

Andrew **pride**

VICTOR J. ANDREW HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2018



COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S YOUTH SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to 29 T-Bolts on receiving the Cook County Sheriff's Youth Service Award Medal of Honor. On top of school, homework, sports, activities, and possibly a job, these students found time to volunteer. Each of the 29 students named below has volunteered at least 100 hours of outside community service between September 1, 2016 and August 31, 2017. The Awardees pictured are: Noor Abuseini, Ghena Akkawi, Jack Ballard, Samantha Calderon, Brianna Cozzolino, Madison Devine, Sheridan Ford, Ashley Gardner, Sydney Hellmann, Caitlin Herald, Amanda Hoelzel, Seth Huisenga, Keagan Kermer, Stella Martinez, Alyssa Oszal, Hinal Patel, Payal Patel, Jacob Ray, Jacob Renje, Kitzia Ruvalcaba, Samantha Spalla, James Subka, Chloe Thill, and Abby Williams. Not pictured are: Rasha Alnasr, Gina Canavan, Stephen Hernandez, Jayson House, and Nicole Wojcik. Way to go T-Bolts!

2017-2018 School Calendar

Dates to Remember

February

19 President's Day - No School

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The theme for February at Andrew High School is **Diversity**. As educators and as parents, we know the value for our students to be able to understand, connect, and learn from others who are somehow "different" than ourselves. Albeit, many times our minds of diversity go to race, ethnic background, and religion - the ability to recognize diversity goes way beyond into diversity of ideas, experiences, perspectives, and outlook on the future. At VJA, we don't teach students to be tolerant or even appreciative of people for their differences - we expect them to listen, consider, and be open to things of which they are not familiar. To be truly prepared for life after high school, we need kids who are open to ALL ideas so they can truly define who they are and what they believe.

Throughout the month, during Advisory and regular classes, we are hoping to engage students more in these topics. We do this through collaboration among students - both live and online - as well as having them read, think, and learn through voice about the perspectives of others (authors, scientists, historical figures, and contemporary figures). This month is highlighted by the Diversity Dance Show sponsored by our Project Diversity organization. This showcases dances and fashions from all over the globe and encourages our students to learn about their peers.

February also marks our Senior Academic Recognition Night. This night highlights our seniors who, after seven semesters, have reached exceptional heights during their time at VJA. Students will be recognized for high academic accomplishments including our Top 20th Percentile students, National Merit Scholars, Illinois State Scholars, Presidential Scholars, as well as our Outstanding T-Bolt Awardees. This is a great night to recognize these outstanding students.

Finally, February is an exciting month for our Winter Athletes. Ideally, we will be celebrating the successes of our Cheerleaders, Poms, and Boys' Bowling teams on their conference and state success. In addition, our Boys' Swim & Dive, Girls' Bowling, Girls' Basketball, Wrestling, Boy's Basketball, Chess, and Speech teams will be wrapping up their seasons - ideally with many individual and team accolades to celebrate. It has been exciting to watch many of these teams compete, and I know their hard work will pay off!

Again, I value my role as the Principal of Victor J. Andrew High School. If you have any thoughts, ideas or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out at rnolting@d230.org.

Robert Nolting
Principal



CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 230

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Andrew Pride is published by the Consolidated High School District 230 School Board.
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Mark Your Calendar ...

Spring Parent University
Wednesday, March 14, 2018
7:00 p.m.

More information will be messaged out
prior to the event.

Matthew Kocher Foundation

The Matthew Kocher Foundation Youth Advisory Board served lunch at the Daybreak Shelter in October, made cards and placemats for veterans at the Illinois Veterans' Home in Manteno in November, and did some caroling at Smith Crossing Retirement Home in December.

Mrs. Kocher stated, "I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for the Andrew students who are committed to supporting the mission of the Matthew Kocher Foundation and continuing Matt's legacy of caring for others."



AP TEST REGISTRATION

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses are encouraged to take the College Board AP exam(s) in May. If you have not already registered to take the exam the website is still open but closes on February 28, 2018 (no exceptions).

