Principal’s Message

Trojan Families:

We continue to do hard things at AHS! This is a collective “WE” and one that I do not take for granted. As you are probably quite aware there are many people involved with bringing education to our students through newly developed systems and revised practices that are just mind boggling to step back and think about.

Many lives and lifestyles have had to be "retooled" to meet the demands that COVID-19 has placed on us and I could not be any prouder of everyone’s efforts to meet and even exceed those demands. In this edition of the Principal’s Newsletter I will highlight the efforts of a new system that we call "ACT." ACT stands for Auburn Connection Team (some people call it the Auburn Care Team). I say “yes” to both.

The beginnings of ACT truly started back in March once we knew that we were headed to distance learning and we needed to retool our attendance taking efforts. Attendance is the number one predictor of high school student success if we are just talking about data and data correlations. Our data represents student lives and we take it very seriously.

From our Spring efforts of setting up three steps (or Tiers) of attendance taking:

- **Tier 1:** Teacher efforts through phone calls, emails, letters, etc.
- **Tier 2:** Attendance Office efforts through live phone calls, letters, emails.
- **Tier 3:** Admin, Dean of students, and Counselor efforts - &v front door home visits

Through this early system we were able to transition our pre-COVID attendance efforts into a focused effort on engagement. This basically means to remove as many barriers as possible to help our students stay connected or to get reconnected to their education. Whether students are actually attending their classes or not during virtual Google meets, we know that it is just as important that students experiencing challenges can successfully engage in the learning at times that are not traditional.

We have learned that a percentage of our students are helping their families support their homes and are needing to work during the traditional school day. This is just a fact of life. And perhaps even more so since COVID-19 has been here. We do not want that to stop our young people from earning their high school diploma. The fact that our working students can access a teacher-recorded YouTube, a teacher-recorded note taking session, or a lab video can be a life changer. So, along with ACT, big KUDOs to our teachers. AHS educators are in the “business” of transforming lives and if there has ever been a time when this is on full display, it’s now. What’s enabled this to happen for many of our students is partly due to the work of ACT in removing barriers. Our team of ACT members have made over 300 home visits.

We’ve also contracted a student/family engagement team who calls themselves “UTB.” UTB stands for Unleash the Brilliance. UTB is no stranger to our school as their mentors have cultivated caring and authentic relationships with our students for the past two years. UTB has made a difference and their work matters. And, some of our students actually become UTB mentors and can positively influence younger ASD students. UTBs efforts during the pandemic have helped over 70 of our students stay connected to AHS as well as offering support for families who are experiencing the most challenges during this time. And our collective efforts will continue.

As your families transition into the winter holidays, I wish you and yours a safe and wonderful winter break. Together WE will see this through.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanzaa, Feliz Navidad, and Happy New Years!

Respectfully,

Jeff Gardner
Principal - Auburn High School
"It's a Great Time to be a Trojan!"
Helpful Counseling Resources

With all that’s going on in today’s world, stress and anxiety levels are higher than ever. Asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Here are links for counseling resources that may be helpful:

(AHold down the control key and click on the link)

Counseling/Crisis Resources
AHS Counseling Website

AHS Counselors
A-D     Michaela Herrera mherrera@auburn.wednet.edu
Dn-K   Judy Lutton     jlutton@auburn.wednet.edu
L-Ra    Boone Borden   bborden@auburn.wednet.edu
Rb-Z   Jackie Krezelak jkrezelak@auburn.wednet.edu

Remote Learning Tips and Tricks
1. Stay Organized
2. Stay Engaged
3. Manage your Environment
4. Ask for Help
5. Take Care of Yourself

Click here for the full article by Manchester University!
Minimize the Spread of COVID-19 this Holiday Season

Regardless of how you choose to celebrate, it is important to keep the following in mind:

- **Avoid close contact with people outside of your household.** Stay at least 6 feet away from all other people who are not part of your household.
- **Wear a cloth face covering anytime you are with people not from your household.** This includes family members and close friends who do not live with you. Make sure the face covering fits snugly over your nose and mouth.
- **Avoid confined indoor spaces.** Outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities. If participating in an outdoor event is not possible and you choose to attend an indoor event, avoid crowded poorly ventilated, and fully enclosed indoor spaces. Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors if possible.
- **Wash or sanitize your hands (and the hands of little ones) often.**

Stay home if you are sick or were recently exposed to someone with COVID-19. If you are sick, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, stay home and away from others.

