

Save the Dates:

9/1 NO SCHOOL
LABOR DAY

9/2 (K-12) 1/2 Day
First Day of School



9/2 7pm
Board of Education Meeting

9/9 7pm
Deerfield PTO Meeting
Woodland PTO Meeting

9/10 6-8:30pm
Auburn K-5 Curriculum Night
7:15pm

Woodland 1st and 3rd Grades
Curriculum Night
7:30pm

Woodland 4th and 5th Grades
Curriculum Night

9/11 6:30pm
HS Meet the Teacher Night
6-8:30pm
Deerfield K-5 Curriculum Night

9/12 5:30-7:00pm
Woodland Family Picnic

9/12-13 7:35pm
ATC/Staff Presents:
OUR TOWN

9/15 7pm
Board of Education Meeting

9/16 6:30-8:30pm
MS Open House

9/20 Noon-Midnight
ATC Dramathon

9/25
Deerfield Picture Day

9/26 All Day
Avondale Education Foundation
Hat Day - Donate \$1 and wear
your favorite sports hat

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Happy New Year

As your interim superintendent, I would like to welcome all Avondale students and families back for the new school year. We enter the year powered by the momentum of improved MDE scorecards and MME scores. The scorecards show that 71% of our schools (75% of our elementary schools) improved their ratings with no school sliding backwards. The high schools' MME scores went up in all areas and set five-year record highs in reading, writing and science with double-digit increases. Academy scores increased in reading and writing.

While the increased test scores are impressive, we know that there is more to a successful district than standardized tests. As I welcome you back, I'd like to touch on what I see as the fabric of Avondale Schools.

The theme of Avondale is that it is a "Kids First" district that values learning. While I have only met a few students and community members, the stories I've heard of the quality kids and caring families makes me eager for the start of school. Quality students, caring community, and dedicated staff are ingredients for a great school district.

I am especially impressed with the district's pride and welcoming nature. No matter where I have gone since I began pinch-hitting for Dr. Heitsch on July 1, I have witnessed Avondale pride and hospitality. I've experienced these sentiments from the board, school staff, and community - sentiments that set it apart and project an image many districts should envy.

The caring aspect of the district manifests itself through the Avondale Education Foundation, Youth Assistance, Gleaners, Empty Bowls, Optimists' "Back to School Shopping" and other "Backpack" programs sponsored by the community.

As we begin this new year, let's keep all these positive forces at work. The Avondale School District has many reasons to be proud. The reasons begin with every individual reading this newsletter. More than buildings—which by the way, are another source of pride—a school district is the people. Be proud of what this educational community has accomplished; be proud that you may be the best-kept school secret in Oakland County; and be proud of the role you play in making this school district the #1 reason to move into this community.

Rick Repicky, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent



First Day of School Schedule

Elementary Schools

8:32am - 11:44am

Avondale Middle School

7:53am - 11:07am

Avondale High School

7:22am - 10:33am

Avondale Academy

7:25am - 10:20am



@AvondaleSD_MI



Wayne Kakuda, appointed to serve as a Board of Education trustee

Avondale fills Board of Education Trustee Vacancy with Long-time Community Member

Avondale Schools announces that **Mr. Wayne Kakuda** has been appointed to serve as a Board of Education trustee, replacing long-time board member Cyndi Pettit who resigned in June after nine years of service. Mr. Kakuda will serve as trustee through December 31, 2014, when the term expires. Following the November 2014 elections, where Mr. Kakuda plans to run as a write-in candidate, newly elected (or re-elected) board members will be seated in January 2015.

Wayne and his wife Bonnie have lived in Auburn Hills since 1995 and are the parents of three children in the district.

When applying for the trustee position, Mr. Kakuda expressed his family's support of Avondale. "We value and embrace the diversity that the Avondale community brings," wrote Mr. Kakuda. "We love the care that parents, students and Avondale staff contribute to the success of Avondale School District. Together, we work towards a better future for Avondale students. We are proud to be part of Avondale."

