

# From the Desk of Superintendent Grimes: Counting Our Blessings & Building a Unified Legacy

## Entering a Season of Gratitude

As we enter the holiday season, many of us take time to pause and count our blessings. Here at Avenue City R-IX, our greatest blessing is undeniably our students and the supportive community that wraps its arms around them. Whenever I walk through our hallways, I am reminded that our school's success is built upon a **unified community**—dedicated staff, supportive families, and engaged neighbors working hand-in-hand toward doing what is best for our children.

Our community has long taken pride in providing an exceptional education tailored to the needs of every child. A cornerstone of that enduring legacy is our unwavering commitment to **maintaining small class sizes**, ensuring our teachers can provide every student with the individualized attention, guidance, and personal support they deserve.

## Why Small Class Sizes Keep Us Connected

Small class sizes are far more than just numbers on a roster. They fundamentally change the energy of a learning environment. Smaller classes naturally create a **tight-knit, family atmosphere** where friendships flourish easily and every child feels like a valued member of our group—no one ever gets lost in the crowd.

From an instructional standpoint, lower student-to-teacher ratios give our teachers the time and 'breathing room' to truly understand each student's unique strengths, quirks, and learning styles. This personal connection translates to stronger teacher-student relationships, better classroom behavior, higher academic engagement, and better overall outcomes. In fact, research from the U.S. Department of Education reinforces what we see in our classrooms every day: smaller class sizes deliver real academic gains, particularly in those crucial early learning years.

## Looking Ahead: April 2027 Zero-Tax-Change Proposal

To preserve our standard of excellence and proactively address facility needs as our district grows, our school district is placing a **Zero Tax-Increase Bond Issue** on the upcoming **April 2027 ballot**. This measure allows us to expand our facilities and safeguard our low class sizes for generations to come.

| Project Goal | Community Benefit & Educational Impact |
|---|---|
| **6 New Dedicated Classrooms** | Guarantees **two dedicated classrooms for every single grade from Pre-K through 5th grade**, protecting low student-to-teacher ratios across all elementary levels. |
| **Middle School Annex Expansion** | Frees up much-needed physical space in the middle school annex, providing older students with expanded room for enrichment programs and specialized classes. |
| **Zero-Tax-Change Structure** | Timed to coincide with the payoff of existing district debt, allowing us to make these vital facility improvements with **$0 increase to your current property tax rate**. |

**Sustaining Our Legacy & Staying Informed**

Building a lasting legacy is a team effort, and every voice in our community matters. Small class sizes are more than just numbers on a roster; they translate to stronger teacher-student relationships, higher academic engagement, and better overall outcomes for our youth. By approving this measure in April 2027, our district can accommodate growth while safeguarding the close-knit, supportive environment our community expects.

We encourage every patron to stay informed, review design concepts, and learn more about the project by visiting our district website or attending our upcoming community events.

Thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and commitment to the future of our students and schools.

*Rebecca J. Grimes* ***Superintendent, Avenue City R-IX School District ✈***

## Biz Kids Entrepreneur Club - Business Fair




We are excited to continue Biz Kids this year! Biz Kids is offered to students in grades 3-8. This is a student-led initiative that allows students to explore entrepreneurship. Students are learning how to be responsible for every aspect of their business ideas from the ground up. This includes creating a product or service, designing a marketing strategy, setting prices, managing costs, and interacting with customers. Students are also given opportunities to work with local business owners to improve business plans, marketing strategies, and customer relations. **New this year**: Middle school students will present their businesses "Shark Tank" style to local business owners. This will allow business owners to donate money to students to put towards their products.

Students have been hard at work preparing for our business fair that will be held in our school gymnasium on **Saturday, December 12th from 9:00 am - noon**. We would love for the whole community to show up and support our young entrepreneurs! If you are a local business owner and would like to get involved with Biz Kids, please contact one of our school sponsors!

Ashley Davis (adavis@avenuecityschool.org), Anitra Svendsen (asvendsen@avenuecityschool.org), or Taylor Ellis (tellis@avenuecityschool.org)

## Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will make its way to Avenue City December 3-10. This will take place in conjunction with our winter music program on December 10. Look for lots of good books, just in time for Christmas gifting!



