beat No. 2 Laurel Highlands with a 48-40 victory on Friday March 3rd in an aggressive matchup at Pitt's Petersen Events Center. This is only the 7th WPIAL Championship in Avonworth history.

Boys' Golf Sees Success

In Fall 2023, Boys' Golf clinched the WPIAL AAA Section 5 title for the second year in a row. The title was secured against Beaver Area High School with a 203-214 win. The team has recorded an impressive +6 over par as a team three times this season, with Sam Neal becoming the 3rd player on the team to have 3 rounds under-par this season, along with Brandon Sapolsky and Kai Carlson. In addition, the team has had 5 players score in the 30's twice this year, making these feats firsts in our program history. Kai Carlson and Brandon Sapolsky both earned bids to the WPIAL AAA Individual Championships.





Volleyball Wins Section Title

For the first time since 2015, the girls volleyball team earned the section title with a win over Freedom. Congratulations girls!



Girls Soccer Celebrates Historic Championship

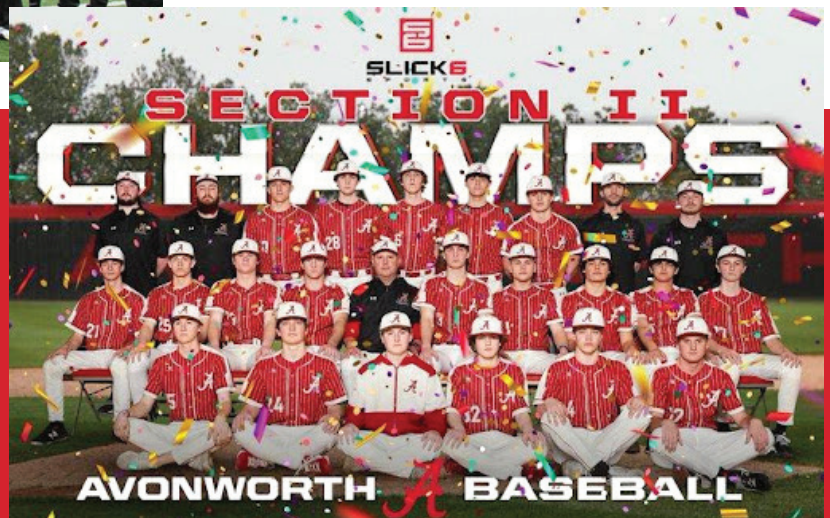
Congratulations to our 2A WPIAL Champion Girls' Soccer team, as they captured their third overall WPIAL title on Saturday, November 4th against Shadyside Academy. This win puts the 'Lopes in the company of only two other Avonworth programs to have won at least 3 WPIAL titles (Girls' Basketball (5) and Softball (3)) and only the second team in school history to earn a 3-peat (Girls' Basketball – 1992, 1993, 1994).

Avonworth became the 5th ever girls' soccer program in the WPIAL to achieve a 3-peat, joining the ranks of programs like Mars, South Park, Sewickley Academy, and Mt. Lebanon.

'Lopes Baseball has Great Season

The baseball team clinched a Section Title in spring 2023 and made their way into the PIAA Semi-Final game for the second year in a row. The team suffered a tough loss to Neshannock in extra innings at Pullman Park, but had an impressive win in the WPIAL Consolation game against East Allegheny (9-1).

The team lost to Philipsburg-Oscola 4-3 in 8 innings of play in the first round of PIAA State Championships



Swimming & Diving Success

The swim and dive teams had a very successful 2022-2023 season! Both the girls and boys swim team clinched regular season section championship - 2A-Section 3.

The girls swim team placed 4th overall out of 63 teams and the boys team placed 5th overall out of 56 teams at the PIAA Championship meet in March 2023.

In addition, Ryan Hartle medaled with a 7th place finish out of 24 divers. Ryan was our first diver in Avonworth school history to medal at the PIAA State Tournament.

Lilia Mackenzie placed 10th out of 24 divers for the second year in a row. Lilia was the first female diver in Avonworth school history to compete at the PIAA State Championships.

Congratulations to the girls' and boys' swim and dive teams on a successful 2022-2023 season!



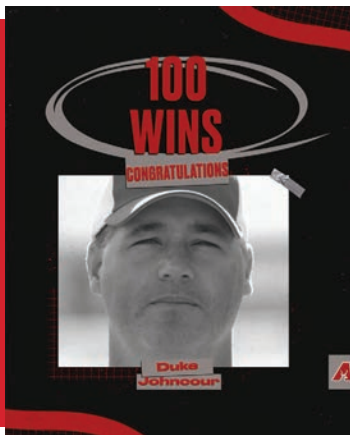
Student Athlete Celebrates Huge Achievement

Congratulations to Rowan Carmichael on achieving 1,000 career points!



