



the MAROON monthly

AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 4

Auburn High School announces valedictorian, salutatorian for Class of 2025



Mitchell Homick has been named valedictorian and Matthew Crouse, salutatorian, for the Auburn High School Class of 2025. Both students recently received the news from Principal Brian Morgan. "They are honestly just two great kids, great ambassadors for the school," Morgan said. "They set a great example for their peers." Morgan added that Crouse is, "extremely hard working and very polite, a great kid," and Homick had one of the highest averages he's ever seen from a valedictorian. "He's just absolutely brilliant and very humble, very polite, and friendly." For Homick, the announcement meant his hard work paid off. "I was just excited," he said. "I was already putting in so much of the work, so I was just excited that it paid off." Crouse was happy to hear his efforts had resulted in him being named salutatorian. "Honestly, I thought I lost the title because I thought I had it my freshman and sophomore year," he said, "but my junior year wasn't that good. So hearing (the news) that day, it made me feel like the hard work paid off."

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The AHS SADD Club put liners over trash cans in downtown Auburn to help promote anti-DWI efforts. Club members also put up posters in some downtown businesses. With the holidays coming up, this is an important message to be aware of, don't drink and drive.

Auburn High School announces valedictorian, salutatorian for Class of 2025

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Homick and Crouse said their parents were thrilled for them. "They were excited for me as well because they know how much I tried," Homick said.

"I feel like my mom was more concerned about it than I was," Crouse said. "She said, 'did you hear the news yet, did you hear the news yet?' Then I told her I got called down (to the office). She was so happy."

Both Homick and Crouse credited the departments at Auburn High School that pertain to their future college majors.

"I like the teachers in the AP classes, and I would say social studies and English, those departments really helped me get to where I am today," Homick said.

"I feel like it's two classes, and that's why I want to do chemical engineering," Crouse said. "In my sophomore year, I took an engineering class called POE (Principles of Engineering) and that was when Mr. Gilmore did a lot of designing and stuff that I thought was fun, and then my chemistry teacher, Ms. Lehman, made the class really enjoyable. After that everything was just fun to learn about."

"I think for me it validates the work that all of our teachers do, and it just makes you proud to be able to offer the things that we offer," Morgan said. "Take advantage of all the great programs and courses. So for us it's this tremendous sense of pride having kids like this here."

Homick said he will likely major in English or political science and is looking at Binghamton University and the University of Rochester for undergrad with intentions of going to law school.

Crouse would like to study chemical engineering or engineering and is looking at the University of Buffalo, Binghamton University, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Commencement is scheduled for **Friday, June 20, 2025**.



Veterans Celebration

Herman Ave. had the honor of celebrating some very special Veterans. Students warmly welcomed their Veterans for a heartfelt ceremony, where they were recognized for their service and presented with Certificates of Appreciation. The event also featured uplifting songs performed by our students, followed by refreshments. We extend our deepest gratitude to all of our Veterans for their service and the sacrifices they've made for our country.





Parent Communication

ParentSquare

As part of the Auburn Enlarged City School District's efforts to enhance communication, the district is using the ParentSquare communication platform. This replaces other platforms that families, students and staff may have used in the past, such as Remind and SchoolMessenger, so all schools and teachers are using the same communication tool to communicate with families.

The district will continue using **SchoolTool**, which is a password protected secure website that offers parents, guardians and students online access to personalized information about a student's academic program and progress. Student report cards, interim reports and academic schedules are posted in SchoolTool.

ParentSquare serves as a one-stop shop for school, classroom and group information and is a simple and safe way for everyone within the school community to connect. With ParentSquare, parents and guardians will be able to:

- Receive all school and classroom communication via email, text or app
- View and download photos
- Access school and classroom calendars and RSVP for events

Activating your ParentSquare Account

Every family will receive an invitation email or text to join ParentSquare. It takes less than a minute to set up an account.

Families can access ParentSquare through the [ParentSquare website](#) as well as the ParentSquare app that can be downloaded on mobile devices.