Avondale School District will take bond proposal to voters in November

Vote will not change current tax rate

On Tuesday, November 4, residents of the Avondale School District will be asked to vote on a six-year, \$2,175,000 bond proposal. If voters approve the bond proposal, there will be no increase in the current tax rate.

This proposal is markedly reduced from the \$22,000,000 proposal talked about last Spring. During the summer the Michigan Department of Treasury advised us not to take that proposal to the voters because it required a long payback period. As a result, a smaller bond proposal will be on the ballot this November and the Board of Education will consider placing a more extensive proposal on the ballot in 2016.

The bulk of the November bond proposal funds (\$1.3 million) will be used to buy out the leases on our school buses and provide support for the ongoing enhancement of the bus fleet. Voter approval will allow the school district to replace buses as they wear out and assure that Avondale students continue to be safely transported to and from school and various school and athletic events.

The balance of the bond revenue (about \$875,000) will be used to repair and upgrade technology equipment and infrastructure, to replace printers and copiers that have reached the end of their useful life and are now obsolete, and to accommodate emergency repairs and upgrades to furnishings and equipment across the school district.

The Avondale School District has a long history of community support for education. The school district's quality staff, challenging curriculum, and well-prepared graduates are the envy of many.

This bond proposal will serve as part of a long-term plan that will assure that student safety is not compromised and that the learning environment remains current.

More information about the bond proposal will be provided to staff and community members during the next few weeks. In the meantime, feel free to talk with your building principal or call the superintendent's office if you have any questions.



Superintendent Search

The superintendent search continues. Twenty-six candidates applied, six were interviewed, and three remain. The three are:

Karen Olex, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Avondale School District

Dr. Robert Martin, Chief of Staff, Utica Community Schools

Dr. James Schwarz, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction/Chief Academic Officer, Oxford Community Schools.

During the week of Aug 24, each candidate participated in questions and conversations with various district groups as well as a second interview with the board of education. The tentative schedule calls for a decision in early September.



Julie Lublin, AHS
Interim Principal



Sharon Hyde, AHS
Assistant Principal



David Goetz, AMS
Assistant Principal



Marsha Wharton,
Director of Student
Achievement

Avondale School District Announces: Interim Principal and new Assistant Principal for Avondale High School

Mrs. Julie Lublin has been named the interim principal at Avondale High School for the 2014-2015 school year. The announcement comes following the departure of former principal Michelle Imbrunone, who is now the superintendent of Goodrich Area Schools.

Mrs. Lublin has served as assistant principal at Avondale High School since 2012. Prior to joining Avondale, she was assistant principal at Wayne Memorial High School in Wayne, from 2010-2011. Mrs. Lublin also served as a counselor at Plymouth High School from 2005-2010 and Madison High School from 2003-2005. Mrs. Lublin holds a Master of Arts degree in teaching and curriculum from Michigan State University and a Master of Arts degree in counseling from Oakland University. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in communications from Michigan State University.

Mrs. Sharon Hyde has been named as assistant principal at Avondale High School. Mrs. Hyde will share the AP duties with Mr. Sean Fisher. Sharon taught English, social studies and history at Warren Lincoln's middle and high schools for 16 years. Most recently, she served as an assistant principal at Lincoln High School for the past 3.5 years.

Ms. Hyde's credentials are many. She served as the school improvement coordinator for Lincoln Schools. Sharon led the school's professional development training, testing and teacher evaluation programs. She organized the faculty into collaborative teacher teams to rely on group expertise. The result was the school moved from being a priority school to a focus school and eventually emerged out of the state's labeling system.

Mrs. Hyde holds a Master of Education (Majoring in Ed Leadership). She also has 30 college credits in Instructional Strategies and Behavior Interventions. Avondale is grateful to have her on board.

New Assistant Principal for Avondale Middle School

Mr. David Goetz has been named as assistant principal at Avondale Middle School. Mr. Goetz is joining the Avondale School District after serving nine years as a 5th grade teacher in Lake Orion Community Schools. He was also the Olweus (Bullying prevention program) coordinator for his school. This is the same program the middle school will be implementing this school year.

