

## Thanksgiving 2020

It is nearing mid November. It is hard to believe that we have come thus far and done so well with regards to the pandemic that hangs over the world. I want to thank our parents for their cooperation through these first 12 weeks. We have been more than fortunate at our little school. We have seen school districts all over NW Missouri dismiss classes and quarantine their students on and off since the first week of school. We, on the other hand, have avoided a mass loss of students and we hope for continued cooperation and success.

National health experts have suggested that American families consider scaling back their Thanksgiving and holiday gatherings. Personally, I think families should, and will, gather for the upcoming holiday season regardless of what any expert tells us to do. If there was ever a year that families needed to connect with one another, it would be 2020. My heart aches for those parents and grandparents that are caught in assisted living situations and who haven't been able to touch their children since March. After this year, let us never underestimate the value and the power of a personal touch from a loved one.

In order to continue to be diligent about keeping our atmosphere as "covid-free" as possible, we are going to have to make a trade-off. As is the American tradition, families will travel and gather on Thursday and Friday of the Thanksgiving holiday. During that time, most families will make contact with a variety of relatives and friends who would not be their typical day-to-day contacts. Therein lies the risk to us and to our face-to-face school delivery. It is because of this issue that we will be extending our Thanksgiving holiday. I believe it would be in our best interest to allow an incubation period following that Thanksgiving holiday. By taking the week off following the holiday and providing virtual/distance learning the remainder of that week, we allow for a 10-day period for potential symptoms to show up before we return to school. We believe this is a good way to prevent exposing all of our students to the possibility of contracting the COVID-19 virus. We are giving up 4 days after Thanksgiving in hopes these days will allow us to remain in school until Christmas. Thus, the trade-off.

Some schools have a spring break. We'll have a fall break. Hopefully, you will now understand the logic behind this move. It is my sincere hope that by the time Easter rolls around, we will not have to do this again. However, that too, is beyond our control. One thing that we can control is our sincere gratitude for being able to have a family gathering at Thanksgiving if we so desire.

I end this with a quote from a child's book titled In November by Cynthia Rylant, *"In November, people are good to each other. They carry pies to each other's homes and talk by crackling woodstoves, sipping mellow cider. They travel very far on a special November day just to share a meal with one another and to give thanks for their many blessings – for the food on their tables and the babies in their arms."*

Be kind to one another and give thanks for the many blessings we have been given that we, too often, take for granted.

Don Lawrence

Superintendent





## **School board Candidate Filing Opens in December**

It's time to prepare for the April school board election. Candidate filing begins December 15, 2020.

- There are two seats up for election for a three year term.
- Filing began at 8 AM on December 15 and ends at 5:00 PM on January 19, 2021. On other days the district will only accept candidate filing during the business hours. (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM)
- Filing will not occur on holidays and other days the district offices are closed, including on days in which the district is closed due to inclement weather.

The district will provide each candidate a copy of a summary of campaign laws provided by the Missouri Ethics Commission and written notice of the candidate's obligation to file a personal financial disclosure statement.

## **Information on the School Board Organization**

The qualified voters of the School District shall annually on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of April, elect two directors for terms of three years, except, effective for Board elections beginning in April of 1993, and each three years thereafter, when three directors shall be elected in compliance with regulations specified in state law.

An election shall not be held if the number of candidates who have filed for the Board is equal to the number of positions available.

## **Qualified Voters in the School District**

An individual must be a registered voter in order to vote in a school election. In order to vote, a person must be eighteen (18) years of age or older, must be a citizen of the United States, and must reside in the School District thirty (30) days.

## **Candidate Qualification - Method of Filing**

Qualified applicants for the Board may file for office beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the Superintendent's office commencing on the sixteenth (16th) Tuesday prior to the election and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the eleventh (11th) Tuesday before the election. The candidate shall declare his/her intent to become a candidate, in person and in writing to the secretary of the Board of Education. The names of qualified candidates shall be placed on the ballot in the order of filing. The notice of election and certification of candidates must be submitted to the county clerk by the tenth Tuesday prior to the election. Candidates must comply with all of the prevailing laws concerning eligibility and campaign financing.

