



SCHOOL news

Summer 2026



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From the Board

Jeremy Wiltz, Board of Education President

With another school year successfully behind us, I find myself reflecting with both gratitude and excitement — gratitude for the extraordinary leadership of Dr. Scott McWilliams and excitement for the future under the leadership of his successor, Dr. Katie Collier.

For the past 11 years, Dr. McWilliams has served Auburn-Washburn with integrity, vision, and a steadfast commitment to students, staff, and families. His leadership has strengthened our district's reputation for excellence while fostering a culture centered on relationships, innovation, and student success. Under his guidance, Auburn-Washburn has continued to grow as a destination district recognized for outstanding opportunities and high expectations. On behalf of the Board of Education and our entire school community, I extend my sincere appreciation to Dr. McWilliams for his years of dedicated service and congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement.

At the same time, we are excited to welcome Dr. Collier as Auburn-Washburn's next Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Collier brings more than 30 years of educational

experience to the district, having served as a teacher, principal, administrator, and most recently, deputy superintendent in the Blue Valley School District in Overland Park, Kansas. She has built a reputation for collaborative leadership, strong relationships, and a deep commitment to student achievement. The Board is confident Dr. Collier will build upon Auburn-Washburn's strong foundation while leading our district into an exciting new chapter.

Throughout the search process, our community demonstrated tremendous engagement and genuine care for the future of our district. We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated, shared thoughtful feedback, and helped shaped this important decision. Thank you!

We look forward to the future with great optimism for the continued success of Auburn-Washburn students, staff, and schools.



From the Superintendent

Dr. Scott McWilliams, Superintendent of Schools

With my time as superintendent drawing to a close, I find myself reflecting not only on the milestones and accomplishments of the past several years, but more importantly, on the people who helped make them possible.

Public education is deeply personal work. At its heart are relationships – students discovering their potential, teachers inspiring growth, families supporting learning, and communities rallying around their schools. Auburn-Washburn has always represented the best of those partnerships. It has been an honor to work alongside individuals who care so deeply about creating opportunities for children and helping them succeed.

What I will remember most is not a single event, initiative, or achievement, but the collective spirit of this district. I have witnessed compassion during difficult moments, celebration during times of success, and a shared interest in doing what is best for students. That shared sense of purpose has defined this community and made Auburn-Washburn an extraordinary place to serve.

I am profoundly grateful to our staff members, whose dedication and professionalism shape the experiences of students each day. I am also thankful to our Board of Education for their leadership and support, and to our families and community members whose trust and involvement strengthen our schools in countless ways.

As one chapter closes, another begins. Auburn-Washburn's future is bright because of the people who continue to invest in it with care, pride, and optimism. I leave with complete confidence that this district will continue to thrive and that students will remain at the center of every decision.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving this remarkable community. It has been the greatest honor of my professional life. While my role may be coming to an end, my appreciation for the district and the relationships formed here will remain.

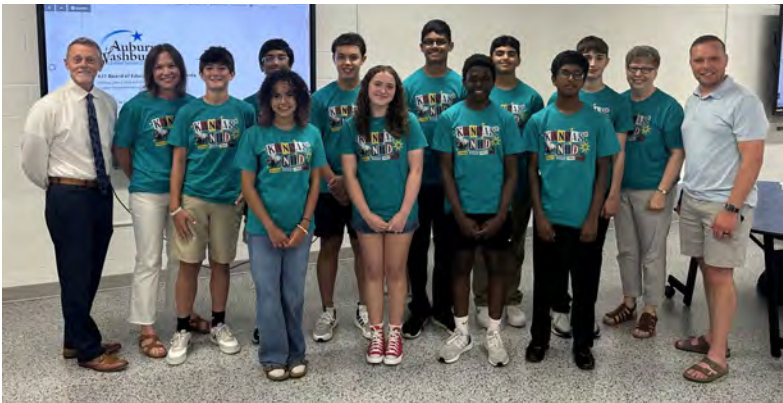


STUDENTS COMPETE AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MARYLAND

More than a dozen middle school students headed to the east coast earlier this summer to compete on the national stage after earning top honors at the state-level competition. The following individuals qualified and participated in National History Day at the University of Maryland, June 14-18, 2026:

