



School District of Auburndale

DISTRICT MIRROR

To provide a safe environment to encourage the desire for life-long learning and success utilizing resources effectively and efficiently.

www.aubschools.com

VOLUME XLVI

No. 2

MARCH 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- MARCH 16: Tractor Club Brat Fry supporting Jeddson Voight at the High School 10:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Solo & Ensemble (rescheduled due to February 20 snow day)
Elementary Parent Teacher Conference 11:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
- MARCH 22: FFA Pancake Feed at the High School DINE IN & DRIVE THRU 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

From the Administrator's Desk

By Mr. Steve Van Wyhe

This is a great opportunity to thank all of those who contribute to the success of our district. Our teaching staff goes above and beyond on a regular basis for our students. Our paraprofessionals, cooks, bus drivers, and custodians are essential to our district's success. Our community members regularly support us at athletic and extracurricular events. Thank you for all you do!

The addition of an SRO in our district resulted from a partnership with the Wood County Sheriff's Department. I would like to thank Sheriff Shawn Becker and the Wood County Board of Supervisors for helping to make this happen. Deputy Nehls has fit in well in our district, and we look forward to the years ahead. We are making the safety of our students a priority, and this partnership has helped immensely.

This summer will be very busy in our school buildings, as well as outside of them. Last April, our community supported a referendum project, the majority of which will take place this summer. The track replacement was badly needed, as we have been unable to host track meets since the 2025 season. Remodeling the science labs in the MS/HS building will help modernize them. The elementary building changes involve several areas. An updated entrance will be safer and easier to monitor. Our new 4K classrooms will each include their own bathroom. We are very excited about these changes.

Due to the construction mentioned above, all of our summer school offerings will take place at the MS/HS building and the Marleen Knutson Learning Center. Unfortunately, we will be unable to offer as many classes this summer as we have in the past. This will be a one-year issue, and we will be able to expand our offerings again in the future.

This fall, we will begin our next strategic planning process. This process takes place every five years and provides direction for our district. Community input is an important part of this process, and a survey will be distributed to help guide us. Volunteers will also be needed to serve on the committee. Please reach out to me if you are interested.

Exciting things are happening in the Auburndale School District! There is a reason our district has 100 more students entering through open enrollment than leaving. Many families recognize the opportunities we provide. These open-enrolled students also benefit our district by bringing additional funding. We do not have billboards promoting our district, so our best advertisement is word of mouth. Help us spread the word about the great things happening here!

From the Principal's Desk: Driving Engagement and Building Culture

*By: Brad Grube
Auburndale High/Middle School Principal*

At Auburndale High/Middle School, we believe that engagement drives everything. It impacts classroom management, strengthens relationships, increases student enjoyment of learning, and ultimately builds a positive culture among students and staff. The healthy culture we are experiencing in our High School and Middle School today is not accidental — it is the direct result of the intentional work of our teachers and staff who engage students every single day.

Our classrooms are filled with meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities that connect students to real-world experiences. Whether it is welcoming guest speakers into Biomedical Science and Health Occupations classes, creating authentic learning scenarios, or building career connections for students, our staff consistently works to make learning relevant and engaging. When students are engaged, they are more connected. When they are connected, they thrive. That is the foundation of a strong school culture.

In that same spirit, my “Ride to School” videos are designed to extend that engagement beyond our building and into our community. Just as our teachers work to engage students in the classroom, I strive to engage our families and community members by sharing the great things happening in our district. These videos are meant to provide transparency, celebrate successes, communicate important information, and highlight the incredible work of our staff and students.

Culture is not confined to the walls of a school building — it includes the entire community. When families feel informed and connected, when community members understand and celebrate what is happening in our schools, and when we consistently communicate our values and successes, we help drive our culture in the right direction.

I am proud of the positive, healthy culture we continue to build at AHS. It reflects the dedication of our teachers and staff, the engagement of our students, and the support of our community. Together, through strong classroom engagement and intentional community connection, we will continue moving Auburndale forward.

DECA Students Compete at District Level Competitions

By: Mr. David Jicinsky

Four AHS students competed at MSTC on January 9 for this year's DECA District 2 Competitions. Over 400 students from area schools competed in 20 career based competitive events. Moving on to State Competitions are Abby Boyer, who competed in the Principles of Finance event and Moises Martinez, who competed in the Business Services event.

Competitions for DECA consist of a test and two case studies related to different careers in business and marketing. The Auburndale High School DECA Chapter is advised by Mr. David Jicinsky.

From the Principal's Desk

by Mr. Scharenbroch

Spring is in the air at AES! We, the students and staff, continue to work hard and are finding new ways of creating unique learning opportunities for all the students. In the short months of March, April and May we have lots of things going on here at the elementary school.

As we plan for the summer we will be offering summer school classes in June only this year. The online booklet and sign-up will be coming out in April. Also, we continue with our elementary goals for 2025-2026

- Act 20 (Reading Legislation)
- Standards Based Grading
- Reading and Math Intervention
- Continue creating a positive learning environment

Finally, we have our state testing, the Forward Exam, which is taken by our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. This will occur in April. I know our students will try their best and show all they have learned this past year! Last year our students did amazing, and I know this year will be even better!

The year is really going fast now, and as the days get longer, we are starting to get ready for summer school and next school year. There is lots of excitement for new ideas brewing for the 26-27 school year! Our last 3 character words for the year are Perseverance, Courage, and Honesty. Hopefully you are seeing the new Student of the Month signs around town. We will work very hard to demonstrate these words everyday, because here at Auburndale Elementary, the Eagles are “soaring into the future!”

