



CHOICES in EDUCATION

HOME EDUCATION

**HOW TO SUPPLEMENT
CLASSROOM LEARNING
AT HOME**

PAGE 10

EDUCATION TOOLS

**KIDS LEARN BEST
WHEN HAVING FUN**

PAGE 16



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From first break to endless opportunities, Macomb offers more than meets the eye

Haley Mueller may have been thinking like the accountant she wants to become by choosing Macomb Community College for its “price point,” but she, like many other students, have discovered that it offers much more.

“It has given me a different take on the world,” says Mueller, nominated by one of her business professors to attend the invite-only Inforum North American International Auto Show Breakfast for college and university students. “I would have to say the opportunities available at Macomb are endless.”

After participating in a tour of Stanley Engineered Fastening organized by Macomb’s Career Services, Jahmeen Lloyd, a student in the robotics program at Macomb’s Michigan Technical Education Center (M-TEC), agrees.

“We met with the CEO, the HR director and a few more from their leadership team,” offers Lloyd. “They spoke about their plans to hire their own in-house robotic mechanic team.”

Macomb faculty and staff are always on the lookout for learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom. It could be a visit to the opera, a shift at a soup kitchen or a Q&A with two of the most noted journalists in American history. Part of the James Jacobs Civic Engagement Project, the visit by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward of Watergate fame to Macomb made Jessica Daffin-Thompson seriously reconsider a journalism career.

“The point Woodward made about getting out there and seeing the truth for ourselves was monumental,” says Daffin-Thompson, who attended the event with her Macomb political science professor. “Woodward and Bernstein brought it home that you can actually leave your imprint on society.”

In her first social work class at Macomb, Lauren Vukovich decided that the imprint she wanted to leave was one of kindness and compassion. Although the Macomb Study Abroad program that fit perfectly into those plans was on hiatus, her social work professor made special arrangements so she could join another group of college

students at three orphanages in Kenya last summer for a volunteer experience she will never forget.

“They literally love everything about life and just radiate pure joy,” relates Vukovich. “If you are looking for a trip that completely fills your heart so much that you never want to leave, then this is it.”

For Angelo Loria, executive chef for Vince and Joe’s Gourmet Markets who earned a degree in computer engineering and worked in automotive for 10 years, the idea of “leaving” is what brought him to Macomb. He thanks his mentors in Macomb’s Culinary Arts program for making it possible.

“The chefs set us up to succeed with the right amount of passion and focus,” says Loria. “If it wasn’t for my professor getting me my first big break, I probably would still be at Ford.”

Kamaria Norwood credits Macomb’s Peer Mentoring program for her own transformation, which took her from a shy high school student to keynote speaker at Macomb’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Kamaria Norwood, shown here with her sister Halo at Macomb’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, will miss her “family” when she transfers to Central Michigan University next fall.

of Service event, an honor she earned with her winning essay.

“After being mentored myself, I became a peer mentor, and that really brought me out of my shell,” says Norwood. “It helped me build my self-esteem.”

While excited about transferring to Central Michigan University next fall, she will never forget the home she found at Macomb.

“I have a family here,” says Norwood. “This was a very good place to start my future.”