Candidates must be citizens of the United States and resident taxpayers of the District, reside in his/her state for one year next preceding their election or appointment, and be at least twenty-four (24) years of age. Each newly elected or appointed director shall qualify and take his/her oath of office in the manner prescribed by law and according to Policy 0330 - Oath of Office.

## **Board of Education Meeting Highlights**

A brief description of the highlights of the board meetings from May 2020 to October 2020 is listed below. The minutes of each board meeting is posted on the school webpage under **Board Information**.

May 14, 2020

- Review of Program Evaluations for Food Services, Parents As Teachers, and Technology
- Approval of a 2019-2020 Budget Adjustment
- Approval of Graduation and Community Celebration Event

June 11, 2020

- Oath of Office for Newly Elected Board Members and Reorganization of the Board
- Approval of 2020-2021 Food Service Prices
- Approval of 2020-2021 District Budget
- Authorize Administration to Apply for CARES & Federal Pass Through Funds
- Approval to Hire Support Staff Position

July 9, 2020

- Post 2020-21 Handbooks for Review
- Re-adoption of the "Conflict of Interest Ordinance"
- Approval of 2019-2020 Budget Finalization
- Set the Date for the August Tax Rate Hearing

August 13, 2020

- Tax Rate Hearing
- Approval of District's Annual Goals
- Approval of the Substitute List for the 2020-21 School Year
- Approve Local Plan for Compliance for Missouri Special Education
- Approval of Prepayment of Bonds, Series 2016
- Approval of the Enrollment Regulation for 2020-21
- Approval of Transportation Procedures for 2020-21
- Approval of Staff Steps Down and Across for 2020-21
- Approval of Increase School Counselor Contract Days for 2020-21
- Approval of Virtual School Program Stipend with Federal Funds
- Decision on Tax Rates for 2020-21 School Year

September 10, 2020

- Review of Program Evaluation for 1) Facilities/Safety and 2) Transportation
- Approval of Bus Routes/Mileage/Riders for the 2020-21 School Year
- Post New and Revised Policies and Regulations Until Next Meeting

October 15, 2020

- Approval of the District's 2019-20 Audit
- Approve the Proclamation of "Red Ribbon Week" for October 23-31, 2020
- Approval of Post Board Policies and Regulations from Last Month
- Approval of Addition to the Substitution List for 2020-21
- Approval of 2020-21 School Calendar Revision
- Approval to Hire Support Staff Position

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 7:30 pm.



## **AVENUE CITY SCHOOL 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER HONOR ROLL**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE - A HONOR ROLL**

Beau Flatt

### **3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL**

Larkin Greenlee  
Carter Hollars  
Jensen McCourt  
Charleigh Polachek  
Joshua Salmons  
Amelia Trainer

### **4<sup>th</sup> GRADE – A HONOR ROLL**

Lyla Colwell  
Landon Neil  
Dixon Palmer  
Jessica Qin

### **4<sup>th</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL**

Casey Adwell  
Carter Farrell  
Gwen Francis  
Sidney Huff  
Khloe Payeur  
Jackson Salmons  
Kenzie Wolfe

### **5<sup>th</sup> GRADE – A HONOR ROLL**

Adelynn Arnold  
Reagan Rodgers  
Maebry Shuster

### **5<sup>th</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL**

Elijah Albin  
Wyatt Forney  
Brenna Holcumbrink  
Avery Hollars  
Kale Pollard  
Dylan Schultz  
Lucas Shavnore  
Brody Worley-Glise

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE – A HONOR ROLL**

Cora Gregory  
Trace Wolfe

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL**

Madelyn Barsch  
Owen Burnett  
Jacey Collins  
Avery Dunbar  
Natalie Farrell  
Taylor Flatt  
Lawson Francis  
Gwendolyn Oswald  
Dalton Schultz  
Dalton Stark  
Dalton Turner  
Alexis Yingling  
Owen Zeit

