



**From the Desk of Superintendent Grimes:**

**A Season of Gratitude at Avenue City**

As we approach Thanksgiving, it is a fitting time to reflect on all that we are grateful for within our Avenue City community. This year has been one of remarkable accomplishments, resilience, and generosity—a true testament to the strength of our students, staff, and supporters like you.

This past spring, our students achieved extraordinary results on the 2024 assessment scores, with scores soaring above state averages by an average of 35 percentage points in English Language Arts (ELA), 31 points in Mathematics, and an impressive 34 points in Science. These achievements, reached even in the midst of an active construction project on campus, showcase not only the academic dedication of our students but also the unwavering support and guidance of our staff. For this, we give thanks.

Yet our mission at Avenue City goes beyond academics, as we strive to instill in our students a commitment to community and gratitude. This season, our students demonstrated the spirit of giving through several outreach projects. With the Food Fight Canned Food Drive, they gathered donations to support local families in need—a powerful act of kindness that reflects the true essence of Thanksgiving. Through the leadership of our Student Council, they extended their compassion globally with Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Outreach, filling shoeboxes with gifts and essentials for children around the world. They also raised funds for school technology through Red Wheel Sales, balancing their efforts with academic and extracurricular pursuits.

In addition, we have celebrated key events that emphasize the values of appreciation and kindness. On Veteran’s Day, our school came together to honor the service and sacrifices of our veterans with a school-wide assembly. Our preschool students served lemonade to the entire student body, adding a touch of sweetness to our academic day. We also observed World Kindness Day, encouraging everyone in our school to perform acts of kindness, big and small, to foster a community of empathy and compassion.

These activities highlight our commitment to nurturing students who understand the importance of both achievement and giving back. As we celebrate these accomplishments and the values they represent, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to our patrons, families, and staff. Your support empowers our students to thrive academically and grow into compassionate, community-minded individuals.

Thank you for being part of our Avenue City family, and we wish you a Thanksgiving filled with gratitude, joy, and the warmth of community.







## School Board Candidate Filing Opens in December

It's time to prepare for the April school board election. Candidate filing begins December 10, 2024.

- There are two seats up for election for a three year term.
- The first day of filing begins Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.
- Filing will continue during the district's regular business hours, which are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Filing will not occur during winter break, beginning December 23<sup>rd</sup> through December 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The closing date for filing is December 31, 2024. On that day, filing will be open from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Filing will not occur on days that school is not in session due to inclement weather.
- Candidates may call 816-662-2305 or email [hhuff@avenuecityschool.org](mailto:hhuff@avenuecityschool.org) to inquire if the office is open.

The district will provide each candidate a copy of a summary of campaign laws provided by the Missouri Ethics Commission and written notice of the candidate's obligation to file a personal financial disclosure statement.

### **Information on the School Board Organization**

The qualified voters of the School District shall annually on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of April, elect two directors for terms of three years, except, effective for Board elections beginning in April of 1993, and each three years thereafter, when three directors shall be elected in compliance with regulations specified in state law.

An election shall not be held if the number of candidates who have filed for the Board is equal to the number of positions available.

### **Qualified Voters in the School District**

An individual must be a registered voter in order to vote in a school election. In order to vote, a person must be eighteen (18) years of age or older, must be a citizen of the United States, and must reside in the School District thirty (30) days.

### **Candidate Qualification - Method of Filing**

Qualified applicants for the Board may file for office beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the Superintendent's office commencing on the seventeenth (17th) Tuesday prior to the election and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the fourteenth (14th) Tuesday before the election. The candidate shall declare his/her intent to become a candidate, in person and in writing to the secretary of the Board of Education. The names of qualified candidates shall be placed on the ballot in the order of filing. The notice of election and certification of candidates must be submitted to the county clerk by the tenth Tuesday prior to the election. Candidates must comply with all of the prevailing laws concerning eligibility and campaign financing.

Candidates must be citizens of the United States and resident taxpayers of the District, reside in his/her state for one year preceding their election or appointment, and be at least twenty-four (24) years of age. Each newly elected or appointed director shall qualify and take his/her oath of office in the manner prescribed by law and according to Policy 0330 - Oath of Office.





## AVENUE CITY ACTION

### **Board of Education Meeting Highlights**

A brief description of the highlights of the board meetings from August 2024 to October 2024 is listed below. The minutes of each board meeting is posted on the school webpage under **Board Meeting Information**.

