

connections**mag.com**

A community magazine for Antioch, Lake Villa & Lindenhurst

# CONNECTIONS

*Living as a Titleist in northwestern Lake County*

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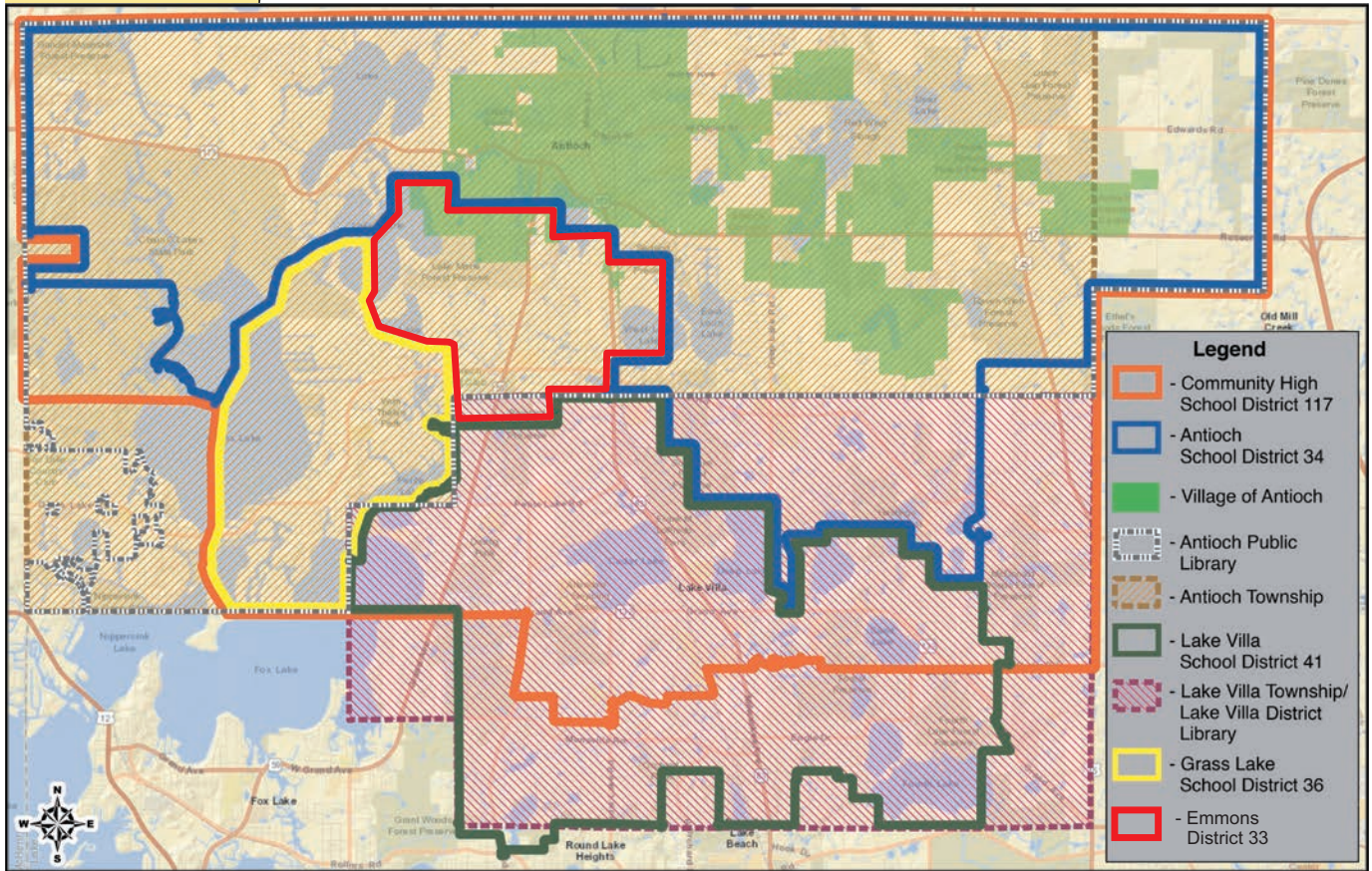
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**WINTER 2023**





## AREA MAP



**Connections**, a quarterly magazine in publication since 2015, is a collaborative effort among several taxpayer-supported organizations to keep residents informed about news and events in Antioch, Lake Villa, and Lindenhurst. We appreciate your feedback. Please send comments or questions to [connections@chsd117.org](mailto:connections@chsd117.org).



Events are generously sponsored by Raymond Chevrolet-Kia

**Kringle's Christmas Village**  
Thanksgiving thru New Year's Day  
**Open Daily 10am-8pm**  
Enjoy miniature holiday scenes inside the showroom of Kringle's Christmas Village, located at #510 Orchard Street in Antioch. Free admission courtesy of Raymond Chevrolet Kia.

**Dickens Holiday Village**  
Thanksgiving thru New Year's Day  
**Open Daily 10am-8pm**  
Enjoy hand crafted Dickens Era Scenes inside the showroom of Kringle's Christmas Village, located at #510 Orchard Street in Antioch. Free admission courtesy of Raymond Chevrolet Kia.

**Antioch Holiday BOGO Savings Event**  
**Nov. 20-22, 2023**  
Prepare for Shop Small Saturday and purchase Antioch's Holiday eGift Cards with a BOGO\*. Make your shopping easy by sending an eGift Card to your friends and family this year and receiving a BOGO\* while quantities last! Redeemable at many fine businesses in the Village of Antioch.

**Christmas Musical Light Shows**  
**Dec. 1-25**  
**4pm-9pm at the Antioch Bandshell**  
Park and enjoy the holiday music and lights from the comfort of your car. Free admission courtesy of Raymond Chevrolet Kia.

**Girls Night Out Elves with Ugly Sweaters & After Party**  
**Dec. 7th, 5pm-9pm, downtown Antioch.**  
Advance ticket sales online.

**Comedy Night**  
**Saturday, February 3rd**  
Join us for a night of Comedy and Dinner for this annual fundraiser that benefits many Antioch non profits. Tickets must be purchased in advance online. Limited capacity, must be 21+.

# Visit [AntiochChamber.org](http://AntiochChamber.org) for Information & Tickets





## CONNECTIONS

# Winter 2023

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# The Paths of Our Graduates After District 117

In previous editions of Connections I have shared how proud we are of our new D117 Portrait of a Graduate that provides six competencies that we want to develop in all of our graduates. One of those competencies is “thinks critically”, and a large part of our mission is to help our students think critically about their path after they leave our high schools.

A big piece of this is for students to think about possible career paths. I am proud to share that our district has developed a Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum that provides a diverse range of pathways including early childhood education, culinary arts, computer science, business, finance, manufacturing, technology and trades.

These pathways are carefully designed to allow students to immerse themselves deeply in exploring these skills. Our courses are not just theoretical; they include team-based challenges that mirror real-life situations in each industry. Such an approach ensures that our students can apply classroom knowledge to solve practical problems, giving them an edge in the real world.

We recognize the foundational importance of traditional academic disciplines — English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies — in any career path. Our goal is to weave these disciplines into our CTE program, ensuring that our graduates are as prepared to enter college as they are to step into a career. Whether our students choose to pursue

a traditional four-year degree, an accelerated two-year program, or a trade school, they will have the skills needed to succeed.

We continue to invest in our CTE pathways to ensure they stay relevant. This winter, we are proud to announce the enrollment opening for our newest pathway in computer science, focusing on coding with the Python programming language. This course is not just an introduction to coding; it is a comprehensive four-year journey that prepares students to enter the job market as qualified software developers, with potential starting salaries between \$80,000 and \$90,000 per year, without the need for college.

We want to fulfill our goal to have all of our graduates think critically about their future. We believe that by offering such a wide array of pathways and learning opportunities, we are not just educating students but are shaping the leaders and innovators of tomorrow.



**Jeff Feucht, Ed.D.**

Superintendent  
Community High School District 117



## CHSD117 MATH FAIR | CHSD117

### Math Fair Sums a Total Success

The 2023 District 117 Math Fair was a sum of many efforts by both Sequoits and Eagles. District 117 students had to multiply their creativity in creating carnival games and simplify their math skills for the age-appropriate math problems for 1st-8th graders. The game quality was exponential this year at the 2nd annual fair where students brought in travel basketball hoops, miniature golf and even Skee-Ball. A great moment of pride was seeing visiting students rush into the McKay Center knowing the order of operations for that evening’s event. The product of the Sequoit and Eagle efforts was a night of total success. Games + Prizes = Math is Cool!





## STUDENT EXCHANGE | ACHS

## ACHS Students Participate in a Cultural Exchange

Students in German language classes at Antioch Community High School participated in a cultural exchange with eighteen students and two teachers from Domgymnasium Verden in Verden, Germany. The German students visited via their host school, Grayslake Central High School. They wanted to come to ACHS to experience German classes in the USA. While German students were here, they met with Antioch's German 3, German 4 and AP German Language classes and did a variety of activities like tasting pumpkin pie, which they hilariously all disliked and communicated in simple terms, because that's how Germans are. The students from



Domgymnasium Verden also gave a presentation about their school to the German 4 class, and they had fun competing in a vocabulary game on Booklet and participating in an icebreaker speaking activity (pictured) where students had to communicate in German with each other to find students who would answer "yes" to one of the questions on their list. Finally, ACHS's German students said farewell to their new friends from Verden, but not before they exchanged contact information to keep in touch. They look forward to doing future activities with them remotely! Cultural exchanges like this create memories that last a lifetime!

