



COVID - Is There Anything Else We Can Talk About?

Don Lawrence, Superintendent

The question looming over our community remains, “When are we going to get back to normal?” The answer to that question is “When were we ever normal? It’s been so long ago; I can’t remember what normal even looks like.” One thing I do remember is a time when none of us chose to wear facemasks. The only facemask I ever chose to wear was connected to a football helmet. I suppose in that regard, both of these kinds of masks were invented for your protection. It is just my experience, that the one connected to the helmet was a lot more fun than the other kind.

For the past 20 months, we have waited for a chance to move away from required face masking. We longed for a day in the future, where we could have conducted a facemask bonfire. The introduction of the COVID vaccination for school-age children has opened a door for all of us. While some people think the COVID 19 vaccination is a miracle, others view it as another government conspiracy. I do not provide you with my opinion about vaccinating children against COVID-19. However, I do provide my opinion that *the opportunity* to take the vaccine does provide a pathway back toward normalcy.

The first week of November, the school was informed that the COVID vaccinations for students age 5 and above are or will be available. Allowing for the 20-day window to obtain a second vaccination means that those parents wanting their children to be vaccinated could have completed the process as early as the first week of December. Allowing an additional month for those desiring to get their children vaccinated will allow us to lift our mask requirements when we return from Christmas break. Therefore, beginning in January, the only place masks will be required to be worn at our school is on the school bus. This does not mean that the COVID pandemic is over. Because of the opportunity to receive a vaccination against COVID-19, we believe that we can return to the idea that parents should be determining whether their child wears a mask at school or not. The school has held the unpopular job of “mask police” for the past 20 months. If you are one of the parents who wanted your child (and everybody else’s child) to be masked at school, I hope you are the first in line to obtain the vaccine. For those of you who do not want your children to be masked, that decision is yours beginning in January.

Realize that if we experience cases of COVID-19 at school or in the community, we may have to return to a policy that requires masks to be worn. As long as we are not experiencing a high rate of infection and/or school absences due to quarantines, we will leave the mask wearing decisions up to the parents. The decision to get the vaccination for your child is also a parent’s decision; as it should be.

In conclusion, I wish to express my gratitude to our students, our staff members, our parents and our community who have done what was asked of them over the past two years. Your continued support and prayers are most appreciated.

Preschool News

We have had such a great start to our new school year with a total of 34 children enrolled in our preschool program! We now offer full day preschool 2, 3 or 5 days a week.

In September, we were able to take a field trip to Schweizer's Orchard where preschool learned all about apples and pumpkins, got to choose one of each to take home and had a picnic lunch on the playground.



In October, we had visits from the Cosby-Helena Fire Dept. and the Savannah Dept., and the Andrew County Health Department to teach us about fire safety, we carved pumpkins, and had a Halloween party!



In November, we sharpened our kitchen skills by making crock-pot meals for families, having a baking day, going on a Turkey Hunt, focused on kindness, changes of the seasons, Outdoor Classroom Day and explored pets and wild animals with the new Virtual Reality Headsets!



ACES Preschool is a wonderful place to learn play and GROW!



“Test to Stay” is Coming

The “test to stay” program is an effort/opportunity for our students to avoid a COVID-19 related removal from school. Any student that is exposed to COVID-19 will need to follow the school’s direction with regard to being removed from school. In most cases this would be for a 10-day period. During that time, the student will have no participation in school or extracurricular activities.

Avenue City R-IX Students will be offered the opportunity to participate in the “test to stay” program. The program is currently only available to students who have been exposed to a COVID-19 case at school or at a school event. HOWEVER, we are hoping to expand this program to any contact with COVID outside of the home. This program is not available for any student who is exposed to COVID by a member of their household.

Following each in-school-related exposure to COVID-19. Parents may “opt-in” to the program at the time that they are notified of their child’s exposure to COVID-19. A parent signature is required to be part of the “test to stay” program. When you are in need of this program the details regarding test requirements will be provided. The “test to stay” is completely voluntary. The district is seeking funds to provide free COVID-19 tests for those families who find themselves in need of the “test to stay” program. It is our hope that this program can provide some peace of mind and be of assistance to our parents and our community.

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. (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 PM when possible.

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.

INFORMATION ON THE 2020-2021 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. 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).



Avenue City School District



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, 2021

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Debt Service Fund</u>	<u>Capital Projects Fund</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Revenues Collected	\$ 1,430,116	\$ 1,222,261	\$ 360,605	\$ 23,100	\$ 3,036,082
Expenditures Paid	<u>925,140</u>	<u>1,354,335</u>	<u>321,343</u>	<u>29,924</u>	<u>2,630,742</u>
Excess of Revenues Collected Over(Under) Expenditures Paid	504,976	(132,074)	39,262	(6,824)	405,340
Other Sources(Uses) Transfers	<u>(232,074)</u>	<u>132,074</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Revenues Collected and Other Sources Over(Under) Expenditures Paid and Other Uses	272,902	-	39,262	93,176	405,340
Fund Balance July 1, 2020	<u>3,087,058</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>234,418</u>	<u>316,627</u>	<u>3,638,103</u>
Fund Balance June 30, 2021	<u>\$ 3,359,960</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 273,680</u>	<u>\$ 409,803</u>	<u>\$ 4,043,443</u>



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON
INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

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

We have audited, in accordance with the 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, the 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, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated November 10, 2021. Our report included an explanatory paragraph addressing the District's preparation of its financial statements on the modified cash basis.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Avenue City R-IX School District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Avenue City R-IX School District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Avenue City R-IX School District's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did



not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as items 2021-1 and 2021-2 that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

Compliance and Other Matters


As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Avenue City R-IX School District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Avenue City R-IX School District's Responses to Findings

Avenue City R-IX School District's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. The District's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.