August 13, 2024

- Tax Rate Hearing
- Recommended Tax Rates for 2024-2025
- Construction Update
- District Annual Goals
- Approval of Substitute List for 2024-2025
- Adopt Regulation 5410
- Approval of Repair of Sidewalk
- Extend Additional Cement Playground Area
- Gym Floor Covering
- Create Teaching Position

September 12, 2024

- Review of Program Evaluations for 1) Facilities and Safety and 2) Transportation
- Construction Update
- Gathering Information for Sound System and Technology for Gym
- Addition to the Substitute List

October 10, 2024

- Post Policies and Regulations for Review
- Motion to Approve the Proclamation of Red Ribbon Week
- Addition to the Substitute List
- Approval for Snow Removal
- Review of 2024 Test Results and Approval of 2025 Assessment Plan
- Construction Update
- Approve Bids for Audio Visual Gymnasium System
- Approval of Revision of 2023-2024 Budget

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 2024.

### **K/1 Book Club**



K/1 Book Club is off to a spooky start this year with 24 students listening to the story of *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything* for our October meeting. In the book the little old lady encounters some scary items. Our students acted out the story with props, sounds, and actions. They made a scarecrow craft and practiced listening to directions and worked on fine motor skills. We are excited to see what fun we can have at our next meeting in November.

### **Red Wheel Fundraiser**

Thank you for all of your support for our technology fundraiser this year. We had a great sale. So far, we have been able to purchase scoring tablets for the archery team and several new audiobooks for the library. We are looking into other technology upgrades at this time for the gym and classrooms. Stay tuned for more information! Your help is greatly appreciated!





## AVENUE CITY ACTION

### ACES High Flyers

We are excited to continue the second year of our "ACES High Flyers" program. This program aims to encourage positive student character traits and recognize those going above and beyond in exhibiting those traits. Each month we award one student in grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Students receive a special "high flyer" sign in their yard for the following month, a certificate and a treat from Mr. Holcumbrink. From responsibility to integrity and respect, we strive to foster good character in all of our students.



### Play: The Secret to Learning and Growth: Parents as Teachers: Sara Hare

Your child's playful moments are more than just fun and games. Behind the laughter and silliness lies a world of learning and development. Every messy, noisy, or repetitive play session is an opportunity for your child to explore, experiment, and grow.

You are your child's first and most influential teacher. But your baby wasn't born with a manual! **Parents as Teachers** is here to **inform, support, and encourage** parents like you.

We focus on three key areas:

1. **Parent-Child Interaction:** Discover engaging activities that help you observe and support your child's development.
2. **Development-Centered Parenting:** Learn how to understand your child's behavior and development, from nutrition and discipline to sleep routines and problem-solving.
3. **Family Well-Being:** Explore strategies to build a healthy and nurturing environment for your entire family.

*Contact me if you have a child birth to kindergarten age and want more information. I would love to meet you and your child.*

*[share@avenuecityschool.org](mailto:share@avenuecityschool.org)*





### **Red Ribbon Week – Drug Prevention**

During the week of October 28th– November 1st, 2024, we celebrated Red Ribbon Week at Avenue City School. Red Ribbon Week is a national effort in which schools and organizations raise awareness in the community about drug abuse. By wearing a red ribbon during the week, we were promoting healthy drug-free living.

Red Ribbon Week is dedicated to Federal drug enforcement agent Enrique Camarena, who in 1985 was killed by drug traffickers in Mexico. In response to his death, his close friends started what was then called, Camarena clubs. The movement spread to a national level and now we have what is called, Red Ribbon Week.

Red Ribbon Week is celebrated by over 100,000 schools and organizations nationwide, making it the most successful drug prevention event ever held and our school will join in on the celebration. Each day throughout the week, children and staff supported the red ribbon initiative through various activities and theme days. We developed age-appropriate activities that were implemented throughout the week to promote a commitment on the part of everyone to a drug-free, alcohol-free, violence-free and smoke-free community. We hope that you will show your support for this initiative by reinforcing with your child/children the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and helping them to say NO to drugs and YES to healthy living!

Thank you for taking the time to talk to your child about what they are learning in school.  
Mrs. Williams, School Counselor



### **ACES Upper Grades Book Clubs**

We started the year off by writing spooky stories. At our October meeting we shared these around a campfire and had s'mores! Fourth and fifth grade students are now studying how chocolate is made and will visit Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in December to learn about how chocolate is turned into different treats. The middle school group is starting a book study of A World Below, by Wesley King.