## ATHLETICS | LCHS

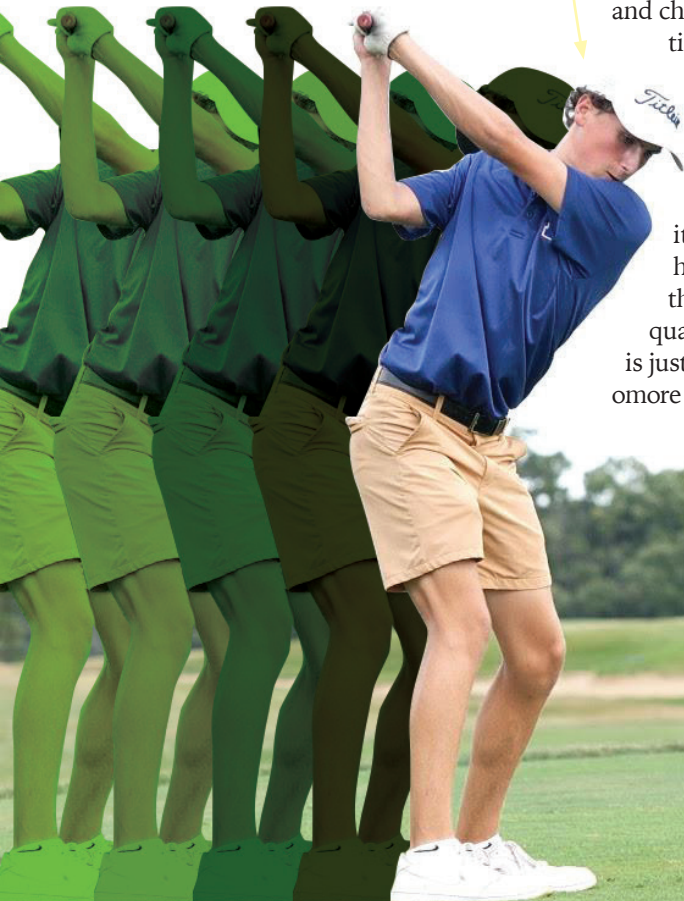
## First LCHS Freshman Golfer to State

By Drew Bowen, LCHS Class of 2024

Brady Cross has been playing golf since he was four. Eleven years to improve mentally, physically, and athletically. All of his time on the course clearly paid off as it helped him become the first freshman in Lakes history to make it to State for Boys Golf where he shot an impressive score of 151 and was one of seven tied for a ninth place finish.

"If he continues to work hard and stays focused, he will give himself a chance to win state," Coach Brian Kelly said. Cross' time training before his performance makes the result unsurprising. "[I worked on a] lot of putting and chipping, more of my short game." Extra time well spent. His dedication to being the best he can be has already taken him to a level a lot of athletes are unable to achieve.

When asked about his influence on the team, Coach Kelly said, "Great teammate, offers a lot of knowledge about the game, has a lot of drills that he shares with people on the team, and is willing to talk through people's swings." His positive impact in training makes his teammates that surround him that much better and paid dividends as this was only the second time in Lakes history that Boys Golf has qualified for sectionals as a team. For Brady Cross, this is just the beginning as he looks onto his upcoming sophomore year with a state championship within reach.



# Eagles Soar Into New School Year



It's amazing to think we are already one-third of the way through the school year, but the saying, "Time flies when you are having fun," absolutely describes my experiences at Lakes. I have a front row seat cheering on our Eagles in the classroom, on the field, in the gym, on the stage, and everywhere Eagles are excelling. We started the first day of school with the freshmen entering the building on a red carpet, and the entire student body has been performing like rock stars ever since.

The Royal Rush leaders - McKenzie Fullington, Kylie Ledyard, Derek Lucier, Paul Migas, Katie Mercure, & Jayvon Smith - got the school spirit flowing early with weekly updates on where and how to support our teams. Our Student Council orchestrated a successful Homecoming Week packed with well-attended traditions of a parade on Eagle Way, an all fall sports senior night, two girls flag football games, a bonfire, a very wet football game, and a celebratory Homecoming dance. Our fall sports teams found great success with conference and state recognitions you can read about in the coming pages. The fall play, The Bookstore, had four shows with a cast and crew of 70 total students and the most elaborate set yet for LCHS. The choreography on stage with the moving bookcases was truly mesmerizing!

It is a pleasure to recognize our list of Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program:

Nell Cichon, Liam Makela, and Cody Summerson. Commended Students are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT in October 2022. Also honored this fall was senior Abby Gedville. At the KEMPA journalism conference at UW Whitewater, Abby won the prestigious "Best in Show" honor. In addition, she received with the top prize from the School Photographers of America earning a new Sony mirrorless camera as the Grand Champion. As a school, Lakes was ranked by US News and World Report as the 66th Best High School in Illinois placing us in the top 10% of Illinois high schools!

Moving into the winter months, our extracurricular clubs and teams are starting to practice and compete. The LCHS eSports team already brought home a 5th place state finish in Mario Kart 8 Fall Season LAN and is anticipating a strong season. Catch our concerts, competitions, and performances in person or on our YouTube channel @LakesEaglesD117. Hope to see you at a Lakes event this winter!

*In the Eagle Spirit,*

**Jori Bowen**

*Principal*

Lakes Community High School



COLLEGE BOARD | CHSD117

## LCHS & ACHS Named to the AP Program Honor Roll

College Board announced that Lakes Community High School and Antioch Community High School have been named to the Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) School Honor Roll this year, earning the "Silver" and "Bronze" distinction, respectively. The AP® School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness. "AP represents an opportunity for students to stand out to colleges, earn college credit and placement, and potentially boost their grade point averages," said Trevor Packer, head of the AP® program. "The schools have shown that they can expand access to these college-level courses and still drive high performance – they represent the best of our AP program."

College Board's Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) enables students to pursue college-level studies—with the op-



LAKES COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL  
2023 SILVER DISTINCTION



ANTIOCH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL  
2023 BRONZE DISTINCTION

portunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both—while still in high school. Through AP courses in 38 subjects, each culminating in a challenging exam, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue—skills that prepare them for college and beyond.

We know it takes a significant school wide effort—dedication from teachers, counselors, administrators, students, and parents—to make AP® access a priority. We join you in celebrating this inspiring achievement for our community.





LCHS 2023 Girls Volleyball Team

ATHLETICS | LCHS

## LCHS Fall Athletics a Huge Success

Lakes Community High School's fall athletic successes picked up right where last spring's accomplishments left off! With 31 all-conference athletes, the Eagles made quite the impact on the Northern Lake County Conference (NLCC) this year. Congratulations to all fall Lakes athletes!

### Golf

The girls and boys boys golf programs saw great success this fall, as the girls won the NLCC title and qualified for sectionals as a team. Maia Becker, who placed first at the NLCC tournament, earned all-conference honors, as did Carter Conway and Jia Singh.

The boys team placed 2nd in conference, thanks to all-conference golfers Connor Daley, Henry Samulak, and Brady Cross. They qualified for the sectional tournament as a team, and Cross made history as he became the top state finisher in the history of Lakes, placing 9th.

### Cross Country

Both the girls and boys cross country teams both qualified for the state meet! Madison Twarling was the conference champion, and Jackson Summy led the boys at sectionals with a 10th-place finish. All-conference runners were Bri Gara, Hannah Salbilla, Madison Twarling, Payton Whitehead, Jackson Summy, Cooper Summy, Blake Salbilla, and Liam Makela. The girls placed 7th at the state meet, and the boys placed 16th. All-state placers were Bri Gara and Madison Twarling.



### Girls Tennis

Girls tennis saw the number of players and success increase. The team more than doubled last year's win total and had two all-conference players at #3 doubles, Chloe Hogan and Sarah Herbst.

### Football

The football team had five all-conference players; Drew Schmidt, Brayden Thornton, Dillan Davis, Andy Mlyniec, and Zach Raffone.

### Field Hockey

Field hockey made great progress this year, and tallied their highest win total since 2019. All-conference athletes are Jessica Ross and Olivia Brummund.

### Boys Soccer

The boys soccer team steadily improved as the season went on, but they were defeated in the regional

semifinals after a solid regular season. All-conference players were Riley Nava, Drew Chamernik, and Jacob Gardner.

### Girls Volleyball

The girls volleyball team won the NLCC title and played very well in the postseason. All-Conference players were Lainey Russo, Adey Martin, Jillian Ellenwood, and Kylie Ledyard. Katie Mercure was chosen as the NLCC Player of the Year!

# A Place Where Dreams Take Flight

This past fall, our students, staff, and community have achieved new heights and embraced accomplishments that exemplify our school's spirit. Here's a glimpse of the fantastic journey from these past couple of weeks that we've been on:

Our athletes have provided a ton of fun this fall. The ACHS Football Team had a perfect 9-0 record this season and secured the Northern Lake County Conference (NLCC) Championship.