Head Varsity Girls' Soccer Coach JC Mahan earned his 200th career win over Shadyside Academy on Saturday in the 2A WPIAL Girls' Championship Game.

Coach Mahan began coaching the 'Lopes in 2007, helping to build the success of the program into a WPIAL top contender in 2A. In the last three seasons, Coach Mahan has won 3 WPIAL Titles (2021, 2022, and 2023) and was the PIAA Class 2A State Runner-Up in 2021.



Football Coach Career Milestone!

Congratulations to Head Football Coach Duke Johncour on earning his 100th career win against Sto-Rox (41-6) on Friday, September 8th. Thank you for all you have done to build the Avonworth Football program, and we are excited to see what's in store for the rest of the 2023-2024 season!

Music Department Earns National Recognition

The Avonworth School District was honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education for the 6th consecutive year!

This honor is awarded to schools across the nation that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education.

Congratulations to all our students, teachers, administrators, and community.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Avonworth answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs.



All-State Achievements

In April 2023, the Avonworth music department had an Avonworth student participating in a PMEA All-State Ensemble in all three of the major disciplines of music: band, orchestra, and choir!

Harmony Karwoski has qualified for PMEA All-State Choir, Sydney Nelson has qualified for PMEA All-State Orchestra on oboe, and Vanessa Amayo has qualified for PMEA All-State Band on flute.

Sydney was second overall at PMEA Western Region Orchestra and Vanessa was fourth overall at PMEA Region 1 Band.

Congratulations to our student musicians on this outstanding achievement!

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Avonworth answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs.



PMEA Honors Band Honors

Congratulations to Riley Adams, Vanessa Amayo, Cameron Marshall, Kassie McGibbney, and Jessica Reed for auditioning and being selected for the 2022 PMEA Honors Band. Kassie and Jessie earned the first chair in their respective sections.



AHS Drama Students Earn Honor

Avonworth won Best Sound Design at the Prime Stage High School Drama Awards.

Congratulations to Brandon Smidl & Payton Sciere for our production of The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe! Avonworth's Spring production of Grand Hotel: The Musical also won Best Crew/Technical Execution, Budget 2, at the Gene Kelly Awards for High School Musical Theater!!

Artist in Residency Celebration

For two months, local artist Saihou Njie worked with first grade students at APC to create artwork that expressed pattern, color, and movement.

Saihou was able to incorporate his drum and musical instruments into the lessons to teach rhythm both in music and art! There was a core group of students and their families for a final reveal day to show off the beautiful batik and collages that students created throughout the time with Saihou. It was a great way to celebrate our students and the wonderful artwork that they created for the library!

Most interesting, Mr. Njie was featured on the "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood" television show many years ago! A school family in attendance at the event provided a throwback photo of the artist and Mr. Rogers himself from a family member who worked at Fred Rogers Productions. A special thank you to the Moss family!

APC partners with Pittsburgh Center for the Arts which gives us the opportunity to have a local artist work with a group of students at our school. The artist, teachers, and art teacher work together to create projects that relate to student needs or interests. It is a great experience for connecting with local artists!



All-Eastern Orchestra

AHS senior Jessica Reed traveled to Rochester, NY to play in the National Association for Music Education (NAFME) All-Eastern Honors Orchestra. She auditioned and successfully earned First Chair tuba earlier this year. This was an incredible honor and achievement for Jessie!





Band Performs in Washington, DC

The Avonworth Marching Band was featured in the Washington, DC nightly news. The band was in DC to march in the Veterans Day Parade.



Music Students Earn PMEA Honors

Three talented students successfully auditioned and earned a well-deserved spot in the prestigious PMEA Honors Band. Congratulations to Vanessa Amayo, Sydney Nelson, and Riley Adams. Their dedication and hard work have truly paid off, and it is a remarkable achievement for them and our school.



Arts Program Earns Statewide Recognition

The Avonworth School District is proud to be named as an Outstanding Visual Arts Community by The Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA).

PAEA recognizes schools and districts across the state of Pennsylvania for their commitment to visual arts education opportunities for all students PK-12.

Schools and districts receiving this endorsement demonstrated the importance of their visual arts programs during the 2022-2023 school year with: rigorous and inclusive programs, highly accessible programs, & highly visible program.

