



AVENUE CITY ACTION

Superintendent Jerry Archer Announces his Retirement after 40 Years of Public School Service



Superintendent Jerry Archer announced at the October 2010 Board of Education Meeting that he is retiring after 40 years of service the Public School System. His retirement will begin at the end of June 2011.

Jerry was born in Maryville, MO on March 5, 1948. He graduated from Jefferson C-123 at Conception Jct. and then received his bachelor's degree from Benedictine College at Atchison, KS. He obtained his Masters from NWMSU at Maryville and later received his Specialist from a cooperative program with NWMSU and MO University of Columbia.

Jerry has taught at seven schools throughout his career and three of those schools have been in Andrew County (Fillmore, North Andrew, and Avenue City). He taught high school business classes for five years, was a H.S. Principal for three years, and was Superintendent the remaining years. He was in education full-time for 31 years and this will be the 9th year as part-time administrator at Avenue City R-IX.

Jerry has been married for 40 years to Vicki. They have five children; Todd, Kim, Chris, Natalie, and Lyndsey and they have six grandchildren; Brittany, Ian, Gabriel, Bailey, Kylie, and Trevor. A seventh grandchild will be born in January. Softball would be Jerry's main hobby he says since he coaches the school softball team at King City and did traveling softball during the summer with their youngest child for eight years.

Most of his spare time is centered on children and grandchildren. He enjoyed being part of the staff at Avenue City and he feels fortunate to have the support of the board, students, parents, and patrons of Avenue City R-IX School District. He will be missed.

AVENUE CITY R-IX RECEIVES PERFECT SCORE ON ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Jerry Archer, Superintendent

Once again the Avenue City R-IX School District has received a perfect score on the APR (Annual Performance Report) for the 2009-10 school year. This report comes from the State Department in the fall of each school year. The test covers subject areas in Communication Arts, Math, and Science. It also evaluates the Attendance Rate and Grade Point Averages. You have to receive a designated amount of points per section to meet the standard and we have obtained points above these levels in each category. We are proud of the students and staff accomplishments. It takes a commitment from students, staff, parents, community, administration, and the Board of Education to achieve these high standards year after year. In fact, we have received this award for the ten years it has been in existence. Congratulations to all that assist our students in the educational process to help them constantly achieve at these high levels.



6th Grade Girl Scouts

Amy Thomure

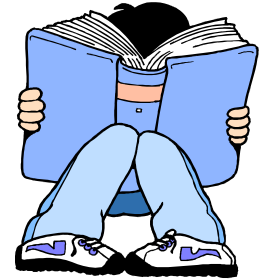
The Avenue City 6th Grade Junior Girl Scout Troop #909 has had a busy fall! In October, we organized, with the 7th Grade Cadet troop, a workshop for the kindergarten and 1st grade girls to introduce them to Girl Scouts. We also volunteered to work the concession stand for the home basketball games - we worked 6 games in all! Most recently, we have sponsored a food drive to benefit the Andrew County Food Pantry. We also volunteered at the Food Pantry, helping organize items for the Back Pack Buddies program. The 6th Grade Troop members are Shelby Pettigrew, Gabrielle Thomure, Allison Turner, Chloe Walker, Rylee Yarnell, and Xena Zahau. Amy Thomure is the leader with assistant leader, Tina Bonnett.

ACES Students Not Only Meet Reading Goal, They Surpass It!

Becky Grimes, Principal

The Avenue City School Staff and Faculty challenged the 140 students to a **READING IS BELIEVING GOAL!** They challenged the students to read 1,217 books, take, and pass Accelerated Reader quizzes. Students were challenged to do this before December 17, 2010. Students and staff kept track of the progress towards the goal by using a widget on the Avenue City School District website. (<http://avenuecityschool.org/>).

