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Schools**  
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# Macomb Intermediate School District: Helping Students with Disabilities Succeed

The Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) serves 21 public school districts in Macomb County. It is the largest ISD in Michigan that provides direct services to students with special needs. The MISD's primary role is to provide leadership for special education programs and services affecting approximately 19,000 students challenged by needs that make them eligible for special education. These needs arise from physical, cognitive or emotional disabilities making it difficult for the students to meet academic standards without additional assistance and services. The MISD takes pride in providing a continuum of services and programs to local districts and students with diverse needs. Programs and services range from assistance to students within their own district classrooms to the operation of special schools and programs. Each year, the MISD celebrates students in its Center Programs for their success in applying skills learned in the classroom to other areas of life. Here are a few stories of students in the MISD Center Programs that represent the "I Can Do That" spirit.

**Morgan McDonald** represents the "I Can Do That" spirit at Lutz School for Work Experience. Morgan is outgoing, energetic, takes great pride in all her accomplishments and has a vision for her future. Morgan's dream to get a job became a reality in 2018, when she gained competitive employment at

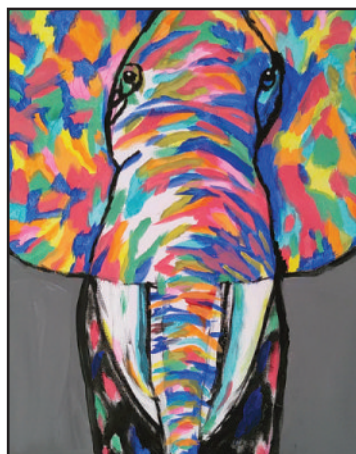


Lutz School student Morgan McDonald boards the SMART bus.

Walmart. With assistance from Career Directions, Inc., Morgan applied, interviewed and was hired in the home line and apparels department where she organizes merchandise and clothing. She is courteous and polite to all customers and gets along well with her supervisor. Morgan has made many friends at Walmart.

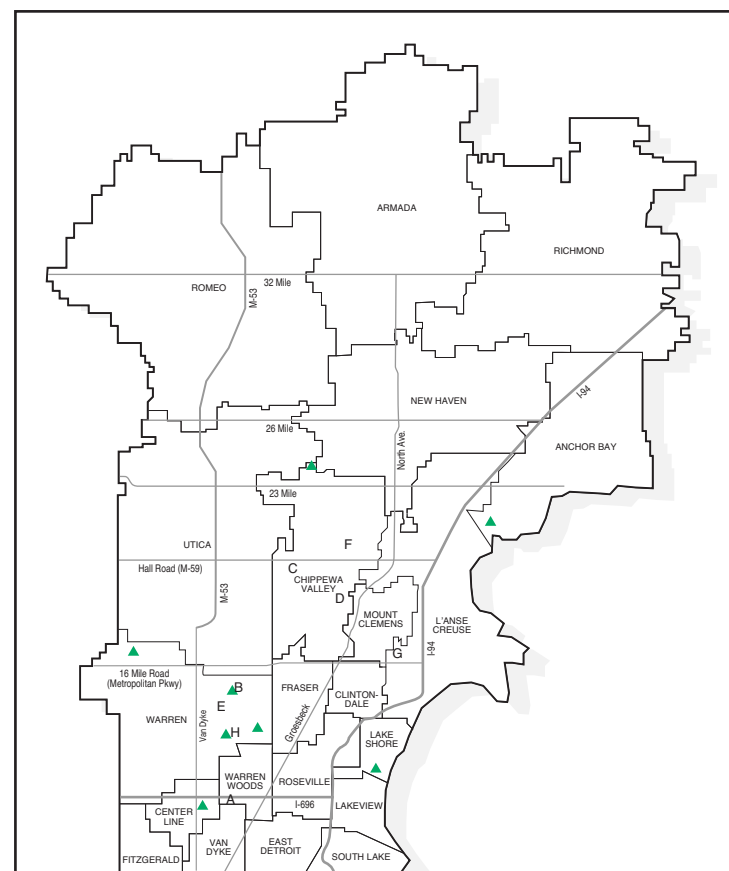
As a Lutz School Community Transition student, Morgan has blossomed over the past year and is independent in many life roles. She calls, schedules and travels independently on SMART Public Connectors. Morgan measures up to the challenge while advancing her mobility skills in the community. Morgan is a role model for other students and enjoys sharing details about her work with others. Morgan looks forward to her 2019 Completion from Lutz! Her confidence, determination,

and success truly embodies the Macomb Intermediate School District's "I Can Do That" spirit! Continue to shine!



Painting by student Brett Natzke.

When I think of "I Can Do That" spirit, I think of **Brett Natzke**. Brett is a 20 year old student who has recently transitioned into an MISD Post-Secondary AI building. Brett has made many great



## Macomb Intermediate School District

- A. Keith Bovenschen School
- B. John A. Bozymowski Center for Education
- C. Educational Service Center
- D. Robert G. Lutz School for Work Experience
- E. Maple Lane Elementary School
- F. Glen H. Peters School
- G. Neil E. Reid High School
- H. Rockwell Middle School
- ▲ Sites with Autistic Impaired Programs

strides and improvements over the course of these past nine months. Brett has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and is deaf, which makes building relationships and communication difficult. This year, he truly has "broken out of his shell." He started the year off unwilling to communicate with staff or peers. Through lots of hard work, Brett has now found his calling. Brett's mother informed us of his artistic abilities and decided he should enter his paintings into the school talent show. From that moment, everything changed! Brett became eager

to come to school and work on his paintings. He has formed a close relationship with staff, talking to them, confiding in them and always lending a helping hand. Brett has started to communicate with peers and staff around the building by using written text and visuals. He has begun taking requests for painting and is starting his own business. He has recently expressed a desire to obtain a job and has had the opportunity to practice vocational skills at a job placement near his home. The best has just begun! Congratulations Brett!



## MISD

# MISD provides top-notch services for families, children with disabilities

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

The goal of any Intermediate School District (ISD) is to serve the schools within its boundaries, which is often within a specific county. An ISD provides services and programs that benefit everyone involved in education, from teachers and administrators to students and families.

The Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) provides leadership in all areas impacting education. It operates school centers that deliver services to special education students with moderate to severe disabilities. MISD also offers instructional support to school employees, assisting with curriculum development and other leadership areas.

"We offer a full continuum of services," said Justin Michalak, assistant superintendent for Special Education & Student Services.

The MISD is the largest ISD in Michigan that offers services directly to students and their families. It serves the 21 public school districts, charter schools and private/parochial schools in Macomb County, touching more than 140,000 students, including 19,000 who need special education services.

Special education addresses the needs of children from birth to age 26 with physical, developmental or emotional disabilities who may require additional attention, support materials, hands-on care or specialized equipment to learn, grow and thrive.

"Our MISD team is caring and compassionate, giv-



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Macomb Intermediate School District, visit [www.Misd.net](http://www.Misd.net) or call (586) 228-3300. Among its Center Schools and services are:

- Autism Impaired Program, (586) 698-4014
- Keith Bovenschen School, (586) 757-7880
- Lutz School for Work Experience, (586) 286-0230
- Maple Lane School, (586) 977-9170
- Neil Reid High School, (586) 469-1590
- Glen H. Peters School, (586) 465-6251
- Rockwell Middle School, (586) 939-2290

ing support to families and helping them navigate the steps to services they are entitled to," he said.

A disability can include autism, deafness, blindness, learning disabilities, developmental delays, emotional disturbances, chronic health conditions, physical disabilities, speech or language impairments and more. The MISD employs social workers, occupational therapists, teachers, transportation specialists, paraprofessionals, speech therapists, psychologists, literacy consultants and others so children receive the support they need.

Early intervention is key. Students can be referred to the MISD Assessment Center by their teacher or doctor, or parents can call directly, if they have a concern about their child's development. Once assessments are completed, staff and parents meet to determine the best course of action.

"Every student is unique," said Michalak. "We're here to help with questions about programs and services a child may need. We want to do what is best for our students and families."

The Macomb Infant Preschool Program (MIPP) is for students birth to age 3. It offers early intervention services utilizing a variety of play-based techniques, including group play therapy and parent workshops.

Special education students can receive services from their local school districts or the MISD, which has specialized schools and centers designed for children with medical needs, severe autism and cognitive or emotional impairments.

Transportation to center programs is provided directly through the MISD. Buses are equipped to board children with wheelchairs and, in addition to the driver, a bus may have a transportation aide who is trained to handle medical



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MACOMB INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel visits with a student at Keith Bovenschen School.

procedures. Transportation is a vital piece of the puzzle, said Michalak.

The MISD also often puts families in touch with community resources that can assist them with various other needs their family may have.

Older students receive assistance with career training and life skills, such as learning how to navigate the bus system. The Students Transitioning Effectively Post High School (STEP) program is designed for individuals ages 18-26 with mild to moderate impairments who have not earned a high school diploma. If needed, families also receive referrals and help with transitioning into adult programs as well.

In addition to providing academic support, the MISD is charged with handling administrative services, which includes working with the Michigan De-



partment of Education, collecting assessment data, staff training, coordinating grants, investigating compliance and making connections with area agencies.

The MISD also supports Macomb County school districts with the education of

students with disabilities. Its staff provides trainings and information to educators and administrators who work with families on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Regular reviews of IEPs help families establish future goals and track student progress.



## ANCHOR BAY

# Anchor Bay students ready to take on the world after graduation

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

Preparing today's students for a dynamic world stage is a daunting task, but it is one that the Anchor Bay School District is up to tackling.

Following its mission, "empowering all students to succeed in an ever changing world," the district has implemented several unique programs that promote not only knowledge and learning, but also character, leadership and teamwork.

The result is a well-rounded graduate eager to learn, relentless in developing solutions and willing to collaborate with others and step into a leadership role.

"We want students to be college and career-ready by the time they graduate," said Leonard Woodside, superintendent of Anchor Bay. "Our K-12 program provides a rigorous and challenging curriculum and prepares students to enter college, a career, trade schools or the military."

These programs including Junior ROTC, Project Lead the Way, Career and Technical Education and Honors Academy challenge students by providing them with different perspectives and experiences. However, it also bonds them, as being with a group of peers working towards similar goals reinforces their confidence and gives them the courage to stretch their boundaries.

"It further engages them in the learning process and forms connections with others," he said.

The district's Air Force Junior ROTC Leadership Academy is one of only three left in the state, said Woodside. The academy, throughout its four-



year curriculum, promotes good character and community involvement. Lessons vary daily so students learn to adapt to different teaching methods. They are also given leadership roles and are very active in the community, generously volunteering their time on various projects, including the presentation of flags at school events.

The district has a K-12 Project Lead the Way and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program which gives all students the opportunity to learn and apply their knowledge to real-world applications. At the high school level, PLTW Engineering program places students into the role of engineer. They are given real problems and asked to use their knowledge and leadership skills to develop creative solutions. Oftentimes their solutions become reality, creating young people who make a difference in their communities instead of simply wishing there was something they could do.

Anchor Bay is a partner provider, offering five Project Lead the Way Engineering courses at the high school level. Upon successful completion of the class and a test, students can earn college credit at Macomb Community College and even scholarships to Lawrence Technological University for grades of a B or better.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

To learn more about the Anchor Bay School District, visit [AnchorBay.misd.net](http://AnchorBay.misd.net) or call (586) 725-2861. The Anchor Bay School District includes:

- Ashley Elementary School, 52347 Ashley St., New Baltimore
- Great Oaks Elementary School, 32900 24 Mile Road, Chesterfield Twp.
- Lighthouse Elementary School, 51880 Washington St., New Baltimore
- Lottie Schmidt Elementary School, 33700 Hooker St., New Baltimore
- Maconce Elementary School, 6300 Church Road, Ira
- Naldrett Elementary School, 47800 Sugarbush St., New Baltimore
- Sugarbush Elementary School, 48400 Sugarbush St., New Baltimore
- Middle School North, 52805 Ashley St., New Baltimore
- Middle School South, 48650 Sugarbush St., New Baltimore
- Anchor Bay High School, 6319 County Line Road, Fair Haven
- Compass Pointe Learning Center, 51518 Industrial Drive Unit H, New Baltimore
- Early Childhood Center and SACC, 52680 Washington, New Baltimore
- Aquatic Recreation Center, 52401 Ashley, New Baltimore

Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes focus on general employability skills, as well as specific career-related education. These students experience work-based learning from experts in the industry, field trips, guest speakers, job shadowing and internships.

Anchor Bay School District offers 16 CTE pathways, including auto maintenance and light engine repair, horticulture, finance, medical education, construction trades, and cybersecurity.

Honors Academy is an option students can apply for in the eighth grade. It is a separate academy within the high school that offers advanced core content for motivated and capable students. Those who choose to participate are intentionally seeking a more rigorous and challenging learning environ-

ment.

Honors Academy graduates receive a special designation on their diploma.

Success in high school begins with a solid elementary and middle school foundation and opportunities for students to explore enrichment and athletic activities. Anchor Bay's elementary and middle schools offer an engaging curriculum that meets or exceeds all state standards. Mandarin is offered from kindergarten to fifth grade, middle schools offer Jr ROTC and Jr Honors Academy, foreign language and award winning band, choir and performing arts classes. All elementary and middle schools offer a positive behavior support system (PBIS).