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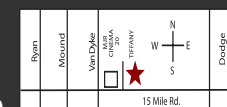
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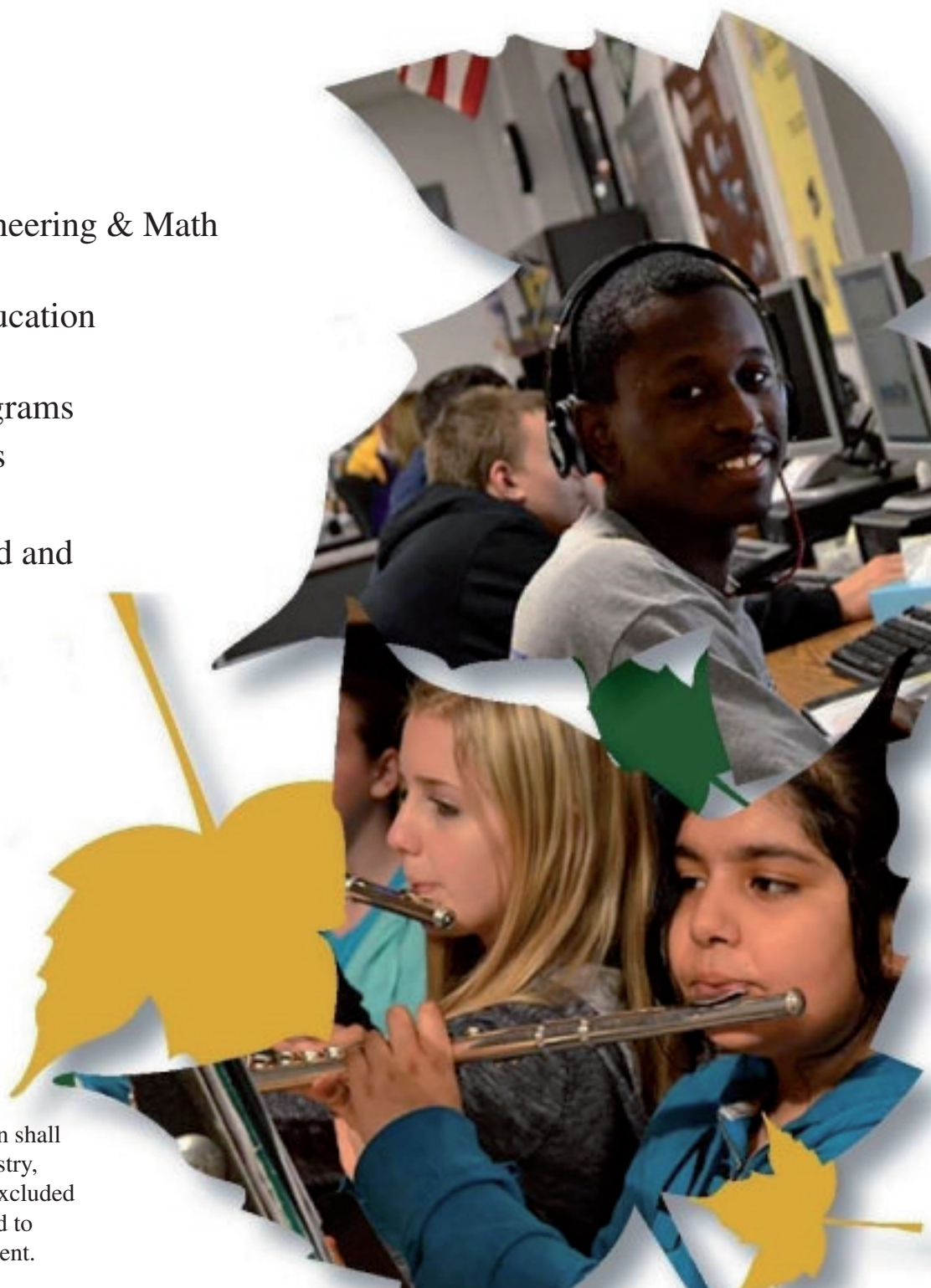
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HOME EDUCATION

How to supplement classroom learning at home

While school provides children with a wealth of knowledge, parents are often looking for ways to support a wider range of development at home.

Consider the following ideas to engage children outside the classroom.

After-School Activities

From soccer teams to science clubs to pottery class, enrolling your children in a range of after-school activities can help you identify where their talents and interests lie. It's also a great opportunity for kids to learn new things, build new skills and foster friendships in a less formal setting than the classroom. Check your community and school listings for opportunities, and then talk to your child about trying something brand new.

Interactive Technology

Kids love technology, so use that to your advantage to get them excited about learning. Featuring a curriculum designed by a team of educational experts, LeapStart 3D is a device for kids that can help them explore reading, counting, problem solving, creative think-



PHOTO COURTESY OF STATEPOINT MEDIA

ing and more through fun activities with 3D-like animations that can be played again and again.

