MAY

YOUR SCHOOLS

2025

Aurora City School District

From the Superintendent

By MIKE ROBERTO
Superintendent of Schools



Spring is a great time to be in the school district because so much is going on. Spring Sports, which includes Boys/Girls Track, Softball, Baseball, Boys Tennis (Girls Tennis take place in the Fall), and the newly formed Girls/Boys Lacrosse Teams are in full swing in April as the weather finally starts to cooperate. Please consider attending one of these events as admission is free. Spring is also when our Arts Programs are featured through our Spring Musical and District Art Show.

This year's Spring Musical, The Addams Family, and District Art Show featuring artwork from grades 1-12 took place in early April. Paintings, sculptures/pottery, and digital art were featured along with special Advanced Placement (AP) Artwork displays of each AP Art student's work over their time in Aurora. Needless to say, both events were an impressive display of our students' visual and performing arts talents.

We thank the community for their continued support of the Aurora City Schools as it helps us to provide these opportunities to the young people in our district to not only help them succeed academically but also to lead to a well-balanced life that athletics and the arts help to nurture.

On that note of support, I wanted to be sure to mention that as you travel to the ballot box on May 6, 2025, you will see a 5.61 Mill Renewal Operating Levy on the ballot. Because this levy is a renewal, it means there are no new taxes added if it passes. This levy was first approved by the Aurora Community in 1990 and has been renewed six times, every five years, since that point. As an operational

Superintendent continued on p. 3

ACSD RENEWAL LEVY ON MAY 2025 BALLOT ~ NO ADDITIONAL TAXES IF PASSED



The Aurora City School District's (ACSD) Board of Education has placed a 5.61 mill operating renewal levy on the Portage County May 6, 2025 ballot. The issue number will be **#11** on the ballot. Ohio law allows school districts to ask voters to renew a limited levy when it expires. The levy must be for the same purpose and is renewed at the effective millage rate. Because this levy is a renewal of a previous levy, passage of this levy **will not increase taxes** for City of Aurora residents.

This levy finances the Aurora City School District's general operating fund. The income from this fund, by Ohio law, can only be used for daily operating expenses, including curriculum, utility and transportation costs. This levy annually generates $3,829,000 of the district's General Fund Operating Revenue. The cost of the 5.61 mills for a homeowner is $132 per year for each $100,000 of the county auditors appraised value for 5 years commencing in 2025 and first due in calendar year 2026.

The Aurora City School District's Treasurer, William Volosin, explained, "The 5.61 mill renewal levy will cause no increase in taxes, as it is a renewal levy. The renewal levy brings approximately $3.9 million in general fund revenue to the district or roughly 10% of our operating budget so it is critical for this levy to be renewed and continued to maintain the current programs and operations of the district."

ACSD Superintendent, Mike Roberto said, "This levy was first put on the ballot and approved in 1990 and has been renewed six times (every five years) over the past 35 years. The last time this levy was renewed was in March 2020. It will cost the owner of a home less than when it was first approved because since 1990 more homes have been built in Aurora, yet the same amount of funds are collected upon each renewal. However, it is important to remember that the community has provided funds for this levy for the last 35 years so it is **NOT** a new tax and therefore, if approved, will not increase your taxes."

DR. PAUL MILCETICH WILL TAKE THE REIGNS AS ACSD SUPERINTENDENT ~ MIKE HAYES NAMED ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Aurora City School District (ACSD) Superintendent, Mike Roberto, has announced his retirement from the district effective on July 31, 2025. The Aurora Board of Education (BOE) approved Roberto's retirement at the BOE regular meeting held on January 27, 2025. Roberto said of his retirement, "This will complete my 25th year in Aurora and at the end of the semester, I will officially have over 34 years in education, qualifying me for full retirement. I am grateful for every one of them, but especially those I served in Greenmen Nation. I have been blessed with the opportunity to teach, coach, lead, and ultimately serve this wonderful school district. It has been my honor to work with the ACSD Staff and I wish nothing but the best for Greenmen Nation in the future."



After accepting Roberto's retirement at the Board meeting, the BOE unanimously voted to employ current ACSD Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. Paul Milcetich, to fill the superintendent position vacancy effective August 1, 2025. Pam Mehallis, President of the BOE said, "We thank Mr. Mike Roberto for his leadership over the last five years and look forward to Dr. Milcetich moving our district forward and continuing to ensure the success of our students."