Registration for any AP exam must be done through the following website: www.TotalRegistration.net/AP/144117 (note: the AP must be capitalized). Payment can be made by credit / debit card, check or money order directly to *Total Registration*. Andrew HS will NOT be taking payment for exams.

It is our belief that an AP course is complete when a student takes the AP exam, and offering families this opportunity for an early registration will commit students to that finale experience. Teachers of AP courses do offer evening review sessions during the spring.

Any request for Financial Assistance can be done directly through the *Total Registration* online process. Notification of assistance will be given to families in late January.

Early Graduation

Next year, seniors who will have enough credits to graduate by the end of their seventh semester may wish to consider a mid-year graduation.

While we do not encourage this option, it is available to qualified seniors. For further information, please contact your student's counselor prior to the end of the school year.

College Plans For Juniors

If possible, now is the time for juniors to make plans to visit colleges over spring break.

This is a great opportunity to visit colleges—and a timely one as well. Juniors should have their college choices narrowed down by the time they return

to school next year. Without a campus visit, it is difficult to make these choices. If parents or students need assistance, please contact the Guidance Office, or refer to the packet of information distributed to juniors earlier in the school year.

College Fair Right In Our Backyard!

It is never too early to think about your future. Right in our backyard is a great college fair opportunity. On Tuesday, March 6, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Lewis University will host the Illinois College Exposition.

This area college fair is a great place to start planning your future. You can meet representatives from dozens of in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities. All students are encouraged to attend.

FEBRUARY ADVISORY THEME: DIVERSITY

The advisory theme for February focuses on a celebration of diversity at Andrew High School, and recognizing how that diversity makes us stronger. When we think of diversity, we often jump right to race or ethnicity, which are obviously important factors in the diversity of a school. However, it is important to remember that diversity encompasses additional important areas such as gender, culture, religion, socio-economic status, orientation, and cognitive or physical abilities.

In February, our nation will celebrate African American History Month, followed by Women's History Month in March. These are important opportunities to learn about the contributions that these two specific groups have made on American society. However, we have an opportunity to do more. In her TED talk, Kathleen Nalty discussed how cultural diversity can actually make you smarter. When you bring people together from different backgrounds and perspectives, they have a tendency to work better together cognitively and see the same things from different angles or perspectives.

This "Inclusive Intelligence" can help groups with more diversity become more productive. She also talks about the concept of recognizing your blind spots, intentional or otherwise. As individuals, we tend to see our world through our own personal filters, and as a result, we sometimes make decisions that are

unintentionally insensitive or hurtful to others. By recognizing and embracing diversity, we can limit, or eliminate, these occurrences. Andrew High School prides itself on including everyone and encouraging students to be the best that they can be. In the last few years, we have worked to celebrate the uniqueness of various cultures through multiple clubs and organizations. We encourage students to get involved in these clubs as a way to meet and learn about new or different people or perspectives.

All of our clubs are open to anyone who wants to learn more, and many of them are specifically geared toward inclusion and/or education, such as Project Diversity, Muslim Student Association, Gay Straight Alliance, Christian Student Association, The Hangout, and our unified basketball, just to name a few.

Our Student Council and National Honor Society also provide opportunities to work with veterans and seniors from different backgrounds. Each of these organizations hold meetings or school events that allow students to celebrate and learn about perspectives or ideas that may be different than their own in a supportive, friendly, and safe environment. Andrew wants students to recognize what unites us, while celebrating what makes us unique. The senior class theme for the year sums it up best "Different or Alike, United We Strike."



Paying For College Becomes More Difficult

As the cost of college becomes greater, the federal government has gradually reduced the percentage of loan money awarded to students. This forces students to take out private loans that are offered at higher interest rates. It is, therefore, very important for families to look into as many opportunities to save money as possible.

