

# AVERILL PARK

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Superintendent: Dr. James Franchini*  
#AP\_EveryStudentEveryDay





## Inside:

- 03 Foreword
- 04 Giving Back
- 05 Discover More
- 06 Featured Alumni
- 07 Graduation Rates
- 08 Elementary Schools
- 09 Middle School
- 10 High School
- 11 Courses & Clubs
- 12 Music
- 13 Athletics
- 14 Mathematics
- 15 Science
- 16 Engineering
- 17 CTE
- 18 Special Education
- 19 Art



# AVERILL PARK

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

146 Gettle Road, Averill Park, NY  
518-674-7050  
www.averillpark.k12.ny.us

# WELCOME TO AP

## Dear Averill Park community,

The Averill Park Central School District serves the needs of elementary and secondary students residing in the towns of Berlin, Brunswick, East Greenbush, Nassau, North Greenbush, Poestenkill, Sand Lake, Schodack and Stephentown. Encompassing a 100 square mile area within a 20-minute drive of Albany and Troy, the district educates approximately 2,600 students each year.

Combining the qualities of a rural and suburban setting with the benefit of a strong and vibrant community, the district is committed to meeting the needs of and creating opportunities for every student every day in its three elementary schools (Poestenkill, Miller Hill-Sand Lake and West Sand Lake), its middle school (Algonquin) and its high school.

The community has consistently shown that it places a high value on education by supporting yearly school budgets and capital improvement projects. This commitment to education enables the district to make critical repairs and renovations that address student safety and security, as well as their instructional needs, by offering a rigorous and challenging learning environment.

Through dedication and hard work, administrators, staff, parents, students and the Board of Education are working together to provide the very best in education to this generation and beyond.



**Dr. James Franchini**  
**Superintendent of Schools**



## ADMINISTRATION

*SUPERINTENDENT*  
DR. JAMES FRANCHINI

*ASST. SUPERINTENDENT  
(TEACHING & LEARNING)*  
MATTHEW HLADUN

*ASST. SUPERINTENDENT  
(BUSINESS)*  
CARRIE NYC-CHEVRIER

*DIRECTOR PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT*  
DR. BRIAN RHODE

*DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS*  
MARK BUBNIAK

*PRINCIPALS*  
HEATH QUILES (HS)  
ROBERT MESSIA (MS)  
JOSHUA GELA (ES)  
KERI ROSHER (ES)  
MICHAEL STEAD (ES)

# Our Students / Our Community



A strong



commitment



to helping



others



## SAND LAKE KIWANIS CLUB



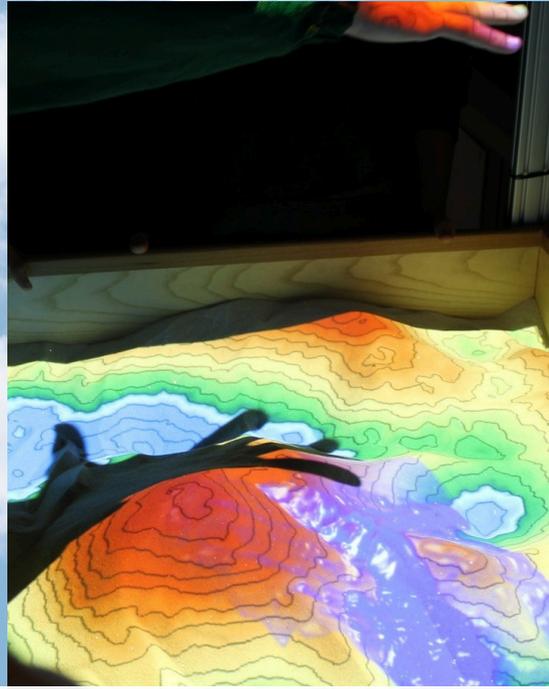
Through the Sand Lake Kiwanis Club, students have the opportunity to give back to the community by participating in K-Kids (Elementary Schools), Builders Club (Algonquin Middle School) and Key Club (Averill Park High School).

Each of these programs provide lessons in leadership and self-confidence, and focus on community involvement. Students learn how to plan, set goals, work with their peers and develop a passion for service.