Mehallis added, "With exceptionally well-rounded experience and extensive academic achievements, Dr. Milcetich will continue

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WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S NEW



Commander of American Legion Post 803 of Aurora, Tom Marshall (far left), presented the winners of the **Americanism and Government test** with a certificate noting their achievement and a check for $50 at the December 2024 BOE meeting. The award winners were: **Sophomore Winners: Benjamin Atkins, Maya Volf. Junior Winners: Santosh Kumar, Amelia Kilway, Senior Winners: Aiden Kondik**, and **Gracyn Vidovic**. Congratulations!

The **Aurora for Others** annual fundraiser, led by **Jen Simmerman** and **Kasie Stewart**, supported the **Summit County Humane Society** with all proceeds being donated in honor of retired AHS teacher **George Snider**.

The **Philharmonic Orchestra's** December holiday concert performance featured ***The Nutcracker*** which was orchestrated (arranged) by AHS Junior **Preston Duncan**.

The **AOA Spring Strings Dinner Fundraiser**, benefiting all Aurora Orchestra students, was held on Saturday, March 8, 2025. The evening included dinner, AHS Orchestra concerts and lots of Silent Auction and Raffle items, including more than 70 themed raffle baskets, 22 silent auction items with winery tours, get away packages, golf outings and more. All ticket proceeds will go toward the next AHS Orchestra trip to help lower the cost for students. Raffle proceeds are used by the AOA to benefit all Aurora Orchestra students in grades 4-12. With the donations, the AOA is able to provide awards to all students, fund educational experiences, guest artists, private lesson scholarships, solo competitions and at least $9,000 in senior scholarships annually.

The **AHS Interact Club** had over 200 student members, its highest enrollment ever, who committed to serving people and communities through their volunteer work. Over 200 students voluntarily enrolled in the **AHS Drug Free Club** committing to a healthy lifestyle and random drug testing.



Congratulations to all of the 67 newly inducted members of the **AHS National Honor Society**!



It was announced that **AHS National Merit Semi-Finalist, Jack Berendt,** was named as a **National Merit Finalist**. A big congratulations goes to Berendt on another exceptional accomplishment!

Congratulations to Harmon student **Lang Lui** who had the highest score for Harmon at the **MathCounts Tournament**.



The **Harmon Speech Team** (above) had 14 students participate this season. They participated in three speech tournaments throughout the year with the final Ohio competition held on February 22nd where the best students were invited to the prestigious the **Middle School Speech competition**.

Congratulations on the success of the Leighton School 4th and 5th grade **24 Club** teams. They competed in the **Portage County Tournament** in March. Out of the 8 Aurora competitors they brought home 4 medals, 3 ribbons, and 2 certificates.



Alyza Kour



Tevona Sesuraj

8th grade student, **Alyza Kour**, and 7th grader, **Tevona Sesuraj**, both competed in the original oratory competition with 29 total competitors. Kour made it to the semi-finals and Sesuraj earned a 2nd place finish. Thank you to **Kour's father** who went as a judge and extra coach for the team.

The **AHS Science Olympiad Team** earned a **4th place** title in the **State Eastern Regional Competition** at Rocky River High School with two other regions also competing. Congratulations to the team. This is the **5th consecutive year** the AHS team has qualified for the State tournament.

Gold medalists:
Andre Polivka, Robyn Hill (Astronomy)
Zelie Cerda-Malicdem, Elakia Vadivelan (Chemistry Lab)
Marin Hydell, Andre Polivka (Geologic Mapping)
Silver medalists:
Revan Chenupati, Mohriz Hussain (Bungee Drop)
Bronze medalists:
Ben Hercik, Kendall Ware, Nuthan Kolli (Codebustters)
Rania Rafiq, Zelie Cerda-Malicdem (Disease Detectives)
Ben Kang, Kendall Ware, Keerthi Sreenivas (Tower)

The **Aurora Schools Foundation** (ASF) held its **4th Annual Fundraising Event** on February 22nd and raised nearly $15,000. The theme was western night at Centerville Mills. ASF funds directly benefit ACSD teachers and students and are used to provide innovative grants to support exciting projects and essential resources. Grants are given to every school building at every grade level. Last year, the ASF awarded an incredible $93,000 in grants. Thank you to corporate sponsors and to those who donated/bid on auction items.

Who's Who continued on p.3

YOUR SCHOOLS
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Your Schools is a publication of the Aurora City School District. Its purpose is to keep residents of Aurora informed of current events and progress in the Aurora City Schools and to foster pride and a continuous communication link between the schools and the community.