- Jordan Ebenesar, Arjun Mukkamala, Ashwin Mukkamala, and Chance Perry (Group Exhibit Board – Fatal Flaws: From Ruin to Revolution)
- John Gregory and Anik Patel (Group Exhibit Board – The Road to Reform: How Interstate Highways Revolutionized America)
- Graham Figuerres (Individual Documentary – “Democracy Dies in Darkness”: The Revolution of Investigative Journalism)
- Michael Cuper, Quaid Karr, and Rishik (Luv) Sinha (Group Documentary – Beyond the Arc: How the Three-Point Line Revolutionized Basketball)
- Jack Rosenbaum (Individual Exhibit Board – The Revolution of Radioactivity)
- Easton Schmidlein (Historical Paper – More Than Brick and Stone: A Revolution of Expansion)
- Maya Cabrilo and Lily Gross (Group Performance – All the World Loves a Baby)

National History Day is a highly respected academic program that encourages students to conduct in-depth historical research and present their findings through documentaries, exhibits, papers, and performances. This year’s theme, “Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History,” invited students to examine pivotal moments in time when individuals or groups challenged the established order and shaped the course of history. ★



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Jessica Roberts, Managing Editor

On the cover:

Washburn Rural High School students test their engineering skills during a sink-or-float canoe challenge

WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL CLAIMS THIRD STATE BASEBALL TITLE

For generations of Washburn Rural baseball players, coaches, and fans, the dream remained the same: bring a state championship back to Rural. On May 30, 2026, that long-awaited dream became reality.

The Junior Blues captured the Class 6A State Championship with a 4-3 victory over defending champion Lawrence Free State. The win secured the program’s first state title since 1952, ending a 74-year drought and cementing the team’s place in the history books.

For the players and coaching staff, the title is the reward for countless hours of hard work, sacrifice, and commitment. For the Washburn Rural community, it is the realization of a dream seven decades in the making. ★

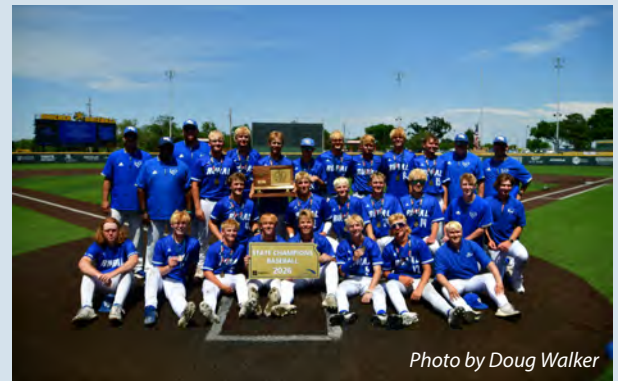


Photo by Doug Walker

AUBURN-WASHBURN SCHOOLS WIN STATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each spring, about 500 student chess players from across the state gather at Emporia State University to compete at the Kansas Scholastic State Chess Championships. This year, two Auburn-Washburn schools took home the gold. The Washburn Rural Middle School chess team successfully defended its state title, earning first place in the K-8 division. It is the school’s third consecutive win in that category. Meanwhile, the Indian Hills Elementary School chess team captured state championships in both the K-3 and K-5 divisions, capping off an outstanding tournament showing for Auburn-Washburn students. ★



*Dr. Scott McWilliams stands in front of Washburn Rural North Middle School, one of the facilities made possible through the April 2022 bond election
Photo by Melissa Kasprzyk, Centerpiece Photography*

FAREWELL TO DR. MCWILLIAMS

REFLECTING ON THREE DECADES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Handwritten thank-you notes, student artwork, and other cherished mementos fill the walls and shelves of his office – a testament to the countless lives he has impacted throughout his decades-long career. Together, they tell the story of a superintendent whose greatest accomplishments have never been measured by awards or accolades, but by the relationships he has built in the communities he has served.

