



Avonworth School District



2018 Annual Report

Mission Statement

The Avonworth School District empowers students through authentic experiences to become creative, innovative thinkers.

Belief Statements

We believe:

1. All students should feel safe, supported, nurtured, and engaged in an environment which enhances their strengths and talents.
2. Best practices for achievement include collaboration, technology, authentic application, and reflection while inspiring creativity.
3. Learning takes place within and beyond school boundaries in dynamic and creative settings which are fostered through partnerships.
4. Utilizing 21st century skills will prepare the whole child to persevere through productive struggle in order to be a lifelong learner.

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Message from Superintendent, Dr. Thomas W. Ralston

Dear Avonworth School community members,

I am pleased to present to you the Avonworth School District Annual Report for the 2017-2018 school year. It is with great pride that I share the fantastic successes that are occurring in our district academically, artistically, and athletically. None of this could occur without the tremendous support that you provide as parents, loved ones, and community members. You are essential partners in our efforts to help our students realize their dreams and reach their potential.



Our Annual Report also details the business side of our operations. The District prides itself on being a good steward of the resources that are provided by the community's residents and businesses. As you may know, the District's enrollment continues to increase. Correspondingly, your tax dollars have supported the hiring of new staff, purchasing of equipment and supplies, as well as the updating of facilities so that they meet the needs of our students. I am very proud that families continue to choose the Avonworth School District as the place they want to educate their children.

As the District grows, it is imperative that we ensure that every child is cared for and also feels a sense of belonging. Schools are social systems that serve children from diverse backgrounds. We are working every day to build and maintain a culture and climate that supports all students. Likewise, our curriculum should be representative of everyone. We are diligently addressing these focus areas and with your help, we can make sure that every student is valued and respected.

I hope you are as excited as I am about the amazing things taking place in our schools. Each and every day, our students are engaged in meaningful learning experiences. They are developing real-world connections to their learning, and they are building the skills to be problem-solvers and creative innovators. Most importantly, they are doing these things under the guidance of caring educators who support them to be their very best.

I want to thank you for your trust and support as we engage in this incredibly important work. Please do not hesitate to share your ideas of how we can work together. Please know that I am proud to serve you as the superintendent of this great school district.

With kindest regards,

Handwritten signature of Thomas W. Ralston.

Thomas W. Ralston Ed. D.