A round of applause also goes to Piper Ipsen and Rosie Gonzalez, who represented us in the IHSA Cross Country State Meet. All of our athletes continued to place smiles on many as we were able to bear witness to their talent, togetherness, and determination.

We are incredibly proud to acknowledge Ricky Mohammad and Christine Liu, recognized as Commendable Students from the PSAT/NMSQT Exam. This distinction signifies their place among the most accomplished students in the entire nation.

A group of our students just returned from an exciting journey to Boston for the National Journalism Education Conference. Our devoted booster club, Sequoit Pride, partially funded this incredible opportunity. We are grateful for their generous support. This is but one of many outside-the-classroom experiences that our students were fortunate to have.

The Tom Tom, our school's news magazine, has received well-deserved recognition. The publication achieved sec-

ond-place distinction from the national literary organization Kempa in the news magazine category. This accolade showcases the talent and hard work of our student journalists.

Our Homecoming week was nothing short of spectacular, once again. Despite a slight rain, the festivities concluded with a Thursday night parade through Main Street, a stunning fireworks display, and a spirited bonfire. It was a true celebration of our school community.

These remarkable achievements reflect our students, teachers, staff, parents, and the ACHS community's dedication and commitment. Our school is not just a place of learning; it's a place where dreams take flight, talents are nurtured, and aspirations are achieved.

Thank you for being an integral part of this incredible journey. The community's support and involvement make an impact as we continue to make a difference in the lives of our students.



*Once a Sequoit, always a Sequoit,*

**Mike Berrie**

Principal

Antioch Community High School



## AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT | CHSD117

### Accelerated Placement Act Automatically Enrolls

According to the new Accelerated Placement Act, all Illinois public school districts are required to automatically enroll students who meet/exceed in English Language Arts, Math, or Science on a state assessment into the next most rigorous level of coursework, which may include Honors or Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Accelerated placement applies to required courses in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies Departments for students in grades 9-12. The plan does not prohibit students who do not meet or exceed standards on the state's required assessments from enrolling in advanced level courses.

As an example, a current freshman (grade 9) who is in English I who meets or exceeds state standards on the PSAT 8/9 in Reading will automatically be enrolled in English 2 Honors as a sophomore (grade 10). Automatic enrollment will begin in the course selection process this year for courses chosen for the 2024-2025 school year.

The most recent state or local nationally-normed assessment will be used to determine whether a student meets or

exceeds state standards. For current CHSD 117 students, this may mean the most recent PSAT/SAT test, and for incoming freshmen, NWEA/MAP test scores may be used.

Grade Level	Assessment	ELA Benchmark	Math Benchmark
Class of 2027 (Gr 9)	NWEA (8th Grade)	226-260	234-270
Class of 2026 (Gr 10)	PSAT 8/9 (9th Grade)	410-720	450-720
Class of 2025 (Gr 11)	PSAT/NMSQT (11th Grade)	460-760	510-760

As partners in the course selection process, parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss course options as outlined in the CHSD 117 Curriculum Guide. Parents/guardians are notified of the courses their student has registered for, including those in which their student was automatically enrolled. A parent/guardian whose student was automatically accelerated into a course may decline that placement. More information about this process will be communicated by the schools.





## ATHLETICS | ACHS

# On You Sequoits Athletics!

The Sequoits put forth another strong athletic season this autumn. Antioch Community High School proudly boasts 34 All-Northern Lake County Conference student-athletes. Congratulations Antioch and ON YOU SEQUOITS!

## Football

Our football team ran roughshod over the conference and turned in an undefeated record at all-levels for the regular season. The Sequoits brought home the NLCC Title in football and fell in the second round of the IHSA playoffs. Their eleven all-conference selections included the conference Player of the Year in Jr. Martin Cohen. Joining him as All-NLCC are Nick Day, James Sheehan, JT Gobeyn, Aiden Van Alstine, Ryan Hanrahan, Chris Cook, Ryan Swanson, Tyler Ingman, Alex Bustamante, and Makay Mountcastle.

## Girls Cross Country

Two Sequoits represented ACHS at the Girls Cross Country IHSA state competition. **Piper Ipsen** and **Rosie Gonzales** qualified for the finals and joined these All-NLCC runners Angela Ortiz and Addison Lane in a successful fall campaign.



## Boys Cross Country

Boys Cross Country enjoyed four All-Conference honorees. They are Carter Webb, Anton Augusto, Carson Lanners and Griffin Freeman.

## Golf

The Antioch Boys and Girls Golf teams continued their positive impact on the sport and conference. Junior Columbian

exchange student Manuela Posada was a runner-up at the NLCC girls tournament joining Maddie Barrett, Makenna Sekany and Ugne Aleksaite as all-conference competitors. Tyler Stackhouse and Ryan Frazer earned the same honor at the boys' tournament.

## Girls Volleyball

ACHS Volleyball competed proudly all year and enjoyed some key victories over larger schools. Three seniors are represented on the NLCC All-Conference list; Nora Larson, Emma Crow and Ava Yeager.

## Field Hockey

The Field Hockey team continued their path to prominence in the Northern Illinois region, proving victorious over some significantly larger squads in Stevenson, Deerfield, and St. Viator.

## Girls Tennis

The Sequoits Girls Tennis program grew even larger this fall with over 50 participants. They competed consistently all season. Hailey Caya, Tessa Cook, Aubrey Dickey, Layla Kane and Nicole Kutcher earned spots on the All-NLCC list.

## Boys Soccer

The Sequoits showed significant improvement on the pitch this fall. They were victorious at the Illinois Math and Science Academy Invitational bringing home the tournament championship. Cade Ternes earned All-NLCC honors. The boys ended their season in the IHSA Regional Quarterfinals. With plenty of young players earning needed experience, the Sequoits look to take another step forward in 2024.

CLC NAVIGATOR | CHSD117

## CLC College and Career Navigator Guides CHSD 117 Students with a Plan for Their Future

Community High School District 117 welcomes **Michelle Gutierrez**, a College of Lake County College and Career Navigator, to help high school students at Antioch and Lakes Community High Schools with their college and career planning. A CLC College and Career Navigator has a mixture of responsibilities, from planning college events for students at the two high schools, recruiting and onboarding students to CLC, and advising them about the college planning process in general.

Michelle Gutierrez's own educational path has come first circle, starting at the College of Lake County and coming back to it once again. Ms. Gutierrez is from Gurnee and attended CLC her first semester out of Warren High School. She had a wonderful experience and felt the professors and rigor at CLC were great. She then transferred to Carthage College, double majored in German and Music, as interdisciplinary studies was encouraged. Ms. Gutierrez always had teaching in the back of her mind, and after Carthage, she taught English in Germany through a Fulbright program. This program ignited a passion in her of working with students, so she got her masters degree in teaching music education at Northwestern University. She has since taught elementary music in Highland Park and high school choir in Madison, Wisconsin. While teaching choir in Madison, she also taught a College and Career Readiness class, where she would have very real conversations with students about their future. It was so fulfilling to help students, so when Ms. Gutierrez saw the CLC College and Career Navigator position, she knew it was the perfect position for her. After getting married this July, Ms. Gutierrez started as a CLC College and Career Navigator and is assigned to CHSD 117, where she splits her time at each high school two days per week.

Ms. Gutierrez's daily schedule varies, but her main goal is helping students find their success. She enjoys working in the two schools and being part of both school communities and culture. Ms. Gutierrez meets with students individually, she helps them find the resources they need, has conversations about postsecondary goals and plans, and discusses different career paths with students. This can involve taking classes that are available at CLC to pursue a degree or to go into the trades. She helps students apply for college, send transcripts, apply for financial aid - whatever students need, Ms. Gutierrez is an added resource to the college and career advising students get from their high school counselors. Ms. Gutierrez wants to help demystify the process of applying to

college and wants to make it attainable for any student who wants that as the next step in their career path. She love the schools, feels very welcomed, and collaborates with the college counselors. She is impressed with how the students are asking lots of ques-

tions and want to make informed decisions for themselves. Counselors and staff have already said how beneficial it is to have a CLC College and Career Navigator in the building, easily accessible for students and staff.

Ms. Gutierrez believes that authentic and comfortable relationships are her key to success with students. She has made it her aim to get involved in the district, get to know staff and administration, and help with the needs of the schools and their students. She wants students to know that she is

available to help with navigating any classes that CLC has to offer, including dual credit classes in the high schools and those at Tech Campus. She wants the CHSD 117 staff to know that she can be a resource to them as well, and she is willing to come speak to classes about CLC.

Ms. Gutierrez has planned some field trips for CHSD 117 to CLC for early graduates and she has planned an application drive. Ms. Gutierrez believes that this role was created for accessibility and equity. Not every student has the guidance that some do at home about postsecondary plans, college, and careers, and some students may need some extra assistance. Every student can have multiple options for their future, and Ms. Gutierrez is more than willing to help them find their path.