After more than 30 years in public education, including the past 11 years as Superintendent of Schools for Auburn-Washburn, Dr. McWilliams will retire this summer. His career has spanned nearly every level of educational leadership, from mathematics teacher and principal to

executive director of human resources and superintendent. Those experiences across vastly different school districts – including Mesa Public Schools in Mesa, Arizona, and Blue Valley School District in Overland Park, Kansas – helped shape a leadership philosophy centered on listening, supporting others, and never losing sight of what matters most: people.

That people-first approach has been a defining characteristic of his leadership. While students have always remained at the center of every decision, he has never lost sight of the extraordinary people who make their success possible. In a heartfelt farewell to staff, he reflected on the lasting impression Auburn-Washburn's employees have



made on him: "This district is special because of its people. The care you show for one another and for our students is genuine, and it is powerful. I have been continually inspired by your dedication and your belief in the potential of every student who walks through our doors."

Perhaps more than any other quality though, Dr. McWilliams is known for his humility. He is the first to acknowledge that the awards and recognitions displayed in his office are not individual achievements, but symbols of what can be accomplished when people work together toward a common goal. It is a perspective that has guided his leadership throughout his career and reflects his enduring belief that the strongest success stories are built through collaboration.

"The success of a school district is never the work of one group alone," Dr. McWilliams shared in a farewell message to families. "It is built through the strong partnership between families and schools, grounded in a shared purpose. I have long believed that when we listen to one another, support one another, and treat one another with respect, while remaining focused on what is best for students, we create the strongest possible foundation for their growth and success."

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Under his leadership, Auburn-Washburn has experienced a period of remarkable growth and transformation. Expanded programming, strengthened academic outcomes, and major facility improvements have reshaped the district in ways that will benefit students, staff, and the surrounding community for generations to come.

One of the defining moments of his tenure came in April 2022, when Auburn-Washburn voters approved a historic \$145 million bond issue. The bond funded transformational projects across the district, including the construction of a second middle school, a 50,000-square-foot addition to Washburn Rural High School that expanded career and technical education opportunities, and extensive renovations districtwide to increase access to early childhood programming.

Yet, some of his most important work occurred during times of uncertainty.

From guiding the district through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic to navigating staffing shortages, legislative changes, and rapidly evolving educational expectations, Dr. McWilliams led with steadiness and transparency.

Colleagues frequently describe his approach as thoughtful and collaborative. When faced with difficult decisions, he sought input from others, valued differing perspectives, and remained focused on finding solutions that balanced the needs of students, staff, and families.

MORE THAN A TITLE

While his professional accomplishments are significant, his connection with Auburn-Washburn has also been deeply personal. When he and his wife moved to the district in 2015, their three daughters quickly became part of the school community. Over the years, each graduated from Washburn Rural High School, experiences he says helped deepen his appreciation for the district's educators, coaches, mentors, and support staff.

In fact, among the many mementos displayed in his office are three framed photographs – one of each daughter crossing the stage at commencement. In every image, Dr. McWilliams is providing a congratulatory hug after receiving her diploma. More than cherished family keepsakes, the photos symbolize the unique intersection of his personal and professional life and serve as a powerful reminder that his connection to Auburn-Washburn will always extend beyond his role as superintendent.

THE MEASURE OF A LEGACY

His retirement marks the close of an extraordinary chapter in a distinguished career and the end of a transformative era in the district's history. His influence will remain woven into the fabric of the district for years to come. Its impact extends beyond buildings, programs, and improved performance metrics on a data spreadsheet. It lives on in the culture of collaboration, respect, and professionalism he fostered throughout the district.

