Principal’s Message

Trojan Families:

Auburn High School Students are proving to us every single day that they can and are doing hard things. This is from academics and from a world-wide pandemic perspective. Since March a day has not gone by without at least one more story being shared about one of our students who is trying their best in some of the most challenging circumstances they’ve ever faced, not to mention dealing with the ongoing disappointment from missed school events due to COVID-19. Our kids are showing us so much when we take a moment to notice. Educators talk a lot about perseverance and grit with their students and through similar messaging and modeling parents are contributing to this important narrative in so many ways that we’ll never know about. No question, our kids are working through much difficulty and this gives me so much hope and confidence that they are learning lessons that will serve them well as they move forward.

Since many of our high school students are the eldest sibling still living at home, many take on additional duties and responsibilities which before the pandemic were responsibilities that revolved outside of the normal school day. Now, many of our students are “on the clock” with their younger siblings for the majority of each day while juggling a full load of classes and developing even more persistence through just some of the varied technology issues associated with internet connections. It’s nothing short of frustration, yet our students and their teachers dutifully trudge on. Having been privy to multiple virtual classrooms I have observed a whole new level of consideration and kindness from teachers and from students alike. Everybody is in this situation and seems to have the crystal clear understanding that we are all in this together and they will make this work.

School marches on while many worry, and justifiably so, about the academic gaps that could be developing during these challenging times. Our students are getting a full dosage of life lessons but I think I can personally attest that this will serve them well. This is my takeaway about my mom. My mom is still alive and she’s thriving about as well as any 90 year old independent American citizen living in Puyallup, Washington could during these times. She was born in Japan in 1930 and her childhood education was interrupted by two atomic bombs. Yep, those bombs. A few years prior to December 7, 1944 schools in Japan had basically stopped for the war effort and she became part of the child labor force and no longer received formal lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic. She learned how to wire radios and do other repetitive tasks to please the Japanese Prime Minister, Hideki Tojo. A man who would later be executed for various war crimes. Somehow she was still able to gain enough basic education to make it to where she is now.

To this day I would say my mom is probably one of the smartest most resourceful individuals with the most perseverance I have ever known. And maybe this is why I 100% believe our students will come out of this situation with skills and assets that they may not have acquired if not for having to live through this time. I believe their newfound experiences can serve them through their lifetime and this alone provides me a great deal of hope for their futures despite the many challenges.

We spend a lot of time measuring our students with all types of assessments and grading practices and that is part of the system. Students need the grades to demonstrate they’ve met standard and they need the grades to illustrate how well they have done with difficult content. Please impress upon your students that although grades and test scores are a necessity they, as individuals, are much more than that. They are their own story and they will be the ones who will benefit most from their own story. And this will enable them to do even greater things than they might have ever imagined. Let’s really celebrate our students!

For our TROY Student of the Month recognitions we are focused on the letter “Y” of TROY. Y stands for “YOU.” As in, YOU belong here, and this is all about YOU! At Auburn High School we recognize that our students are juggling quite a bit right now and we applaud them for all they are doing and I hope you will join me in this effort and let them know whenever you’re proud of them.

In closing, I want to recognize and encourage supportive action for if your student is experiencing more difficulty than what you, as their parent/guardian, believes is manageable. Always know that you can contact their school counselor as a starting place. We have services and our counselors will do their best to support your student and to make the proper and appropriate referral for services.

Respectfully,

Jeff Gardner
Principal - Auburn High School

“Nine-tenths of education is encouragement” – Anatole France
**HIGHLY CAPABLE REFERRALS OPEN JAN 11 through FEB 12, 2021**

The Auburn School District is now accepting referrals for the 2021-2022 Highly Capable Program, a program that serves exceptionally intelligent, intellectually gifted students whose needs may not be easily met in the general education setting. Once a student is identified as highly capable, he/she is entitled to Highly Capable program services from the date of eligibility through graduation; annual testing is not required. Nominations close February 12, 2021.

Screening considers nominees who are currently enrolled in grades Kindergarten through eleven. Selection for highly capable programs reflects state guidelines for identifying intellectually gifted students. If you feel your child should participate in further testing, but doesn’t meet screening criteria, you may nominate your child. Nomination forms are school counseling offices and are available online by selection the For Families menu, Highly Capable, and then Highly Capable Forms.

