

YOUR SCHOOLS

2021

Aurora City School District

From the Superintendent

By MIKE ROBERTO
Superintendent of Schools

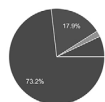


We did it! August 2020 and the reopening of schools seems like a decade ago rather than just the beginning of the most recent school year. The pandemic certainly presented some unprecedented challenges,

but thanks to the hard work of each of our staff members and the unwavering support of our families and community as a whole we have weathered at least the first part of the storm. In fact, I wanted to be sure to start this message with a thank you to our families and community members for supporting the schools over this past year. This support, combined with the time and energy from our staff members allowed us to enjoy a relatively successful year. That sentiment was shared by our families as shown in our 2020-2021 end of school feedback survey.

We had over 1100 responses to the survey which accounts for approximately 70% of the Aurora families with school aged children, so we were very appreciative of your participation. There was a nice balance of responses from families between each of our buildings relative to the number of young people in each building. As you can see in the graphic below, we also had a proportional representation of our Plan A and Plan B families.

What learning plan best describes your child's experience for the 2020-2021 school year?
1,181 responses



There were four general questions we were seeking feedback from which all

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ROBERTO PRESENTS STATE OF SCHOOLS

Aurora City Schools' Superintendent, Mike Roberto, presented his State of the Schools' Address at the City of Aurora's State of the City's Luncheon held virtually on March 3, 2021. The luncheon took place with only several socially distanced attendees and was live streamed by Community Focus.

In his address, Roberto who took over as Superintendent in August 2020, explained that, "In fact almost exactly one year ago I was honored to be named as the next superintendent of the Aurora City Schools only to have the bottom drop out when the pandemic hit us all during the ides of March. However, despite this unfortunate turn of events, the state of the Aurora City Schools is strong." He went on to say that, "Throughout the late spring and summer our administration team met each week to discuss breaking from traditional approaches to school, blending new ideas

with those that have worked in the past, and bending some of our practices to fit new requirements all in an effort to provide an innovative approach to educating young people in the middle of a pandemic. We took these ideas to our staff where they were refined and improved before sharing it with parents, community members, clergy, local health officials, Board members, classified staff, and certified staff in our newly formed Covid-19 Advisory Committee. This collaboration led to a plan which helped us to take into account the concerns and feelings of our parents while at the same time meeting the safety, academic, and social emotional needs of the young people in the schools. This emphasis on empathy as we designed learning environments for all young people allowed us to balance the needs of those who wanted to be learning in person with those who were

State of Schools p. 3



Supporting Military Families

AURORA HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES MILITARY PURPLE STAR DESIGNATION FROM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has selected Aurora High School (AHS) as a 2021 Purple Star designee. The Purple Star Award, "recognizes military-friendly schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military." The award was given for, "outstanding commitment to serving military-connected students and families," at AHS. The ODE explains, "Each Child, Our Future, Ohio's strategic plan for education, recognizes the importance of supporting the needs of the whole child. To be successful in school and when transitioning between

school settings, Ohio's military-connected youth require particular supports to ensure that their unique social, emotional and academic needs are met." A school is honored with the Purple Star Award if it completes all of several required activities plus one optional activity. AHS met the requirements and of the optional activities, AHS Guidance Counselor, Kalee Oberlin, stated that, "AHS has completed a hosting and military recognition event that met the optional criteria."

Aurora Schools' Assistant Superintendent

Purple Star Award p. 6

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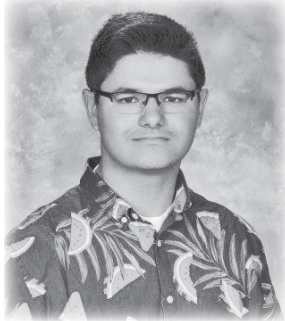
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AHS PROM KING & QUEEN ~
**Ricky Reynolds &
Alana Wallack**



Prom Courts



AHS SENIOR
CLASS OF 2021
OUTSTANDING
SENIOR AWARD
honoree **RYAN STAHL**

after
PROM
2021



hats off
CLASS OF
2021



AHS Teacher and Senior
Class Adviser, **Gayle Lewis**,
Received Recognition from
Aurora School Board President
Gerald Kohanski. Lewis
Retired this Summer After 25
Years of Service.