As Auburn-Washburn looks to the future, it does so with gratitude for a superintendent who led with integrity, humility, and vision. In recognition

of his dedicated service, the Auburn-Washburn Board of Education and Auburn-Washburn Public

Schools Foundation came together to establish the Dr. Scott McWilliams Scholarship Fund. It is a fitting tribute to an educator whose life's work has been centered on creating opportunities for students. Through this scholarship, his commitment to helping young people succeed will continue on for generations to come. Those wishing to honor Dr. McWilliams may donate to the scholarship fund online at www.auburnwashburnfoundation.org or by mailing a check to the district office. ★



April Kelsey, President of the Auburn-Washburn Public Schools Foundation, presents a ceremonial check to Dr. McWilliams to announce the creation of a student scholarship fund in his name

AUBURN ELEMENTARY

New leadership and modern learning spaces



From new leadership to facility improvements, change is underway at Auburn Elementary. The school will welcome Calesta Blazo as principal beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Mrs. Blazo brings with her 13 years of experience in elementary education, including time as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, and head principal. She will succeed Melissa Wells-Martin, who is transitioning into

the districtwide role of Director of Elementary Education. In addition to the leadership transition, the building is undergoing extensive renovations this summer as part of the April 2022 bond initiative. Improvements include a brand-new gym floor, construction of collaborative learning spaces, and renovations to the main office and special education suites. The upgrades are designed to modernize the building, enhance learning, better support student needs, and create welcoming spaces for years to come. Renovations are expected to be completed prior to the start of school in August. ★

FARLEY ELEMENTARY

Project-based learning in action

Project-based learning plays an important role in helping students connect classroom learning to real-world skills. Through hands-on projects, students are encouraged to think critically, communicate ideas, and apply their knowledge in meaningful ways. Throughout the spring semester, students across all grade levels participated in projects that brought learning to life in memorable ways. Third-graders, for example, transformed into historians as part of the annual Wax Museum project, researching influential historical figures and presenting as their chosen person in a live museum-style experience. Fourth-graders explored Hawaiian culture and geography through a collaborative island research project that culminated in presentations for families and guests that featured leis, Hawaiian-inspired treats, and traditional dance performances. And fifth-graders participated in a Shark Tank project that allowed students to step into the role of entrepreneurs, designing innovative backpacks and pitching their ideas to a panel of "sharks." While each of these projects focused on different subjects and skills, all shared a goal of creating hands-on learning experiences that deepen understanding and strengthen long-term retention. ★

INDIAN HILLS ELEMENTARY

SOAR City prepares fifth-graders for careers

SOAR City is a cherished fifth grade tradition that provides students with a hands-on introduction to careers, leadership, entrepreneurship, and economics. Students prepare for the experience by completing job applications, creating résumés, and participating in interviews conducted by community professionals. Once hired, students take on the role of either manager or employee within their student-run businesses. The city comes to life through a variety of creative shops and services, such as businesses that feature slime, jewelry, key chains, balloon animals, fidgets, temporary tattoos, video games, relay games, sports and other recreational activities, and more. Students elect a Mayor and Lieutenant Mayor to help lead the city by creating laws, delivering speeches, and supporting businesses throughout the event. For students in younger grade levels, a visit to SOAR City is a highly anticipated experience. As "community members," they use the city's unique currency, SOAR Bucks, to shop and participate in various activities. The project is self-sustaining, with the student-run snack and beverage shops helping fund the following year's SOAR City experience. "It's such a fun project that helps students gain valuable real-world experience in teamwork, communication, financial literacy, and leadership," shared fifth grade teacher and SOAR City facilitator Abigail Perez. "The students look forward to it every year." ★

JAY SHIDELER ELEMENTARY

Kinesthetic math mats make learning fun

Movement and learning came together in an exciting new way for students at Jay Shideler, thanks to the addition of kinesthetic math mats. Purchased through a classroom grant provided by the Auburn-Washburn Public Schools Foundation, the mats have been used across multiple grade levels to make math more active, collaborative, and engaging. "Studies have shown that movement serves an essential function in influencing a growing child's ability to think, problem-solve, and regulate emotions," said fifth grade teacher Jessica Sanders. Sanders applied for the grant knowing the mats would not only increase student engagement in math, but also support the development of important physical, social, and emotional skills. The mats give students opportunities to work together to solve a variety of math challenges, such as plotting points through a giant canoe Cartesian game and identifying equivalent fractions using a pizza fractions game mat. While students are strengthening their math skills, they are building communication, teamwork, and critical thinking skills as well. "It's been fun to watch our students strengthen skills while deepening their understanding of different math concepts," shared Sanders. ★