Throughout the years, students set out to make our local community, and the world in general, a better place through service. This is a great program that helps develop our leaders of tomorrow.



# Discover a World of Possibilities



Students have the opportunity to explore a range of sites both local and worldwide.



# APCSD

## *Featured Alumni*

### **RUDY WINKLER (2013)**

---

- 2x Olympian
- American Record Holder (Hammer Throw)

### **ELROY FACE (1948)**

---

- Major League Baseball
- Pittsburgh Pirates (Pitcher)

### **CHRIS LAMICA (2003)**

---

- Actor
- Semi-Pro Basketball Player

### **EUGENE O'NEILL (2008)**

---

- Professional Muralist (AMS Golden Way Mural)
- Art Educator

### **GEORGE QUAMO (1958)**

---

- U.S. Army (Vietnam)
- Distinguished Service Cross Recipient

### **REBECCA CLARK (2000)**

---

- U.S. Army
- Pediatric Hematologist and Oncologist

### **DEBORAH SPRINGER (1991)**

---

- PhD in Biomedical Sciences, Infectious Disease
- Q2 Solutions Lead Scientist

### **DAVID HASTINGS (1958)**

---

- U.S. Coast Guard Academy Athletic HOF
- President of Hastings Associates, Inc.

### **MOLLY STREB (2010)**

---

- Acting Chief of Staff
- NYS Department of Labor

### **LIAM COLLINS (2010)**

---

- Attorney
- U.S. District Court

### **KENDAL HIRSCHI (1980)**

---

- Professor
- Baylor College of Medicine

### **TOM KIELY (2014)**

---

- Director of Basketball Ops at Chatanooga University
- Seton Hall graduate

### **JUSTIN ASHE (2004)**

---

- Detective Troy PD
- Capital District DEA Task Force

### **ALEXIS REED (2015)**

---

- Social Coordinator
- Peacock TV

### **MORGAN MOSCINSKI (2017)**

---

- Graphic Designer at Hasbro
- Boston U graduate

Graduates of Averill Park CSD have gone on to do great things, from being professional athletes, to authors, artists, doctors, lawyers, engineers, construction workers, and much more. We are proud of all of our alumni.

2024-25

# AVERILL PARK HS GRADUATION RATES



## Ranking at the top in Rensselaer County



Averill Park High School's percentage of students graduating with an Advanced Regents degree is ranked at the top of all Rensselaer County school districts! Overall, Averill Park CSD is well above the statewide graduation rate of 85 percent.



## Graduation rates hit record highs!

2024-25: 96%

2023-24: 95%

2022-23: 94.6%

## Regents Diploma

2024-25: 37%

2023-24: 36%

2022-23: 38%

## Advanced Regents

2024-25: 59%

2023-24: 61%

2022-23: 58%

## ELITEELEMENTARIES

THREE SCHOOLS, ONE MISSION.

- ➔ Miller Hill-Sand Lake
- ➔ Poestenkill
- ➔ West Sand Lake

# AVERILL PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



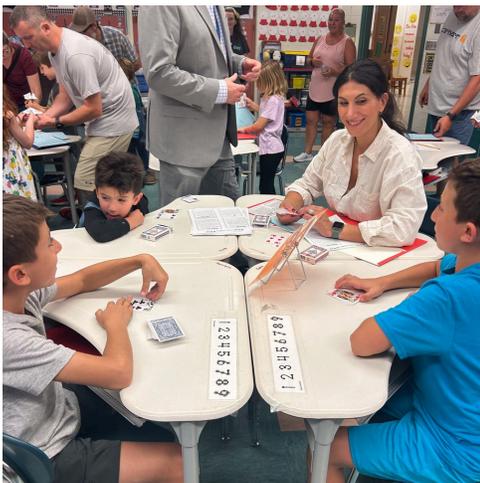
Are you exploring kindergarten options? Averill Park CSD offers three stellar elementary schools, which are split geographically but offer the same standard of high-level teaching and learning.