One popular way for students planning to attend 4-year universities to save money is to enroll in summer school classes at Moraine Valley, or other local schools with less expensive tuition. Just be sure that any classes taken at these schools will transfer to the school you plan to attend in the fall. Students and parents are wise to stay alert to scholarship opportunities offered locally as well. Make sure students are listening to PA announcements and talking with their counselors about potential scholarships.

Scholarships Awarded

If you have been awarded a scholarship, please let Mrs. Driscoll know by emailing her at 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.

DEANS' OFFICE: First Semester Review

With the conclusion of the first semester, the Deans' Office reflected on the overall social and emotional climate of the building. We have determined the majority of Andrew High School students have taken an active role in creating the positive school climate we have experienced throughout the first semester, and we expect this climate to carry over into 2018.

With our senior class leading the way, the student body has focused on establishing positive one-on-one relationships and positively supporting all individuals in our building. The Deans' Office has observed Senior Leaders handing out hot chocolate to ALL students prior to finals, celebrating academic and co-curricular success during our mid-semester all school assembly, and

as always, our students have continued to make positive impacts in our surrounding communities. These actions are an everyday reminder of the great students who walk through our halls every day. It really is amazing to see the positive impact teenagers can have on each other, and a community like Tinley Park.

Andrew High School students have also taken an active role in creating a positive school climate by providing appropriate information to staff members when they feel a friend or peer is having difficulties in their lives. This timely information has allowed Andrew High School staff members to actively seek out and communicate with individuals who are in need of additional support. Students who are in a positive

school climate on a daily basis are more apt to provide information to adults as a way to keep the positive climate within a building going. We encourage our students and parents to openly communicate with us when they know a student is in need of additional emotional support.

We hope you, as parents and community members, continue to support our students at Andrew High School by encouraging your student to become engaged with many of our clubs or activities. Additionally, encourage your student to set positive, attainable goals for the second semester.

Through open communication and respect for all within the building, the students of Andrew High School will continue to excel.

NURSE'S OFFICE: Important Reminders from the Nurse's Office

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
- 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.

Asthma Health Alert

Illinois Law requires an Asthma Action Plan to be completed by a physician for all asthmatic students. 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.

Attention Incoming Freshman – Class of 2022

It is 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 with 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 Freshman Registration on Saturday, February 3, 2018. Completed forms are due to the Nurse's Office by June 1, 2018.

Andrew Athletics Update

Spring weather is just around the corner, but the Bolts are providing plenty of heat this winter season! As the excitement of the Christmas tournaments dies into the January sports season, the winter teams prepare for the final stretch of the conference and are looking toward the state tourneys.

The Boys' Bowling team is the first team to complete their season as they entered regional play in the IHSA State Series on January 13th, culminating with the state finals the last weekend in January. The boys' bowling team has been working hard to improve and prepare for post-season play! Ethan Kosche and Louis Kerfman lead the way for the boys on the lanes.

Girls' Bowling continues to improve as they look to get into position to challenge at regionals. The team has been through tough competition and won a few invites along the way! The SWSC Red Division tourney took place on January 20th, followed by the IHSA state series in early February, and the state finals on February 19-20. The girls are not ready to give up and plan to peak in February for the sectional! Sam Bockstahler, Jessica Du, Amber Furman, and Caitlin Herald have provided great senior leadership and work ethic thus far! Amber has also bowled a 300 game once already this season!

Andrew Cheer has been battling the injury bug this competition season, but will set their sights on conference and sectional performances on our own mats! We hosted the SWSC Championship on January 20th, and then again played host to the largest and possibly the most competitive sectional in the state on January 27th. With their experience and confidence, the girls are

ready! JV Cheer has had an outstanding season as well, placing 4th at the ICCA finals! Caitlyn Holetzky, Julia Kenny, Amaiya Sims, Gabrielle Voltolina, Anabel Creighton, Madelyn Errant, and Sydney Marion are the senior girls who have done so much for our program and provided outstanding leadership.

The Girls' Gymnastics team set some lofty goals for the season and are close to attaining those. As they prepare for SWSC Conference, the girls look to keep improving their team score and earn some conference medals! The team has some experience with seniors Stephanie Oropeza and Vera Zakhari. The team will keep working and will be better in February.

