

# THE AVONNEWS

AVONWORTH HIGH SCHOOL | 304 JOSEPHS LANE | PITTSBURGH PA | SENIOR ISSUE 2024 | VOLUME 82, ISSUE 3



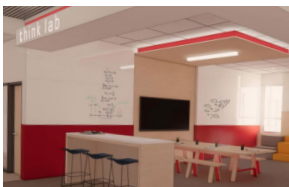
Class of 2024,  
sixth grade



Class of 2024

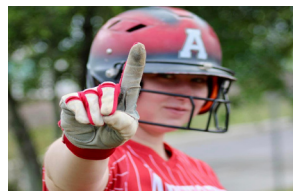


## INSIDE THE ISSUE



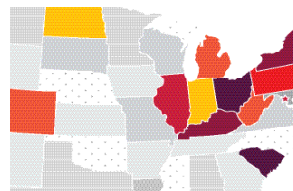
### Construction Update

Emma Noss discusses this year's renovations, and expectations for next year.



### Your spring sports recap

Read how Avonworth's track and field, baseball, and softball teams did this spring, and which teams are still competing in WPIAL and state championships.



### Senior Destinations

Do you know what your classmates are doing after they graduate Avonworth? Take a look at the senior map to find out what your friends plans are.

## LOOKING BACK

### The class of 2024's favorite memories

The senior class reflects on their four years at Avonworth, listing their favorite teachers, classes, and memories in high school.

# SENIOR ISSUE 2024

# THE AVONEWS

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Volume 82 Issue 3

*Photographers*

**DeRebus staff**

*Writers*

**Lyra Klindinst**

**Phoebe Mackillop**

**Brayden Simmons**

**Zayla Zimmerly**

**JD Engel**

*Staff Advisor*

**Mr. Tuffiash**

### Information

All those interested in writing, editing, or taking photos for *The Avonews* should email [enoss@asdlopes.org](mailto:enoss@asdlopes.org)

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Pittsburgh, PA, 15237  
(412)-366-6360  
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**Zion Schenk**  
*Editor-In-Chief*



**Emma Noss**  
*Managing Editor*



**Brenna McNeil**  
*Content Editor*

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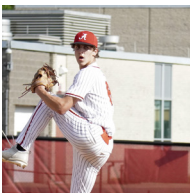
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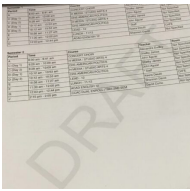
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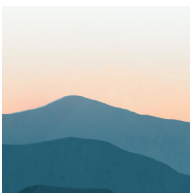
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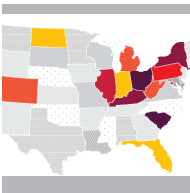
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**THE LAST WORD**  
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## One piece of advice to give underclassmen...



"Don't bite off more than you can chew. Know your limits."  
Heidi Hamrick '24



"Make sure to get all of your gym credits before senior year."  
Jackson Shields '24



"Don't be embarrassed to ask for help."  
Brayden Simmons '24



"Dont DoorDash to the school..."  
John Nelavanko '24



"Don't think too much about the future. Focus on the present!"  
Kate Potasiewicz '24



"Don't ever wish your high school days away. The best thing you can do in these four years is be present."  
Meghan Mulkerin '24



"Take your time. Make memories. School's important, but so is living your life."  
Zion Schenk '24



# Musicals and Sisterhood

Norah & Zion Schenk



**T**I am Milky White. Well, not really, my name is Norah Schenk (the less cool sister). You may be wondering “isn’t she in middle school? Why is she writing for Avonews?”. My answer to your second question is that my sister is Zion Schenk (me, the editor who is adding commentary Norah will not see until it’s published) and she is letting me (well...I’m editing it don’t get too excited) tell my story about sisterhood and musical.

It all started when one of Zion’s friends convinced her to join the stage crew for the fall play. But instead of joining the stage crew she auditioned for the cast (sometimes I regret this decision). She got in and her role was an income tax collector. I had always been the actor of the family, having participated in multiple musicals before, she did. (Ok let’s be real, I was the Starfish in the best musical ever when I was in fifth grade. That’s peak theater.)

However, Zion’s performance was better than anything I had done in the past. (Aww stop, she’s too kind.) Seeing her on the stage with the confidence to scream at someone about taxes was something I strived to do. (I used to be really shy so it took a lot of willpower to yell in Killian Horrigan’s face.) So naturally the next year I auditioned for the musical.

I was in stage crew my first year or more specifically costume crew. I learned so many things like how to sew and how to steam clean. (These are just basic life skills dude. Kids these days, jeez) It was super interesting to learn about all the things that go on off stage. And through it all I was sleep deprived and living off of Sheetz. (I don’t think I can buy a Sheetz App Sampler ever again.) However, it paid off. I will forever be proud of my first show, *Grand Hotel*.



Then auditions came for the spring musical 2023-2024. I auditioned. It was the scariest 2 minutes of my life. My voice was shaky and I was counting down the seconds till I left. As soon as I got out of that audition I ran to find my sister. I hugged her as hard as I could then I felt a tear running down my cheek. Then another one, then another, and soon I was balling. (Yeah dude, she was a wreck, but auditions are very intimidating. After my first audition I also bawled, no shame in some good post-audition crying.) I felt so ashamed of myself and how I sang. I knew I could do better.