The elementary years are crucial to your child's lifelong learning. To help prepare students for the future, our elementary schools provide a rigorous curriculum, fun yearly traditions and strong leadership. Students should expect to build lasting relationships, establish critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and receive a well-rounded, quality education

We encourage all students to be creative, step outside of their comfort zones and begin their journey in learning with a strong foundation. All three elementary schools received an "A-" rating by [www.niche.com](http://www.niche.com), which ranks schools across the country based on a number of factors. For more information on each school, visit [www.averillpark.k12.ny.us](http://www.averillpark.k12.ny.us)



*West Sand Lake Elementary School Students observe butterfly life cycle*



# ALGONQUIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Whole Child  
Education Award  
2025**



**Algonquin Middle School**  
Averill Park Central School District

**Principal:** Robert Messia  
**Assistant Principal:** Evan Klauber

**Music Program:**

- Orchestra (strings)
- Band (winds & percussion)
- Choral program
- Spring Musical
- Jazz Band

**Technology:**

- 1:1 Chromebooks
- Live morning broadcast program
- Emphasis on Student Digital Creation

**HS Credits Offered:**

- Regents Geometry
- Regents Algebra
- Regents Earth Science
- Spanish 1
- Design & Drawing for Production (DDP)
- Computer Coding
- Studio in Art
- Current Global Issues
- Journalism

**Modified Athletics:**

- Cross Country
- Football
- Soccer
- Lacrosse
- Wrestling
- Basketball
- Track
- Volleyball (Girls)
- Baseball
- Softball

**Clubs:**

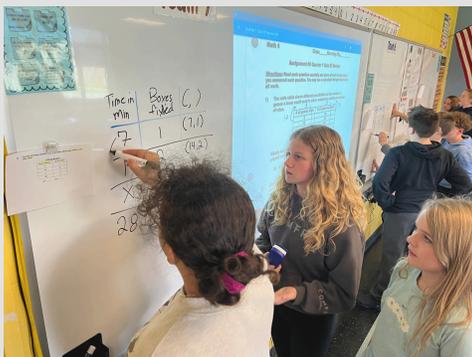
- Art Club
- Best Buddies
- Book Club
- Chess Club
- Coding Club
- Crafty Creations
- Diversity Club
- GAIM
- Geography Bee
- Entrepreneur Club
- eSports
- MathCounts
- Nature Club
- Robotics Club
- SAGA
- Science Club
- SL@AMS
- Social Media Club
- Student Council
- Yearbook

**Annual Special Events:**

- Spelling Bee
- National Geographic Bee
- Heart Challenge
- Read All Day
- Grade 6 Ocean's Day
- Grade 7 Team Building Days
- Grade 8 Shark Tank Project Based Learning
- AMS Serves: Service Learning Field Trips

You  
Belong  
Here

**1968**  
One of the  
first middle schools  
in New York



**A.M.S. SERVES**

AMS Serves is a community service program at Algonquin Middle School that teaches students how to contribute to their local community. This year, sixth grade students in Keys To Success classes created items such as Halloween cards for senior citizens, birthday cards for unhoused children, and no-sew pet toys. The program also involved seventh grade students in distribution and in projects such as creating Thanksgiving cards for residents of VanRensselaer Manor to bring them smiles and warmth.



**SECOND STEP WEEK**



Algonquin Middle School is dedicated to maintaining a school climate free of bullying and harassment. In support of this commitment, the school recently

held Second Step Week, which featured lessons and activities focused on building positive peer relationships, resolving conflicts and promoting inclusion.

# APHS

**"Do More  
In Four"**



*Anglers Club members touring the Bennington Fish Hatchery*

**Principal:** Heath Quiles

**Assistant Principal:** Rebecca Leach

**Assistant Principal:** Scott Seligman

With a graduation rate of 96% in 2025, and 46% of our students graduating with an Advanced Regents Diploma, Averill Park High School strives to take the student experience, both inside and outside of the classroom, to the next level.

Our students, while certainly performing well, are more than numbers on a transcript or a series of State Assessments. They are diverse and curious individuals who come to us each day with their own interests and passions, always aiming to develop the skills and critical attributes required to be successful in college, the workforce, and in a world which is quickly evolving. This means business as usual doesn't work for us.

