Parent Involvement Really Does Matter

By Don Lawrence, Superintendent

There is no secret that the achievement levels at Avenue City School have been and remain quite high when compared to surrounding districts and the state of Missouri. What some people may not know is that our school also keeps up-to-date on how our students perform after leaving Avenue City and entering high school. It is interesting to note that the average Grade Point Averages for Avenue City students is statistically higher than those of their classmates. Testing results, over the past several years, also reveal that Avenue City students achieve not only better than their classmates but also the majority of the state of Missouri.

Several things contribute to this fact. Among them are: instilling a good academic foundation on which higher learning can be built, building a work ethic that students can take with them into high school and beyond, high expectations displayed by teachers AND parents. It is this last point I wish to focus on in this very brief news item.

Do you, as parents, understand how important YOUR attitudes toward education, achievement and overall learning influences the achievement of your children? A fairly new wave of evidence produced from 51 studies over the past decade reveals what many already known but it certainly reinforces the idea that parents must stay involved with their children's education in order for students to succeed to their maximum potential. The American Institute for Research found that students with involved parents, no matter their income or background, are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs
- Be promoted, pass their classes and earn credits
- · Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior and adapt well to school
- Graduate and go on to post-secondary education

The week of October 19th was a great opportunity to be involved by attending Parent-Teacher Conferences. Conferences allow parents the opportunity to have a face-to-face discussion about "the other side" of their child. Surprisingly, some parents learn that their child might display a slightly different personality at school to that at home. I am confident that if a parent wants a follow-up conference in a month or so, our teachers will be ready and willing to provide parents with all the information they can assemble. When a parent listens and follows through with what a teacher suggests, our children gain a good understanding that the teamwork of school and parent is going to win out in the long run. Granted, it may take some children longer to realize this than others but success becomes more likely when the parent and teacher partnership is sending the same message together.

Teachers working with parents and parents working with teachers will produce results that are indicative of success. Working together makes the heavy lifting of parenting and teaching a better experience for you but more importantly, the research affirms, that it makes your children far more successful.





ACES Basketball

The middle school basketball teams began practice on September 18th with the following 9 boys and 8 girls. The boys' team consisted of 8th graders Alex Fitzgerald, Pierce Johnson, Jaxon Ball, Jack Swan, Mitchell Steele, Quaid Campbell, Zach Barnett and Hayden Richardson. & 7th grader Conner Ziet. The girls' team is made up of 8th graders Corinne Stewart, Olivia Stites, Morgan Heckman, Grace Bradley, Ainsley Blake, and Bethany Pickman, with 7th graders Katie Jo Beam, and Kiara Schaub.

Both teams are off to a tremendous start at 3 and 0 with wins over North Andrew, Union Star, and South Holt. With plenty of experience and the addition of a few others, the players and coaches are excited about the remaining season.

Professional Development News at Avenue City

As the school year is off to a great start, the staff at Avenue City have embarked on a new book study this year; a second book written by Ron Clark, entitled The End of Molasses Classes. This book will help us to create an exciting climate and culture in which our students can learn, and help us to better understand ways in which we can work as a team to include the student, parent(s), guardians, and teachers to produce children who will grow into productive and responsible members of society. Anyone wishing to purchase this book can do so on Amazon. We are continuing to review "The Essential 55" that was implemented during the last school year to show students the necessity of allowing them to find their own successes and see successes in other students.

Many of our staff are attending professional development opportunities offered through surrounding professional development regional centers. These attendees then bring back their knowledge gained, to share with the entire staff. Our staff members have attended Teacher Academy Graduates, Student Council Advisors Conference, Acellus, and the Missouri Learning Conference just since the school year began.

We will be looking at resources for the new social studies standards that have recently been updated for each grade level. We will spend time during this school year to determine what new resources we will need to meet the new curriculum guidelines.

Mathletics

On October 19th thirteen students from Avenue City attended the Mathletics Competition at St. Paul Lutheran School in St. Joseph. The students competing were 4th graders - Lillian Richardson, Alayna Pargas,



Ella Scott, Max Riggert, Luke Oswald, and Cannon Hutchcraft; 5th graders - Nori Steele, Kaylea Farrell, and Logan Burnett; 6th grader, Alex Hutchcraft; and 8th graders - Alex Fitzgerald, Mitchell Steele, and Pierce Johnson. Students worked to solve problems that challenged their skills and reasoning abilities.

At the end of the competition it was announced that two of our ACES teams placed. The 8th grade team of Alex, Mitchell, and Pierce placed 2nd. The 4th grade team of Max, Cannon, and Luke placed first. Great job ACES students!!!



Academic Teams and Middle School Scholar Bowl

Avenue City Academic Teams are getting ready for another great season! We have 6 fourth graders, 8 fifth graders, 9 sixth graders and 7 in our middle school scholar bowl team. Each meet consists of four rounds with the second and fourth rounds being toss up questions followed by a bonus question.