With this tool from LeapFrog, kids ages 2-7 can engage with real books, games, stories, learn-

to-read activities, creative challenges, problem-solving puzzles, math mazes and more. Most ac-

tivities feature two levels of difficulty so that kids can play and learn at the right level and move up when they're ready. A library of compatible content covers over 50 key skills and more than 400 activities.

Historical Figure Day

Combine artistic creativity with educational facts and host a historical figure day. Invite your children and their friends to role play by creating costumes and dressing up as their favorite characters from the past. They can each take turns sharing interesting facts about their chosen figure. This is a great opportunity for kids to delve deeper into a subject of interest to them. Because the theme is so open-ended, kids will enjoy the opportunity to select what they spend time learning.

By supplementing your child's classroom learning at home and after school, you can make education more fun and engaging, helping your child meet important milestones.

Story courtesy of StatePoint Media

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Strategies parents can use to motivate students

Students may need some time to adjust at the beginning of a new school year. Summer vacations typically lack the structure of the school year, and it might be unfair to expect kids to seamlessly slip back into their more regimented lives as students.

While some early school year sluggishness might be normal, that should wear off pretty quickly. If not, and students appear to be struggling to get motivated for their schoolwork, parents can try various strategies that should

help reignite youngsters' passions for learning.

- Make your home more school-friendly. Summer is a relaxing time of year when parents have a tendency to relax rules around the house. But come the school year, parents must make sure their homes are as conducive to studying as possible. Resist the urge to turn the television on each night so students are not distracted from their studies. Keep the home quiet so students are motivated to focus on their studies.

- Encourage participation in extracurricular activities. Various studies have examined the relationship between extracurricular activities and academic performance. A 2002 study published in the journal *Sociology of Education* found that participation in extracurricular activities is associated with improved grade point average, increased college attendance and reduced absenteeism. The link between participation in extracurricular activities and improved academic per-

formance is still in need of study, but such participation may help children acclimate to the structure of the school year more quickly than they might if they do not participate in such activities.

- Encourage curious youngsters. Kids are curious, and fostering that curiosity can be a great way for parents to get their kids excited about learning. Whether it's during the school year and part of their curriculum or on summer break, encourage kids to engage in subjects

that interest them. As kids learn more about the topics and subjects that interest them, they may develop a passion for learning that they can then take with them to the classroom.

- Express an interest in the subjects children are studying. Another way to motivate students at the dawn of a new school year is to express an interest in the subjects they're studying. Ask questions about their studies and encourage them to share their thoughts and opinions. Engaging students about

the subjects they're studying can motivate them to explore those subjects more deeply than they otherwise might.

Motivating kids to be excited about their schoolwork at the dawn of a new school year can sometimes be difficult. But parents can employ various strategies that can help their children readjust to life in the classroom and motivate them to perform to the best of their abilities.

Story courtesy Metro Creative Connection



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TECHNOLOGY

New technology is transforming the classroom: what to know

As a parent, you may be wondering how technology in the classroom is being used to provide a constructive learning environment for your child.

Here is a round-up of several new technologies and a look at how each helps educators teach, and students learn.

Better Imagery

Students have a better reason to stay engaged than ever before, as better, brighter more versatile projectors are introduced into more classrooms. For example, Casio's LampFree Ultra Short Throw projectors are designed to generate large images over a very short projection distance so that they work well in classrooms of all sizes. Their optional wireless adapters give educators the ability to control the images from a smartphone or tablet through an app, so that lessons can be

more spontaneous and creative.

Events of the Day

Whether you're scoping out topics for Debate Club or bringing civics class to life with real world content, incorporating current events into lesson plans is becoming a cinch, thanks to tools like PressReader, a news aggregator that delivers full issues of thousands of publications to mobile devices, PCs and Macs that are connected to library hot zones.

Classroom On-the-Go

Thanks to new software, classroom style learning can take place anywhere. One example is Classpad.net, a free, all-in-one web-based mathematics creation and discovery resource geared for K-12 and beyond. Enabling students to learn math at their own pace,

new additions to the software include dynamically linked representations, additional types of graphing interactions, improved authoring tools, and more.