Our innovative faculty and staff strive to keep instruction focused on the individual needs of each learner. We offer a wide variety of courses, both for local and for college credit, with all of our Departments and pathways. This includes extensive programs in the Arts, Music, STEM and Career and Technical Education. Our new Theater Arts Sequence is singular in the region. Outside of the classroom, our students excel in Athletics, as members of the Suburban Council, and participate actively in more than 30 extracurricular clubs and activities. No matter a student's interest, we make it our priority to provide a pathway to success.

We encourage you to take the time to get to know us better. Reach out with any questions you might have. We would be happy to have you as a part of the APHS family.

## BUILT FOR SUCCESS



### STUDENT BODY

238 students in the 2025 graduating class

### GRADUATION RATE

Graduation Rate: 96%

Regents: 37%

Advanced Regents: 59%

### THE PLACES THEY GO

College (4-year): 46%

College (2-year/Tech School): 35%

Trade School: 2%

Military: 1%

Work: 9%

Other: 7%



Castleton



UNIVERSITY  
AT ALBANY  
State University of New York





# CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Angler Club  
 Best Buddies  
 Civic Ecology  
 Coding Club  
 Construction Tech Club  
 Encounters  
 Horticulture Club  
 International Club  
 Literary Club  
 Key Club  
 Masterminds Team  
 Mr. AP  
 National Art Honor Society  
 National Honor Society  
 NYSSMA  
 Odyssey of the Mind  
 Off-Broadway Players

Pathfinders  
 Pep Band  
 Recycle Club  
 Robotics Club  
 SAGA  
 SAGES  
 Ski Club  
 Strategy & Gaming  
 SADD  
 Student Government  
 Student Newspaper  
 WAPH-TV  
 Unique Opportunities  
 Writing Club  
 Yearbook  
 Youth and Government  
 Young Activist Club

# COLLEGE COURSES

AP Biology - College Board  
 Photography - CGCC  
 AP Calculus - College Board  
 AP English 11 - College Board  
 AP English 12 - College Board  
 AP Gov't & Politics - College Board  
 Intro to Computer Science - HVCC  
 AP Studio Art - College Board  
 AP US History - College Board  
 Advanced Painting & Drawing - HVCC  
 Advanced Ceramics - CGCC  
 Calculus I - HVCC  
 College Readiness & Research - HVCC  
 Digital Electronics - HVCC  
 French 4 - SUNY Albany  
 French 5 - SUNY Albany  
 Hydraulic Brakes - UNOH  
 Intro. to Engineering & Design - HVCC  
 Intro to Theatre Arts-HVCC  
 Acting - HVCC  
 Intro. To Computer Science - Siena

Music Theory - SCCC  
 Topic in Bio - The Gene - HVCC  
 Spanish 4 - SUNY Oswego  
 Passenger Chassis 1 - HVCC  
 Spanish 5 - SUNY Oswego  
 Suspension and Brakes - UNOH  
 French 4 - HVCC  
 French 5 - HVCC  
 AP Physics - College Board/HVCC  
 Physics - HVCC  
 Construction Pract. - HVCC  
 Psychology - HVCC  
 Automotive Tech. - HVCC/UNOH  
 Rock & Roll - HVCC

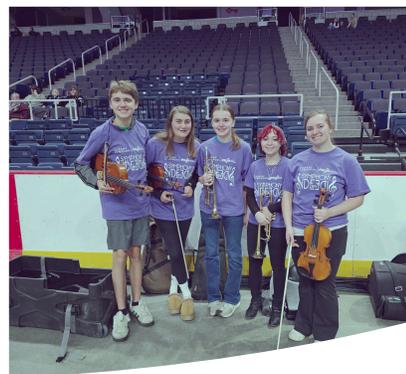


The Averill Park High School Music Department provides a wide range of opportunities. Using a curriculum that focuses on personal musical progress, our students have grown to thrive as lifelong musicians. Our students have proudly represented our department in a variety of events including All County, Suburban Council, Area-All State, All State and All Eastern. They also participate in local ensembles such as the Empire State Youth Orchestra (and its associated ensembles), Melodies of Christmas and Capital District Youth Chorale.