A few weeks later the cast list came out. I scanned for my name at the bottom expecting to be in the ensemble. My name wasn’t there. As tears welled up in my eyes, assuming I’m just not in it at all, I hear my sister call out, “Norah, you’re Milky White!” I respond, “Who?...The Cow!” I start jumping for joy. I got in. (She did it!) I could be with my sister in her senior year of musical.

*Into the Woods* was an amazing experience for me. However, the late night drives blasting music, the 10:00 PM sheetz runs, the daily practice was something I will miss so much. (Our go to song was *Fergalicious*. I feel like that is important information that Norah neglected to include.) I love my sister and she is my inspiration for everything. With her final addition of the Avonews, I hope she leaves you inspired as much as I have been.

# Construction Update

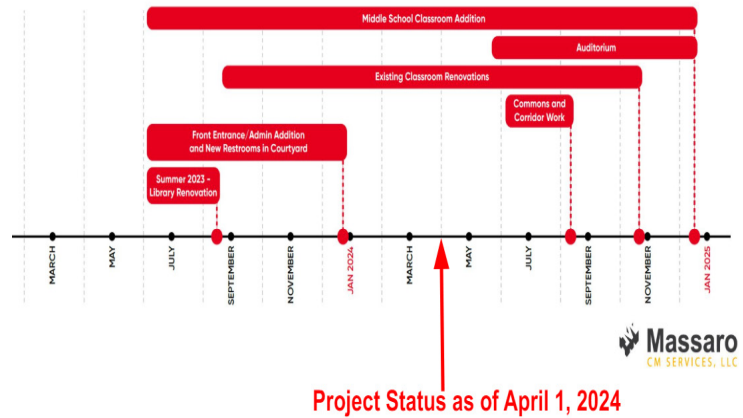
Emma Noss, Staff Writer

Late in April, Dr. Hadley gave a presentation to the underclassmen during their respective LEADs about some updates to the construction project.

Dr. Hadley emphasized that construction is on schedule to be finished in January of 2025. The end of the project will resolve several students' gripes. The heavy traffic during drop-off and pickup will no longer be a problem once the middle school addition is finished because parents will be directed around the building. The school should look much more complete after the summer, when the campus will be fully closed. The cafeteria will be updated with natural wood, and the auditorium is undergoing a major renovation, including new lighting systems, sound systems, floors, and a new set of doors into the building. Several "flex spaces" to study will be created throughout the school to increase the number of places students can be during open mods. Though the courtyard was recently leveled, there are plans to renovate it and create another study space. Additionally, administrators and the lighting company worked over spring break to dim the light settings in the new classrooms so they are no longer a headache.

Although students appreciated the transparency and Dr. Hadley's willingness to share information directly, many still feel that the reasoning for certain changes during the project lacks connection to the student experience or solid explanations. Students have continually been told that the windows make the school safer because they can see if they need to run. Administrators also like to add that the project has created easier access to the exits of the building, which is true. Yet, when we say we don't feel safe because dangerous people on the other side can see us, we never receive a direct counter-argument addressing this concern. The windows can also be very distracting when other students are walking through the hallway or knocking on the glass and teachers have to stop to address the behaviors.

Though Dr. Hadley says, from the administration building rather than lived experience, the construction "hasn't been that bad," I would like to counter with a scene from my first semester of AP Calculus. It's 8:30 in the morning, and I am taking a quiz. But, despite my best efforts, it's hard to focus on the chain rule while



loud construction noises boom from the other side of the wall, Mr. Cario admonishes students for being distracting through the window, and the echo of Mr. Johncour's stats class floats across the hallway. While the noise certainly could be worse, and has gotten quieter throughout the year, it isn't exactly an environment conducive to deep concentration—or derivatives.

It also seems that the opinions of students polled about the lockers several years ago do not accurately reflect those of current students. When Dr. Hadley asked how many of the juniors would use a locker daily, he was somewhat surprised to discover that the overwhelming majority raised their hands. While there certainly are students who don't use lockers for textbooks, many acknowledge that they are helpful for sports equipment, lunchboxes, or just objects they don't want to carry around. According to Dr. Hadley, they are considering adding small lockers or cubbies in addition to the drop zone. This would be a welcome addition, as the drop zone seems impractical to keep textbooks or actual school materials.

Finally, several updates to the classroom are part of a biophilic design, particularly the carpets. The green carpets are reportedly supposed to invoke a sense of nature, as are the wood furnishings and windows. As one junior—somewhat jokingly—puts it, "the green in the carpet is not giving grass." Despite this, students don't mind the carpet, but are merely interested as to its importance. No one seemed to have an issue with the pre-construction tile, and no students have noted a significant improvement in their learning or feelings of belonging due to the green in the carpet.

But ultimately, whether we like it or not, the construction, or at least the finished product, is here to stay. And despite the difficulties through the process, I am very grateful to be able to finally see the finished building for my last year at Avonworth!