Your Schools has been awarded the "Mark of Excellence" and "Best of the Best" Awards by the Ohio Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association for service as a school district newsletter. *Your Schools* is a quarterly publication, mailed to all residents of Aurora. For information, comments, or story ideas, e-mail Editor Stacey DeAnna at: yourschools@aurora-schools.org.

Who's Who continued from p.2



Anjani Panigrahi, Kendall Ware, Marla Edgecomb, Henrique Soares

This year the Rotary Club of Aurora had eleven **4-Way Speech Contestants** enter to win. The four Aurora students who competed were **Marla Edgecomb**, **Anjani Panigrahi**, **Henrique Soares** and **Kendall Ware**. Both Edgecomb and Soares moved on to District competition.



First Tech Challenge 24KARAT Team

Congratulations to **First Tech Challenge** (FTC) **24Karat Aurora robotics team** members, **Akilesh Kumar**, **Diya Kumar**, **Brody Peters**, **Aahhav Sathyamurthy**, **Harjas Sidhu**, **Arunkarthik Vadivelan** for winning the Ohio Championship Inspire Award, which is the highest-ranking award given to any team in the FTC competition, awarded for being a strong ambassador for FIRST programs and a role model for other teams. The only way to be considered for it is to excel in several categories of competition. The team advanced to the **FIRST World Championship** in Houston, Texas. Good luck to all!



AHS Zonta Club members stuffed bags for **CLE Kindness** to be distributed to women in need in Northeast Ohio.



Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities employees **John**, **Vince**, and **Tim** visited the **Leighton Inclusive Playground**. The Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities helped fund the playground construction.

LONG TIME ACSD TREASURER BILL VOLOSIN RETIRING ~ Bryan Schiraldi To Take Over

The Aurora City School District's (ACSD) Treasurer, Bill Volosin, will be retiring effective July 31, 2025 when his current contract expires. Volosin, who has been the district's treasurer for 26 years, is retiring after a career spanning 44 years. Prior to joining the ACSD in 1999 as treasurer, Volosin, worked in the private sector as a chemical engineer at Diamond Shamrock Energy Co. from 1981-87 during which time he earned his MBA degree. He was then employed as the business manager for the Youngstown City School District for 12 years prior to becoming employed at the ACSD.

When asked about his upcoming retirement, Volosin said, "As I look back at my time here at the Aurora City Schools, it is hard to believe that it has been 26 years since I started here in February 1999. Many changes have occurred during this period from the building of Leighton Elementary School, several school-addition projects, and the construction of Veterans Stadium. I have worked with four different superintendents and numerous school board members. Together we worked through Y2K, the 2008 housing crisis and recession, AEA and OAPSE negotiations and numerous new and renewal levies. Through it all, it has been a rewarding experience. To the Aurora Community and School Board Members, I thank you for the opportunity and hope that I have served you well. To the Treasurer's Office staff (Diane Ebie, Pam Prochaska, and Heather Stask) and Central Office staff (Mary Kohanski, Stacey DeAnna, Mary Jane Cech, and Amy Groth) along with my fellow administrators, I thank you for the opportunity to work with you. Any success that I have achieved here in Aurora is because of you. Finally, special thanks to Jerry Kohanski, former School Board President, who hired me, because none of this would have been possible without his vision and guidance and to Pam Mehallis, current School Board President, who I have worked with for over 20 years."

ACSD Superintendent, Mike Roberto, expressed his thoughts saying, "Bill is going to leave a big vacuum to fill in the district once he retires. Not only will we miss his precision and experience working with numbers, but also his ability to provide thoughtful guidance through both his high intellect and institutional knowledge of the district. In my role as superintendent, I have leaned on Bill and consulted with him on a weekly basis, and he has always provided thoughtful perspectives. The Aurora City School District will not be the same without Bill, but it has benefited from his 26 years in the district and we as a staff wish Bill all the best in his well-earned retirement."

