

# Andrew pride

VICTOR J. ANDREW HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER • MARCH 2018



## SWSC ART FESTIVAL

The following students represented VJA at the 2018 SWSC Art Festival (Feb. 2, 2018 at Governors State University): Emma Loconte, Tamara Nasereddin, Mia Montoya, Emorfia Boutos, Emilly Palider, Megan Hann, Mary Owens, Zoe Swick, Patrick Waldron, and Emma Zavala. A black and white photo by Mia Montoya won best in school. Congratulations!

# 2017-2018 School Calendar

## Dates to Remember

### March

- 5 No School
- 6 Parent/Teacher Conferences  
(no student attendance),  
12 PM - 7 PM
- 23 Early Dismissal, 1:00 PM
- 26-30 Spring Break

### April

- 2 No School
- 3 Classes Reconvene
- 10 SAT Testing (Juniors)  
PSAT 10 Test (Sophomores)  
PSAT 9 Test (Freshmen)
- 27 No School / Prom

### May

- 7-18 AP Exams
- 23 Graduation, 7:00 PM
- 28 No School - Memorial Day
- 29, 30, 31 Final Exams (Semester 2)
- 31 Last Day of School  
(if NO additional snow days  
are used)



## CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 230

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Determination - a quality all people have, but when and how they use it can vary. Determination is a key ingredient to meeting goals, to navigating obstacles, and to maintaining focus. In March, our theme is determination - which fits March perfectly. March is often a time of year in schools where focus and grit is often most challenged. We know students that can successfully make it through March keeping their goals alive can leverage Spring Break to be best prepared for the sprint to May!*

*One of our main goals as a school is academic success. As indicated in our school improvement plan, we have made major strides over the past eight years to increase student achievement by way of multiple measurements (GPA, Graduation Rate, Advanced Placement testing, etc.). One of our newest initiatives is implementing "on-time" interventions for students who are "temporarily" failing. Students have responded well, by and large, realizing this intervention is there to help and not punish, and using the resources in the building to get back on track. I am very proud of our students and staff for taking on this challenge - which will have a significant impact on student achievement.*

*March, especially for Juniors, is time to prepare for the SAT/PSAT. In our second year as a state assessment, we are learning more each day about this exam and realize the need to help prepare our students for success. The SAT is rapidly becoming the college entrance exam in Illinois, particularly at Moraine Valley Community College, for placement, and those universities are communicating their "cut" scores for entry. At Andrew, our English, math, social studies, and science departments are leveraging Khan Academy to help connect their curriculum to the SAT. Khan Academy is a powerful tool for students - allowing for individualized development within the core academic curriculum, while being exposed to SAT style questions and skills. Our goal is not to replace curriculum with test prep, but bridge the connection between the two. Research shows 20 hours of preparation using a tool like Khan can have a significant impact on test scores. Therefore, staff within these departments have elected to implement those 20 hours (5 in each subject) either within the classroom or as homework to help students. Additionally, we will open Khan Labs and lunchtime elective sessions for students to work in their Khan accounts.*

*March moves fast and we have many events to celebrate. Our famous Variety Show is making its debut in March and we are looking forward to it. Given the diversity within the group (athletes, band/choir students, theater students, and others), March is a great month to focus on this show outside of many other events, such as IHSA Winter tournaments, ILMEA State Competition, and Theaterfest, which often overwhelmed our students in January. I, as many, are looking forward to it.*

*Additional events include the Golden Bolts Distinguished Service Awards where we recognize students, staff, community members, and support staff who go above and beyond to make VJA great. Our senior leaders run the program and take immense pride in this opportunity to reward those that provide leadership and a sense of community.*

*Enjoy your March, and have a wonderful Spring Break!*

Robert Nolting  
Principal

## Mark Your Calendar...

**Spring Parent University, Wednesday, March 14, 2018, beginning at 7:00 p.m.**  
Sessions include Pre-Prom Parent Meeting (required for all parents with students attending Prom),  
Adjusting to College Life, The College Search Checklist, etc. There will be sessions for parents of students in all grade levels.