## K/1 Book Club

The K/1 Book Club is hosted by Mrs. Atchity and Mrs. Bloomberg. The first book club we had 25 students attend. We read Shake Dem Boots and hosted a Halloween-themed ball featuring characters from the story. At each book club, we have a fun themed snack to go along with the story. Our next book club will be on November 4th, and our focus will be on Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful. This book club is geared towards building a love for reading at a young age!



## 4th and 5th Grade Book Club

The ACES 4th and 5th grade book club kicked off the year with a book study of Mr. Ape, by Dick King-Smith. Students are enjoying this funny tale about a quirky gentleman who is overly adventurous in owning farm animals and caring for them in his home!! We have lots of fun things planned for the rest of the year and are looking forward to attending the UCM Children's Literature Festival in the spring, where we will be able to hear from some of our favorite children's authors. Ashley Davis and Jolynn Zvolanek are the sponsors of this club.

## ACES Academic Teams

The ACES 6th grade Academic Team competed in September this year with ten different teams from all over NW Missouri. The team consisted of Audrey Adwell, Ethan Neil, Maddox Rodgers, and Julianne Saveland. We finished the season with four wins, three losses, and one tie. Great job sixth grade!!

The 4th and 5th grade teams will begin practice in November with their season against Savannah schools beginning in January and continuing through March. The combined 7th/8th grade team will begin practice in December with meets against North Andrew, St. Paul, and St. Joseph Christian in January. Let's go ACES!

## ¡Hola! Avenue City Spanish Club Is Off to a Great Start!

Avenue City School's Spanish Club is off to a fantastic start! Our second- and third-graders have been having a wonderful time exploring the Spanish language and learning about different cultures. Each month, students focus on high-frequency Spanish words and practice using them through fun, engaging activities.

So far, we have learned about *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), practiced Spanish vocabulary for family members, and enjoyed reading books that introduce us to Spanish-speaking cultures and traditions. Our young learners are showing great enthusiasm as they build their vocabulary and discover new things about the world around them. We are excited for the next couple of months as we explore holiday traditions in Spanish-speaking countries and experience the holidays Spanish style! **¡Felices fiestas!** (Happy Holidays!)

## Red Wheel Fundraiser

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We had a fantastic fundraising event for technology. We were able to raise approximately $7,000! We are currently investigating new technology that will help our classrooms! It takes a lot of effort to sell and deliver the products and we are so grateful for each of you who had a role in this, as well as community members who supported our efforts by purchasing from our students! The ACES district is the best around because of the support of our families and community!

| Middle School Book Club: | Volleyball Club: |
|---|---|
| The Middle School Book Club currently has approximately 20 students enrolled across 7th and 8th grades. Our goal is to encourage a love of reading, introduce students to a variety of genres, and provide opportunities for students to connect with others who enjoy books. This year, we have been exploring the mystery genre and are getting ready to dive into our next read, *Blood in the Water*, a middle-grade mystery/thriller. Students have enjoyed our September and October meetings, participating in mystery solving activities and sharing their love of reading. We look forward to more great discussions, activities, and fun as the year continues! | Volleyball Club gives students the opportunity to learn, develop, and improve their volleyball skills in a fun and encouraging environment. This fall, students in grades 4th–6th got to participate, and this spring, we will welcome students in grades 5th–8th. During club, we practice important skills such as serving, passing, setting, hitting, and digging. We introduce the sport to students who have never played before while also providing extra practice and skill development for those with previous experience. Students also get the opportunity to scrimmage against each other, putting their skills into action while building teamwork, confidence, and a love for the game! |

## Aces Archery: A Force to Be Reckoned With Year 4

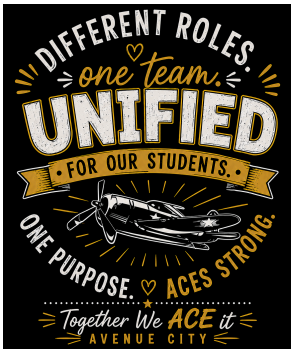
The Aces Archery team, composed of 38 dedicated student-athletes ranging from 4th to 8th grade, has made significant strides in the world of archery. With a focus on inclusivity and skill development, the team fosters a supportive environment for all participants.