Aurora Board of Education (BOE) President, Pam Mehallis, stated, "With the retirements of both Mike Roberto and Bill Volosin, the Aurora City School District is coming to the end of an era. Mike and Bill have been pillars of our school community, having served a combined 50 years in several capacities throughout their time with us. Their wisdom and decision-making skills have been an invaluable and integral part of our many successes. Their tireless dedication and many achievements over the years have set a high bar for the incoming superintendent and treasurer. "



Bill Volosin and the Treasurer's Department Receiving 12th Ohio Exemplary Audit Award 2024

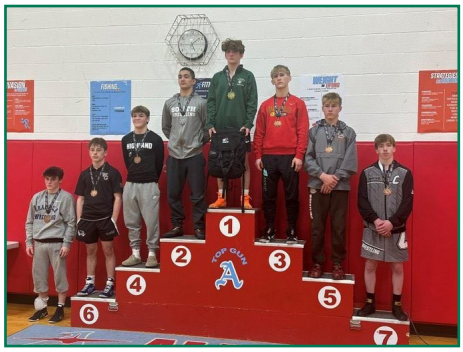
On March 17, 2024, the Aurora BOE voted unanimously to hire Bryan Schiraldi as the next ACSD treasurer. Schiraldi has most recently worked as the Treasurer/CFO of the Youngstown City School District in Youngstown, Ohio since 2022. Prior to that position, he was the Treasurer/CFO for the Lowellville Local School District in Lowellville, Ohio beginning in 2020 and the Assistant Treasurer at Lowellville from January 2020 – July 2020. Schiraldi was also employed in accounting positions in the private sector at businesses near the Youngstown area before joining the Lowellville School District.



ACSD Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Paul Milcetich, said of Schiraldi, "He has the credentials (MBA) and the experience (treasurer at two different districts) for which we were looking to fill Bill Volosin's shoes and his lengthy, dedicated service to the ACSD. Additionally, during the interview process, Bryan displayed an intelligence, leadership, energy, desire to innovate and ability to communicate, which separated him from the other candidates and made him the overwhelming selection of the Board."

Mehallis added, "Bryan Schiraldi will join our administrative team as treasurer later this summer. He brings with him much enthusiasm along with a strong desire to work closely with Paul and the entire staff to ensure the continued success of all our students." Schiraldi will take over as the ACSD Treasurer effective July 1, 2025.

SPORT REPORT



Congratulations to **Johnny Green (#1)** for capturing his **3rd Top Gun Championship** wrestling title! Way to go!



AHS Senior **Luke Green** has signed with **Mount Olive University** in North Carolina to continue his wrestling career. Best of Luck!



AHS Football Team Offensive Lineman Matthew Copley signed his intent to play on February 5, 2025 with the **University of Findlay** to continue his football career. Good luck to him.



AHS Defensive End Lucas Manderbach signed his acceptance letter to play football at **Lehigh University** on February 5, 2025. Best of luck in his continuing football career.





Junior gymnast **Riley Verespej** headed to **State Competition** in the uneven bars and came back, after landing her first double in competition, with a Top 15 finish in the State on the bars. Congratulations!



Way to go to **Drake Brasiel**, **Johnny Green** and **Cole Walton** who all headed to Columbus to represent Greenmen Nation at the **State Wrestling Tournament. Brasiel** and **Walton** were named **Academic All-Ohio** this season.



Cross Country and **Track runner Connor Flynn** will continue running at **Ashland University** as he committed to the university at the NCAA Signing Day on March 19, 2025.



The ACSD will be closing the AHS Veterans Stadium beginning Monday, June 2, 2025. Veterans Stadium will be closed for repairs to the track through the month of June. The repairs are expected to be completed before the end of June 2025. The facilities will reopen once the repairs are completed and an announcement will be made when this occurs.



AHS STUDENT FINALISTS IN MALTZ MUSEUM ESSAY CONTEST ~ Stop The Hate

The Maltz Museum, located in Beachwood, Ohio, has announced the 2025 Stop the Hate Youth Speak Out and Youth Sing Out Awards finalists. The winners were announced at an awards ceremony at the Tri-C Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus, Simon and Rose Mandel Theatre at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center on April 3, 2025.

A total of 4,419 students at more than 160 Northeast Ohio schools have participated in the Stop the Hate contest and workshops, writing individual essays, poems, or group songs for a chance to win academic scholarships, educational grants, and prizes for themselves and their schools. Stop the Hate, which is, "the Maltz Museum's signature educational program, serves Northeast Ohio students and school communities by encouraging personal storytelling that builds bridges and creates empathy. Through this program, students gain awareness of hate-related issues, discrimination, bullying, etc., while being inspired to courageously create positive change when facing these challenges. The program celebrates Northeast Ohio students committed to creating a more accepting and inclusive society."

The Stop the Hate contest awards $100,000 annually to Northeast Ohio middle and high school students, teachers and schools who are committed to creating a more accepting and inclusive society. Over 50,000 students in 15 counties across Northeast Ohio have participated in Stop the Hate with $1.7 million awarded to students and schools.