- [ParentSquare App – English](#)
- [ParentSquare App – Spanish](#)

Helpful Videos

Overview for Parents – English

[ParentSquare Overview for Parents](#) from [ParentSquare](#) on [Vimeo](#)

Overview for Parents – Spanish

[ParentSquare Overview for Parents - Spanish / ParentSquare resumen para padres - español](#) from [ParentSquare](#) on [Vimeo](#).

For more information please visit:

<https://www.aecsd.education/parentsquare>

To opt-out of Parent Square please fill out this form:

[Parent Square Opt-Out Form](#)



Holiday Spirit

The Kindergarten classes at Herman Avenue put on *Balloons over Broadway* in anticipation of Thanksgiving. The whole building loved seeing all of their creative balloon displays!



College and Career Ready, Dairy Day at Herman Ave



Second Grade Class at Casey Park Adopted a Cow



This year, our class adopted a dairy cow named Sofia from Fouts Farm in Cortland, NY through the Discover Dairy program. The students have been asking questions and leading the way in learning about dairy farming. They researched different dairy cow breeds like Holsteins, Jerseys, and Guernseys, discovering how each breed contributes to milk production.

To deepen their understanding, students watched an educational video about life on a dairy farm, and went on a virtual farm tour, answering questions along the way. They learned about cow diets, the technology used to care for them, and the important roles of farmers, veterinarians, and nutritionists. For example, they found out how cows eat a balanced diet of hay, grains, and silage, and how technology helps monitor their health. This student-led project has sparked curiosity and helped the class gain a deeper appreciation for the work that goes into dairy farming. We're excited to keep learning from Sofia and continuing our journey as young dairy experts!

Sierra Clark, 2nd Grade Teacher, Casey Park

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>NEW</p> <p>1</p> <p>World AIDS Day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>School Tax 2nd Installment Due</p>	<p>3</p> <p>School Picture Retake Day: Casey Park Herman Ave</p> <p>AJHS Band Concert 7:00PM @ AJHS</p>	<p>4</p> <p>School Picture Retake Day: Genesee</p> <p>AJHS PTO Mtg. 6:00PM</p> <p>AHS Orchestra Concert 7:00PM @ AHS</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Casey Park Winter Concert 6:00PM @ AJHS</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>AHS Report Cards Elementary Report Cards</p> <p>School Picture Retake Day: Seward</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>FIRST</p> <p>8</p> <p>Love peace Joy</p>	<p>9</p> <p>AHS Scholarship Night 6:30pm @ AHS Library</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Human Rights Day</p> <p>Herman Ave Winter Concert 6:00pm @ AJHS</p> <p>Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>AHS Band Concert 7:00PM @ AHS</p>	<p>12</p> <p>AJHS Orchestra Concert 7:00PM @ AJHS</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>ACT Test 7:45AM @ AHS</p> <p>Orchestra All County Audi- tions @ Central Square</p>
<p>FULL</p> <p>15</p>  <p>Cold Moon</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Seward Winter Concert Instrument/Choral 6:00PM @ AHS</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Genesee Winter Concert 6:00PM @ AJHS</p> <p>Bill of Rights Day</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Owasco Winter Concert 6:00PM @ AHS</p>	<p>19</p> <p>AJHS Chorus Concert 7:00PM @ AJHS</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Holiday Parties</p> <p>GO HOME EARLY DRILL (Students Released 15 Minutes Early)</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>First Day of Winter</p>
<p>LAST</p> <p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess</p>	<p>24</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p>25</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess</p> <p>Christmas Day Hanukkah (Begins at Sunset)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess</p> <p>Kwanzaa Begins</p>	<p>27</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>NEW</p> <p>30</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess</p>	<p>31</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>	 <p>December Artwork Jolene Koller, Gr. 8</p>	 <p>November 2024</p>	 <p>January 2025</p>	



The Class Pet

We would like to share our new addition to our class, "Pumpkin the Hamster" and a big shout out to the whole class who showed patience while we waited for a good time to bring her to the class. Also, they worked together to put her cage and house together and decided on her name with a majority vote. They have all been so grateful and happy that we got a class pet.