PAULINE CENTRAL

Career fair inspires future leaders

Big dreams were on full display as first- and second-graders explored a wide range of careers during Pauline Central's spring Career Fair. The event gave students the opportunity to meet professionals from a variety of fields, ask questions, and begin imagining career possibilities that could await them in the future. The Career Fair was organized by school counselor Amy Heckman, whose vision, planning, and attention to detail created a memorable experience for all. "Students were highly engaged at every single station, asking thoughtful questions and eagerly exploring different careers and opportunities," shared library media specialist Teresa Riner. "The event was well organized and thoughtfully planned from start to finish." Thanks to Heckman's leadership and the support of numerous community volunteers, students left with a greater understanding of the world of work and how their interests and talents could help shape their future. ★

PAULINE SOUTH

Beginning the next chapter together



A season of transformation is underway at Pauline South, where new leadership and facility improvements are helping shape the school's future. Following the announcement of principal Chris Holman's retirement, Taylor Dunham was selected to lead Pauline South beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Dunham is no stranger to Auburn-Washburn. He completed his student

teaching at Pauline Central before spending seven years as a teacher at Auburn Elementary. Staff and families are excited to welcome him back to the Pauline community. In addition to the transition in leadership, construction crews are hard at work throughout the building. Projects include the construction of collaborative learning spaces, renovations to the main office and special education suites, and a new outdoor connector linking the classroom wings. Renovations are expected to be completed before students return for the start of the school year in August. ★

WANAMAKER ELEMENTARY

Fostering a culture of literacy

Reading came to life this year at Wanamaker Elementary thanks to a series of creative library events designed to

inspire a love of books. Under the leadership of library media specialist Alice Reinert, students connected with authors, participated in themed reading activities, and experienced stories in new and engaging ways. Each event was designed to help students see reading as a lifelong adventure. Along the way, they discovered new genres, perspectives, and ideas. Among the many highlights were a virtual visit with 9/11 survivor Robert Matos, who shared how the events of September 11 reshaped his outlook on life, and an in-person presentation by children's author Kristin L. Gray, who offered a behind-the-scenes look at the writing process. Through experiences like these, the library continues to foster a culture of literacy that extends far beyond the pages of a book. ★

WASHBURN RURAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Conservation through collaboration

When ESTEEM program facilitator Kathryn Louderback spotted a problem, she immediately sought a solution. "I noticed a lot of our birdhouses were in disrepair or missing," Louderback shared, "so she enlisted the help of industrial technology teachers Matthew Barrett and Ben Esau and together they applied for a grant from the Auburn-Washburn Public Schools Foundation. The grant, which was successfully funded, purchased materials for students to design and build birdhouses and feeders for the outdoor environmental campus. The project kicked off with an interactive presentation from the Topeka Audubon Society about local bird species, appropriate food sources, and how birdhouse design can help protect birds from predators. Later, using plans provided by their teachers or designs they created themselves, students constructed the birdhouses and feeders. For many, it was their first experience using tools such as sanders, drills, and saws. The birdhouses were installed throughout the outdoor campus this spring and are already providing safe shelter and nesting spaces for birds. ★



WASHBURN RURAL NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students capture historic year in first-ever yearbook

Adding to a year filled with milestones, Washburn Rural North celebrated the creation of its first-ever yearbook. Produced by Raven Media Yearbook staff, the publication captured student life, activities, and memories from throughout the school year while providing students with valuable experience in journalism, photography, and design. In addition to producing the inaugural yearbook, several staff members earned statewide recognition from the Kansas Scholastic Press Association for their outstanding photography work. Multiple students received Superior and Excellent honors following evaluation and critique by industry professionals. Through collaboration, storytelling, and visual journalism, students not only documented an important chapter in school history, but they also developed skills in communication, leadership, and media production that will benefit them well into the future. ★

WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

Students put engineering skills to the test

At first glance, it may have looked like an end-of-year party in a wading pool, but for students in Dean Gerlach's Robotics & Engineering class, the canoe challenge represented the culmination of months of learning, designing, and problem-solving. As part of the yearlong course – robotics in the fall and engineering in the spring – students worked in teams to design and construct canoes before putting their creations to the ultimate test: would they float? The project challenged students to apply engineering principles in a hands-on setting while developing collaboration and critical-thinking skills. From balancing weight distribution to selecting materials and refining designs, students experienced the trial-and-error process engineers face every day. While not every canoe stayed afloat, every team gained valuable insight through the experience. The challenge served as a memorable reminder that innovation often requires experimentation, perseverance, and a willingness to learn from failure. ★



3RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026
Cypress Ridge Golf Course
Topeka, Kansas
11:30 AM Registration & Lunch
12:30 PM Shotgun Start
Funds raised through the golf tournament help support programs, teachers, and students in the Auburn-Washburn Public School District.
Sponsorship and donation opportunities are still available. Visit www.auburnwashburnfoundation.org for more information.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Expanding opportunities for our youngest learners

The early childhood program continues to grow as services and supports for our youngest learners and their families expand. The program served nearly 600 students this year through classroom instruction, community services, and developmental screenings – a substantial increase from previous years. The program served students in 12 classrooms across 4 elementary buildings and is set to expand to 15 classrooms in 6 buildings next school year. To support continued expansion, the district has increased staffing, including the addition of a dedicated instructional facilitator, while also expanding its Parents as Teachers program to better serve families throughout the community. Several important milestones were achieved this year, including the adoption and implementation of a new curriculum designed to enhance student learning outcomes and the integration of a new assessment tool to support more effective, data-driven decision-making. Looking ahead, growth will continue to focus on supporting students' therapeutic and social-emotional needs, strengthening parent engagement, and ensuring ongoing staff training. ★

DISTINGUISHED STAFF AWARDS

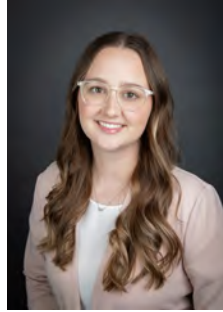
Congratulations to the 2026 Auburn-Washburn Distinguished Staff Award recipients. These individuals were nominated by colleagues and selected by a 20-person, districtwide committee. The Teachers of the Year recipients and the District Master Teacher will go on to represent Auburn-Washburn in the state-level award programs.



Jill Seitz

*Farley Elementary
3rd Grade Teacher*

Elementary Teacher of the Year



Haley Schmitz

*Washburn Rural High School
Computer Science Teacher*

Secondary Teacher of the Year



Jennifer Hayden

*Farley, Pauline Central & South, Wanamaker
Gifted Teacher*

Master Teacher of the Year



Stacy Greenwood

*Indian Hills Elementary
Psychologist*

Distinguished Certified Staff



Kristin Wong

*Washburn Rural North Middle School
Athletics & Activities Secretary
Distinguished Classified Staff*



Amy Nipper

*Washburn Rural High School
Custodian
Distinguished Operations Staff*

2025-2026 RETIREES

- **Bryan Akers**, District Grounds Lead
- **Barb Alstrom**, WRHS Food Services Manager
- **Kristi Bruce**, WRMS Teacher
- **Richard Eckert**, WRHS Teacher
- **Heidi Eichkorn**, Jay Shideler Teacher
- **Sara Freeman**, WRHS Teacher
- **Teresa Golden**, WRHS Teacher
- **Lisa Hamilton**, Jay Shideler Teacher
- **Michael Harris**, WRHS Teacher
- **Christopher Holman**, Pauline South Principal
- **Regina Hunsberger**, Wanamaker Custodian
- **Ann Janca**, WRHS Teacher
- **Fred Lavin**, Farley Head Custodian
- **Janelle Martin**, Pauline Central Interventionist
- **Judy Martin**, Pauline Central Secretary
- **Jennifer Miller-Stucky**, Indian Hills Paraprofessional
- **Matthew Mosher**, WRMS Teacher
- **Michael Williams**, WRHS Teacher