The program is built around its three major performing areas band, orchestra and choir. Students can also partake in jazz band, chamber orchestra and treble choir as they move through the program. This performance based program is supported by a curriculum that provides instruction in music theory and foundations in music.



MUSIC  
MUSIC



- Concert Choir / Band
- Chamber Orchestra
- Jazz Ensemble
- String Orchestra
- Music Theory
- NYSSMA
- All County Festivals
- Suburban Council Festival
- Pep Band

# ATHLETICS



## GO GOLDEN KNIGHTS!

Averill Park offers more than 25 interscholastic athletic programs. The list of athletic offerings continues to grow as the student body expresses interest in new areas. Most recently, girls wrestling, unified bowling and unified bocce were added.

Student-athletes will find a very supportive community with a huge student section cheering them on in the stands. When they aren't competing, students are actively volunteering in the community and working hard in the classroom.

Our alumni includes Olympians, Division I athletes and a Major League Baseball star.

Each year the Athletic Hall of Fame inducts new members with a formal ceremony held to celebrate the achievements of former student-athletes. Will you be the next future star?



### Boys

Baseball  
Basketball  
Bowling  
Cross Country  
Football  
Golf  
Ice Hockey  
Lacrosse  
Soccer  
Tennis  
Outdoor Track & Field  
Indoor Track & Field  
Unified Bocce  
Unified Bowling  
Wrestling

### Girls

Basketball  
Bowling  
Cheer (Football)  
Competitive Cheer  
Cross Country  
Lacrosse  
Soccer  
Softball  
Tennis  
Outdoor Track & Field  
Indoor Track & Field  
Swimming & Diving  
Unified Bocce  
Unified Bowling  
Volleyball  
Wrestling

Mark Bubniak  
Director of Athletics

Jessica Haskin  
Athletic Dept. Secretary

Rachel Brown  
Athletic Trainer



*Named School of Excellence by NYSPHSAA for nine consecutive years!*

# Mathematics

## FUN ELECTIVES

- Sports Statistics
- Logic
- Intro to Video Game Development
- Project-based Mathematics
- Financial Math

## AP CLASSES

- AP Calculus
- AP Statistics

In the math department, you will find a dedicated group of teachers that routinely stay after school for extra help.

Teachers are forward-thinking, educating wirelessly with tablets and posting notes digitally. There is also a popular peer tutoring program.

Teachers have worked with local companies in the past to further develop their lesson plans to make them relevant to the real world. A number of teachers participated in the Questar III BOCES summer program, which partners them with area companies. Knowledge learned is now shared in the classroom.



AP Physics Students measure distances to analyze forces and calculate projectile motion during annual pumpkin launch.

# SCIENCE



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE HUDSON RIVER

Each year, biology students visit sites along the Hudson River and collect data as part of a large-scale project that includes hundreds of school districts.



## CELEBRATING THE EQUINOX

Earth and space science students measure their shadow at noon during Fall Equinox to determine their latitude.



## TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

Students get to see how trout grow, from placing eggs into the water to releasing them into a local stream.

### FIELD TRIPS

- A Day in the Life of the Hudson River water testing
- Adirondack field trip
- Physics Six Flags Field Trip - Physics Analysis of Park Rides in May