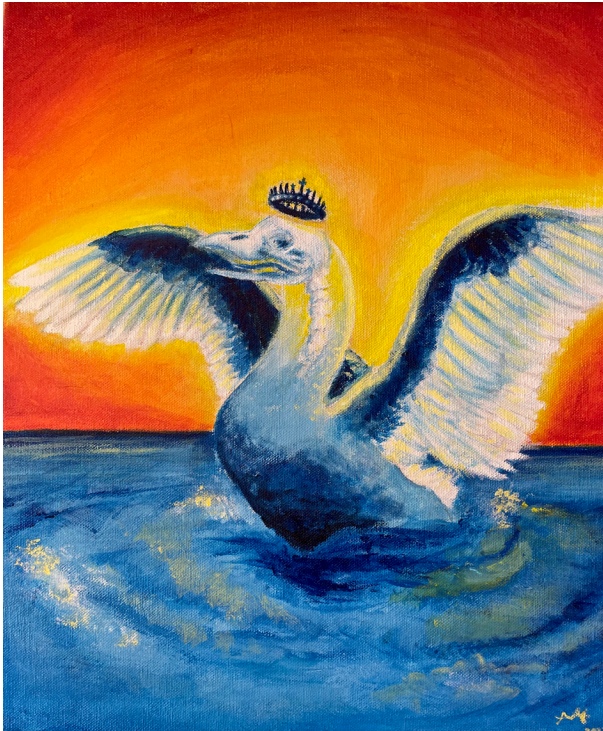
Abby Boyd '24

# The Art Show

2024



Abby Boyd '24



Alaina Holmberg '24



Alaina Holmberg '24

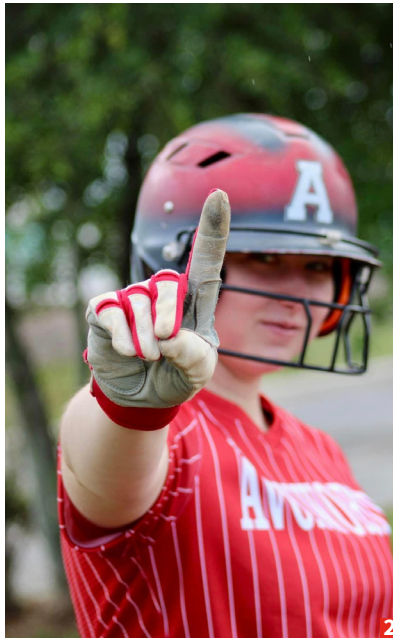


Ella Bounos '25



Zion Schenk '24

# SPRING SPORTS



Captions on  
official\_avonews@instagram!

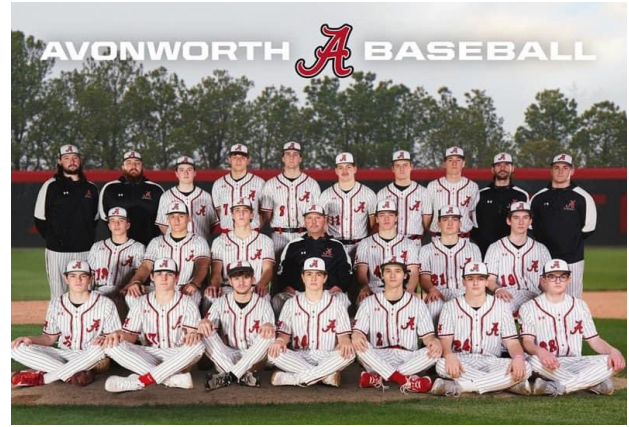


# Your Avonworth Spring Sports Recap

Staff Writers

For playoff updates, visit  
AvonewsOnline

**VARSITY BASEBALL** Currently, as of May 8th, Avonworth Varsity Baseball is 12-8 overall, and 8-2 against their conference. Their last two games, both against Steel Valley, were absolute landslides, as Avonworth won 15-0 on April 29th, and 11-0 on April 30th. Avonworth has 4 games left this season, with the first 3 all being home games. Avonworth is currently ranked 2nd in their division as of May 7th, only one game behind South Allegheny. The seniors on the team, namely Jacob Hanny, Ryan Hetcko, Brandon Sapolsky, and Benjamin Barnes, all believed they fell short of their expectations. “We didn’t meet our goal of winning the section,” Brandon Sapolsky explains, “We played 2 bad games and unfortunately did not win the section.” Barnes adds that, “we under-performed slightly, but we have the playoffs to prove that we are a lot better than our record shows. The team seems to unanimously agree that the beginning of the season was rough, as Jacob Hanny states: “We showed a lot of defeat at the start of the year, but we bounced back and ended up with a good record.”



**VARSITY SOFTBALL** The Avonworth Varsity Softball Team won the section this year with a record of 12-3. The team has had incredible success in the 2020s, making it to states the past two years. Rylee Gray reached her 100th hit this year while Alivia Lantzy has over 580 career strikeouts. The team is now in the WPIAL semifinals, and headed to states. This year’s graduating seniors are Cassie Heinauer, Layne Shinsky, Olivia Barie, Rylee Gray, Alivia Lantzy, and Leah Kuban.

**TRACK AND FIELD** The record-breaking rainy April couldn’t slow down Avonworth-Northgate track in 2024, as highlights for the season included senior Hayzes Robinson defending her first place finish at the Butler Invitational and over 10 team members posting personal bests. Members of the team then attended the WPIAL Individual Championships at Slippery Rock University on May 15th and 16th. The girls’ 4x4 relay, Gianna Babusci, Hayzes Robinson, Julia Doherty, and Grace Ermlich, won their event and broke the WPIAL record, with a time of 3:56.48. Their relay moves on to states next weekend. Senior Hayzes Robinson also defended her title in the 100m, winning the event and heading to states. Also moving onto states are Grace Ermlich in the 400m and Julia Doherty in the 300m hurdle, both qualifying in 6th place. The team’s graduating seniors include Alek Wert, Owen Madelena, Ryan Frank, Brayden Simmons, Luke Garda, Luke Hollywood, Jackson Lipchak, Hayzes Robinson, Gianna Babusci, Alaina Holmberg, Emma Bellotti, Kayleigh Kelleher, and Yasmin Lima.