The Avenue City 4th-5th grade Academic Teams compete against the Savannah elementary schools in our area including Amazonia, Helena, Minnie Cline and John Glenn. The 6th grade team competes against Savannah Middle School. The Middle School teams will enjoy competing against other small schools in the area including North Andrew, Union Star, St. Paul Lutheran and Cathedral this year. Their season will consist of several meets during the month of January. Avenue City is proud of its Academic Teams and Scholar Bowl competitors, and the sponsors, Mandy Scott and Janis Pargas, look forward to continuing the fun throughout this year!

ACES Gifted - Fall 2017

Gifted classes meet at ACES each Monday of the school year. There are currently 12 students in the program - 3 in grades 3-5 and 9 in grades 6-8. We added 2 new students this year after testing. Three others that were tested did not qualify for the program.

Third-fifth graders attend class on Monday mornings from 8:30-10:30 a.m. The class has been studying the bones of the body. We are also studying the Orphan Train by reading/discussing a novel, <u>A Family Apart</u> by Joan Lowery Nixon.

Sixth - eighth graders attend class on Monday morning from 11:00 a.m. - noon and again in the afternoon from 2:00-3:00 p.m. We are learning about the stock market and finances currently. We are participating in the Stock Market Game, a game designed to teach kids about the market. This will be an ongoing activity through April. We are also resuming our school broadcast/news show, ACES Monthly soon.

At both grade levels we do a variety of thinking activities. Some of the most popular are logic puzzles and "stories with holes".

A new evaluation report was added by their advisor, Mrs. Curran. This report was included with the student's grade card. Students are rated on their participation/performance in the class. The markings given are Outstanding (O), Satisfactory (S), or Needs Improvement (N) on 12 distinct expectations. The evaluation will be included in the quarterly grade cards to keep the parents informed on what/how their child is doing. A quarterly cover letter will also be sent home with the child informing families of the activities/lessons we are participating in. The evaluation will be signed and returned to school just like report cards are.

Library Corner

Greetings from the ACES library! I can hardly believe it, but the first Scholastic Book Fair of the year is right around the corner. The fair will be open Monday, December 4th through Wednesday, December 13th. We will also be open before and after the ACES Winter Program, which is scheduled for 7pm on Tuesday, December 5th. The community is welcome to come and shop as books make great gifts! You may also shop the fair online if you wish.

We have added many new books to the library this year and students are busy participating in reading Missouri's award nominees so that we will be able to vote for our favorites in the spring. To stay up to date on library happenings check out our school library site at http://jatoe3.wixsite.com/aces-library. On the site you will find links to classrooms, new book information, book club schedules, research tools, and much more.



Parent Teacher Organization

It has been a busy start to the 2017-18 ACES school year for PTO!

- We started the school year off with a back to school ice cream social to welcome back our students and their families for a fun filled year!
- See You at the Pole was September 27th where our students came together to pray for their community and their school.
- The Fall Fest was a big success this year complete with a dunk tank and inflatable slide! A huge thank you to all the families and staff that attended and helped make the event a success!
- Be sure to buy your Turkey Raffle tickets before the 15th for a chance to win your Thanksgiving turkey. The winner will be drawn on the 17th.
- The Chili Supper was November 2nd in conjunction with the middle school basketball games against Jefferson. Thank you to everyone that came out to support ACES!
- Looking ahead, you still have time to join PTO! We just ordered more trash bags so we are fully stocked for all of your trash bag needs.
- We will soon have ACES spirit wear available for sale, please look for an order form shortly.
- Be on the lookout for Box Tops, remember the school earns 10 cents for each box top turned in which really adds up!
- Mark your calendars for Culver's Night on November 14th and Spring Fling on April 7th!

Your contributions to ACES and the PTO has helped us provide multiple field trips this year including the Middle School field trip to Steamboat Arabia and the 1st/2nd grade field trip to Union Station as well as a preschool scholarship. We have also been able to meet the needs of students and staff by providing stools for the 3rd grade computer counter, bean bag chairs and pillows for a 4th grade reading nook plus coolers and folding tables for the school! The PTO would not be able to sponsor all of these great activities without the support we get from our community! Please know how much we appreciate the contributions from our students, staff, families, and community!



Lights, Camera, Action

It's the best time of the year! Join the Avenue City ACES in our Winter Music Program this December 5th at 7 pm. Our littlest ACES, grades K-2, will ring us in with some traditional Christmas favorites. Speaking of traditions, you might get to hear a fan favorite from last year's bunch! Next up is the middle school choir, and their performance will be sure to bring back lots of memories of Christmases past for everyone in attendance. I'm hoping that their lovely singing will earn some chocolate in their stockings!