Mr. Goetz holds a master's degree in education studies and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Oakland University. He also obtained a degree as an education specialist in leadership at Oakland University this summer.

Mr. Goetz is a 1999 Avondale graduate. He participated in sports, NHS and served as a class officer. David is very excited to return to Avondale.

New Director of Student Achievement

As one of Dr. Heitsch's last acts, **Mrs. Marsha Wharton** was appointed as the Director of Student Achievement. Mrs. Wharton moves into this position after beginning some of initial work on district student achievement last year along with serving as administrative support at Avondale Middle School. She previously served as principal at Auburn Elementary.

In the new role of Student Achievement Director, Mrs. Wharton will assume district-wide responsibility for guiding improved academic performance through a focus on data and equity. At the time of the appointment Dr. Heitsch commented, "Marsha Wharton has demonstrated solid skills in helping Avondale students reach their highest potential."

Interim superintendent Rick Repicky states, "Marsha has a penchant for student data. It is my hope that she will assist building principals in finding timely, relevant data to use for celebrating success and adjusting instruction. Looking forward to this opportunity, Mrs. Wharton states, "I am honored to support the needs of our students in this capacity."

Spotlight on the Community Optimist Shopping

On August 21, the Auburn Hills Morning Optimist Club teamed with the Auburn Hills Meijer, located across from Great Lakes Crossing to sponsor a Back to School Shopping night for needy children. The night was a great success featuring several Optimist members assisting the students in their purchases.

Auburn Hills Police Chief Doreen Olko took charge of the event that was largely sponsored by the Meijer's store. One of the volunteer shoppers, Veronica Mitchell, had this to say, "Thank you so much for including me in the 'back to school' shopping. I had a BLAST and it is such a great thing to do for the community. The Optimist Club performs WONDERFUL acts of generosity for our youth!"



AH Police Chief Doreen Olko and Kay Sendegas arrive at Meijer with students for their back to school shopping trip.



Welcome New Avondale Staff Members

Avondale welcomes the following staff members hired for the 2014-2015 school year:

Robert Bienstock	AEA	ASD	Woodland
Jessica Carney	AEA	Resource Room	Woodland/Deerfield
Salvatore Cucchiara	AVPE	ASD Basic	Woodland
Rita Davis	AAES	Secretary	Woodland
Kimberly Eaton	AVPE	ASD Basic	Middle School
David Goetz	AAA	Assistant Principal	Middle School
Chloe Green	AEA	Art	Woodland
Katherine Griebe	ACADEMY	Virtual	Academy
Gabrielle Griffey	ACADEMY	Math	Academy
Kelsey Hall	AEA	ASD	High School
Brittany Hauncher	AEA	Resource Room	High School
Maria Henige	AEA	Kindergarten	Woodland
Sharon Hyde	AAA	Assistant Principal	High School
Jean Jackson	AEA	Resource Room	Middle School
Jeanetta Johnson	AVPE	Student X Support	R Grant Graham
Ashley Jones	ELC	Lead Teacher	Auburn ELC
Richena Lawrence	AVPE	ASD Basic	High School
Jennifer Letica	AAES	Secretary	R Grant Graham
Megan McGugan	Para	GSRP	District
Rachel Pedersen	AEA	Vocal/Instrumental Music	Middle School
Carly Pless	ELC	Teacher Assistant	Auburn ELC
Barb Racine	ELC	Teacher Assistant	Woodland ELC
Kristen Richey	AAES	ELC Secretary	Administrative Offices
Stephanie Riley	ACADEMY	PE/Health	Academy
Amanda Rito	ELC	Lead Teacher	Auburn ELC
Nicole Sieiberling	AEA	Resource Room	High School
Dawn Sisk	AAES	Payroll Specialist/ Purchasing	Administrative Offices
Megan Sokol	AEA	Speech Pathologist	District
Richa Srivastava	AVPE	ASD Basic	Woodland
Danielle Weinger	AEA - IA	PE/Health	International Academy
Amy Weronka	AVPE	.84 Bus Attendant	Transportation
Katherine Wilde	AVPE	Level 4 Classroom	Auburn
Colette Woodside-			
Wendrick	AVPE	ASD Basic - Upper EL	Woodland
Anqi Yu	AEA	Physics	High School
Leanne Zotos	AEA	Resource Room	High School
RETURNING FROM LEAVE:			
Laura Coon	AEA	French	Middle School
David Durand	AEA	Social Studies	Middle School
Kourtney Thompson	AEA	Social Studies	High School

Welcome!