The students reached their goal one month early, November 17, 2010. The students met their goal! As a reward the staff will be hosting a **READING IS BELIEVING PARTY** December 21, 2010. To date the total number of books read is: 1,634 Books Read and Tested. (31,649,064 Words)! This is an amazing accomplishment! Way to go to all ACES students for **BELIEVING IN READING!**



Preventing Pink Eye in Children

Shawnda Russel, School Nurse

Because children are in close contact in day care centers and classrooms, it is difficult to avoid the spread of bacteria and viruses causing pink eye. The following information can help parents, day care workers and teachers reduce the risk of a pink eye outbreak:

- Personal items, including hand towels, should never be shared at school or at home.
- Teach children to use tissues and cover their mouths and noses when they sneeze or cough.
- Discourage eye rubbing and touching, to avoid spread of bacteria and viruses.
- Adults in schools and day care centers should wash their hands frequently and have children do the same. Soap should always be available for this.
- Antiseptic solutions should be used constantly to clean surfaces such as common toys, table tops, drinking fountains, sinks and faucet handles.

Despite all these precautions, your child still may develop pink eye. If so, be considerate of others and do your part to keep the infection from spreading.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: Preferably child should not attend school until examined by a physician and approved for re-admission. Otherwise, child should be excluded from school during acute stage of infection.



Academic Team News

Mandy Scott, Academic Team Coach

Avenue City students have been very busy with the practice schedule for Academic Team. The school will have a team from each grade fourth through eighth. These teams will compete with Savannah schools, including the Middle School, as well as Stewartsville and North Andrew. The competition meets will begin the first week in January and continue throughout March. Sponsors Janis Pargas and Mandy Scott look forward to a successful season and encourage parents and patrons to attend the meets in support of the students. The entire schedule for the meets can be found on the school website.

School Aged Child Care Students get Lessons for Managing Money

Ray Scherer, St. Joseph News-Press

AVENUE CITY, Mo. — A make-believe mouse taught a group of students Monday afternoon how to identify goods and services as part of a storybook economy. The Money Club — a course sponsored by Andrew County University Extension — concluded a five-session run for an after-school program at the Avenue City Elementary School. Dr. Rebecca Travnichek, county program director and family financial education specialist, led the program with assistance from Extension faculty member Carol Williams. The club's intent, according to Dr. Travnichek, was "to get them (students) thinking about finance and economics." Ms. Williams said the students have used their time since September discovering how their parents spend money. Popcorn, for example, was used to illustrate cost and taste comparisons based on price. "Gotcha" advertising was also studied. Board games were used to teach the value of allowances. Drawings and worksheets imparted financial knowledge. Various occupations were addressed. A "money apron" helped the students identify currency denominations, shapes, colors, and amounts. "I actually bring the real thing," Dr. Travnichek said.



The National Center for Economic Education created the Money Club, which was adapted into an "Economics and Finance in Children's Literature" 4-H curriculum.

The children's book "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" demonstrated economic realities for the students. "All the mouse wants is a good for a service," Dr. Travnichek said. The students followed the story to identify items such as nail clippers as a good, while sweeping floors was labeled as a service that was provided. The problem of unlimited wants and "gimmies" were also covered in the class, especially in light of holiday spending.

Later in the final session, the students drew pictures of goods and services that will be scanned, assembled and distributed as a book — with one copy slated for the school library.

As part of their graduation ceremony, the students received piggy banks and pencils made from recycled money. Liam Hunter said he learned about needs and wants, along with goods and services. "You should save your money because you can run out," he said.

Daire Karr learned the value of good spending habits. "Don't spend your money," she said. "Use it wisely."

The 2-year-old program is designed for kindergarten through the sixth grade. The Money Club has also been held at the John Glenn Elementary and Amazonia schools, and is planned for the North Andrew School District in the spring.



