



**SUMMER, 2020**

**AVON COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**7203 East U.S. Highway 36**  
**Avon, IN 46123**  
**www.avon-schools.org**  
**317-544-6000**

## From the Superintendent...



What a unique few months we have had! As my tenure as superintendent begins, I am thankful for many things – teachers who quickly pivoted to an online learning environment, food service staff who served our families during our closure, parents who had to take on the role of teacher with no advance warning, and others who jumped in to help Avon students. I am also grateful to all who have contributed to plans for school reopening on Wednesday, July 29th.

As we prepare to reopen schools, supporting the health and safety of our students and staff will be crucial as there are other exciting opportunities ahead this school year. You have probably seen construction projects at several schools that will be completed for the 2021-22 school year as we accommodate growth and create more equitable elementary schools. This fall we will have a Redistricting Committee with parent representatives to help us determine how school boundaries will change once construction is complete and White Oak Elementary becomes a preschool center in July of 2021.

Academic growth is our goal for students. However, we know students cannot grow academically if they do not feel safe and supported. The events of this summer have highlighted the inequities and racial injustice that exist in our society. I know I have much to learn and I am committed to listening and fostering tough conversations as we better understand others' experiences and perspectives. While we have taken steps to improve, I acknowledge it is not enough and I am committed to our growth as a school district in this area.

I want to hear from you. Please email me at [smwyndham@avon-schools.org](mailto:smwyndham@avon-schools.org) to arrange a phone call or individual/small group meetings. I am honored to live and serve in the Avon community and look forward to working together to make 2020-21 a great school year!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Scott Wyndham, Superintendent

## AHS Valedictorian and Salutatorian



The Avon Board of School Trustees presented a Commendation to AHS Valedictorian Gideon Thomas. He achieved a 5.499 GPA and will attend Purdue University. The Board also presented a Commendation to AHS Salutatorian Jui Desai. She achieved a 5.468 GPA and plans to attend the University of Chicago. Congratulations and best wishes, Gideon and Jui!



**Congrats**  
**2020**  
**Class of 20**

## AHS 2020 Commencement

Avon High School's 2020 Commencement will be held in a traditional format on Friday, July 10th at 8 p.m. at AHS's Andy Mohr Athletic Complex/Hendricks Regional Health Stadium. The graduation will be live streamed. Seating will be limited in compliance with social distancing guidelines. (Rain date is July 11th.)



# AHS Students Recognized as Outstanding Seniors



Four Avon High School students earned special recognition from the Area 31 Career Center. Hannah Baines (TV Broadcasting); Drew Burdett (Work-Based Learning); Sally Fox (Culinary Arts); and Nikki Rasband (Auto Service [Award for Excellence winner]) were named Area 31 Outstanding Seniors.

# AHS Principal and Assistant Principal Recognized by Indiana Association of School Principals



# Two AHS Students Win National Merit Scholarships



The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced that AHS Students Ethan Maharas and Connor O'Neill were among 3,300 winners from across the country. They will each receive awards between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study. Ethan will attend Villanova University to study civil engineering and Connor will attend Purdue University to study engineering.



# ACSC Retirees

Congratulations to our 2019-20 retirees!  
Thank you for your selfless and dedicated service to ACSC students and families. We will miss you!

- Jackie Berkley, Benefits Coordinator, 16 years of service
- Gina Blank, Pine Tree Food Service, 17 years of service
- Nancy Eades, AMS South Treasurer, 27 years of service
- Beth Fox, Hickory P.E. Teacher, 31 years of service
- Maria Fuentez, AHS Custodian, 21 years of service
- Kelly Gamble, AHS P.E. & Health Teacher, 30 years of service
- Steve Gatons, AHS Math Teacher, 33 years of service
- Ricky Groce, Bus Driver, 10 years of service
- Pam Haines, AMS North Intervention Assistant, 20 years of service
- Shelly Harlow, Hickory Custodian, 16 years of service
- Ralph Hartnagel, AHS Business Tech Teacher, 36 years of service
- Bill Heiss, AHS Head Custodian, 33 years of service
- Kathy Hoalt, White Oak Media Assistant, 24 years of service
- Dr. Maggie Hoernemann, Superintendent, 20 years of service
- Cathy Mattozzi, Maple Secretary, 22 years of service
- David Murphy, AMS South Industrial Tech Teacher, 34 years of service
- Peg Murphy, Director of Special Education, 14 years of service
- Patsy Quear, AHS Custodian, 23 years of service
- Joleen Roeser, Assistant Benefits Coordinator, 11 years of service
- Lori Rosemeyer, AIS West 6th Grade Teacher, 38 years of service
- Robin Simpson, Bus Driver, 13 years of service
- Diana Summers, Bus Driver, 16 years of service
- Joyce Taylor, AHS Custodian, 20 years of service
- Laura Titus, AIS East 6th Grade Teacher, 32 years of service
- Stacy Williams, AHS Social Studies Teacher, 33 years of service
- Danny Williams, AIS East Custodian, 21 years of service
- Earline Wood, AMS North Custodian, 17 years of service
- Victor Worman, AHS Custodian, 11 years of service

## Meet the New Director of Special Education



The ACSC Board named Susie Hurt as the Director of Special Education for Avon Community School Corporation effective July 1, 2020 to replace retiring Director Peg Murphy. Mrs. Hurt comes to ACSC from Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation where she spent the last nine years—most recently serving as the Director of Special Education. Mrs. Hurt has an undergraduate degree from Indiana University and a Master's degree in Special Education from Loyola University.

## Referendum Progress Report Update

ACSC is committed to transparency with the funds generated from the 2018 Referendum. You can find the Referendum Progress Report on our website at [www.avon-schools.org](http://www.avon-schools.org).

## Cost Savings Corner

ACSC is Committed to “Dollars to the Classroom”

- Since 2009, ACSC has ....
  - 1,660 more students
  - 3 fewer administrators
- Since 2011, ACSC has 146 more teachers as a result of improved state funding and the referendum.
- In 2018-2019, only 9% of ACSC's personnel expenses support administrative salary/benefits and this has decreased from the previous 2 years.
- ACSC is efficient at managing healthcare costs - our costs are 79% of the State's costs for healthcare coverage.
- Approximately 87% of Education Fund revenue directly supports the instruction of ACSC students as defined by current Indiana law.

## ISBA Exemplary Governance Award Goes to ACSC Board



*Pictured (l-r): Anita D. Overton, Member; Gregory J. Dana, Member; Cynthia L. Simmons, Secretary; Kimberly L. Woodward, Vice President; and Anne L. Engelhardt, President.)*

The Avon Board of School Trustees received the 2019 Indiana School Board Association's Exemplary Governance Award. Only three school boards in Indiana were recognized as “Distinguished.” The Exemplary Governance Award is bestowed to school boards that have shown extensive dedication to professional development through commitment to students, school corporation and community as a result of outstanding leadership and excellence in school board governance.

## Construction Update



There are several construction projects occurring on our campuses. Back in January 2019, the ACSC Board of School Trustees began discussions about renovation projects at several schools. These discussions culminated in two community presentations in which a plan was presented addressing elementary programming and district facilities. The major goals of this plan were to:

- Address long-term facility needs
- Support current enrollment and allow capacity for future growth without the construction of a new school
- Provide equitable programs across K-4 schools
- Provide long-term, high-quality program for preschool
- Meet ACSC facility needs with no increase to the taxpayer

As a result of this plan, beginning with the 2021-22 school year, White Oak will become a centralized preschool. Elementary school boundaries will be re-adjusted as ACSC transitions to six more equitably-sized elementary schools when school starts in July 2021.

To learn more about these projects, please visit [www.avon-schools.org](http://www.avon-schools.org).



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## A Note from ACSC Police Chief



The day I dropped my son off for his first day of kindergarten, it hit me like a punch in the gut. Yes, my baby was growing up. Yes, kids can sometimes be difficult. Yes, he will face new challenges academically. That wasn't my main concern. I realized this was the first time someone outside my family was responsible for the safety of my child. That was a sobering reality.

Being a School Resource Officer since 2012, I have taken that responsibility seriously to protect the thousands of young lives coming into our schools every day. Now, more than ever, the need for carefully-selected, specially-trained officers to work with our kids is evident. It is with great excitement that for the first time ever Avon Community School Corporation will kick off the 2020-21 school year with our very own police department. We are employing officers who embody exactly what you want in guardians of our community's most precious commodity – children.

The ACSC Police Department will have a team of School Resource Officers who were selected through a vigorous hiring process and have been specially trained to work with students. Our SROs have been extensively trained in cultural competence, de-escalation, mental health crisis intervention, adolescent brain development, childhood trauma, school law and much more. We are incredibly excited to begin the school year working to bridge the gap between our diverse community and the honorable profession of law enforcement. If we can serve you in any particular way, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Respectfully,

Chase Lyday, Chief of Police, Avon Schools Police Department



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