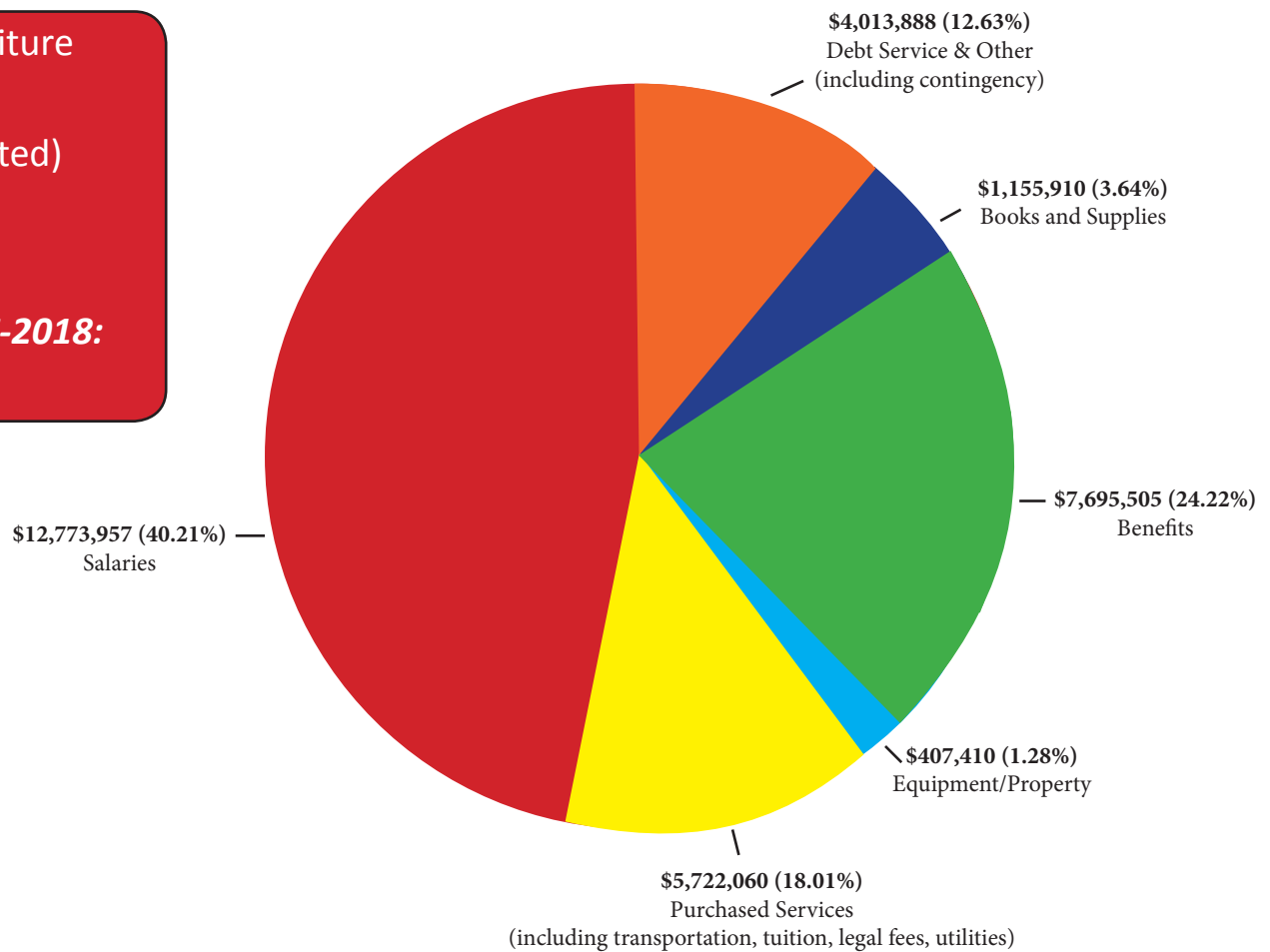
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Major Expenditure Categories

Budget (Adjusted)
2017-2018

% of Budget

Total for 2017-2018:
\$31,768,730



Follow Us on Social Media

At the Avonworth School District, we understand that our communication must reach beyond our students and parents and must include our community members as well. With this in mind, our new website has a page specifically designated for community members. On this page, we have provided links to each of our social media accounts. We can be followed on twitter, facebook, and Instagram.

Additionally, the school district is now publishing a newsletter each month. The goals of the newsletter are to highlight events, students, or staff, as well as to make announcements and provide information about upcoming events. On the Community Page of our website we have provided a link to allow anyone that would like to receive our monthly newsletter to sign up to receive it by providing us with your email address. The newsletter will be sent out toward the end of each month.

We hope you take advantage of the information provided on our website, through our social media accounts, as well as sign up to receive our newsletter so that you can stay apprised of the amazing things happening throughout the Avonworth School District.





STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Pennsylvania Shifts from the School Performance Profile to The Future Ready Index

Since 2013, each fall in Pennsylvania schools have been receiving a School Performance Profile score. Beginning in the fall of 2018, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be shifting from the School Performance Profile to the Future Ready Index in order to meet the requirements of federal law as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act. The Future Ready Index will take a dashboard approach to providing the public with information regarding how schools are performing and making progress on multiple measures rather than providing the one summative school-level score previously provided by the School Performance Profile. Additional information on the Future Ready Index can be found at: <https://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/Future-Ready-PA.aspx>

Commended Student - 2018 National Merit Scholar Program

Isabel Talarico was named a 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student.

Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the 2016 PSAT.