# New classes to look forward to

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Phoebe Mackillop, Staff Writer

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Lyra Klindinst, Staff Writer

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The 2024-25 school year will bring some exciting new classes with it. These classes include Intro to Neuroscience, Intro to Body Science, Intro to Data Science, and new honors opportunities for senior year English—two classes called AI and Ethics and Human Flourishing.

Intro to Neuroscience will focus on the “relationship between the structure and function of our brains and neurons,” according to Mr. Shoats, who will teach the class. Covered material includes diseases and prosthetics, as well as how humans process emotions and feelings and discover mindfulness. The specific plans for the labs in this course are still being developed, but as of now, there are plans to use equipment to measure brain waves at different states of mind and to use electrodes to trigger muscle movement in insects and humans. The final part of the semester will be used to develop a research project and end with a complete research paper.

Intro to Body Science, taught by Mrs. Selep, is a course that provides an overview of the systems in the human body. It will focus on human growth and development, as well as cardiovascular, digestive, nervous, and respiratory health. This class will encourage students to learn how to navigate important health and wellness decisions. They will also learn about health care and first responder career opportunities.

Intro to Data Science is a course that will allow students to “explore topics of interest through the lens of data by finding publicly available datasets about the topics,” says Mr. Cario, who will teach this course. They will use technology to run statistical tests so they can better understand the relationship between variables of interest within the topic. Then, students will make visual displays to show their findings. By the end of the course, students will know how to answer debatable questions by analyzing data.

The AI and Ethics class will last for the first semester of the year. It, along with its counterpart, Human Flourishing, is listed as an Honors English course for seniors. Mr. Tuffiash, who will be teaching this class, said that this course will allow students to use a variety of AI applications to “experience, learn, discuss, and reflect on how their lives are impacted by these technologies.” This class will also include learning about and discussing the ethical viewpoints surrounding AI. The class will require lots of close reading, such as examining language choice and lines of reasoning in responses, which is why it’s listed as an English course.

Human Flourishing will be taught by Mr. Tuffiash in the second semester, following AI and Ethics. It is inspired by a Pitt Nursing School course called Happiness and Human Flourishing. Human Flourishing, like AI and Ethics, is a very unique English course. As students approach graduation, they’ll have the opportunity to “focus on ancient philosophies and wisdom traditions in combination with modern innovations, all to ask themselves what it might mean to live a good life where someone feels they are flourishing.” This course gives students the chance to create presentations that will allow them to gain clarity on the life that they want to live after high school, as opposed to focusing on a specific novel, play, or poem.



# Senior year: memories and lessons

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Brayden Simmons'24, *Staff Writer*

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Sitting here in May of my senior year, it is difficult for me to comprehend the fact that in less than a month I will be graduating from Avonworth, and in around three and a half months I'll be moving into my college dorm down in Alabama. Yet that is the reality that I and every other senior faces. The reality that in around twenty-ish days I will no longer be seeing classmates that I have spent the majority of my life with, that I will be going off to start a whole new chapter of my life. To be honest, I was much more nostalgic about leaving high school during my junior year than my senior year. That lack of nostalgia is likely due to construction (or lack thereof) in the school, and also my adoption of a "happy that it happened" attitude, as compared to my previous "sad that it'll end" one. Not only that, but my excitement to go down to Alabama and start the rest of my life has begun to outweigh any nostalgia that I have left here at Avonworth.

With that being said, when I look back at my time at Avonworth, it is filled with fond memories, including near-daily Lopes Lounge runs with my friends, winning a personal finance challenge with Mr. Lincoln, band trips to Disney, and

countless others. I've also learned a great deal, not just in the classroom, but about how to be a leader, and what qualities will set me up for success in my future. Above all, the most important things that I've learned at Avonworth are that there is no substitute for hard work, and that it is important to stay inquisitive if you want to continue on a path of self-improvement.

I'm nearly positive that throughout my time at Avonworth there is not a single student who has asked more questions than myself, and while at times I'm sure I've annoyed both teachers and classmates alike, my inquisitive nature is what has allowed me to find success both in the classroom and outside of it. Even though some of the questions that I've asked have been pretty stupid, I'd say that more of them were valuable, and probably helped out some other classmates who may have had the same question.

So, if I were to leave a single bit of advice for those of you who are not graduating yet, I would offer you this Ted Lasso quote: "Be curious, not judgmental". This is a quote that I strive to live by in school, that has allowed me to blossom into a more efficient and thorough learner, and I wholeheartedly believe that the world would be a better place if we all would take the time to ask more questions.



# CONGRATS



# CLASS OF 2024!



# SENIOR DESTINATIONS



## PENNSYLVANIA

### University of Pittsburgh

Lia Bonner  
Jack Galbraith  
Jessica Hunt  
Julia Kobulinsky  
Meghan Mulkerin  
Hayzes Robinson  
Zion Schenk  
Jesse Sommers  
Joel Sommers

### Penn State

Ryan Frank  
Nora Kate Gavin  
Jacob Hanny  
Ryan Hartle  
Ryan Hetko  
Emily Lemoncelli  
Owen Maddalena  
Allie Nau  
*Penn State Behrend*  
Jake Seifarth  
Isaac Stoekle  
*Penn State Behrend*  
**Seton Hill**  
Maya Suto