For the final event of the night, grades 3-5 would like to welcome you to the set of "Lights! Camera! Christmas!" a holiday mini-musical by John Jacobson and Roger Emerson. Some of the world's most famous movie directors are here to help us make a movie about our favorite holiday hero, Santa Claus. There's just one problem, though: we can't decide what kind of movie to make! Should it be an action movie? Film noir? A spaghetti western? Maybe you can help us decide!

It's sure to be a magical evening here at Avenue City Elementary School as we all sing together about just how much these winter holidays mean to us. Please come in from the cold and join us on December 5th at 7 pm!



KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF:

- *They have a fever of 100 degrees or higher, be sure that they stay home until they have been fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. Fevers tend to be normal in the a.m. then rise as day progresses.
- * They have vomited within the last 24 hours
- *Call your healthcare provider if symptoms worsen or fever is greater than 100.

To stay healthy, please remind your child to:

- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- *Wash their hands well and often with soap and water.
- *Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- *Cover their mouth/nose with their elbow if they have to cough/sneeze.
- *Keep their hands away from their eyes, nose and mouth so that germs don't have a way in.
- *Drink plenty of water! Encourage your child to bring a hard water bottle to school. 1 cup per hr. They should be drinking at least their weight in ounces.

Head Lice prevention begins at home. Check your child weekly especially after sleepovers.

Our goal is to minimize the spread of germs and keep our students, staff and their families healthy! Thank you for all your help.







School Board Candidate Filing Opens in December

It's time to prepare for the April school board election. Candidate filing begins December 12, 2017.

- There are two seats up for election for a three year term.
- Filing began at 8 AM on December 12 and ends at 5:00 PM on January 16, 2018. 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.



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, 2017

	General <u>Fund</u>	Special Revenue <u>Fund</u>	Debt Service <u>Fund</u>	Capital Projects <u>Fund</u>	Totals
Revenues Collected	\$ 1,048,044	\$ 1,235,858	\$ 2,300,343	\$ 2,662	\$ 4,586,907
Expenditures Paid	699,675	1,324,181	293,921	106,419	2,424,196
Excess of Revenues Collected Over(Under) Expenditures Paid	348,369	(88,323)	2,006,422	(103,757)	2,162,711
Other Sources(Uses) Transfers	(186,921)	88,323		98,598	
Excess of Revenues Collected and Other Sources Over(Under) Expenditures Paid and Other Uses	161,448		2,006,422	(5,159)	2,162,711
Fund Balance July 1, 2016	2,044,955		288,792	122,805	2,456,552
Fund Balance June 30, 2017	\$ 2,206,403	<u>\$</u> -	\$ 2,295,214	\$ 117,646	\$ 4,619,263

MARTIN & HANWAY CPA'S, P.C. INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying modified cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Avenue City R-IX School District, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.



Avenue City Action

Fall 2017

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the District, as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 5, 2017, on our consideration of Avenue City R-IX School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Avenue City R-IX School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

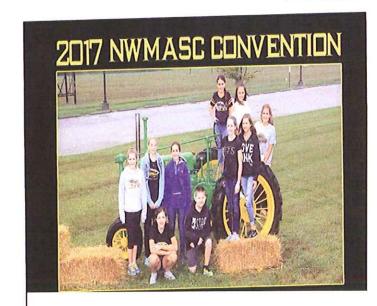
Martin & Hanway CPA's, P.C. Saint Joseph, Missouri October 5, 2017

NOTE: A copy of the audit is located on the school's webpage under Board of Education, Reports from the Board.

A copy of the full audit conducted by Martin & Hanway CPA's is also available in the Superintendent of Schools office at 18069 Hwy 169, Cosby, Missouri. Requests should be made to Janice Pankau, Custodian of Records.



2017-2018 Student Council



ACES Middle School Student Council has had a fun & busy school year so far! We attended our NW district meeting at Lathrop High School at the beginning of October, where we networked, got energized about how to lead our school, & had fun together!

Our Stu-Co is in the middle of heading up our Christmas outreach initiative Operation Christmas Child. If you haven't yet, please stop by the school to pick up your shoebox & fill it with items for kids in 3rd world countries. Details are provided inside each box.

The Stu-Co is selling ACES tattoos for .25 each at home basketball games to help promote school spirit! They have plans in the works for ways to have fun with the ACES student body as we near Christmas break. All in all, our council is full of strong leaders with amazing ideas! They want to thank all of you in the district for all of your support!

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (NSLP)



The NSLP is a federally assisted meal program that provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.