## Prom Parent Meeting

If your son or daughter plans on attending Prom, a parent must attend the **MANDATORY PROM PARENT MEETING on March 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.** In order for your student to purchase a ticket to Prom, a parent must attend this meeting.

## William Flowers

William Flowers 17, a Senior at Andrew, whose passion is to attend the United States Naval Academy majoring in computer science, is the first African American in the school district to be honored with a congressional nomination to the Academy.

William has received these nominations from Senator Tammy Duckworth and Congressman Dan Lipinski out of hundreds of applicants each. William developed his passion to become a Naval Officer after attending basic training at Great Lakes Naval Base for the United States Navy Sea Cadets. He has participated in this youth program since he was 11 years old, and currently ranks as Third Class Petty Officer. If accepted into the Naval Academy, William looks forward to a Naval career as a cyber warfare officer.



William Flowers

## Andrew Aviation / 2016-17

In the fall of 2016, a group of students at Andrew were inspired to be innovative. With their love of engineering and their dream of flying, they approached the Andrew Administration to build a plane.



Seniors: Ronnie Fiala, Nick Bobber, Matthew Ryan, James Kopeika, Colin Prochnow, Pawel Siglowy, Conrad Gadula, Andrew Haynie, Peter Maiolo, Matthew Lasak, and Juniors: Connor Gountounas and Jack Zwartz, proposed a vision of building a plane in the basement of Andrew High School.

No grades, no course credit, no service hours...just chasing a passion to create something no one at Andrew has created before. This project included design, construction, engineering, painting, and welding - it took hundreds of hours of labor, including time to schedule meetings to seek financial and other support from those in the community. This project could not have been completed without the support of the VJA Maintenance Department. After school, weekends, school breaks...all time spent to construct this labor of love.

In May of 2017, most of the crew was set to graduate. The plane had gained the attention of Lewis University Aviation and the Experimental Aviation Association Chapter 15 who provided resources to accredit the plane and approve it to fly!

The plane is set to fly in the summer of 2018 after some last minute additions! VJA believes this aircraft is an example of innovation, persistence, and ingenuity that we embrace at VJA!

Congratulations - Andrew Aviation!

## March Advisory Theme: Determination

As a community who cares about teenagers, we all work to build resiliency and determination with our children. We have goals and share visions for their future; but when setbacks arise, it can be challenging to teach the stick-to-it-ness they will need to be successful adults. As educators, we often hear parents' frustration in supporting their kids as they matriculate through high school because they feel it is so different from their own high school experience. Parents want to know how to encourage and how to foster determination. A recent issue of *Educational Leadership* had an article that addressed this topic for teachers, but the article can be easily modified to relate to what parents are experiencing as well. There are three main messages we can all share with the students of Andrew High School. These messages carry over no matter the generation or life path.

### This is important.

As a school community, we all need to convey the value of education, and the value of the topic. While we know, there are times when some people struggle to see the value of a specific topic. We understand that perspective, but sometimes it is not the skill or concept itself, but the underlying thought process that will help the student as they grow. Teachers and parents should work together to communicate the importance of all aspects of the high school curriculum.



### You can do it.

In recent years, District 230 has been reading the research behind the idea of Growth Mindset. The research shows the benefits of an individual persevering through a problem with a positive mindset. It also states that it is important for the entire support structure to help reinforce these positive thoughts. We are not saying that just being positive will help someone achieve. We are saying that it is important to be positive as a student takes on a challenge. The student must also put in the work to achieve the goal, but we all know that it is easier to push yourself when those around you are supporting you. In other words, we want every

student to have the home field advantage as he or she works to succeed in high school.