### Duquesne University

Christian Cooper  
Yasmin Lima  
Caronlie Sweeney  
Zayla Zimmerly

### Slippery Rock University

Mara Roedersheimer  
Katie Yeschke  
John Nalevanko

### Temple University

Silas Newcomer  
*Rome Campus*

### Swarthmore College

Aidan Tinker

### Alegheny College

Hunter Blackson  
Sam Kohler

### Robert Morris University

Grace Beck

### Washington And Jefferson college

Brandon Sapolsky

### Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Nate Palmer

### Community College of Allegheny County

Alexander Fisher

Sarah Liang

Willow Wright

### Geneva College

Emma Bellotti



## OHIO

### University Of Dayton

Victoria Huffmyer  
Kat Igims  
Samuel Neal  
Aiden Powell

### Ohio University

Zoltan Eadie  
Ryan Neal

### Miami University of Ohio

Eden Schleis

### Denison University

Sean Carlone  
Cassie Heinauer

### Oberlin University

Abby Boyd  
Brenna McNeil

### Baldwin Wallace

Emma Luther  
Kate Potasiewicz

### The Ohio State University

Elise Nardozzi

### Kenyon College

Leah Kuban

### Bowling Green State University

Minah Syam

### Kent State

Duane Stewart



## WEST VIRGINIA

### West Virginia University

Jackson Vogt



## INDIANA

### Purdue University

Sofia Galati  
Jackson Shields



## Idaho

### University of Idaho

Gus Wagner



## NEW YORK

### Vassar College

Haley Dexter

### University Of Rochester

Amelia Hardiman  
Lilia Mckenzie

### Long Island Post University

Bree Brown

### Rochester Institute of Technology

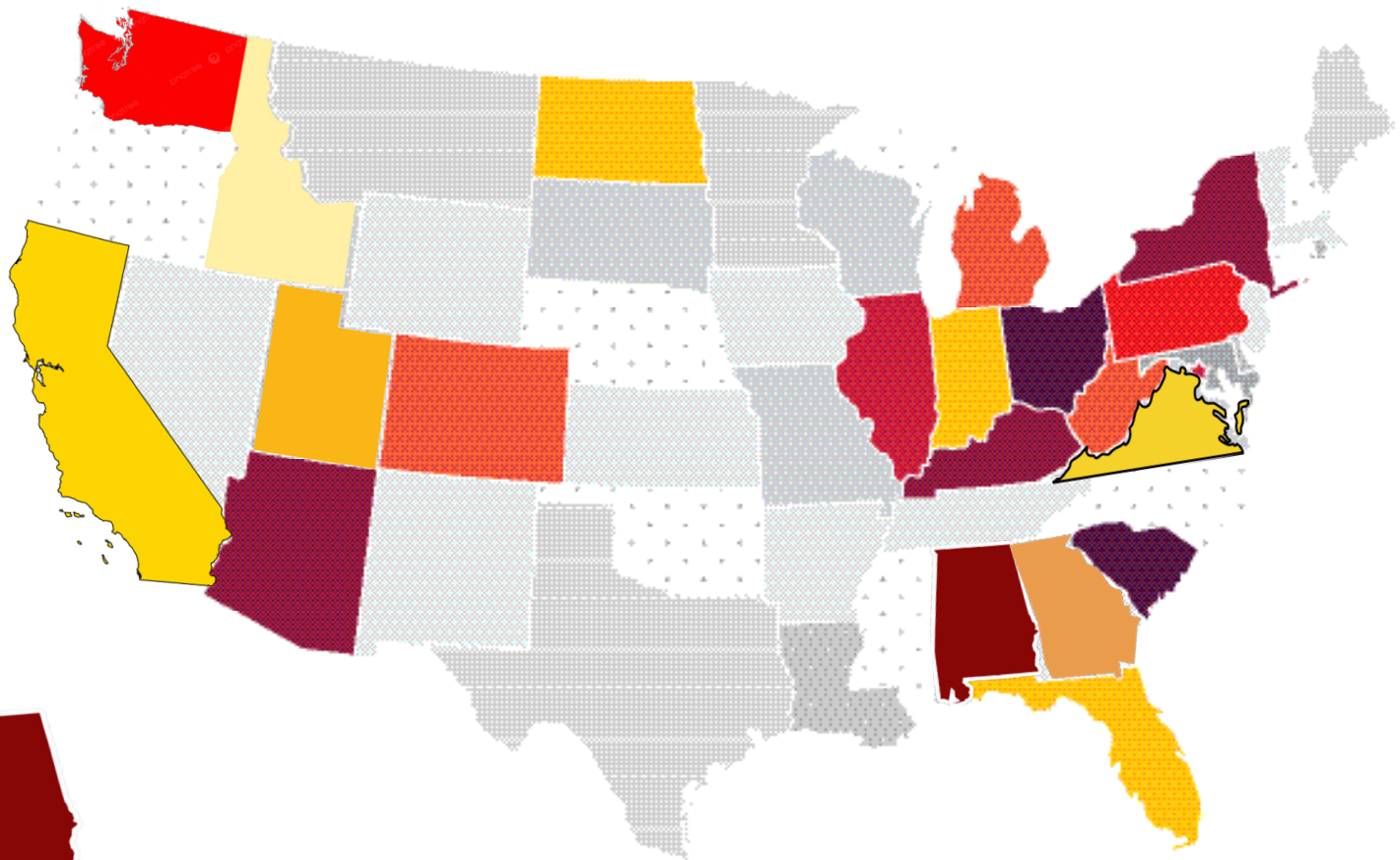
Leo Pacione  
Caleb Walsh



## Virginia

### Christopher Newport University

Heidi Hamrick



University of Alabama  
Brayden Simmons



Southern Utah University  
Mya North



University of Michigan  
Sydney Nelson  
Michigan State University  
Maryn Ronk

**Undecided**  
Brandon Cavanaugh  
Alaina Holmberg  
Olivia Simkins  
**Military**  
Alex Higley  
*Army*  
Kohen Newcomer  
*Navy*  
Gavin Mee  
*Navy*