Ms. Gutierrez's position is funded through a generous donor, and CLC College and Career Navigators are positioned in some other Lake Country schools. Ms. Gutierrez hopes that she can raise the number of students applying to CLC, promote the trades, raise awareness about the many classes available at CLC, and help students discover viable career options. A good number of seniors apply to CLC every year, making it the college that receives the most applications from CHSD 117 students. Ms. Gutierrez has many other exciting plans on the horizon for students, like opportunities to engage families and CLC alumni, and more field trips to CLC and the Advanced Technology Center.

### Where can you find Ms. Gutierrez?

**Mondays/Thursdays:** LCHS College and Career Center

**Tuesdays/Fridays:** ACHS College and Career Center

Students can drop in during lunch or study hall, or make an appt via [michelle.gutierrez@chsd117.org](mailto:michelle.gutierrez@chsd117.org).







# Collaborating with Community Partners

Educational success often relies on the collective efforts of not just the educators but the entire community. The leadership at Emmons school recognizes this need and has capitalized on the power of community partnerships. The school places a high value on collaboration with organizations which enrich the academic programming.

One such beneficial partnership is with the Hastings Lake YMCA. The YMCA After School Program offers a safe and enriching environment for students after the regular school day ends and plays a crucial role in supporting working parents. The program provides a variety of activities that promote physical fitness, social interaction, and academic support. With this partnership, parents are assured their students are safely supervised after school.

Another cornerstone of the district's commitment to community partnership is through the PTO. The Parent-Teacher Organization is a dynamic and passionate group of parents, teachers, and administrators dedicated to enhancing the educational experience of students. They actively organize fundraisers, family events, and volunteer opportunities throughout the school year, often partnering with local businesses and restaurants. Their tireless efforts have a profound impact on the district's ability to provide

students with extra resources, support, and opportunities that might not otherwise be available. With their efforts, Emmons has been able to provide assistance to outside organizations such as Open Arms Mission and the Antioch Traveling Closet.

Emmons newest partnerships are also providing exciting opportunities for the students. Since developing an inter-governmental agreement with Antioch Library, students and teachers have received library cards without ever leaving the school! Kindergarten through second grade learners participated in a field trip to tour the updated library facility and a member of the library staff provides an after school club at the school. A new partnership with Great Lakes Credit Union has allowed for students to learn about financial literacy starting as early as kindergarten. Student of the Month winners enjoy certificates for free items from Antioch Pizza, and students can participate in competitive wrestling through a co-op with Antioch District 34.

The collaborative efforts of the district and their partnerships exemplify a commitment to nurturing well-rounded, confident, and successful students. Education is a community effort, and Emmons strives to grow partnerships which unlock exciting opportunities for the students.

## Students Celebrate & Host Veterans

Emmons School hosted a robust Veterans Day celebration that left a lasting impression on all who attended. The day began with a heartfelt breakfast for all veterans in attendance, a small token of gratitude for their selfless service to our nation. While at breakfast, veterans visited with second graders who delivered thank you cards. Following the meal, the school's gymnasium was filled as the entire student body, teachers, parents, community members

and veterans gathered for a special assembly. The Emmons School students sang heartfelt patriotic tunes, accompanied by the resounding melodies of the school band. Each veteran present was acknowledged and honored for their service. The assembly featured Emmons parent, Pamela Anderson, who served in the Navy from 1998-2022. Through the experience, students were inspired and developed a reverence for the armed services.



from the mayor's office

# Let's Shop Local This Year

As we start the holiday season in Antioch, I'm reminded of the joy this time of year brings, especially the time I can spend with my family. I hope you can share in the holiday spirit with some of the festive events going on in town this season. Whether it's watching the Christmas Parade, or just strolling down Main Street visiting our local businesses, I'm reminded of just how special a place Antioch is.

Antioch truly shines during the holiday season, embodying a small-town American charm. I invite you to join us for the annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting on the evening of November 24th. Additionally, join me in celebrating Small Business Saturday on November 25th, supporting our outstanding local shops and restaurants. In December, our Parks Department is organizing Santa Visits and Santa at the Sawmill events, plus the continuation of the Festival of Trees at the Buttrick Sawmill from December 3rd through the 17th!

The Village of Antioch has partnered with the Antioch Chamber of Commerce to provide an incentive to shop local! Village of Antioch e-gift cards are available online and welcome at nearly 30 locations around the village. As a bonus, the village is offering bonus dollars with purchases. To see the list of where the Yiftee e-gift cards can be redeemed, and

see the special BOGO offers, visit: [AntiochChamber.org](http://AntiochChamber.org)

This edition of Connections includes essential winter reminders from our Public Works Department. Throughout winter, our dedicated Public Works employees work tirelessly on snow removal and roadway treatment to ensure safe travel. In the face of storms, our crews brave long hours in challenging temperatures. A heartfelt thank you to Public Works for their unwavering commitment!

Finally, I extend warm wishes to you and your family for a joyful and blessed Christmas and holiday season. Reflecting on this remarkable year, I am grateful for the hard work of our residents in making our community the wonderful place it is.

Sincerely,

**Mayor Scott Gartner**

847-395-1000

[antioch.il.gov](http://antioch.il.gov)



The Antioch Veterans Memorial is a 501 (c)(3) not for profit organization created to raise funds for the building of a solemn memorial to honor those residents of Antioch, past and present, then into the future, who have served our country and all of us.

To learn more about the Antioch Veterans Memorial, including how you can make year-end tax deductible contributions, scan the QR code, or visit the Antioch Veterans Memorial Facebook page.

Donations can also be made by check, sent to:  
Antioch Veterans Memorial  
P.O. Box 110  
Antioch, IL, 60002



## WINTER EVENTS

**Santa at the Sawmill**

DECEMBER  
**1, 2, 8, 9,  
15 & 16**

**Festival of Trees**

DECEMBER  
**3-17**

**Winter Wine Walk**

JANUARY  
**20**

**Sweetheart Dance**

FEBRUARY  
**10**

**Mother/Son Bowling Night**

MARCH  
**10**

Visit the Village's events calendar for a complete listing of village events! [www.antioch.il.gov/calendar](http://www.antioch.il.gov/calendar)



# Aqua Center Passes Make Perfect Gifts

The Antioch Parks and Recreation Department offers the perfect stocking stuffer gift idea! The Antioch Parks and Recreation Department is offering 2024 Aqua Center passes. The passes are available at the Parks office or on the Parks Department website.

For specific questions, call the Parks and Recreation office at 847-395-2160 or email, [parks@antioch.il.gov](mailto:parks@antioch.il.gov).



## Minds in Motion STEM Class: Cyber Crawler Robot

Are you looking for an exciting and educational opportunity for your budding young scientist or engineer? Antioch Parks and Recreation's Minds in Motion Cyber Crawler Robot STEM class has just the answer!

Introducing the Cyber Crawler Robot, a hands-on experience open to children aged 7 to 11 that promises to ignite their passion for robotics and coding. In this engaging program, students have the chance to construct their very own Cyber Crawler Robot and bring it home. It's not just about building; it's about mastering the art of smart coding. The class aims to inspire the next generation of robotic engineers by combining entertainment with education. Once assembled, students can use a simple press-button programming keypad embedded on the robot's cranium to set their Cyber Crawler on an exciting journey. Imagine the thrill as your child designs obstacles and maze courses with their classmates, challenging their creations to see how far they can go, all while the robot's LEDs illuminate the way. It's the perfect introduction to the joy of coding and a fantastic way to kindle a lifelong interest in STEM fields.

Don't miss out on this captivating opportunity to delve into the world of robotics and programming. Antioch Parks and Recreation's Minds in

Motion Cyber Crawler Robot STEM class offers an unforgettable experience for young minds eager to explore the realms of technology. Join us for the Cyber Crawler Robot class and watch your child's curiosity and creativity

flourish in a fun and educational environment. Secure your spot and let your child embark on an exciting journey in robotics today!

Enrollment is now open!

Visit: [www.antioch.il.gov/parks](http://www.antioch.il.gov/parks)

VILLAGE OF

# Antioch

Parks & Recreation

## Minds in Motion STEM Class: Cyber Crawler Robot

### Explore the World of Robotics

**Dates:** February 6, 2024 – March 12, 2024

**Day:** Tuesdays

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Ages:** 7 – 11 years old

**Location:** Parks Building / Upper Classroom

**Cost:** \$125

**Min/Max:** 7/14

**Sign up today!**

[www.antioch.il.gov/parks](http://www.antioch.il.gov/parks)

or scan QR code:



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 847-395-2160  
OR EMAIL [parks@antioch.il.gov](mailto:parks@antioch.il.gov)





## Welcome to the Winter Wonderland of Antioch: Snow Safety and Village Services

As we dive into the Winter issue of Connections, it's a reminder that the season's first significant snowfall is just around the corner. When winter blankets the village's streets with snow, the Antioch Public Works Department springs into action to ensure safety and convenience for motorists. Snow removal teams work to tackle seven vital routes, spanning 120 lane miles, including 103 cul-de-sacs.

During snowfall, the Antioch Public Works Department prioritizes the safety of the community by first focusing on emergency and school routes. The snow team strives to clear all streets as swiftly as possible, adapting to the snowfall's intensity and timing.