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE – A HONOR ROLL**

Annelise Forney  
Luke Oswald  
Alayna Pargas  
Hayden Payeur  
Lillian Richardson  
Maxx Riggert  
Olivia Schaub  
Ella Scott  
Adam Sylvester

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL**

Camden Arnold  
Brody Damgar  
Rain Greenlee  
Landyn Hansen  
Kelley Hunt  
Benjamin Neil  
Caleb Ransdell  
Kylie Rosmolen

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE – A HONOR ROLL**

Kaylee Christman  
Nori Steele

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL**

Kaylea Farrell  
Max Howe  
Annaliese Kendall  
Jackson Sigrist

## PTO News

With the school year in full swing, PTO's executive committee would like to thank all of our past and present supporters. Because of you, PTO has remained able to serve ACES despite the pandemic's attempts to put a damper on things. Since September, we have had the privilege of providing funds and little surprises for our ACES staff and students including: back to school staff lunch, breakfast for See You at the Pole, Red Ribbon Week prizes, World Smile Day cookies, online book publishing for 5<sup>th</sup> grade, a Halloween pumpkin for each student, and more.



Though we had to cancel two of our annual social events, Fall Event and Chili Supper, we have thankfully had other opportunities to raise funds to continue providing for our ACES.

We held our 1<sup>st</sup> Culver's Night of the school year in September, which brought in an amazing \$850 through mainly drive-thru sales! Our next Culver's Night is November 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. which we hope will be just as successful.

We just recently sold fall ACES apparel and sent out raffle tickets for our November Turkey Raffle. If you missed the fall apparel, we plan to sell again in the spring. All Turkey Raffle tickets are due to the school office by November 20<sup>th</sup> and the winner will be announced on November 23<sup>rd</sup> via Facebook video drawing.

Box Tops, Amazon Smile, and Trash Bag Sales continue to be our year-round fundraisers. Trash bags are sold through e-mailed order forms and are made available for pick up every few weeks. Our next pick-up date is November 17<sup>th</sup>.

While we normally have a silent auction with our annual Spring Fling event, this social event cannot be guaranteed this year. However, we are still planning an auction for the spring, whether in-person coupled with the Spring Fling or virtual if circumstances require. Please watch for details and if you are interested in contributing to this auction, please let us know.

While we were unable to hold in-person meetings, we held our first two PTO meetings successfully over Zoom. During our November meeting, Heidi Brandt was elected treasurer following our previous treasurer Emily Campbell's resignation. We would like to welcome Heidi to the team and extend a big thank you to Emily for all her hard work during her time in office. Our next PTO meeting will be on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

It is not too late to become a PTO member as we accept new memberships throughout the year! If you would like to become a member or would like further details about anything mentioned above or PTO in general, please go to the PTO tab of the school's website. You can also follow our Facebook page (search for "Avenue City Elementary - PTO") or contact us by e-mail at [pto@avenuecityschool.org](mailto:pto@avenuecityschool.org).

Thank you again to all our ACES families, staff, and community supporters!

ACES PTO Executive Committee



## **INFORMATION ON THE 2019-2020 DISTRICT FINANCIAL AUDIT**

Included in this newsletter is:

1. A Summary Schedule of Revenues Collected, Expenditures Paid, and Changes in Fund Balances
2. An Independent Auditor's Report on Management's Assertions about Compliance with Specified Requirements of Missouri Laws and Regulations

The complete audit report is available for inspection and examination by going to the district's webpage at [www.avenuecityschool.org](http://www.avenuecityschool.org). Under Administration and Reports from the Board you will find this summary and the complete audit report.

You may also request a copy of the audit report by contacting the Avenue City School District's Board Secretary Office by phone or email ([jpankau@avenuecityschool.org](mailto:jpankau@avenuecityschool.org)).