### I won't give up on you.

This last part is where we, as adults, need to practice what we preach. We have to have the determination and resiliency to keep working with our kids until they get it right. Whether we are watching them working on their Chromebook, helping learn how to drive in the snow, or being able to practice important life skills on their own, we need to be persistent, not give up, and never let our children, or students, quit.

## Annual Residency Verification

All District 230 students must prove residency within the district each year. Our upcoming dates to accomplish this are:

**Tuesday, March 6 • 12 noon – 8 p.m.**

**Wednesday, April 11  
8 a.m. – 12 noon; 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 5 • 8 a.m. – 12 noon**

## Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarship applications continue to arrive in the Guidance Office throughout the spring months. Students are encouraged to stop in and review the latest announcements. Many of these awards have specific requirements. If you meet the requirements, you should consider applying. Scholarship information is also on the VJA website under Guidance.

## Scholarships Awarded

If you have been awarded a scholarship, please let Mrs. Driscoll know by emailing her at [ddriscoll@d230.org](mailto:ddriscoll@d230.org).

**Include the following information:**

1. Name of University or organization awarding the scholarship
2. Title/name of the award or scholarship
3. Amount of the award for each year over 4 years (if applicable)

The amount of the awards will be kept confidential. The district uses the totals for statistical data. You are not required to share the financial information if you do not wish to do so.

## Summer School

Summer School registration is currently in progress. Students can sign up for summer school by visiting their counselor. Whether your student is getting ahead or catching up, it is wise to register now in order to reserve a spot in the class. Classes will only be offered if there are enough students who enroll. Summer School will be offered at Sandburg High School this year, with the exception of a few courses to be held at Andrew. For more information, click on the Summer School tab at <http://chsd230.eduk8.me>

## Prime Time for College-Bound Juniors

March is a great month to have your junior son or daughter make an appointment with his or her counselor to discuss college plans. Students interested in selective colleges are especially encouraged to make an appointment to begin preparing for the application process that will begin next August. Parents are always welcome to join students for this appointment in order to discuss the college selection and financial aid process.

It takes time and energy to find the right college match. Counselors recognize that this is a family decision. However, they can be helpful in sorting out their priorities and finding colleges that are the best fit for each child. Remember, when your child returns from summer vacation, he or she will be expected to have a short list of colleges ready for application. Most applications should be completed by the end of October of the student's senior year.

## Juniors and Spring Break

Many families find that Spring Break provides the perfect opportunity for juniors to visit college campuses. Often, families who plan ahead can visit four to five schools in the same geographical area over two to three days. It is important to call schools in advance. In many cases (especially at private schools) the college

may offer free housing to students who want to stay overnight for a sample of dorm life. Because many schools are not on break at this time, a visit now is much better than during the summer when campuses are relatively vacant. If you need a list of questions to ask when you visit, please see your counselor.

## Getting Into College - Some Helpful Tips

Whether your child is trying to get into Harvard or any other college, admissions committees will be asking five basic questions: How difficult was the curriculum chosen by the student?; How well did he or she do in that curriculum?; How did the student do on college entrance exams?; What activities outside the classroom did the student join?; What

was the quality of the involvement in those activities? While the questions are simple, the answers may be complex. Helping your child stay focused on these questions will ensure the greatest number of options after high school. If you have questions about college planning, please contact your child's counselor.

## Passing Required Classes

As Summer School approaches, parents are reminded that students must pass both semesters of a required class in order to move on to the next level. For example, students who fail either

semester of Freshman English must repeat the failed semester before moving on to Sophomore English. Summer School is strongly encouraged for students in this position.

## Children at Risk

Parents are reminded that they are always welcome to share their concerns regarding the welfare of children with the Guidance staff. Prevention is the important word on this topic. If you have a concern, please do not hesitate to contact your child's counselor. The Guidance staff is always willing to contact

teachers, speak to their students, or facilitate a meeting or referral to specific services when necessary. We work in partnership with parents and students to provide the best possible learning environment for the children and families that we serve.