Parking is prohibited on any Village street with an inch (1") or more of snow until snow removal operations are complete. In the spirit of community, property owners are urged to keep sidewalks clear for pedestrians. According to the Village code, sidewalks should be cleared to a width of no less than seventy-two (72") inches or the sidewalk's full width. This should be done within 24 hours after a snow event depositing at least two (2") inches of snow. Remember to assist in maintaining the safety of your neighborhood by digging out your mailbox and keeping fire hydrants on your property free from snow.

We understand that accidents can happen, and in the unfortunate event of a mailbox taking a direct hit from a Village snowplow truck, homeowners can be reimbursed up to seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars if it cannot be reasonably replaced or repaired by the Public Works Department. However,

please note that damage resulting from the force of snow will not be covered. To help prevent snow from being plowed back into your driveway, consider moving the snow to the right side of your driveway when facing the street in the direction of traffic flow. Stay safe and enjoy the winter wonderland of Antioch!

If you reside within the Village limits and experience a situation with your mailbox or other roadway concern, contact the Village Hall at 847-395-1000 or the Public Works Department at 847-395-1000 x 425.



### Village of Antioch

## Winter Break Camp



**Grades K-7**

**Only \$42 per day**

**Schedule**

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

<p><b>DECEMBER 26</b></p> <p>FOX LAKE ROLLER RINK</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 2</b></p> <p>CARNIVAL DAY</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER 27</b></p> <p>ANTIOCH MOVIE THEATRE</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 3</b></p> <p>PEC PLEX - SWIMMING</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER 28</b></p> <p>TRAVELING WORLD OF REPTILES</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 4</b></p> <p>LASER TAG AND GAMES</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER 29</b></p> <p>COOKING IN THE KITCHEN</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 5</b></p> <p>COOKING IN THE KITCHEN</p>

**There will be no "low enrollment" cancellation**

ALL SESSIONS / EACH DAY GUARANTEED TO RUN!



**Antioch Parks & Recreation**

**FLEXIBLE: Register TODAY for all 8 days, or just a few!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 847-395-2160 OR EMAIL PARKS@ANTIOCH.IL.GOV**



## LAKE VILLA TOWNSHIP'S SENIOR EVENT NEW YEARS EXTRAVAGANZA



# Welcome Gilligan's Island

What happens on the island, stays on the island.

**Saturday January 6, 2024**  
**12:00 Noon**

Please join us for an  
afternoon of fun, gambling  
(play money), food and prizes

**The fun  
is real, the  
money  
is not!!!**

Lake Villa Township West Campus Community Center  
37850 N. Rt. 59 Lake Villa, IL  
Please R.S.V.P

**Please bring a non-perishable food item for  
the Lake Villa Township Food Pantry**



**Daniel Venturi**  
*Supervisor*

**Jean Smuda**  
*Clerk*

**Jeffery Lee**  
*Assessor*

**Jim Jorgensen**  
*Highway Commissioner*

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Paul Berker**  
**Joy Johnson**  
**Gerald Coia**  
**Barbara Stout**

# Lake Villa Township's Plans for a New Park



*From the desk of Superintendent Borowiak*

# The Importance of Community Partnerships

Not surprisingly, research supports the fact that family involvement in schools improves student achievement. Did you know that research also supports the importance of community involvement?

When communities are involved, students have access to more learning opportunities, teachers feel more supported, and student attendance improves. Having an engaged community and supporters definitely makes a difference, but can sometimes be a challenge for our preschool, elementary school, and upper grade school. That is why we are so thankful for those who don't forget about our young people and go out of their way to provide support to our schools and more importantly, the young people and future of our communities.

Our partners and supporters include community service providers such as the Police Departments, Fire Departments, and libraries who graciously devote their time to working closely with our schools in providing support to our staff, families, and students. We have community food, books, and clothing organizations such as Antioch Traveling Closet, Keeping Families Covered, Bernie's Book Bank, Penny's Purpose, and Open Arms Food Bank who provide items for our families in need. Champions provides families an option for engaged child care after school and during breaks and summer school. Our Parks Departments in Antioch, Lake Villa, and Lindenhurst offer summer activities to many of our students. We are also thankful to the many groups who help provide wraparound services to our students and their families through groups such as Community Youth Network, Crisis Response Network, and Ronald McDonald Mobile

Care Unit who provide mental health and medical care services for our students.

We are also thankful to our local businesses such as Jewel who donate food items to our parent Booster groups, restaurants such as Antioch Pizza who have nights for specific schools where they donate a percentage of their proceeds to our student groups, and businesses such as Raymond Chevrolet and State Bank of the Lakes, who are always willing to provide extraordinary sponsorships. And, we are thankful to our newest partner in the United Way who offered our countdown for readiness kindergarten camp this summer.

While we are thankful for our many partners, we ambitiously want to triple our partners and increase community member's understanding of the needs of our students and families. If you're reading this and want to know what you can do to help out or support our schools, you can start by reaching out. Contact our Administrative Services Center to find out more about ways you can support our students. If you don't have time or services but want to help students in need, you can start by donating to our Angel Fund.

*Sincerely,*  
**Aron Borowiak**  
*Superintendent*



## AUGS Students Receive Perfect Scores on the IAR

D34 is proud to have three students receive perfect scores on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). Tanner Larson received a perfect score on the IAR Mathematics assessment, while Luana Mafuiana and Lily Smith both received perfect scores on English Language Arts assessment. These exceptional achievements are a result of the students' dedication and commitment to excellence. Congratulations, Tanner, Luana and Lily!



*From left to right: Tanner Larson, Lily Smith and Luana Mafuiana*



From left to right: Katie Klüg (Oakland Eagles Booster President) and Libby Deichsel (Hillcrest Boosters President). Not pictured: Melissa Seiler (AUGS Booster President), Janene Olandese (Petty Bobcat Boosters), Jennifer Freeland Wieder (D34 Band and Orchestra Boosters)



## Celebrating Our School Boosters

In the heart of the D34 community, there exists a vital force that tirelessly and selflessly works to elevate the educational experience of our students and enhance the overall environment of our schools. This force is none other than our dedicated school Boosters. With unwavering commitment, these parent organizations have become the bedrock upon which our schools have flourished, and their contributions are nothing short of remarkable.

The Boosters play a multifaceted role in our educational community. They not only serve as enthusiastic fundraisers, but also as champions of our students and staff, going above and beyond to create a supportive and vibrant learning environment. Their dedication knows no bounds, as they sponsor assemblies that not only educate but also inspire our students, helping to broaden their horizons and instill a love for learning.

One of the most tangible ways in which the Boosters have left their mark is by supporting essential school projects. Whether it's the Petty Bobcat Boosters' purchase of an electronic marquee for the front of the school or the Oakland Eagle Boosters' maintenance and beautification of the school courtyard, the Boosters impact is felt in every corner of our school community.

The generosity of the AUGS Boosters extends to staff

through the sponsorship of teacher projects and requests, ensuring that our educators have the resources they need to create engaging and inspiring lessons. The Hillcrest Boosters help celebrate and nurture a love for reading and learning among our students, organizing book fairs and reading programs for students and families.

Our vibrant band and orchestra programs have also been enriched through the generous contributions of the Band and Orchestra Boosters. Their support has enabled our young musicians to reach new heights and share their talents with the community.

The contributions of our school Boosters are not just material; they are immeasurable acts of kindness and support that touch the lives of every student and staff member. They represent the heart and soul of our school community, fostering a sense of togetherness and unity that extends well beyond the classroom.

As we celebrate our school Boosters, let us express our heartfelt gratitude for their unwavering dedication, their selfless generosity, and their unrelenting commitment to the betterment of our schools and the lives of our students. They are, without a doubt, the unsung heroes of our educational community, and we are immensely grateful for their extraordinary contributions.



# Nurturing Futures and Building Bonds

## MKM Early Learning Center's Early Start Birth-3 Program

The Early Start program at Mary Kay McNeill Early Center is fostering a strong partnership between home and school, providing a lifeline for families from prenatal through the transition to preschool.

The program's core mission is to facilitate a seamless connection between families and educational resources, ensuring that children receive the support and guidance they need from the very beginning. The Early Start program is a shining example of how proactive community initiatives can pave the way for brighter futures.

The Early Start program extends a helping hand to families from the very start, beginning prenatally and continuing through the crucial preschool transition. The program's approach revolves around four key components: developmental and social-emotional screenings, personalized home visits, opportunities for social connection, and access to vital community resources.

One of the program's standout features is the individualized home visiting plan. This personalized approach is designed to bring activities into the child's home that align with their developmental and social-emotional requirements. These visits provide an invaluable opportunity for families to actively participate in their child's early development.

The Early Start program recognizes that the journey to early childhood development is not a solo endeavor. Several times a month, they organize events and gatherings that offer not only enriching experiences for children, but also opportunities for parents to socialize and share their experiences. Whether it's storytimes in the classroom, park events, or evening music events, these activities strengthen the bonds within the community.

The final pillar of the Early Start program is their commitment to connecting families with external resources tailored to their specific needs. This component ensures that families have access to the necessary support networks and services that will help them thrive.