### **ACES Academic Teams**

Practice has started for our ACES Academic Teams. Our 4th and 5th grade teams will play on Thursdays, January through mid-March. The 6th grade team will have matches on Tuesdays in February. The 7th/8th grade team will compete on Tuesdays in January. We are looking forward to an exciting season! Please see the calendar on the school website for times and locations of the meets. All teams are coached by Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Zvolanek.

### **Professional Development News at Avenue City**

As professional development is always a key component to effective teaching, learning, and implementing, the staff at Avenue City has had a busy first quarter. We have been looking at the state mandated requirements that have been implemented through our educational state department in order to best choose our next path in our math curriculum. As a group, we will be looking at several math series curriculum and will work together to determine which curriculum best fit our needs and wants. We have also been learning through staff presentations about several workshops that have been attended. This includes topics in the areas of Reading Strategies Across the Content, American School Counselor Conference, Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom, Leadership Training Network, and LETRS Training. We look forward to the second semester as we continue our quest to complete our science curriculum updates and look toward upcoming opportunities.



**PTO NEWS:**

The PTO Executive team would like to thank our members and ACES families for all of their support so far this year. We want to extend a big thank you to all those who volunteered at the Trunk or Treat and our annual Chili Supper. Thank you to those that attended both events to make it a success. Your time, donations, and support are greatly appreciated.

Our upcoming meetings and events include:

- 11/19/24 5:00-8:00 PM Culver’s Night
- 12/05/24 6:00 PM PTO Meeting & AR Craft Night
- 2/4/25 3:30 PM PTO Meeting
- 2/11/25 5:00-8:00 PM Culver’s Night
- 2/15/25 7:00 AM-12:00 PM Pancake Breakfast
- 4/8/25 3:30 PM PTO Meeting
- 4/8/25 5:00-8:00 PM Culver’s Night



The annual Spring Fling is in the works. Be on the lookout for a meeting to help plan and brainstorm ideas.

Make sure you follow our Facebook page at *Avenue City Elementary – PTO* for updates, reminders, and fun things that are going on in the school.

Thank you for the continued support you provide to the PTO. Because of the support, the funds will provide field trip assistance, playground equipment, monthly teacher appreciation events, and classroom supplies to better the working environment for our students and staff.

Please reach out to anyone on the executive committee if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you,  
 ACES PTO Executive Committee  
 Rachel Paulman, President  
 Kim Esley, Vice President  
 Taryn Smith, Treasurer  
 Metchel Rosmolen, Secretary





## AVENUE CITY ACTION

### **ACES Archery: Year 2 A Force to Be Reckoned With**



The ACES Archery team, composed of 26 dedicated student-athletes ranging from 4th to 8th grade, has made significant strides in the world of archery. With a focus on inclusivity and skill development, the team fosters a supportive environment for all participants.

Last year, the team achieved remarkable success, with one athlete qualifying for the state tournament and securing a top-ten finish. This impressive accomplishment also earned them a spot at the national tournament, showcasing their exceptional talent and dedication.

Archery practices start on November 18th and will continue until March 2025. ACES Archery will also host 3 home tournaments this year: December 14, January 18, and February 1. We hope to see you come support your student athletes.

NASP Archery is a national program that promotes archery safety, education, and competition. The ACES Archery team embraces this mission, teaching valuable life skills such as focus, discipline, and perseverance. By creating an all-inclusive team, they ensure that every student, regardless of experience or ability, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and excel.

### **Spanish Club**



¡Felices saludos desde el club español! The Second and Third Grade Spanish Club is an exciting club to engage young learners in the world of Spanish culture, language, and traditions. Meeting once a month, this club offers students a fun environment where they can explore the Spanish-speaking world. Each meeting includes interactive activities such as games, storytelling, and crafts that introduce vocabulary and cultural concepts in an enjoyable way. Through these hands-on experiences, students not only learn basic Spanish phrases, but also gain an appreciation for the diverse cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

In addition to language learning, the club emphasizes the importance of cultural traditions and celebrations. Each month, members focus on a different theme—whether it's a traditional holiday, a famous dish, or regional customs—allowing students to participate in activities like simple recipes, creating decorations, or celebrating festivals. This past month we learned about Dias de los Muertos, common greetings, and the Spanish alphabet. This approach creates a sense of curiosity and respect for cultural diversity while building friendships among peers. By the end of the school year, students will have learned foundations of the Spanish language and a deeper connection to the rich traditions that accompany it.