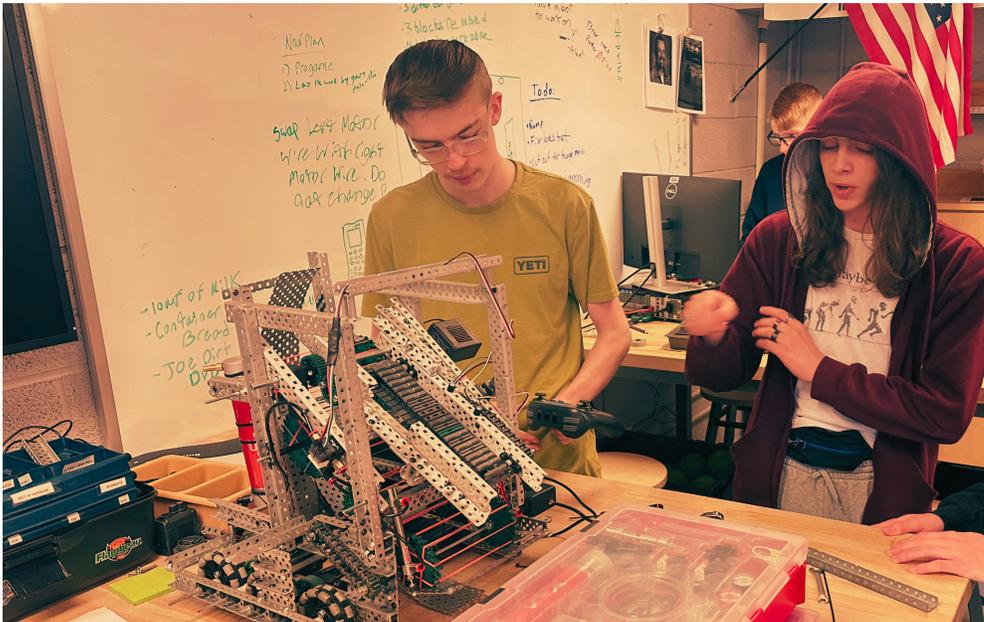
### CLASS ACTIVITIES

- Pumpkin Launching
- Marshmallow catapults
- AP Honeybees
- Crime scene analysis
- Plant sales
- Salad enterprise
- Video Production of Physics Concepts
- Making Roller Coasters, analyzing energy
- Amusement Park Ride analysis & Roller Coaster construction



# Technology

*This department celebrates the innovators and their relentless need to question the way things work.*



Instead of taking a bus each day to an outsourced CTE program, Averill Park High School has spaces for construction, auto mechanics and engineering. These spaces include fully-functional bays to work on automobiles, state-of-the-art machinery for construction projects, 3-D printers, computers for design, robotics lab, welding areas, and more.

The goal of this department is to give students a step up when it comes to entering college or the work force after graduating high school. Many of the classes in the department are offered for college credit including Topics in 2D AutoCAD (IED), Digital Electronics, Auto Tech 1, and Construction Practicum.

## PROGRAM PLANNING

### *Construction Technology*

- 1 - DDP/IED/Fundamentals of Construction
- 2 - Construction Tech 1
- 3 - Construction Tech 2
- 4 - Construction Practicum

### *Auto Mechanics Technology*

- 1 - Energy & Power
- 2 - Auto Tech 1
- 3 - Auto Tech 2

### **Project Lead the Way**

#### *Engineering Sequence*

- 1 - Intro to Engineering Design
- 2 - Digital Electronics
- 3/4 - Principles of Engineering
- 3/4 - Civil Engineering & Architecture
- 3/4 - Computer Science Principles
- 5 - Engineering Capstone



## TRACTOR RACES

Tractor races are a yearly tradition at APHS with students spending the fourth quarter working on garden tractors.

From start to finish, students in Mr. Dutcher's class fix old tractors and race them near the school on one of the final days of class.

While this is a fun activity, it teaches students about teamwork, trouble shooting, safety, small engines and mechanics.

# In-House CTE

*While many other school districts send students to vocational programs, APCSD has invested in creating its own work spaces on campus.*



Many students involved in technology programs at Averill Park CSD go on to have successful careers in engineering, construction, automotive and other areas.

The construction program culminates senior year with a community construction project where students go out in the community and work on a job site. Students gain industry-recognized skills while working with professional-grade equipment in APHS's state-of-the-art facilities.

The automotive program builds towards senior year where student's run a fully functional auto repair shop right at school.

Successful completion of a courses in Auto or Construction will qualify students to receive a Certified Technical Endorsement (CTE) Seal on their high school diploma.



## ROBOTICS CLUB

The Averill Park High School Robotics Club competes against other teams from throughout NYS. During the school year, APHS fields competitive teams that regularly compete in the State Tournament in Syracuse. The club gives students a place to explore mechanics, electronics, coding, and teamwork.