The Early Start program's dedication to high-quality services is underscored by its affiliation with Parents as Teach-

ers (PAT). This nationally recognized curriculum equips Early Start teachers with the knowledge and skills to deliver top-tier support to children and families. To maintain their high standards, Parents as Teachers affiliates are required to engage in a rigorous Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process every five years. The program recently earned the Blue Ribbon award in October, a major accomplishment!

What's truly remarkable about the Early Start program is its emphasis on partnership and community engagement; it's truly a collaboration between families and the school.

In a demonstration of the power of partnerships, the Early Start program works closely with various community programs to extend its reach and advance its mission. One such partnership is with the Antioch Traveling Closet (ATC), a community-driven initiative dedicated to ensuring that no one in the community is without basic necessities.

The ATC collects donated items from the community, including clothing, shoes, winter jackets, books, and more, and distributes them free of charge at giveaway drives. The Early Start program, recognizing the shared commitment to community well-being, sets up a table at ATC's events. Here, they provide families with valuable parenting resources and informational pamphlets on child development, ensuring that children from prenatal to preschool age receive the support they need, and give away books to families, hoping to encourage a love of reading from the earliest of ages.

The MKM Early Start program, with its commitment to fostering early childhood development and building strong bonds within the community, stands as a shining example of the positive change that can be achieved when a community comes together to support its members. Through its remarkable work, it is sowing the seeds for a brighter future for the D34 community.

If you are interested in learning more about the Early Start program or signing up for a screening, please contact Marnie Pedersen ([mpedersen@antioch34.com](mailto:mpedersen@antioch34.com)) or Lisa Hanes ([lhane@antioch34.com](mailto:lhane@antioch34.com)) or call (847) 838-8032.



## Easter Seals Chicago Supports Specialized Programming in D34

D34 has partnered with Easter Seals Chicago to provide targeted training and assistance to staff serving students with Autism. Easter Seals has an Illinois Autism Partnership program, which provides opportunities for school districts to individualize coaching, consulting, and training programs for staff. Through this partnership, the district has been able to access the wealth of knowledge and resources offered by Easter Seals Chicago.

Within the district, we have established a Structured Learning Program specifically tailored to students with Autism or similar needs. These students often require a range of specialized supports to help them thrive in their educational journey. Through our collaboration with Easter Seals Chicago, D34 has been able to access expert guidance and resources to help enhance the Structured Learning Program. These resources have aided our staff in developing a more robust understanding of Autism and refine our strategies for teaching and engaging with students.

The Easter Seals Illinois Autism Partnership program provides a multi-faceted approach that includes individu-

alized coaching, consulting, and training programs tailored to the specific needs of the district. Over the years, staff has benefitted from classroom setup assistance before the school year begins, monthly coaching sessions from specialized Autism coaches, and has received training during staff inservice days. These opportunities have been a game-changer for the D34 staff, allowing them to provide more effective and personalized support to their students with increased expertise and use of the current best practices. Ms. Melissa Stetkus, a Structured Learning Program teacher at Antioch Upper Grade School shared, "Since the beginning of the school year Easter Seals never fails to come up with creative solutions to support our students' day-to-day learning. They always go above and beyond to cater to each student's individual needs. We are very grateful for their help and support."

The Easter Seals Chicago partnership has made a profound impact on the lives of students with special needs, improving the educational experience for our students while fostering an inclusive and supportive environment within D34.

## AUGS Student Achieves Dream as Marquee Sports Network Jr. Broadcaster

Reese Turner, achieved an exceptional milestone this year. Reese, a 7th grader at Antioch Upper Grade School, was named the winner of the 2023 Marquee Sports Network Jr. Broadcaster Contest, providing her with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend a day with the Chicago Cubs.

Reese's dream came true on Saturday, September 9th, when she stepped onto the hallowed grounds of Wrigley Field and went behind the scenes with the Marquee Sports Network broadcast team. The day was a whirlwind of excitement as she immersed herself in the world of sports broadcasting. Reese's journey included exclusive access to the broadcast booths, insights into the intricate workings of live television, and a chance to explore the field where her heroes play.

The highlight of Reese's unforgettable experience was her on-air interviews with Marquee Sports Network broadcaster Elise Menaker and Chicago Cubs Manager David Ross. During these interviews, Reese showcased her undeniable talent as she discussed her passion for broadcasting and her unwavering love for the Chicago Cubs. Her poise and professionalism were truly remarkable, leaving an indelible impression on those who watched her in action.

Reese's journey from Antioch to the spotlight at Wrigley Field is a testament to the power of dreams, determination, and local talent. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for this rising star in the world of sports broadcasting and are certain that she will continue to make Antioch proud.



# AUGS Students Shine in IMEA Jr. Honor Band

Four exceptional music students from Antioch Upper Grade School have been accepted into the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) Jr. Honor Band: Margo Martensen (Flute) and Trevor Wendt (French Horn), and Junior Honor Jazz Band: Alex Dusek (Jazz Trumpet) and Lilly Selvik (Jazz Alto Saxophone).

As members of the ILMEA Jr. Honor bands, these students had the esteemed opportunity to perform in the ILMEA District Festival at Glenbrook South High School on November 4th and the ILMEA District Jazz Festival at Lake Zurich High School on November 18th. This annual gathering of students in grades 6-12 draws participants from across the state and offers young musicians the unique opportunity to perform and receive feedback from some of the finest music educators in Illinois. This year, the Junior Honor Band students had the privilege of working under the guidance of guest conductor and composer William Owens and the Junior Jazz students worked with music educator Dave Tribley.

The festival offers participants an opportunity to collaborate with other gifted musicians from District 7, which encompasses middle schools in Lake and Cook County (excluding Chicago), and is renowned for its competitiveness



Left to right: Alex Dusek, Margo Martensen, Lilly Selvik, Trevor Wendt

due to the sheer number of participating schools. This year, District 7 had over 500 students audition for a spot in the Junior Band and Junior Jazz Band. Festival participants learn firsthand from experienced music educators and accomplished composers. This exposure provides them with an opportunity to refine their skills and gain valuable insights into the world of music, as the festival serves as a platform for these young musicians to compete against some of the state's most talented peers, pushing them to reach new heights in their musical journey.

The acceptance of these four Antioch Upper Grade School students into the ILMEA Jr. Honor Band is a testament to their dedication, passion, and remarkable talent. As they confidently took the stage, they carried with them the support and pride of the entire D34 community!

## Antioch Community High School Students Bring Learning to W.C. Petty Elementary

In a fantastic display of community collaboration, Antioch Community High School (ACHS) students are bringing their skills and enthusiasm to W.C. Petty Elementary. Led by Megan Bernard, a dedicated teacher at Antioch High School, students are making a meaningful impact on the learning experiences of our younger community members.

Megan Bernard oversees the Little Sequoit Preschool class at ACHS. This program goes beyond the standard high school curriculum, providing students with hands-on experience in teaching preschool-aged children. As part of this program, high school students spend a semester learning and teaching, with one of their activities involving working in elementary classrooms every Friday.

The collaboration extends beyond the preschool program, with high school students actively involved in various capacities at W.C. Petty Elementary School. They lend a helping hand in classrooms across different grades and contribute to physical education, music, and reading intervention programs. The fresh perspectives these high school students bring to the table helps to create a dynamic

and interactive learning environment.

One noteworthy aspect of this collaboration is the positive impact on both academic and personal growth. The exchange of ideas between high school and elementary students fosters a sense of community and shared learning. The younger students look up to their high school mentors, while the high school students develop leadership and mentoring skills that will serve them well in the future. This collaboration goes beyond textbooks and traditional learning methods. It's about building connections between different age groups, creating a supportive educational ecosystem that nurtures growth and development.

We extend our gratitude to Megan Bernard and all the high school students for their dedication to making a difference in the lives of our youngest learners. This collaborative effort is a testament to the power of community engagement in shaping the future of education. Together, we are fostering a positive and enriching educational experience, demonstrating that it truly takes a village to inspire our students to dream and empower the leaders of tomorrow!



# Empowering Education: Oakland Elementary School Teachers Receive Generous Donations

In the ever-evolving world of education, innovative teaching methods and creating the right learning environment are vital for nurturing young minds. Two remarkable educators from Oakland Elementary School, Mrs. Aldrich and Mrs. Williams-Foley, recently received a helping hand through their Donors Choose projects, and the results are nothing short of inspiring.

## Mrs. Aldrich's Thinking Classroom

In her first grade classroom, Mrs. Aldrich has a vision of a "thinking classroom" where young students are actively engaged in their learning process. Her project sought to create this dynamic space by introducing vertical, non-permanent surfaces that encourage students to collaborate, break down social and academic barriers, and foster creative thinking.

The concept is simple but profoundly effective – students stand at whiteboards to work in groups, solving math problems and actively participating in their learning journey. With these whiteboards, Mrs. Aldrich is not just providing a tool; she is creating an environment where students become active participants in their education. As she stated, her goal is to make her students fall in love with learning, and these whiteboards are an essential element in achieving that goal.

## Mrs. Williams-Foley's Flexible Student Seating

Mrs. Williams-Foley, a second grade teacher, recognized the diversity in her students' learning styles and sought to cater to their individual needs. Her Donors Choose project focused on providing flexible student seating, allowing second graders to choose where they want to learn.