## DEANS' OFFICE: Every Minute Matters

Every 2nd semester, the Deans' Office looks at disciplinary referrals that occurred during the 1st semester. After examining this data, we look for ways to address identifiable trends. Two trends we are examining are chronic absences and tardies to 1st period and lunch periods.

### Attendance Areas of Concern

The first area of concern, chronic absence, is defined by the federally mandated Every Student Succeed Act as a student missing 10% of total school days for ANY reason within one school year. District 230 has students in attendance for 177 days a year, so **if a student misses approximately 17 days of school for any reason, they are considered chronically absent.** Currently, we have identified approximately 160 students who are considered chronically absent according to ESSA.

The other area of concern, tardies to 1st period and lunch periods, was discovered by looking at referral data and the Skyward Student Information System. During the month of January, Andrew High School students had a total of 947 recorded tardies to periods 0-8. Of those 947 recorded tardies, 381 were to 1st periods; or in other words, **40% of all record tardies during the month of January were to 1st period.**

Lunch period tardies provided another large amount of total tardies for students. During the month of January, students were marked tardy during lunch periods 295 times, or in other words, **31% of all recorded tardies during the month of January, were to periods 4, 5, and 6.**

Combined, **periods 1 and periods 4-6 account for 71% of all the recorded tardies** at Andrew High School. Referral data indicated that attendance issues are the number 1 reason we see students on referrals in the Deans' Office.

### Why is Attendance Important

The most basic answer is that research shows students who chronically miss school at an early age maintain those behaviors as they get older. The more school a student misses, the less likely he or she is to graduate from high school. On average, failure to graduate from high school will have a severe economic impact in the future for those students. As of January 2018 the United States Department of Labor found the following data:

\*25 years old WITHOUT high school diploma - Median weekly income \$531

\*25 years old WITH high school diploma - Median weekly income \$714

That is approximately \$732 per month difference or \$8,800 per year.

Aside from the potential economic impact, tardies and attendance issues result in visits to the Deans' Office and time away from class. Less tardies and less issues with attendance will directly result in more class time for students. More time in class will allow for a better chance to have success in the classroom.

Finally, the new federal mandate called ESSA (Every Student Succeed Act) factors in a school's chronic absentee rate when

rating the quality of schools in our state and country. Along with providing a rigorous and relevant education for our students, being a highly rated school where students are innovative, willing to grow in their education, and treat each other respectfully is equally important. All these factors promote student achievement and community pride.

### How are We Going to Address Attendance Issues Moving Forward

The Andrew High School Deans' Office is going to design a series of ways to promote on-time behavior and continued high attendance rates. This promotion will hopefully increase on-time awareness by using social media to better communicate with the student body about why being on-time is important. Additionally, the Deans' Office is developing creative ways to promote these on-time behaviors at a building level as well. More specifics of the initiatives will be available in the near future.

As a first step, please consider having you and your student **follow the Andrew High School Deans' Office on twitter: @vjadeans.** We anticipate using this social media platform as an additional source of communication with our students beyond the normal school hours.

A second step, is to constantly remind your student that every minute matters.

*\*Median income statistics\* - Bureau of Labor Statistics from the United States Department of Labor. January 17th, 2018.*

## Teaching Internship

The Teaching Internship class prepared for February 12th, their first day of school at their feeder schools at District 140. They are working at their cooperating schools on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. They have been busy constructing resumes, cover letters, parent letters, bulletin boards, and education papers. They will be working with grades kindergarten through 8th grade. The interns' responsibilities will be to work with his/her cooperating teacher, construct and teach lesson plans, work cooperatively with the students and staff, assist cooperating teacher with daily routines and classroom discipline, assist teacher in classroom presentations, create bulletin boards, conduct mini lessons (create worksheets, review games, reading to the class, individual assisting, small group work, learning centers, assessments, etc.).