Since Stop the Hate began, over 50,000 students in 15 counties across Northeast Ohio have participated, and $1.7 million has been awarded to students and schools.

Congratulations to the Stop the Hate, Youth Speak Out – Essay Finalists from Aurora High School. They are:

Seniors
Manisha K. Girn
Mackenzie Lane Frost
Rania Rafiq
Junior
Amelia Kilway

PAUL BERENDT NAMED STATE FINALIST IN SAMSUNG SOLVE FOR TOMORROW COMPETITION

Harmon 8th grade student, **Paul Berendt**, represented AHS as one of 300 schools in the NATION and was selected as one of only 50 State Finalists in the **Samsung Solve for Tomorrow** national competition.



Paul Berendt (second from left) and His Siblings Presenting the Award

According to the Samsung website, "Students will improve their STEM toolkit, get hands-on experience for higher education, and finalists will receive one-on-one project mentorship from Samsung employees." Berendt was named a State Winner for his creation of an innovative battery that provides an alternative energy source and reduces greenhouse gas emissions to help combat climate change. Berendt also earned a $12,000 Samsung technology prize package. He then became eligible to compete to become one of ten national finalists with a chance to move up to become one of three National Winners that includes a $100K prize package including Samsung products and classroom resources.

Berendt recruited help from his peers to help produce his video for the national finalist video entry phase of the competition. While he was not selected as a national finalist in the Samsung competition, Berendt is still in the running for the Sustainability Innovation Award and Rising Entrepreneur Award that earns $25,000 in sustainable classroom products and/or $25,000 in classroom products respectively to support the development of the student project into a social enterprise. The winner will be announced at the National Finalist reveal event on April 28, 2025.



Paul Berendt (3rd from left) and Peers

SUPERINTENDENT ROBERTO PRESENTED STATE OF THE SCHOOLS 2025

ACSD Superintendent Mike Roberto, who is in his fifth year as Superintendent, was invited to speak on behalf of the Aurora City School District (ACSD) at the Aurora State of the City luncheon on February 26, 2025. Roberto, who is serving in his 25th and final year in Aurora will be retiring this summer, reported that the state of the ACSD is strong.

Roberto used Ronald Reagan's vision of America as a shining city on a hill to represent the Aurora City Schools as a shining DISTRICT on a hill. Roberto explained that the district earned five stars in all five components of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's Ohio State Report Card. Roberto said, "For the third year in a row, the Aurora City Schools is one of only six school districts out of over 600 in Ohio that significantly exceeded state expectations for all five components on the state report card, so congratulations go out to the students and staff in grades PreK-12 on this recognition."

Roberto then stated, "Moving beyond state recognition and therefore to national recognition, congratulations go out to the Leighton Intermediate & Harmon Middle School Staff as both schools were recently listed in the US News & World Report Best Elementary and Middle Schools respectively. Leighton was rated **264th** out of 3,055 Ohio Elementary Schools (Top 8.6%) and Harmon was ranked **31st** out of 2,451 Ohio Middle Schools (Top 1.3%). The rankings were determined by using data taken from the Math and Reading State Tests to indicate both Proficiency and Performance. Leighton and Harmon join Aurora High School, which, once again, is recognized by the U.S. News & World Report, as one of the best high schools in the United States! The U.S. News & World Report evaluated 941 high schools in Ohio and over 25,000 across the United States to develop their annual ranking. Aurora High School has been ranked as the number one school out of 52 high schools in the Akron Metro Area 3 out of the last 5 years and within the top 2.1% (20th) of schools in Ohio as well as within the top 2.3% (569th) of all high schools across the country."

Roberto explained that one of the reasons the ACSD "shines" is because the district provides so many unique and different opportunities for young people to learn and grow. Roberto stressed the importance of students not only learning in the classroom, but making connections within the community outside of school, explaining, "One of our goals as a district is to get the community into the schools and the schools out into the community. It is these school/community connections created by our students that strengthen the bond between the City of Aurora and the Aurora City Schools." He then listed some of the 67 different events that took place during the first semester of this school



year which included, the Leighton School Family Pancake Breakfast, the Craddock annual Veterans Day celebration where area veterans were honored, the Harmon School Coats for Kids collections to help those in need, the AHS Interact Club annual Rake & Run event that allowed 50 senior citizens to enjoy leaf free yards, the AHS Cybersecurity Advisory Council made up of 16 individuals from local tech companies, universities, city representatives and the ACSD to support the instructor and the program, This program is one of only five such high school programs in Ohio and 31 total across the nation. Roberto also mentioned the community effort to provide the Leighton Interactive Playground that allows students with disabilities to play with typical peers on the same equipment.