However, as Woodside says, success doesn't happen alone. Thanks to community partnerships and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANCHOR BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Anchor Bay High School marching band.



Following its mission, "empowering all students to succeed in an ever changing world," the district has implemented several unique programs that promote not only knowledge and learning, but also character, leadership and teamwork.

support for the \$22.5 million 2017 bond issue, Anchor Bay has taken on a number of infrastructure, construction and technology projects.

In 2018, the first projects focused on technology and transportation. New teacher workstations were installed and six new buses were purchased. During the summer of 2018, the district took on some larger construction projects, including a new synthetic turf

athletic field at Anchor Bay High School and upgrades to the Aquatic Center.

This summer, the projects continue with playground upgrades and new kitchen equipment at some elementary schools, paving projects and roof replacements. New running track surfaces also were installed at Middle School South, and Middle School North, and the tennis courts at the high school received upgrades as well.





# INSPIRING, CHALLENGING, & EMPOWERING *All Students to Succeed*

## Anchor Bay Elementary Schools offer:

- Full and Half Day Kindergarten Options
- Small Class Sizes: Average K-2 class size is 22, average 3-5 class size is 26
- Math and Literacy Intervention Specialists at Every Building
- K-5 Art, Music, Mandarin, Physical Education, and Technology Classes
- K-5 Project Lead the Way STEM Classes
- 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 2016 - 2018 - Only school in Macomb County
- Advanced Opportunities in our Honors Academy including 9 Advanced Placement Courses
- 52 Competitive Team Sports (No Pay-to-Play Fees) & New Turf Athletic Field
- Award Winning Theatre, Art, Band, Vocal Music, and JROTC Programs
- Foreign language courses in French, Spanish, and German
- 16 Career Technical Education Programs
- PLTW Engineering College Program & Women in Engineering Cohort



**EMPOWER YOUR STUDENT TO SUCCEED - APPLY TODAY!**

**Visit [www.anchorbay.misd.net](http://www.anchorbay.misd.net) or call 586-725-2861 for details.**

Find us on social media: **Facebook** @ABTarSpirit, **Instagram** ABTarSpirit, and **Twitter** @TarSpirit



## ARMADA

# Armada Area Schools: A small town district celebrating big achievements

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

Thanks to a variety of innovative programs and a community committed to providing its students a quality education, Armada Area Schools is a place for children to explore their interests, grow their knowledge and build a foundation for a lifetime filled with learning experiences.

"We have created a real family environment and enjoy great support from our community," said Superintendent Michael Musary. "We're a small school district with big goals for our students."

This is evident by Armada's long list of achievements. For the past two years, Armada High School has been ranked the top high school in Macomb County according to the Michigan Department of Education.

The district was also named to the 9th Annual Advanced Placement (AP) District Honor Roll, based on its increases in access to Advanced Placement® courses and the number of AP students who maintained or improved the rate of their scores, earning a 3 or higher on standard AP exams. Armada Area Schools was one of 373 school districts from across the United States and Canada and the only in Macomb County to earn the distinction.

These are a couple of big honors for a district that serves 1,800 students with a graduating class of approximately 150 each year. Armada Area Schools includes Krause Elementary School, Armada Middle School and Armada High School. All three schools are located on the same campus.

"We're proud to be connected," said Musary. "We have lots of older students

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Armada Area Schools, visit ArmadaSchools.org or call (586) 784-4268. Armada Area Schools includes:

- Krause Elementary School, 23900 Armada Center Road, Armada
- Armada Middle School, 23550 Armada Center Road, Armada
- Armada High School, 23655 Armada Center Road, Armada

who mentor elementary students in reading."

Armada students can participate in the Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Middle Academy of Arts and Sciences as well. Located just a few blocks away from the main campus, students are selected to attend the academy based on their interest and potential to achieve in math and science subjects.

People in Armada, a bedroom community located within 80 square miles, support the success of its students and the district as a whole. Here's a look at a few points of pride:

- Armada has been named a "2018 and 2019 Best Communities for Music Education" by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM)

- The Armada trap team, which began participating in the Michigan State High School Clay Target League in 2016, won the 2019 state championship

- Armada's preschool program received a five star rating from the Great Start to Quality. The preschool curriculum focuses on learning and readies young students for the K-12 experience

- Armada High School's Fighting Pi Robotics Team won two 2019 FIRST Robotics District Competi-

tions and were state champions in 2016

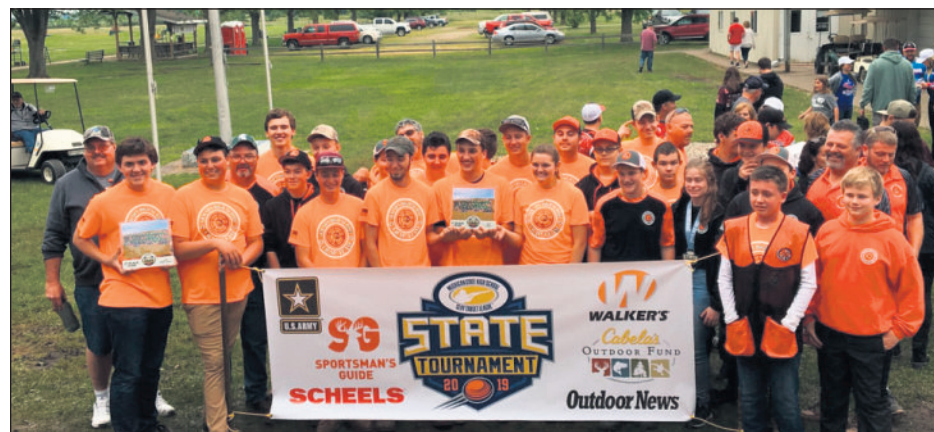
Technology is an important part of the daily learning experience at all schools. A \$4.1 million technology bond approved by voters in 2015 allowed the district to make several improvements, including new computers and Chromebook carts for students, security cameras and new servers.

Armada students are exposed to a number of unique and valuable learning opportunities designed to prepare them for future careers within the CTE program. District voters approved a \$6.6 million bond proposal in 2017 which helped fund an expansion of the culinary arts program, part of the district's slate of Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, which also includes construction trades, health occupations and emergency medical technician. The heavy machine operator and automotive technology programs are held at Richmond and Romeo, respectively.

Nearly 96% of students attend college or trade school and the vast majority receives scholarships to do so. Students are introduced to all kinds of career avenues, beginning in the fourth and fifth grades.

To assist in career exploration and preparation, Armada joined forces with Center Line and Fraser to form the Macomb Classroom to Careers Talent Consortium. The consortium applied for - and received - Michigan Marshall Plan grant monies. Funds are being used to develop a system that integrates career experiences and preparation from preschool through adult education thanks to close partnerships with post-secondary institutions and employers.

# ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS

The Armada trap team, which began participating in the Michigan State High School Clay Target League in 2016, won the 2019 state championship.



The Armada High School weight room expansion is part of a \$6.6 million bond proposal voters approved in 2017.



Armada Area Schools voters approved a \$6.6 million bond proposal in 2017 which helped fund an expansion of the district's slate of Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, which includes construction trades, culinary arts, health occupations and emergency medical technician.



## Achievement

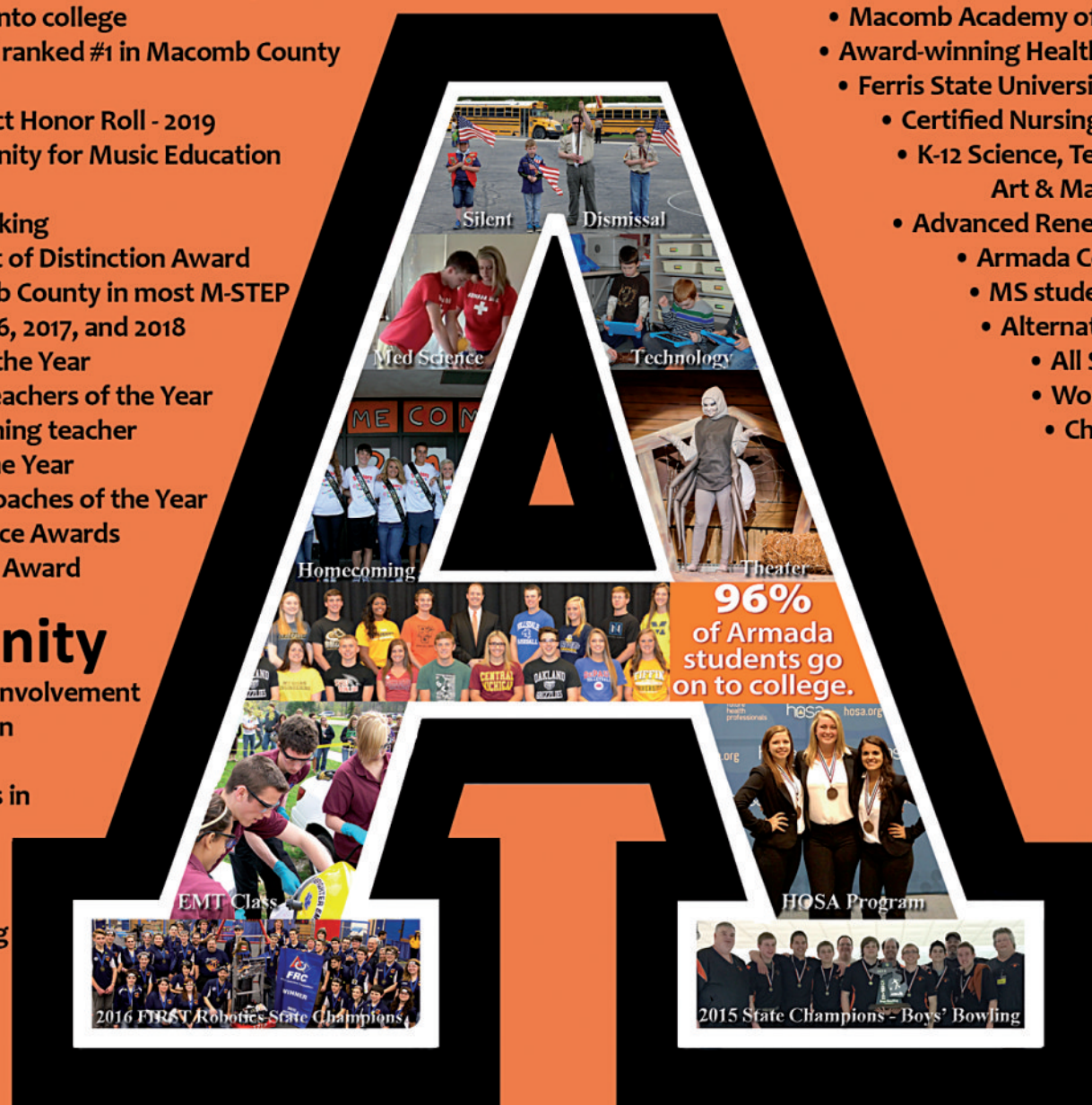
- Highest graduation rate in Macomb County
- 96% of students go onto college
- Armada High School ranked #1 in Macomb County in 2018 & 2019
- 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll - 2019
- NAMM Best Community for Music Education 2018 & 2019
- 5-Star Preschool Ranking
- 2015 National District of Distinction Award
- Ranked #1 in Macomb County in most M-STEP categories - 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018
- 2 State Principals of the Year
- 3 Macomb County Teachers of the Year
- 1 Milken Award Winning teacher
- 3 State Coaches of the Year
- 6 Macomb County Coaches of the Year
- 9 Education Excellence Awards
- 2013 Michigan's Best Award

## Community

- High level of parent involvement
- Close-knit, small town environment
- Mentoring programs in all grades
- Positive, welcoming atmosphere
- Personalized learning with updated technology
- Small class sizes

## Innovation

- Armada Middle Academy of Arts & Sciences
- Macomb Academy of Arts & Science (MA S)
- Award-winning Health Occupations Program
- Ferris State University Early College Classes
  - Certified Nursing Assistant Certification
  - K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math (STEAM) curriculum
- Advanced Renewable Energy Program
- Armada Conservatory of the Arts
- MS students can earn HS credits
- Alternative education program
  - All Schools NCA accredited
  - World travel opportunities
  - Champion robotics teams at elementary, middle, and high school levels
  - Career Internships
  - 11 AP Classes



**A** **ARMADA**  
AREA SCHOOLS

**The Armada Advantage: Achievement - Community - Innovation**

Visit [www.ArmadaSchools.org](http://www.ArmadaSchools.org) for information about our Schools of Choice program or call 586.784.2112 to arrange a tour.



## CENTER LINE

# All students find their own place at Center Line Public Schools

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

At Center Line Public Schools, student-centered learning isn't the latest trend, it's a way of life.

The district works with educators, employers and community leaders to develop graduates with leadership qualities, who have the ability to work collaboratively and know how to apply their classroom knowledge to college and work situations.

"We can't look at academics in isolation," said Superintendent Eve Kaltz. "We are the launch pad for a viable future for our students. We introduce them to the what 'could be.'"

At Center Line, that plan utilizes a variety of resources, including team teaching, career academies and career technical education (CTE) classes. CTE classes are available to Center Line students, both at the high school and as part of the Southwest Macomb Technical Education Consortium, in the areas of Health Sciences; Business, Management and Marketing; Arts and Communication; Human Services; and Engineering, Manufacturing and Industrial Tech.