This year's teaching interns are: Jacquelyn Buryj, Stephanie Dreher, Cole Griffin, Samira Issa, Taylor O'Brien, Kaylee O'Connor, Jake Renje, Matthew Sciortino, Nowal Shalash, Samantha Termunde, and Delilah Wietasch.



## Andrew Athletics Update

When March arrives, the spring sports' teams look for places to practice and yearn for the warmer weather that is to come later in the spring. Spring teams face the "Grind" more so than our other seasons. They normally start when there is snow on the ground, play in freezing cold, dodge raindrops and gusty winds, and then when it finally does get nice, the season is over. It is time to gear up for the season and get ready for conference runs. When May arrives, our Thunderbolts will be competing for greatness!

A few updates from the winter season. We want to congratulate the varsity dance team for a 5th place finish at the IHSA Finals, and a 8th place finish at a national competition in Orlando! Great effort and character all season long! At the time of publish, our Girl Bowlers have won the Rich East regional, and led by Jessica Du and Amber Furman, look to continue to make waves as in the IHSA series. Ten wrestlers, Kyle Silzer, Luc Valdez, Christian Galindo, Robby Precin, Luke Gardner, Sean Callaghan, JP Migawa, Alex Hansen, Ameer Aqel, and Austin O'Connor all qualified for sectional competition. Congrats to Robby, Luke G., and Rocco on their regional titles!

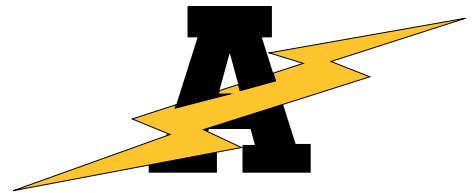
Other winter teams have not completed their season as of this writing. Boys' Basketball is still in the IHSA state series and will look

to make it difficult for teams who want to continue into regional play. At print, they are tied for the SWSC RED lead, which would be our first conference title in 28 years! Troy Murphy, Dan Gierhahn, and Evan Yerkes (record setting three pointer!) get the headlines, but Mike DeHaan, Ryan Rolder, and Connor Gountounas have made great contributions as well. Boys' Swimming and Diving has the depth and talent to send some athletes into the sectional finals and have high hopes of making the final day in a couple of events. Girls' hoops with seniors Amaiya Sims and Kayla Langowski look to lead the way to regionals. Claire Scheulin qualified for the sectional meet and performed well on the vault in gymnastics. All our teams made Andrew Nation very proud this winter with their style of play, dedication, and determination.

Just a quick reminder about the Andrew Athletic social media options: [www.athletics2000.com/andrew](http://www.athletics2000.com/andrew) is the location for daily updates, scores and cancellations. Additionally, you can find rosters, pictures, and articles about all of our varsity teams. On the front page is a link with directions to our playing sites throughout the year using Google maps. Simply click on a location, type in your address, and it will find a route for you to take. Another site to visit is the SouthWest Suburban Conference (SWSC)

site at [www.athletics2000.com/swsc](http://www.athletics2000.com/swsc). Here you will find the conference standings for our varsity and sophomore teams, as well as the rest of the conference schedules. You can also look through our archives and find results from the varsity conference seasons and champions. We are on twitter as well @vjabolts. Finally, a site that has all of the information about all high schools in the state is the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) website at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org). Here you can follow all high school teams through the state series, and find information and directions for every high school in the state in the school directory. These sites will help you to know faster and more accurately where and when the athletes participate. They have a lot of information to offer.

Summer camp information will be coming soon, so look to sharpen those skills and prepare for greatness this summer with our programs and coaches! A great way to keep active and enjoy the weather that we know will turn for the best!



## Nurse's Office Important Reminders from the Nurse's Office

### Nurse's Office Alert: Attention Junior Parents/Guardians (class of 2019)

All students entering 12th grade in the State of Illinois are required to show proof of having received one dose of Meningococcal Conjugate vaccine given on or after their 16th birthday.

Proof of having received the Meningococcal vaccine is required and should be submitted to the School Nurse as soon as the vaccine is given.