Get Moving

Even gym class is no exception to the technology upgrades that schools are seeing. Physical education teachers are fusing fun and fitness with such games as Dance Dance Revolution, Just Dance and Wii Sports. Technology is getting feet moving and helping kids improve a sports skill.

Technology has the power to engage and enthuse students. Luckily, many schools are recognizing this, and using new tools to their greatest potential.

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Important Facts

- Over 60% of Macomb High School graduates report they have earned either Associate or Bachelor Degrees five years after graduation.
- Macomb County Schools have the largest participation in the country for the National Manufacturing Day event held in October.
- Two High School International Baccalaureate Academies enroll over 1,000 students.
- Early College of Macomb, a partnership with Macomb Community College, enrolls over 700 students from all 28 high schools.
- Macomb County schools provide a continuum of programs and services for 20,000 special education students ages birth through 26.
- Macomb High School students participate in over 250 award-winning Career and Technical Programs.
- Over 110 languages are spoken in Macomb County Schools where students and families receive English Language Learner support.



For more information about Macomb Schools, go to www.misd.net

EDUCATION TOOLS

Kids learn best when having fun

A child's education begins the moment he or she is born. Little ones have a lot to learn, but you can help them to reach all their important milestones by making learning fun.

To encourage and enhance learning for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, consider the following:

Change Scenes

A change of scenery can trigger critical thinking skills. So, keep your little ones active, engaged and occupied by taking them places that will inspire curiosity, such as the library, children's museums, musical performances, the park, zoo and more. Take the time to point out letters, shapes, animals and whatever else you see, to help build vocabulary.

Be Prepared

Take advantage of downtime when you are moving from place to place. Make sure your car and day bag are packed with fun and educational distractions for kids: crayons, construction paper and books, as well as toys designed specifically for on-the-go learning, such as LeapFrog's Go-with-Me ABC Backpack. Giving kids a fun way to explore letters, spelling, phonics, writing, animals and art skills, it is carried just like a backpack and includes games and music, a drawing board and interactive LCD screen.

Squeeze in Learning

Whether it's bath time or dinnertime, there are always opportunities for fun and learning at home. During these daily activities, tell stories and jokes, sing songs and practice counting. Plus, there are plenty of waterproof books and toys



that can withstand bathtub and highchair playtime.

Transition Wisely

Select versatile learning toys that will transition as your child learns, grows and reaches milestones. For example, the Safari Learning Station is a fun activity center that transforms from the sitting stage to the crawling stage to standing, allowing children to explore first words, numbers, shapes, colors, animals and music. Likewise, Scout's Get Up & Go Walker transforms from a baby gym to a de-

tachable floor play panel to a walker. With three play modes for listening to music, playing learning games and getting active, it's a great way to introduce colors, shapes, letters and numbers and encourages children to reach out, sit up and stand.

For more early education ideas, visit leapfrog.com/learningtoys.

There's an entire world kids will want to explore when you make learning fun.

Story courtesy of StatePoint Media



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STUDENT LOANS

Tackling the high cost of student loan debt

There's no way around it: Americans are drowning in student loan debt, collectively owing \$1.5 trillion. Rising college costs mean that number isn't likely to drop much in the next few decades.

The average student borrower takes out around \$26,000 in loans over the course of a bachelor's degree — debt that's impossible to discharge in bankruptcy, difficult to have forgiven and increasingly unlikely to be fully repaid on schedule.

Here's a look at the costs of that debt and what's being done to lessen the crisis.

The Direct Cost

New research shows that student debt load is making Americans less likely to buy homes or start families, and more likely to live at home and take jobs just to make ends meet, instead of the

more lucrative positions for which their degrees prepared them.

Short-term solutions include deferring loans by returning to school, or consolidating or borrowing from private lenders, which ends up making the problem worse. For students graduating into a tight job market whose credit ratings are impacted by the amounts they owe, loan debt can remain their chief financial concern for decades.

What's more, the expanding student loan bubble could rattle the entire American economy in similar ways to the 2008 housing crisis, if borrowers default on loans in large numbers.