Congratulations to the 217 graduates of the Aurora High School CLASS OF 2021! Throughout a very uncertain and ever-changing school year caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Aurora High School seniors persevered and went on to celebrate their success at the first-ever commencement ceremony held at AHS Veterans Stadium on May 20, 2021. The AHS graduation was livestreamed courtesy of Community Focus and was shown on Spectrum Channel 1021 throughout the month of June. Look for the Community Focus AHS Graduation Marathon airing 4th of July (look for repeats too). Make sure to view the photos of graduation that are available on the district website all summer under the News section as well.



YOUR SCHOOLS

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Editor: Stacey DeAnna

Your Schools is a publication of the Aurora City School District. Its purpose is to keep residents of Aurora informed of current events and progress in the Aurora City Schools and to foster pride and a continuous communication link between the schools and the community.

Your Schools has been awarded the "Mark of Excellence" and "Best of the Best" Awards by the Ohio Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association for service as a school district newsletter. *Your Schools* is a quarterly publication, mailed to all residents of Aurora. For information, comments, or story ideas, e-mail Editor Stacey DeAnna at: yourschools@aurora-schools.org.

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uncomfortable attending school physically, but needed the support academically." The District offered two plans for students one (Plan A) offering an environment which utilized safety guidelines and protocols for in person learning five days a week and the other (Plan B) which emphasized an online learning environment that allowed young people to learn from home. Approximately 75% of district students participated in the in-person learning format, while the remaining students participated in the on-line virtual learning format.



Roberto thanked the entire ACSD staff who made it possible for the district to offer the two plans. He said, "Teachers of both Plan A and Plan B learners worked collaboratively in their Professional Learning Communities to design learning environments both in-person and virtually which would allow young people to be critical thinkers and problem solvers despite the distractions due to the pandemic. Because of the work of the teachers and administrators we were able to meet the academic needs of each of our students no matter which plan they participated in this year."

The Aurora State of the City Address can be viewed in its entirety on the Community Focus website and app.

ACADEMIC SIGNING DAY

Congratulations and good luck to our 8th annual AHS Academic Signing Day recipients who earned a merit-based scholarship to a highly selective university.



Academic Signing Day Recipients (left to right) - **Samantha St. John** (Rice University), **Rohan Shaik** (Miami University), **Ava Crasi** (The Ohio State University), **Katarina Cannata** (John Carroll University), **Chris Cecere** (Bowling Green State University), **Ryan Stahl** (Walsh University), **Norah O'Callaghan** (Tufts University) and **Alex Brogan** (Notre Dame College)

AHS RANKED #2 IN AKRON METRO AREA, #5 IN NORTHEAST OHIO, #13 IN OHIO ~ U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

This year, U.S. News & World Report magazine analyzed nearly 24,000 public high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and then ranked the highest-scoring public high schools in the nation. Aurora High School (AHS) was ranked by the publication at **#2** in the Akron Metro Area, **#5** in Northeast Ohio and **#13** in the State of Ohio in their Best High Schools 2021 article. This puts AHS in the **top 1%** of high schools (out of 683 high schools) ranked in the State. AHS is ranked at **#477** in the country. To view the complete AHS overview results and the Ohio rankings, please go to the aurora-schools.org website and the link can be found under the correlated News section story.

The methodology used by U.S. News & World Report for the rankings focuses on six factors which include, College Readiness, Math and Reading Proficiency, Math and Reading Performance, Underserved Student Performance, College Curriculum Breadth and Graduation Rate. College readiness specifically measures participation and

performance on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams. The data used in this edition is from the 2018-2019 academic school year, and therefore was not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

AHS Principal, Mike Hayes, said of the recognition, "As is discussed quite often in 'The Greenhouse,' we are always striving to create ideal conditions for growth. This starts with the wonderful families and community we serve providing strong roots in our young people, and from a K-12 perspective, our entire staff begins nurturing these roots leading to extraordinary outcomes. Such rankings and recognitions are a testament to our school district's focus on learner-centered growth with an emphasis on critical thinking, collaboration, balance, empathy, resiliency and innovation. We are incredibly fortunate to have such amazing students, staff and stakeholders invested in the learning process allowing our school to flourish and be recognized among the state and nation's best!"



American Heart Association.