ACES Student Council

By: Carolyn Polsky, Advisor

The ACES Student Council has had an active start to the 2010 school year. This fall we sponsored a school dance with an autumn-theme for our 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. We also sponsored an autumn themed bake sale with the proceeds designated for a family with special needs at this Christmas holiday time. In addition we received a generous donation from the Flea Market which allowed us to give generously to this family. Also, several of our student council members volunteered to greet people and sell tickets at a home ACES game in support of our basketball team. Finally, Student Council sponsored a winter coat drive for needy families in our area. All coats/gloves were donated to the Salvation Army for winter distribution. Our great ACES families donated over 70 gently used winter coats and numerous pairs of gloves. We always appreciate when we can serve our school and community.

Professional Development News

Mandy Scott, PDC Chairperson

The staff at Avenue City has had several professional development opportunities already this year. There has been attendance to Math Networking, Co-Teaching, Science Networking, Teacher Academy, Preschool Project, and Media Literacy. These opportunities are all given through our Northwest Missouri Regional Professional Development Center, which is a great way for teachers at Avenue City to gain knowledge of the latest standards and requirements from the state, as well as learn new and innovative teaching ideas for the classroom. Professional Development also allows the staff to collaborate with teachers from other small school districts. During the late starts and early out days, the staff has been working on MAP data, Aimsweb testing and results, Accelerated Reader, and Kagan Structures. The staff will continue to work on these areas throughout the rest of the year to keep teacher and student expectations high and allow the teachers to grow professionally to enhance student learning and achievement.

Third Grade News

Mandy Scott, 3rd Grade Teacher

The students in third grade are hard at work! They are beginning to learn about basic multiplication and are practicing these facts nightly. They have also been working on 'I' Poems that will be submitted into the Daughters of the American Revolution contest. The class has been collecting items to donate to the Abrielle Neff Foundation in Maryville, MO, that gives stuffed animals, games, and activities to children who have to be in the hospital for any reason. The third grade class has just completed writing their first short story, using a prompt and scoring guide to lead their thoughts and ideas. Up and coming will be a *Picturing-Writing* project, in which the students will be conducting research, drawing illustrations, and writing the text to their own story books.





BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Jerry Archer, Superintendent

A brief description of the highlights of the board meetings from June 15th to November 15th of 2010 are as follows:

June 15, 2010 Board Meeting:

- Reviewed program evaluations for the Annual District Goals and the Extra Curricular Activities
- Approve a tentative budget for the 2010-11 school year
- Discussed and set the tuition for Preschool for the 2010-11 school year
- Decided to continue the Career Ladder program but only at the level that the school paid for last year.

July 15, 2010 Board Meeting:

- Reviewed program evaluations for the State Programs, Mission Statement, and District Philosophy
- Approved the hiring of Elaine Adams and Sherri Miller as special education instructors (each will work three days a week)

August 12, 2010 Board Meeting:

- Reviewed the program evaluations for facilities & safety and the at-risk program
- Approved all handbooks for the 2010-11 school year
- Approved the substitute list for the 201-11 school year
- Decided to start "Direct Depositing" with Citizens Bank & Trust
- Increased the lunch prices \$.25, breakfast \$.10, extra milk \$.15, and adult lunches \$.25
- Set the tax rates at \$ 4.6787 which was \$.0285 less than last year
- MCE Board Policy updates were placed on review for 30 days for patrons to view

September 13, 2010 Board Meeting:

- Reviewed the program evaluations for Transportation and Student Data
- Approved the MCE Board Policy up-dates
- Approved the proclamation of "Red Ribbon Week"
- Approved the "Local Compliance Plan Certification Statement" for Special Education
- Approved the bus routes, mileage, and riders for the 2010-11 school year
- Approved the 2009-10 school audit
- Approved the hiring of Shawnda Russell for school nurse

October 14, 2010 Board Meeting:

- Reviewed the program evaluations for Library Media, Technology Plan, Assessment and/or Review of Testing, and CSIP Review
- Approved the purchase of security cameras for the new addition

November 15, 2010 Board Meeting:

- Reviewed the program evaluations for Guidance & Counseling, Gifted, Special Education, Health Services, and Annual Performance Report
- Approve Mann's Landscaping & Garden Center for snow removal
- Set the filing dates and times to file for the Board of Education
- Approved the revised version of the 2010-11 school budget



HAPPY NEW YEAR



FILING DEADLINE FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jerry Archer, Superintendent

The filing dates for prospective board members are set by the State Statute and they are as follows: from December 14, 2010 to January 18, 2011. If you are interested in filing, please stop at the Avenue City R-IX School on a day school is in session from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The office will not be open during winter break from December 21st to January 2nd. The office will also be closed on weekends. The qualifications for a board member are as follows: candidate must be a citizen of the United States, resident taxpayer of the school district, resides in this state for one year before the election, and must be at least twenty-four years of age. If you have any questions on the duties of a board member, please give Mr. Archer a call, or stop by the school for a visit, or talk to a present or past board member.

AUDIT REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jerry Archer, Superintendent

Enclosed is a sheet titled "Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances" that gives a financial analysis of the Avenue City R-IX School District for the 2009-10 school year. The audit is performed by Martin & Hanway CPA from St. Joseph. If you will look at the last two lines which show the fund balances for the last two years. Disregard the debt service fund, since this money can only be used for paying off bond issues. Also subtract the money we still have on the books from the new addition from the Capital Projects Fund of \$ 331,946 leaving a true balance in the Capital Projects Fund for July 1, 2009 of \$87,375. This will give you a carryover in funds for July 1, 2009 of \$805,587 instead of \$1,302,875. Then subtract the June 30, 2010 balance of \$862,275 from the July 1, 2009 balance of \$ 805,587 you will see that we increased our balance by \$56,688. We fill very fortunate in these troubled financial times to have increased our balance. It is projected to have another year or two of tough financial years, but we fill we have the carryover funds to see us through those times. If you have any questions on this report or other financial matters, please give Mr. Archer a call or stop by the school.

Counseling Corner

Judy Curry, Counselor

In counseling this semester, kindergarten-6th grades have been learning that each person is of inestimable worth; everyone is unique and has special gifts to add to this world, and no one has the right to belittle or bully others. Besides self-esteem and anti-bullying issues, we have also been learning how to improve study skills, organization, etc. Managing and accepting normal emotions which we all have as well as ways to cope with stress in our lives also have been discussed.

All grades participated in the nationally celebrated anti-drug emphasis, "Red Ribbon Week," in October. Students took part in daily activities and fun themes. Most importantly, School Resource Officer, Todd Smith, with the St. Joseph Police Department, gave an excellent presentation as to the devastation drugs and alcohol can bring into lives, emphasizing the need for making good decisions, choosing morally good friends, and developing character and integrity in our lives.





7th and 8th grades are scheduled for counseling classes on a one semester basis. Eighth grade’s emphasis has been upon preparation for high school, knowing their interests, abilities, and personalities in order to begin choosing high school classes which will help prepare them for careers matched to their personal situations.

Three tours to Central, Lafayette, and Savannah High Schools will be conducted after the first of the year to help students and their parents choose which high school students will attend.

Seventh grade counseling will begin in January. In addition, our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are involved in the “Learning for Life” program sponsored by the Pony Express Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Guest speakers from different backgrounds and careers present information and answer questions as to their career areas. This further helps our middle schoolers prepare for future careers.

As well as classroom counseling, I also counsel students one-on-one and in small groups to help them with any concerns they (and their parents) may have. Please let me know if I may be of help to your children and your family in any way.

Have a Merry Christmas and a good, relaxing vacation with those you love!

Lady Aces Go Undefeated

Jack Burgess, Coach



The Avenue City Junior High girls’ basketball team finished the season undefeated at 12-0. They are pictured here with the first-place trophy from the Northeast Nodaway Tournament in Ravenwood. The girls are first row- Claudia Wall, Madison Rowland (manager), Kaitlin Adams, Jensen Masoner and Taylor Thompson. Second row- Kelsey Kendall, Marnie Castle, Coach Jack Burgess, Bailey Wilcoxson, Gabriele Pierce, MaQenzy Lima and Shelby Archdekin. Not pictured are Jessica Alexander and Assistant Coach Candi Rowland.