Martin & Hanway CPA's, P.C.
Saint Joseph, Missouri
November 10, 2021

School Board Candidate Filing Opens in December

It's time to prepare for the April school board election. Candidate filing begins December 7, 2021.

- There are two seats up for election for a three year term.
- The first day of filing begins Tuesday, December 7th, at 8:00 AM.
- Filing will continue during the district's regular business hours, which are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 3:45 PM. Filing will not occur during Christmas break, beginning December 22nd at 1:00 PM through December 27th.
- The closing date for filing is December 28, 2021 at 5:00 PM. Filing will resume at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 through 5:00 PM.
- Filing will not occur on days that school is not in session due to inclement weather.
- Candidates may call 816-662-2305 or email jpankau@avenuecityschool.org to inquire if the office is open.



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 seventeenth (17th) Tuesday prior to the election and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the fourteenth (14th) 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.



Red Wheel Sales:

This fall, Avenue City had the best Red Wheel fundraiser ever! This would not have been possible without all of the help from parents and all of you supporting our students by purchasing Red Wheel products. Thank you so much! We are currently researching the best way to use these funds to improve our technology!



Board of Education Meeting Highlights

A brief description of the highlights of the board meetings from August 2021 to November 2021 is listed below. The minutes of each board meeting are posted on the school webpage under **Board Information**.

August 12, 2021

- Decision on Tax Rates for 2021-22 School Year
- Approved District's Annual Goals
- Approved the Substitute List for the 2021-22 School Year
- Approved Substitute Pay for 2021-22
- Approved the Local Plan for Compliance for Missouri Special Education
- Approved Prepayment of Bonds, Series 2016
- Approved Enrollment Regulation for 2021-22
- Approved Transportation Procedures for 2021-22
- Reviewed other COVID-19 Measures for 2021-22
- Initiate Programs for Learning Recovery
- Approved Purging of District Inventory Items



September 9, 2021

- Review of Program Evaluation for 1) Facilities/Safety and 2) Transportation
- Approved Bus Routes/Mileage/Riders for the 2021-22 School Year
- Approved Addition to the Substitute List
- Approved 2021-2022 Budget Adjustments

October 14, 2021

- Review of Student Data from the 2020-2021 School Year
- Approved the Proclamation of "Red Ribbon Week"
- Post New & Revised Board Policies and Regulations

November 11, 2021

- Approved the District's 2020-2021 Audit
- Review of Program Evaluation for Federal Programs
- Set Dates to File for the Board of Education: December 7, 2021 to December 28, 2021
- Adopt Revised Policies and Regulations
- Approved Changes to the COVID-19 Mask Requirements
- Acceptance of Support Staff Resignation

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 8:00 pm. (after the winter program)



Everybody gather 'round! It is time for us to sing! LIVE IN PERSON!

Avenue City Elementary School

Presents

Christmas at the O.K. Corral

ACES 5th grade students are busy preparing the O.K. Corral for the Christmas Holiday, except for Bubble Gum Bart. They have a sticky situation at hand as the town tries to carry on their holiday traditions. Come prepared to enjoy a night of entertainment as the 1st-4th grade students add their singing voices. Join ACES in the gym on Thursday December 9th, 2021 for *Christmas at the O.K. Corral*. Times are posted on our website.

Will kick off this live holiday program with Kindergarten and Middle School students singing their Christmas songs. The 6th grade students are giving an encore performance of *Greatest Snowman*.



Facts regarding the Flu



PARENT/GUARDIAN

Your child may have been exposed to

Influenza (Flu)

Influenza (also known as flu) is a common viral respiratory infection.

Influenza is not "stomach flu", a term used by some to describe illnesses causing vomiting or diarrhea.

If you think your child has the Flu:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- Need to stay home?

Childcare and School:

Yes, until the fever is gone for at least 24 hours and the child is healthy enough for routine activities.

DO NOT give aspirin or salicylate-containing medicines to anyone under 18 years of age.

Symptoms

Your child may have chills, body aches, fever, and headache. Your child may also have a cough, runny or stuffy nose, and sore throat.

Illness may last up to 7 days.

If your child has been infected, it may take 1 to 4 days (usually 2 days) for symptoms to start.

Spread

- By coughing and sneezing.
- By touching contaminated hands, objects or surfaces.

Contagious Period

During the 24 hours before and up to 7 days after the illness begins.