CRADDOCK/MILLER KIDS HEART CHALLENGE SETS RECORD

Aurora Schools' Craddock and Miller Elementary buildings once again supported the American Heart Association this year by raising a new record of over \$24,000 in donations! Miller School physical education teacher, Stacey Slackford-Barnes, who has been instrumental in the program since its inception, said, "This is the 23rd year we've participated in this." Slackford-Barnes added, "Typically, the event has raised approximately \$2,500 each year in the past, so this year's fundraiser has been outstanding!"

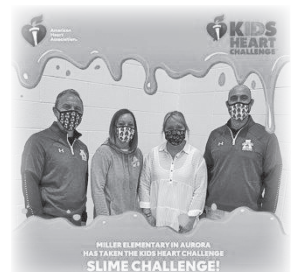
This campaign, which was formerly known as Jump Rope for Heart, was revamped to become more inclusive and now allows for, "more opportunities for health heart," explained Craddock physical education teacher, Gretchen Jessel. Previously, the campaign was a jump-rope-a-thon, but now more activities have been included to create an encompassing approach to move more to keep your heart healthy. Activities, which keep

participants continuously moving, now include jump rope, hula hoop, jumping jacks, etc. The challenge for students in PE classes to improve heart health includes three personal categories including, move more, be kind, and choose water. Each day they decide which challenge they are focusing on.

This year, the campaign included a Slime Challenge as an extra incentive. PE Instructor, Stacey Slackford-Barnes; Miller School Principal, Maria Goodman; Superintendent, Mike Roberto and Assistant Superintendent, Paul Milcetic all volunteered to be slimed if donations reached \$10,000. The Slime-Fest 2021 took place on May 18th and fun was had by all.



Miller School Principal, Maria Goodman, Gets Slimed!



Who's Who & What's New



Justin and Grace Williamson

Virtual students, **Justin and Grace Williamson**, created their own service project by organizing a neighborhood food drive and donating the items to the **Aurora Volunteers of America Food Bank**. They created flyers, coordinated the logistics, and provided

the labor to get the donations to the food bank for those in need. Their ingenuity, hard work and caring are so very much appreciated.



SCHOOL TOOL BOX

You can purchase your prepackaged school supplies for the next school year sponsored by the **Aurora PTO** through **School Tool Box**. You can place your order online, and it will be delivered directly to your home address. Just go to the district website for more information and ordering links.



Congratulations to AHS students (left to right) **Vikas Duvvuri**, **Eric Eggett** and **Shreyaj Menon** who advanced in the **Rotary Speech Competition**. AHS English Instructor, **Melissa Lindley**, was instrumental in coordinating the logistics and creating strong communication and critical thinking skills in her students.

Senior **Ila Kerchenski** won multiple awards from the **Ohio Poetry Association's** writing contest. She won 1st place in the Ethos category and was also the Common Threads Journal Winner which included having her work published. Way to go!



The **Aurora Schools Foundation** has awarded AHS Science Teacher, **Dmitri Kourennyi**, funds to establish an official **Chess Club** at AHS.

ACT®

This year's February **ACT testing** was a first ever for the AHS staff. They needed to proctor the ACT in a small, socially distanced, in-person classroom setting while providing virtual learning materials for the remainder of AHS students. AHS Counselor, **Chris Miley**, coordinated the event which involved about 70 staff members needed to

administer the exam to approximately 240 students spread out in nearly 30 different classrooms to provide a safe environment for all.



AHS Drama Club Member **Mason Kacmar** was named as one of seven actor nominees in the **2021 Playhouse Square Dazzle Awards** Best Actor category. The Dazzle Awards recognize the top Northeast Ohio teen musical theater performers and the winner represents Northeast Ohio at the virtual Jimmy Awards/National High School Musical Theatre Awards this summer.

Leighton School's Principal, **Michelle Nizen**, along with staff members **Melissa Carlson**, and **Keri Stoyle** worked with the **Leighton School Leaders** to raise money to purchase planters/trellis, soil and plants for **Univeristy Hospital's Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital's Angie's Garden** which is where patients/families, "can take a break from the clinical environment without leaving the facility."

The **AHS Quiz Bowl team** and **Coach Annie Walker** headed to Columbus and were one of 16 teams that advanced to the elite **State competition**.



As one of many philanthropic activities, **AHS Interact Club** and adviser **Melissa Foster** held a **Believe in Dreams Car Wash** and were able to donate \$1,200 dollars to the Believe in Dreams Foundation that was founded in 1974 by Aurora residents **John and Cal Dijulius**.



