

Being a “Karen”?

I am trying to fit into today’s world and its vocabulary. Being “a Karen” in today’s world is not a good thing. I married a Karen back in 1981. Surprisingly, we are still together. I am guessing over the next 2-3 years very few little girls are going to be named Karen. Apparently, being a Karen means you are not concerned about other people. A Karen puts her needs before those of anybody else. If her comfort causes you pain or injury, Karen doesn’t care as long as she remains happy. So what is the male equivalent of Karen? Let’s call him Kirk. (Sorry out there to anybody named Kirk.) Karen and Kirk don’t know it but they are losing friends every second of the day. I used to say that people will rarely remember what you do **for them** but they will never forget what you did **to them**. When Karen or Kirk needs something or somebody, both are going to be very lonely because people who have been wronged have excellent memories. Poor Karen and Kirk. Yes, in this relationship Karen comes before Kirk.

What has all this got to do with school? Well, Karen and Kirk do not like masks. Kirk doesn’t like the idea of having their child’s temperature taken every day. Karen’s idea of social distancing is inviting twenty-seven 9 year olds over to her house for her dog’s first birthday. Karen and Kirk are not going to be happy at Avenue City School in 2020-21 because there are a whole new set of rules this year and yes, they do apply to everyone. Sorry Karen. Sorry Kirk.

While the idea of thermometers, facemasks and distance learning are new, there are certain things that I hope will never change. The public school has always had the goal of teaching our youth how to read, write and compute math. However, there are those “other lessons” that schools and teachers try to teach. They are the lessons designed to accomplish the goal of creating productive future citizens. Things like, how to get along with one another. Teachers have always tried to teach our children that when you work hard, and follow the rules, your chances of success are greater. Schools strive to teach the ideals of fairness, honesty and integrity. Perhaps the hardest lesson we learn is the one where we learn that things don’t always go our way. Dealing with disappointment is never easy but, thanks to life, it certainly is a lesson you get plenty of opportunities to learn. I am not sure how you learn these “other lessons” on-line. By the way, Karen and Kirk never learned these lessons.

It certainly feels like the whole world is just mad. It feels like everybody is angry. Angry about COVID, politics, social injustices or just because the sun came up. When you look at the world our children are seeing, I worry. One of our goals this year is to try and alleviate some of your worry. While things at Avenue City School will be far from perfect, I hope you understand we are going to be doing our best this year to do what we’ve always done. Our teachers will care, nurture and love your children whether they like it or not and we’ll be doing it in person as long as we can.

With hope, Superintendent Don Lawrence

One More Level of COVID-19 Protection



While Andrew County has been relatively COVID-free over the past several months, other communities around our state have not been as fortunate. During a recent regional meeting lead by the Andrew County Health Department, it was learned that Missouri is one of the few states that possesses no expectations concerning people who move into our state from COVID-19 “hot spots.”

While our state has no restrictions, the local school districts located in Andrew County have agreed to implement an enrollment policy/regulation until the COVID-19 pandemic runs its course. That policy/regulation is designed to provide one more layer of protection for our children and the school staff. To better ensure the school remains free of potential COVID-19 exposure, students enrolling from non-Missouri Schools will be required to undergo a 7-day waiting period prior to attending school in-person. In addition, students enrolling from Missouri communities that have been identified as “COVID-19 hotspots” or potential “hotspots” will be required to meet the same standard.

Parents/guardians will be required to verify that the enrolling child(ren) has/have been free of COVID-19 symptoms during the 7-day waiting period. Students who are district residents will be provided learning activities during their waiting period.

While this practice does not eliminate the threat of exposure of COVID-19, it does provide one more barrier of protection for our school.

Are You Going on a Trip??



Call it nosey if you want but let’s be realistic here. If you go to a beach party at Lake of the Ozarks or head down to Orlando, Florida sometime in the 2020-21 school year, we are BEGGING you to let us know that. We are trying to do the right thing for EVERYBODY. We would like to know if you went to a location where it is more likely that you and/or your children were exposed to COVID-19. A little cooperation might avoid a school shut-down. Your week long trip might need to turn into a 5-day additional absence. While we love souvenirs, we do not want you to bring THAT home to us.