By offering options such as wiggle stools and floor desks, Mrs. Williams-Foley is acknowledging that one size does not fit all when it comes to student comfort and concentration. This approach provides a solution for those students who find it challenging to remain seated at traditional desks. It empowers students to select what works best for them and helps them focus on their lessons more effectively.

## The Generous Supporters: Horace Mann and The Sonic Foundation

Both of these inspiring projects received a significant boost from generous sponsors, Horace Mann and The Sonic Foundation. Their support not only transformed the educational experience for these students but also gave the dedicated teachers the tools they needed to make a lasting impact on young minds.

Horace Mann representative Mike Buchenauer surprised both teachers on the first day of school with a check, a gesture that undoubtedly created an unforgettable and emotional start to the academic year. The act of kindness from these organizations has not only enriched the lives of Mrs. Aldrich



and Mrs. Williams-Foley, but has also contributed to the betterment of our entire school community.

In honoring these two remarkable teachers and their projects, we acknowledge the pivotal role that community partnerships play in elevating our education system. The dedication and innovation demonstrated by Mrs. Aldrich and Mrs. Williams-Foley, along with the support of organizations like Horace Mann and The Sonic Foundation, remind us that the future of education is bright and full of promise. With committed educators and supportive communities, our students have every opportunity to thrive and succeed.

## Winter Calendar of Events

### DECEMBER

- 7 Antioch Upper Grade School Choir Concert
- 13 Antioch Upper Grade School Orchestra Concert
- 14 Antioch Upper Grade School Band Concert
- 19 Regular Board Meeting
- 22 - 5 No School: Winter Break

### JANUARY

- 8 School Resumes
- 15 No School: Martin Luther King Day
- 16 Regular Board Meeting
- 18 4th & 5th Grade Band Concert
- 24 Inter/Adv Elementary Orchestra Concert
- 25 4th Grade Music Concert: Hillcrest Elementary School

### FEBRUARY

- 8 3rd Grade Music Concert: Hillcrest, Oakland, & W.C. Petty Elementary Schools
- 16 No School: Staff In-Service Day
- 19 No School: Presidents' Day
- 20 Regular Board Meeting
- 29 2nd Grade Music Concert: Hillcrest, Oakland, & W.C. Petty Elementary Schools



# DETAILS



**Tom Shaughnessy**  
Supervisor  
(847) 395-3378

## Antioch Township

P.O. Box 658  
Antioch, Illinois 60002  
Fax: (847) 395-0367  
[www.antiochtownshipil.gov](http://www.antiochtownshipil.gov)

TRUSTEES  
**Judith Davis**  
**Steve Turner**  
**Jeff Smouse**  
**Kris Shepard**

**Lee Perry**  
Assessor  
(847) 395-1545

**Eric Ring**  
Highway Commissioner  
(847) 395-2070

**Meghan Dyer Dawe**  
Town Clerk  
(847) 395-3378

## New Senior Membership Program

Our goal is to keep senior programs affordable. Therefore, beginning January 1, 2024 we are requesting a calendar-year membership.

**Resident Fee: \$25 per person or \$40 per family\***

**Non-resident Fee: \$35 per person or \$60 per family\***

Membership dollars are an important part of funding that allows us to offer a variety of low cost or no cost programs. You will receive a membership card with your name on it and they

are non-transferable. Included in your membership is communication of programs via email/mail and a complimentary lunch during your birthday month. The membership process must be done in-person at the Township Center or Senior Center – there is no online option. We accept cash to checks.

\*Family is considered individuals living at the same address. If a membership fee creates a financial burden, please call the Township at 847-395-3378.

## Monday Movies Series For Seniors

Member: FREE – Non-Member: \$5

Location: Antioch Movie Theatre, 378 Lake Street

Time: All movies start at 10am. Theatre opens at 9:30am.



**January 8: Oppenheimer**  
**January 22: Barbie**  
**February 5: Pretty Woman**

**February 26: Mrs. Doubtfire**  
**March 11: American President**  
**March 25: Sound of Freedom**





# ANTIOCH TOWNSHIP SCHEDULE OF SENIOR EVENTS

January - March 2024



Antioch Township

## Four Winds Casino New Buffalo, MI

Early morning and afternoon snack & deluxe motorcoach accommodations.  
\$15 instant slot credit & \$10 in food credit

Date: Wednesday, January 24

Location: Motorcoach bus departs at 8 AM from Antioch Township, 1625 Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa. Return approximately 5 PM

Cost - Resident: \$50 Non-resident: \$60

## "Staff Meeting" Teacher Celebration

"Administrator-Ms. Renee and Principal-Ms. Jennifer," are having a staff meeting for all retired and former teachers! Please bring a dessert and story to share and we encourage you to wear your favorite teacher sweater. We will provide coffee, fun and a surprise guest speaker, too!

Date: Thursday, January 25

Location: Senior Center, 817 Holbek Drive

Time: 2 PM

Cost: FREE for teachers

## Dunn Museum

1899 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville

At the Dunn Museum, their passion is to explore history as a vibrant force that connects us all through time. We will have an hour history presentation on "True Crimes of Lake County" followed by self-guided time in the galleries.

Date: Tuesday, January 30

Location: Township bus departs at 1:30 PM from Antioch Township, 1625 Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa. You can also drive on your own to meet the group for a 2 PM tour.

Cost - \$8 Lake County Resident, \$12 Out of County

## Jersey Boys Fireside Theatre

With phenomenal music, memorable characters, and great storytelling, Jersey Boys follows the fascination evolution of four blue-collar kids who became one of the greatest successes in pop music history.

Date: Thursday, February 22

Location: Motorcoach bus departs at 9:30 AM from Antioch Township, 1625 Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa. Return approximately 5:30 PM

Cost - Resident: \$90 Non-resident: \$100

## The Life, Laughter & Legacy of Robin Williams

Historical presenter, Michelle Gibbons, will take you into the life and mind of the comic genius, Robin Williams. Gibbons will discuss Williams' famous works, movies, TV shows and success; his personal struggles and achievements; as well as the impact he made on others during and after his life. Gibbons will explain how an alien from outer space named Mork became a larger-than-life legend on Earth. Lite refreshments will be served.

Date: Tuesday, February 27

Location: Antioch Township, 1625 Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa.

Time: 12:30 PM

Cost - Members FREE, Non-Members \$5

## Milwaukee's Fish Fry Tour

We'll begin our day with a docent-led tour of one of Milwaukee's beautiful Catholic Churches. Then make two stops for a generously portioned half-sized classic Milwaukee fish fry along with all of the sides and fixings. Additionally, we'll visit a brewery for a talk and samples while we say "cheers" to the original beer brewers that helped make Milwaukee and the fish fry what we know today. We will conclude the day with a stop for custard for dessert.

Date: Friday, March 8

Location: Motorcoach bus departs at 9 AM from Antioch Township, 1625 Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa. Return approximately 4 PM

Cost - Resident: \$90 Non-resident: \$100

## St. Patrick's Day Party

We are sending luck and fun your way so please join us on St Patty's Day! Enjoy a deliciously catered traditional Irish meal, dancers and bagpipers. Please wear green!

Date: Friday, March 15

Location: Senior Center, 817 Holbek Drive

Time: 11:00 AM

Cost - Resident: \$25 Non-resident: \$30



Cut out below & sign up now!

## Antioch Township Event Registration

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Four Winds Casino</b> Wed 1/24 R: \$50 NR: \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dunn Museum</b> Tues 1/30 Lk Co Res: \$8 Other: \$12	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Jersey Boys</b> Thurs 2/22 R: \$90 / NR: \$100 ____ Creole Chicken ____ Seared Pork Ribeye ____ Fresh Salmon	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Robin Williams</b> Tues 2/27 Members FREE Non-Mem- bers \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fish Fry Tour</b> Fri 3/8 R: \$90 NR: \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>St Pat's Day</b> Fri 3/15 R: \$25 NR: \$30
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### Total amount of payment