## AVENUE CITY ACTION

### SURPRISE, YOU'RE COACHING BASKETBALL!!

By Don Lawrence



Back in the early months of 2024, I was blessed to be hired as the part-time physical education teacher. Just 6 months after retiring for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, I found that not working wasn't for me (at least not yet.) Several weeks after signing the contract for the PE position, I heard these words. "You know; basketball coaching goes with that PE job." Well played administrators; well played. I asked them to continue to post that coaching job hoping that someone might take that responsibility from me. In August, I bit my lip and began to prepare for my very first "paid" coaching job. My emotions ran

from terrified to excited.

It's been 7 weeks since our initial parent meeting and fewer weeks than that since our first practice. We have experienced success, learned skills, and experienced the excitement of winning and the disappointment of losing. Most importantly, the players have grown together as young people who genuinely appear to care about one another. When I reflect back on my own athletic experiences in school, the wins and losses have faded, but it is the relationships and experiences that I had with my teammates that are burned into my memories.

Last night, the combined teams at Conception Junction and South Nodaway handed it to us. As our team's coach, I had no answers for our kids as they worked their tails off up and down the floor. As disappointed as both teams were, I noted one important thing, there was support for one another throughout their struggles. No one showed any great disappointment in another player and no one complained about anyone else. Even in the 5<sup>th</sup> quarter that followed the boys' game, the players on the bench were so supportive of those on the floor. There was encouragement and humor. At a time of significant disappointment, there was help, inspiration and laughter. (Thanks Hanner) I'll warn you, their team picture may not look happy because they struggled so hard to "look tough."

When the season is over in a little over two weeks, these young people will have many years to live with one another, hopefully through high school. It's easy to say "there are more important things than winning." When I was younger (and dumber) I used to tell myself "that is what people tell themselves in order to feel better about losing." However, after years of my own kids and now my grandchildren being involved in sports, the reality does exist that the relationships that athletes build with each other and the character they build within themselves will last a lot longer than any win/loss record they might experience. So, we move upward and onward together moving closer to the end of one season and the beginning of a new one. Success comes in many forms and wisdom is the ability to see those forms. Thanks to our parents and loved ones who always support us and to a Creator who blessed us with them.

By the way, the unsung heroes of the Avenue City basketball season are Coach Beth Forney and Mandy Scott. Beth is the heart of both teams, displaying extensive warmth and care. She is at every practice and every game insuring that communication is clear and that hearts are pure. Mandy Scott, quietly keeps our score book and statistics at every game. She drives from host site to host site and is at each of our games toiling on "the book." Thanks to these two ladies and to their families for sharing them with us.







# AVENUE CITY ACTION

## INFORMATION ON THE 2023-2024 DISTRICT FINANCIAL AUDIT

Included in this newsletter is:

1. A Summary Schedule of Receipts Collected, Expenditures Paid, and Changes in Fund Balances
2. An Independent Auditors' Report

The complete audit report is available for inspection and examination by going to the district's website at [www.avenuecityschool.org](http://www.avenuecityschool.org). Under Administration and Board of Education you will find this summary and the complete audit report.

You may also request a copy of the audit report by contacting the Avenue City School District's Board Secretary Office by phone or email ([hhuff@avenuecityschool.org](mailto:hhuff@avenuecityschool.org)).

**Avenue City R-IX School District**  
 Summary Schedule of Receipts Collected, Expenditures Paid, and Changes in Fund Balances  
 School District Funds  
 Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Debt Service Fund</u>	<u>Capital Projects Fund</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Receipts Collected	\$ 1,962,998	\$ 1,768,851	\$ 433,232	\$ 4,163,736	\$ 8,328,817
Expenditures Paid	<u>1,032,050</u>	<u>1,593,474</u>	<u>212,292</u>	<u>2,717,469</u>	<u>5,555,285</u>
Excess of Receipts Collected Over(Under) Expenditures Paid	930,948	175,377	220,940	1,446,267	2,773,532
Other Sources(Uses) Transfers	<u>(162,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>162,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Receipts Collected and Other Sources Over(Under) Expenditures Paid and Other Uses	768,948	175,377	220,940	1,608,267	2,773,532
Fund Balance July 1, 2023	<u>4,289,045</u>	<u>288,215</u>	<u>161,131</u>	<u>708,578</u>	<u>5,446,969</u>
Fund Balance June 30, 2024	<u>\$ 5,057,993</u>	<u>\$ 463,592</u>	<u>\$ 382,071</u>	<u>\$ 2,316,845</u>	<u>\$ 8,220,501</u>





# Martin & Hanway CPA's, P.C.

3830 A Faraon  
Saint Joseph, Missouri 64506

Phone: 816-232-0450  
Fax: 816-232-0696

Ruthanna Martin, CPA

Amy Hanway, CPA

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Education of  
Avenue City R-IX School District

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinions

We have audited the accompanying modified cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Avenue City R-IX School District, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the District, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

#### Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### Emphasis of Matter-Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.



### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1, and for determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### **Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.





## AVENUE CITY ACTION

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### **Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The schedule of receipts collected by source – school district funds, schedule of expenditures paid by object – school district funds, and summary schedule of receipts collected, expenditures paid, and changes in fund balances – school district funds, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of receipts collected by source – school district funds, schedule of expenditures paid by object – school district funds, and summary schedule of receipts collected, expenditures paid, and changes in fund balances – school district funds are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

### **Other Information**

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the budgetary comparison information and pension information but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

### **Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 12, 2024, on our consideration of Avenue City R-IX School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and

compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Avenue City R-IX School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Avenue City R-IX School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Martin & Hanway CPA's, P.C.  
Saint Joseph, Missouri  
November 12, 2024





# AVENUE CITY ACTION

## Middle School Student Council



The ACES Student Council is made up of 9 members: Abigail Morey, 8th gr., President; Billie Hare, 8th gr., Vice President; Dixon Palmer, 8th gr. Secretary / Treasurer; Carter Farrell, 8th gr. Class Representative; Landon Neil, 8th gr. Class Representative; Larkin Greenlee, 7th gr. Class Representative; Hanner Hare, 7th gr. Class Representative; Owen Burns, 6th gr. Class Representative; Myla Shavnore, 6th gr. Class Representative. The students are advised by Mrs. Beth Forney.

These students have been working hard to make the school year full of fun and leadership! They have helped organize our school's See You at the Pole (Pray at the Pole) event, had a very successful bake sale, hosted a fantastic middle school dance, conducted a patriotic Veterans Day assembly and breakfast, and are giving back to those in need through their Operation Christmas Child Shoebox initiative for children in third world countries. Note: If you committed to filling a shoebox for this initiative, please bring them back before Nov. 15th! In October, the ACES Student Council attended the annual Missouri Association of Student Councils Northwest District Meeting held in Excelsior Springs where they had fun learning ideas and leadership skills from other area councils. Second semester, the ACES Student Council plans to have more bake sales, fundraisers, their annual Hello-Goodbye Dance (a hello to the incoming 5th graders and a goodbye to the 8th graders as they move on to other districts), and more!



## Get Ready for the Holiday Magic

The holiday season is quickly approaching, and Avenue City Elementary is gearing up for a festive celebration like no other. The students have been working hard to prepare for this year's exciting concert, featuring a lively production of *North Pole Musical*.

In this whimsical holiday tale, the Avenue City Elementary Elves, Reindeer, and Snowmen are all set to take the stage — but the big question is: Who will hit the high notes? Could it be the sparkling Crystal Snowflake? Santa and Mrs. Claus will need to decide who has the best voice for the job. Fifth grade students will take center stage in the play's main roles, while students from grades 1 through 4 will lend their voices in support, bringing the North Pole to life with their joyful singing.

This heartwarming concert is set for **Thursday, December 12, at 7:00 PM**. However, the fun kicks off a little earlier that evening! **Kindergarten students** will perform their festive songs at **6:30 PM**, followed by a performance from the **Middle School** at **6:45 PM**.

Bring the whole family and join us in celebrating the magic of the season as the students of Avenue City Elementary shine on stage. It's sure to be a night filled with holiday cheer, music, and lots of festive fun!

Don't miss out — mark your calendars for **December 12** and be part of this special holiday event!







## AVENUE CITY ACTION

### Alternative Methods of Instruction

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education allows school districts to make up some hours of attendance lost due to inclement weather by allowing students to complete academic work during a school outage. This is known as Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI). Some people call these days “virtual snow days.”

In case of inclement weather an announcement will be made that will be something like, “School will be closed on DATE because of inclement weather. Avenue City School District will be using an AMI Day.”

If the district uses AMI days, your student will need to complete the work assigned by their classroom teacher. Your child’s classroom teacher has been preparing for these days and has already helped prepare their students for these days. Students are considered in attendance on AMI days when they do the following:

- Complete academic assignments as communicated by teachers in their communication platform (ex: Google Classroom, School Status Connect, etc.)
- Participate in a 30-minute classroom Zoom meeting.
- All students are responsible for completing activities and assignments as defined by instructors.
- Each MS teacher will assign a short assignment in each core content area.