Harmon School students competed in the **Hathaway Brown Speech Competition** with **Armaani Sheth** taking 3rd place in the Dramatic Interpretation and a 3rd place overall win in State competition in the Original Oratory category. **The Ohio Speech & Debate Association** also named Aurora volunteer **Deval Sheth** as the **OSDA Volunteer of the Year Award**. Congratulations to all.

To view the **AHS Scholastic Arts & Writing/ Governor's Exhibition 2021** information and winners, please go to the News section on the homepage of the ACSD website.



Stephanie Lubin
Aurora High School

2021 CANDIDATES
The 2021 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society 2021 Students of the Year Candidates included AHS student **Stephanie Lubin**. The 27 Cleveland/Akron candidate

teams and 400 team members participated in a training development program and then raised a record breaking \$960,000 (during a pandemic!) toward the society's mission of "putting cancer in the history books." Thank you to Lubin for all of her fundraising efforts and for making our school district so very proud!



AHS students, **Abigail Kaufman**, **Danielle Serafin**, and **Jack Siedel** have been accepted into the **National Technical Honor Society**, that celebrates the accomplishments of

outstanding career/technical students representing fields in the Environment, Education and CADD Engineering.

The **Fill a Bag, Feed a Family** annual charitable food donation collection benefits those in need throughout the City of Aurora via the **Volunteers of America Food Pantry**. AHS students spent time helping in numerous volunteer capacities. Thank you to all those who helped those in need.



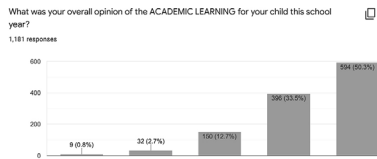
AHS Student Volunteers for Aurora's Fill A Bag, Feed A Family

Good Luck and best wishes in the future to all of the 2020-21 ACSD retirees:

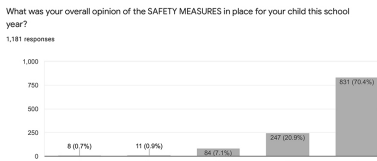
Rose Brown ~ AHS English Teacher
Karen Cantelmi ~ 2nd Grade Teacher
Brian Caponi ~ AHS Art Teacher
Mary Jane Jones ~ Music Teacher
Paul Kovach ~ Craddock Custodian
Gayle Lewis ~ AHS Spanish Teacher
Priscilla Lucas ~ Cafeteria/Custodian
David Murray ~ Harmon ELA Teacher
Dee Ann Pochedly ~ 4th Grade Teacher
Karen Romito ~ Harmon Interventionist
Kristina Vidziunas ~ 4th Grade Teacher
Kathleen Wiemken ~ AHS Business Ed Teacher

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respondents addressed. The first dealt with the academic learning taking place during the pandemic. We were happy to see that 50% of the respondents were extremely satisfied, as represented by a

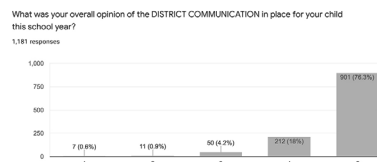


score of 5, with their child's experience this school year under the circumstances. When combining this score of 5 with the scores of 4 which indicated those who were satisfied, there was close to 84% of the families who felt their children had a relatively positive academic experience in the Aurora Schools during the pandemic.



We also asked about parents' overall opinion on the safety measures in place within the district. I am happy to report that 91% of the families in both Plan A and Plan B felt comfortable with our multi-layered approach to safety this school year.

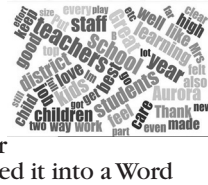
Moving on to communication. We asked how well you, as a family, felt informed at both the district and building level. Again, the feedback from families was strong. Approximately 94% were at least satisfied with the communication at the district level with 76% stating they were extremely satisfied with the communication at the district level. At the building level a similar amount of satisfaction was expressed with 91% overall satisfaction and 70% extremely satisfied.



We appreciate families taking the time to provide this quick overview of your child's experience this year in the Aurora City School District. Though not all of our families were completely satisfied with their child's experience, we will continue to work towards designing learning environments which meet the individual needs of each of our learners or, said in another way, nurture the roots of young people.

There were a number of families who also provided some constructive feedback in written form as well. I have quickly reviewed this information to get an overall sense of some common themes, but our administration team will dive much deeper into this feedback over the summer.