YEARS OF SERVICE

40 Years of Service

- **Ann Janca**, WRHS Teacher

35 Years of Service

- **Terry Dindios**, District Head Custodian
- **Teresa Golden**, WRHS Teacher

30 Years of Service

- **Leslie Fischer**, WRHS Guidance Counselor
- **Jennifer Luetje**, WRHS Teacher
- **Andrea Marquis**, WRHS Teacher

25 Years of Service

- **Tina Beard**, WRN Teacher
- **Michelle Dollahon**, Tallgrass Teacher
- **Malessa Molina**, Wanamaker Interventionist
- **Kyle Nelson**, Indian Hills Teacher
- **Melissa Serrano**, Pathways Teacher
- **Linda Tucker**, Auburn Food Service Worker
- **Di Roney**, WRN Teacher
- **Joey Smith**, District Shop Foreman
- **Jenny Tiller**, WRHS Teacher

Strategic Plan 2026 was developed to align district resources and actions with community priorities. This report highlights the results, accomplishments, and progress achieved through focused effort from 2021-2026.



GRADUATION RATE

94%

89% - Kansas
87% - United States



ACT COMPOSITE

22

19 - Kansas
19 - United States



CTE COURSES

15%

Growth in students enrolled in career and technical education courses



EARLY CHILDHOOD

51%

Five-year growth in student enrollment

GOAL 1 CHALLENGING EVERY STUDENT *To improve the academic performance of each student*

ASSESSMENT SUBJECTS	% INCREASE IN STUDENTS AT PROFICIENCY
Elementary Math	9%
Elementary English Language Arts	12%
Middle School Math	13%
Middle School English Language Arts	19%
High School Math	18%
High School English Language Arts	18%



Students continued to perform above state averages in multiple academic areas while demonstrating growth in literacy, mathematics, and college/career readiness indicators.

GOAL 2 PREPARING EVERY STUDENT *To develop character attributes and strengthen interpersonal skills that students need to be successful*

Character development is an essential part of helping students succeed both in and out of the classroom. To support this work, Auburn-Washburn provides age-appropriate lessons focused on building strong relationships, emotional awareness, responsibility, and positive decision-making.

100%
Pre K - 8 schools implementing character lessons

4,000+
students engaged in character development

3,250+
secondary students engaged in goal setting and career awareness activities



AT A GLANCE

Increased access to early childhood programs, services, and developmental screenings

Continued academic performance above state and national averages

Expanded the number of career and technical education courses and licensure programs

Expanded opportunities for concurrent college credit

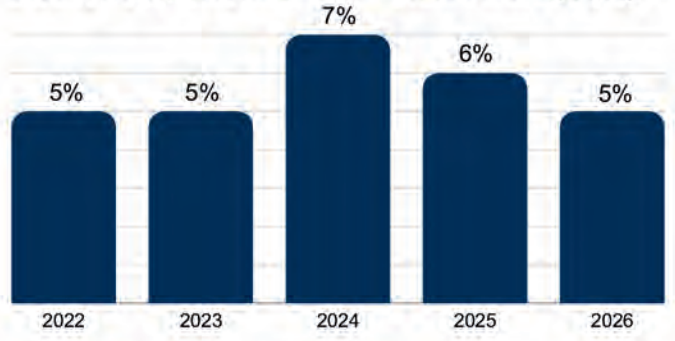
STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS

1

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

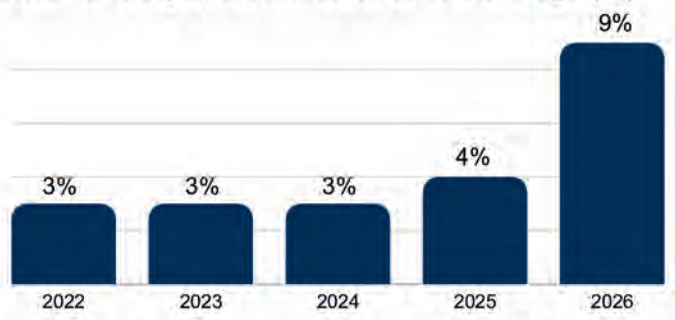
MATHEMATICS

District Outperformance of State Average (%)