The Hidden Cost

The direct costs of student loan debt are obvious, but hidden costs often prevent lower-income students from pursuing the highest-value degrees.

Because the most selective, prestigious institutions are also the most expensive, those institutions are disproportionately populated by students from affluent families able to afford the burden of early-career debt. And the recent trend of "differential pricing," in which tuition costs are dictated by a student's field of study, has had an effect on enrollment in high-employment fields, potentially scaring off the students who could benefit the most from an in-demand degree.

Easing the Crisis

Organizations such as Scholarship America are working to alleviate the crisis. As the nation's largest provider of private-sector scholarships, they deliver their most direct impact by giving students funding for higher education — \$264 million last year, and more than \$4 billion



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

over its history.

The organization is also lending support to nationwide efforts to reduce dependence on student loans. They've mobilized a network of postsecondary institutions, or Collegiate Partners, that agree to not punish scholarship recipients with reductions in financial aid; and their Dreamkeepers Emergency Financial Assistance program gives students facing unexpected expenses an al-

ternative to loans. President and CEO Robert C. Ballard sits on the National Advisory Board of the College Promise Campaign, which is developing innovative public-private partnerships to help students earn their associate degrees tuition-free.

"We work with partners to incorporate mentoring, tutoring and financial literacy education into scholarship awards in an effort to help students persist and graduate rather than drop out with debt or get stuck short of a degree," said Ballard.

No single funder, college or organization will solve the student loan bubble crisis, and it won't happen overnight. But by working together, the public, private and higher education sectors can continue to reduce student loan debt.

Story courtesy of StatePoint Media

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Why vocational education is critical for many young people

In this high-tech era where a college degree is positioned as a necessity for success, vocational education is often overlooked. But experts say that a vocational education provides the right experience for many jobs that are currently vacant.

Indeed, there are 30 million jobs nationwide that don't require a Bachelor's Degree that pay an average of \$55,000 annually, according to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

Whether it's a student that doesn't fit the traditional high school-to-college path or someone who is interested in mechanics, a vocational education can prepare that

individual for a well-paying, real-world career right out of high school. Indeed, many students learn from industry professionals and participate in internships and other unique programs that serve as a springboard to careers after they graduate.

For example, over the last two decades, derelict farm equipment has provided high school-aged students with the tools they need for life through the Chevron's Delo Tractor Restoration Competition, an annual event that is open to high school-aged tractor restorers. The program provides a national platform for students interested in careers in agriculture or diesel me-

chanics on which to shine, mixing the hands-on vocational experience of restoring an antique tractor with the business skills needed to detail, manage and communicate the process. On top of valuable experience and national exposure at industry events, the Delo Grand Champion receives a \$10,000 prize.

The process of restoring an antique tractor to like-new condition involves commitment, determination, teamwork, project management, budgeting, planning and even a little marketing. It's a very hands-on experience and those familiar with the program say that participants come out prepared for

the real world.

"I can't count the number of kids that have been exposed to excellent career opportunities through this program," says Rick Elmore, career and technology education coordinator at Dubiski Career High School. "I have been an advisor and mentor to participants in the competition for over a decade and have seen the impact it can have on their lives."

Indeed, many participants have gone on to careers in mechanics, or have used the experience to launch them into careers outside of agriculture or mechanics.

"The vocational aspects of the Delo event provided critical context that led to my study of automotive restoration at McPherson College," says Tabettha Salsbury Hammer, two-time competition winner ('03 and '04) and the first female to win the event. "The business skills helped prepare me for a career in the classic car industry. To say this event changed my life would be an understatement."

For those interested in a vocational education, such programs abound, representing a number of industries and careers. It's only a matter of learning more about these opportunities.

So, whether you have an aptitude for mechanics or you are not sure if a traditional four-year college degree is the right path for you, visiting the career center at your school as well as looking into vocational internships, programs and competitions, can expand your horizons about what's possible for your future.

Story courtesy of StatePoint Media

FINANCIAL AID

How to find and apply for college scholarships

Savvy students and families know that scholarships can play an integral role in meeting college costs.