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

All payments must be received 10 days before event

### Please make checks payable to:

Antioch Township  
1625 Deep Lake Road  
Lake Villa, IL 60046

Attn: Renee Mehring

### Registrant Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

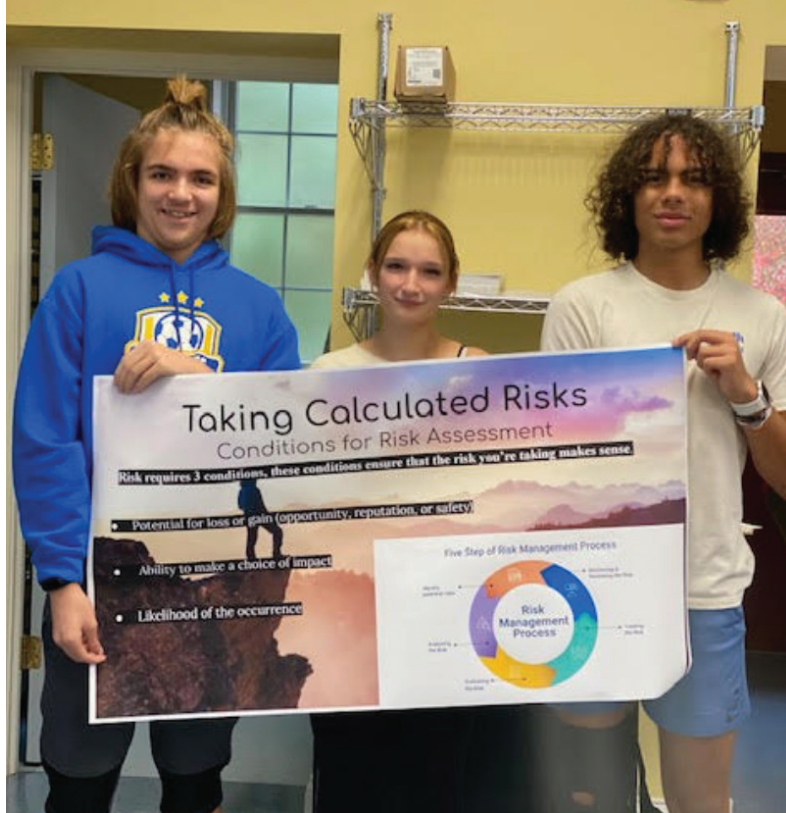
City, State, Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please note: Antioch Township Residents will have first availability)

**For information and to check availability contact Renee Mehring at 847-395-3378.**



# Learning to Lead

Students in Mrs. O'Connor's Seventh and Eighth Grade Enrichment classes have been studying the concept of leadership. They have made significant connections to their classroom readings, as well as developing understandings of what it means to be a good leader.

The students decided to creatively document their

leadership study within our Makerspace. Seventh graders took the challenge of generating leadership qualities that they collectively considered important. Eighth graders decided to display information to better understand risk assessment and risk management. Both are essential to serve as a leader.

## Statebound at GLS

Our very own 8th grader, Salazar Villalpando was the Lakes Region Conference Champion as he took 1st place at the Cross Country Conference Meet held at Park East School Tuesday night. Salazar finished with a time of 11:54 (2 miles). He competed against 36 other athletes from 7 neighboring districts. The following week, Salazar Villalpando finished 4th at sectionals the following weekend and clinched his ticket to State! We were so proud of Salazar as he placed in the top 25% of all competitors during the State meet held the following week. He had a phenomenal season and will be such a great asset as he continues to run when he joins the high school next year.







## Wizards in Training

“We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.” Albus Dumbledore The staff at Grass Lake School had a unique professional development day to be united together while working on their Project Based Learning ( a student- centered approach to teaching skills and strategies ) with the help of consultant Becky Sawle, an employee of AbbVie and the Spark program. She facilitated the event with the application of the “real life” strategies used at work in the corporate world that correlated with PBL for students. Coincidentally, they are identical. The event was designed to have the teachers experience PBL from the student perspective and implement student driven ideas for the development of their PBL project for this session.

Collaboration was at the core of the day along with the help of a special guest, Ryan Dumbleberg, AKA Principal Ryan Wollberg. Staff spent the Harry Potter themed day

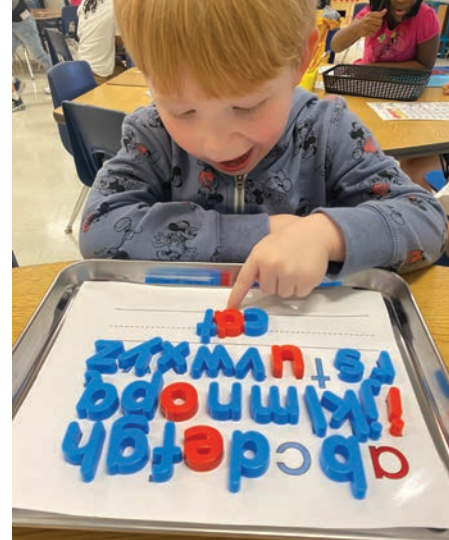
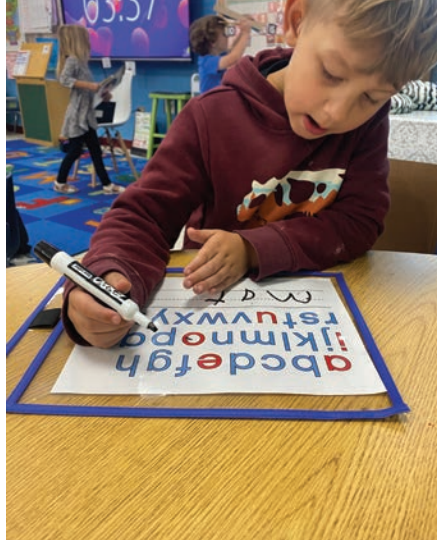
designing and developing a plan for a class project for each grade level. These projects will then become integrated into their lessons and evolve into an all school Showcase event. This event is the culmination of weeks of work resulting in an event that all the students in the PreK-8 building will attend and see/experience what the other students have prepared, created or performed.

The day was full and engaging as teachers worked across grade levels to lay down the foundation of their future PBL project that was student generated. We will continue to model, practice and refine our PBL skills at GLS while remembering the wise words of Albus Dumbledore. “It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.” At Grass Lake School we will strive to give our students choices to explore, experiment, fail and revise to build resilience and surprising outcomes and abilities for the future.

## Student Choir Performs at Chicago Wolves Game

On Sunday, November 19th, the Grass Lake School choir along with other local choirs have been invited to perform a patriotic song at the Chicago Wolves hockey game at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont. GLS will be bringing 12 choir members to sing, “A Tribute to the Armed Services,” which is a medley of military songs. The medley includes songs from the Army, Marines, Coast Guard, Navy, and Air Force, along with “America the Beautiful.” Families and friends were invited to attend the game to support the choir, and GLS is going with a group of 50+ strong! We are so excited to see the support for our choir program which has grown in size every year for the past 4 years. Our choir consists of 21 members ranging from 4th-8th grade students. We are very excited to honor local Veterans with this performance.





# Increased Phonics Instruction District-Wide

Lake Villa District 41 has embedded explicit, systematic phonemic awareness and phonics instruction into the Tier 1 curriculum. All kindergarten through 2nd grade classroom teachers are using the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness curriculum, and

UFLI Foundations for phonics instruction. In addition, Heggerty and UFLI are being utilized to support 3rd-5th grade student needs. Both resources align with the Illinois Literacy Plan which is expected to be approved by January of 2024.

## Two Board of Education Members and Three Administrators Present at State Conferences

Lake Villa's Board of Education President, Michael Conway, and Vice President, Kurt Hansen, along with Sandra Keim-Bounds, current superintendent for Lake Villa District 41, Lynette Zimmer, previous superintendent, and Victor Wight, assistant superintendent, presented Succession Success in an

Era of Administrator Exodus at the state-wide Illinois Association of School Board's Joint Annual Conference in November. Additionally, Steve Feldman, principal at Hooper School, presented on the topic of mental health at the state-wide Illinois Principal Association conference in October.

## Students Set Wildly Important Goals!

"Leader in Me" is based on "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Dr. Stephen Covey. It is a transformational process designed to teach leadership and life skills to students, with a focus on developing responsibility and accountability within the individual students across the district. The accountability aspects of "Leader in Me" foster personal and interpersonal growth.

As a part of such growth, students create a Leadership Portfolio that contains different dimensions of themselves, including their learning, leadership, goals, and celebrations. The Leadership Portfolios contain a section for Wildly Important Goals, WIGS. This section includes personal academic goals that the students create as well as a method of tracking their progress toward achieving their goal(s). These goals become the focus of their daily work, and students work hard to achieve them. Accountability is a key component of the WIGS as students work with

a peer to help each other stay on track to achieve their goals. Conversations with accountability partners center around self-assessment and reflecting on their actions and behaviors in relation to the progress of their goals. The reflection portion encourages students to take ownership of their development and academic growth. Students also collect evidence of their achievements to add to their Leadership Portfolios.

Within the classrooms and buildings, students also have the opportunity to take on various leadership roles to strengthen their abilities as well as foster a sense of accountability. All of the aspects of "Leader in Me" empower students to become proactive, responsible, and accountable for their actions and choices, both inside and outside the classroom. The development of these skills in elementary and middle school will benefit the students throughout their lives.



*Antioch Public Library District*  
**WINTER READING PROGRAM**

# BOOKS ARRGH TREASURE



The 2023/2024 Winter Reading Program is designed for Kids ages Birth - 5th Grade. This year, participants must read 16 days to complete the program and to receive a prize. Color in a treasure chest for every day that you read, to track your progress.

The program runs from December 18th - January 31st.

Visit [www.apld.beanstack.org](http://www.apld.beanstack.org) to register, or stop in to the Children's Department and pick up your reading log.



ANTIOCH PUBLIC



LIBRARY DISTRICT

Too cold and icy to head out to the Library for a new book to read? Take advantage of our online services that offer digital content accessible from mobile devices, computers, and some are even available on streaming devices. These are all available FREE, to Antioch cardholders. Visit [www.APLD.info](http://www.APLD.info) for details.



# 2.1.1

United Way of Lake County



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United Way of Lake County