### **Martin & Hanway CPA's, P.C.**

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Saint Joseph, Missouri 64506

Phone: 816-232-0450  
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Ruthanna Martin, CPA

Amy Hanway, CPA

#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON MANAGEMENT'S ASSERTIONS ABOUT COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFIED REQUIREMENTS OF MISSOURI LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

To the Board of Education  
Avenue City R-IX School District

We have audited management's assertions that Avenue City R-IX School District complied with the requirements of Missouri Laws and Regulations regarding budgetary and disbursement procedures; accurate disclosure by the District's attendance records of attendance hours, resident membership on the last Wednesday of September and the number of students eligible to receive free or reduced price lunches on the last Wednesday of January, and accurate disclosure by the District's pupil transportation records of the average students scheduled to be transported eligible and ineligible for state aid, the number of miles eligible and ineligible for state aid and the allowable costs for pupil transportation during the year ended June 30, 2020. Management is responsible for the District's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assertions about the District's compliance based on our audit.

Our audit was made in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining evidence supporting compliance with the specified laws and regulations, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our opinion does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the management's assertions that the District complied with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended June 30, 2020 are fairly stated in all material respects.

This report is intended solely for the information of the Board of Education, management, and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Martin & Hanway CPA's, P.C.*  
Martin & Hanway CPA's, P.C.  
Saint Joseph, Missouri  
October 14, 2020

**Avenue City R-IX School District**  
**Summary Schedule of Revenues Collected, Expenditures Paid, and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**School District Funds**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2020**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Debt Service Fund</u>	<u>Capital Projects Fund</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Revenues Collected	\$ 1,249,761	\$ 1,162,148	\$ 347,368	\$ -	\$ 2,759,277
Expenditures Paid	<u>706,960</u>	<u>1,333,040</u>	<u>489,844</u>	<u>16,019</u>	<u>2,545,863</u>
Excess of Revenues Collected Over(Under)					
Expenditures Paid	542,801	(170,892)	(142,476)	(16,019)	213,414
Other Sources(Uses)					
Transfers	<u>(170,892)</u>	<u>170,892</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Revenues Collected and Other Sources Over(Under)					
Expenditures Paid and Other Uses	371,909	-	(142,476)	(16,019)	213,414
Fund Balance July 1, 2019	<u>2,715,149</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>376,894</u>	<u>332,646</u>	<u>3,424,689</u>
Fund Balance June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 3,087,058</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 234,418</u>	<u>\$ 316,627</u>	<u>\$ 3,638,103</u>

### Professional Development News

The staff at Avenue City used a portion of the summer months to schedule virtual opportunities to view new math curriculum companies as well as look at updated options of companies that we currently use. There will be a lot of time spent during inservice dates analyzing the standards required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure that our curriculum is meeting all of those requirements. We will analyze our current curriculum as well as new standards and updates to determine our strengths and weaknesses. More information regarding this process will be sent in each district mailing to keep parents and community members aware as to how this process is continuing to develop.

In addition, staff will have intruder training during the upcoming inservice date on November 30th. This training will be conducted by the Missouri Highway Patrol with Sergeant Jake Angle.





### **No Such Thing as a Free Lunch?**

Earlier this year, the school administration applied for and received a waiver from the USDA and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that allowed all students to qualify for free lunches and breakfasts until the Christmas break.

A request to extend the free lunch and breakfast program was submitted to Jefferson City in late October. The extension has been granted and all students are eligible to receive free lunches and breakfasts through the end of the school year in May 2021.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL 2020-2021 NEWS:**

\*The ACES Student Council, advised by Mrs. Beth Forney, held elections later than usual this year, but we are so proud to announce our election results! Stu-Co President is Izzy Arnold (8th gr.), Vice President is Jackson Sigrist (8th gr.), and Secretary/Treasurer is Kaylee Christman (8th gr.). The 7th grade Representatives are Alayna Pargas, Lilly Richardson, and Kylie Rosmolen, and the 6th grade Representatives are Mady Barsch, Cora Gregory, and Owen Zeit. Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Stu-Co members!