The goal is to show students how the concepts they learn and the characteristics they develop in school translate into future success.

What's important, said Kaltz, is looking at each student's strengths and talents, informing them of what educators are asking them to do and then showing them how what they are learning now fits into their future plans.

The district is working toward becoming a Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) community, joining a national network of schools which prepares students for future careers by integrating academics with relevant job skills. It brings together employers and educators to focus on challenges students will face in the future job market.

The Academies of Center Line include:



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the district or the Academies of Center Line High School, visit [Clps.org](http://Clps.org) or call (586) 510-2100. Center Line Public Schools includes:

- The Early Childhood Center, 24580 Cunningham St., Warren
- Crothers Elementary School, 27401 Campbell St., Warren
- Peck Elementary School, 11300 Engleman St., Warren
- Roose Elementary School, 25310 Masch St., Warren
- Wolfe Middle School, 8640 McKinley St., Center Line
- Center Line High School, 26300 Arsenal Road, Center Line
- Academy 21 Hybrid School, 26334 Arsenal Road, Center Line

- 9th Grade Academy
- Academy of Industry, Technology and Innovation
- Academy of Health and Human Services

The 9th Grade Academy helps students make the transition to high school. It can be a critical year, said Kaltz, and getting freshmen on a positive path, involved in school activities with the support they need to plan for their future, leads to a successful high school experience.

The Career Academies teach core academics like science and math, but the lessons and discussion within those subjects are geared to a specific career path students are interested in. The academies don't require students to pick a career at a young age. Instead, they apply concepts in ways that interest students, making lessons

more engaging and relevant.

"We look at ways it fits into their future. By looking at integrating their strengths and talents in areas where students feel successful, we give them the tools they need to make an informed decision," said Kaltz.

During their academy experiences, students have opportunities to job shadow, visit vocational programs and hear presentations by local business leaders. They can take part in internships and earn industry certifications.

Academy 21 is another option for student-centered learning. It is a hybrid program that combines the best of virtual learning with hands-on labs in a supportive environment that allows students to explore and learn at their own pace while still meeting or exceeding grade expectations. Center Line's methods are transformative and preparation begins early in the learning process. Elementary teachers are employing more project-based lessons, offering students additional hands-on learning opportunities to supplement the curriculum. Each of the three elementaries – Crothers, Peck and Roose – have active robotics programs, as well as leadership opportunities and extra supports to ensure all students are succeeding at their grade level.

It is an exciting time for the district. In May 2017, stakeholders approved a \$57.8 million bond issue, providing Center Line Public Schools with funds to renovate its buildings, improve technology and build a new Peck Elementary School on Lorraine Avenue behind Center Line High School. The new school will include an early childhood center, outdoor classroom and maker spaces for engaged learning.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CENTER LINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Career technical education (CTE) classes at Center Line High School show students how what they are learning now fits into their future plans.



Welding is a career technical education (CTE) option at Center Line High School.



*A place and a program for every student.*

# CENTER LINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Visit [clps.org](http://clps.org) and click on "Bond Information" for progress updates.

**Coming in FALL 2020!**

## *On the Cutting Edge of Educational Innovation & Student Workforce Preparedness*

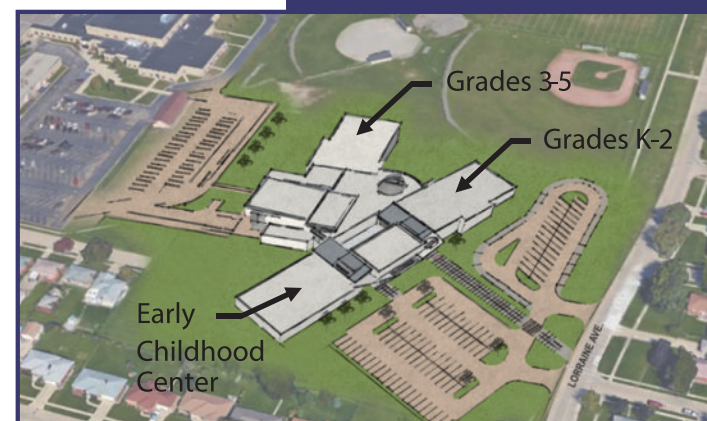
Visit the Academies of Center Line High School, backed by Ford Next Generation Learning, which has attracted statewide attention as the Michigan Department of Education and other districts have made site visits to see our wall-to-wall academies in action.

- ◆ Freshman Academy
- ◆ Academy of Industry, Technology & Innovation
- ◆ Academy of Health and Human Services

**See more at [www.clps.org](http://www.clps.org)!**

## **NEW Peck Elementary!**

- ◆ Early Childhood Center
- ◆ Grades K-5
- ◆ State-of-the-art school
- ◆ Flexible learning environment



## **Big district options in a small district setting!**

- ◆ Early Childhood Center with preschool, Head Start, and Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), half or full day
- ◆ Developmental Kindergarten
- ◆ Gifted program (grades 4 & 5)
- ◆ Robotics at elementary, middle, and high school
- ◆ Sixth Grade Academy and middle school electives aligned to high school career academies
- ◆ AP courses/dual enrollment/Early College
- ◆ Triple Crown: Firefighting, EMT, and Law Enforcement
- ◆ FANUC CNC and robotics programming
- ◆ Sheet metal courses/certification
- ◆ Southwest Macomb Technical Education Consortium (SMTEC)
- ◆ Award-winning JROTC program
- ◆ Championship sports teams - no pay to play!
- ◆ Academy 21 - hybrid learning environment for grades 6-12
- ◆ Center Line Partnership
- ◆ School of choice (Macomb County only) for kindergarten, Academy 21 & CTE courses
- ◆ AdvancED District Accreditation with an Index of Education Quality (IEQ) score of 329.88 out of 400 (average is 278.94.)
- ◆ Ranked in 2019 US News & World Report



*The mission of Center Line Public Schools is to provide all students relevant and challenging learning experiences to inspire success and empower them to be the leaders of tomorrow.*



## CHIPPEWA VALLEY

# 'We meet students where they are and get them to where they want to go'

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

How do you measure success?

At Chippewa Valley Schools, results matter. They work hard to meet the needs of almost 16,000 students based on their individual learning styles and interests.

"There are multiple paths to success," said Superintendent Ronald Roberts. "We meet students where they are and get them to where they want to go."

For some high school students, this involves an intense level of college-prep studies, including Advancement Placement (AP) classes or attendance at the International Academy of Macomb. Others may want a jumpstart on college through participation in Early College or dual enrollment programs. These programs allow students to take college-level courses and earn college credit while they are still in high school.

Those interested in various trades can take part in Chippewa Valley Schools' challenging Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, which includes courses of study in automotive technology, business, construction trades, culinary arts, design technology, family and consumer science, graphic design, marketing, mechatronics and robotics, medical academy, teacher cadet, information technology, cybersecurity, accounting and woodworking and cabinet-making.

These classes allow stu-



dents to explore job training and careers in a particular field of study that interests them. Lessons are enriched by industry leaders who share with students their on-the-job experiences, work-based projects and career expectations. Some programs offer a certification credential or articulated college credit upon successful completion. About 25 percent of their medical students earn direct admission to high-demand college programs.

Chippewa Valley Schools operates 12 elementary schools, four middle schools and three high schools, including Mohegan High School, an alternative to traditional high school where class sizes are kept small and a more individualized approach is taken to instruction. Teachers at Mohegan provide compassionate support to students and utilize positive incentive programs to help students focus on their unique strengths as they work toward earning their diploma.

"Chippewa Valley Schools is all about the power of progress and helping students find their individual success," said Roberts.

The school district maintains an acclaimed fine arts program, with award-winning band, choir, theatre



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

Chippewa Valley professionals work hard to meet the needs of almost 16,000 students based on their individual learning styles and interests.

and visual arts programs. Participation in these activities, as well as athletics and extra-curriculars, place students in an environment where they can work and socialize with peers who have similar interests.

"It provides kids with connections to school," he said.

As learning expectations have increased, it is crucial that young learners master the fundamentals of reading, writing and math. If students are struggling, teachers reach out to their families with supports that provide the extra time or one-on-one attention students need to meet grade requirements.

Education in the core subject areas of math, language arts, science and history are balanced with special classes like art, music, physical education and STEM classes. STEM, an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, includes exploration in areas like robotics.

LEGO Robotics, a program that encourages children to use their imagination and STEM skills to build, program and command their own LEGO robots using a specialized robotics construction LEGO set, is offered at both the elementary and middle school level.

Student learning is supported in many ways by the \$97 million bond issue passed in November 2018. First, it will provide much-needed security enhancements to keep children safe in the classroom by upgrading current security equipment, improving secure entryways, and adding new emergency alert systems, security cameras, and replacing door locks.

Second, funds will provide state-of-the-art instructional technology to students. Chippewa Valley Schools, said Roberts, has always been on the cutting edge of new classroom technologies like SMART interactive displays and by pro-

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Chippewa Valley Schools, visit [Choosechippewa.com](http://Choosechippewa.com) or call (586) 723-2240. Chippewa Valley Schools includes:

- Little Turtle Preschool Macomb, 50375 Card Road, Macomb Twp.
- Cherokee Elementary School, 42900 Rivergate Drive, Clinton Twp.
- Cheyenne Elementary School, 47600 Heydenreich, Macomb
- Clinton Valley Elementary School, 1260 Mulberry, Mt. Clemens
- Erie Elementary School, 42276 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Twp.
- Fox Elementary School, 17500 Millstone Drive, Macomb
- Huron Elementary School, 15800 Terra Bella, Clinton Twp.
- Miami Elementary School, 41290 Kentvale, Clinton Twp.
- Mohawk Elementary School, 48101 Romeo Plank Road, Macomb
- Ojibwa Elementary School, 46950 Heydenreich, Macomb
- Ottawa Elementary School, 18601 Millar, Clinton Twp.
- Sequoyah Elementary School, 18500 24 Mile Rd., Macomb
- Shawnee Elementary School, 21555 Vesper, Macomb
- Algonquin Middle School, 19150 Briarwood Lane, Clinton Twp.
- Iroquois Middle School, 48301 Romeo Plank Road, Macomb
- Seneca Middle School, 47200 Heydenreich, Macomb
- Wyandot Middle School, 39490 Garfield, Clinton Twp.
- Chippewa Valley High School, 18300 Nineteen Mile Road, Clinton Twp.
- Chippewa Valley 9th Grade Center, 42755 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Twp.
- Dakota High School, 21051 Twenty-One Mile Road, Macomb
- Dakota 9th Grade Center, 21055 Twenty-One Mile Road, Macomb
- Mohegan High School, 19230 Cass Avenue, Clinton Twp.

viding additional laptops for classrooms that are STEM ready. Moving forward, the district will continue to lead the way in incorporating technology with classroom instruction.

Learning occurs in the classroom, at home, on the stage and on the field, so Roberts is pleased that many of the district's stu-

dents participate in athletics, clubs and fine arts programs. In practices and meetings and during games and performances, students learn valuable lessons such as teamwork and collaboration.

"These attributes serve students well in whatever path they choose," said Roberts.



# Chippewa Valley Schools

Student success is paramount at Chippewa Valley Schools. From our innovative community preschool for our youngest learners to our thriving Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs for teens, Chippewa Valley provides a safe, high-quality learning environment for our students giving them the skills they need to succeed in college and careers.

- Warm and welcoming schools and a caring staff
- CVS received district accreditation by AdvancED, the highest assurance of quality schools
- STEAM learning at all grade levels
- Advanced courses, early college, and dual enrollment to earn college credit in high school
- Championship athletics and award winning fine arts
- Local, state, and national awards for excellence
- Innovative Ninth Grade Centers on the campus of each high school
- Great classrooms featuring state-of-the-art, interactive technology
- 95% graduation rate
- Award-winning CTE programs include Medical Careers, Mechatronics and Robotics, Design, and Marketing
- New courses for 2019-2020 include Personal Finance for 8th Grade, Women's History, Cybersecurity, and African American History at the HS level



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**Inspiring and empowering learners to**  
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**For enrollment information,**  
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## CLINTONDALE

# Clintondale Community Schools finding success by flipping the way students learn

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

Clintondale Community has turned the tables on traditional classroom practices.

Most people grew up in a school system where they listened to teachers lecture or present information in class and then gave out homework that was to be completed at home and brought back to class the next day. The purpose of homework was to reinforce the concepts just learned, but, for many families what it often ended up being was an exercise in frustration.

Nearly 10 years ago, Clintondale High School leaders had enough of this process so they took a bold step: Flipping the way students learn.

The process is exactly what it sounds like. Instead of teachers lecturing in class, they record sessions and students watch the videos at home. Instead of focusing on note taking and worrying that they have missed a crucial point, they can concentrate on the lesson at hand. If students need to review the information again, they can – simply by viewing the video a second, third or fourth time.

Then, they are ready to work in class the next day. Students complete their “homework” in the classroom where their teachers are there to step in and offer assistance as needed. Whether students have a question, need clarification or require a different learning approach, teachers are there to do what they do best.