Quoting an old Buffalo Springfield song from verse #1, “There’s a battle line being drawn. Nobody’s right if everybody’s wrong.” The last verse concludes with the words, “Paranoia strikes deep. Into your life it will creep. It starts when you’re always afraid...”

--Words written and recorded in 1966.

Daily Home Screening for Students COVID-19 Pandemic

Parents: Please complete this short check with your child each morning. If your child has any of these symptoms, you should contact your physician then contact Mrs. Shawnda Russell, school nurse, to inquire about when your child can return to school.

Section 1: Symptoms: If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicate a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for speeding illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms.

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic / asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with fever
- Chills
- Muscle Pain
- New loss of taste or smell

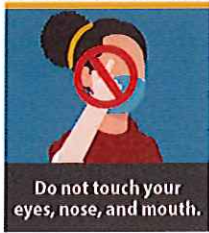
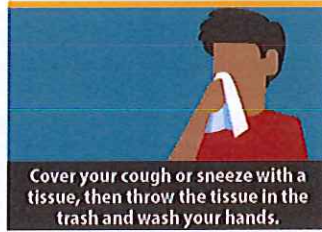
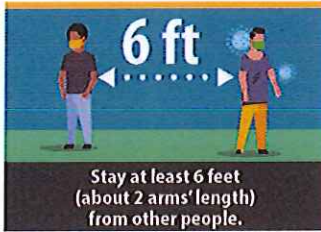
Section 2: Close Contact / Potential Exposure

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19; or
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to SARS-CoV-2; or
- Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases
- New controlled cough that caused difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic / asthmatic cough, a change in their cough baseline);
- Live in areas of high community transmission



Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Wear a Cloth Face Covering to Protect You and Your Friends

PUT ON

- WASH YOUR HANDS
- PLACE OVER NOSE AND MOUTH
- MAKE SURE YOU CAN BREATHE EASILY

TAKE OFF

- TAKE OFF YOUR FACE COVERING
- FOLD OUTSIDE CORNERS TOGETHER
- PUT ASIDE FOR WASHING
- WASH YOUR HANDS

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN, WEAR A MASK, AND STAY 6 FEET FROM OTHERS.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Information on Re-Entry to the 2020-2021 School Year:

Do you have questions about reentry to the 2020-2021 school year? District administration has released videos and written information for you to review. Visit the school website at www.avenuecityschool.org and click on the link titled; "2020-2021 Dated Blog of Re-Entry Information".

PTO News: With the new school year just around the corner, PTO would like to thank last year's supporters & welcome new & returning ACES families to the '20-'21 school year! We would also like to introduce this year's executive committee:

Cori Salmons-President
Lyndsey Bailey-Vice President
Joella Schultz-Secretary
Emily Campbell-Treasurer

We appreciate & thank our previous President, Lindsey Holcumbrink & our previous Treasurer, Heather Huff for all of their hard work & dedication during their terms.

PTO Sponsored:

- PTO was unable to hold its annual Spring Fling in March. Thank you to all those who assisted in gathering supplies & silent auction items, all of which will be put to good use this school year. Plans for rescheduling the silent auction are in the works.
- PTO helped ACES celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week during quarantine in May. Teachers received gift bags containing a Chick-Fil-A gift card, a Sports Page gift card, & a photo message made by their quarantined students.
- ACES held a socially distanced fireworks & frozen treats community event after the 8th grade graduation ceremony in June. PTO supplied & served the ice cream treats & popsicles.
- Each year the PTO presents a \$500 scholarship to a senior who graduated 8th grade at ACES & still lives in the school district. This year's scholarship was presented to Savannah HS senior, Riley Wilcoxson.

Due to the obvious circumstances, many of this year's events & meetings could be forced to change slightly for the time being in order to comply with social distancing guidelines. We do still plan to have many exciting events in some form or another for you to support & enjoy with your family & friends! A tentative calendar of events will be available on or before our first PTO meeting on Tuesday, September 15th. Further details regarding this meeting will be announced soon.

If you are a parent, guardian, or grandparent of an ACES student; or an ACES teacher or staff member, we would like to extend an invitation to you to join our PTO as a member. With your help we will strive toward the main goal of giving our kids the most accomplished, exciting, & memorable educational experience possible.