Happy Shoppers



Auburn Hills Morning Optimist member, Joe Hopper, enjoyed helping students with their purchases

Thank you Auburn Hills Morning Optimist, Meijer and the AH Police Department for our wonderful shopping experience.



Avondale Parent University

Informed parents * successful students * strong families

As the school bells ring, help bring out the best in your child by enrolling in a class to strengthen your own skills as a parent. Avondale Schools and its community partners will be providing opportunities for parents to learn and grow throughout the year. The following classes are aimed towards parents of children of ALL AGES. Watch for more class offerings throughout the year!

Avondale Youth Assistance - Parent Education Series

The ABC's of Child Development

Tobi Russell, MS, LLP, MA, LPC, NCC, CAADC, CCS-M, BCETS
Nationally Certified Counselor
Rochester Hills Counseling, LLC

Tuesday, September 23 * 7:00-8:30pm * Meadows School Cafeteria

Everything a Parent Needs to Know About Social Media

Tobi Russell, MS, LLP, MA, LPC, NCC, CAADC, CCS-M, BCETS
Nationally Certified Counselor
Rochester Hills Counseling, LLC

Tuesday, October 14, 2014 * 7:00-8:30pm * Meadows School Cafeteria

Call Avondale Youth Assistance at (248) 852-3716 to register.



Come and join us for a Parent Café

Sponsor: Avondale Youth Assistance & Great Start Oakland

Place: Auburn Elementary
Media Center

Date: Mondays, Sept. 15, 22, and 29 Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Leader: Karyl Crites, parenting educator, will help you

- Connect with other parents
- Develop parent coping skills
- Build positive relationships with your child
- Learn what to expect as your child grows
- Find community resources

It's Free! Free childcare! Free light dinner!



Call 248-852-3716 to register

Save the Dates:

10/2	6:30-8:30pm
Deerfield Family Dance	
10/6	7pm
Board of Education Meeting	
HS Powder-puff Football Game	
10/10	6:15pm
Homecoming Parade	
	7:30pm
Homecoming Football Game vs. Ferndale	
10/11	7:00-10:00pm
Homecoming Dance	
10/14	7pm
Deerfield PTO Meeting	
10/16	4:30-7:30pm
HS Parent/Teacher Conferences	
10/20	7pm
Board of Education Meeting	
10/21	7pm
HS Talent Show	
10/22	4:30-7:30pm
MS Parent/Teacher Conferences	
	6:30pm
HS Freshmen Parent Night	
10/23	6:30pm
HS Senior Parent Night	
10/24	Grades 9-12
End of 1st Marking Period	



2014 Coffee with the Superintendent Dates:

Wednesday, October 15, 2014
Honey Tree Grille
2949 Crooks Road
(NE Corner of Crooks/Auburn Road)
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
8:30-9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 3, 2014
Kerby's Koney Island
2614 S. Adams Road
(North of Auburn Road/South of M-59)
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
8:30-9:30 a.m.

This informal gathering will provide an opportunity to discuss topics of interest with Avondale's Superintendent.

2015 dates will be posted on the district website and in the next newsletter.

School Start Tips for Parents

The following comes from the U.S. Department of Education

The beginning of school is the most exciting time of the year for students. They want to meet their teachers, catch up with their friends, and begin exploring a whole new world of knowledge. As exciting as these first weeks of school are, your children can't do this on their own. They need your help to get ready—now and every day.

You need to read aloud to young children to reinforce the importance of literacy. You have to be ready to help them when they're stuck on homework. You should make sure they have a nutritious lunch every day.

You need to build relationships with their teachers so you're all working together to provide your children the best learning experience possible.