At the time, the concept was quite new and Clintondale was the first school dis-



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Clintondale Community Schools, visit [clintondaleschools.net](http://clintondaleschools.net) or call (586) 791-6300. Clintondale Community Schools includes:

- McGlinn Elementary School, 21415 Sunnyview Drive, Clinton Township
- Parker Elementary School, 22055 Quinn Road, Clinton Township
- Rainbow Elementary School, 33749 Wurfel St., Clinton Township
- Clintondale Middle School, 35300 Little Mack Avenue, Clinton Township
- Clintondale High School, 35200 Little Mack Avenue, Clinton Township

trict in the country to implement this innovative practice in an entire high school building, said Superintendent Greg Green.

Students have responded in an amazing fashion. Assessment scores have soared. Attendance is up. Graduation rates have risen. Student engagement has increased.

Clintondale Community Schools has received several accolades for its efforts. Just this spring, the district was recognized by [study.com](http://study.com) as one of the top blended high schools in the country. It has also been featured by national news outlets like CNN, the New York Times and the CBS Evening News.

The bottom line is that Clintondale Community Schools is thriving. This is not a large district, either.

With three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school, district leaders know how to use their resources well.

In fact, Green relishes Clintondale's smaller size, saying that it has a real family-feel.

“We may be small, but we have a lot to offer,” he said.

Indeed it does. The district recently expanded its Career and Technical Education (CTE) to include more than 30 career pathways within these CTE programs:

- Arts and Communications
- Business, Management, Marketing and Technology
- Computer Technology
- Engineering/Manufacturing/Industrial
- Health Sciences



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLINTONDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Students at Clintondale Community Schools are thriving with hands-on, meaningful and engaging lessons.

- Entrepreneurship
- Culinary Arts
- Early Childhood
- Teacher Cadet
- Natural Science and Agri-Science

The extremely popular cyber education program, a hot topic in many industries, is also part of the CTE program. Many CTE classes are offered at Clintondale High School, while others are hosted by partner schools, such as L'Anse Creuse Public Schools.

What CTE courses do is prepare students for a real-life workplace experience. They allow students to explore the different career paths available within a specific industry to see what appeals to them and what doesn't. It provides students with a sense of direction, practical experience and career planning knowledge. In some cases, college is the next step. For others entering the workforce or applying for an apprenticeship makes sense.



Students complete their “homework” in the classroom where their teachers are there to step in and offer assistance as needed.

What all CTE students leave with is a toolbox of skills that they can take with them anywhere. This includes characteristics like showing up on time, having a good work ethic, developing solid communication skills and showing how to solve problems.

Other college- and career-oriented courses of study include the International Baccalaureate Programme in Macomb; Butcher Math and Science Center in Warren; Early College with Macomb

Community College; and dual enrollment with Macomb Community College. Clintondale High School also offers a variety of Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors classes.

To help prevent the “summer slide,” Clintondale Community Schools offers a complete slate of educational programming in July and August, including Kinder Connect, First Fundamentals, STEM Camp, Science Literacy, Read 180 and credit recovery.





## RAINBOW ELEMENTARY: THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Rainbow Elementary students perform higher than the state average on the M-STEP tests. It's a success story that shows what Dragon Pride is all about.



## YOUNG FIVES PROGRAM

**Young Fives** is a **two-year program** designed for children turning 5 years old between July 1, 2019 and December 1, 2019. The program provides a strong foundation for future success in all areas of learning. Children are taught with hands-on materials, songs, and games. They are assessed by observation and work samples. Upon completion of the two-year program, children enter the first grade.

**\*Location: All Clintondale Elementary Schools**



## GSRP PROGRAM

**GSRP (GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM) PRESCHOOL AVAILABLE AT MCGLINNEN ELEMENTARY AND PARKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**

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## SCHOOL OF CHOICE APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH SEPT. 6

### Learn the Clintondale difference!

School of Choice applications for the 2019-2020 school year will be accepted through Sept. 6. Macomb County residents and students from other contiguous intermediate school districts are welcome to apply.

Call (586) 791-6300 for more information. Visit [www.clintondaleschools.net](http://www.clintondaleschools.net) to complete an application.





## EASTPOINTE

## Investment in new programs pays off for Eastpointe Community Schools

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

Two years ago, Eastpointe Community Schools made an ambitious investment in its students. District leaders implemented several programs destined to touch the lives of each and every one of their 2,700 students.

Today, that investment, combined with the commitment of teachers and staff members, is paying off for students and the community as a whole.

"Neighborhood schools are a good place to be," said Caitlyn Kienitz, communication and marketing coordinator. "We are starting to see all these positive changes make a real difference for our families."

It all begins with Eastpointe's youngest learners. In 2017, the Early Learning Center opened in its own building. The change has made an immediate impact on student growth as children ages 3-5 thrive in an environment created just for them.

The district offers several pre-school programs, including tuition-based preschool, Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), Early Childhood Special Education and Head Start. All focus on the fundamentals of literacy and math while promoting individual cognitive, social and emotional development and preparing students for kindergarten.

"We have small class sizes and lots of enrichment activities for students," said Kienitz.

Students, for example, take part in the St. Jude Trike-A-Thon that promotes bicycle and riding toy safety while raising money to support the life-saving efforts for children with cancer at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Preschoolers are also exposed to a wide variety of art activities, pretend play and outdoor recreation while developing their fine and gross skills and learning how to interact socially with their peers. They visit Eastpointe's two K-2 buildings so they are familiar with the classrooms and ready to learn when the time comes to enroll in kindergarten.

At the elementary school level, Eastpointe has two K-2 and two



3-5 buildings. All schools offer individualized instruction and are focused on literacy to provide students with a solid foundation for future learning.

"Our staff is very dedicated to our students as they work to help students develop a love of reading," she said.

Eastpointe has both traditional and transitional kindergarten classrooms so all students develop the skills they need to be successful in the classroom.

Bellview and Pleasantview elementary schools serve children in grades 3-5 and, in addition to a rigorous curriculum that utilizes proven strategies to reach every learner, they offer a full slate of music, art and physical education classes, as well as afterschool enrichment programs like Drama Club, mentorships and leadership night.

Pleasantview is a Leader in Me school, a national program that equips students with leadership tools like critical thinking, creativity, teamwork and relationship building so they can grow and make an impact in their community.

Eastpointe Middle School is a grade 6-7 building that is in its second year in the candidacy stage for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP). The MYP curriculum challenges students to make connections between school and the world around them.

Eighth graders, said Kienitz, attend the 8th Grade Academy, which is located in its own wing at Eastpointe High School. The goal, she said, is to provide quality instruction within the middle school curriculum while offering

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Eastpointe Community Schools, visit EastpointeSchools.org or call 586-533-3000. Eastpointe Community Schools includes:

- Eastpointe Early Learning Center, 23750 David St., Eastpointe
- Bellview Elementary School, 15800 Bell, Eastpointe
- Crescentwood Elementary School, 14500 Crescentwood, Eastpointe
- Forest Park Elementary School, 18361 Forest, Eastpointe
- Pleasantview Elementary School, 16501 Toepfer, Eastpointe
- Eastpointe Middle School, 24701 Kelly Road, Eastpointe
- 8th Grade Academy, 15501 Couzens Ave., Eastpointe
- Eastpointe High School, 15501 Couzens Ave., Eastpointe
- Eastpointe Alternative Center, 15320 E. 9 Mile Road, Eastpointe

students the opportunity to access high school resources, like additional foreign language classes, for example. Learning takes place in a small environment while helping students make the transition to high school.

Eastpointe High School is all about preparing students for future academic endeavors and careers. The district is working on expanding the number of honors courses offered and partnering with Macomb Community College for dual enrollment. An Early College program gives students the chance to earn college credits or an associate degree while still in high school thanks to a 13th year of instruction.

Career Technical Education (CTE) program allows students to explore future career choices and prep for future employment in fields like culinary arts, television production, law enforcement and marketing and web design. The district is looking to expand into other areas soon.

"We have dedicated teachers who are doing everything they can to help students be engaged learners. They go above and beyond for our students," said Kienitz.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EASTPOINTE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Eastpointe High School students prepare French beignets as part of a joint activity between the culinary arts program and the French classes.



Crescentwood Elementary students work in their classroom.



Eastpointe High School students film student announcements as part of the television production class.





**Join our Shamrock family at Eastpointe Community Schools to find a school community right in your neighborhood that offers:**

- ✿ Dedicated, caring, highly-qualified teachers and staff
- ✿ Preschool programs with small class sizes at the Eastpointe Early Learning Center
- ✿ Traditional and transitional kindergarten classrooms at lower elementaries
- ✿ Individualized literacy programs for all elementary students
- ✿ Before- and after-school care available in district through Lakeshore YMCA
- ✿ International Baccalaureate classes and programs for middle school students
- ✿ Career and Technical Education opportunities, including Culinary Arts, TV Production, Law Enforcement, and more
- ✿ Free college credits and dual enrollment through Macomb Community College
- ✿ Virtual and alternative programs for high school students

**Learn more about  
Eastpointe Community Schools at  
[www.eastpointeschools.org](http://www.eastpointeschools.org).**



## FITZGERALD

# Students return to several changes at Fitzgerald Public Schools this fall

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

The energy at Fitzgerald Public Schools has been tremendous this summer. Since a \$46.7 million bond issue was passed in May, a number of improvements, including safety and security enhancements, technology upgrades and building renovations, have been moving forward.

The renovations will touch every building. Many are infrastructure projects necessary to maintain facilities and equipment while others will transform buildings and create comfortable spaces for children to learn and grow.

The most significant projects are designed to improve energy efficiency with roofing, lighting, and mechanical system replacements; update and remodel classrooms and school facilities; and upgrade technology and technology infrastructure.

Safety will be addressed by remodeling and equipping school buildings, playgrounds and other facilities with security features, including upgrading security cameras, fire alarms and installing security film on windows.

Superintendent Laurie Fournier is grateful that the bond proposal received such overwhelming support from the community. She knows that the community has a lot invested in its school system and said the bond monies will ensure that the district's infrastructure will stay safe and secure for students.

"We have a strong support group committed to our strategic plan," she said.

Fitzgerald's strategic plan focuses on four key areas:

- Curriculum and instruction



- School/community culture
- Student achievement
- Environment for success (operations and facilities)

By addressing these areas, the district expects to increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding curriculum standards, maximize student achievements, integrate knowledge and skills relevant to the 21st century, develop partnerships in the community and promote opportunities for student involvement.

Located in the southwest corner of Warren, Fitzgerald Public Schools serves more than 2,600 students in three elementary schools, a middle school, a high school and an alternative high school.

Being a smaller district, Fitzgerald Public Schools is a family-oriented community. Parents, grandparents and stakeholders understand that a strong school system benefits all and so they stand united in making it the best it can be.

Free breakfast and lunch are available to all students regardless of family income. Afterschool and summer enrichment programs are an important part of the learning process. Participation in competitive athletics is free of charge. Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) programs are offered across the district. All these activities and

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Fitzgerald Public Schools, visit [Fitz.k12.mi.us](http://Fitz.k12.mi.us) or call (586) 757-1750. Fitzgerald Public Schools includes:

- Schofield Early Learning Childhood Center, 21555 Warner Road, Warren
- Westview Lower Elementary School, 24077 Warner Road, Warren
- Mound Park Upper Elementary School, 5356 Toepfer, Warren
- Chatterton Middle School, 24333 Ryan Road, Warren
- Fitzgerald High School, 23200 Ryan Road, Warren

supports have been put in place to develop and nurture enthusiastic learners who are invested in their education and their community.

It starts with the youngest students. Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) and Head Start preschool are available to eligible students. A Young 5's program helps prepare students for the kindergarten experience. Full day kindergarten builds the foundation for a successful academic career while weekly enrichment in art, music, physical education and technology exposes children to new concepts in a fresh, engaging way.

Middle and high school students have access to an amazing one-of-a-kind science curriculum, including hands-on learning opportunities in the astronomy unit thanks to Chatterton Middle School planetarium, which will receive upgrades as part of the bond project. This in-depth study, including STEM topics and robotics, prepares Fitzgerald students for the rigors of college and career.

The bond monies will go a long way toward boost-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Being a smaller district, Fitzgerald Public Schools is a family-oriented community. Residents understand that a strong school system benefits all.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The bond monies are being used in many different ways, including technology.

ing these career preparation skills. They also will keep programs, such as Career Technical Education (CTE), competitive with other Macomb County districts, assuring that students will be well prepared for the challenges that lie ahead after graduation.

Currently, the district offers Arts & Communication; Business, Manage-

ment, Marketing and Technology; Engineering/Manufacturing & Industrial Technology; Health Sciences; Human Services; and Government and Public Administration. As with all Fitzgerald buildings, the Automotive & Technical building will receive updates, thanks to the bond proposal.

"This will put us in a

strong position for the upcoming years," said Fournier.

For college-bound students, Fitzgerald High School offers several college credit opportunities, including Macomb Early College and dual enrollment. Advanced Placement (AP) classes provide students a genuine college-level classroom experience.