PSSA Scores average 16 percentage points higher than PA averages

2017 PSSA Scores

		ELA	Math	Science
Grade 3	Avonworth	88%	82%	-
	Pennsylvania	65%	55%	-
Grade 4	Avonworth	88%	54%	90%
	Pennsylvania	61%	47%	75%
Grade 5	Avonworth	80%	61%	-
	Pennsylvania	60%	44%	-
Grade 6	Avonworth	77%	41%	-
	Pennsylvania	64%	40%	-
Grade 7	Avonworth	85%	49%	-
	Pennsylvania	60%	38%	-
Grade 8	Avonworth	79%	45%	62%
	Pennsylvania	59%	33%	53%

2017 SAT Average Scores

	Avonworth	State	Nation
Critical Reading	530	500	494
Math	540	508	508
Writing	509	481	482

2017 ACT Average Scores

	Avonworth	State	Nation
English	25.9	23.4	20.3
Math	24.6	23.4	20.7
Reading	27.4	24.2	21.4
Science	24.8	23.3	21.0
Composite	25.8	23.7	21.0

2017 Keystone Scores

	Avonworth	Pennsylvania
Literature	84%	76%
Algebra I	85%	69%
Biology	82%	67%

2017 AP Test Results, Grades 10-12

Number of Test Takers:	98
Number of Tests:	193
Scored 5:	27
Scored 4:	47
Scored 3:	51

Avonworth is recognized for being one of 433 districts in the U.S. and Canada on the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

2018 Graduates are attending the following institutions:



Allegheny College	Ohio State University
Ashland University	Ohio University
Baldwin-Wallace University	PA College of Technology
Bethany College	Penn State University
Bloomsburg University	Penn State University - New Kensington
Bowling Green State University	Robert Morris University
Brigham Young University	Rochester Institute of Technology
Carlow University	Savannah College of Art & Science
Community College of Allegheny County	Slippery Rock University
Community College of Butler County	The University of Findlay
- Aviation Academy	Tulane University
Cornell University	U.S. Air Force Academy
DePaul University	U.S. Army
Drexel University	University of Alabama
George Washington University	University of Cincinnati
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of Kansas
Indiana University	University of Michigan
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	University of Pittsburgh
Ithaca College	University of Virginia
John Carroll University	West Virginia University
Kent State University	Youngstown State University
N.C. State University	

Class of 2018 Post-Secondary Plans

100	Total Students
74	Attending a Four-Year Post-Secondary Institution
11	Attending a Two-Year Post-Secondary Institution
4	Serving in the Armed Services
6	Working in the Workforce
5	Undecided

Schools To Watch Recognition

Avonworth Middle School received its third re-designation as a Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Middle School to Watch by the Pennsylvania Association of Middle Level Education (PAMLE). This designation is a challenging recognition to receive and recognizes Avonworth Middle School for its continued academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and outstanding organizational structures and processes. Avonworth Middle School first received this designation in 2009.



School Counselor of the Year

Avonworth High School Counselor, Nicole Lewis was recognized by the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association as the High School Counselor of the Year. Mrs. Lewis has spent the last twenty years working as a counselor to provide students with the supports they need to achieve success both in school and in life. Her positive influence and dedication to Avonworth students are greatly appreciated!



Best Community for Music Education



In 2018, Avonworth School District received recognition as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in America by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation (NAMM). This recognition acknowledges the Avonworth School District's continued commitment and support of music education in its schools.



Students from Avonworth High School and P



Deeper Learning



Avonworth Middle School has committed to deeper learning experiences. The 8th grade Civics class saw an opportunity to teach African American history through a partnership with the Carnegie Museum of Art as it relates to the 20/20 exhibit. This exhibit is a collaboration between the Carnegie Museum of Art and the Studio Museum in Harlem. Students took a field trip to the museum and selected a piece of art to research and respond to with their own artistic ideas. This allowed groups to look deeply into recent African-American History and find connections to the exhibit.

Docents from the Carnegie Museum of Art worked with students to prepare them for the Avonworth Community Night at the Museum. On November 17, 2017 Avonworth students shared their research and their artistic creations by serving as docents at the Carnegie Museum of Art.

d Perry High School Collaborate, Learn & Grow Together



With support from a grant through the Heinz Endowments, a group of Avonworth High School students began meeting with students from Perry High School in the Pittsburgh Public Schools to explore topics of race, equity, and diversity. The students were trained in ways to engage in difficult conversations and created a “brand” for the group. The students also traveled to Washington DC to visit the National Museum of African-American History and Culture. Their work will continue in the 2018-2019 school year when they will produce a video to reflect their experiences together.