To sign-up & learn more about what PTO is & does, please watch for the sign-up sheet on our Facebook page (search for "Avenue City Elementary - PTO") & in your back to school registration paperwork. Please contact an executive officer or e-mail pto@avenuecityschool.org with any questions. We look forward to a great year!

ACES PTO Executive Committee

Avenue City District's Plan for 2020-2021:

Synopsis: Avenue City School will be offering face to face instruction for students beginning August 24, 2020. Answers to questions in regards to maintaining a healthy and safe environment can be found below. If you have any other questions, feel free to contact administration at 816-662-2305.

What are the school hours? School hours are (8:25 AM-3:15 PM; Students can arrive at 8:00 AM)

Is the school planning extended breaks? At this point the district is not planning for extended breaks. The plan is to attend school on the days assigned by the Board of Education Adopted 20-21 School Calendar. You can find the school calendar on the district website.

Will my child's temperature be scanned each day?

- If students are brought to school via personal vehicle their temperatures will be scanned. If temperature is below 100.4 degrees F, students will then go directly to breakfast or to their classroom.
- Temperatures will be scanned before children board the bus. If temperature is above 100.4 Fahrenheit the child and their siblings will not be able to board the bus.

Will my child be required to wear a mask?

- All students will be required to wear a mask when they are in the hallways, communal spaces, or participating in an activity where social distancing cannot be maintained.

What is the district doing about extracurricular events or activities?

- School Aged Childcare (after school) will NOT be provided the 1st quarter. We will reassess this decision at the beginning of 2nd quarter.
- There will be NO "Back to School Night". There will be a limited Meet and Greet on August 20, 2020.
- Extracurricular Activities: ACES will follow Missouri State High School Activities Association guidelines with regard to extracurricular activities.

Will visitors be allowed in the school building during the school day? Access to the building will be limited to only necessary personnel and students.

What will guidelines be for bus riders? School bus transportation may not readily allow for physical distancing. However, strategies to reduce contact on buses and risk of infection will include:

- Students will have their temperature scanned before they get on bus. If the child is running a temperature of 100.4 or above, the child and their siblings will not be allowed to ride.
- Every child on the bus will have assigned seats. Siblings will be seated together when possible.
- Every child on the bus must wear a mask
- Bus will be loaded from back to front. Students will depart from front to back.
- District will supply bottle of hand sanitizer for each bus. Students will use hand sanitizer when boarding bus.

- Bus Company will be cleaning the bus before and/or after each route.

What if my child is experiencing anxiety at the thought of returning to school? If your child is experiencing anxiety during this time, please contact your child's teacher and/or the school counselor, Ms. Stormie Milne. They can help you and your child develop a plan that will ease their anxiety.

What is my child is on a specialized plan, such as an Individualized Education Plan, a 504, a remedial reading plan? All of these plans are individualized to a particular student. If you have questions about your child's individualized plan – please contact case worker via email. The district professionals will work with other participants on the child's team to meet the needs of the child.

How is the Avenue City District Planning to Maintain a Healthy Environment? District administration, reentry committee members, and board of education are working on a plan to maintain a healthy environment for our students. Please see plan below.

Cleanliness

- Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment (after each recess), door handles, desk tops, sink handles) within the school and on school buses at least daily.
- Students will be required to wear mask when they are in hallways, communal spaces, or participating in an activity that social distance cannot be maintained.
- Each student will wash hands each time they enter the classroom, before lunch, after recess, etc.
- Hand Sanitizing Stations will be displayed throughout the school building. Everyone will be encouraged to use them.
- Staff will use disinfecting wipes / cleaner on desk tops and frequently touched surfaces numerous times a day.

Shared Objects

- Staff will discourage sharing of items, especially items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- Staff will keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
- Staff will ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible. Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids when possible. Wipe down objects prior to sharing.
- Library books will be wiped down before being placed on shelf for next person.
- Computers keyboards in lab or communal areas will need to be sanitized before each use.

Water Systems

- Drinking fountains will not be used. Students will provide their own bottled water, may purchase from the cafeteria, or will provide a refillable container and may use the district's refill stations.

Modified Layouts

- Student desks will face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), or students will sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart when possible.

- If classroom is equipped with tables, district will provide dividers that will be placed between each student.

Communal Spaces

- Recess will be staggered times and classes of students will be guided to different areas of playground.
- Minimal children in restroom at a time.
- Physical Education classes will take advantage of “open air” outside activities when possible.