National School Lunch Week: Created in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, National School Lunch Week celebrates the benefits of the National School Lunch Program (the largest federal child nutrition program). This year, National School Lunch Week was October 9-13, and this year's theme is "School Lunch: Recipes for Success"





AVENUE CITY SCHOOL 1st QUARTER HONOR ROLL

3rd GRADE - A HONOR ROLL

William Saunders

3rd GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL

Elias Andrews Natalie Farrell Taylor Flatt Gwendolyn Oswald Dalton Schultz Dalton Turner

> Trace Wolfe Owen Zeit

4th GRADE - A HONOR ROLL

Luke Oswald Alayna Pargas Maxx Riggert Olivia Schaub

4th GRADE - A/B HONOR ROLL

Ashlynn Badalamente
Addalyn Campbell
Brody Damgar
Annelise Forney
Rain Greenlee
Cannon Hutchcraft
Dylan Mazur
Banjamin Neil
Lillian Richardson
Ella Scott
Adam Sylvester

5th GRADE - A HONOR ROLL

Kaylea Farrell Nori Steele

5th GRADE - A/B HONOR ROLL

Kaitlyn Barrett Logan Burnett Max Howe Annaliese Kendall Cooper Swan

6th GRADE – A HONOR ROLL

Kayla Beam
Hilarry Elifrits
Lucy Froehlich
Maren Heckman
Alexander Hutchcraft
Macy Keling
Ethan Phillips
Ethan Zeit

6th GRADE - A/B HONOR ROLL

Saige Blake
Cole Horton
Alex Johnson
Payton Rodgers
Claire Schonemann
Caydence Stains
Hunter Turner

7th GRADE – A HONOR ROLL

Katie Beam Kiara Schaub Connor Zeit

<u> 7th GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL</u>

Ian Andrews Megan Hatfield Joey Sigrist

8th GRADE – A HONOR ROLL

Ainsley Blake Quaid Campbell Alex Fitzgerald Morgan Heckman Aleigha Horton Kaylee Safley Mitchell Steele Corinne Stewart

8th GRADE – A/B HONOR ROLL

Jaxon Ball
Zachary Barnette
Grace Bradley
Pierce Johnson
Bethany Pickman
Haydn Richardson
Olivia Stites
Jack Swan
Kaycie Wilmes



Board of Education Meeting Highlights

A brief description of the highlights of the board meetings from July 2017 to October 2017 is listed below. The minutes of each board meeting is posted on the school webpage under Board Information. July 20, 2017

- Adopted New Policy 5550 Food Service Meal Charges
- · Re-adopt District's Conflict of Interest Ordinance
- Approval of 2016-2017 Budget Finalization
- Approval of the Amended 2017-18 School Budget
- Discussion on an Additional Salary Increase and Benefits for Certified and Support Staff
- Motion to set the date for the August Tax Rate Hearing
- Creation of Personnel Position for 2017-18 School Year
- Post Policy 4320-Personnel Leave Until Next Board Meeting

August 17, 2017

- Tax Rate Hearing
- Approval of District's Annual Goals
- Approval of the Substitute List for the 2017-18 School Year
- Approval of Revisions to the Local Compliance Plan for Special Education
- Approval of Technology Expansion
- Adopt Policy 4320 Personnel Leave
- · Discussion and Approval of Roof Repair
- Decision and Setting of the Tax Rates for 2017-18 School Year

September 12, 2017

- Review of Program Evaluation for Community Education and School Counselor
- Approval of Bus Routes/Mileage/Riders for the 2017-18 School Year

October 13, 2017

- Review of Program Evaluations for Student Data: Attendance, Drop-out, GPA, Assessments and Discipline
- Approval of the 2016-17 District Audit
- Approval to Purge Technology Inventory Items
- Motion to Approve the Proclamation of "Red Ribbon Week"
- Discussion of Rental of District Facilities Policy

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 7 pm.

Summer Garden Club

The ACES Garden Club had a fantastic growing season. We met once a week this late spring & throughout summer to prepare, plant, water, & weed our garden. Led by Ms. Davison and Mrs. Forney, the kids used ingredients from our garden to make various smoothies, banana mint ice cream, & plan to make pizzas soon! The kids showed such teamwork & pride in their

school garden once again. Our middle school students have been using the garden this fall in their science classes with Mrs. Rowland. We feel so lucky to have such a great outdoor learning environment!





AVENUE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Cosby, Missouri
Permit No. 6

Avenue City School District 18069 Highway 169 Cosby, Missouri 64436

Phone: 816-662-2305 Fax: 816-662-3201 www.avenuecityschool.org



WE ARE ON THE WEB
WWW.AVENUECITYSCHOOL.ORG

FOLLOW US ON LOOP

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.) (When possible the announcement will also be posted on the website: http://avenuecityschool.org/

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/

<u>Loop Communication System:</u> A communication system is available to members of the community for these types of days. If you are registered for this service you will get a text, email, and/or phone call during inclement weather.

Students should know where they are to go in case of an emergency early dismissal. Please make sure your student(s) and their teachers know this information.