Lopes Lounge Opens at Avonworth High School

One of the most inspirational spaces designed and created by students this year has been the Lopes Lounge. From an outdated computer lab no longer needed for its original purpose, the Lopes Lounge evolved into a welcoming space providing common ground where students share smiles, real-world work experience, coffee and a sense of belonging.



Cameron Galloway Received the Outstanding Student Award from the National Association of Home Builders



2018 Avonworth graduate Cameron Galloway experienced tremendous success as an Avonworth student as well as a student at the A.W. Beattie Career and Technical Center. During his senior year, Cameron was the recipient of an award from the National Association of Home Builders as an outstanding student at the Residential Construction Management Competition held in Florida. After graduating from Avonworth, Cameron is attending the Pennsylvania College of Technology to study Civil Engineering.

Common Sense Education



In 2017-2018 the Avonworth School District received a designation as a Common Sense Education School District. This recognition is given to school districts that are committed to providing safe and innovative spaces for students to thrive as they harness the full potential of technology for learning and life. The Avonworth School District is committed to continuing to help our students thrive as digital learners and citizens.



Avonworth Musician Lukas Helsel Excels on the National Level

Avonworth trombonist Lukas Helsel is an incredibly talented, disciplined young man. Each school year, Lukas has been piling up honors and recognition for his outstanding musicianship. Since his sophomore year, Lukas has earned fifteen different recognitions or awards, eight of these coming in the 2017-2018 school year. Lukas has grown accustomed to receiving recognition at the local, regional, and state level. In 2017-2018 Lukas received his first recognition on the national level when he was named first chair trombone for the National Association of Music Education's All-National Orchestra.



2017 NAFME All-National Orchestra first chair trombone
 2017 PMEA Honors Jazz Band - Jazz 1 first chair trombone
 2017 PMEA Honors Band first chair trombone
 2018 PMEA District 1 Band first chair trombone
 2018 PMEA District 1 Orchestra first chair trombone
 2018 PMEA Region 1 Band first chair trombone
 2018 PMEA Region 1 Orchestra first chair trombone
 2018 PMEA All-State Band first chair trombone

Artists in Residence at Avonworth Primary Center

Avonworth Primary Center (APC) partnered with Pittsburgh Center for the Arts to offer three Artist Residency projects throughout the year. APC teachers explored various artists and art forms at the Studio A summer institute to generate ideas for curriculum integration. Each residency provided teaching sessions from local artists that were grounded in grade-level topics and provided students with a collaborative culminating experience. The various works of art are displayed throughout the Primary Center.



Stock Market Game Sweep!



Avonworth Elementary students took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association Foundation (SIFMA) Regional Stock Market Game. SIFMA Foundation's

Stock Market Game is a curriculum-based program where student teams in grades 4-12 learn about the global marketplace, long-term saving, and investing fundamentals by using a hypothetical brokerage account. Congratulations to all of our students who participated in this wonderful event and project!

History, Art, and English Integrate to Create Honors Course

Students at Avonworth High School can now earn three Honors credits when they take our Integrated Arts Honors Course. This course inte-

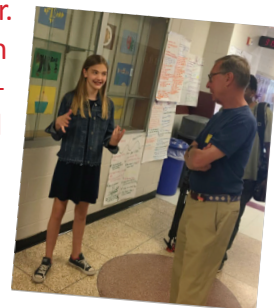


grates the disciplines of History, Art, and English. Students pursue an in-depth connection with their own growth and agency as they collaborate and engage with the project-based curriculum of this dynamic and challenging course. The course is co-taught and revolves around World History themes while promoting student choice through individual project design.