In addition to this academic work – please remember to enjoy traditional “snow day” activities. Use this time to go sledding, build a snowman, bake cookies, sip hot chocolate, play board games, create a blanket fort, and pelt each other with snowballs. Learning happens all the time – in school and outside of school.

We appreciate your patience and help during this time, as we know this is not the ideal learning situation. Teachers will be in communication with families when an AMI day is announced.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your child’s teacher or me.

Chase Holcumbrink  
ACES Principal

### Attention Future Kindergarten Parents!

If your child will turn five years old before August 1, 2025, it’s time to start thinking about kindergarten! Avenue City School District is already preparing for an exciting school year ahead, and we want your family to be part of it.

To make sure your child is included in upcoming events for incoming kindergartners, please give us a call at 816-662-2305. Getting on the list now ensures you won’t miss important updates, including information about our kindergarten events, orientation sessions, and other ways to help your child get ready for a successful start at school.



We look forward to welcoming your family into our Avenue City community!





## AVENUE CITY ACTION

### What is the Infatuation With Dodgeball?

Don Lawrence



Surround yourself with a couple hundred students in grades 2-8 and listen to them as they come to the gym. Can we play dodgeball? Are we playing dodgeball today? When can we play dodgeball? These and other similar questions are asked every week before physical education class begins. Why are “many” kids so engrossed with dodgeball? I suppose there are multiple answers and a different one applies to certain

kind of personality characteristics. The most obvious answer is it allows kids to be aggressive without really hurting anybody. Another reason might be the fact that everybody is on a team. Perhaps it is the fact that while it is a team event it is also a very individual achievement game. A classmate can become a hero by putting their own game life at risk to rescue a teammate, catching an opponent's throw to bring them back into the game. The game keeps both players and those waiting to reenter the game mentally and physically engaged at all times. It is interesting to watch some classes play the game. Some children run wild and eliminate themselves over and over again. Others hide in the back like army snipers waiting for an opponent to make the mistake of ignoring them while they wait silently and quietly with the yellow sponge ball of death. Other classes or parts of classes truly communicate and strategize together to make a plan of attack or defense.

Rumor has it that the game of dodgeball originated in Africa hundreds of years ago. That “game” however was played with rocks! Agility and brutality was apparently a significant part of their game but a missionary named James Carlisle watched this game and brought it back to England using a hard leather ball as a less life-threatening game. In my childhood, the sting of the rubber balls sometimes felt like rocks but in today’s game these soft spongy orbs make it almost impossible for a player to be hurt. Look!! History lessons can come from P.E.!!! Yes, we talk about a lot of things in P.E. (like patriotism and fairness).

Not all children enjoy dodgeball and that is why we do not play it as often as the students want to play it, because some would play it every day. We are just now learning a NEW GAME that will provide many of the same skills, strategy, endurance, throwing skills, etc. as dodgeball but with this new game has many more skills to learn and requires several new skills and chief among those is cooperation among team members.

District Website: [www.avenuecityschool.org](http://www.avenuecityschool.org)

School Status Connect

Phone: 816-662-2305



Facebook: ACE ACES



Avenue City School  
18069 Highway 169  
Cosby, MO 64436

Phone: 816-662-2305  
Fax: 816-662-3201



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WE ARE ON THE WEB  
[WWW.AVENUECITYSCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.AVENUECITYSCHOOL.ORG)

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## INCLEMENT WEATHER



Decisions about closing school due to severe weather (snow & ice) are made with the students' safety in mind.

**Early Morning Closings:** Announcements will be made between 6:30 and 7:00 AM on KQTV. Announcements will also be made on KFEQ, KKJO, and KSFT radio stations. (Extreme cases will cause the announcements to be made the night before.) (When possible the announcement will also be posted on the website: <http://avenuecityschool.org>)

**Early Dismissal:** Announcements will be made as soon as possible on the stations listed above. Dismissal because of inclement weather will be at 12:50 when possible. (If at all possible announcements will be made between 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM.) (When possible the announcement will also be posted on the website: <http://avenuecityschool.org>)

**Lumen Communication System and School Status Connect:** Two communication systems are available to members of the district for these types of days. If you are not receiving notices (texts, calls, or emails) please call the office.