I did take all of the feedback from the question which asked, "What do you like about the Aurora City School District? (This school year or in past years) and placed it into a Word Cloud generator. As a reminder, the bigger a word is mentioned in the feedback. As you can see, one of the biggest words, if not the biggest, was "Teachers." Families expressed a lot of gratitude for the work, effort, energy, and care that teachers provide this year. You might also notice words such as Great, Schools, District, Children, Students, and Learning were often mentioned. These all indicate that the families believe children are a focus of the schools and as you have heard, we believe that "Kids Come First." Another common theme was that parents loved the ability to choose between learning in person full time (Plan A) or being able to learn virtually (Plan B).



Looking forward, we have transitioned into our summer school offerings which include young people being in each of our buildings in June and July. After June 1, 2021, at midnight the Ohio Department of Health (OHD) orders for masks ended and as of June 7, 2021 masks became voluntary for all Aurora City School-sponsored events. However, we will still be following our other COVID-19 safety protocols when possible including social distancing, hand sanitizing, use of MERV 13 air filters, and cleaning protocols. It is important to note that we will still need to follow quarantine and isolation protocols for any young person or staff member who is not vaccinated because COVID-19 is classified as a Class A communicable disease.

We have been informed that the following orders are still in effect for schools: The Director's Order to Facilities to Notify Residents, Guardians, and Sponsor of Positive or Probable Cases of COVID-19 signed April 15, 2020. This means schools are still required to notify parents of cases within the school building. The Director's Order Requiring Reporting and Notification Regarding COVID-19 Cases in Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade signed September 3, 2020. This requires schools to continue to post their information on a COVID-19 Data Dashboard.

We are anticipating these same procedures to be in place for the 2021-2022 school year, but we will be sure to keep families updated as we approach the start of school in August. One initiative we do have on our RADAR for this fall is to continue to implement our strategic vision, which can be found on the Aurora City School District website (www.aurora-schools.org). Under this vision we focus on nurturing the competencies of collaboration, critical thinking, empathy, balance, innovation, and resilience as young people attend the Aurora Schools in grades PreK-12. This focus will not only help

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ACSD 2021 EXTENDED LEARNING PLAN

On February 9, 2021, Ohio Governor DeWine asked school districts to work with their communities and educational stakeholders to help students continue to advance academically and to make up for any learning that may have been lost or delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic and related disruptions. DeWine then directed all public schools in Ohio to create an extended learning plan in response to the concerns of learning loss for students during the COVID-19 pandemic to be completed by April 1st. The district's plans were expected to address six key components including, Impacted Students, Needs Assessment, Resources and Budget, Partnerships and Alignment. Governor DeWine requested that schools and districts design plans that address learning recovery and extended learning opportunities to meet the needs of students that could include extending the current school year, beginning the new year early, extending the school day or instituting summer programs, tutoring, remote options, and other remedial or supplemental activities. It was suggested that, "Each district or school should consider its unique needs and issues and prepare its plan in a way that responds appropriately and leverages the assets of its unique partners..."

In response to this request, Aurora City School District's Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Paul Milcetic, explained, "Certainly, the Aurora City School District is in a much different position than many school districts across the state that have not had in person instruction since last March when the pandemic originally caused the closure of schools. Therefore, our plan will look different from other school districts who may have experienced significant learning loss in their student population. We do not plan to extend the school year or begin next year early, as our students have been in school in person (roughly 80%) or virtual five days per week the entire year. Therefore, our typical processes, such as Response to Intervention, have helped us to target and intervene for those students needing extra support. Additionally, we are offering our established summer programs, such as AHS Credit Recovery/Summer School, K-3 Reading and Math Academy, as well as Extended School Year for students with special needs who qualify. We are expanding the number of students invited to our summer Reading and Math academy, along with the necessary staff to meet this demand on an as needed basis."

The link to the complete ACSD plan can be found on the district website under the Curriculum Department.

SPORT REPORT

Congratulations to the Greenmen swimmers and divers who qualified for the State tournament. The swimmers included, **ALAYNA BOOKER, JACOB GOOD, JON HYBIL, NATE RUEHR, CONNOR ZAMARY** and diver, **VICTORIA BLECHSCHMID**.

The **AHS TENNIS TEAM** had a fantastic season with an ending season record of 13-4. **MITCHELL CURTIS** and **VINCENT CANNATA** had an impressive season.