The Wrestling team has been making some serious noise this season. The team bested 63 others in Wisconsin, winning the coveted ON the Water Invite during break! Ryan Gardner, JP Migawa, Luc Valdez, Ameer Aqel, Kyle Silzer, and a host of underclassmen joined forces with a strong senior class led by Robbie Precin, Chris Houchins, Austin O'Connor, and Sean Callaghan, and are hoping to make a great showing and seek a regional title. Big things so far and more to come for Coach Pila and the boys!

Boys' Swimming and Diving used January to get their times down to get ready for the conference and state meets in February. With a number of solid seniors led by Joe Fitzgerald, Justin Hovorka, Ian Russell, and many others, the boys are steadily improving. They have a number of invitationals along the way with the SWSC meet on February 2nd – 3rd at Lincoln-Way West followed by the IHSA state series in late February.

Girls' Basketball has played well so far this season. As they strive for some consistency, and focus as the season progresses, teams are in for a challenge! The girls are young but determined and seniors Amari Sims and Kayla Langowski will provide great leadership down the stretch! As the team chemistry continues to develop, the girls and coaches are excited to find out just how far they can go!! The IHSA state series starts the 2nd week of February and the girls will get a chance to battle for a regional title!

The Boys' Basketball team has gotten off to a fast start with some big wins over Tinley Park, Thornwood, and a strong showing at the Jack Tosh Invite. Troy Murphy, Evan Yerkes, Mike DeHaan, Dan Gierhan, Connor Gountounas, and Ryan Rolder have led the way for the Bolts. Toughness and work are this club's mantra and so far the area is taking notice! When you watch this team just see how hard they play and how many times they are diving for loose balls and getting floor burns.

The Competitive Dance team is ready for an exciting winter season. They began their competitive season in November with a strong showing at our own Invite and an Invite win at Minooka! Their winter season includes not only performing at half-time of the boys' home basketball games and competing locally, but also the squad looks to complete the 3-peat and successfully defended their title of SWSC Red champions! The IHSA sectional took place on January 20th in Geneva. An amazing routine was showcased at the state series on January 27th! Led by seniors Paige Sciera and Cayla Johnson, this team has what it takes!

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES



On Tuesday, March 6, 2018 Victor J. Andrew High School will host Parent/Teacher Conferences from noon until 7:00 pm. Conferences are based on appointments made in advance. You can make appointments two ways:

- 1) **Access the on-line appointments:** conference registration will take place through Skyward beginning February 27th at 9:00 a.m. and will close on Monday, March 5th at 11:59 p.m. Watch for an email to be sent during February for details.
- 2) **Call the school** at (708) 342-5800. Be prepared to provide your student's last name and ID number. We will ONLY be available to assist via phone calls on:
 - **Tuesday, February 27, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
 - **Wednesday, February 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

TPPO

(Thunder Pride Parent Organization)

The next event for the TPPO is Just Dance 2018 on Saturday, February 10th. We have the opportunity to work the Coat Check for the students attending the dance. The TPPO will be contacting the volunteers who signed up for the Dance. Join us at our next meeting on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Any questions, please contact Tracie Zaghloul at 6zags@att.net. Don't forget to follow our Facebook Page for daily reminders and TPPO information at <https://www.facebook.com/AndrewHighSchoolTPPO/>.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Plan to attend our monthly Athletic Booster Club meetings. All members are invited.

Next Meeting: Our next Booster Club meeting is Wednesday, February 14th at 7 p.m. in Room 220. We ask all winter and spring team reps to attend. It is also a great way to become involved. Please come and see what we are all about.

WANTED:

New Directors for 2018-2019 Season.

We are currently looking for next year's **Fall Concessions Assistants, Boys' Basketball Concessions Assistant, Winter Concessions Assistant, and Spring Concessions Assistant.** Please contact Rena Sheehan at renaespo@aol.com if you are interested.