Happy Holidays from the Nurse, Laurie Wood....

Happy Holidays everyone. Even though we seem to be going into a dark and dreary time, there are things we can remember that are still here and positive for us. The sun will still come up tomorrow, the birds will sing, Auburn High School is still here waiting for you to return, teachers are teaching, students are learning.

Another thing is the winter solstice is December 21\textsuperscript{st}. That’s when the earth starts turning back toward the sun and brings us closer to summer when our world will be in a better place. Please hold on to hope. We are all in this together. If you or someone you know is suicidal or in emotional distress, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or access their live online chat.

Don’t forget, always wear a mask, watch your distance (6 ft), and wash your hands!

Laurie Wood BSN, RN Auburn High School Nurse, lwood@auburn.wednet.edu.

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**Senior Portrait Submission & Yearbook Senior Memory Pages**

**Senior Portraits** are due Jan. 31. Find Senior Portrait upload instructions are [here](#).

**Senior Yearbook Pages** are for sale now! Submissions must be in a jpeg format. Contact Tom Kaup, Yearbook Advisor, for specifications and more information. 253-931-4880. Full page, $100; Half page, $75; quarter page, $50. Pay for you senior yearbook page using Touch Base [here](#).

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**Make Stress Your Friend**

**The Mayo Clinic** released some self-care suggestions during the pandemic.

For students who purchased pictures....

**Student Portraits from Dorian are Ready For Pick-up in the Main Office**

8-3, Monday-Friday
Looking for 11th Grade AHS Students!
College Success Foundation is at Auburn High!

What do we offer?
The Achievers Programs offers a series of support systems to help students on their college journey. This 2-Year program helps students with the following during their 11th & 12th Grade Year:

- **College Planning** – Figure out what school you want to apply to and major of study
- **College Applications** – They ask for a lot of information, we can help!
- **Personal Statements** – We will support students in writing a strong essay
- **Scholarship Searches** – Money is out there for college and we’ll help you find it
- **Financial Aid Applications** – FAFSA and WASFA experts are here to help
- **SAT/ACT Prep and Waivers** – Study sessions to help you do well on these tests
- **College Visits and Field Trips** – Throughout the school year and summer
- **Summer Programming** – To get students fully prepared for the work they’ll do senior year
- **Bi-weekly Meetings**: Interactive and engaging activities to help you with the college planning process
- **Cohort Model** – Build community with a group of 50 students who have similar college aspiring goals
- **Family Engagement** – Develop relationship with parents to help foster student success
- **Mentoring** – Professional relationship from on-going staff who are experts in the field

Deadline is December 15!  Apply now!!

Informational Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDNpZN3lj0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDNpZN3lj0&feature=youtu.be)

ONLINE APPLICATION: [https://formstack.io/9DBF1?Applicant__c.Application_Type__c=Achiever](https://formstack.io/9DBF1?Applicant__c.Application_Type__c=Achiever)

For more information, email tfrazier@auburn.wednet.edu or tfrazier@collegesuccessfoundation.org

Chromebook Repair/Connection Issues
Help is available daily M-F, 9-2 or by appointment.
Email Ms. Lori Lippert at llippert@auburn.wednet.edu for an appointment or assistance, or by phone at 253-931-4880

For Distance Learning Help for Students and Families, click here.

Securly for Parents
Securly is ASDs cloud-based web filter for schools. It not only provides an internet filter but also student online activity monitoring for bullying and self-harm, teacher device monitoring and a parent portal for filtering at home. Click here for more information about Securly.

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