**Why are so many families choosing Fitzgerald Public Schools? Fitzgerald Public Schools offers first-class academic and extracurricular programs that students and parents in this region demand of their schools in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Give your child the Fitzgerald edge!**

- ✓ An outstanding kindergarten program that actively engages children in hands-on learning experiences that support their academic, social and emotional development.
- ✓ Google Chromebooks available for every student in FPS and iPads in every one of our schools that students can use for hands-on, interactive learning with the latest technologies.
- ✓ Top-notch science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs - including advanced robotics - that prepare students for college and careers.
- ✓ Innovative, forward-looking career tech programs-including Automotive Technology I-III, Pharmacy Tech, Physical Therapy I & II, Marketing I & II, Intro to TV Production and TV Production - which helps students get specialized jobs right after graduation or go into college programs
- ✓ Vibrant theatre, choir and band programs and strong athletics programs, a new synthetic field turf for the football field and a world-class, eight-lane track.
- ✓ Opportunities for students to earn college credit by taking Advanced Placement classes and by participating in dual enrollment in local colleges, at no tuition cost to the family.
- ✓ The Fitzgerald Virtual Academy, which benefits students who learn better outside of traditional education settings, including students who may be home-bound due to an illness.
- ✓ Schools of Choice enrollment.



***We look forward to welcoming you to the Fitzgerald Family!***

**21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY  
Fitzgerald Public Schools  
EDGE**

**Questions? Contact the Fitzgerald Public Schools Superintendent's Office at (586) 757-1750.**



## FRASER

# Fraser Public Schools leads the way with Universal Design for Learning classrooms for kids to thrive

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

Things are going to look different in Julie Ricci's and Mandy Telegadas' kindergarten classroom this fall.

The two Eisenhower Elementary teachers are among the first set of Fraser staff members introducing the district's Universal Design for Learning (UDL) model classrooms, using furniture and other classroom materials to create an intentional, learner-centered space.

The model classrooms will highlight sensory experiences, cultural backgrounds and flexibility so that all students can learn and thrive in an environment that is comfortable and makes sense for them.

The furniture arrangement supports today's style of teaching, which includes collaboration, flexibility and student-controlled learning.

"The way we teach children has changed," said Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Donna Anderson, "and we have to create learners that are adaptive and flexible. Kids need different ways of engagement."

UDL addresses this with small group settings and sensory-friendly spaces that can help children take control of their behavior and make choices that impact their learning.

The model classrooms feature tables and chairs of varying heights, classroom wall décor that reflects the cultures of current student families and a small group area with a "grassy mound" of Astroturf for students who want sensory-friendly input.

"It's about meeting kids where they are," said Anderson.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Fraser Public Schools, visit [Fraser.k12.mi.us](http://Fraser.k12.mi.us) or call (586) 439-7000. Fraser Public Schools includes:

- Dooley Little Learners Center, 16170 Canberra Road, Roseville
- Walt Disney Elementary School, 36155 Kelly St., Clinton Township
- Thomas Edison Elementary School, 17470 Sewell Road, Fraser
- Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School, 31275 Evening-side Road, Fraser
- Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School, 32151 Danna Road, Fraser
- Jonas Salk Elementary School, 17601 Fifteen Mile Road, Clinton Township
- Mark Twain Elementary School, 30601 Calahan Road, Roseville
- Richards Middle School, 33500 Garfield Road, Fraser
- Fraser High School, 34270 Garfield Road, Fraser

Ricci has been a teacher for 22 years, but studying UDL made her re-think some classroom processes. After attending one seminar in particular, she returned to her classroom, took a photo and was amazed by what she saw. She described it as overwhelming and she immediately knew that she had to remove some of the "visual noise" so her students could focus more on the tasks at hand. Ricci is energized about the changes and how they will impact children. She knows kindergarteners love to move and are eager to learn. With flexible seating and tables with different surfaces, like a dry erase board, she knows that UDL will meet their individual needs and personalize their learning experience.

Beyond furniture, UDL utilizes materials, methods and routines to positively impact students. Part of UDL is culturally responsive design. This recognizes the importance of including students' cultural references in all aspects of the learning and environment.

Telegadas plans to incorporate cultural aspects in the classroom by asking families to do a scrapbook page project. This way the students' peers not only learn about their classmate, but also their families, cultures and traditions.

Another aspect of UDL is executive function. This is the term for the way brains are wired to handle organization, self-regulation and achievement of goals. It allows people to make plans,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRASER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Richards Middle School science teacher, Mr. Andy Brodi, challenged his students to find the physics behind golf. Students built a miniature golf hole, then explained the science behind how they could earn a hole in one.

stay on task and control their behavior. The executive function of younger learners is often in different stages of development, so, from a teaching standpoint, kindergarten teachers need to set the tone with visual clues to show what comes next in order to establish routines. For Telegadas, that means simplifying directions, providing reminders and taking apart lessons to review them from a more kid-friendly perspective.

While all staff members did receive an overall introduction to UDL, 43 Fraser K-8 teachers attended extensive professional development training during the first cohort of implementation this past year. These teachers represent each elementary and middle school building.

Ricci is thrilled to participate in cohort 2 as a model classroom. She has put much

thought into the overall design of her room and how it can help break down barriers to learning. Kindergarten is an essential step in a child's education, so getting students on the road to develop the ability for critical thinking, creativity and collaboration is important.

Of course, a kindergarten classroom looks very different from a middle school classroom. UDL is flexible because the goal is to bring out the best in learners and to be intentional and purposeful about arranging classroom space.

This can easily translate into a 7th or 8th grade classroom with small tables and a computer monitor on each that students can use to collaborate on projects together, for example. In a high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) class, the classroom can mimic a workplace environment.



A student in Amy Laidlaw's second-grade classroom at Eisenhower Elementary performs 'non-fiction surgery' on a magazine to cut out text features.

Fraser Public Schools is in the second year of its five-year UDL implementation plan. Administrators plan to roll out more model classrooms in all grade levels in future years.



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## LAKE SHORE

# Lake Shore is changing the way students learn and achieve results

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

Walk into any Lake Shore Public Schools building and it's not likely to be the same as when parents of today's students were growing up.

Desks lined up in neat rows have been replaced with flexible seating for collaborative learning. Where chalkboards used to be are now smartboards and writable walls where teachers can not only demonstrate concepts, but interact with students as they solve problems together. Also used less frequently in many classrooms is paper and pencils. Instead, students work on any number of devices, such as Chromebooks as the district has moved 1:1.

In addition to teaching methods, Lake Shore Superintendent Joe DiPonio said that the skills that students need to develop have also changed.

While studying subjects like math and reading, teachers aren't focusing on knowledge retention as much as they are emphasizing skills like effective communication and the ability to adapt in an ever-changing environment.

The reason for the shift, he said, is simple: Students can find any information they need online in just a few seconds thanks to search engines and videos.

What they really need is access to information and an ability to use that information to accomplish tasks and complete projects while being innovative and creative.

He gave an example about the legal system. Instead of just reading about how the courts work in class, the teacher might invite a local law-



yer to visit the classroom to share first-hand knowledge about the process. Then, the class may hold a mock trial to see for themselves how the system operates.

This type of in-depth study draws students into the learning process instead of having them simply memorize facts and figures. It requires them to communicate with others to solve a problem, which is similar to situations they will face in college and the workplace.

"What we deliver now is more project-based instruction that creates more engagement for kids," said DiPonio.

Teachers attend professional development training to continually update their skills and learn the latest best practices for educating students. Two years ago, for example, all teachers spent part of their summer in a Transformation Orientation, learning about how to integrate technology into daily lessons.

"It is high technology, but with high collaboration," said DiPonio.

Supporting educators' efforts is the \$36 million bond issue passed by voters in 2016.

These monies have been used for instructional technology upgrades and to implement a 1:1 technology rollout for secondary students.

In 2017, all Lake Shore High School and Kennedy

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

To learn more about Lake Shore Public Schools, visit [LakeShore.ss12.sharp-school.com](http://LakeShore.ss12.sharp-school.com) or call (586) 285-8481. Lake Shore Public Schools includes:

- Masonic Heights Elementary School, 22100 Masonic Blvd., Saint Clair Shores
- Rodgers Elementary School, 21601 L'Anse St., Saint Clair Shores
- Violet Elementary School, 22020 Violet St., Saint Clair Shores
- Kennedy Middle School, 23101 Masonic Blvd., Saint Clair Shores
- Lake Shore High School, 22980 13 Mile Road, Saint Clair Shores
- North Lake High School, 23340 Elmira St., Saint Clair Shores

Middle School students were given a Chromebook to use in class and at home. Last year, all K-5 students received the devices, too.

Every school media center is being renovated to provide more shared spaces. There's the "fish bowl" room where students can work together on brainstorming ideas and write them on the walls.

There are spaces for small groups to collaborate on projects and little nooks where students can silently read by themselves.

Other initiatives at Lake Shore Public Schools are designed to help connect and support students:

- WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) is a program where eighth graders welcome sixth grade students to be a part of the middle school community

- Upstanders at the high school encourage students to offer support and a voice for fellow students facing challenges instead of be-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAKE SHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

While at Lake Shore High School, students develop creativity and a strong work ethic as they prepare to tackle their unique future goals.

ing bystanders

- Therapy dogs at the middle and high schools help relieve anxiety and stress for students

- An international exchange program with China brings nearly 75 students a year to attend school in Lake Shore and offers local students the opportunity to study abroad for two weeks. Exchange programs are also available with Spain, Germany and Italy

While at Lake Shore High School, students develop creativity and a strong work ethic as they prepare to tackle their unique future goals.

While incorporating innovative and project-based instruction is a focus, students continue to take rigorous academic opportunities, including college-level Advanced Placement (AP) classes, dual enrollment



Therapy dogs at the middle and high school help relieve anxiety and stress for students.

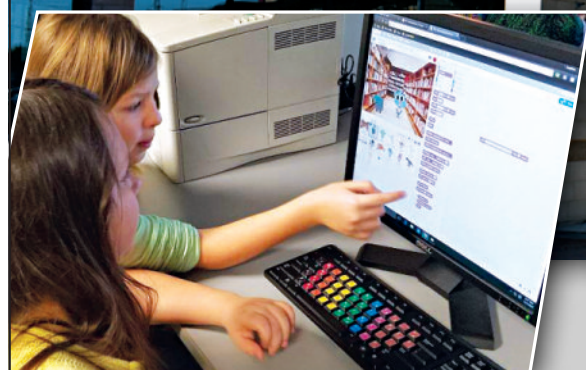
opportunities, Honor's courses and Early College. Career Technical Education programs are available for students who want to learn trade skills or enter the workforce after graduation as these classes train students for future employment, and in some cases, earn certification credentials.





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## LAKEVIEW

# Hybrid schedule allows Lakeview students to take on more challenges

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

Ready. Willing. Capable. Successful. These are the hallmarks of a Lakeview High School graduate. Every class, every practice and every program has been purposely put into place to equip students with the skills they need to fulfill their potential in the college classroom or workplace environment.

The foundation of this plan is a unique hybrid block schedule. Schedules are a combination of block courses that run 90 minutes and skinny classes that go for 45 minutes. Most students take a combination of block and skinny classes for a total of four to six classes per semester.

Under this arrangement, students can accelerate their learning by taking more core graduation requirements as freshmen and sophomores, which frees them up for more electives, career preparation classes and college opportunities as juniors and seniors.

"We do not let our structures slow students down," said Superintendent Karl Paulson. "We provide the platform for them to accelerate through high school."

As a result, many of Lakeview's upperclassmen explore career and college options before they leave high school.

Some enroll in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses and earn certifications and licenses before graduation. Lakeview High School hosts four CTE courses on its campus: Auto



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Lakeview Public Schools, visit [LakeviewPublicSchools.org](http://LakeviewPublicSchools.org) or call (586) 445-4000. Lakeview Public Schools includes:

- Ardmore Elementary School, 27001 Greater Mack, Saint Clair Shores
- Greenwood Elementary School, 27900 Joan St., Saint Clair Shores
- Harmon Elementary School, 24800 Harmon St., Saint Clair Shores
- Princeton Elementary School, 20300 Statler St., Saint Clair Shores
- Jefferson Middle School, 27900 Rockwood St., Saint Clair Shores
- Lakeview High School, 21100 East Eleven Mile Road, Saint Clair Shores

Tech I, II, III; Teacher Cadet; Teacher Cadet Externship; and Drafting and Design. It also participates in the Southeast Macomb Career and Technical Education Consortium, a cooperative effort among Lakeview, L'Anse Creuse, Warren Woods and Center Line school districts. The consortium makes available a broader base of training programs in the areas like Business Services, Health & Human Services, Marketing

& Sales and Applied Technology.

Other students earn college credits while in high school, saving them both time and money after graduation. College classes are taught at Lakeview High School by professors from Wayne State University and Baker College. Students can also attend classes on the campus of Macomb Community College.

"The statistics are staggering," said Paulson. "Of

the approximately 1,400 students in the high school, nearly half of the senior class will have taken college classes while they are here."

Because the school district offers these courses, the college credits are earned at little or no cost to students and their families, removing financial barriers and, in the case of Wayne State University and Baker College, eliminating any transportation barriers as well.

In addition to dual enrollment, Lakeview High School offers Advanced Placement (AP) classes. These are college-level classes and students who earn a qualifying score on the Advanced Placement course examination earn college credit.

According to Paulson, with so many opportunities in high school, Lakeview graduates have been known to complete a bachelor's degree in just two years after they have graduated.

There's also another bonus: By exploring career topics in high school, students have a clear understanding of what career path and course of study they want to follow. This also saves them time and money as changing majors can be avoided.

The hybrid block schedule also benefits students who are struggling with coursework. The extra 45 minutes in class can offer more in-depth study. The option to take skinny classes provides an opportunity to enroll in support classes, and the ability to take four classes a semester instead of the typical



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAKEVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Elementary students work during a small group reading lesson.