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

District Outperformance of State Average (%)



COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

- CONCURRENT COLLEGE CREDIT**
 No. of students earning at least 12 college hours prior to graduation **54%**
- CTE CREDENTIALS**
 No. of students earning a career and technical education credential prior to graduation **95%**
- AP/IB PARTICIPATION**
 No. of students completing Advanced Placement courses and/or IB program credits **31%**
- POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS***
 Students who graduated and achieved one of the recognized postsecondary success outcomes **2%**

*Three-year trend for graduating classes (2021-2023)

2

STUDENT PREPAREDNESS AND LIFE SKILLS

CHARACTER TRAIT DEVELOPMENT



- + Adopted and implemented character development curriculum for grades Pre K-8
- + Implemented a Family and Community Engagement program to connect families to support resources

TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCIAL LITERACY



- + Embedded technology-rich instruction at every level
- + Added financial literacy courses in grades 9-12
- + Added coding, digital media, and computer science courses at the secondary level

EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCESS



- + Phased expansion from 8 early childhood classrooms in 2021 to a goal of 20 classrooms by 2029
- + Increased number of developmental screenings by 43%
- + Achieved Parents as Teachers Blue Ribbon endorsement

3

FACILITIES



The development of a comprehensive Master Facility Plan guided the district's efforts to address both current and future facility programmatic needs. The district will continue to evaluate needs to ensure its schools support evolving community priorities.

In the past five years, every school building in the district has undergone renovations and upgrades to enhance safety, functionality, and overall learning environments.



Construction of a second middle school and transition of sixth grade to the middle level



Addition of Innovation Center to expand career and technical learning opportunities



Addition of early childhood classrooms in each attendance area



Construction of multipurpose building to support learning and extracurriculars

2026-2027 ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Registration and enrollment is a two-part process. Families must complete both steps – registration and enrollment – in order to attend school in the Auburn-Washburn district. The registration process varies slightly depending on your circumstances. Please see below for additional information.

Returning Families: You are considered a returning family if you had at least one student enrolled in grades K-12 during the 2025-2026 school year. If you are a returning family, you may log in to your Campus Portal account (campus.usd437.net) at any time to start or continue your registration.

New Families: You are considered a new family if you reside in the Auburn-Washburn district and did not have a student enrolled in grades K-12 during the 2025-2026 school year. You may start the registration process by following the instructions online at www.usd437.net/registration/new.

WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

Students attending Washburn Rural High School may need to take additional steps prior to the start of school, including purchasing a parking permit, obtaining a photo for their campus identification card, and purchasing a yearbook, if desired. Students may also need to meet with their counselor to make changes to their fall semester schedule. Washburn Rural High School will communicate directly with parents/guardians about steps that may need to be taken prior to the start of school.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Auburn-Washburn offers a limited number of early childhood slots for children 3-5 years old who meet specific

criteria. More information is available at www.usd437.net. You may complete online registration to start the process of applying or to express interest in a screening. Questions may be directed to (785) 339-4071 or mitchtam@usd437.net.

FEES

Fees may be paid online through your Campus Portal account or directly to your student's school.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions or need assistance with online registration, please call the online registration hotline during business hours at (785) 339-4955. ★

KEY FALL SEMESTER DATES

Aug. 11	School begins (Grades 1-6, 9 & new 10-12)
Aug. 12	School begins (Grades 7-8 & 10-12)
Aug. 13	School begins (Early Childhood & Kindergarten)
Sept. 7	No school (Labor Day)
Oct. 9	No school
Oct. 15-16	No school
Nov. 23-27	No school (Thanksgiving Break)
Dec. 21-31	No school (Winter Break)

The entire 2026-2027 student calendar is available online at www.usd437.net/calendars.