AHS basketball graduate **SHYANNE SELLERS** was included as one of the **MCDONALD'S ALL AMERICAN GAMES** team nominees who are honored annually, "for their skill and dedication to the game of basketball." Sellers was also named the **OHIO HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION DIVISION I PLAYER OF THE YEAR** in March 2021. In addition, Sellers was also named an **ALL-OHIO WINNER** for the 4th time earning All-Ohio honors for the third straight season after and honorable mention all-state her freshman year. Sellers added Cleveland, com's annual all-area teams "**FAB 50**" **PLAYER OF THE YEAR** recognition to her long list of accolades and was a finalist for the second consecutive year for the **MS. BASKETBALL** state title. Sellers career stats included, 1,730 points, 822 rebounds, 322 assists, 205 steals, 138 blocks, 71-15 record and undefeated in conference play. Congratulations for an outstanding high school career!



Shyanne Sellers

The **GREENMEN HOCKEY TEAM** ended their season with a 9-5 record. The Greenmen lost to Kent Roosevelt in the **OHSAA STATE PLAYOFFS** with a 4-3 score in a sudden death overtime period. Congratulations to the team and **COACH JOHN SHERIDAN** on an outstanding season.

AHS graduate **DONOVAN CRAWFORD** threw his discus 172' 4" inches at the Division I Austintown Regional competition which earned him a qualifying trip to the **DIVISION I STATE TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP**.

Crawford also broke the **AHS DISCUS RECORD** set in 1977 with a 169' 10" inch throw. Congratulations to Crawford who then went on to finish 12th in the Division I state championships on June 5th. Outstanding performances!



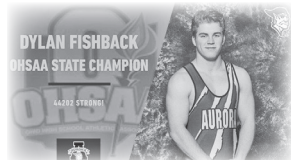
AHS Throwing Coach Jenna Schaedle and Donovan Crawford

AHS AURORA STRONG

GANLEY CHEVROLET OF AURORA'S GENERAL MANAGER, JAMES REINART, sponsored a #AuroraStrong video contest for AHS student athletes. Students submitted videos for their respective sport with the winner receiving a \$500 prize for their sports program. The winner, **MATT SINGLETON** (Cross Country), was chosen by Ganley Chevrolet and received the \$500. Reinart generously added an extra \$250 which was awarded to **SHYANNE SELLERS** (Basketball).

Coach **MIKE RYBA** and **STAFF** went to the **OHSAA STATE WRESTLING DIVISION II TOURNAMENT** and returned with all four wrestlers, **DYLAN FISHBACK** (Ohio Wrestling Champion 195lb), **CODIE CUERBO** (State Runner Up 106lb), and **ANTHONY** and **ROBBIE SAGARIS** as **ALL STATE** athletes (**Bo DiJulius** qualified as State-Alternate) and an overall 6th place finish. What an amazing season for the AHS wrestling program!

Congratulations to AHS Junior, **DYLAN FISHBACK**, who earned the **2021 DIVISION II, 195lb OHSAA STATE OF OHIO WRESTLING CHAMPION** title winning by 15-0 TF and did not give up a single point during the entire tournament. Fishback was also named the **DIVISION II WRESTLER OF THE YEAR**. Fishback became the 10th wrestler in AHS wrestling history to win a State title.



The **4x400 METER GREENMEN RELAY TEAM** of **NOAH HARRISON, AIDEN HENDERSON, RYAN KATORA**, and **MAX MANDERBACH**, set another new school record at the Division I Austintown Regional. The team took 13th place in the **DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS** as well. Congratulations to all.

Gymnasts Hannah Salgado and Kaitlin Zgonc competed at the **DISTRICT GYMNASTICS MEET** on February 27, 2021. AHS freshman **HANNAH SALGADO** moved on to represent the Greenmen at the **STATE GYMNASTICS MEET** in March. Salgado was one of only three freshmen from the Northeast District to advance to the State meet and she was the only freshman to compete on the bars and ended her season with a 10th place finish. Salgado then qualified for the **NATIONAL GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS**.



Hannah Salgado (left) and Kaitlin Zgonc (right)

Purple Star - Continued from p. 1

of Curriculum and Instruction, Paul Milcetic, said, "This recognition has been in process for more than a year and half but was delayed (at AHS) with the onset of COVID-19 and school closures last year. Many practices were already in place that assisted and recognized our military families, but the application process has formalized or highlighted ways in which AHS is military friendly. For example, Mrs. Oberlin is now the official point person who makes sure she is aware of military families district-wide and is able to connect them to each other, as well as available resources, including support from staff at each building. We now have a dedicated portion of the website which lists our local military recruiters, as well as resources to assist military families. These efforts help raise our collective staff awareness. Additionally, we have multiple events and activities meant to celebrate our local military families."

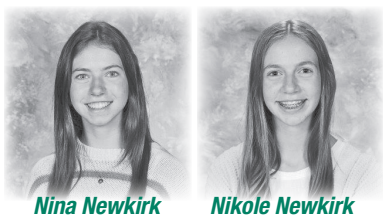
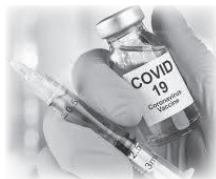
AHS Principal, Mike Hayes, explained, "At Aurora, we've always attempted to celebrate our community's connection to the military. Through events like the Veterans Day Breakfast (and this year, drive-through Luncheon), recognition during athletic events, and the official red/white and blue cords given to graduating seniors enlisting, we're incredibly proud of our community's dedication to service and pride in the armed forces. Furthermore, we currently have 32 families in the military including 16 active, 10 in the reserves and 6 in the National Guard to go along with the various students who enlist each year. The Purple Star designation required an extensive application process including an ongoing point-person at the high school who has gone through Professional Development and will continue to dedicate a portion of our website to military awareness, and ultimately this formally reflects our schools and in turn, our community's national pride and appreciation for our military and our local military families. Moving forward, we now have special Purple Star banners hanging in the AHS gym and cafeteria entrance as well as decals adorning the school's main entrance and cafeteria doors so that all who step foot into the Greenhouse have awareness of our commitment to the military and our military families! Finally, it is easy to talk about all the academic accolades that AHS and the district receive, however, the Purple Star designation is also a great reminder of our commitment to all kids and all families, and we're incredibly proud!"

In a letter from Ohio's Superintendent of Public Instruction, Paolo DeMaria, stated, "Your school and district's dedication to meeting the needs of these students is commendable and much appreciated." He added, "Once again, congratulations for being a Purple Star recipient and for your continuous support of Ohio's military families."

CLASS ACTS

ACSD STAFF MEMBERS were given the first dose of the **COVID-19 VACCINE** on

February 25, 2021 at Streetsboro High School. The second dose was administered again by **GIANT EAGLE PHARMACY** on March 18th at the same location. Thank you very much to the Giant Eagle Pharmacy for the seamless process of providing and administering the vaccines, to the **NORTHEAST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER** for being the liaison and arranging the vaccination clinic and to the **STREETSBORO CITY SCHOOLS** for coordinating and hosting the vaccine clinic for four area school districts. The entire collaboration and administration was very seamless and impressive. A total of 366 Aurora staff members received the vaccine in the allotted 90-minute timeframe.



Nina Newkirk

Nikole Newkirk

NINA and **NIKOLE NEWKIRK** have been awarded a **GOLD MEDAL** for Outstanding Performance on the **NATIONAL GERMAN EXAM HONOR ROLL**. They scored in the 95th and 97th percentile with over 8,000 other students taking the exam. Herzliche Glückwünsche (Congratulations) to Nina and Nikole.

Excellence
in Education

Congratulations to Aurora Schools' **EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION STAFF AWARD WINNERS** (Classified) **LAURIE BERGER** and (Certified) **MELISSA LINDLEY**. This annual award is given to an outstanding employee in each category who was nominated by a colleague and then selected by a committee of their peers.



Laurie Berger

Melissa Lindley

Leighton School teacher's **KAREN SUNDERHAFT** and **RHONDA CHARTIER'S** classes created an innovative and creative business product or service and then created an "elevator pitch" to

the judges at the **ENTREPRENEUR INSTITUTES' PITCH CHALLENGE**. **JACOB BARNHOUSE, KAIYAN NAMPELLY, SOPHIA SANTACREU** and **KOLBI TAYLOR** were selected among the top semi-finalists. Great job!



MCGRUFF THE CRIME DOG helped **SRO MICHELLE ICE** during a spring **ALICE SAFETY DRILL** at Leighton School

The very first **AHS UNDERCLASSMEN AWARDS** were held at AHS on May 13, 2021. Over 60 students were recognized for their outstanding performance throughout the school year as nominated by staff members and one student from each underclass grade was selected as the "Visionary Student of the Year." Congratulations to freshman **OWEN POZNIAK**, sophomore **PETER STOYCOS**, and junior **MYA FROST** who each earned this honor. A special thank you to **JOHN STANSON** and **DYLAN FRANK** who partnered with **COMMUNITY FOCUS** to livestream the event.



Greater Cleveland
Food Bank

Eight students from the **AHS SERVICE LEARNING CLASS** volunteered their time at the **GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK** the week of March 1-5, 2021. Along with 70 other volunteers from other school districts, they organized and packed 1,230 lunches for children in need, sorted 10,560 pounds of donations, packed 900 pounds of snacks and made 960 shelf stable kits (28,800 lbs.). What an amazing effort for such a great cause!



Leighton School Interventionist, **NICOLE ISEMAN'S CLASS**, earned a visit from the **AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT** as

a reward for filling their reward chart for following the rules and expectations.



In case you missed them, please check out the **VIRTUAL CONCERTS** located on the Aurora Schools' website. The **AHS CHOIRS** performed a spring concert entitled, Songs of Light, while the **AHS ORCHESTRA** presented a Concert of Hope. The **AHS BAND** program's spring concert is also available

online. These concerts will continue to be available to view on the district website over the summer months.



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK was celebrated the week of May 3-7, 2021 and the Aurora City School District would like to thank our teachers for the caring, dedication and commitment to Aurora's students that has made us one of the top school districts in the state and recognized nationally for our excellence. We thank you and appreciate all of the countless things that you do to make a difference!

Congratulations to **LIZ VICTOR** who won the **PTO #brandthebookstore** contest to name the AHS Bookstore. A student-wide vote chose Victor's "**Greenhouse Apparel Co.**," and is now the official name of the AHS bookstore. A new logo was then created with a shield representing the protection and cover the AHS analogy "greenhouse" provides.



The delightful characters and wonderful world of Dr. Seuss were celebrated on his birthday on March 2nd at Craddock School.

1st Grader
J. Radcliffe1st Grade Teacher
Courtney Janko and
M. Mehallis

Superintendent — Continued from p. 5

young people in our schools build a solid foundation of academic knowledge, but also nurture a deep sense of purpose and self. Ultimately, these young people will grow and develop the ability to be not merely students, but LEARNERS with a skill set that prepares them to be successful in an ever changing world. In other words, we are striving to develop AURORA LEARNERS who are FUTURE READY.

Have an enjoyable and restful summer,
Mike Roberto

Dated Material

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8 — June 2021

Your Schools

2021 Outstanding Greenmen Awards

Aurora High School has announced the recipients of the Outstanding Greenmen 2021 Award. The AHS staff has chosen twelve deserving seniors to be recognized who are chosen based on their strong Academics, Service/Work, School Participation, Leadership and Character. In turn, the winning students then chose an educator to honor as having had a strong influence on their educational career. AHS Principal, Mike Hayes, said, "Pulling the evening off amidst all the factors impacting in-person events was no small task. However, the committee in charge was able to make it happen allowing our young people, their families as well as our educators, administrators and Board members to take part in the celebration together."

A sincere thank you goes to the entire planning committee which included, **Rob Albrecht, Laurie Berger, Brian Brookhart, Rose Brown, Pam King, Gayle Lewis, and Heidi McKenzie.**



Photo (Left to Right): Aden Ricketts and Victor Ricketts, Ila Kerchenski and Toni Taylor, Kalynn Radzanowski and Josh Rakow, Sam LoGalbo and Brian Wervey, Emmy Fellenstein and Gina Voinovich, Keaton Thieding and Chris Miley, Ashleigh Stern and Jenna Schadle, Kennedy Nietert and Erika Greenberg, Ryleigh Jones and Monika Biro, Ryan Stahl and LaQuita Timberlake, Quincy Bizjak and David Munson, and Paige Haley and Stephanie Duncan



Craddock School



AHS Interact Club

The AHS Interact Club made and delivered over 200 Valentine's Cards to Aurora's Independence Village Nursing Home sending them a little extra love and kindness. Interact Club members also helped to organize a Foster Care to Success event that included labeling and filling FedEx envelopes with handmade scarves and made over 400 Valentine's Day cards that were included in the packages.



Interact Club "Foster Care to Success"