"As you can see, describing the Aurora City Schools as a shining district on a hill is not hyperbole," Roberto stated. "The school's foundation is strong thanks to our connections to the community, which help us create nurturing learning environments that help Aurora Learners be Future-Ready." He went on to explain how universal school vouchers have impacted the ACSD after people have recently asked him that question. To view Roberto's detailed explanation of how the voucher program's result is the erosion of public education's foundation, please view his full speech which is posted on the ACSD website (aurora-schools.org) homepage in the Superintendent's Message in the upper right-hand corner.

Roberto concluded his speech by saying, "My hope and wish for this great City and our Shining District on the hill is to continue to collaborate and illuminate the lives of Greenmen far into the future. We are **deeply** committed to protecting and promoting the strengths of Aurora, and undoubtedly one of them is the Aurora City Schools. I'm honored to have led this wonderful school system in such a great community and we appreciate and NEED the amazing support you give Greenmen Nation."

CLASS ACTS

Rotary Students of the Month

January 2025 – Harmon – **GEORGINA FRISSORE, CHASE LEVICK**
February 2025 – AHS – **DALLAS KOHL, DEEPTI PANGULURI**
March 2025 – Harmon – **MATEO HERNANDEZ, GRACE NAGY**

OMEA Participant Rankings

The **AURORA HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION'S (OMEA) SOLO AND ENSEMBLE ADJUDICATED EVENT** was held on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at Barberton High School. Students were required to prepare a piece of music and several scales to be performed for a judge selected by the OMEA state board. For a complete listing of student participants and the rankings, please go the News & Announcements section on the homepage of the ACSD (aurora-schools.org) website.

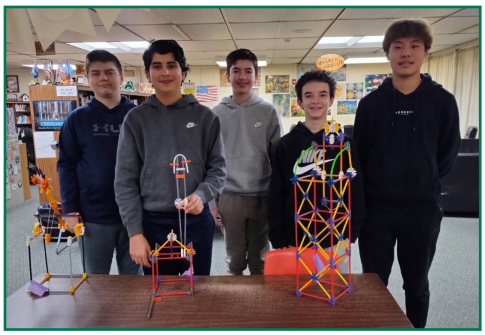


Excel TECC SkillsUSA Team

AHS Excel TECC students were among the SkillsUSA team that tied a school record with 12 regional medalist and (**SkillsUSA Ohio**) qualifiers among the 18 total competitors. Congratulations to the **EXCEL TECC SkillsUSA REGIONALS TEAM.**

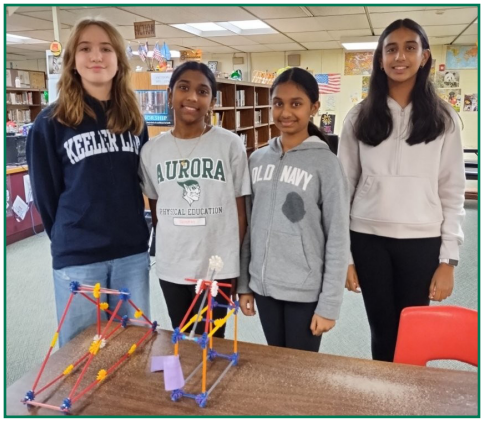
The **AURORA HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CLASS** ran a **SIGNED JERSEY RAFFLE** which was signed by AHS alumni, **AJ BARNER**, who is a current Seattle Seahawks tight end. All of the profits went toward the AHS Business Management Class and Aurora athletics.





K'NEX Catapult Challenge

The **HARMON SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER** (**MARY BECKSTROM**) held a **MAKERSPACE K'NEX CATAPULT CHALLENGE**. **LUBRIZOL CORPORATION** (AHS 1985 graduate **JODY KOCSIS**) provided students with scarves featuring the word "Inventor" on them. The three winning team categories will be furthest distance, best design, and least number of pieces used. Stay tuned!

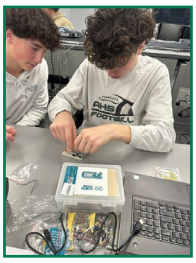


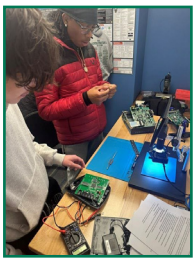
Student K'NEX Catapult Challenge Designs

The **NATIONAL CYBER LEAGUE** (NCL), a virtual and learning-centered cybersecurity competition and community, announced the **NCL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK 2**. They were AHS students, **BROOKE BARRY**, **ISHAAN SHAIK**, and **KYLAN SPRAGUE**. The NCL competition provides students with experience in solving real-world cybersecurity challenges such as identifying hackers from forensic data, pentesting and auditing vulnerable websites, recovering from ransomware attacks, and more.