Vaccine documentation can be:

- Dropped off in the Nurse's Office
- Mailed to Victor J. Andrew High School, Attention: Nurse's Office
- Scanned and e-mailed to the Nurse's Office at: [vjanurse@d230.org](mailto:vjanurse@d230.org)
- Faxed to the Nurse at: 708-737-7725

**It is important to note that your child will *not* receive a schedule, participate in athletics, or apply for a parking pass in the 2018-2019 school year until *documentation of having the vaccine is received in the Nurse's Office.***

**If you have any questions, please contact the Nurse's Office at 708-342-5858.**

### Attention Incoming Freshman Class of 2022

It's never too early to start thinking about the required school physical and immunizations for high school. Call your doctor to schedule your appointment early to avoid delays in Schedule Pick-Up in August. Forms can be located on the VJA Nurse's Page on the school website: <http://Andrew.d230.org/resources/nurses-office/>

A packet with information and required forms was distributed at Freshmen Registration on Saturday, February 3, 2018. Completed forms are due to the Nurse's Office by June 1, 2018.

### Asthma Health Alert

New Illinois Law requires an Asthma Action Plan to be completed by a physician for all asthmatic students beginning January, 2017. Please submit completed forms to the Nurse's Office as soon as possible. Any questions, please call the Andrew Nurse's Office at 342-5858.

### March is Poison Control Month

The Poison Center  
hotline number is  
**1-800-222-1222**

The phone call is free  
and it is confidential.

The website for  
information on  
poison control is:  
[Illinoispoisoncenter.org](http://Illinoispoisoncenter.org).

## ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Plan to attend our monthly Athletic Booster Club meeting. All members are invited. It is also a great way to become involved. All spring sports team reps are encouraged to attend. This is how we know about your sports team. Check the school website calendar for our meeting schedule.

### WANTED:

#### New Directors for 2018-2019 Season.

We are currently looking for next year's Football Sophomore Team Concession Helper, Football Varsity Team Concession Helper, Boys' Basketball Concession Helper, Track Concession Helper, and LaCrosse Concession Helper. Please contact Rena Sheehan at [renaespo@aol.com](mailto:renaespo@aol.com) if you are interested.

**Spirit Wear:** If you need any spirit wear items, please contact Missy Geibel at [missygeibel@gmail.com](mailto:missygeibel@gmail.com) or Robin Murphy at [robinmurphy23@att.net](mailto:robinmurphy23@att.net)

**Variety Show:** For all the latest information visit our website at [www.andrewathleticboosters.org](http://www.andrewathleticboosters.org). Shows are March 8th thru March 10th.

**Athletic Scholarship Forms:** Students whose family has joined the Athletic Boosters by December 1st can be considered for scholarships. Attention **SENIOR ATHLETES:** pick up, fill out, and turn in your scholarship application for the Booster Club's scholarship drawing. The form is not part of the common scholarship application. Please pick up forms at the monthly Booster Club meeting, Guidance Office, or Athletic Office. March 1st is the deadline for scholarship forms.

**MATZ FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP:** Attention SENIOR VARIETY SHOW CAST MEMBERS: pick up, fill out, and turn in your scholarship application for the scholarship drawing. The forms and requirements are in the Guidance Office or at Booster Club meetings. We are

not part of the common scholarship form. March 1st is the deadline for scholarship forms and the scholarships are \$500.

**SPECIAL THANKS:** Thank you to the directors for their help with all our winter sports concessions. Athletic Boosters is also grateful to the parents and teams who helped with basketball and cheer concessions. We very much appreciate you volunteering your time. We could not be a success without parent involvement. We hope to continue our success with your help in the future. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact Rena Sheehan at [renaespo@aol.com](mailto:renaespo@aol.com).

