

AVON LAKE CITY SCHOOLS



Anchor Notes



A publication for our community regarding important matters and topics in the Avon Lake City School District.

Report from the Superintendent



Joelle M. Magyar
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Avon Lake City Schools Community,

The 2025-2026 school year has kicked off with outstanding excitement and energy that's found in every corner of the district and represents a whole new ball game! The community can review updates in this publication regarding events taking place now, and what's to come in the future.

Our citizens' support on the May 2025 ballot for both Issue 16, the \$88 million bond issue to construct a new building for grades 5 through 8 and renovate the elementary schools, along with Issue 17, a levy for new operating funds, has completely reinvigorated our school family. After years of planning, cost reductions to affirm sound financial stewardship, and opening the lines of new and innovative ways of communicating with citizens, the start of the new school year has the makings of truly becoming a home run school year. We will continue to seek input from the community, students, and staff for the upcoming project to be prepared for its opening in the fall of 2028. Our strategic plan will continue to be a priority as well. After all, the new building is a direct reflection of one of our three key priorities outlined in this community-based strategic plan, those being: pursuing infrastructure that promotes student and staff success, along with a focus on student-centered learning, and creating a culture of collaboration and respect. These priorities will drive our focus for the upcoming year.

We're Loading the Bases While Remaining Dedicated to Our Guiding Principles

Already, students have settled into their routines for the school year, and success is taking place throughout the district. ALCS leaders will continue working toward fulfilling our mission to prepare students for an evolving world, by delivering student-centered learning, celebrating personalized goals, and encouraging diverse career paths through collaborative partnerships with our staff, families, and community. In addition, our vision statement is

inspiring resilient students to achieve meaningful, successful, and fulfilling lives contributing to the future of our Avon Lake community. These guiding principles will drive decisions about the construction project, academic pursuits, and every aspect of the student and staff experience in the Avon Lake City Schools.

Step Into the Batter's Box with the ALCS This School Year

The 2025-2026 School Year will be remembered as one that refocuses our direction into the future and how we can plan today, to positively impact the next generation of Avon Lake students and staff. As the construction design for the new grades 5 – 8 building is considered, and renovation upgrades to the elementary buildings are contemplated, we do so with excitement, the gratitude of continued community support, and the belief that we can and will positively impact our student experience and culture in a kind, collaborative, and constructive manner.

Batter Up!

Let's make it a great 2025-2026 school year!

Sincerely,
Joelle M. Magyar
Superintendent



The 2025-2026 School Year is off to a smooth and successful start and we thank the Avon Lake community for their continued support!



www.avonlakecityschools.org



Avon Lake City Schools Wins Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award!

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) recently honored the Avon Lake City Schools with the prestigious **Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award**. This honor recognizes school districts that uphold the highest standards of financial reporting and literacy. Participation in the Certificate of Excellence program highlights a school district's dedication to financial accountability, and applications are rigorously reviewed by a panel of industry professionals and experts who provide constructive feedback and ultimately evaluate every school district submission. School districts that meet the stringent requirements are given the Certificate of Excellence award. Congratulations to Treasurer Autumn Reed, the treasurer's office staff, and everyone who plays a role in making financial transparency a top priority in this district. The citizens of our community should be proud and encouraged that stewardship of our resources is highly valued and recognized by experts in the field.



You can read the full letter of commendation for the Certificate of Excellence award at www.avonlakecityschools.org



Congratulations to Avon Lake High School for being ranked #1 in Lorain County, #8 in the Cleveland Metro Area, and #25 in the State of Ohio.

Avon Lake High School Ranked #1 in Lorain County, #8 in Cleveland Metro Area by US News

Congratulations to the entire staff, students, and families at Avon Lake High School for making a significant jump in the recently released U.S. News and World Report rankings, which were announced earlier this school year. Our very own high school was ranked #1 in Lorain County, ranked #8 in the Cleveland metro area, ranked #25 in the State of Ohio, and ranked #722 nationwide. One year ago, ALHS ranked #1 in Lorain County, #10 in the Cleveland metro area, #34 in the State of Ohio, and #842 nationwide. College readiness, depth of curriculum, graduation rate, and state proficiency rate all factor into the U.S. News and World Report ranking. This

milestone reflects the high standards and achievement of everyone in the Avon Lake City Schools at all levels, as the accomplishment and work in each grade compounds year-after-year to produce these high marks. The hard work, teamwork, focus on conversations about data and implementing it into teaching and learning best practices, teacher evaluation discussions, implementation of new programming to help all students such as Shoremen Academy, building-level professional development, and focus on what is best for students, has elevated Avon Lake High School to an even higher standard.