To help students and families find and apply for scholarships, Sallie Mae, the nation's saving, planning, and paying for college company, is offering six tips:

- Get an early start. Apply for scholarships your junior year of high school and every year in college. Approximately 50 percent of available scholarships are for students already enrolled in college. There are also many scholarships available for graduate school.

- Don't miss out. To qualify for \$150 billion in financial aid, including scholarships, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Schools use the FAFSA to put together financial aid packages, states use it to determine eligibility for state aid, and it's required for many scholarship applications. Some aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, or from programs with limited funds, so the earlier families fill out the FAFSA, the better.

- Remember, not everything is a deal. Never pay for scholarships and be wary of "guaranteed" money. Don't be lured in by sites or organizations that charge a fee to access scholarship applications. School counselors and school financial aid offices can recommend reputable options.

- Even small savings count. Many scholarships may just be for a few hundred dollars, but these can add up and can be used for a variety of college expenses. Apply for as many as possible — you'll be surprised how much you can earn.

- Take advantage of

doorbusters. Some scholarships awards are as easy as showing up and registering. Sallie Mae, for example, offers a \$1,000 monthly sweepstakes for those who sign up for its free college planning tools.

- Keep an eye out for unique gifts. Scholarships are not limited to athletics and academics. There is free money for college for just about any interest, including awards for left-handed students, skateboarders, and bakers.

To find additional tips and to register for Sallie Mae's Scholarship Search, home to 5 million scholarships collectively worth more than \$24 billion, or the recently launched Graduate School Scholarship Search, home to 850,000 graduate school scholarships worth more than \$1 billion, visit www.salliemae.com. After filling out a brief profile, students are matched with relevant scholarships, their award amounts, application requirements, and deadlines. The tool automatically sends updates when it identifies new matches.

"Scholarships are one of the most prevalent funding sources families use to help pay for college," said Martha Holler, senior vice president, Sallie Mae. "The key is knowing where to find them, and how to apply."

Story courtesy of StatePoint Media

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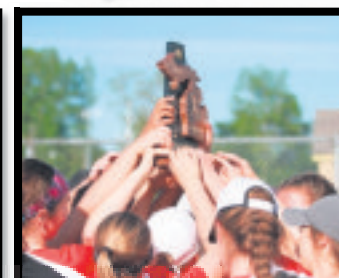
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- Small Class Sizes: Average K-2 class size is 22, average 3-5 class size is 26
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- 5th Grade Band Program

Anchor Bay Middle Schools offer:

- Junior Honors Academy with Classes in Math, English, Science, & Social Studies
- STEM/PLTW classes include: App Creators, Engineering in Action, Medical Detectives, Green Architecture, and Energy & the Environment
- Earn High School Credit in Full-Year Spanish & Algebra
- 8th Grade Air Force JROTC Leadership Program
- Full Sports Program (No Pay-to-Play Fees)
- Award Winning Band & Vocal Music Program
- 6th-8th Student Activity Clubs

Anchor Bay High School offers:

- AP Honor Roll Since 2016 - Only school in Macomb County
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- 52 Competitive Team Sports (No Pay-to-Play Fees) & New Turf Athletic Field
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-  Highlights for high schoolers include award-winning **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** opportunities, **free online and traditional college courses** through Macomb Community College, and opportunities to participate in a wide variety of **sports and extracurricular activities**.
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UM-Flint's New Degree Programs Meet Modern Demands

GREEN CHEMISTRY

Had the principles of green chemistry been practiced when fire-retardant PFAS chemicals were originally developed, Michiganders may not be reading headlines about their pervasiveness and potential harm today. Graduates of UM-Flint's new bachelor's degree program in green chemistry — the only program of its kind in the state — are trained in cutting-edge principles that result in safer, healthier and more sustainable chemical products and processes.

SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND INTERVENTION

The opioid crisis is devastating lives the world over. UM-Flint offers Michigan's only online bachelor's degree in substance use treatment and intervention. Program graduates possess the knowledge and skills to help those suffering from addiction and to provide substance use treatment in a variety of clinical settings.