Last year, the team achieved remarkable success, with 12 athletes qualifying for the state tournament and 4 securing a top-ten finish. This impressive accomplishment also earned them a spot at the national tournament, showcasing their exceptional talent and dedication. At Nationals one archer secured an invitation to the Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Archery practices start soon and will continue until March 2027. Aces Archery will also host 6 home tournaments this year: December 16, January 9, January 22&23, and February 26&27. We hope to see you come support your student athletes.

NASP Archery is a national program that promotes archery safety, education, and competition. The Aces Archery team embraces this mission, teaching valuable life skills such as focus, discipline, and perseverance. By creating an all-inclusive team, they ensure that every student, regardless of experience or ability, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and excel.

## ACES PTO




As we head into the holiday season, we want to take a moment to reflect on what an incredible first half of the school year we've had so far! Thank you to our students, families, staff, and community members for your continued support and involvement in our PTO events and activities. One of the highlights of the fall was our Trunk or Treat, which was a huge success! We had so much fun partnering with the Coalition to provide an evening full of family-friendly fun. The event featured incredibly creative trunks, bounce houses, big trucks from the fire department, police department, and ambulance services, along with food, games, and so many exciting activities. It was wonderful to see our community come together and create such a memorable event for our students and families.

As we look ahead, we have several exciting opportunities to gather and support our ACES family. Join us for our next PTO meeting on December 1st at 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria and get into the Christmas spirit! We will once again be partnering with AR Workshop for ornament making. Enjoy Christmas treats, hot chocolate, and a fun evening crafting ornaments while spending time with fellow ACES families. Don't forget about our Chili Supper on Thursday, November 12th. Come out and enjoy a delicious bowl of chili and warm cinnamon rolls while supporting our school community. We also invite you to mark your calendars for our upcoming Culver's Nights from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on November 10th, February 16th, and April 13th. Bring your family and friends for great food, good company, and an easy way to support our ACES family.

Be sure to watch for more events and updates on the Avenue City ACES PTO Facebook page. It's the best way to stay informed about upcoming activities, volunteer opportunities, and everything happening throughout the school year. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact us at PTO@avenuecityschool.org. We would love to hear from you!

Thank you for helping make Avenue City such a wonderful place for our students to learn, grow, and thrive. We wish everyone a joyful holiday season and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Kim Esely – President  Rachel Paulman – Vice President
Emily Sears – Secretary  Taryn Smith – Treasurer

## ACES STUDENT COUNCIL

Our council is doing great things! October was busy, and November is shaping up to be just as exciting!

- **Tuesday, Nov. 3 | Socktober Donations-** Student Council collected donations to be delivered to the Andrew County Ministries.
- **Friday, Nov. 6 | Bake Sale** StuCo voted to host a bake sale during Community Time from **8:00 to 8:20 AM sharp!**
- **Wednesday, Nov. 11 | Veterans Day Assembly -** Please join us in the ACES gym from approximately **8:35 to 9:30 AM** for our annual Veterans Day assembly, led by Student Council and featuring our ACES students. Coffee and cinnamon rolls will be served in the cafeteria afterward. We would love to see you there & please invite any veterans within your family, friends, & community!
- **Wednesday, Nov. 25 | Early Release Activities -** StuCo has been asked to coordinate activities for our ACES K through 8 students on our early release day. Plans are underway!
- **Dec. 14–18 | Christmas Spirit Week -** The council will choose our daily themes soon. Stay tuned!

Thank you for supporting our Student Council members as they learn to lead, serve, and make a difference in our school and community!



# INFORMATION ON THE 2025-2026 DISTRICT FINANCIAL AUDIT

Included in this newsletter is:
1. A Summary Schedule of Receipts Collected, Expenditures Paid, and Changes in Fund Balances
2. An Independent Auditors' Report

The complete audit report is available for inspection and examination by going to the district's website at www.avenuecityschool.org. Under Administration and Board of Education you will find this summary and the complete audit report.

You may also request a copy of the audit report by contacting the Avenue City School District's Board Secretary Office by phone or email (hhuff@avenuecityschool.org).