Author Ted Dintersmith Visits Avonworth School District

Author and film producer Ted Dintersmith visited Pittsburgh during a book tour after the release of his book, *What School Could Be*, and chose to visit Avonworth while he was in town. While writing the book, Mr. Dintersmith spent two years traveling the country visiting schools and talking with teachers. His book offers an inspiring vision of what teachers and students can accomplish if trusted with the challenge of developing the skills and ways of thinking needed in a world driven by unprecedented technological change. While at Avonworth, Mr. Dintersmith visited with students in our middle and high school and learned about the innovative education offered to our students through project-based learning, integrated courses, and creative approaches to teaching and learning.



Avonworth Schools Host Remake Learning Day Events for Community and Region



The Avonworth School District is a proud member of the Remake Learning Network. We hosted several events as part of the 12-day (May 17-25, 2018) celebration of activities and events showcasing what makes the greater Pittsburgh and West Virginia region a national leader in innovative teaching and learning. Avonworth Elementary School hosted Outdoor Adventures in its beautiful and resourceful outdoor learning space. Participants took part in hands-on activities that highlighted the ways our teachers are taking the classroom outside, as well as bringing the outdoors into the classroom. Avonworth Primary Center hosted a Pre-K Technology Night that allowed children to move through centers and explore the many different forms of technology that are integrated into learning.



#bethekindkid Project

JAM Enterprises is a group of 54 girls at Avonworth Primary Center who meet weekly to combine their creativity and compassion to help others. Their efforts in 2017-2018 led to the creation of the #bethekindkid campaign. Their message encourages kindness and has spread like wildfire not only



throughout our school community, but throughout the Pittsburgh area and beyond. JAM has now sold thousands of #bethekindkid t-shirts. Profits from the shirts go to the American Cancer Association. During the 2017-2018 school year the girls of JAM Enterprises were able to donate approximately \$3,000 to local charities, as well as contribute to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank.

One Tree Per Child



Avonworth Elementary School became the first school in North America to participate in the One Tree Per Child program. The One Tree Per Child program focuses on providing all elementary students with an opportunity to plant a tree during their time in school. We are honored and excited to continue to provide this opportunity to our students!

Grandparents Day at Avonworth Elementary



Avonworth Elementary School hosted its first-ever Grandparents/Grandfriends Day in 2017-2018 and it was a huge success! Over 450 grandparents participated in the event and shared in a variety of wonderful activities with the students and staff. Avonworth Elementary School looks forward to continuing this new tradition in the years to come!

Avonworth Track Star Hunter Robinson Leaves a Legacy

Avonworth student-athlete, Hunter Robinson, definitely left her mark not only at Avonworth but also at the WPIAL and State levels during her incredible high school track career. From 2016 to 2018 Hunter ran her way to a total of 2 team medals, 11 individual WPIAL medals, and 11 individual State medals. Hunter was also named to the All-State Team three years in a row, which is an accolade for being in the top 12 in the state of Pennsylvania. Hunter was also the anchor and leader of the 2017-2018 Girls Track Team that brought the first-ever State Championship to the Avonworth School District. Hunter's efforts both in the classroom and on the track have earned her a full scholarship to Tulane University where she is continuing her track and academic career.



State Medals

- 2016 400 meter state champion
- 2016 100 meter dash 3rd place
- 2016 200 meter dash 3rd place
- 2016 400 4X400 meter relay 2nd place
- 2017 100 meter dash state champion
- 2017 200 meter dash state Champion
- 2017 400 meter dash 2nd place
- 2018 200 meter dash State Champion
- 2018 400 meter dash state Champion
- 2018 4X100 meter relay 3rd place
- 2018 4X400 meter relay 5th place

WPIAL Medals

- 2016 100 meter dash 2nd place
- 2016 200 meter dash 2nd place
- 2016 400 meter dash 1st place
- 2016 1600 meter relay 1st place
- 2017 100 meter dash 1st place
- 2017 200 meter dash 1st place
- 2017 400 meter dash 1st place
- 2018 200 meter dash 1st place
- 2018 400 meter dash 1st place
- 2018 400 meter relay 1st place
- 2018 1600 meter relay 1st place

Team Medals

- 2016 PIAA AA team Runner-up
- 2018 PIAA AAA team Champions
- 2016, 2017, 2018 All-State team