Helping your children with school is one of your most important jobs as a parent. That's why the U.S. Department of Education, National PTA, and Parenting have teamed up to bring you *Countdown to School Success*. This booklet takes you step-by-step through the typical school-year calendar, explaining how you can help your children at home, support them in the classroom, and assist their teachers as they address each of your children's unique abilities.

Reach out to your kids' teachers

Attend meet-the-teacher night, orientation, or other welcome events, but don't stop there. Make a point of introducing yourself and learning about class activities and expectations for the year. Find out how each teacher prefers to communicate. Many use e-mail as the main form of contact, but phone calls and conferences (make an appointment first) are usually welcome, too. For more advice on building a parent-teacher relationship that will last the entire year, as well as links to all the websites featured in this guide, go to parenting.com/success.



Get in the groove

Establish healthy at-home routines for school days, such as consistent waking times and getting-ready patterns. Decide on a regular homework time, and create a comfortable, quiet work space. Set bedtimes that allow elementary-age kids to get 10 to 12 hours of sleep; teens should get 8½ to 9½ hours.

Time things right

Stay on top of everyone's school, activity, and work schedules with a free online calendar or a smartphone app.

Pack smart

Make sure your child's backpack never weighs more than 10 to 20 percent of his body weight; heavy packs can strain developing muscles and joints.

Commit to volunteering

With help from parents like you, your school can offer many more programs and services for your kids. Join your school's PTO and ask about volunteer opportunities in the school community and your children's classrooms. National PTA's "Three for Me" campaign encourages parents to pledge to volunteer at least three hours during the school year. Go to three4me.com for more information.





Avondale Athletic Schedules

Please save this site for the up-to-date Avondale High School and Middle School sports schedules:
Click on this site: [Oakland Athletic Association](#)



August 2014

Dear Avondale Schools Students, Parents, and School Community:

The beginning of the school year is approaching, and we want to extend a warm welcome to let you know that Chartwells School Dining Services has exciting plans for your school meal program. School meals remain nutritious, a great value and more satisfying than ever for both students and parents. This year, Chartwells has exciting events and new menu items planned for your child's school cafeteria. Our job is to make sure that we serve healthy, well-balanced meals that students will enjoy eating. We also strive to make the dining experience a special one, so we've planned activities that will appeal to all of our students. Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to learn about healthier food options through fun and engaging activities that we have planned in the school cafeteria through our *Simply Good* program. *Simply Good* has a culinary emphasis that focuses on healthier meal options, especially ones with fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins. Look for more information on these special events coming soon.

Meal Prices:

Meal prices will be the same as last school year. Milk is available with all meals. All 8 oz. milk cartons are \$.45 if purchased separately.

	Breakfast		Lunch	
Paid	\$1.25 Elementary	\$1.25, \$2.00 Secondary	\$2.50 Elementary	\$2.75, \$3.00 Secondary
Reduced	\$0.30		\$0.40	

Free and Reduced Meal Applications:

Attached is the Free and Reduced Meal Application. Please only submit one application per family. If you have children in multiple school buildings it is not necessary to turn one in at each building. If you receive food stamps, please list your case number on the application, not your bridge card number. Applications filled out prior to the start of the school year should be mailed to: Avondale Schools Food Service, 2800 Waukegan Ave, MI 48326. Applications can also be turned into your students' cafeteria or main office once school is in session. All free and reduced meal application forms are kept confidential per USDA guidelines.

Menus:

Menus will be sent home monthly with elementary students. Elementary, Middle, and High School Menus can be viewed on the Avondale Schools website at: www.avondale.k12.mi.us

Pre-Payment for Meals:

We offer a computerized cash register system at all schools. This system allows students to put money on their account where they can draw funds for cafeteria use. Each student will access their account using their name at the Elementary schools and with their student ID number at the Secondary schools. You may deposit any amount into your student's account. Free and reduced meal students will also use this system, thus maintaining confidentiality.