Food Service

- Lunch times will be staggered so that there can be more space between students.
- Use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils)
- Class treats / birthday treats may only be bought / prepackaged / individualized.

Gatherings, Visitors, and Field Trips

- District will limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, field trips, and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- When preschool students enter and exit building, staff member will meet students at door and escort them to class.

Identifying Small Groups and Keeping Them Together (Cohorting)

- Ensure that student and staff groupings are as static as possible by having the same group of children stay in the same room.
- Mixing between groups will be avoided when at all possible. ACES cohorts will be limited – when there is a mix of groups it will be K-2; 3-5, 6-8. (For example: Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade will go to recess at the same time, however they will be assigned to different areas of the playground to avoid unnecessary contact.)

COVID-19 Point of Contact

- All school staff and families will notify school nurse in the event that if they (staff) or their child (families) become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.
- If child becomes ill at school, he/she will immediately be removed from classroom; will be quarantined to nurse’s office with a mask until parents arrive.
- Once sick child leaves premises the area will be closed off and not used until after cleaning and disinfecting.
- Administration will work with county officials to communicate to others who were exposed to positive case.
- Administration will notify staff, families, and the public of school closures and any restrictions in place to limit COVID-19 exposure (e.g., limited hours of operation).
- If a student or staff member at Avenue City School is identified as positive for COVID-19, administration will work with the Andrew County Health Department to follow correct protocol.

Recognize Signs and Symptoms

- Students will have temperature checks before entering building or boarding school bus each morning.
- School will supply each parent with “symptoms checker” identification sheet to be used before school each day.
- All students must fill out COVID-19 questionnaire upon registration.

Education

- Visual aides will be posted around school for reminders of social distancing, hand washing, cover your cough, mask wearing, etc.
- Administration will post on social media / school website education in regards to “stopping the spread” of COVID-19.

What if I do not feel that it is safe for my child to return to school? Avenue City Elementary School District will be offering face-to-face instruction ONLY. If you do not feel that it is safe for your child to attend, you may decide to homeschool. Please note that if you homeschool during the 20-21 school year and then decide that your child will return to ACES during the 21-22 school year, we will administer a placement test. Based on that test, administration will decide grade placement of your child.

This is a very fluid situation. The Avenue City School District reserves the right to adjust this plan as new information becomes available or situations change.

ACES Library News

The ACES Summer Reading Program started mid-June and was lots of fun! We were able to enjoy Will Stuck, Dan Blakely, Judy Curry, and Kathy Ridge. Students learned about fairy tales, folk tales, and about how the USA came to be. We partnered with the Rolling Hills Bookmobile for students to check out during this time as well.

I wanted to let you know that the Bookmobile visits will look a little different this year. Instead of students getting on the bus to check out materials the Bookmobile staff will set up books to choose from outside of the bus. This will allow us to social distance.

I will be holding library classes in K-5 classrooms this year and will bring a selection of materials for check out when I come. Students will also be able to make book requests through google docs that will be posted on the library website. Books will be sanitized when they are returned. I am looking forward to this year with your kids!



<p style="text-align: center;">Avenue City Elementary School 18069 Highway 169 Cosby, Missouri 64436 Phone: (816) 662-2305 Fax: (816) 662-3201 Superintendent Don Lawrence Principal Becky Grimes dlawrence@avenuecityschool.org bgrimes@avenuecityschool.org www.avenuecityschool.org</p>

PUBLIC NOTICE

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, children who live outside the district but are attending a private school within the district, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, children who are wards of the state, and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The Avenue City School District assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness and young child with a developmental delay.

The Avenue City School District assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program.