Historic Year for Avonworth Athletics

Avonworth Athletics experienced its most successful year ever in 2017-2018. Fifteen of our varsity teams reached the WPIAL playoffs. We added a WPIAL championship (Boys' Swimming) and a WPIAL runner-up trophy (Baseball), as well as two section championship plaques (Boys' Cross Country and Girls' Softball) to our ever-growing trophy collection. The following individuals also pushed beyond WPIAL competition to compete in PIAA tournaments: Girls' Cross Country runner Anna Igims; Swimmers Karen Siddoway, Aidan Sommers, Nick Madey, Cooper Groll, Luke Wagner, and Luke Tomczak; and Track athletes Hunter Robinson, Hayden Robinson, Harris Robinson, Catherine Penrod, and Lauren Pflueger. In addition to our individual students competing at the state level, our Girls' Volleyball, Boys' Baseball, and Girls' Softball teams also made it to PIAA Playoff Tournaments.

The biggest story to come out of athletics in 2017-2018 was provided by our Girls' Track Team, who brought the first-ever State Championship to Avonworth. Our Avonworth girls compete as part of a cooperative agreement with Northgate. Our combined team of Avonworth and Northgate puts us in the largest school division. Yet, we are the smallest AAA school in the WPIAL and the 4th smallest school in the PIAA competing in track. Competing against much larger schools, our girls came away with two gold medals and a silver medal for individual performances, a bronze medal and 5th place finish in two relay events, as well as the 1st place trophy for the first-ever Team State Championship in school history.



Unified Sports Program

Sportsmanship, friendly competition, and school spirit are the foundations of the Avonworth High School Unified Sports Bocce Team. The team, founded in the 2016-2017 school year, is affiliated with Special Olympics and embraces a message of inclusiveness. The team competes against other western Pennsylvania teams throughout the region.





School Safety Update

The Avonworth School District has a positive and collaborative relationship with the Ohio Township Police Department (OTPD) and the Ohio Township Fire Department (OTFD), as well as other local municipality support. The District has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ohio Township Police Department that formalized this support relationship. Included in the support from the OTPD is a School Resource Officer (SRO). Corporal



Chris Simcoviak has served as the SRO for Avonworth for twenty years. He serves on the High School Student Assistance Team and the District's Safety/Security Committee, facilitates the Elementary School DARE program, and provides safety support district-wide.

In the 2018-2019 school budget, the Avonworth Board of Directors set aside additional funds to increase safety measures. These funds will be utilized to increase the School Resource Officer position to full time. The District will also be hiring additional school security and making additional security improvements. One of these improvements that was in place for the start of the 2018-2019 school year was the installation of security gates on both the elementary and primary campuses. These gates will provide additional safety for our younger students when they are utilizing our outdoor play areas.

The Avonworth School District also continues to ensure measures are in place to meet the mental health needs of our students. Each school building has a full-time, highly qualified school counselor on site. Our school counselors provide numerous supports to our students including classroom lessons, individual consultation, and group support. Our counselors are also critical components of each building's Student Assistance Program teams, which seek to connect students and families with additional supports.

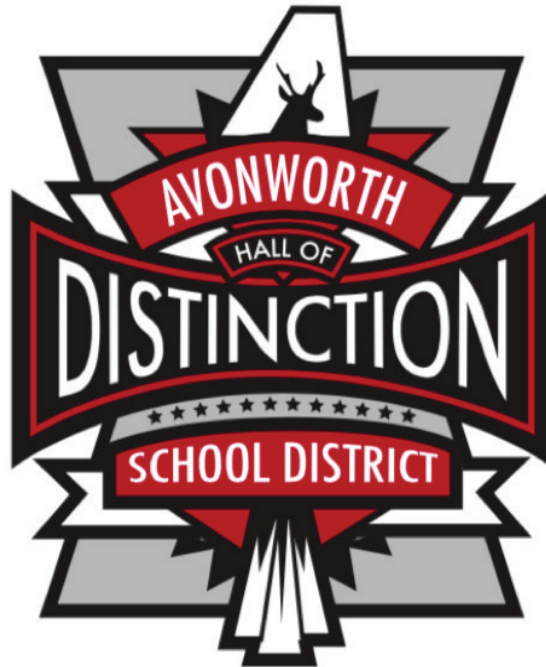
Additionally, Avonworth School District staff have participated in a variety of safety-related trainings. Listed below are some of the trainings staff members have received to prepare them to provide a safe environment and respond in case of emergencies:

- Run, Hide, Fight
- A.L.I.C.E (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate)
- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention
- Stop the Bleed
- NARCAN - Opioid Overdose Treatment
- Training from the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals
- Managing Bias in Threat Assessment
- Food Allergies/ Anaphylaxis/Diabetes



Coming in 2019!

Avonworth School District Hall of Distinction



The Avonworth School District is establishing a Hall of Distinction to identify and to honor those who have made outstanding achievements in his/her career or in the service of the Avonworth School Community. Additionally, through their accomplishments, these individuals have brought distinction, honor, and excellence to the Avonworth School District Community.

Individuals eligible for the Hall of Distinction must be alumni, staff, or a community member. Alumni status includes graduates of Ben Avon High School, those that attended the Emsworth School, or the Ohio Township One-Room School Houses.

Current or former community members who have made outstanding contributions to the Avonworth School District Community are eligible for the Hall of Distinction for Special Recognition. In the fall of 2019, the inaugural class of the Avonworth School District Hall of Distinction will be inducted in a ceremony during the first home football game.

If you are interested in nominating someone to the inaugural Avonworth Hall of Distinction Class, please complete the nomination form on the reverse side of this perforated page. Once you complete the form, you may mail it to or drop it off at:

**Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

Avonworth School District Hall of Distinction Nomination Form

Please return this form to:

Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Purpose:

The purpose of the Avonworth Hall of Distinction is to recognize Avonworth High School alumni, community members, and employees of the Avonworth School District that have made outstanding accomplishments and/or achievements in their career or in service to the school district community.

Criteria:

- Anyone can make a nomination.
- Avonworth alumni (including graduates of Ben Avon High School, the Emsworth School, and the Ohio Township One-Room Schoolhouses), community members, and district employees are eligible for nomination.
- Nominees should be ten years beyond graduation for alumni and employees must have completed their employment with the District with five years separation from the District.
- Posthumous nominations will be accepted.
- Nominations are valid for a period of five years.
- Nominees must be of good character and high moral standards.
- Nominations will be accepted until February 28.

Nominee Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Class Year: _____
Phone No.: _____

Your Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Class Year: _____
Phone No.: _____

How long have you known the nominee? _____

Please describe why you feel this nominee is appropriate for consideration for the Avonworth School District Hall of Distinction.

Questions can be directed to: The Avonworth School District Administrative Office 412-369-8738



Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

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Jeff Carraway, Treasurer

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Patrick Stewart, Board Member

Vicki Carlson, Board Member

Beau Blaser, Board Member

Kathryn Monti, Board Member

John Brandt, Board Member

William C. Andrews
Solicitor with Andrews & Price

Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Thomas Ralston, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Cindy Donovan
Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent

Jeff Hadley, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

Bradley Waters
Director of Fiscal Management

Tracy Eck, Payroll Manager/
Supervisor of Transportation

Keera Dwulit
High School Principal

Michael Hall
Middle School Principal

Kaitlin Remensky
Assistant Middle/
High School Principal

William Battistone, Jr., Ph.D.
Elementary School Principal

Scott Miller, Ph.D.
Primary Center Principal

Tommie Murray
Assistant Elementary/Primary Principal

Jessica Taylor
Director of Student Services

Tim Giel
Director of Athletics

Melissa Schad
Food Services Director

Brandon Gary
Director of Technology

William Bauer
Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds

Brant Colamarino
Maintenance Supervisor

Avonworth School District will not discriminate in its education programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, ancestry, disability, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Employees and participants who have an inquiry, complaint of harassment or discrimination, or who need information about accommodations for disabled persons, should contact Jessica Taylor, Director of Student Services, 1310 Roosevelt Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, 412-366-7171, jtaylor@avonworth.k12.pa.us.