Call your Healthcare Provider

- ♦ If anyone in your home has a high fever and/or coughs a lot. Your doctor may give medications.

Antibiotics do not work for illnesses caused by a virus, including influenza.

Prevention

- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- **DO NOT** share anything that goes into the mouth, such as drinking cups, straws, and water bottles.
- Clean and disinfect anything that comes in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth. This includes door knobs, refrigerator handle, water faucets, and cupboard handles. Use a product that kills viruses.
- Annual Influenza vaccination is recommended for children 6 months to 18 years of age. Ask your healthcare provider about vaccine.

For more information, call Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) at 573-751-6113 or 866-628-9891 (8-5 Monday thru Friday) or call your local health department.

July 2011

Stay Healthy this winter



STUDENT COUNCIL

In August, ACES 6th-8th grade Student Council began the school year with a planning meeting for the 8th-grade members. While there, they learned about student leadership, as well as their own personal leadership styles. They tie dyed their Student Council t-shirts and set a tentative plan for the school year. So far, it has been a busy first semester! The Student Council gave the teachers a small gift in August and each student received an "ACES" pencil. In October, they organized a very successful and competitive "Penny War" fundraiser between each ACES classroom. To remember our nation's veterans, the Student Council hosted a patriotic door decoration contest leading up to Veterans Day. Keeping with tradition, ACES Student Council chose a very worthy way to give back to others this holiday season. Overall, the Student Council is doing a wonderful job improving our school and community!



BASKETBALL



The 2021 ACES basketball season was full of excitement, cheering crowds, and tons of school spirit! With each early morning practice, the players learned the value of teamwork, dedication, and working to improve skills in order to prove themselves on the court. Under Coach Jack Burgess's leadership and Coach Beth Forney's first season of assisting, the players learned much about the game and worked hard to become stronger ballplayers. Both the boys and girls teams welcomed back the following returning 8th-grade players: GIRLS- Addalyn Campbell, Annelise Forney, Alayna Pargas, Lillian Richardson, Kylie Rosmolen, Olivia Schaub, and Ella Scott. BOYS- Camden Arnold, Dylan Mazur, Benjamin Neil, and Maxx Riggert. The following players were newcomers, many of whom are 7th graders who will return to play for ACES next year: GIRLS- Natalie Farrell, Taylor Flatt, Averi Shepherd, and Lexie Yingling. BOYS- Brody Damgar (8th), Caleb Ransdell (8th), Owen Burnett, Jamaurie Pummell, Brody Schottel, Dalton Schultz, and Owen Zeit. The girls battled to maintain a 7-1 record and the boys fought hard to earn a tough 4-4 record in their regular season line-ups. The boys finished the season earning a well-deserved 4th place at the Northeast Nodaway Valley Tournament and the girls earned an impressive 2nd place! Way to go ACES! We're so proud of you!





PTO News

As always, the PTO Executive Committee would like to thank our members and ACES families for all of their support so far this year. We were disappointed to have to cancel our Annual Chili Supper. We are discussing the options of rescheduling. If that is not an option, the items donated will be used at our Spring Fling event.

Our upcoming meeting and events include:

- 01/11/22 6:30 PM PTO Meeting
- 2/15/2020 5:00-8:00 PM Culver's Night
- 2/19/2020 7:00 AM-12:00 PM Pancake Breakfast
- 3/22/2020 6:30 PM PTO Meeting
- 4/9//2020 5:00-7:00 PM Spring Fling
- 4/12/2020 5:00-8:00 PM Culver's Night

We are looking for help in planning for our Spring Fling. If you are interested in helping with setting up the games and activities or collecting items for the silent auction please let one of the executive committee members know. In addition, we are looking for auction items, so if you are a business owner or have items you would like to donate to the silent auction they can be dropped off at the school office.

Make sure you follow our Facebook page at *Avenue City Elementary – PTO* for updates, reminders, and fun things that are going on in the school. Don't forget that we have apparel and trash bags available for sale throughout the year. Also, we continue to accept new memberships throughout the year, so it is never too late to join the PTO!

Once again, thank you for the continued support you provide to PTO and ACES. Through your support, we are able to provide field trip assistance, playground equipment, sport uniforms, as well as endless classroom supplies to better the working environment for our students and staff.
ACES PTO Executive Committee

Joella Schultz, President
Sarah Arnold, Vice President
Heidi Brandt, Treasurer
Metchel Rosmolen, Secretary

Follow us on Facebook:

Avenue City Elementary – PTO



AVENUE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nonprofit Organization

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Cosby, Missouri

Permit No. 6

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WE ARE ON THE WEB
WWW.AVENUECITYSCHOOL.ORG

FOLLOW AVENUE CITY
ELEMENTARY -PTO
ON FACEBOOK

Scholastic Book Fair

The Avenue City Library is excited to host a Scholastic Book Fair in early December. The fair will run in the library from December 6-9. It will also be set up in the commons area the evening of the Winter Music Program. Students are also able to shop during their library times at school. If you would like to make purchases online the link to do that is located on the school website or you can enter the following in your browser:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/avenuecityelementaryschool1>