\*In September, the Student Council volunteered to help run the annual **See You at the Pole (aka Pray at the Pole)** event in front of the school before the school day began. These volunteers did such a wonderful job leading students and adults in prayer and song as the group welcomed in the new school year. The ACES PTO then graciously passed out breakfast drinks and foods to those in attendance. Thank you to all those who helped!

\***Veterans Day:** Because of the current Covid-19 pandemic, our council was not able to honor our nation's veterans with our typical assembly/guest speaker. In lieu of this, ACES Student Council President, Izzy Arnold, helped create a Veterans Day slideshow for the ACES students to view, honoring family members of ACES students who have served or are currently serving in our nation's military. We are so blessed to live in this great nation and appreciate all our service members do to ensure our freedom!

\*Do you have a water bottle that needs some extra bling?! Do you love your Avenue ACES?! Our Student Council is still selling holographic **ACES vinyl stickers** for \$3 or 2 for \$5! Students may come to the office to purchase these for themselves or family members. These stickers are so awesome and would make great little Christmas gifts!

\*Let's give back to our Andrew County community! **We are currently hosting a diaper and nonperishable food drive to help the Andrew County Food Pantry!** Donations need to be made anytime from now to December 13th via ACES students only as we are not allowing extra individuals inside the school at this time. We can't wait to see how tall we can make our donations display!!

\*WE HAVE SPIRIT, YES WE DO! We are also organizing for a fun school-wide **Spirit Week** to be held before our Christmas break. Look for these to be announced very soon!





Traditional Thanksgiving gatherings with family and friends are fun but can increase the chances of getting or spreading [COVID-19](#) or the [flu](#). Follow these tips to make your Thanksgiving holiday safer.

The safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving this year is to celebrate with people in your household. If you do plan to spend Thanksgiving with people outside your household, take steps to make your celebration safer.

### Everyone Can Make Thanksgiving Safer

#### Wash your hands

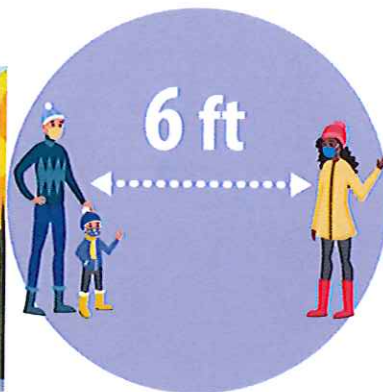
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Keep [hand sanitizer](#) with you and use it when you are unable to wash your hands.
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

#### Wear a mask

- Wear a mask with two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Wear the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Make sure the mask fits snugly against the sides of your face.

#### Stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you

- Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread COVID-19 or flu.
- Keeping 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from others is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting very sick](#).



## AVENUE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Cosby, Missouri

Permit No. 6

Avenue City School District  
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Cosby, Missouri 64436

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WE ARE ON THE WEB

[WWW.AVENUECITYSCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.AVENUECITYSCHOOL.ORG)

FOLLOW AVENUE  
CITY-PTO  
ON FACEBOOK

### Inclement Weather

Decisions about closing school due to severe weather (snow & ice) are made with the students' safety in mind.

**Early Morning Closings:** Announcements will be made between 6:30 and 7:00 AM on KQTV. Announcement will also be made on KFEQ, KKJO, and KSFT radio stations. (Extreme cases will cause the announcements to be made the night before.)

**Early Dismissal:** Announcements will be made as soon as possible on the stations listed above. Dismissal because of inclement weather will be at 12:50 when possible. (If at all possible announcements will be made between 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM.)

When possible the announcement will also be posted on the website: <http://avenuecityschool.org/> Lumen Communication System: A communication system is available to members of the district for these types of days. If you are not receiving notices please call the office.

As stated in previous article, some snow days will become virtual school days.