Lakeview High School students explore hands-on concepts during a lab class.

six creates less homework so students have time to review materials at a slower pace.

Younger students also benefit from Lakeview Public Schools' commitment to student success. At Jefferson Middle School, there is a very detailed Advanced Program where students are evaluated for placement each spring. These classes are designed for the talented and serious student who is willing and able to rise to the challenge of intense, independent and in-

depth work. They have a good attendance record, hand in assignments on time and excel in work ethic, communication skills and social behavior. These students are usually in the top 10 percent of their class.

The EA2 program at the elementary level identifies students ready for a more challenging approach to coursework. At the completion of third grade, students are invited to apply to be a part of the program.

"Our goal is to not slow our students down," he said.





# Lakeview Public Schools

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## L'ANSE CREUSE

# Innovative CTE programs help L'Anse Creuse students be their personal best

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

It's pretty special to see the expression on a student's face the moment he "gets it," or when you can watch her enthusiasm for a subject grow right in front of your eyes.

At the Pankow Center, these types of moments happen almost every day. Located on the campus of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, the center is the heart of the district's Career and Technical Center (CTE) program, a place where teen learners explore careers and set goals for their future.

As students are immersed in in-depth study of a subject that they are excited to learn about and work alongside professionals in the field, amazing things happen. They may decide that they want to go to college to learn more about the industry or that they are ready to enroll in trade school. Some CTE programs even allow students to earn certification credentials before they graduate from high school.

The Pankow Center houses seven CTE programs:

- Arts and Communications
- Business, Management, Marketing & Technology
- Computer Technology
- Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Technology
- Health Sciences
- Human Services
- Natural Resources & Agri-Science

These programs are not only available to L'Anse Creuse juniors and seniors, but also those attending



PHOTO COURTESY OF L'ANSE CREUSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

L'Anse Creuse has a strong core curriculum and makes sure each child builds a solid academic foundation in elementary school.

Austin Catholic, Lake Shore, Lakeview, Lutheran North, Merritt Academy, Mount Clemens, New Haven, and Richmond through consortium agreements.

Last year the school district received a grant from the Ralph Wilson, Jr. Foundation to support CTE studies. Chairman Jeffrey Littmann, in informing administrators that the district had been selected to receive grant funds, said he had identified Career and Technical Education as an area that deserves focus and funding due to Michigan's overwhelming need for young men and women

to enter skilled trades.

Littmann added: "I began asking contacts in industry, the skilled trades and academia for recommendations for a worthy CTE program and repeatedly heard, 'L'Anse Creuse does it right!'"

"It is quite humbling to hear that L'Anse Creuse is leading the way in CTE," stated Superintendent Erik Edoff. "We know that students are all motivated differently and strive to offer opportunities to prepare our students for college or the workforce. I am very proud of our team."

CTE programs provide

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, visit [Lc-ps.org](http://Lc-ps.org) or call (586) 783-6300. L'Anse Creuse Public Schools includes:

- Atwood Elementary School, 45690 North Avenue, Macomb
- Joseph M. Carkenord Elementary School, 27100 Twenty-Four Mile Road, Chesterfield
- Green Elementary School, 47260 Sugarbush Road, Chesterfield
- Francis A. Higgins Elementary School, 29901 Twenty-Four Mile Road, Chesterfield
- Emma V. Lobbstaël Elementary School, 38495 Prentiss St., Harrison Township
- Marie C. Graham Elementary School, 25555 Crocker Road, Harrison Township
- South River Elementary School, 27733 South River Road, Harrison Township
- Tenniswood Elementary School, 23450 Glenwood Avenue, Clinton Township
- Donald J. Yacks Elementary School, 34700 Union Lake Road, Harrison Township
- L'Anse Creuse Middle School - Central, 38000 Reimold St., Harrison Township
- L'Anse Creuse Middle School - East, 30300 Hickey Road, Chesterfield
- L'Anse Creuse Middle School - North, 46201 Fairchild St., Macomb
- L'Anse Creuse Middle School - South, 34641 Jefferson Avenue, Harrison Township
- L'Anse Creuse High School, 38495 L'Anse Creuse Road, Harrison Township
- L'Anse Creuse High School - North, 23700 Twenty One Mile Road, Macomb
- Frederick V. Pankow Center School, 24600 Frederick Pankow Blvd., Clinton Township
- DiAnne M. Pellerin Center, 24001 Frederick Pankow Blvd., Clinton Township

an inside look at career paths. As students master basic knowledge about a specific industry, they get a feel for what interests them and are able to determine a path they want to explore further in college, university, technical school or workplace apprenticeship or internship.

A student, for example, may know she wants a career in the health field. That is a pretty wide open path of study. However, through a CTE experience, she may explore medical assisting, medical investigations, sports medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy and other career pathways so she is able to narrow the best fit for her - and does this all while in high school. There's no financial disadvantage like there would be if she switched majors while in college.

Classes are led by edu-

cators and supported by a career development facilitator and a work-based learning/externship coordinator. Students often hear from business leaders in the field who come in and speak about current topics and challenges in their industry.

It's this connection between the schools and community that makes CTE a success. Gaps in the local workforce are identified, students interested in the field are trained and the community keeps skilled graduates in their hometown working, raising families and supporting other local businesses and charitable organizations.

Helping students reach their potential is nothing new at L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. Teachers and staff members build relationships with families. The school district provides

a strong core of academics balanced with a complete slate of athletics, arts, robotics, clubs and other activities so students can participate in what they are passionate about.

Three elementary schools are Leader in Me schools, which focuses on critical thinking skills, discipline, teamwork, time management and other skills so students develop into life-long leaders.

Robotics is available at the middle school and high school levels. Middle school participants are mentored by high school team members. The Rockem Sockem Robotics Team 453 is an enthusiastic FIRST Robotics competition team made up of members from both high schools. This is a student-led team with coaches and advisors who are industry leaders and L'Anse Creuse alumni.





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## MOUNT CLEMENS

# Mount Clemens Community Schools staff excited about positive changes

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

From changes in leadership to a new food service provider, it's a new day dawning at Mount Clemens Community Schools, said Superintendent Teresa Davis.

Staff members gathered last month to hear about some of the changes they can expect when classes resume for the 2019-20 school year. They were able to meet two new administrators, Kirk Duncan, principal of the Secondary Campus and Matthew Lucas, principal at Seminole Academy. They also were introduced to the new football coach, Marcus Cribbs and able to sample food prepared by the new food service company, Southwest Foodservice Excellence (SFE), courtesy of GM-Chef Cynthia Murphy and District Chef Ray Philpot.

Davis is excited about the changes for the new school year.

"We have new staff and we wanted to start the year off celebrating," she said.

For the past few years, Mount Clemens Community Schools has been focusing on two substantial objectives: Reducing its debt and implementing new curriculum initiatives. Davis said the district is nearly out of the deficit and she plans to update the community with a State of the District address this fall.

"The District is on the move," said Davis. "It's going to be an exciting school year."

Mount Clemens is a small, hometown district located in a community rich in history and beauty. Both the waterfront and thriving business community are assets to the town, which is very supportive of



the school district.

This is often demonstrated with participation in the Back to School Bash, an event held each August prior to the start of the school year. This year it is scheduled from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 22. This is an opportunity for students to meet their teachers, receive their bus schedules, sample food from SFE and get backpacks filled with donations from the Mount Clemens community.

Lucas said he feels at home already, because he has been warmly greeted by many families as he begins his first principal job. He comes to Mount Clemens Community Schools from Beacon Day Treatment in Southgate, where he served as assistant principal. Before then, he taught fifth and sixth grade and later high school at the Avondale School District and taught in a K-5 resource room in Lansing.

He said he believes in these five core values and parents should expect them to be exemplified by teachers and staff members as well:

- Treating everyone with kindness, dignity and respect
- Finding out what students and staff need to reach their potential and give it to them
- Partnering with families to build the best plan for academic and behavioral growth
- Being on time and performing tasks correctly and on time

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Mount Clemens Community Schools, visit [mtcps.org](http://mtcps.org) or call (586) 461-6100. Mount Clemens Community Schools includes:

- M.L. King Academy, 400 Clinton River Drive, Mount Clemens
- Seminole Academy, 1500 Mulberry St., Mount Clemens
- Mount Clemens Middle School, 161 Cass Avenue, Mount Clemens
- Mount Clemens High School, 155 Cass Avenue, Mount Clemens

- Delivering quality education

"Parents, students, and staff will find me to be visible, approachable, and willing to work through problems together," said Lucas.

Duncan is excited to meet Mount Clemens families.

"I am looking forward to becoming an integral part of the community," he said. "I want to create a (welcoming) and vibrant school environment and that happens when students feel connected to school."

An experienced teacher and administrator, Duncan earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia and his master's degree from Eastern Michigan University. Previously, he taught in Fort Wayne, Ind. and Birmingham, Mich., and served as assistant principal at Royal Oak Middle School.

His first goals are finding out what teachers and parents need in the short-term so he can provide quick solutions while working on developing a plan to implement long range objectives.

On the field, head foot-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNT CLEMENS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

SFE plans to provide delicious, fresh-from-scratch meals and a wide menu variety for breakfast and lunch.

ball coach Marcus Cribbs has already met his team and started summer workouts. As a former Mount Clemens student, he is excited to start his coaching career in his hometown.

But, for now, he and the players are getting to know each other and working on team building and leadership skills. Cribbs attended Mount Clemens Community Schools through the eighth grade. After graduation from Lake Shore High School, he was a standout at Ferris State University.

SFE plans to provide delicious, fresh-from-scratch meals and a wide menu variety for breakfast and lunch. In fact, according to the company, more than 75 percent of SFE's offered entrees are made fresh-from-scratch, using local food sources as often as possible and seasoning with real herbs and spices.

Students can expect to see foods they like, but it will keep the nutritional value and help fuel kids for learning.

SFE will also bring on site support, as well as fun, interactive nutrition education classes and events designed to get students excited about food.



Mount Clemens High School has an active Robotics Club.





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## NEW HAVEN

# Staff, community behind success of New Haven Community Schools

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

Barbara VanSweden can feel the support every day she walks into work. As superintendent for New Haven Community Schools, she knows the district's teachers want what is best for students. She also knows that the community supports their efforts.

Thanks to a \$25 million bond passed by voters in May, significant improvements are being made in the areas of safety and security, technology, transportation and more.

"It's exciting," she said. "We strive to be better every day."

It's a philosophy that goes along with the district's mission: "Our Personal Best. Every Day. No Exceptions. No Excuses."

New Haven Community Schools offers a comprehensive and challenging academic curriculum for pre-K through 12th grade. The district serves New Haven as well as portions of Chesterfield, Lennox, Macomb and Ray townships. Staff provides strong instruction in core content areas and support programs for students who need additional assistance.

The district enjoys a unique relationship with the community. Several staff members are graduates of New Haven High School and have chosen to come back to educate future generations. At school and athletic events, the seats are jam-packed with community members and parents.

"We have amazing support by our parents, grandparents and community members. People are fully engaged in the education of these kids," she said.

VanSweden said administrators ensure teachers have the support and tools neces-



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about New Haven Community Schools, visit [NewHaven.misd.net](http://NewHaven.misd.net) or call 586-749-5123. New Haven Community Schools includes:

- New Haven Elementary School, 57701 River Oaks Drive, New Haven
- Endeavour Elementary School, 22505 26 Mile Road, Ray
- Endeavour Middle School, 22505 26 Mile Road, Ray
- New Haven High School, 57700 Gratiot Ave., New Haven

sary to guide students and create enthusiastic learners. The district has content area teams to identify how to teach specific topics and use resources, like technology, to their fullest extent. New teachers also are offered mentoring support.

The district, which serves 1,270 students, has utilized its resources well. Each elementary school, for example, has a literacy coach.

Because mastering reading and developing a love for books is an essential skill for young learners, New Haven elementary students receive a 90-minute block of literacy education every day. The lessons may be taught by classroom teachers or co-taught by the teacher and literacy coach. Other times the literacy coach might work with the classroom teacher on small group reading instruction or model a shared reading lesson.

"The literacy coach collaborates with teachers in the classroom and provides additional support for students and teachers," said VanSweden.

Elementary students also will be taking a com-

puter class along with other specials like art, music and physical education beginning this fall.

In addition, each elementary building houses an active Young 5's program. This full-day program follows the kindergarten curriculum, but offers extra support as children master learning concepts and prepare for the kindergarten experience. Eligible students must be five years old by Sept. 1 or turn five by Dec. 1.

New Haven offers a variety of preschool and early childhood programs to fit any family's needs. Housed in the Little Rockets Early Childhood Center at the administration building, families can choose from three- and four-year-old tuition-based programs, Great Start Readiness Program for eligible four-year-olds, early childhood special education and Macomb Intermediate School District Head Start program. Tuition-based childcare is also available.

The bond funds will not only go toward infrastructure, but also technology. The district is looking to replace its computers and move toward Chromebook



A future New Haven graduate begins kindergarten.

mobile carts that students can utilize in classrooms, said VanSweden. Recently the district upgraded computers and software to support Career Technical Education (CTE) programs at New Haven High School.