"Pumpkin"

Ms. Varley, 3rd Grade Teacher,
Herman Avenue Elementary

THE POST CARD PROJECT PEN PALS



Theresa Hoercher, grandmother to Zoe Hitchcock, brought postcards to our students at Herman and State Street Elementary in Skaneateles. She taught us about the history of postcards and why she loves to share the joy in sending them.

Our class will send a postcard to our pen pal class which will kick off the pen pal project. We plan to continue getting to know each other through out the year as we write back and forth.

Laura Pesarchick, 5th Grade Teacher



Election Day fun in Mrs. Marginsky's class at Herman Avenue Elementary School

Seymour Library

176 Genesee Street, Auburn, NY | 315-252-2571

December fun at Seymour Library! Celebrate the start of winter and the upcoming holiday break at the library with books, programs, and more! Visit seymourlibrary.org for a complete list of events and programs!

LEGO Club

Monday, December 16 at 4 pm



Explore your creativity with LEGO challenges and games during the library's LEGO Club!

Accept our *Robot* Building Challenge and design your own creation from your imagination! The library will provide all the LEGO bricks.

This program is designed for ages 6 and up, but all ages are welcome. No registration required.

Family Fun Night: Winter Spectacular!

Friday, December 13 from 4 to 6 pm



Winter is here! Celebrate the season at Seymour Library with an evening that will be SNOW Much Fun!

Join us for a storytime and craft at 4 pm followed by a winter-themed magic show with Jeff the Magic Man at 5 pm. Participants will learn some balloon-twisting skills and make a snowflake and snowman to take home. No registration required.

Drop In STEAM & Crafts



Looking for some family activities to do over the holiday break?

Drop-in STEAM

Thursday, December 26 from 9 am to 1 pm

Friday, December 27 from 9 am to 1 pm

School's out, but there is educational fun to be had at the library! Drop in and explore all things STEAM! STEAM stations will be set up in the Family Space and will include Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math activities. No registration required.

Drop-In Crafts

Thursday, January 2 from 9 am to 1 pm

Friday, January 3 from 9 am to 1 pm

Are the kiddos getting restless? Drop in and create some winter-themed crafts with us! Craft activities will be set up in the Family Space while supplies last. No registration required.

Moose on the Loose! All month in December



Stop by the Family Space every day in December (during operating hours) to find where our library moose is hiding. Each day, the moose will be in a different location, and when children find it, they will be entered into a drawing to win a basket of goodies!

One entry per child, per day. The winner will be announced in January.

Upcoming Closed Dates at Seymour Library:

December 23, 24 & 25

December 31 (Closing at 2 pm)

January 1, 2025



Herman Ave's Lego League has been busily preparing for competition!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

A daily absence percentage of 90% or less, or missing 18 or more days of school for any reason including excused absences and suspensions, is considered chronic absenteeism. When students are chronically absent, it can translate into having difficulty reading by the third grade, difficulty achieving in middle school, and difficulty graduating from high school. What does your attendance figure actually mean?

