

# ORIGLEUPDATE

FALL 2022



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## Celebrating Academic Achievement

From the Superintendent



Our mission is to help all students belong, learn, and grow. We accomplish this through a wide variety of extra-curricular activities, STEM experiences from kindergarten through graduation, dedicated educators who are committed to student success, and strong social and emotional supports to help students feel safe and engaged. All these experiences are important, but ultimately Avon Schools is accountable to help students succeed academically.

I recently had the privilege of reporting several statistics to our educators from the spring:

- All of our schools achieved 'High Growth' and 'High Achievement' on NWEA scores.
- Our statewide rank for the percentage of students passing both English/Language Arts and Math on the ISTEP/ILEARN assessments has climbed from 55th when the referendum passed in 2018 to 26th.
- Avon High School is tied for 1st place in Hendricks County in the percentage of students passing both Evidence-based Reading and Writing and Math on the SAT.

I am proud of our students, educators, and

administrators for working together to realize such encouraging gains. We're going to keep going!

What makes these achievements even more incredible is that they are occurring as we are becoming one of the most socially, economically, and culturally diverse districts in central Indiana. One-third of our students are economically disadvantaged and receive additional supports. Even more remarkable, approximately 11% of our students are multilingual learners. They are succeeding academically while learning in their second or third language. For comparison, that is several percentage points higher — and several hundred students more — than the next most diverse school district in our county.

In Avon, we are hard at work helping all students belong, learn, and grow, and we're grateful for our supportive community.

Sincerely,

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

**PS - Be sure to look on page 2 to meet several of the educators and support staff who are helping to make these achievements possible.**

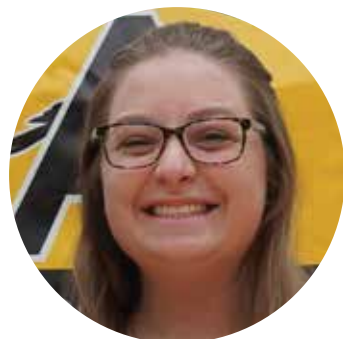
# Staff in the Spotlight

We are proud of the 1,500 women and men who choose to work in Avon Schools. We are inspired by their dedication and commitment to our 10,600 students and to one another.

Several employees have recently received special recognition for the difference they are making in Avon and for their contributions across the state and nation. **Congratulations, Sara, Carol, Chase, and Krista!**

## Sara Randall

2022 Avon Teacher of the Year



River Birch Elementary Speech Language Pathologist Sara Randall is Avon's 2022 Teacher of the Year and the first Speech-Language Pathologist to earn that honor in Avon Schools.

"My heart has forever and always been for kids, specifically helping them with speech and language therapy," said Sara. "I'm very excited and proud. To be able to represent our incredible speech pathologists is an honor."

"Sara will do whatever it takes to find success for kids and their families within her speech therapy caseload," said River Birch Elementary Principal Heather Gorgas. "She is 'all in' for her students, their families, our staff, and our whole community. This is a well-deserved recognition."

## Chase Lyday

2022 NASRO Instructor of the Year



In addition to serving as Chief of Avon School Police Department, Chase Lyday is an Instructor, Region 5 Director, and Training Committee Chair for the National Association of School Resource

Officers (NASRO). In the latter role, he works to equip and empower school resource officers across Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri.

Chase was selected as the 2022 NASRO Instructor of the Year for going above and beyond in his duties to NASRO, creating safer school environments for children, educators, and communities across the nation.

"I love developing leaders and maximizing the skills and output of a team," said Lyday. "Having an influence and doing good in the world is my motivation."

## Carol Ayler

2022 Avon Support Staff of the Year



Avon High School Principal's Secretary Carol Ayler is Avon's 2022 Support Staff of the Year honoree.

"Carol is top of the list," says AHS Principal Matt Shockley. "Our school

would not function on a daily basis without her." Mr. Shockley referred to Carol's heart for serving, deep knowledge of all things AHS, and willingness to jump in to assist whenever and wherever she's needed.

When asked why she chooses Avon High School, Carol says, "I love the atmosphere at AHS. I love working for Matt Shockley; I can't think of anybody better to work for than him. ... It's a joy to come to work at Avon High School every day."

## Krista Fay

2022 ISSWA Indiana School Social Worker of the Year



The Indiana School Social Work Association named School Counseling and Mental Wellness Coordinator Krista Fay as Indiana's 2022 School Social Worker of the Year.

"I am going to treasure this," said Krista when she was notified of the award. "I'm just so proud of the work our social workers and counselors are doing to support Avon's students, staff, families, and our community."

Krista has made significant contributions to Avon Schools since joining the team just a few years ago. The team of professionals she leads has played a pivotal role in helping Avon students succeed, and Avon's program has grown under her leadership to be a model for Indiana school corporations.

# Never Miss an Update

Act today for Avon news your way

Would you like to remain up to date about the good things happening in and around Avon Community School Corporation? Here are two of the best ways to do so.