Avonworth Theater Nominated for Drama Awards

Nominees were announced for Prime Stage Theatre's 4th Annual High School Drama Awards, which will take place on Jan. 29, 2024 at New Hazlett Theater.

Avonworth High School is one of the five schools nominated for Best Overall Production!

The following students are also nominated for their work.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Ady Burgoyne

Mrs. Paddy in *The Curious Savage*

**BEST STUDENT
COSTUME DESIGN
AND/OR FABRICATION
Grace Schmigel**
The Curious Savage

**BEST STUDENT SOUND DESIGN
AND/OR OPERATION
Brandon Smidl, Gabe Bernal
& Lyra Klinedinst**
The Curious Savage

The Drama Awards honor excellence in non-musical plays by student actors, directors, and production crew. Students from 12 area high schools were nominated in 16 categories.

"What makes these awards unique," says Drama Awards coordinator **John Dolphin**, "is that to be eligible, the students must be in a backstage leadership role or an onstage performance role. We encourage adult mentorship and assistance, but in the end, these productions are student-run."

Bravo to all!

Pennsylvania State Representative Arvind Venkat honored the musical stage crew of Grand Hotel for winning Best Technical Execution by the Gene Kelly Awards for High School Musical Theater in the fall of 2023.

Venkat visited the students on the set of the fall play and presented them with certificates from the state legislature in Harrisburg.



The Good Citizenship Guidebook

In September, 8th Grade students explored the topics of immigration, refugees, and citizenship in their ELA Civics classes. Students researched a variety of related topics and then wrote entries for submission into a class-created book, The Good Citizenship Guidebook.

The Good Citizenship Guidebook is designed to help new residents in our community, such as refugees and immigrants, learn about their new country, our traditions, and their responsibilities as citizens. In the coming months, these books will be printed and distributed to local community centers and given to newly naturalized citizens at a future Naturalization Ceremony in Pittsburgh.

To help students better understand their topics and the needs of new residents in our community, several guest speakers visited our classrooms on September 23. Emily Blair and Adriana Rudat, educators from the Latino Community Center of Pittsburgh, spoke to students about their work with Latino immigrants.

Fernan Osorno shared the work that he does with refugees as the Education Coordinator for Hello Neighbor. And, Jia Li and Ahmad Yousofzay shared their own immigration stories as well. Additionally, in partnership with Teen Screen, students viewed two short films about the US-Mexico border crisis and a feature-length documentary about a Syrian Refugee camp.

We were also fortunate to host two veterans from Joseph D. Caskey American Legion Post 80 in the North Hills. Eber Tripp (Finance Officer) and Paul Kennedy (Alternate NEC for Department of Pennsylvania) talked with students about the US Flag, its history and meaning, as well as the importance of citizenship in this country. Then, students joined the veterans outside for a lesson on proper flag folding techniques and a demonstration of a flag retirement ceremony.



Girl Scouts Visit Washington, DC

Since these nine Avonworth students all missed their 6th grade trip in to Washington DC due to the pandemic, their Girl Scout troop took one right before the 2022 - 2023 school year started instead!

Thanks to approval by Representative Conor Lamb, they were able to tour both the US Capitol and the White House. They even got a picture with a secret service agent at the White House too (because they promised him Girl Scout cookies)!



They enjoyed several memorials, monuments, and museums including the Holocaust Museum, which was an amazing experience since they had studied this in school.

Topping off the visit was a stop at Arlington National Cemetery to see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's gravesite.

8th Grade Contribution

The 8th Grade class raised over \$7800 to donate to the Hannah Milbert Memorial Fund, an Avonworth High School Scholarship, through the 5th Annual Chase the Antelopes 5k & One-Mile Walk.

8th grade students welcomed over 200 registrants to the event on the last Saturday of April.

During the entire project, students also learned valuable citizenship skills that brought the community together around an important cause.



Holiday Mail for Heroes

The high school Red Cross Club has completed the Holiday Mail for Heroes project with our primary students in the Avonworth School District. Holiday cards created by our fantastic artists in kindergarten and 1st grade were sent to active and retired military members in the area with hope that they bring a smile to those that do so much for our freedom.



Unique Learning Tool Added to Playgrounds

A unique new learning tool was a welcome addition to several Avonworth School District playgrounds. It's called a communication board. These boards are adorned with colorful symbols or pictures to be used by children like Ethan Abernethy with limited expressive language ability. Ethan is autistic and has apraxia of speech, making it difficult for him to produce verbal words. Ethan's mom, Christina, came up with the idea of the communication board after seeing it on social media and was instrumental in the design for each of the playgrounds. She worked with Avonworth's speech-language pathologist Dr. Miller and Dr. Battistone on creating the design that was friendly to all students.



