Principal’s Message

Trojan Families:

I want to share with you how proud I am of our school. Since late November I have been comparing data between our Quarter 2 and our Quarter 1 as your students and our staff continued to learn and get better with distance learning. Two indicators that I use are our weekly attendance rates and our on-track passing grades at mid-quarter and credit attainment rates at the end of the quarter. We’ve made improvements in both areas and that has me really excited for what’s possible as we begin to prepare our school for an eventual return to our building.

This week I was (virtually) in six different classrooms observing teachers teach and students learn. One important takeaway I had was how well attended our classes are. Four of the classes I observed were math classes. Of the four, three had perfect attendance. How about that? The one that wasn’t at 100% was well over 90% with 25 of 27 in attendance. Our teachers have developed such positive relationships with our students and it’s definitely showing. In my observations students were interactive and working hard to grasp difficult content. Students had opportunities to share ideas with one another in small breakout rooms and some stayed later to receive 1:1 help from their teacher. As much as we all long to return to a regular classroom, learning was definitely happening.

So, thank you for encouraging your students to try their best and to stay engaged with their schooling. Our students get a learning break next week with Mid-Winter Break. Our school will be serving meals on February 16, 17, 18, and 19 between 11:10am and 12:40pm. For students who would like additional academic support we will offer teacher tutoring sessions during the break. This is the access link: [AcademicSupport4midwtrbrk](https://kcls.org/studyzoneplus).

Also, we had 159 students who earned an E grade (50-59%) for Quarter 2. If your student was one of the 159, it is important to know that they have until Friday, February 26th to complete whatever their teacher has indicated to them to finish to receive a passing grade. Teachers may choose to continue working with the student beyond that date as long as the student is showing effort to raise their grade by showing proficiency with the course standards. It is possible to turn their E grades into Cs with the right amount of effort.

In closing, I want to let you know that AHS is one of 550 schools that applied for National Recognition to be a Capturing Kids Hearts Showcase School. I just learned this week that we are very much in the running for this distinction as there are still 339 schools that remain in the process. AHS is the only school still in the running from Washington State. I’ll share more about this important acknowledgement effort next month. This year I have challenged our students to have something tangible to show for all of their efforts during distance learning and I believe our entire school is modeling that same idea by going for something like this. It would mean a lot to be able to say that we (staff and students) earned a National level recognition during a world-wide pandemic.

Respectfully,

Jeff Gardner
Principal - Auburn High School
“Nine-tenths of education is encouragement” – Anatole France

Kudos and Congrats to students John Struchen, Ryan Burgess and Iurri Danylchenko for their stellar performance at the virtual Automotive Skills USA competition. John placed 1st in Automotive Maintenance, Ryan and Iurri placed 1st (it was a tie!) in Automotive Service. These students will move on to the state competition in the coming months.

Shoutout to Violinist Claire Casperson who auditioned and was accepted into the 2021 Washington Music Educators Association All STATE Orchestra! Claire’s audition competed with orchestra students from all over the state of Washington! The students prepared the audition material (mostly on their own!) and recorded & submitted their audition (mostly on their own!). Selected students will be offered an online clinic with professional musicians later this spring.
February is Black History Month!

The Black Student Union (BSU) at Auburn High School strives to educate its members and the AHS community about the African American Culture. We want to celebrate our rich, deep history and share that with others. The BSU at AHS was started by Maya Coleman during the 2018-2019 school year. It was a desire to see the Black community uplifted and supported at Auburn High School.

February is Black History Month. This is a month that we intentionally take the time to reflect on the past and present accomplishments of African Americans in this country. African American history really is the history of all of us. This year we are thrilled to bring some amazing material to AHS in celebration of the contributions that we have brought to this country.

Our BSU has joined with the Umoja Community at Highline College to present a project called “28 Days”. This project was put together by Acts On Stage, a new theater company in West Seattle that gives voice to people of color and people of faith. “28 Days” is a collection of iconic scenes, songs and speeches that have helped shape African American culture. A new video is placed on our Facebook page each day. Feel free to check it out @auburnhs.bsu and celebrate with us.

If you would like to get in contact with our BSU, you can notify advisor Trenecia Bellinger (tbellinger@auburn.wednet.edu).

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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
Main Office, 8-3, Monday-Friday

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.
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.

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**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:

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

- **Counseling/Crisis Resources**
- **AHS Counseling Website**

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**AHS Counselors**

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<tr>
<th>A-D</th>
<th>Michaela Herrera</th>
<th><a href="mailto:mherrera@auburn.wednet.edu">mherrera@auburn.wednet.edu</a></th>
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**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!

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**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

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**Parents/Guardians of Seniors**

**Scholarships Available!**

The Auburn community donates over $150,000 each year to seniors graduating from Auburn high schools! Seniors complete one application and submit two letters of recommendation to be considered for over 220 scholarships ranging from $200-$2500!

Community donors review applications that meet their scholarship criteria and select the recipients. The application is posted on the AHS website with a link on the homepage. Seniors, click on the link and complete the application.

At least one letter must be written by a teacher, the second letter can be from an employer, family friend or other adult who can speak to your character, skills, leadership special circumstances, financial need, etc.

**Completed application packets are due on Friday, March 26, 2021.** Applications must be printed out, attached to two letters of recommendation, and turned in (or mailed in) to the Counseling office. If you or your senior has questions, please contact Judy Lutton at jlutton@auburn.wednet.edu or 253-931-4893.
AHS Achiever Scholars have collectively earned $502,000 in scholarships!!
Juniors—due date is March 5, 2021

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!

ICSF Achiever Scholars Application is still open for current Juniors!! Due date is March 5th!! It’s not too late to apply for scholarships and/or the FAFSA or WASFA!

What do we offer?
The Achievers Program 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=PDNpZN3ijl0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDNpZN3ijl0&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

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**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.securly.com) for more information about Securly.
**Auburn Valley | YMCA (2 boxes of FREE FOOD per family)**
1620 Perimeter Rd SW, Auburn, WA 98001
**Sundays, 10am-10:50am & 11:45am-12:35pm**
*ID required, or piece of mail with an Auburn, Pacific, Kent, Federal Way, or Algona address*

**Messiah Food Bank**
410 H St NE, Auburn, WA 98002
Open **each Wednesday** morning from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.
The food bank is open to all who choose to come with no restrictions on income.

**CONSEJO (Counseling and Referral Service) (Spanish Available)**
Call **(206) 461-4880** (8:00am-5:00pm PST)
or After Hours & Weekend Crisis Line: **(206) 461-3222**

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**Free Books for Students!**

**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](mailto:mpicatti-baker@auburn.wednet.edu) or access the [2021 Young Readers Choice Award](#) website.