NEEDED:

1 Spring Girls' Soccer Concession Assistant for approximately 7 games

1 Spring Girls' and Boys track Concession Assistant for 3 meets.

2 Spring Lacrosse Concession Assistants for approximately 10 games and State Finals

Booster Club Fundraiser

Spirit Wear: We have team sports signs and decals available. Please contact Missy Geibel at missygeibel@gmail.com or Robin Murphy at robinmurphy23@att.net for information about any items.

Variety Show: For all the latest information visit our website at: www.andrewathleticboosters.org

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 or the 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 available

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. The scholarships are \$500.

Concessions: Thank you to all the parents who help with indoor boys' basketball concessions. Please come out and enjoy one of our games.

Special Thanks: Thank you to all the directors and parents who donated their time during the competitions, Breakfast with Santa, and their continued support for the Andrew Athletic programs and the Booster Club. This Club can only be successful when parents get involved. 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.

Remember your time leads to your athlete's success!

The website is: www.andrewathleticboosters.org

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

MUSIC BOOSTERS

The month of January is usually thought of as being a slow month, but not for the Music Department! The winter ensembles of Jazz Band, Winter Percussion, and Winter Guard have kicked off their rehearsal season in preparation for their upcoming concerts and competitions. In fact, Winter Guard kicked off the season with their first competition of the season on Sunday, January 28th in Naperville. Our Concert Band members have been busy preparing for some very important performances as well. The Wind Symphony traveled to Peoria to perform at the ILMEA All State Conference on Saturday, January 27th. In addition, many of our students auditioned to participate in the 2018 Music For All Honor Band of America, and Phillip Baggio, Cameron Bilek, and John Sikorski were chosen to participate this year! Congratulations!

Upcoming February events are right around the corner; mark your calendars and come on out to support our music program. On Saturday, February 3rd at 8 p.m., our Winter Percussion will be performing their first preview show of the year, "Breathe" in the gym. On Tuesday, February 6th, Illinois State University's Wind Symphony ensemble and staff will be visiting VJA and will be holding master class

sessions for our band members, followed by a concert by their band at 7 p.m. Our Symphonic Band will be attending the SWSC Band Festival on Thursday, February 15th. Winter Percussion will kick off their competition season by traveling to Dayton, Ohio, on February 17th and 18th. On Saturday, February 24th, our Concert and Symphonic bands will perform at the Sandburg Band Festival. Whew! That's quite a busy month!

Some other important dates to take note include: 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. Come on out and see what our crafters will have to offer! The Spring Band Concert will be held on Tuesday, March 13th, at 7 p.m. The 5th Annual Pancake Breakfast will be on Sunday, March 18th, from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. Look for more information and ticket sales to come soon! The Jazz Concert will be on Tuesday, March 20th, at 7 p.m. 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 on April 19th, 20th, and 21st. Our Finale Chorale Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th, at 7 p.m., and the Finale Band Concert will be on Thursday, May 10th, at 7 p.m.

And, last but not least, the University of Notre Dame will be holding a concert here at VJA on Friday, May 11th, at 7 p.m. Mark your calendars now and come out to enjoy all of the many events our music program has to offer!

Our next Music Parent Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7th, 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.





VICTOR J. ANDREW HIGH SCHOOL

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<http://andrew.d230.org>

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ORLAND PARK

It's All About that Dress, that Dress, THAT DRESS



District 230 Educational Support Staff invites you to
GET THAT PROM DRESS

When: Saturday March 3, 2018

Where: Amos Alonzo Stagg High School Media Center

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00PM

Cost: \$10.00 donation per student (No refunds)

- ♥ **Many Dresses to choose from**
- ♥ **Discounted Prom Services**
- ♥ **Raffles**
- ♥ **Refreshments and light snacks will be provided**
- ♥ **Limited quantity, please arrive early.**
- ♥ **All proceeds will be donated to District 230 Needy Student Fund**

For more information, please call (708) 259-7980

****Must be a District 230 student and have your student I.D with you to enter****

****You are allowed 1 guest to assist you shop****