54 LESSONS
MISSED EACH
YEAR
9 days in total or
1 week & 4 days

95%

108 LESSONS
MISSED EACH
YEAR

18 days in total or
3 weeks & 3 days

90%

162 LESSONS
MISSED EACH
YEAR
27 days in total or
5 weeks & 2 days

85%

80%

216 LESSONS
MISSED EACH
YEAR
36 days in total or
7 weeks & 1 day

* Figures based on 180 days of school

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

- During the month of November, our school buildings learned about and celebrated Veterans Day, World Children's Day, Thanksgiving, and Native American Heritage Month. Dr. Renee Burgess, Executive Director of DEI and Instruction, visited all seven buildings to capture evidence of all of these teachings and celebrations while conducting walk-throughs for Priority #3 in the DEI Strategic Plan. (Photos at Genesee Elementary)
- On November 4, the DEI Task Force met to review and discuss the Priority #3 Rubric measuring the building's success, focusing on celebrating student and staff successes and achievements. Members of the district's educational community will work to establish welcoming and affirming environments at each school building, foster nurturing relationships with students and families, and highlight, represent, and affirm each student's identity and cultural influences.
- On November 12, Dr. Burgess visited Mrs. Liccion's CAY 101: Foundations for College Success class to hear a group of students' presentation on microaggressions.
- On November 12, twelve Auburn High School students met with Dr. Slavic, Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. Burgess, for the Superintendent's Student Advisory Group monthly meeting where students discussed ideas to increase school spirit.
- On November 13, a ceremony honoring the Language Honor Society took place at Auburn High School at 6 pm where 38 high school students studying French, Italian, and Spanish were honored.
- On November 15, Dr. Burgess visited and read the book, The Big Book About Being Big to Mrs. Siddall's first-grade class and Ms. Varley's third-grade class at Herman Elementary.
- On November 21, Brittany Lane, the Lead Park Ranger at the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park (National Park Service), spoke to Mrs. Oliver-Carr's Women's Studies class at Auburn High School.
- On November 26, high school students from the Student United Way and Z Club volunteered at The Salvation Army on Genesee Street to prepare the Thanksgiving feast.
- A parent/guardian survey was sent out via ParentSquare seeking feedback on discussion topics and meeting times for our upcoming Parent/Guardian University.



Dr. Renee Burgess, DEI Executive Director



THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

Sixth Graders at Casey Park Elementary completed their Unit on Ancient Egyptians with a Project Based Activity. Students got to pick a topic of their interest to research and become experts in. Students presented their constructed projects to their classmates. Projects were placed on display for other grades to walk through and observe. The Egyptian Museum was open to parents during Parent Teacher Conferences.



Auburn Enlarged City School District

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please be aware that if your child is sent home from school due to illness then it may be appropriate to keep them home for at least the next day or maybe longer depending upon the illness. The following guidelines should be followed:

You should not have your child return to school if he/she has:

- Fever in the past 24 hours
- Vomiting and Diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Bad cold, with runny nose or bad cough
- Any illness that has kept your child awake during the night
- Any rash, unless your child has been seen by your doctor and your doctor has written a note stating that your child may attend school.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Caren Radell, School Nurse Supervisor

SCHOOL TAX INFORMATION

**2nd installment due:
December 2, 2024**

**Last day the collector will accept taxes
is December 2, 2024**

**Questions about your bill?
Call 315-255-8836
or e-mail:**

LisaCamardo@aecsd.education

**You can also look up your
bill online at: www.taxlookup.net**

**Location to pay in person:
FIVE-STAR BANK
345 Genesee St, Auburn, NY**
(Please include a telephone number on your check)

**Address to mail payments:
AECSD Tax Collector
P.O. Box 241
Warsaw, NY 14569**
(Please include a telephone number on your check)

988

**National Suicide
Prevention
Call or text 988**

24/7 Free and confidential support for people in distress

<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/crisis/988.html>

Cave Art Project @ Genesee Elementary School



Mr. Jackson & Miss Carnicelli's 6th Grade Social Studies Class

After learning about Early Humans in Social Studies, sixth graders at Genesee Elementary School created replicas of cave art using special paper, charcoal sticks, and oil pastels to give their creations an authentic look. Students were encouraged to use their newfound knowledge and creativity to bring their cave art drawings to life. In addition, each student wrote a detailed essay about what they depicted in their artwork, the significance of the symbols they drew, and how it related to early people. We are so proud of our sixth graders and their hard work on this project!



A Hat Day Fundraiser was held on November 8th at AJHS by the National Junior Honor Society.



Over the Moon

In Mrs. Williams' science class at Herman Ave we have been learning about the phases of the moon. We participated in a fun little 'phases of the moon' activity where we used Oreo cookies to illustrate each phase as we discussed this concept. The students worked in groups and were asked to create each phase of the moon with their cookie. They did a great job, learned the material, and had a fun little snack! *Erin Williams*



Talk to your teen about **VAPING**

Click below to read the
**US Surgeon General's
Tip Sheet for Parents:**



https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf

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#FixAndFundIt

The Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee has put this website together as a way to get information out to the community regarding the Foundation Aid issues affecting the district.