Troy Unites in Show of Support for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

The Troy Intermediate School community united once again to support a worthy cause while enjoying a sweet treat on Friday, September 12th. In an effort to raise support for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Prayers From Maria ice cream truck was invited to visit the school during lunchtime. All classes, including students and staff members had the opportunity to redeem their pre-purchased \$3.00 tickets. All proceeds will directly benefit Prayers From Maria Foundation and empower them to offer courageous cancer patients the support they need while fighting cancer. The Foundation also helps fund life-saving research initiatives. Classes had the opportunity to write encouraging cards for children who are currently hospitalized. These hand-made and heartfelt messages were given to the volunteers working on the truck at the school. Finally, to round out this special day, it was Go Gold Day at Troy. The school community was encouraged to wear gold or yellow tones to stand unified in a show of compassion and hope in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.



Prayers From Maria visited Troy Intermediate School where the staff and student body raised funds for childhood cancer research.

Van Gogh Painting Inspires Westview Students

Second graders at Westview Elementary recently drew inspiration from one of the most revered painters in history to create their own works of art. After studying a copy of *The Sunflowers* by Vincent Van Gogh, students used oil pastels and paint to create their own unique still life painting based on the famous artwork. Talented brushstrokes were demonstrated by our elementary students, and the emergence of keen eyes that can constructively see the finished painted product before the first colors touch the canvas were inspired. When the exercise was completed, each painting featured vibrant colors and reflected the individual creativity of each student. Congratulations to our Westview second graders for their terrific artistic creations, and using historical references to empower new painted works of art. Here's to inspiring and identifying future Van Goghs!



Westview young artists were inspired by Van Gogh's creative works of art!



All Pro Parents discuss a blog post by John O' Sullivan, founder of Changing the Game Project.

All Pro Parents at Learwood Keep Families Plugged in with Students Pertaining to Matters of Importance!

The All Pro Parents Organization is alive and well at Learwood Middle School, and at its first meeting of the year, set the tone with some valuable parent-child time discussing an important topic that can be aligned with the game of life. All Pro Parents is a monthly meeting where any parental figure is invited to enjoy coffee and donuts with their Learwood student and participate in a brief discussion about topics relevant to parenting middle school aged children. The sessions begin by sharing and briefly discussing the topic for that month, followed by a "walk and talk" where parents have the opportunity to engage in private discussions with their child while walking the halls of Learwood before school. Meetings typically

take place before school at 7:15 and conclude about 7:45 a.m. Our goal is to create conversation starters between parent and child that will lead to deeper more meaningful discussions at home, in the car on the way to/from after school activities, or at dinner. This month's topic stems from a blog post by John O'Sullivan, founder of Changing the Game Project. The title of the blog is "Three Questions That Turn Losing Into Learning." Thanks to the parents who attended, and for those interested, please visit Learwood's building page.

Boys Soccer Team Recognizes District Teachers

The ALHS varsity boys soccer team recently hosted Teacher Appreciation Night on Wednesday, September 3rd, with each senior player selecting a teacher who has made a meaningful impact on their lives. Each teacher recognized was given a bouquet of flowers and stood with their former students at mid-field during a special ceremony. Thank you to the incredible teachers listed below, as well as all Avon Lake teachers, past and present, who have made a lasting impact on our students!

- Lincoln Rose ~ Mrs. Janet Grissinger ~ ALHS
- Silas Spagnola ~ Mr. John Gill ~ ALHS
- Luke Bellenir ~ Mrs. Megan DeVere ~ ALHS
- Lukas Pentz ~ Mr. Matthew Perry ~ Learwood
- Drew Krupitzer ~ Mr. Caleb Reutter ~ ALHS
- Riley Stiles ~ Mrs. Stacey Hallett ~ ALHS
- Cameron Fiest ~ Mr. Jeremy Kirsch ~ ALHS
- Brendan Stupp ~ Mrs. Michelle Burgess ~ ALHS
- Anthony Guy Goldyn ~ Mrs. Betsy Cantleberry ~ Eastview



The varsity boys soccer team recently honored teachers who made an important impact on their lives.

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www.youtube.com/AvonLakeProductions

SCAN BELOW TO SIGN UP FOR SUPERINTENDENT EMAILS!



Website Dedicated to Updates, Timelines, Project Scopes for New Building Construction



A new website has been launched for the exclusive purpose of informing the community regarding project details, summaries, timelines, and images of the new building for grades 5 – 8 at the Learwood site! The Avon Lake City School District encourages you to scan the nearby QR code, or visit the site which can be found off of the Operations page under Departments, and clicking through to Facilities Planning. Thanks to TDA Architects, our community has access to the latest information pertaining to project updates, the overall scope of the construction endeavor, schedules, and a frequently asked questions section.

The 128,000 square foot building is scheduled to open for the 2028-2029 school year, and while that may seem like some time in the future, planning, preparations, and input-gathering are all underway at the present time. You can learn about the major components of the project, how the design is intended to benefit students, what safety measures are being considered for the new building, and what type of renovations will take place to the elementary buildings. A submission form has been placed as well, for anyone seeking answers to questions that may not be presented in the FAQ document. Ultimately, we're hopeful that the community finds this website as a resource for more information. Thank you for your continued support!



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