Coastal Carolina University  
Shane Root  
Francis Marion University  
Rylee Gray



University of Washington, Seattle  
Ava Diurba



University of California, Santa Barbara  
Maya Cook  
Santa Barbara City College  
Maya Nusskern



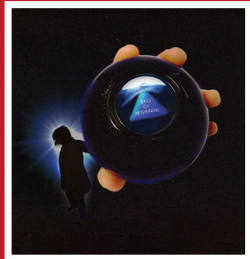
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Kai Carlson

**Due to delays and Changes in the FAFSA, please check Avonews Online and Official Avonews for a more complete college map!**

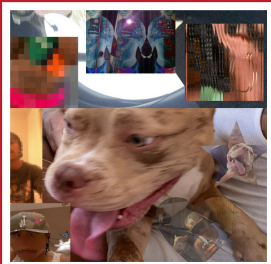
# SENIOR SURVEY



## FAVORITE SONGS



**End of Beginning**  
*Djo*



**That's No Fun**  
*Steve Lacy*



**Espresso**  
*Sabrina Carpenter*



## Favorite Teacher



**Brayden Simmons**  
"Mr. Aguiar"



**Janessa Turnbull**  
"Mrs. Sebott!"



**Zayla Zimmerly**  
"Mr. Mancini"



**Abby Boyd**  
"Madam Hart"



**Heidi Hamrick**  
"Mrs. Selep"



**Aiden Powell**  
"Mr. Wolfe"

**Beckham Checkan**  
"Mr. Cario"



**Alex Fisher**  
"Mrs. Dudley"



**Jackson Shields**  
"Mr. Wolfe"



**Laila Pfeil**  
"Mr. Mancini"



## Favorite Class

**Leah Kuban**  
AP Language and Composition with Mr. Tuffiash

**Maya Suto**  
French with Madam Hart!

**Lillia Mackenzie**  
AP Biology with Mrs. Selep!

**John Nalevanko**  
AP Language and Composition with Mr. Tuffiash

**Zayla Zimmerly**  
Anatomy and Physiology with Mrs. Selep I

**Brayden Simmons**  
APUSH with Mr. Mancini

**Brenna McNeil**  
French with Madam Hart!

**Heidi Hamrick**  
AP Biology with Mrs. Selep

**Meghan Mulkerin**  
Stats with Mr. Johncour



# SENIOR SALUTES

## senior gives advice to freshman brother

Dear Jimmy,

You're gonna be a junior. Probably the hardest academic year of your life up to this point. But I think you'll be alright with all of that. You work hard, you are smart, and (when you aren't too annoyed with the learning) you get your work done. So I want to focus on everything else about junior year. For me, junior year was a time when I met new people and ideas. I looked beyond myself further than I ever had before. But you have your own amazing friend group. You are surrounded by people that make you happy. You are one of the most outgoing people I have ever met, so I'm sure you will only make more friends. Junior year also comes with freedom. People always think that more freedom comes with trust from your parents, school, and your friend's parents, but it's mostly the car. Now that you're driving and your friends can drive too, you are going to be able to come and go so much freely, but don't spend too much time away from home. Sometimes I've failed to keep this in mind, but don't take for granted the time you spend with our family. After I leave, you're going to be the only kid at home. You should be best off following dad's rules (1. Keep mom happy, 2. No hospital trips on the weekend, and 3. When in doubt, refer to rule 1). I know that you'll have an amazing last two years of highschool, so please enjoy it (but get good grades).



JACKSON & JIMMY SHIELDS

*Jackson*

## Prom Court

### girls

Abby Boyd ★ Zayla Zimmerly ✿ Leah Kuban  
Emma Bellotti ♥ Layne Shinsky ☆ Olivia Barie