Listen to the Orioles In-The-Know podcast

Twice a month, Dr. Wyndham has a conversation with guests – students, teachers, administrators, and community leaders – about a wide range of exciting and informative topics.

Stream recent episodes at [avon-schools.org/podcast](https://avon-schools.org/podcast) or subscribe wherever you get your podcasts.



Subscribe to the Oriole Blast e-newsletter

Every-other Thursday during the school year, we send a convenient and informative email to thousands of inboxes across the community. This newsletter contains student spotlights, teacher features, news, updates, community events, and much more.

Subscribe to Oriole Blast at [avon-schools.org/blast](https://avon-schools.org/blast).





## Strategic Growth

As the population of the Town of Avon and Washington Township have grown, student enrollment in Avon Schools has grown, too.

Have you wondered about questions like these?

- When was a specific school opened?
- How does the Board of School Trustees decide when and how to build?
- Why are there so many temporary classrooms around the district?
- Why do we expand existing schools rather than building new?
- Do we use Referendum funds to build? (No!)
- How does this affect my taxes? (No increase!)

**If so, look back at the story of sustainable, strategic growth in Avon Schools or ahead into the future to see how district leaders are charting a course for continued growth at [avon-schools.org/growth](https://avon-schools.org/growth).**

## Making Room for More at AHS

### Renovation & Expansion Phase 1 Receives Green Light

The Avon Board of School Trustees greenlit the first phase of the AHS Renovation and Expansion project at their August 8 meeting.

For months, architects have been planning and gathering feedback from students, staff, and the community. The insight has been valuable in guiding the process. The first phase, which will largely be confined to the east side of the building, is underway.

Despite lengthy lead times for ordering steel, labor conditions, and inflation, architects are confident this project phase will be complete in time for the start of the 2023-24 school year.

The addition will house Avon's OASIS program on the first floor. This self-contained special education program provides opportunities for students who benefit from smaller class sizes and more focused attention.

The second floor of the addition will house four Art and Science labs as well as collaboration space for students and educators.

**To learn more about the AHS project, which will be completed with no increase to taxpayers and with no Referendum funds, visit [ahs.avon-schools.org/more](https://ahs.avon-schools.org/more).**



## Student Makes 'Sweet' Donation

### AIS West student turns lemons – plus sugar and water – into generous donation

Parker, a student at Avon Intermediate School West, is doing more than simply going through the paces in the classroom. He's making giant strides as a human being. According to his mom, Amanda, he's a young man with initiative. He also makes a fantastic glass of lemonade!

Parker recently set up a lemonade stand in his neighborhood and proceeded to earn quite a bit of money. Instead of using the revenue for himself, he went grocery shopping and donated a cart full of non-perishable food items to the Mary Lee Maier Food Pantry.

"Our children are amazing," exclaims AIS West Principal Amber Walters. "[Parker is] shining a bright light in our community and leading by example."

"Although it isn't a perfect indicator of the need that exists in our community, roughly 33% of Avon students qualify for free/reduced price school meals," says Food Service Administrator Emily Cates. "I'm grateful for the role the Mary Lee Maier Community Pantry plays in making sure none of our students or their families need to go hungry." The pantry, which operates out of AIS East on Thursday evenings, supports hundreds of Avon students and their families who struggle to find reliable access to healthy food.

**If you'd like to follow Parker's example, learn more at [avon-schools.org/pantry](https://avon-schools.org/pantry).**



**AVON** COMMUNITY  
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## Your Golden Ticket to Avon Schools Events

Free access for Avon-Washington Township Residents age 65+

There are so many exciting events that take place in and around Avon Schools, most of which are open to the public. From football games to theater, from band competitions to tennis matches, and from orchestra concerts to swim meets, there's always something to attend.

**Avon-Washington Township residents who are age 65 or older can attend for free with the Avon Gold Card.**

The Avon Gold Card is a great idea for people who:

- have grandkids who participate in school arts or athletics,
- are AHS alumni who still enjoy seeing the Orioles in action, or
- who just want to enjoy a night out at a performance, concert, or play.

The Gold Card provides free admission to home athletic competitions and performing arts events at all 12 Avon schools. For admission to athletic events, Gold Card holders simply need to show their card at the gate. Card holders should call ahead when planning to attend performing arts events so event organizers can reserve seats and set aside tickets at will call.

Gold Card holders do not get free admission to away sporting events or to postseason tournaments hosted by the IHSAA. Standard admission rates apply.

If you would like to get a Gold Card, call the Avon Schools Administration Center at (317) 544-6000 or stop in during business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.



**Martha Thompson**  
Gold Card Holder

***"We have four grandkids in the Avon Community School Corporation. A friend recently told me about the program so I stopped in and got the Gold Card right away. I have already used it. It is a great way to participate with them in their interests. I can show my support by being present. Thank you for this opportunity!"***

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