

New patio at Ashworth

When Ashworth Elementary opened for students Sept. 28, the school was ready with a new patio funded by the 2019 Bond.

“We love our new patio!” said Ashworth Principal Stacy Maddoux.

The old patio at the front of Ashworth had become unsafe and unusable. Over the years parts of the patio had shifted and sunk creating lots of tripping hazards.

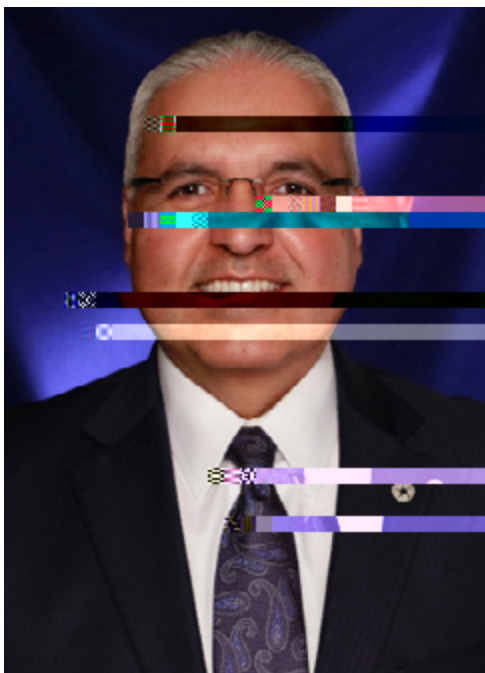
But Maddoux has good memories of that old patio. She was a young 24-year-old teacher at Ashworth when the school opened in 1996.

had a door that opened on the patio and we used the area to do bubble science, learn about weather, play, take movement breaks and more,” she said.



SEE ASHWORTH, PAGE 5

The 2019 Bond is already paying dividends at Ashworth Elementary.



A message from Dr. Cavazos

We accomplished another big milestone for the 2020-21 school year Monday when we opened our doors for students with our hybrid learning model.

evident in this issue of *MyArlington ISD*. Whether it was the new patio at Ashworth Elementary funded by the 2019 Bond or the ongoing work at our Athletics Center and Center for Visual and Performing Arts, you can literally see the progress we are making as a district on a daily basis. It was great to be able to go to the Athletics Center and see the new

That Athletics Center, funded

by the 2014 Bond, will make a difference for our students, staff and Arlington ISD community.

well our teachers have adapted to all the new apps they are using this year as part of the virtual

our technology integration and innovation department for all their work in making sure our teachers have the latest tools to use. That has led to a lot of growth and learning for our staff.

take some time to look over the information about the Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election that will be on the ballot Nov. 3.

Leading in uncertain times

Never could we have imagined that the 2020-2021 school year would start the way it has. If you had asked me about the start of school this time last year, I would have described the

jumping back into learning, providing new and innovative programs for students, collaborating with colleagues and more.

As I have thought about the start of the school year this fall, I would still say so many of the same things. Just the context has changed. Does that mean I feel less joy in my service of students and teachers? Not at all. What it does mean is that I, and all of us in Arlington ISD, have just had to learn to teach and lead in a time that requires high levels of adaptability.

As you all know, I love to read. True to form, I recently read an article published by Forbes called "Four Truths for Leading in Uncertain Times."

In this article, the author, Kathy Perkins, shares productive insights

from as we navigate our work with students and each other.

8cbh'VYwcaY'dUFU'mnYX'Vm' uncertainty

As human beings, our brains (and emotions) like and prefer predictability. We feel comfort in being able to anticipate what is to come and try to readily adapt based on that predictability.

During these uncertain times we have to lean into one another and leverage the information that we have to make the best decisions we can, even if that information is not complete.

paralyzed with indecision or inaction. This pertains not only to logistics and protocol, but also to meeting

students may have gaps in their learning or struggle as they learn new concepts. Our goal is to do all we can to understand those needs quickly and to address them in the most effective ways possible.



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With everything going on in the world, our students and families need us to be a stable force for good. Students will look to their teachers and school staff for leadership and assurance. As we navigate these times together, I encourage us all

footing.

Provide routine to your students. Be a positive force for optimism and good.

Students (and your colleagues)

provide them as they work through their own questions and potential insecurities.

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Life is ambiguous. Challenges and crises only magnify this aspect of life and shine a spotlight on it. Effective educators and leaders accept this reality and learn to move forward courageously.

As teachers, we can teach

challenges and to lean into their values, skill sets and gifts to positively impact the world around them while learning to simultaneously live themselves in the uncertain environment found in the world.