The **AHS ART DEPARTMENT** ran a **LET IT RAIN UMBRELLA FUNDRAISER** with the top 3 finalist creations on display. Students made custom displays and donation buckets allowing students, staff and community members the chance to support the artists through donations. The fundraiser ran from March 17-21st and the umbrellas were also on display at the **ACSD ART SHOW**.





AHS CYBERSECURITY STUDENTS are forging a partnership with the **UNIVERSITY OF AKRON**. The students recently visited the **CYBER FORENSICS LAB** for a hands-on experience led by Akron's professors and current Cyber Forensic students. AHS students were welcomed onto the campus to work with the **CYBER RANGE REGIONAL PROGRAMMING CENTER** which is a part of their School of Disaster Science & Emergency Services. What an invaluable learning experience. Thank you to the University of Akron for hosting our students.

Congratulations to **EXCELTECC SKILLSUSA & WILDTECC ESPORTS TEKNOKATZ** members **JOSH**, **IVAN**, **DYLAN**, **SHADA** and **RJ**, who finished the **VALORANT PREMIER SEASON** at 6-0-1 which clinched them a top 3 seed in the OHSAA sponsored Regional competition at **CEDAR POINT E-SPORTS** on April 6, 2025. Best of luck!



On March 16-16, 2025, the **AHS CHAMBER CHOIR,** under the direction of **ROSS DOWNING**, performed at the **OMEA DISTRICT 6 LARGE GROUP ADJUDICATED EVENT** and earned a **SUPERIOR RATING** which is a 1 on a scale from 1-5. Downing said, "This is the first time in my career I have taken a group to "compete" in this event, and I was blown away by how our students represented our district through their performance, poise, and professionalism." Congratulations to the choir and **DOWNING** for their talent and first rate impression.



The **SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT** and **DIRECTOR MIKE MAGLIONICO** with **SPECIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR VICTOR TORRES** met 14 of the 16 indicators in the most recent **SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFILE** for the 2023-24 school year. Among the key highlights were 100% compliance in all special education evaluations and alternate assessment participation rates of less than 1%. Congratulations on this impressive achievement.

Milcetich - Continued from p.1

to bring to our school district outstanding educational leadership. Over the last 10 years in Aurora, he has demonstrated high expectations as he has been an integral part of the team working to create an environment where students can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally."

Milcetich earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Hiram College and a Master's Degree in Education Administration from Kent State University. He also received his PhD from Kent State University in Education Administration, K-12 Leadership.

Milcetich's career began as a social studies teacher in Solon, Ohio in 2000. From 2007-09, he worked at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Kent, Ohio as the assistant principal. Milcetich moved to Hudson High School as the unit principal from 2009-13 and took over as principal of Aurora High School in 2015. Milcetich earned the position of assistant superintendent of the ACSD in 2020.

Roberto explained, "I am excited for both Paul and the district. Paul has been in Aurora for the last 10 years starting as principal of Aurora High School and serving as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction. However, over the last five years, we have worked closely with each other and the next five months will be no different. This will ensure a smooth transition of leadership allowing Greenmen Nation to continue on its current trajectory of excellence."

Milcetich said of his new position, "I am thrilled and grateful to have this opportunity to be the next Superintendent of the Aurora City School District. Since coming to Aurora 10 years ago as a high school principal, I have always expressed how truly special our district and community are. The students, staff, families, and community are amazing! We are fortunate to have a strong foundation and culture focused on making sure we develop our students as human beings in a holistic manner, so they are Aurora Learners - Future Ready! I look forward to collaborating



The 100th Day of School celebration never gets old at the Aurora City School District's elementary buildings. This year's celebration took place on Thursday, January 30, 2025. Many activities were held throughout the district focusing on math and the number 100.







ACSD Superintendents Past, Present and Future: Dr. Paul Milcetich (center) at January BOE Meeting with Outgoing ACSD Superintendent, Mike Roberto (left) and Previous Superintendent Russ Bennett (right)

with our school board, staff, and stakeholders to build off of this past success and to set our standard in order create the best possible learning environment and opportunities for our students moving forward!"