**Avenue City R-IX School District**
Summary Schedule of Receipts Collected, Expenditures Paid, and Changes in Fund Balances
School District Funds
Year Ended June 30, 2026

| | General Fund | Special Revenue Fund | Debt Service Fund | Capital Projects Fund | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Receipts Collected | $ 2,096,800 | $ 1,929,562 | $ 493,234 | $ 55,500 | $ 4,575,096 |
| Expenditures Paid | 1,339,250 | 1,962,870 | 458,900 | 182,220 | 3,943,240 |
| Excess of Receipts Collected Over(Under) Expenditures Paid | 757,550 | (33,308) | 34,334 | (126,720) | 631,856 |
| Other Sources(Uses) Transfers | (162,000) | - | - | 162,000 | - |
| Excess of Receipts Collected and Other Sources Over(Under) Expenditures Paid and Other Uses | 595,550 | (33,308) | 34,334 | 35,280 | 631,856 |
| Fund Balance July 1, 2025 | 5,626,391 | 590,043 | 417,497 | 864,446 | 7,498,377 |
| Fund Balance June 30, 2026 | $ 6,221,941 | $ 556,735 | $ 451,831 | $ 899,726 | $ 8,130,233 |

# Martin & Hanway CPA's, P.C.

**3830 A Faraon**
**Saint Joseph, Missouri 64506**

**Phone: 816-232-0450**
**Fax: 816-232-0696**

Ruthanna Martin, CPA

Amy Hanway, CPA


INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Education of
Avenue City R-IX School District

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

**Opinions**
We have audited the accompanying modified cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Avenue City R-IX School District, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2026, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the District, as of June 30, 2026, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

**Basis for Opinions**
We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

**Emphasis of Matter-Basis of Accounting**
We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

**Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1, and for determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

**Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

**Supplementary Information**
Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The schedule of receipts collected by source – school district funds, schedule of expenditures paid by object – school district funds, and summary schedule of receipts collected, expenditures paid, and changes in fund balances – school district funds, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of receipts collected by source – school district funds, schedule of expenditures paid by object – school district funds, and summary schedule of receipts collected, expenditures paid, and changes in fund balances – school district funds are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

**Other Information**
Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the budgetary comparison information and pension information but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

**Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***
In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 12, 2026, on our consideration of Avenue City R-IX School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Avenue City R-IX School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Avenue City R-IX School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Martin & Hanway CPA's, P.C.
Saint Joseph, Missouri
October 12, 2026

## School Board Candidate Filing Opens in December

It's time to prepare for the April school board election. Candidate filing begins December 15, 2026.

- There are two seats up for election for a three year term.
- The first day of filing begins Tuesday, December 15th at 8:00 a.m.
- Filing will continue during the district's regular business hours, which are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Filing will not occur during winter break, beginning December 21st through January 1st.
- The closing date for filing is January 5, 2027. On that day, filing will be open from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.
- Filing will not occur on days that school is not in session due to inclement weather.
- Candidates may call 816-662-2305 or email hhuff@avenuecityschool.org to inquire if the office is open.

The district will provide each candidate a copy of a summary of campaign laws provided by the Missouri Ethics Commission and written notice of the candidate's obligation to file a personal financial disclosure statement.

### Information on the School Board Organization

The qualified voters of the School District shall annually on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of April, elect two directors for terms of three years, except, effective for Board elections beginning in April of 1993, and each three years thereafter, when three directors shall be elected in compliance with regulations specified in state law.

An election shall not be held if the number of candidates who have filed for the Board is equal to the number of positions available.

### Qualified Voters in the School District

An individual must be a registered voter in order to vote in a school election. In order to vote, a person must be eighteen (18) years of age or older, must be a citizen of the United States, and must reside in the School District thirty (30) days.

### Candidate Qualification - Method of Filing

Qualified applicants for the Board may file for office beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the Superintendent's office commencing on the seventeenth (17th) Tuesday prior to the election and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the fourteenth (14th) Tuesday before the election. The candidate shall declare his/her intent to become a candidate, in person and in writing to the secretary of the Board of Education. The names of qualified candidates shall be placed on the ballot in the order of filing. The notice of election and certification of candidates must be submitted to the county clerk by the tenth Tuesday prior to the election. Candidates must comply with all of the prevailing laws concerning eligibility and campaign financing.