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Wise leaders understand that all situations hold both positives and negatives. There is not only one solution to all challenges. Sometimes the answer includes a "but or an and." As we embrace these contradictions, we can learn to become more

circumstances is laced with a silver lining. I can think of many positive things that have come from this most unique challenge we have all had to face together over the last six months.

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I am honored to be a part of the Arlington ISD team and to work alongside talented, optimistic and capable individuals such as you. I look forward to supporting you and our students as we embark on this unique journey. And, I have complete

challenges with great success. Arlington ISD has always always risen to the occasion and we shall again!

Dr. Steven Wurtz is the Arlington

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The technology integration and innovation department (TI²) thanks teachers and campus staff for their dedication and tremendous efforts so far this school year to engage and support remote learning via Canvas or Seesaw.

TI² staff have witnessed so much professional learning and growth between March 2020 to the present and now look forward to continuing to assist and support teachers in their instructional efforts. To that end, here are some important reminders about valuable, "endorsed" web applications available to teachers here in Arlington ISD:

Pear Deck - A wonderful engagement tool when students are learning new content that is equally useful in both remote and in-person settings. Excellent accessibility features, existing formative assessment templates, SEL templates and a vocabulary

development activity (Flashcard Factory) round out the excellent features available to all teachers in the district. <http://bit.ly/AISDpeardeck>

Screencast-O-Matic - An easy to use, web-based screencasting and video creation and editing tool. AISD teachers now have premium access to this valuable tool for teacher-created videos that are vital to providing targeted

opportunities for remote learners. <http://bit.ly/AISDomatic>

H5P - Now available to teachers in grades 3-12, the premium version of H5P allows the creation of interactives (presentations, videos, processing activities) within Canvas. Some H5P interactives can be used as Canvas assignments and will populate a grade in the

a very important tool that

allows students to self-check their understanding of new learning. <http://bit.ly/AISDh5p>

Flipgrid - A dynamic communication and collaboration platform, Flipgrid allows students to record their video or voice in order to participate in thought-provoking and teacher-driven discussions around content and SEL topics. Always being enhanced with cool feature updates, Flipgrid is available to all teachers and is integrated in Canvas.

VoiceThread - Overlooked and underutilized, VoiceThread is available to all AISD teachers through ESC 11 and is a great option to engage students in meaningful collaboration and communication with tired of Canvas discussions and Flipgrids. Think of VoiceThread as allowing

a slideshow to become interactive through the addition of student voice and video commentaries. Students can also create VoiceThreads as an authentic demonstration of their learning! <http://bit.ly/AISDvt>

Discovery Ed - Also available from ESC11, Discovery Education provides standards-aligned digital resources across most subject areas and all grade levels. Looking for a ready and vetted video for

[Discovery Ed](http://bit.ly/AISDed) is for you (and is integrated in Canvas)!

Hi aV'YVcc_g#'
TeenBook Cloud - Tumblebooks has animated eBooks and audiobooks for students in grades PK-6. Spanish and French titles are also available. TeenBook Cloud provides eBooks for grades 6-12 and includes enhanced novels and graphic novels. <http://bit.ly/AISDtumble>

OCTOBER DATES

Principals Month
Bullying Prevention Month
Walk to School Month

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Walk to School Day	Oct. 7	BUh]cbU`GW`cc`6`i`g`GUZYhm`KYY_`CWh''%-!&'	
Sam Houston High School Homecoming	Oct. 8	GY[`i]b`<][`GW`cc`<c`a`YWc`a]b[`	..	CWh''&'
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Bowie High School Homecoming	Oct. 9	Mother-In-Law-Day		Oct. 25
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Arlington ISD

Vote Approval Tax Rate Election

The Arlington ISD Board of Trustees has called for a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE) on Nov. 3, 2020. State law requires school districts to seek voter approval to raise their tax rate above a prescribed amount. Arlington ISD has never had a VATRE and its Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate has remained the same or declined in each of the past 15 years.

LEARN MORE
a.isd.net/vatre

WHY CALL A VATRE?

TEACHER PAY	ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL BONDING	STAFF PAY
Arlington ISD is ground in competitive market pay for teachers over the last several years. A VATRE would be used to increase teacher compensation.	The proposed tax rate increase would generate approximately \$10 million in state aid that the district would not receive otherwise.	the VATRE would increase pay for the support staff who provide educational support services for students, drive bus, clean and maintain schools and provide security services.

If the VATRE is approved by voters on November 3, 2020, the total tax rate would increase 0.7 cents. It would generate revenue for the district, a combination of tax revenue and state aid.