The Avenue City School District assures that personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Avenue City School District has developed a Local Compliance Plan for the implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan may be reviewed during school hours at

Avenue City School District
18069 Hwy. 169
Cosby, MO 64436

This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

August 5, 2020 Public Release

Avenue City School District announced its revised free and reduced price policy for school children unable to pay the full price of meals served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Local education officials have adopted the following family-size income criteria for determining eligibility:

Household Size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Annually	Monthly	Weekly	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$16,588	\$1,383	\$319	\$23,606	\$1,968	\$454
2	22,412	1,868	431	31,894	2,658	614
3	28,236	2,353	543	40,182	3,349	773
4	34,060	2,839	655	48,470	4,040	933
5	39,884	3,324	767	56,758	4,730	1,092
6	45,708	3,809	879	65,046	5,421	1,251
7	51,532	4,295	991	73,334	6,112	1,411
8	57,356	4,780	1,103	81,622	6,802	1,570
Each add'l member	+ 5,824	+ 486	+ 112	+ 8,288	+ 691	+ 160

Children from families whose current income is at or below those shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applications are available at the school office. To apply, fill out a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application and return it to the school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. A complete application is required as a condition of eligibility. A complete application includes: (1) household income from all sources or Food Stamp/TANF case number, (2) names of all household members, and (3) the signature and last four digits of social security number or indication of no social security number of adult household member signing the application. School officials may verify current income at any time during the school year.

Foster children may be eligible regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside.

If a family member becomes unemployed or if family size changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for these benefits.

Households will be notified of their children's eligibility status for free or reduced price meals. If any children were not listed on the eligibility notice for families receiving SNAP, TANF or FDPIR, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to those children.

If any child (ren) was not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the LEA or school to have free meal benefits extended to that child (ren).

Under the provisions of the policy, the **Administrative Assistant** will review the applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the hearing official on an informal basis or he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to the **Building or District Administrator**.

Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. A complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the central office where any interested party may review it.

USDA Non-discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Cosby, Missouri

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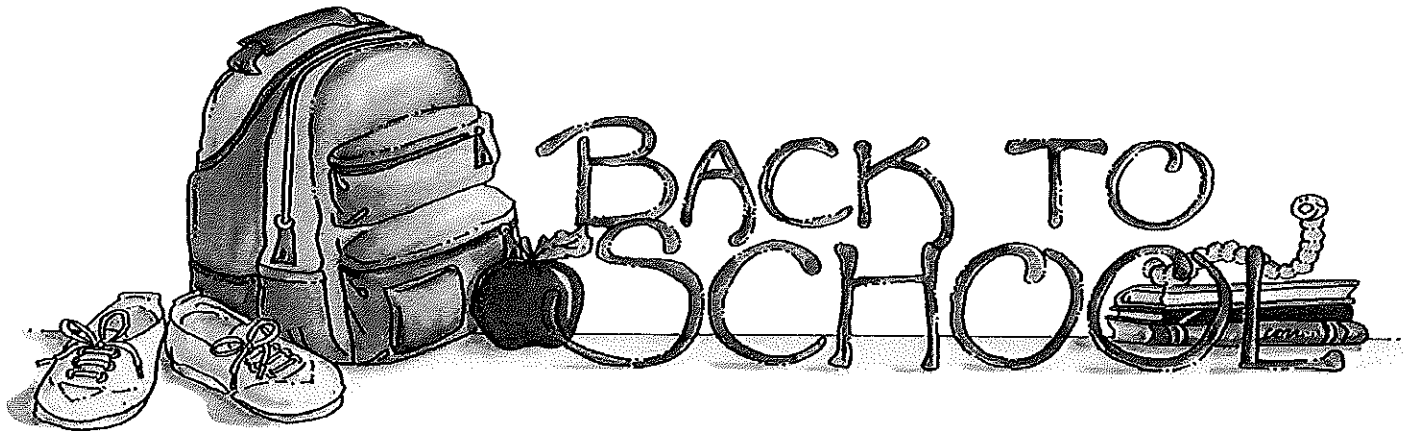
Phone: 816-662-2305
Fax: 816-662-3201
www.avenuecityschool.org



WE ARE ON THE WEB

WWW.AVENUECITYSCHOOL.ORG

FOLLOW AVENUE
CITY-PTO
ON FACEBOOK



20-21 Student Registration:

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Avenue City School District is asking that all student registration is completed on-line. Parents—log on to your Lumen Parent Portal to complete necessary paperwork. If you need help logging on or do not remember your login or password, call the school office at 816-662-2305.

If your child has food allergies, asthma, diabetes, bee sting allergy, or seizures additional forms are required and must be completed by their physician. These forms can be found in the nurse's corner on our website. If your child has asthma please supply a chamber/spacer with their inhaler. Per CDC nebulizer breathing treatments are not recommended during the current pandemic.

As always, if you have any questions just call or email.