**Remember your time leads to your athlete's success!**

Our website: [www.andrewathleticboosters.org](http://www.andrewathleticboosters.org)

There is a link on the VJA main website or <http://www.athletics2000.com/andrew/>

## TPPO (Thunder Pride Parent Organization)

Happy Spring and Happy March Madness! The TPPO would like to encourage you to purchase Paver Bricks for our fundraiser. These are real bricks that are placed in our brick path outside of the main entrance at VJA. The cost for each brick is \$100, payable by check or cash. Bricks can be purchased by families, businesses, in memory of, etc. All proceeds from the purchase of Paver Bricks



go towards scholarships at the end of the school year. The forms will be available at the Main South entrance security desk. Any questions, contact Tracie Zaghoul at [6zags@att.net](mailto:6zags@att.net). Visit our TPPO Facebook page for daily reminders and information at <https://www.facebook.com/AndrewHighSchoolTPPO/>. Hope to see you at our next meeting on Monday, April 9, 2018, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

## MUSIC BOOSTERS

Yet again, another busy month has passed and a new one begins for the Music Department! Although February is a short month, there certainly wasn't a shortage of incredible performances. February



3rd was the first community review show for the Winter Guard and Winter Percussion groups. What a great crowd turned out to watch their 2018 productions! Our Winter Guard took 3rd place at their first competition of the season on January 28th in Naperville. What a fabulous way to kick off the season! On February 6th, Illinois State University's Wind Symphony visited and held master classes, as well as an entertaining concert for our band

members and several other local school bands. Our Symphonic Band traveled to the SWSC Band Festival on February 15th and put on an



amazing performance. On February 17th Winter Percussion took their show on the road to Dayton, Ohio, for their first competition of the year. And last, but certainly not least, the Concert and Symphonic Bands performed at the Sandburg Band Festival on February 24th.

Upcoming March events will be here before we know it, so mark your calendars and come out to support the Music Program. The Spring Craft show will be held on Saturday, March 3rd, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sunday, March 4th, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. There will be many crafters and vendors with a wide variety of products to offer! The Spring Band Concert will be held on Tuesday, March 13th, at 7 p.m. The 5th Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 18th, from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Look for ticket sales coming soon! The Jazz concert will be on Tuesday, March 20th, at 7 p.m.

Looking ahead, The Chicagoland Band Festival will be held on Saturday, April 7th, at John Hersey High School. The "not to be missed" Spring Musical will be held on April 19th, 20th, and 21st. The Finale Chorale Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th, at 7 p.m., and the Finale Band Concert will be held on Thursday, May 10th, at 7 p.m. And lastly, the University of Notre Dame will be holding an exhilarating concert here at VJA on Friday, May 11th, at 7 p.m. Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss it!

Our next Music Parent Meeting will be held on Monday, March 12th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Come out to stay up-to-date on all the news and upcoming events for the Music Department. Also, be sure to check out our website at [www.vjamusic.com](http://www.vjamusic.com).



# VICTOR J. ANDREW HIGH SCHOOL

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## THEATRE FEST

Lisa Gonwa, Auditorium Director at Victor J. Andrew High School, was the All-State Technical Director for the production of *Big Fish*; the marquee production at this year's Illinois High School Theatre Festival.

*Big Fish* was enjoyed by nearly 5,000 high school theatre students and their teachers over the course of the three-day Festival hosted at Illinois State University this past January. Students from across the state are selected to be company members in the cast, crew, and orchestra pit, and rehearse and build over the long weekends in the fall semester (August through December) to put together this incredible state-wide production.

Abir Othman, Associate Principal at Andrew High School, was granted the Administrator of the Year award during the opening ceremonies for the Festival in recognition of the work she does to support the Fine Arts students, staff, and programming at Andrew High School, and the Theatre Program specifically.

Additional student honors for *Big Fish* included Alex Craig (senior) who served as the Assistant Stage Manager, and Emily Dolan (senior) who played the violin in the orchestra pit. T-Bolt Pride!



Lisa Gonwa



Abir Othman



Alex Craig



Emily Dolan