EARLY VOTING Oct. 13-30, 2020 Election Day Nov. 3, 2020

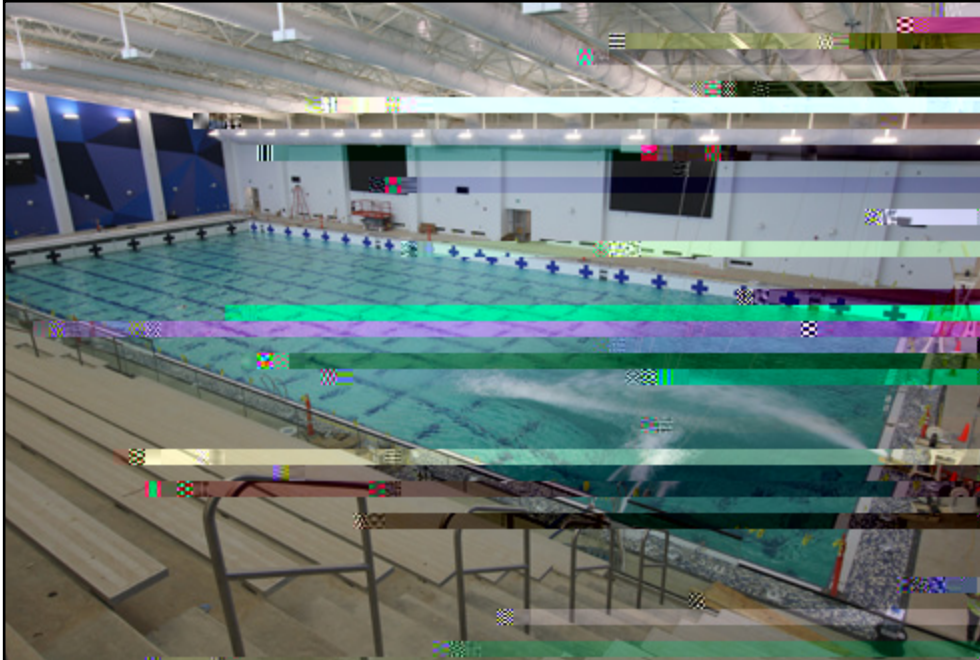
Pool full at Athletics Center

the soon-to-open Athletics Center is now full of water!

"AISD swimming has dreamed about the day when we could open our doors and welcome our swimmers to their home," said Suzanne Dangelmaier, natatorium director and aquatic coordinator. "Now that water is in the pool, we are thrilled to begin a new chapter in AISD swimming."

Arlington ISD includes the 50-meter pool with moveable bulkheads, a diving area, warm-up pool and seating for 1,000 spectators. Part of the [Athletics Center](#), a [2014 Bond](#) project, the facility includes the natatorium and an arena for basketball, volleyball, wrestling and elementary gymnastics.

Right next door to the Athletics [Center for Visual and Performing Arts](#). The CVPA is also opening this fall as the



The new facility will serve the entire district, grades Pre-K-through-12, with world-class performance and demonstration venues. It includes a 1,250-seat concert hall, 425-seat theater, classroom space, art and dance studios, instrument repair center and art gallery.

Watch this [time-lapse video](#) of the construction of both new facilities as they go from the ground up to nearly complete.

See the latest construction progress photos of the [AC](#) and the [CVPA](#).

ASHWORTH FROM PAGE 1

Built on what used to be farmland, Ashworth was one area.

recess watching the large machinery cut the streets

neighborhoods around us," she said.

After nine years at Ashworth, Maddoux moved

on and taught 14 more years at other Arlington schools. Last year, she came back to Ashworth as principal. But she was sad to see the patio could no longer be used safely.

"There were some places where it had sunk ten inches in front of the doors that enter the classrooms from the patio," she said. "It

was a tripping hazard to be sure."

Thanks to the 2019 Bond though, the old patio was demolished and replaced over the summer and is good as new again. Just the second Bond 2019 project to be completed, this is also the second new patio funded by the bond. Johns Elementary has a new

Pre-K patio, too.

"Our wonderful new patio is not only beautiful, it is safe and functional," Maddoux said. "We plan to make it an outdoor learning lab where our Pre-K and Kindergarten students can use sensory paths to develop gross motor skills and learn academics at the same time."

**Tina Baze, Specialist
Risk Management
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Arlington, TX 76013
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:UI. * ,&! , *+! (* ,&**

*****Accident*****

What to do next?

Contact supervisor.
If an emergency
response professional
is needed call 911.

Contact the risk
at 682-867-7649.

[comp packet.](#)

Completed packet
should be sent to the

in the administration
building.

When you see