CTE programs offered at the high school include Business/Marketing Education, Automotive, Graphic Design, Sports Medicine and Medical Careers. Through partnerships with neighboring school districts, students have access to five additional CTE opportunities. These programs provide students with hands-on lessons and real-life experiences in the career field of their choice.

New Haven High School students have a variety of options to consider, whether they are planning on attending college, enrolling in trade school or entering the workforce. Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Early College Macomb and dual enrollment are good choices for college-bound juniors and seniors. VanSweden said Lawrence Technological University professors teach courses on site.

After school, middle and high school students have an array of athletics, clubs and fine arts programs to participate in. The district has a fabulous band program and bond monies have been set aside for new instruments. Last year, a robotics team was formed at the high school.

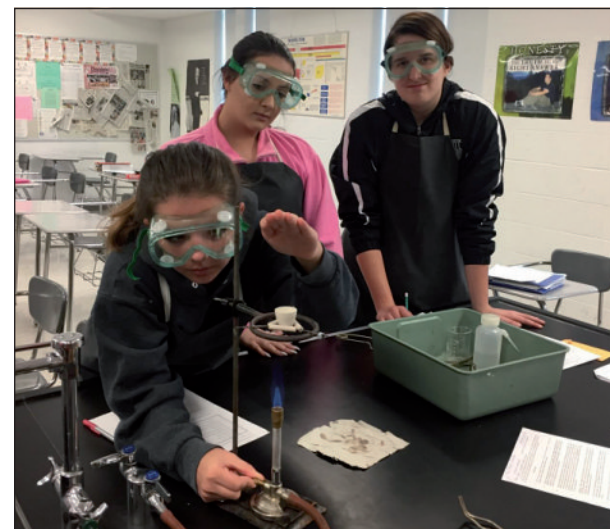


PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

New Haven High School students have a variety of options to consider, whether they are planning on attending college, enrolling in trade school or entering the workforce, so they are prepared for what the future holds after graduation.



The New Haven High School Robotics Team prepares for competition.



New Haven students explore hands-on concepts during science lab.





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## RICHMOND

# Career and Technical Education helps Richmond students prepare for future

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

Students interested in furthering their future career goals while still in high school can find the support they need at Richmond High School.

The district has an active CTE, or Career Technical Education program, including nine career pathways. The Heavy Machinery Operation, Repair and Maintenance program is the only one of its kind in Macomb County, said Superintendent Brian Walmsley.

He said 72 students were enrolled in this CTE class last year.

"CTE courses offer students an option to receive the training they need and the education they need to get in at the ground level. It's a good starting point for a future career," said Walmsley.

There is a full-time educator in charge of the program and many classes are taught by business professionals with years of experience in the field. The criminal justice pathway, he said, is taught by a former FBI agent.

"All our CTE programs have connections with people in the industries they represent," said Walmsley. "It's about offering real-world experiences every day."

The complete slate of CTE programs at Richmond High School includes:

- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Business Management and Technology
- Accounting
- Criminal Justice



- Culinary arts
- TV and Broadcast Media
- Marketing
- Heavy Machinery Operation, Repair and Maintenance
- Cyber Security

Students become immersed in the subjects they are studying and they get many opportunities to use equipment that is available in the workforce. Heavy machinery program students, for instance, are trained on how to operate and maintain heavy construction equipment.

Other programs, like the EMT program, offer certificate credentials upon completion of the course and passage of the national certification exam.

With monies from the 2013 bond, Richmond Community Schools has made substantial upgrades to its Culinary Arts facilities. Its kitchen is completely renovated to be a fully functional facility with a commercial-grade stove, baking center, salad and sandwich prep station and more. The facility, which includes a full-service restaurant area that serves the public to provide students with

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Richmond Community Schools, visit [Richmond.k12.mi.us](http://Richmond.k12.mi.us) or call (586) 727-3565. Richmond Community Schools includes:

- Early Childhood Learning Center, 35276 Division Road, Richmond
- Will L. Lee Elementary School, 68399 South Forest St., Richmond
- Richmond Middle School, 35250 Division Road, Richmond
- Richmond High School, 35320 Division Road, Richmond

on-the-job experience, will open to the public in January 2020.

While equipping students with specific career-oriented knowledge, the courses also instill other professional skills that are needed in the workplace, like time management, responsibility and teamwork.

CTE programs are intensive and require dedication, commitment and regular attendance.

TV production students, said Walmsley, are active in the community, often taping City of Richmond meetings that are streamed on local cable access channels. They also record sporting events, the Good Old Days Festival parade and the annual tree lighting ceremony in December.

TV and Broadcast Media students also participate in SkillsUSA, a national organization that educates and challenges CTE students. Students compete to earn scholarship money.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICHMOND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Richmond Community Schools has nine career pathways in its CTE, or Career Technical Education, program. The Heavy Machinery Operation, Repair and Maintenance program is the only one of its kind in Macomb County.

District leaders work closely with Macomb County officials to design CTE programs based on community need. Some industries can't find enough employees to fill open positions, so the goal is that, by training interested students, a win-win can be scored by all.

Richmond High School is now in the second year of its popular cybersecurity program, which focuses on preventing threats from hackers and viruses. Students learn about network operations and the ethics of Internet usage. This is a high demand field, said Walmsley, and student interest is high with approximately 25 students currently enrolled in the program.

In addition to the CTE classes held on Richmond High School's campus, students are able to take other CTE classes at neighboring



While equipping students with specific career-oriented knowledge, CTE courses also instill other professional skills that are needed in the workplace, like time management, responsibility and teamwork.

school districts. Thanks to partnership agreements, if a student is interested in a topic not offered at Richmond, he or she can go to

partnering districts. The agreement is mutual so Richmond hosts many students from other school districts as well.





# Richmond Community Schools

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## ROMEO

# Investment in Romeo Community Schools to show this fall

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

The 2019-20 school year promises to be an exciting one for Romeo Community Schools. As the district prepares to open a new high school and launch cutting-edge programs, its leaders are transforming the way it educates its 5,200 students from the inside out.

"Every kid is going to be impacted," said Superintendent Todd R. Robinson. "We're investing in them so they are better equipped to succeed in whatever path they choose after high school."

After years of preparation, Romeo Community Schools became an official Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) Community. It is one of 40+ NGL communities across the country and the first in Michigan. NGL districts employ a wall to wall career academy model.

Romeo High School has four academies:

- Design, Engineering and Manufacturing Academy
- Business, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Academy
- Health, Human and Public Service Academy
- 9th Grade Academy

Within each career academy are various pathways – 10 total. These include areas like hospitality, media production, information technology (IT), law and public safety, education, finance, architecture and construction and advanced manufacturing and robotics.

As freshmen, students experience a comprehensive career exploration experience that includes the investigation of their personal strengths and interests. This leads to them choosing a career pathway that is acknowledged during a pathway reveal celebration in the spring of their freshman year.

From that point on, they continue their Michigan Merit Curriculum coursework along with other elective classes with the opportunity for lessons to have a career focus. The connection of teachers and industry professionals allows for projects and lessons to have real world relevance within the framework of that pathway.

"We correlate the strengths and



interests of students within an academy and pathway," he said. "They are still mastering core concepts, but they are learning through the lens of a career, which is more engaging for students."

School district leaders worked closely with Macomb County Planning and Economic Development officials and local business owners to select the career pathways, further increasing graduates' chances of finding future employment while filling a need in the community for skilled trade workers.

This year's freshmen class will be the first cohort of students to go through the entire NGL experience. "We call them our trailblazers," said Robinson. "Every kid is going to be a part of this."

Older students were also given the option of choosing a career pathway for the remainder of their high school experience.

As part of this transition to a new format, Romeo students will have eight class periods instead of the traditional six. This block schedule frees students to enroll in two additional courses a semester, so, by the time they complete their four-year high school career, they have earned another year of credits.

Under a block schedule, there are four 90-minute periods a day and students alternate between Day A and Day B. The hour and a half format allows more time for in-depth study and additional classroom support.

While learning is being transformed inside, Romeo Community Schools is getting a new look on the outside, too. Thanks to an \$86 mil-

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Romeo Community Schools, visit [RomeoK12.org](http://RomeoK12.org) or call 586-752-0200. Romeo Community Schools includes:

- Croswell Early Childhood Center, 175 Croswell St., Romeo
- Amanda Moore Elementary School, 209 Dickenson St., Romeo
- Hamilton-Parsons Elementary School, 69875 Dequindre Road, Leonard
- Hevel Elementary School, 12700 E. 29 Mile Road, Washington
- Indian Hills Elementary School, 8401 W. 29 Mile Road, Washington
- Washington Elementary School, 58230 Van Dyke Road, Washington
- Powell Middle School, 62100 Jewell Road, Washington
- Romeo Middle School, 297 Prospect St., Romeo
- Romeo High School, 11091 W. 32 Mile Road, Romeo

lion bond approved by voters in 2016, a new high school for grades 10-12 is set to open on the site of the former Romeo Engineering and Technology Center. This move makes it possible for renovations that will turn the old high school into a middle school and the current Powell Middle School into the 9th Grade Academy, opening in fall 2020.

The 9th Grade Academy is critical to future student success, said Robinson. He explained that transitioning to high school is a big move and by forming bonds with fellow students and connections with staff members in a nurturing, welcoming "smaller" environment, students will stay engaged in their education.

In fact, he said studies show that success in the 9th grade directly correlates to graduation rates.

The bond also has funded new secure entryways at the elementary buildings and renovations at the high school stadium.

Tremendous work is being done at the elementary schools, said Robinson. Developmental kindergarten, its Young 5's programs, is available at three elementaries. Currently 60 families are enrolled. The district plans to offer the program at all five elementary buildings soon.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROMEO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The MITES Construction team at Romeo Community Schools.



Several Romeo Community Schools' track members were named to the All State team.



Romeo thespians are enthusiastic about the theater.



Romeo Community Schools has a strong band program.



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- Most students will earn an industry certification at graduation
- Academies include:
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  - Business, Entrepreneurship and Innovation
  - Design, Engineering and Manufacturing
  - Health, Human and Public Services



### What sets Romeo Community Schools apart

- Early Childhood and Preschool Programs for infants, toddlers & children (up to 4 years old). Half or Full day programs, 2, 3 or 5 day-a-week options
- New Young 5's full day program available at elementary schools open to resident and school of choice students
- STEM-focused learning offered at all education levels
- Modern and updated facilities to enhance the student experience
- 1:1 technology – All students provided with their own device (K-12th grade)
- Safety upgrades include secured entrances at all buildings, enhanced communication systems and full time school liaison officer from MCSD
- Expansive extracurricular offerings span a variety of interests including athletics, robotics, fine arts, theater, community service and more



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## ROSEVILLE

# Technology changes to transform the way Roseville students learn

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

Roseville Community Schools students are going to see some big changes when they return to the classroom this fall. Thanks to a \$59.4 million bond issue passed last May, seasonal construction projects and program initiatives are currently underway – and they are destined to change the district forever.

Perhaps the most dramatic changes involve technology, including the introduction of 1-to-1 devices for every student. Beginning this fall, every middle school and high school student and teacher will receive a new laptop, which can also be flipped and used as a tablet. The elementary schools are scheduled to receive new devices next year, but, in the meantime, the Chromebooks and iPads currently used in the secondary schools will be shifted down for use in the elementary classrooms. The move will reduce the amount of computer labs needed in each building, and save time as students will have their device with them and not have to get re-settled in the computer lab.

The bond issue also paved the way for the installation of interactive displays in every classroom. These 86-inch touchscreen boards will enhance daily curriculum and captivate students like never before.

Superintendent Mark Blaszkowski believes it will immeasurably enrich student understanding and transform the way students learn. “Technology changes will provide students with many opportunities to become more engaged in their own education,” he said.

Using the touchscreen boards, teachers can create interactive lessons with their classes, which can then be shared with other class-



rooms, captured and saved for future use or sent to absent students.

A huge advantage is that the board can be connected to student devices in the classroom. This allows teachers to view a student device when solving a problem or receive real-time responses on class questions and quizzes. This provides valuable feedback that can assist the teacher in determining who needs further assistance or if the class has mastered the concepts and is ready to move forward.

When access to internet is needed to facilitate classroom discussion, the interactive display can also serve as a large screen television.

In addition to technology, the bond provides the district with many other new updates. Roseville High School will be unveiling new athletic facilities this September, which includes a brand new artificial turf football/soccer field and track, updating lighting and sound and a brand new locker room/concession building.

The district has also spent this summer updating safety and security throughout the schools. All buildings have received security camera upgrades, which includes improved camera quality, and an increased coverage area. A door monitoring system has been installed, which will alert staff of open doors. Wayfinding signs, which can assist first responders in case of an emergency, are also being installed this summer.

Roseville Community

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Roseville Community Schools, visit [rosevillepride.org](http://rosevillepride.org) or call (586) 445-5500. Roseville Community Schools includes:

- Dort Elementary School, 16225 Dort St., Roseville
- Fountain Elementary School, 16850 Wellington St., Roseville
- Huron Park Elementary School, 18530 Marquette St., Roseville
- Kaiser Elementary School, 16700 Wildwood St., Roseville
- Kment Elementary School, 20033 Washington St., Roseville
- Patton Elementary School, 18851 McKinnon St., Roseville
- Steenland Elementary School, 16335 Chestnut St., Roseville
- Eastland Middle School, 18700 Frank St., Roseville
- Roseville Middle School, 16250 Martin St., Roseville
- Roseville High School, 17855 Common St., Roseville

Schools serve approximately 4,600 students in grades pre-K through 12. The district facilities include seven elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school.