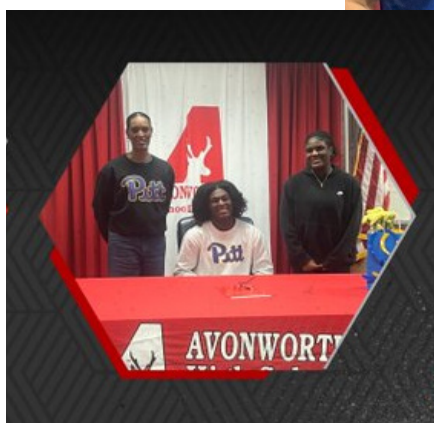
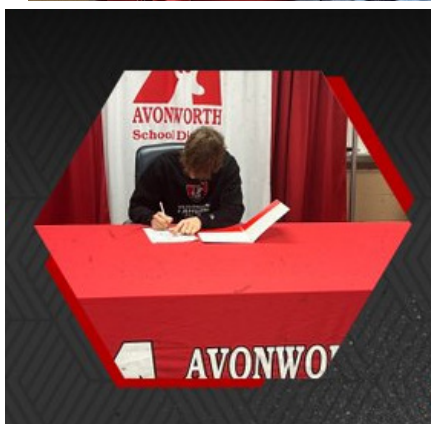
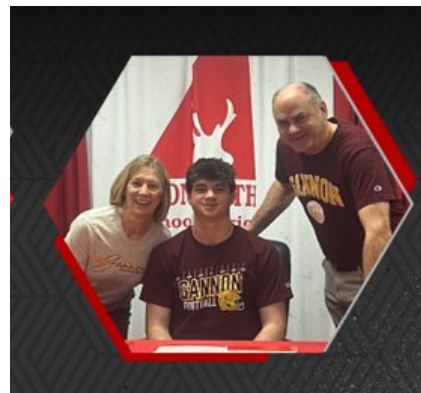
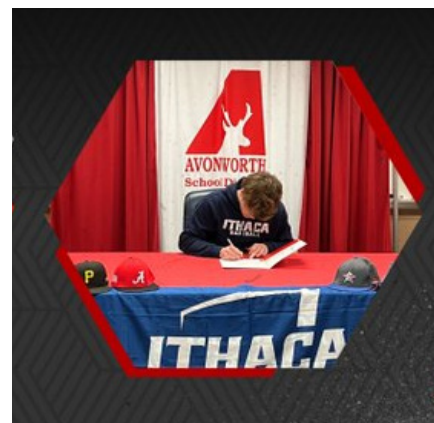
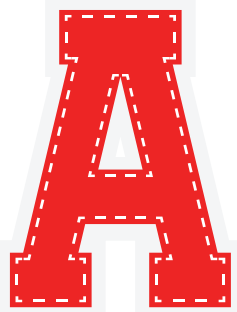
### boys

Aidan Tinker ☉ Ryan Frank ✨ Ryan Hartle  
Joel Sommers ✧ Chris Vanoy ♥ Sam Kohler

# Seniors continuing athletic career

Minah Syam  
 Elise Nardozzi  
 Emma Luther  
 Allie Nau  
 Mya North  
 Gianna Babusci  
 Cassie Heinauer

Leah Kuban  
 Riley Gray  
 Alivia Lantzy  
 Luke Garda  
 Brandon Sapolsky  
 Luke Zelinko



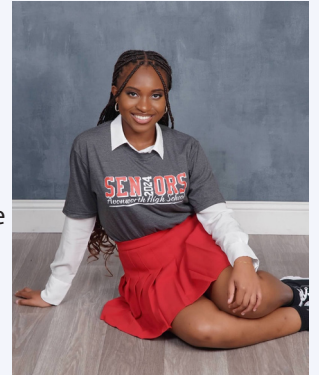
# LOOKING BACK: *Seniors recall favorite memories*



ZAYLA "It would be probably conducting the marching band at Acrisure (Heinz) two years in a row."



ALEX "Performing in two musicals!!"



FEYI  
"Going on the DC trip with the marching band and playing in the parade."



YASMIN "Travelling to France with all of my friends last summer."



HEIDI "Open mod with my friends."



JOSIE  
"Being on the Homecoming Court because it was the last event my grandma could come to before she passed."



BECKHAM "The Kennywood fieldtrip in 11th Kennywood."



JANESSA "Coming back to school after COVID and getting to see my friends again."



LEAH "Winning the state championship for softball!!"

# SENIOR

\*\*\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \*

Dynamic Duo:



Bree Brown



Yasmin Lima

&

Most likely to become an olympian:



Elise Nardozzi

Most school spirit:



Minah Syam

Most likely to star in their own reality show:



Bree Brown

Cutest couple:



Elise Nardozzi



Eli Whalen

&



# Movie Reviews

## Challengers (2024)

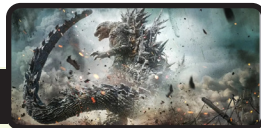


Where to watch: Amazon Prime

Justin Kuritzkes' *Challengers* follows three world-class tennis players in their interconnected careers from the champions of the juniors to their professional efforts. Starring Zendaya, Mike Faist, and Josh O'Connor, the emotions and interactions between characters are incredibly engaging. The story is full of betrayal, passion, and manipulation, especially from Zendaya's character Tashi Donaldson as she lives her career that never was through her husband, Patrick Zweig (played by Josh O'Connor). The complex relationships between all three main characters keep the story exciting. Each character is full of flaws and a passion for tennis: especially Tashi. Tashi is willing to do whatever it takes to play a great game of tennis, one where she can feel a "relationship" with her opponent, even creating conflict between the two incredibly close friends Patrick and Art until they play the amazing game she wishes to see against one another. However, the movie has serious pacing issues, including unique cinematography choices and painfully slow scenes. I would not rewatch this movie, or recommend it to most, but if you enjoy complex relationships, tennis, or even just Zendaya, you could consider a watch.

Jackson Shields

## Godzilla Minus One (2023)

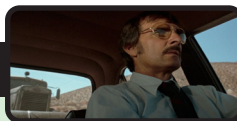


Not available on US streaming services

*Godzilla Minus One* is a fantastic revival of the classic *Godzilla* films. While the original monster movies were simply action movies displaying the sheer destruction of the devastating leviathans, *Godzilla Minus One* brings a new perspective to the chaos. The movie focuses mainly on the social and emotional effects of not only the *Godzilla* attacks, but also the aftermath of the second World War. Additionally, produced by a company that often produces anime (Toho Co., Ltd.), the movie incorporates many stylistic elements similar to that of intense anime. Finally, the movie was also released in both color and black and white, allowing viewers to enjoy a more nostalgic experience in the theater. I fully recommend this movie to anyone and everyone, and I would recommend the color version over the black and white, as the black and white version overall doesn't add enough to the movie. Be warned however, the movie is in Japanese, so you'd better get good at reading subtitles before watching the movie.