## CODING CLUB

The Averill Park High School Coding Club competes each year in the High School Programming Contest hosted by Siena College. Over the years, thousands of students—primarily from local high schools—have taken part in this event. Working in small teams for several hours, students tackle a challenging set of problems that put their programming skills and problem-solving abilities to the test.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Averill Park Special Education Department works to meet the needs of every student every day by providing individualized support and partnering with families to help each child thrive. Staff focus on academic, social, and emotional growth while creating inclusive learning environments.

The department includes special education teachers, teaching assistants, and teacher aides, along with related service providers such as physical, occupational, and speech therapists. School psychologists, counselors, and social workers offer additional social-emotional and behavioral support.

As required by federal and state regulations, the district carries out “child find” responsibilities, identifying and evaluating students who may have disabilities. When a student is referred, the Committee on Special Education (CSE) reviews evaluations and determines eligibility and services, ensuring support is provided in the least restrictive environment (LRE).



Averill Park offers a full continuum of services. Services can include general education classrooms with support, small group instruction, resource room services, specialized programs, and, when necessary, more intensive settings. The goal is to provide students with the support they need while promoting inclusion and access to the general education curriculum whenever possible. The CSE carefully considers each student’s strengths, needs, and goals to determine the most appropriate placement along this continuum.

If you suspect your preschool-aged child may have a disability, please contact the AP Preschool Office at 518-674-7068. If you have concerns about your school-aged child, contact the CSE Office at 518-674-7044. Early communication and collaboration help us ensure timely support for students.



### INTRODUCING CO-TEACHING IN OUR SCHOOLS!

**WHAT IS CO-TEACHING?**  
In a co-taught classroom, a general education teacher and a special education teacher work together all day to:

- Plan lessons
- Teach all students
- Provide individualized support
- One class, two teachers—more learning opportunities for every child!

**WHAT TO EXPECT AS A PARENT**  
Your child will:

- Be taught by both teachers
- Learn through flexible, inclusive lessons
- Follow the same high academic standards
- One classroom in each elementary school grades 2-5 will adopt this model

**STAYING CONNECTED**

- Both teachers will communicate regularly
- You'll get updates on learning and progress
- Contact your principal or director of special education with any questions

**WHAT'S CHANGING?**  
**BEFORE**  
Special education students primarily received consultant teacher support during math and ELA only

**NOW**

- Full-day instruction from TWO teachers
- Support for every subject
- Benefits for all learners—not just special education students