For more information please visit:

fixandfundit.org



Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)

Students who are applying to colleges, please be aware that procedures for the confidentiality of student records within the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) have recently changed. FERPA permits school officials to disclose all education records, including disciplinary records, to another institution at which the student seeks or intends to enroll. This now also applies to post-secondary institutions (colleges), upon request.

NEW YORK STATE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

You can go online to find out if any sexual offenders live near you. The New York State Sex Offender Registry is available at www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/index.htm whereby you can search for Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders.



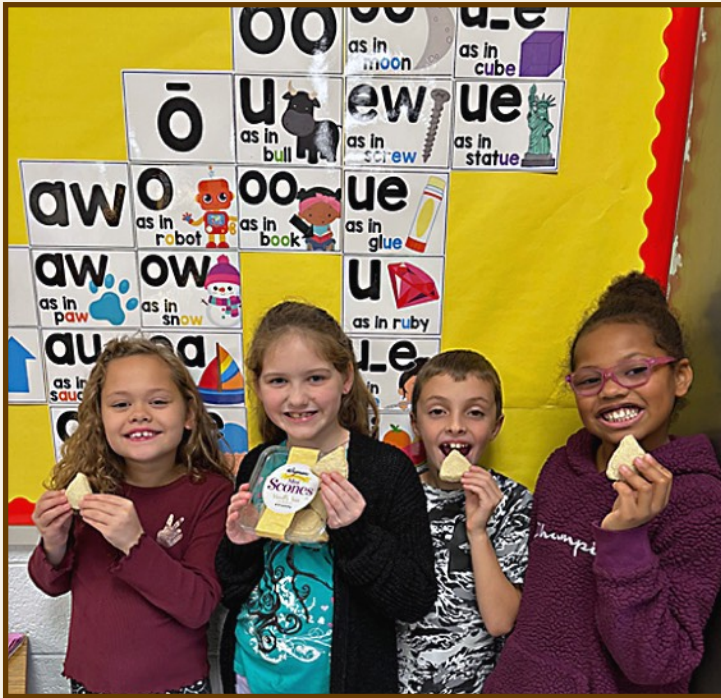
Keep Your Child on Track With Schoolwork

Supporting Children's Learning: Children who are struggling with schoolwork can become frustrated and look for ways to avoid going to school and participating in school. Our goal is to provide them with the support they need so they feel good about learning and good about themselves. Parents and teachers need to work together to help children succeed in school and feel connected. Find out more at:

www.everystudentpresent.org/parents

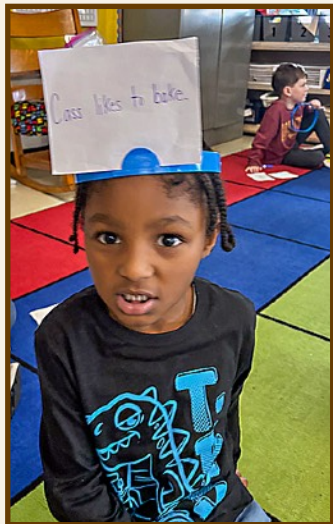
Check out #EveryStudentPresentAECSD on social media.

NEWS from SEWARD Elementary School



Freya McLaurin, Mia Keys, Leo Ragucci, and Zaniyah Murray

Third grade ELT students at Seward Elementary have worked hard on reading long o words in stories. They noticed that the word “scones” showed up a lot in their reading activities, so they decided to find out what they were! They made predictions using text clues and their guesses were so close! To celebrate, they had a scone party! Now, scones are their new favorite sweet treat!



Working hard on writing sentences in our enrichment group with our own version of headband game and a nonsense word turkey game with our approaching group.

GO MAROONS!

All events and activities are subject to change. Please check the website for the latest updates:

www.aecsd.education



December 2024

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the
**AUBURN ENLARGED CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

www.aecsd.education

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DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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To report Child Abuse call the Statewide Toll Free Telephone Number:

1-800-342-3720 or visit: <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps/>

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services

We Make a Difference!