RN TO BSN

To meet today's healthcare challenges, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have called for an increase in the number of BSN-prepared nurses. UM-Flint's School of Nursing has designed its RN to BSN program to help meet this demand for a highly educated nursing workforce. The program is online, flexible, and intended for the working RN who seeks to advance their education, career, and service to patients.

HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

As Michigan's population gets older, demand for health care services is increasing, making the training of empathetic, ethical and effective health care administrators a top priority. For those seeking to affect this trend, the online format of UM-Flint's bachelor's degree in health care administration delivers a convenient, world-class education, resulting in professional success, personal advancement and patient well-being.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT

Flint is a hub of entrepreneurial energy. UM-Flint's School of Management has been at the forefront of this movement, serving as the home of the Hagerman Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and establishing a bachelor's of business administration degree with the same focus. Ideally situated to leverage other key resources and partnerships, such as the University Center for Community and Economic Development and University Outreach's two Innovation Incubator locations, UM-Flint's globally recognized business educators have created a program perfect for those with big dreams and ideas.

Our personal best. Every day. No exceptions. No excuses.

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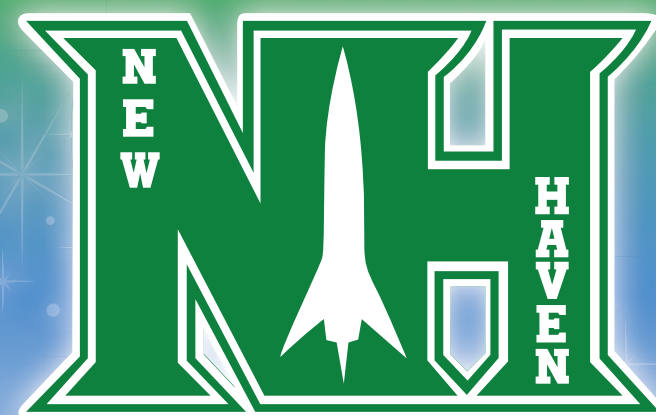
New Haven Community Schools

Empowering Students to Change the World



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A few Reasons to Choose..... New Haven Community Schools

- New Haven High School was awarded the 2018 Bronze Medal by U.S. News and World Report as one of the best high schools.
- Endeavour Elementary and Middle School is a K-8 school offering comprehensive educational programs for Young 5's to 8th grade
- Free full-day Young 5's program at both New Haven Elementary and Endeavour Elementary with busing for resident students!
- After school clubs and enrichment programs for K-12 students.
- Comprehensive Academic Support at NHHS - Academic Center class daily and Afterschool Tutoring four days a week
- Travel experiences are offered for students in grades 6-12.
- World Language offering - American Sign Language program at NHHS (Grades 8-12)
- Research based reading and math intervention programs for elementary and middle school students
- On-site University Center at NHHS - Lawrence Tech Univ. and MCC classes
- Early College Macomb program - earn an Associate's Degree while in high school
- Career and Technical Education programs - Auto, Medical Careers, Sports Medicine, Graphic Design, Business/Marketing and more
- Award winning athletic programs.
- State of the art technology in all buildings
- AP courses at the high school.
- Enhanced Trimester Elective Program for grades 6-8 (Academic Extension Courses)
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- Most students will earn an industry certification at graduation
- Academies include:
 - 9th grade Academy
 - Business, Entrepreneurship and Innovation
 - Design, Engineering and Manufacturing
 - Health, Human and Public Services



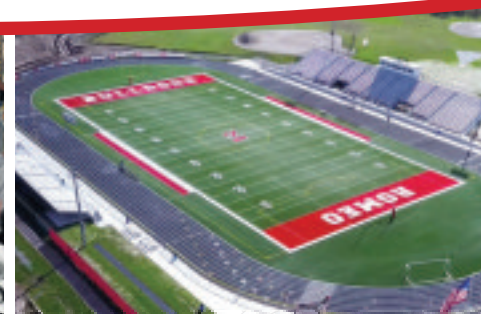
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What sets Romeo Community Schools apart

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- STEM-focused learning offered at all education levels
- Modern and updated facilities to enhance the student experience
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