Avonworth's Night at the Museum

On Friday evening, February 24, the Avonworth community was invited to a "Night at the Museum" hosted by 8th Grade ELA Civics students at the Heinz History Center.

The theme for the evening was "Civil Rights - Overcoming Adversity" and students delivered presentations on both historical and contemporary topics. Students also created and shared artwork with an audience that included family, friends, teachers, school administration, and other invited guests.

With the help of History Center docents, students developed and practiced a presentation that informed audiences about local and national examples of people and groups that faced adversity in the U.S. The 8th grade class would like to thank the History Center staff as well as guests from Teen Screen who helped to make this event a success.

Hi Neighbor Event Celebrates Cultures

Avonworth students, staff and families gathered in December for a fun-filled evening celebrating Christmas Around the World! The event was a family friendly interactive opportunity to learn about our neighbors' Christmas celebrations and traditions through literature, art and music.

This year, the event featured celebrations from Brazil, France, Greece and Italy.

- Brazil - Color a Santa in shorts.
- France - Decorate a crown.
- Greece - Decorate a boat.
- Italy - Make a fish.

The Hi Neighbor! project is made possible through a partnership with Kidsburgh! Avonworth School District is excited to participate in a "Parents as Allies" project with other districts in our region. Future Hi Neighbor! events will be held in 2024.





Wellness Fair Kicks Off New School Year

The start of the school year was the perfect time to restart healthy habits.

Avonworth's staff had the opportunity to take part in a Wellness Fair to kickoff the 2023-2024 school year. The day included local vendors and wellness demonstrations.

Our staff enjoyed mini workouts, food sampling, and chair massages among many other wellness booths.

Freshmen Attend Naturalization Ceremony

A group of 9th grade students had the honor of attending a naturalization ceremony hosted by The City of Pittsburgh and the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services.

During the ceremony, 24 people from over a dozen different countries became American citizens. Individuals from Afghanistan, Iran, Ukraine, Jamaica, Canada and more took the oath of citizenship after completing the naturalization process.

The Avonworth students led the Pledge of Allegiance and presented each new citizen with a copy of the Good Citizenship Guidebook. This book was created by the 8th grade class last fall and includes important information for citizens about voting, First Amendment rights, and patriotic symbols. This powerful experience allowed the students to play an important role in one of the most important ceremonies in our nation.

The mayor's office, the USCIS, and new citizens were very appreciative and impressed with the students' work.



Cheering on the Community

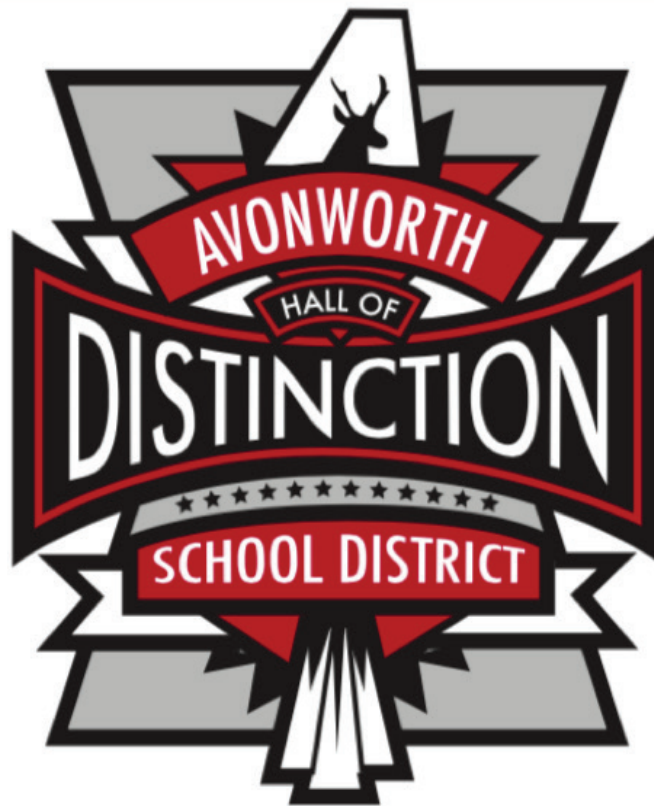
The Avonworth Cross Country team cheered on the nearly 4000 runners in the annual EQT Pittsburgh Ten-Miler and 10K Race Sunday morning. The team made signs, rang cowbells, and cheered for every person that came through from the first runner to the very last walker. The team were excellent Avonworth ambassadors!