Avenue City Boys’ Basketball

Jack Burgess, Coach

After a two year absence, the Avenue City Middle School boys were able to field a basketball team.

With many of the players lacking experience due to numbers, the team progressed throughout the season even though their results did not indicate it. The boys ended the season with a record of 2 wins and 9 losses and the consolation trophy in the Northeast Nodaway Tournament. Pictured (back row): Jacob Adams, Jacob Barnes, Calvin Froehlich, Jaben Flach, Carson Hopneycutt. (front row) Max Castle, Jackson Davis, Nicholas Gnuschke, Joseph Zahau.





**Announcement of Vacancy
Superintendent of Schools
Avenue City Elementary School District**
Search being conducted by ACES Board of Education

Avenue City R-IX School District is seeking candidates for the part-time position of Superintendent of the school district located at 18069 Highway 169 N, Cosby, MO 64436. Candidate must be able to lead a team of inspirational and motivational teachers into the next educational challenge. Candidate must be policy and financial minded and experience is a must! Applicant must inspire, lead, guide, and direct every member of the ACES team, setting and achieving the highest standards of excellence, so that each individual student enrolled in this district may be provided with a complete, valuable, meaningful, and personally rewarding education.

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| <p><u>County-District Code:</u> 002-090</p> <p><u>Student Population:</u> Pre-K – 8th Grade: 140 students 9-12: 54 students</p> <p><u>Certified Staff:</u> 22 (Average 16 years of experience)</p> <p><u>Non-Certified Staff:</u> 9 (Average: 6 years of experience)</p> <p><u>Annual Operating Budget:</u> \$1,353,600</p> <p><u>Assessed Valuation:</u> \$16,472,320</p> | <p><u>Application Procedures:</u> Applicants are advised to forward all application materials to: Avenue City School Superintendent Search c/o Becky Grimes, Principal 18069 Highway 169 Cosby, MO 64436 Other contact information: Phone: 816-662-2305 Fax: 816-662-3201 Email: rgrimes@aces.k12.mo.us</p> |
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Board of Education:

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| Rodney Davison – President, 1999 | David DuVall – Vice-President, 2006 |
| Carla Archdekin – Member, 2001 | Jim Maag – Member, 2002 |
| Bob Beahler – Member, 2003 | Ramona Bennett – Member, 2007 |
| Travis Elifrits - Member, 2008 | Janice Pankau, Sec. to Super., 10 years experience |

District Awards / Accomplishments:

Accredited with Distinction in Performance-the following years:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 |
| 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 |
| 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 |
| 2009-2010 | | |

Gold Star School of Missouri – 2007
Placed on Top 10 Schools List for MAP Scores – numerous times

Salary / Benefits Information:

- Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. (will be negotiable)
- Administrative experience necessary
- Missouri Superintendent Certification required
- Paid health insurance benefits per limits of health insurance policy in effect plus other benefits

Applicants are asked to not make direct contact with the board of education members. Initial applications will be kept confidential; however, all applications, letters of reference, resumes, transcripts, credentials, etc. for the purpose of this application process will, upon receipt, become sole property of the Avenue City School District’s Board of Education, and shall remain their property.



PTA News

Sarah Heckman, PTA President

Greetings from your PTA president!



It's hard to believe that we are already through half of our school year. PTA parents, teachers and friends have been working hard to raise funds and sponsor projects that not only benefit the children, but the school, and community.

We started off this fall with our "Family Fun Night". A big "thanks" goes out to Lena Walker and Kerri Maag for managing such a successful event. There were games, food

and a silent auction. Money raised will help us to complete many projects that wouldn't have been possible without the support of our families. We also have hosted a "Chili Supper and Turkey Raffle" during a recent basketball game. Many thanks to all of you who helped to prepare/serve and donate to the cause.