JULY '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

01 Christmas Break
 15 End of Q2 (44 days)
 18 Teacher Work Day – No School

JANUARY '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

24-28 Inservice
 27 Open House 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

18 PTC 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. MSHS
 25 PTC 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. MSHS
 26 Inservice – No School

FEBRUARY '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

SEPTEMBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

01 First Day of School
 1:00 Dismissal Elem
 1:20 Dismissal MSHS
 Labor Day
 21-25 Homecoming Week

15 PTC Elem 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
 24 End of Q3 (45 days)
 25-29 Spring Break

MARCH '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

OCTOBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

1 PTC 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. MSHS
 8 PTC 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. MSHS
 29 End of Q1 (42 days)
 30 Inservice – No School

23 Inservice – No School

APRIL '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

NOVEMBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

2 PTC Elem 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
 25-27 Thanksgiving Break

21 Graduation
 26 PLC Make-up Day
 27 Last Day of School
 End of Q4 (42 days)
 28 Teacher Work Day
 31 Memorial Day

MAY '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

DECEMBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

24-31 Christmas Break

Total Student Days: 173

JUNE '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- Professional Day = No Students
- MSHS Parent Teacher Conferences After School
- Holiday Break = No Students or Staff

Board Approved: 1/14/2026

MARCH 22, 2026

66TH ANNUAL

AUBURNDALE FFA

PANCAKE FEED



The Auburndale FFA will be hosting their Annual Pancake Feed on Sunday, March 22rd, 2026. We will be serving from 9:00 am until 2:00pm. REAL potato and buttermilk pancakes, sausage, cheese, applesauce, sweetened dried cranberries, Maple Syrup from our school forest! Please join us for good fun and good food! *Drive-thru* and *sit down* are available. For sit down please park in the AHS parking lot enter into the cafeteria served by our wonderful FFA members.



Drive Thru:
potato and buttermilk
pancakes, sausage, milk,
desserts, Applesauce
cranberries and cheese
½ gallon of Weber's Milk.

Meals are \$10
Choice between
buttermilk or REAL
potato pancakes

Drive-Thru Line

**Enter by Elementary
Head North on School
Street, Right on 1st St.**

Enter school from the
west and exit to the east.
Watch for signs for an
efficient flow

Auburndale FFA
10629 North Road
Auburndale WI 54412

Find us on Facebook!

March 22, 2026
9am - 2pm

Another Successful Kids Heart Challenge!

Congratulations to Auburndale Elementary on a successful Kids Heart Challenge event! All together students raised \$9,515.32! That is an increase of \$350.42 from last year! Every \$50 donated represents a life saved by heart research; that would equate to just over 190 lives that AES students saved! Congratulations! You did an outstanding job of helping others who suffer from hurting hearts in addition to helping yourselves maintain your own healthy heart throughout our jump rope unit! Congratulations to Lucy Harrison from Mrs. Berg's 4th grade class for receiving \$1,506.54 in donations. A banner will be displayed in the elementary gymnasium for the remainder of the year honoring Lucy's efforts.



Auburndale Artists in Action

FEB 14- MAR 22 @ Leigh Yawkey Woodson Wausau -Student Art Show

FEB 19- MAR 19 Marawood Conference Art Show @ CVA Wausau

Student work by Brooklyn Weiler, Lola Marchand, Makayla Pongratz, Iris Galetto, and Alana Steines (right) Notable: Brooklyn Weiler won Marawood All Conference with her piece titled: "Beginnings of an Artist" (left) During Marawood Conference Art Immersion Day on February 18th, students were able to join in on work-shops to learn new art skills and techniques. (middle)

May 4th - May 11th Spring Auburndale Art Show. Student art will be on display in the High School library during the Middle and High School band and choir concerts. Artwork was completed by students who had art class during the 3rd and 4th quarters this school year.



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Auburndale Wrestling Makes History

The Auburndale High School Wrestling Team has made history this season, capturing the Marawood Conference Championship for the first time since 2005 and earning a trip to the WIAA Team State Wrestling Championship for the first time in school history. This milestone marks a significant achievement for our wrestling program and our entire school community. Winning conference reflects months of dedication, discipline, and hard work from our student-athletes and coaching staff. Their commitment in the practice room and their resilience in competition have set a new standard for excellence at Auburndale High School. Advancing to the WIAA Team State Wrestling Championship is an accomplishment that has never before been achieved by our program. The tournament will be held on March 6th and 7th at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Competing at the state level represents not only athletic success, but also the strength of teamwork, leadership, and perseverance displayed by this group throughout the season. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Head Coach John Karl and his coaching staff for their hard work, leadership, and dedication in achieving this milestone. Their commitment to building a strong program, developing student-athletes, and fostering a culture of accountability and belief has played a pivotal role in this historic achievement. "A lot of this success has a lot to do with our youth program. This group has been together since coming through that program... probably since their 4K or Kindergarten years," Coach Karl said.

This historic run is also a testament to the support of families and the encouragement from our school and community. Auburndale has always taken pride in its tradition of hard work and community spirit, and this team embodies both. As they prepare to compete at state, we congratulate our wrestlers and coaches on an unforgettable season and wish them the very best as they represent Auburndale on the biggest stage in Wisconsin high school wrestling.

Let's continue to show our Eagle pride and support this team as they make history!



SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT & GRADUATION CEREMONY

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of our graduating seniors!

Senior Awards Night - May 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Scholarships and awards will be presented at Senior Awards Night, followed by a small reception.

Graduation Ceremony - May 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Tim & Vicki Anderson Gymnasium for both events

Everyone is welcome to attend as we honor the accomplishments of the Senior Class of 2026!

High School Office: 715-652-2115

Elementary Office: 715-652-2812

District Office: 715-652-2117