How to Pay For Meals:

Payment for meals can be made in the form of cash, check, or on-line through the ParentConnect system using a credit or debit card. Instructions for online payments can be found online @ www.avondale.k12.mi.us. The ParentConnect system also offers useful information so you can be knowledgeable about your student's meal account. Your login information for the ParentConnect system is available from your student's school. You can also send cash or a check to school with your student. Please make checks payable to Avondale Schools Food Service. If your student is at one of the Elementary schools please send money to school in an envelope with your child's first and last name on it.

Both Chartwells and Avondale Schools are dedicated to providing quality nutritious meals that students will enjoy and choose to eat. To learn more about Chartwells, visit our website at www.eatlearnlive.com. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at (248) 537-6290 or via email at haapala@avondale.k12.mi.us. We encourage you to see what's on the menu at school.

Sincerely,

Aimee J. Haapala
Director of Dining Services
Avondale Schools Food Services
Chartwells School Dining Services



Interim Superintendent

Rick Repicky, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Students Services

Karen Olex

Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services

Frank Lams

Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services

Fred Cromie

Human Resources Consultant

Larry Westley

Board of Education

Sean Johnson, President

Scott Bittinger, Vice President

Ken Hedrick, Secretary

Cynthia Tischer, Treasurer

Wayne Kakuda, Trustee

Sid Lockhart, Trustee

Stephen Sucher, Trustee

The public is invited and encouraged to attend Board of Education meetings. The Board recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on education matters. During the meeting, there is designated time for the public to address the Board.

The Avondale Board of Education meetings are typically held the first and third Monday of the month at 7pm, in the Board Meeting Room:

Avondale Administrative Offices
2940 Waukegan Street
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Agendas and Minutes of the Board meetings are posted on the Avondale School District web site:

Avondale Schools Community News

is a newsletter for the Avondale School District community. It is published throughout the school year. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please call (248) 537-6000.



Avondale and OU's Medical School team up for Health Fun Fair Nov. 15, 10am-2pm

Avondale Schools is entering Year 2 of its unique and model partnership with Oakland University. The partnership allows OU students to supplement instruction and perform interventions with Avondale students. OU students gain experience; Avondale students gain support.

One of this fall's programs will bring second year medical students from the Oakland University/William Beaumont School of Medicine to Avondale High School where they will co-teach an infectious disease unit with Avondale instructor Noelle Collis.

After learning from the Avondale-OU teaching team, the high school students will share their newly-gained knowledge about diseases such as flu with second grade students at Auburn Elementary.

To track the learning that takes place and its effect on Avondale families, Mrs. Collis is designing pre- and post-surveys for the families involved. One of the primary questions will examine if student and family attitudes changed regarding the importance of the flu vaccine.

Now the best part - All this learning will culminate in a **Health Fun Fair at Avondale High School on November 15, 10am-2pm**. All members of the Avondale community will have the opportunity to receive a free flu vaccine as well as learn about healthy lifestyles. The fair will offer something for everyone! For the intellectuals, Yoga and healthy lifestyle presentations will offer a chance to find health and inner peace. For fun seekers, a bounce house will offer a chance to scramble brains, laugh and scream.



OU medical students work with Auburn Elementary students.

ASD ACHIEVEMENTS

- Avondale High School's class of 2014 offered \$4.7 million in college scholarship opportunities
- Two Avondale High School members of the class of 2014 named National Merit Scholar semi-finalists
- The 2014 Avondale Theatre Company scored a top rating at the state regional competition for Division I, qualifying the troupe for the state competition
- Avondale again received the prestigious AdvancED Accreditation in April 2014 for the district's commitment to systemic, systematic and sustainable improvement
- Avondale High School's Michigan Merit Exam (MME) 2014 scores rose in four of five categories
- Avondale's "A Train" Show, held each January and supporting the Avondale Education Foundation, is Michigan's largest model train display
- Avondale's Teacher Lab recognized as a laudable model for teacher learning and training
- Deerfield Elementary School named a High Performing Reward School by the State of Michigan Department of Education for the 2013-2014 and 2012-2013 school years
- New Avondale/OU Partnership School at Auburn Elementary lauded by State Superintendent Michael Flanagan and Oakland Intermediate School District Superintendent, Dr. Vickie Markavitch in Oct. 2013