So what are we doing with all of these donations and support? This year it has been the School Board's as well as the PTA's goal to make the road in front of the school a bit safer. Anyone who has ever been passed on the right side while trying to pull into the school (headed east) knows what I'm talking about. Board members have worked tirelessly with members from the State Police, MODOT even political candidates to try and find a way to prevent an accident. Although we have no resolution at this time we feel confident that the state will help us to find a safe solution. The PTA has also sent children to see plays in Kansas City, and we have donated electronics that provide music during school events and before school activities. We have elected to set aside money for capital improvements to the school that will benefit all children. You can feel confident that all donations to the PTA are used to provide better opportunities for our children.

If you have any questions or if you would like to join the PTA, please feel free to contact any one of the board members: Sarah Heckman-President, Amy Fitzgerald-Vice President, Shelly Froehlich-Treasurer, Christy O'Riley-Secretary.

Thanks for your support!

December 10, 2010: A Day to Celebrate Reading at ACES

Becky Grimes, Principal

Friday, December 10, 2010 the Avenue City School District celebrated Reading. The day started with Principal Grimes reading books out loud to the entire student body. Reading was then celebrated by having D.E.A.R. time (Drop Everything And Read). The entire school (even staff) stopped whatever they were doing at two different times throughout the day and went to the hall and gym and read a book. During lunch the students listened to "books on tape". Students and staff were also involved in a "used book swap". The celebration was topped off with the Scholastic Book Fair and with teachers completing different activities in the classroom. Staff is hoping to make this an annual event.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."

— Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"



Keep Skills Sharp During Winter Break

Help your child stay at the top of his learning game during the holiday vacation — no flashcards involved!

By Kristen Finello

Article from www.scholastic.com

Winter break means a well-deserved reprieve from homework and daily obligations. "Just as we adults cherish our vacation days, students need a break from their routines to recharge," says elementary school expert Lawrence L. Smith, Ph.D., acting associate dean for the teachers college at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Still, before you know it, the holidays will be over and it will be back to the bus stop. To prepare for a smooth re-entry and a successful second semester, don't let school skills like reading, writing, and math slide completely during winter vacation. "We want kids to read, do some writing and some math," says Smith. But not to worry: "All of these can be done in fun ways from shopping to cooking to playing games." Try these family-friendly activities:

- **Read for pleasure.**
- **Cook up an easy lesson.**
- **Write thank-you notes.**
- **Make the most of car rides.**
- **Maintain reasonable bedtimes.**
- **Ask for grocery list assistance.**
- **Let kids help with online shopping.**
- **Have a family game night.**

25 Fun Things to Do With Your Kids During the Winter

Ideas for Having Fun Together During the Winter Months

By [Jennifer Wolf](#), About.com Guide

1. Make hot cocoa.
2. Go sledding together.
3. Make paper snowflakes.
4. Go bowling.
5. Make sun catchers.
6. Make a graph showing each day's hi and low temperatures.
7. Make ice cream using snow.
8. Go roller skating.
9. Have a snowball fight.
10. Play your favorite board games.
11. Make a pine cone bird feeder.
12. Measure the snowfall.
13. Go ice skating together.
14. Make snow angels and watch the snow fall together.
15. Buy a kid-sized shovel and shovel the driveway or sidewalk together.
16. Visit your local library and check out books on winter themes.
17. Draw and color a mural showing a winter scene.
18. Build a snow fort together.
19. Take a knitting class at your local craft store and make hats for each other.
20. Fill a spray bottle with colored water and write in the snow.
21. Use sheets or boxes to build a fort inside your house.
22. Bundle up and take a walk during a snowstorm.
23. Make a snowman sun catcher.
24. Collect old winter coats from family members and friends. Then donate them to a local charity.
25. Use the back side of some leftover wrapping paper to draw and color life-sized pictures of one another.