Candidates must be citizens of the United States and resident taxpayers of the District, reside in his/her state for one year preceding their election or appointment, and be at least twenty-four (24) years of age. Each newly elected or appointed director shall qualify and take his/her oath of office in the manner prescribed by law and according to Policy 0330 - Oath of Office.



**SMS Athletic Coop**

- Sixteen student athletes joined SMS through our athletic coop. Nine students are participating in football and seven are participating in volleyball.
- Both Football and Volleyball teams celebrated winning and undefeated seasons!

## Board of Education Meeting Highlights

A brief description of the highlights of the board meetings from August 2026 to October 2026 is listed below. The minutes of each board meeting is posted on the school webpage under **Board of Education Meeting Information**.

August 13, 2026

- Recommended Tax Rates for 2026-2027
- District Annual Goals
- Approval of Substitute List for 2026-2027
- Review and Adopt the Updated Comprehensive School Improvement Plan
- Adopt Revised Policy 6400
- Review Progress on Upcoming Bond Issue

September 17, 2026

- Review of Program Evaluation for Facilities and Safety
- Post Policies for Public Input
- Approval of Acellus Program
- Adopt Revised Special Education Local Compliance Plan
- Approval of Recycled Tire Mulch for Playground

October 13, 2026

- Approval of FY 2026 Audit
- Review of Program Evaluation: Transportation
- Motion to Approve the Proclamation of Red Ribbon Week
- Approval of Snow Removal Company
- Review of Spring 2026 Test Results and Adoption of 2026-2027 Assessment Plan
- Adopt/Approve Updated Policies
- Approval of Financial Auditing Services Contract for FY 2027
- Review Draft Copy of Ballot Language for April 2027 Election
- Review of Building Plans for 2027 April Bond Issue
- Approve Proposal for Additional Water Meter

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2026.

## Holiday Concerts
## Thursday December 10, 2026

Sweet, simple, and stylish! Everyone assumes that all magical reindeer want to fly, but what if some have other dreams? Three of Santa's reindeer have discovered that their true passions lie not in flying, but in drawing, sewing, and crafting. Their dream? To become fashion designers specializing in one-of-a-kind **ANTLER** fashion!

Join us for the evening as our 1st–5th graders present the musical ***ANTLERS***. Come celebrate our talented young performers as we transform the gym into the North Pole and share the magic of the season!

We will kick off our evening with the Kindergarten class performing their selection of Winter Songs followed by the Middle School Christmas Songs.



### Evening Performance Schedule

- **6:30 p.m.** – Kindergarten Winter Songs
- **6:50 p.m.** – Middle School Christmas Performance
- **7:15 p.m.** – 1st–5th Grade Musical ***ANTLERS***

**We look forward to celebrating the season with you!**

## Alternative Methods of Instruction - Notice

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education allows school districts to make up some hours of attendance lost due to inclement weather by allowing students to complete academic work during a school outage. This is known as Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI). Some people call these days "virtual snow days."

In case of inclement weather an announcement will be made that will be something like, "School will be closed on (DATE) because of inclement weather. Avenue City School District will be using AMI Day 1, 2, etc."

If the district uses AMI days, your student will need to complete the work assigned by their classroom teacher. Your child's classroom teacher has been preparing for these days and has already helped prepare their students for these days. Students are considered in attendance on AMI days when they do the following:

- Elementary students will complete academic assignments as communicated by classroom teachers through packets sent home prior to the AMI day.
- Each MS teacher will assign a short assignment in each core content area. Detailed information will be provided in Google Classroom & School Status Connect.
- All students are responsible for completing activities for the designated AMI day and assignments as defined by instructors.
- **All assignments are required to be turned in on the day students return to school, or the student will be considered absent for that AMI day.**

In addition to this academic work – please remember to enjoy traditional "snow day" activities. Use this time to go sledding, build a snowman, bake cookies, sip hot chocolate, play board games, create a blanket fort, and pelt each other with snowballs. Learning happens all the time – in school and outside of school. We appreciate your patience and help during this time, as we know this is not the ideal learning situation. Teachers will be in communication with families when AMI day is announced.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or myself.

