Volunteers and members of the City of YOUth Leadership Council assembled about 800 orange lapel pins in support of the positive changes happening in the Youngstown City Schools. The changes are part of CEO Krish Mohip’s strategic plan to improve the school system. Supporters wear the pins to demonstrate that they back the city schools. Lapel pins as well as ribbons are available at the individual schools.

Orange ribbons to tie around trees in your front yard and pins to affix to your collar or lapel are available at the YCSD school buildings. The orange ribbons are a way to show support for the positive changes happening in the city schools. The City of YOUth Leadership Council organized the All-Out Orange Campaign and secured donations for the ribbon. The council chose orange because it represents joy, determination, creativity and success.

Recent changes in the schools include a new student code of conduct, a one student-one device initiative, all-day preschool, expanded afterschool which blends academics, sports and enrichment and improved communication with families.
After fall 2018, Youngstown City School District Athletics will be striking out on its own. “We have to do what’s best for our student athletes and at this time, that means going independent,” said Rick Shepas, chief director of performance and athletics at the city schools.

The district has been part of the All-American Conference for the last several years. Next year, though, the district wants to restart sports at Chaney High School, beginning with men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s cross country, track, baseball, softball, and men’s and women’s rugby.

Two high school teams across the district means the number of student athletes will be split across the two schools. The All-American Conference generally assigns schools to tiers based on school enrollment with the Red Tier for larger-enrollment schools and the Blue Tier for those with lower enrollment.

Despite a lower enrollment however, East, has played in the conference’s Red Tier for football and basketball with larger schools including Austintown Fitch, Boardman and Warren G. Harding.

When YCSD proposed both East and Chaney being part of the AAC, affiliate schools wanted to keep both in the Red Tier for football and basketball.

“That doesn’t give our students the chance to be competitive,” said Superintendent Joe Meranto. “Why should we be treated differently from everyone else?”

That’s when the YCSD leadership team and the coaches and faculty managers decided to go independent instead.

"For our kids to have the opportunity to compete at a level that will give us the best chance to grow athletic programs at East High School and Chaney High School, we feel this decision is in the best interests of YCSD," Shepas said.

Shepas and Meranto sent a letter Monday to AAC school affiliates formally announcing the withdrawal.

Shepas thanked All-American Conference member schools for YCSD’s conference affiliation over the last several years.
Honoring Kindness

CEO Krish Mohip recognized several members of the YCSD staff this week for their work and dedication in helping to ensure more families enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal.

Sue Paris, director of food service; Linda Hoey, chief of parent engagement; Joe Pasquale, a truck driver; and all of the parent engagement coordinators who work in Hoey’s department earned the recognition at Mohip’s Update meeting.

Hoey secured the donation of about 200 turkeys for YCSD families from 800 Comp Ohio, but she needed some place to store them. She called on Paris who offered the use of Central Kitchen where the birds stayed in cold storage until it was time for delivery.

Pasquale, who was filling in that day as a utility worker, pitched in to help load turkeys into the vehicles of the parent engagement coordinators who delivered them to the schools and the homes of the families who needed them.

The CEO thanked all of the employees for their kindness.