Direct questions to your child’s school counselor or to: aladage@auburn.wednet.edu (253) 931-4950

---

**Textbooks, Supplies and Teacher Handouts, Payments, Enrollment**

For services that cannot be addressed online, through email or on the phone, school offices are staffed and ready to assist. Please understand these are “walk-up” services as our building is closed due to COVID restrictions. Call the number posted on the front door and we will be happy to assist you! Please call ahead for the bookkeeper’s in-building days. Handouts are also available during lunch in the West Courtyard, 11:10-12:40. Check with the teacher for which location to pick up handouts.

---

**Chromebook Repair/Connection Issues**

Help is available daily M-F, 9-3 or by appointment. Email Lori Lippert at llippert@auburn.wednet.edu for an appointment or assistance, or by phone at 425-243-7242.

For Distance Learning Help for Students and Families, click [here](#).

---

For students who purchased pictures in November....

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

8-3, Monday-Friday

---

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

Senior Portraits are due Jan. 31. 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](#).

---

**YOUNG READER’S CHOICE AWARDS—FREE BOOKS (2)!!**

Auburn Public Schools Foundation has provided a $1000 grant to fund student participation in reading and voting for their favorite book from the Young Reader’s Choice Nominee List, an event started in 1940 and now sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Library Assoc. Readers living in Alaska, Alberta, BC, Idaho, Montana and Washington can nominate books and choose the winners!

How to participate:

- View the slide presentation which includes info about each book (including trailers)
- Choose a book (free to you!) from the YRC 2021 Book Award Nominee Google form
- Cast your vote using the 2021 YRC Ballot Google form

Nominate a favorite read for next year’s award (2022) [here](#).

Need more information? Contact Molly Picatti-Baker, AHS Librarian at mpicatti-baker@auburn.wednet.edu or access the [2021 Young Readers Choice Award](#) website.
Minimize the Spread of COVID-19

- **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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helpful Counseling Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Hold down the control key and click on the link)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Counseling/Crisis Resources</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHS Counseling Website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AHS Counselors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-D Michaela Herrera <a href="mailto:mherrera@auburn.wednet.edu">mherrera@auburn.wednet.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dn-K Judy Lutton <a href="mailto:jlutton@auburn.wednet.edu">jlutton@auburn.wednet.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-Ra Boone Borden <a href="mailto:bborden@auburn.wednet.edu">bborden@auburn.wednet.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rb-Z Jackie Krezelak <a href="mailto:jkrezelak@auburn.wednet.edu">jkrezelak@auburn.wednet.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mental Health:

- Set and maintain a routine at home
- Focus on things you can control
- Use technology to maintain social connections with your loved ones. Consider a regular check-in schedule to give you something to look forward to.
- Focus your thoughts on the present and things to be grateful for today.
- Listen to music or read books.
- Consume reliable news sources that report facts, and avoid media that sensationalizes emotions. Limit your exposure or take a break from news and social media if you find that it makes you anxious.
- Lean on your personal beliefs and faith for support.
- Look for ways to help your community, such as blood donations, checking on older people in your neighborhood, or donating supplies or money to local organizations.

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!

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING AVAILABLE
MONDAY- FRIDAY 3:30-5:30

[https://sites.google.com/auburn.wednet.edu/virtualafterschooltutoring1020/home](https://sites.google.com/auburn.wednet.edu/virtualafterschooltutoring1020/home)

**Skyward Access:** Click [here](#) to check your student's attendance and grades
January is scholarship month!
AHS Achiever Scholars have collectively earned $502,000 in scholarships!!

Students have received acceptance letters from Green River College, Highline College, WSU, Arizona State, Hawaii Pacific University, Howard University, Johnson C. Smith College, Fisk University, CWU, EWU, Benedict College, Seattle University, Montana State, Saint Martins University, Walla Walla University and many more!

It's not too late to apply for scholarships and/or the FAFSA or WASFA! CSF Achiever Scholars Application is still open for current Juniors!!

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

Apply now!!

Informational Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDNpZN3ljI0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDNpZN3ljI0&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

---

**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](https://www.securingthefuture.org) for more information about Securly.