Beckham Checkan

## Duel (1971)



Where to watch: Amazon Prime

*Duel* is Steven Spielberg's debut film (yes, before *Jaws*) and my all-time favorite. The film does a great job building up suspense, from the very first moment the sinister truck is introduced to the final crash. The cinematography is excellent and really captures the unique tone of each scene. The versatility of the story is amazing. I've watched this movie several times and can say that it can be interpreted in a number of ways. If you wanna watch it as a simple thriller, you can. If you want to consider it in an allegorical sense, for example, concerning masculinity, married life, and shortcomings of western society, you can do that too.

Christian Cooper

# OUR UNWRITTEN FUTURE

Zayla Zimmerly '24, *Staff Writer*

It's an unexplainable feeling, isn't it? It's astounding to think about how fast we grew up without even realizing it. To think about all the laughter and friendships that were made within this school's walls. At least the ones still standing. When I was deciding what to write about and how to conclude the last 13 years of our lives I decided the best way was through music. I have expressed my emotions through music more than any other way. I have been in countless musicals while also being a manager, section leader, and drum major in the marching band. Conducting not only the band in general but confidence in the kids around me has been life-changing and it is something I will never forget. Music has been one of the things that has gotten me through the years of high school. To me, *Unwritten* by Natasha Bedingfield seems to perfectly encapsulate how I feel about my past, present, and future. Some of the lyrics that you will find in the song are:



“Drench yourself in words unspoken  
Live your life with arms wide open  
Today is where your book begins”

Seniors, as we bid our farewell, it might feel as if our book is ending, but in reality, it is simply just a new chapter beginning. As young adults, we can write our story anyway we want to. In the past few years, I found myself wishing the days of each grade away, but now that the end is near, there is a bittersweet feeling. Yes, my English essay might be unfortunately unwritten...hence the bad grade. But “unwritten” is more than just a blank page...or just a song. *Unwritten* is the college application that took me a week to complete.. *Unwritten* is my future and the choices I make in college. *Unwritten* is the friends we made along the way. As Natasha Bedingfield said, “The pens in my hand ending unplanned.” We used pencils throughout high school which are erasable, but now we take the pen and write our future. Now of course you can only erase pen if you have one of those expensive fancy ones with the eraser, but either way the decisions we make are starting to become permanent. Drench yourself in words that might have not been spoken before. Going outside your comfort zone doesn't kill you in the end. Even when you erase pencil marks on a page you can still see the imprint the pencil made. Both marching band and musical are those imprints in my life. They have made deep imprints in my life and that is the effect that music has on people. I want everyone to find the thing for them that cannot be erased.

When Natasha Bedingfield wrote *Unwritten*, she wanted a song that was relatable to everyone. Seniors, after we graduate live your life with arms wide open, we spent the last 13 years with each other and as our time is running out realize that the little Avonworth bubble is being popped soon. The song *Unwritten* is about being yourself and experiencing life and adventures for yourself because no one else can do it for you and I think that message is important. Your life is a book and you never know what is going to happen within the next minute, hour, or day so until they happen; your story is unwritten.

# THE LAST WORD

Zion Schenk '24, *Editor-in-Chief*

I procrastinated writing this last word because I didn't know what to say. Part of me doesn't want to say goodbye and the other part of me has been ready all year. Publishing, editing, and writing for the Avonews might be one of the hardest things I've ever done. After the first and second issues, senioritis got the best of me. I was swamped, unmotivated, and just so tired. Anddd... we skipped the third issue. Then I of course procrastinated with this issue AND THEN the whole thing got deleted and I had to redo it in one weekend.

Creating the Avonews and putting it back into print is one of my greatest accomplishments. Every single issue tested my patience and will to keep going, but somehow I don't hate it. I love it, actually. Even though it drove me to the brink of insanity, it's so hard to see the Avonews go. I've sat in the library and seen people talking about Gbemi's famous construction article from the first edition and people doing the crossword from my second. I've seen so many people pick up the Avonews and not immediately put it back down. I worked so hard to bring back the Avonews as something that is not inherently just lame and you all make that really difficult. Our newspaper should not be lame. It should be something that more people get excited about.

That's all I hope for the future of the Avonews, that people will get excited about journalism again. As I sit here looking back at the last four years of highschool and the last 17 of my entire life, I realize that nothing was ever that serious. We think too much about how people perceive us and about what

is considered cool or uncool. It's exhausting. It's even more exhausting to try to get people to view something they thought was uncool as cool again.

Walking into this building for the first time in eighth grade, it didn't take long for me to see that Avonworth, as a whole, is judgmental and that students here think a lot about how other people see them. People are so wary of "cool vs. uncool". I hope that after I leave, the culture at Avonworth begins to change and people worry less about being this unachievable figure of popularity everyone seems to be chasing. I'm so excited to go to a new school with new experiences and new people, but I am scared to find out what the future holds for me. Like Zayla said in her editorial, we're all starting new chapters of our books and we have no idea what's on the next page. Last time I wrote about Mrs. Frizzle's words of wisdom and now, maybe more than ever, they still apply to us. As we all step into the next part of our lives, remember her words: "Don't be afraid to take chances, make mistakes, and get messy".

Signing off forever,

*Zion*

Goodbye and good luck from me and Brenna!