Honoring Our Veterans

Our fifth graders celebrated veterans by inviting family and friends who are veterans to speak to classes. Students developed an appreciation for the extraordinary work performed by our service men and women.

A special thank you to Mrs. Winkworth's class for providing our guests with a warm welcome and wonderful refreshments.



In 2019, the Avonworth School District established a Hall of Distinction to identify and honor those who have made outstanding achievements in his/her career or in service of the Avonworth School Community. Additionally, through their accomplishments, these individuals have brought distinction, honor, and excellence to the Avonworth School District Community.

Interruptions due to COVID and a change in District leadership have paused the selection and identification of new members of the Avonworth Hall of Distinction. Dr. Hadley, Avonworth Superintendent, will be resurrecting the Hall of Distinction Committee to continue with this important recognition. Dr. Hadley is planning for the next recognition ceremony to occur in the fall of 2024.

Individuals eligible for the Hall of Distinction must be alumni, staff, or served on the Avonworth Board of School Directors school. Alumni status includes graduates of Ben Avon High School, those who attended the Emsworth School, or the Ohio Township One-Room School Houses.

Current or former community members who have made outstanding contributions to the Avonworth School District Community are eligible for the Hall of Distinction for Special Recognition.

If you are interested in nominating someone for the Avonworth Hall of Distinction Class of 2020, please complete the nomination form on the reverse side of this perforated page. Nominations for the fall of 2024 must be received by June 1, 2024. Once you complete the form, you may mail it to or drop it off at the Avonworth School District Central Office:

258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Avonworth School District Hall of Distinction Nomination Form

Please return this form to:
Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Purpose:

The purpose of the Avonworth Hall of Distinction is to recognize Avonworth High School alumni, community members, and employees of the Avonworth School District who have made outstanding accomplishments and/or achievements in their career or in service to the school district community.

Criteria:

- Anyone can make a nomination.
- Avonworth alumni (including graduates of Ben Avon High School, the Emsworth School, and the Ohio Township One-Room Schoolhouses), community members, and district employees are eligible for nomination.
- Nominees should be ten years beyond graduation for alumni and employees must have completed their employment with the District with five years' separation from the District.
- Posthumous nominations will be accepted.
- Nominations are valid for five years.
- Nominees must be of good character and high moral standards.
- ***Nominations will be accepted until June 1, 2024.***

Nominee Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Class Year: _____
Phone No.: _____

Your Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Class Year: _____
Phone No.: _____

How long have you known the nominee? _____

Please describe why you feel this nominee is appropriate for consideration for the Avonworth School District Hall of Distinction.

A large, stylized white letter 'A' is centered on a light gray background. The background features horizontal lines, suggesting a notebook or document. The letter 'A' is composed of two main strokes: a vertical line on the left and a diagonal line on the right that meets the vertical one at the top. The letter is slightly shadowed, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.



Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 2295



AVONWORTH BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Yu-Ling Cheng
President

John Brandt
Vice President

Danielle White
Treasurer

Beau Blaser
Board Member

Vicki Carlson
Board Member

Jenna Paulat
Board Member

Patrick Stewart
Board Member

Nora Silvey
Board Member

Amy Tokar
Board Member

William C. Andrews,
Solicitor with Andrews & Price

Cindy Donovan
Board Secretary

Avonworth School District will not discriminate in its education programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, ancestry, disability, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Employees and participants who have an inquiry, complaint of harassment or discrimination, or who need information about accommodations for disabled persons, should contact Dr. Ashlea Rineer-Hershey, Director of Student Services, 1310 Roosevelt Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, 412-366-7171, arineerhershey@avonworth.k12.pa.us.

AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Jeff Hadley, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Cindy Donovan
Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent

Jillian Bichsel, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

Ashlea Rineer-Hershey, Ed.D.
Director of Student Services

Jennifer Sheridan
Director of Fiscal Management and Support Services

Tracy Eck
Payroll Manager/Supervisor of Transportation

Keera Dwulit, Ed.D.
High School Principal

Michael Hall, Ed.D.
Middle School Principal

Kaitlin Remensky, Ed.D.
Middle/High School Assistant Principal

William Battistone, Jr., Ph.D.
Elementary School Principal

Robert Eastwood
Elementary Assistant Principal

Scott Miller, Ph.D.
Primary Center Principal

Andrea Patton
Director of Athletics

Melissa Schad
Food Services Director

Brandon Gary
Director of Technology

Brant Colamarino
Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds