



# ORIOLE UPDATE

WINTER 2022



Aerial photo courtesy of the Town of Avon. Pins do not represent actual development locations.

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## Let's Get Ready to Grow!

From the Superintendent



The start of a new year is a good time to reflect on what has been accomplished over the last two very challenging years.

While many of us had hoped this school year would be a return to

'normal', we find ourselves navigating our third school year in a pandemic. Yet, our staff and students have continued to achieve and accomplish so much – in incredibly trying times. As we prepare for the remainder of 2022, acknowledging that there may be unknowns that lie ahead, I know we are up to the challenge in Avon Schools.

We live in a thriving community, one to which people are seeking to relocate. In the months to come, our continued efforts to increase our capacity to serve additional students and families will remain a primary focus.

Our enrollment is nearing 10,500 students, and it is predicted to reach 12,000 students in the next decade. We're planning major school expansion and renovation projects at no additional cost to taxpayers (see inside for more information). We

are also watching current and pending residential developments in Avon and Washington Township.

According to data from local government records and conversations with real estate developers, multiple developments either under construction or approved for construction will result in hundreds of additional housing units. That's impressive, but that's not all. If approved, three more developments would add hundreds more.

What does that mean for Avon Schools?

It means we must make room for more: more students, more educators, and more space in which to support 21st century learners. Thanks to smart financial planning, dedicated educators, and a supportive community, we are poised to embrace growth's challenges and opportunities.

This is an exciting time for our community. Let's get ready to grow!

Sincerely,

Scott Wyndham, Ed.D., Superintendent  
smwyndham@avon-schools.org



2021  
NATIONAL ESEA  
DISTINGUISHED  
SCHOOL

## Our National Distinguished School

Pine Tree Elementary recognized for closing achievement gap

Pine Tree Elementary School has earned the prestigious distinction of being named a National Title I Distinguished School for its success in closing the achievement gap between student groups for two or more consecutive years.

Pine Tree is one of two Indiana schools chosen for this honor.

Karie Mize, long-time Pine Tree Principal, transitioned into the Principal role in ACSC's newly opened White Oak Early Learning Center last summer. "We celebrate all who were involved in earning this honor," said Mize. Noting professional-development efforts and a staff-wide commitment to building a more culturally responsive culture, Mize said, "As we continued our journey, we observed the change in ourselves and in our teaching. Subsequently, we observed the learning gap closing."

The success of our students was a direct reflection of a significant change in adult priorities over the last three years," said Karmesha Molton, Assistant Principal at ACSC's Sycamore Elementary as of last summer. She was formerly Instructional

Coach at Pine Tree. "Our staff committed to studying culturally responsive teaching strategies. During a traumatic, divisive time, we were united to keep one another safe, healthy, and learning, and—most importantly—to ensure that everyone knew they had a significant role to play in our success."

The Indiana Department of Education selected Pine Tree for this honor. "Pine Tree Elementary School is one of up to 100 schools throughout the country that is being nationally recognized for exceptional student achievement in 2021," said Indiana Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner. She continued, by sharing that the purpose of the program is "to highlight selected schools that have successfully used their ESEA federal funds to improve the education for all students—including economically disadvantaged students."

We are extremely proud of Pine Tree's incredible students, educators, and staff for this outstanding achievement.

Learn more at [pinetree.avon-schools.org](http://pinetree.avon-schools.org).

**"Our mission in Avon Schools is 'all belong, learn, and grow'. This award is an affirmation of the results we can achieve when we work together to help all students succeed."**

**MICHAEL SULLIVAN, ED.D.**  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

## Project Updates

**AHS, Pine Tree renovation and expansion nearing launch**

To accommodate rapidly growing student enrollment, the Avon Board of School Trustees has approved expansion and renovation projects at Pine Tree Elementary and Avon High School. The Pine Tree project will result in additional classrooms and critical updates that will prepare the facility for years of additional service. The AHS project will add classrooms, update aging systems, improve traffic flow in and around the school, and expand cramped spaces.

Learn more about these projects and how they will be completed at no additional cost to taxpayers by visiting [pinetree.avon-schools.org](http://pinetree.avon-schools.org) and [ahs.avon-schools.org](http://ahs.avon-schools.org).

# Avon's Outstanding Performing Arts Program

Avon Schools have long been recognized as a hotbed for performing arts excellence. This fall, the program achieved multiple honors. We are extremely proud of the performers and all the adults who support their success year after year.



## AMBG on the state and national stage once again

The Avon Marching Black and Gold brought home their 15th Indiana State Championship. They followed that up with a 3rd-place finish at the Bands of America Grand Nationals, their 14th podium finish in the last 15 years. (They only missed the podium in 2020 because COVID canceled the competition.) Congratulations to all our incredible performers, directors, families, and boosters for another outstanding season.



## Middle school musicians earn prestigious invitation

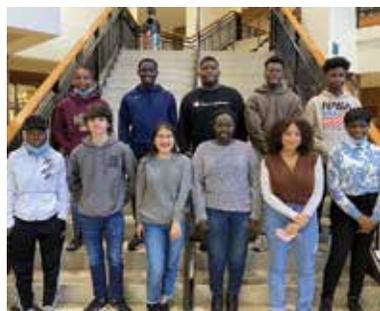
Three Avon Middle School South students were invited to participate in the 2022 Junior High All-State Orchestra. Quinn Murray (grade 7, cello), Gwen Parsons (grade 7, viola), and Malak Marzak (grade 8, viola) will have the opportunity to rehearse alongside talented students from across the state of Indiana while learning from the prestigious professional musicians and conductors who will be volunteering to conduct the orchestra.



## AHS Chamber Orchestra receives statehouse honor

The Avon High School Chamber Orchestra has received an invitation to perform on February 14 at the Indiana Statehouse for 2022 Arts Education Day. During the ceremony, the Chamber Orchestra will receive special recognition for winning the prestigious 2021 Heart of the Arts Award. This ensemble earned this award for their summer 2020 Patio Recital series of concerts performed for Avon hospice patients.

## Academic Spotlight



### College Board National African American & Hispanic Scholars

Twelve AHS students were selected as College Board program awardees. African American scholars are Daniel Alonge, Aderinsola Adeleke, Faith Kipkulei, Emmanuel Gichaba, Hiqmah Mustapha, Anthony Frazier, Lauren Fitch, Mya Doyle (not pictured), Jaelyn Truitt, and Tyler Body. Hispanic scholars are Anthony Lee and Sonia Aleman Villegas.

### 2022 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar

AHS senior Summer Adkins is one of three Hendricks County seniors who were awarded Lilly Endowment Scholarships. Adkins, who plans to major in Entrepreneurship and Innovation as well as Marketing with a minor in Communication at Butler University, won this prestigious scholarship based on her enthusiasm, attitude, commitment to education, and community service.

### Indiana Association of School Principals Class of '23 Rising Stars

Four Avon High School juniors have been named Rising Stars of Indiana for the 2021-22 school year. Congratulations to Jasmine Diallo, Josh Heitert, Katherine Langford, and Roshan Patel. This program is sponsored by the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP) and was launched with the mission of honoring high school juniors for their academic achievement.



## New & Notable



The Westside Secondary Transition Council's 2022 Transition Fair takes place on Tuesday, March 1, at the AHS Advanced Learning Center. This event is for students with disabilities and their families.



Avon Schools has been invited to participate beginning this spring in a national school safety pilot program called Project Unite. We will strengthen our efforts and the data we gather will inform the national rollout.



Avon High School English Teacher Hayley Hatchett recently became a National Board-Certified Teacher through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This is the most respected certification available to primary and secondary educators.



Dr. Wyndham recently earned recognition as a Superintendent to Watch due to his innovative and effective use of technology to engage and inform the school community. This award is given annually by the National School Public Relations Association.

Learn more at [avon-schools.org/experience-avon](http://avon-schools.org/experience-avon).



**AVON** COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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**ALL**  
belong · learn · grow  
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## Let's Build a Brighter Future Together

Meet a couple of the hundreds of Avon Schools employees who are building a brighter future by investing in our students. If you'd like to join them, visit [avon-schools.org/hr](http://avon-schools.org/hr) to explore openings and apply.



**Jane McCrocklin**  
FOOD SERVICES

"I knew I wanted a job with flexibility to work around my children's school schedules, so I applied for a job in Avon Schools Food Services in August, 2001. I started working at the Avon High School cafeteria and transitioned to Avon Intermediate School West in 2005. I'm still here! This job has been the best job ever. The staff and students are so friendly. It gave me the flexibility to work and be at home with my children and, now, my grandchildren. If anyone wants a part-time job with flexibility to work around their children's or grandchildren's schedule, come to work at Avon Schools."

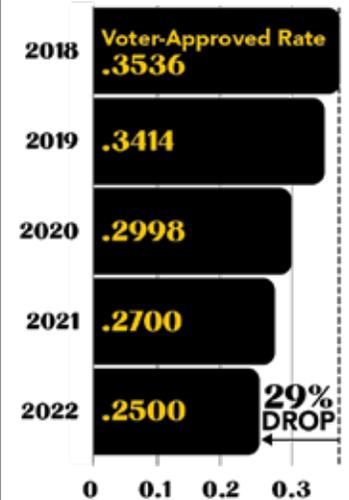


**Daniel Starr**  
TRANSPORTATION

"I'm considered self-employed – I'm a minister – and my church doesn't provide benefits. We'd always relied on my wife's job for that. So when she began working part-time, we really struggled to afford decent health insurance. I saw a banner that said, 'Would bus driving fit your schedule?' and it did, so I applied. That was two years ago. In Avon Schools, I get to be part of a team dedicated to doing what's best for students. When you feel that way, it's a lot easier to get up and come to work each morning. I'm also so impressed and encouraged by students. There's a lot of goodness radiating out of almost all the young people I'm around."

## Tax Rate Falls Again

We are proud to have been successful in addressing our 2018 referendum priorities while lowering the approved tax rate by a total of 29%.



Visit [avon-schools.org/tax](http://avon-schools.org/tax) to learn more about the success of the 2018 referendum.

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