Taking over Milcetich's position as Assistant Superintendent, will be current Aurora High School Principal, Mike Hayes. Hayes will take over this position beginning August 1, 2025. Hayes will finish his 5th year as the principal at the high school this summer after having previously served as an assistant principal of Indian Hills High School in Cincinnati, Ohio.



After the Aurora BOE voted unanimously to hire Hayes for the position at the February 24, 2025 BOE meeting, Hayes addressed the BOE and stated, "To the Board of Education I just want to extend my sincerest appreciation for your support. The opportunity means the world to me. And I'm going to continue to operate with the relentless passion for our kids, our colleagues and our community. And then to Mike and Paul specifically and the rest of our administrative team, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for your support, your collegiality, your leadership, your friendship, and you know I want to do in turn everything I can to support you all and in how to continue to give our kids the best experience as possible while continuing to dream and believe and operate with heart. Thank you."

And lastly, he added that, "I take the role of being the Aurora High School Principal as a great honor and responsibility and to everybody in that building right there and everyone who helps the greenhouse thrive, I can't thank them enough. For the life they breathe into me and the inspiration they give me on a daily basis, I feel just so lucky and so grateful for the experiences and I'm going to continue to operate with as much heart and soul as we navigate these last few months of the academic year. I will do the same for the district in the assistant superintendent role for years to come."

Superintendent - Continued from p.1

levy, the funds collected over the years have been used for the day-to-day operations of the district. When the levy was first passed by the Aurora Community in 1990, it collected approximately 3.8 million dollars annually, and after having been renewed six times, it will still collect the same 3.8 million dollars in 2025 if passed. This renewal operating levy accounts for approximately 8.4% of the Aurora City School District's budget.

Lastly, this will be my final *Your Schools* report and therefore my last opportunity to thank the entire Aurora Community for your support over the years. This will complete my 25th year in Aurora and at the end of the semester, I will officially have over 34 years in education, qualifying me for full retirement. I am grateful for every one of them, but especially those I served in Greenmen Nation. In 1999, I was hired to teach Science at Aurora High School, and after only a few months in the district and conversations with my wife, we knew Aurora was the community we wanted to raise our family. By October of 1999, we had sold our house and moved to the community. Twenty-six years later, as a parent to four Greenmen graduates, I look back with gratitude on our time in Aurora. As a parent, to live in a community that supports its schools like Aurora does was amazing, but to also work in such a district is a blessing. As mentioned, I have been grateful for the opportunity to teach, coach, lead, and ultimately serve this wonderful school district. It has been my honor to grow and learn with the ACSD Staff & Community and I wish nothing but the best for Greenmen Nation in the future.



Miller Elementary School's annual Bingo Night was a family fun night filled with smiles, laughs and the yell of BINGO heard loudly on January 30, 2025. Students brought their coins and enjoyed games of bingo while enjoying tasty Dairy Queen treats.







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DONUT WORRY - THEY WERE DELICIOUS



The ACSD Elementary Schools have had very busy mornings enjoying donuts and other breakfast treats at their annual PTO Donut Days. Leighton School and Miller School students and their special guest enjoyed their breakfasts in March while Craddock School participated in April. Just look at all of those sugary smiles!






ACSD Student Art Show





Each year the ACSD features the district wide Student Art Show to showcase the student talent throughout the entire district with all school buildings represented. This is a wonderful opportunity to view all of the amazing creativity and talent that our district students are excited to share and can be seen on display in one convenient location.



If you missed your chance to view this year's annual ACSD Art Show, which ran in conjunction with the AHS spring play, the *Addams Family*, below are just a few of the incredible examples of artwork that students have created throughout this school year. Enjoy!

BUILD-A-BEAR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER 2025

The annual ACSD Build-A-Bear fundraiser has donated over 1,950 Build-A-Bears and approximately $13,000 over the past 18 years to children in Akron Children's Hospital. Students volunteered to get the bears ready for their new homes on February 13, 2025. The hope is that every child spending the night will receive one. This fundraiser has been extremely successful each year thanks to Stacey Slackford Barnes, Mike Rubin and friends, along with the help of student volunteers each year.



"A Wicked Good Time" Was Had By All



All pre-K through 5th grade princesses were cordially invited to attend the Aurora Elementary PTO sponsored "A Wicked Good Time" Princess Prom accompanied by their King or Queen.



The ball was held at Aurora High School on Saturday, February 1, 2025 which could not have taken place without the AHS National Honor Society student volunteers.