Thank you,
Chase Holcumbrink
Chase Holcumbrink
ACES Principal

## Inclement Weather - School Cancellation



As severe winter weather approaches, all decisions regarding school delays or closures due to snow and ice are made with student safety as our highest priority. For early morning closures, official announcements will be broadcast between 6:30 AM and 7:00 AM on KQTV, as well as on KFEQ, KKJO, and KSFT radio stations. In extreme conditions, decisions and announcements may be finalized the evening before.

When inclement weather develops during the school day, early dismissal will typically take place at 12:50 PM. District announcements for early dismissals will be issued as soon as possible, ideally between 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM, using the same local broadcast stations. Families can also stay continuously updated by checking our school website at avenuecityschool.org, monitoring SchoolStatus Connect, and following our official social media channels. Additionally, notifications are sent through the Lumen Communication System—if you are not receiving these notices, please contact the school office so we can update your contact information.




| 2026 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | OPPONENT | Extra Boys | Extra Girls |
| 10/20/2026 | 5:30 PM | ACES | Union Star | | |
| 10/22/2026 | 5:30 PM | Stewartsville | ACES | 1 game | 1/2 game |
| 10/26/2026 | 5:30 PM | South Holt | ACES | 1 quarter ?? | |
| 10/27/2026 | 5:00 PM | ACES | Maysville | 1 game | 1/2 game |
| 11/2/2026 | 5:30 PM | ACES | North Andrew | | 2 quarters |
| 11/5/2026 | 5:30 PM | Conception | ACES | 1 game | 1/2 game |
| 11/10/2026 | 5:30 PM | ACES | SMS | | |
| 11/12/2026 | 5:30 PM | ACES | East Buchanan | | |
| 11/16-19/26 | TOURNEY | Conception | Platte Valley Jr. High | | |
| 11/23/2026 | 5:00 PM | ACES | Catholic Schools | | |
| 11/24/2026 | 5:00 PM | St. Joseph | St. Joseph Christian | 1 game | 1/2 game |


PTO
Chili
SUPPER
November 12, 2026
5:00 – 7:00 PM
Come to watch your
Avenue City ACES basketball teams
and enjoy chili and cinnamon rolls!
Avenue City
ACES
vs.
East Buchanan
BULLDOGS
at 5:30
GAME
ADMISSION
FREE!
Donations Appreciated

## Under the Roof of a School

By Don Lawrence

I have been under the roof of a school since a week before I turned five years old. A September birthday, coupled with two parents who apparently decided that rules were meant to be stretched, got me enrolled at Sherwood Elementary School at an early age. I became the youngest kid in school and eventually a 17-year-old high school graduate. With the exception of my first four years of life, virtually my entire existence has been spent under the roof of a schoolhouse.

It took me a long time to understand that a school is really nothing more than a building with four walls, a roof, and a sidewalk. Those things, however, are not what make a school important. What matters is what happens inside those walls and beneath that roof. Every child who walks through those doors possesses something they may not yet recognize, something they may not even be able to see in themselves. That something is potential. The potential to learn, to grow, to achieve, and to become something they never imagined possible.

My life has been spent surrounded by teachers. Teachers who chose a calling, not simply a profession, to help children discover and unlock that potential. They spend the best years of their lives placing hope, opportunity, and the promise of success in front of young minds, encouraging them to reach a little farther, dream a little bigger, and keep reaching for that brass ring we call a successful life.

Will it work? I know it can. My parents made it work for me. My teachers provided the tools, but my parents provided the push. Together, they challenged me to do the right things, make the right choices, and become the right kind of person. Reading, writing, learning, and understanding the difference between right and wrong were not simply lessons to be mastered in a classroom. They were tools that helped unlock the treasures of opportunity, hope, and success.

We look at the world today and sometimes worry about what the future holds for our children. But I believe there is something you can be reassured of. Under that roof and within those four walls, there remains a group of dedicated people who genuinely want to give your children the tools to move beyond a lifetime of fear, doubt, hesitation, and regret. They want children to believe in themselves, recognize their worth, and understand that their future is still waiting to be written.

A school may be just a building. But what happens inside that building can change a life, shape a future, and sometimes change the world.

Being a teacher is not just a job. It is a calling. And there are few more important callings. A simple “thank you” note goes a long way to tell them just that.

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