**WHY CO-TEACHING?**  
Averill Park CSD Mission: Every Student Every Day.

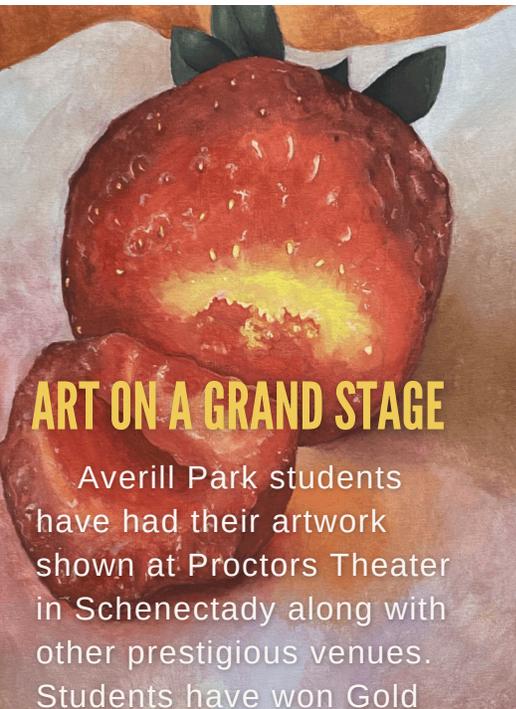
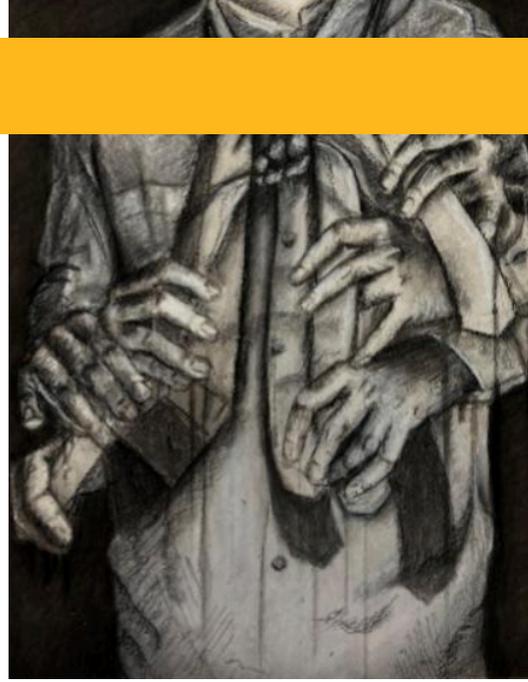
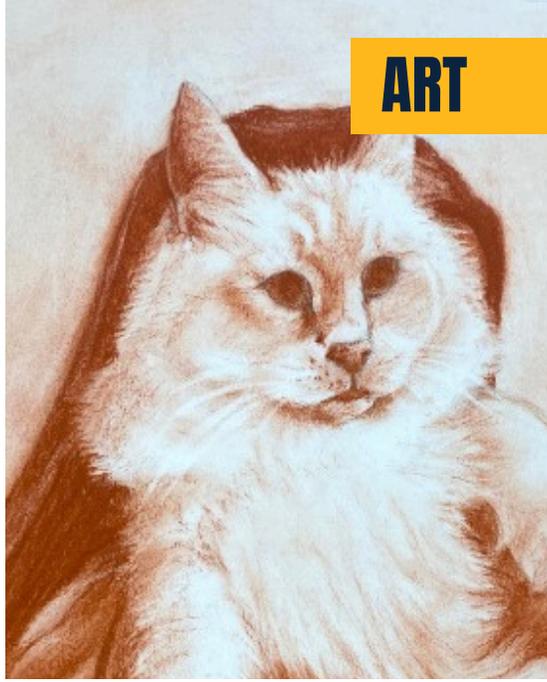
- Co-teaching helps us meet the needs of every student every day by:
  - Respecting all learning styles
  - Improving academic & social growth
  - Sharing teacher expertise
  - Creating inclusive, engaging environments

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!**  
Let's make this a year of growth, connections, and success for every student!

400 TULLY ROAD, AVERILL PARK, NY 12018 (518) 674-7000 WWW.AVERILLPARKSD.org

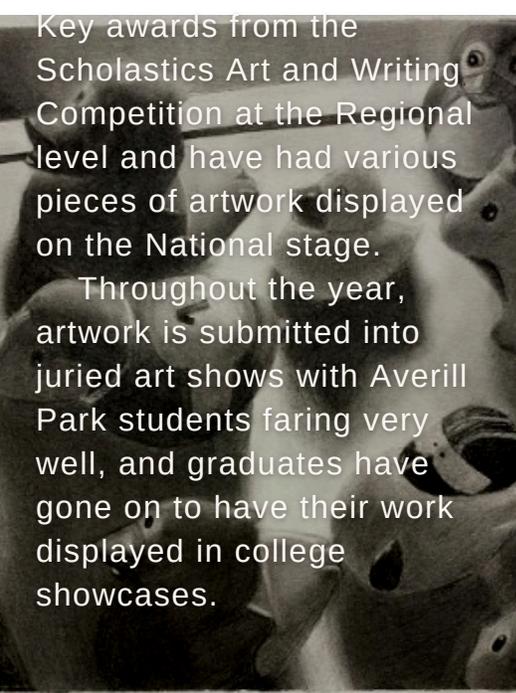


# ART



## ART ON A GRAND STAGE

Averill Park students have had their artwork shown at Proctors Theater in Schenectady along with other prestigious venues. Students have won Gold



Key awards from the Scholastics Art and Writing Competition at the Regional level and have had various pieces of artwork displayed on the National stage.

Throughout the year, artwork is submitted into juried art shows with Averill Park students faring very well, and graduates have gone on to have their work displayed in college showcases.