Within every classroom is a committed, caring teacher. Roseville staff members, said Blaszkowski, are highly trained and well-respected by their colleagues.

“They work hard every day for our kids. They do whatever it takes, including spending extra time working with them,” he said. “Teachers are the difference makers.”

Students begin to build their solid academic foundation in pre-K. Roseville offers free Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) pre-school for eligible students. According to Blaszkowski, the GSRP:

- Makes regular school attendance routine



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Roseville has an active Career and Technical Education (CTE) program that includes nine career pathways.

- Allows children time to adjust to being away from their parents
- Boosts socialization skills

- Exposes young children to language development

Throughout full-day kindergarten, elementary and middle school, teachers emphasize the fundamentals of learning, like reading and math, while exposing students to new ideas, participation in the arts and career exploration.

There is a free year-round elementary program that features five weeks of full day instruction in the summer including math, writing, reading, science, and social studies. The program also incorporates art, physical education, computers, and field trips each week. Free breakfast and lunch are available, too.

During the school year, the district offers an elementary Gifted and Talented Program for third through fifth grade students eligible for accelerated learning. Students are nominated by their teachers and chosen based



Within every Roseville classroom is a committed, caring teacher.

on a variety of factors.

Roseville High School offers 12 Advanced Placement courses which give students the opportunity to test for college credit upon completion. There is also an early college program, where students spend half the day at the high school and the other half at Macomb Community College taking college courses and a Dual Enrollment program that allows qualifying students to at-

tend courses at local colleges or universities at a reduced, and in some cases, free cost while attending high school.

In addition, Roseville has an active Career and Technical Education (CTE) program that includes nine career pathways, including accounting, auto technology, business, childcare, construction trades, hospitality management, machine trades, marketing, and web design.





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## SOUTH LAKE

# South Lake teachers lead by example to prepare students for future success

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

Administrators and teachers at South Lake Schools aren't afraid of making the tough decisions necessary to advance student achievement and make sure each one receives the personalized attention that they need and deserve.

That may mean taking additional training, rethinking the way they deliver lessons or taking advantage of new technologies in the classroom. South Lake educators know that the status quo isn't good enough to prepare graduates for the rigors of the college classroom or workplace.

"Our teachers engage with students at a different level than what is traditionally called for," said Superintendent Ted VonHiltmayer. "They are changing the way they are teaching students and, in the process, making a big impact on their futures."

Staff is receiving muchneeded support from facility and technology upgrades, part of a \$25.6 million bond proposal approved by voters in 2014.

"We have a 1-to-1 initiative with iPads," he said, "and it's going to completely transform the classroom environment."

Students in grades K-4 will have a set of iPads available for classroom use while those in grades 5-12 will each have their own device. Several elementary, middle and high school teachers have volunteered to give up some of their summer for training, where



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about South Lake Schools, visit [solake.org](http://solake.org) or call (586) 435-1600. South Lake Schools includes:

- Avalon Elementary School, 20000 Avalon St., St. Clair Shores
- Elmwood Elementary School, 22700 California St., St. Clair Shores
- Koepsell Elementary School, 21760 Raven Road, Eastpointe
- South Lake Middle School, 21627 California St., St. Clair Shores
- South Lake High School, 21900 E. 9 Mile Road, St. Clair Shores

they are re-learning how to teach concepts with an iPad. These teacher volunteers will share what they have learned with their colleagues.

The goal, he said, is to take full advantage of the technology in order to increase interaction, spark classroom discussion and connect with students by engaging them in lessons.

South Lake Schools serves 1,600 students in three elementary buildings, one middle school and one high school. Being a smaller district, says VonHiltmayer, is beneficial for students because they receive more one on-one attention from

educators.

Staff members base their administrative decisions on what is best for students. By offering transportation for all K-12 students, for example, more students are attending school regularly and showing up promptly.

Class sizes are kept small, on average 22 for South Lake Middle School students and 27 for South Lake High School students.

When research was released showing that teenagers retain information better later in the morning, South Lake Schools leaders responded by pushing back the start time for high schoolers. First hour now begins at 8:35 a.m. — a full hour later than many districts.

The result has been amazing, reported VonHiltmayer. Students are showing up on time and eager to learn. In fact, the high school recorded 60 percent fewer tardies in first hour since the later start time policy was implemented. This translates into more meaningful learning and fewer classroom disruptions.

"It's made a huge difference for teachers and students," he said.

Students who are mastering course content have access to accelerated courses as early as the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOUTH LAKE SCHOOLS

Avalon Elementary School students are exposed to a variety of hands-on learning experiences.

sixth grade. There are 14 honors courses offered at the middle and high schools. In addition, high school students can enroll in seven Advanced Placement (AP) courses, including AP Statistics, AP Calculus and AP Psychology.

Students can also dual enroll and earn college credits from Macomb Community College and Wayne State University while attending South Lake High School.

Those interested in Career Technical Education (CTE) can take on-site classes in hospitality and culinary arts and automotive technology. These courses offer hands-on learning in an environment similar to the workplace. Culinary arts students, for example, operate a restaurant that serves the public three days

a week.

At South Lake Schools, there is no charge to participate in athletics or extracurricular activities. There are 22 varsity sports and various organization options available for everyone's interests, including robotics clubs.

"We offer a lot for students, not just during the day, but after school, too," said VonHiltmayer.

South Lake students have thrived in this environment that has been created by caring and compassionate staff members. This year's senior class of 125 graduates earned a combined total of more than \$1 million in scholarships, which averages nearly \$8,500 per graduate.



Koepsell Elementary School students have thrived in this environment that has been created by caring and compassionate staff members.





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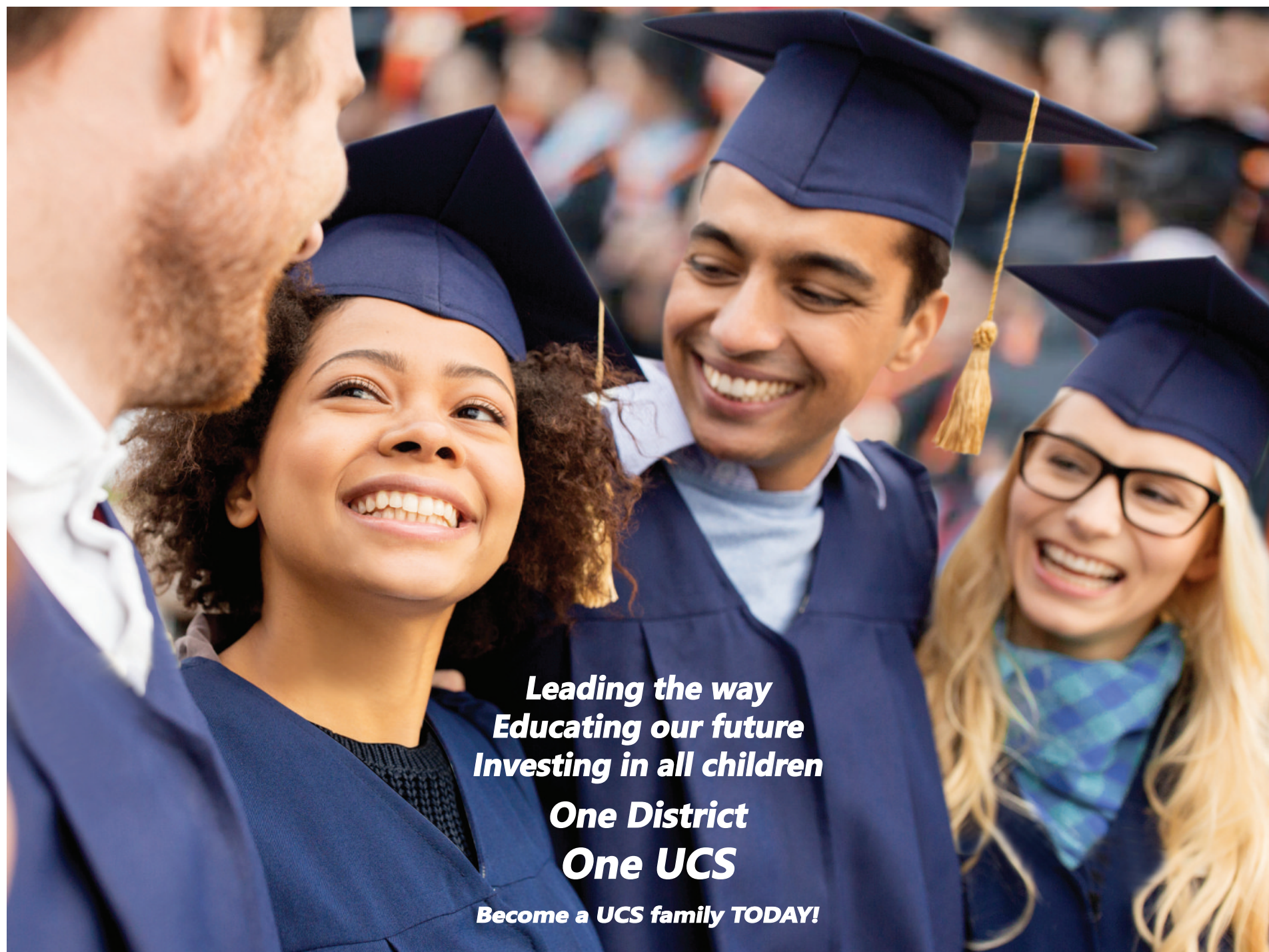
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## VAN DYKE

# Van Dyke Public Schools staff focuses on education, care of students and families

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

"Every student, every day – no matter what."

Van Dyke Public Schools is committed to providing a high quality education to each student – even if it means making some unconventional decisions. Whatever it takes, staff is going to make sure students receive the education and skills they need to succeed after graduation.

"Schools are more than reading, writing and arithmetic," said Superintendent Piper Bogнар.

The district's staff includes social workers and health and human services employees to provide extra support for families in need. Everyone receives a free, healthy breakfast and lunch. Henry Ford Health System operates a clinic on-site, providing access to behavioral health, sports physicals and wellness care.

"It's difficult to learn if you are hungry or hurting. We serve the whole family," she said.

To address the most urgent needs of students, Van Dyke has implemented trauma-informed learning curriculum. Using this method, teachers are trained to recognize and reach out to students under stress from specific circumstances in their lives. Staff members make an effort to know every student and their family so they are aware of their unique needs.

With this knowledge, teachers can respond with strategies that make it easier for the child to learn. Yoga therapy and therapy dogs are two examples that have been shown to reduce



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Van Dyke Public Schools, visit [vdps.net](http://vdps.net) or call (586) 758-8331. Van Dyke Public Schools includes:

- Kennedy Early Childhood Center, 11333 Kaltz St., Warren
- Carlson Elementary School, 12355 Mruk St., Warren
- Lincoln Elementary School, 22100 Federal St., Warren
- McKinley Elementary School, 13173 Toepfer St., Warren
- Lincoln Middle School, 22500 Federal St., Warren
- Lincoln High School, 22900 Federal St., Warren
- Success Academy, 23500 MacArthur Blvd., Warren

stress, comfort children and put them in a place where they are ready to learn.

True to its commitment to families, Van Dyke Public Schools does not have a fee to participate in athletics, either. Educators want children to be able to supplement their academics with activities that appeal to their interests without financial barriers. Studies show that through participation in athletics and extracurricular activities, students learn skills like collaboration, teamwork and goal-setting that reinforces classroom learning.

Van Dyke educators have identified four school improvement goals:

- Student achievement
- Climate and culture
- Wraparound community involvement
- Financial responsibility

Bognar said emphasis in these objectives has shaped the district's focus overall and put into perspective the

skills, characteristics and knowledge that students need to be successful after graduation.

To get students ready for learning, Van Dyke Public Schools offers an early Head Start program for infants. It's open to children throughout Macomb County. Another early childhood offering is seven classrooms of the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for eligible four-year-olds.

Transitional kindergarten and traditional kindergarten provide a solid foundation for future academic success. While the curriculum is consistent, each elementary building has its own character based on the personalities and interests of its student body. While one building has a running club, for example, another works with a food bank as part of a community partnership.

The middle school focus is on making connections.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VAN DYKE SCHOOLS

Lincoln High School students receive hands-on lessons in the school's Science Lab.

The pre-teen years can be a turbulent time for many as they deal with adolescence, peer pressure and increased academic expectations. Van Dyke teachers are there to help guide students and provide a welcoming and nurturing environment.

As a Professional Learning Community District, twice a month students are released early so teachers can gather for a 90-minute session to collaborate on lessons and discuss any challenges they have observed in the classroom.

Lincoln High School students have numerous opportunities to prepare for their goals after graduation. If college is in the future, students can take part in dual enrollment and Early College. Those headed straight to the workforce or trade school can participate in Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes.

Van Dyke Public Schools is part of the Southwest Macomb Technical Education Consortium. Along with Center Line, Fitzgerald and Warren



Lincoln High School offers Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes in culinary and hospitality services.

Woods school districts, Van Dyke juniors and seniors can enroll in a variety of CTE classes that are organized into six career pathways: Arts and Communication; Business Management, Marketing & Technology; Engineering/Manufacturing & Industrial Technology; Health Sciences; Human Services; and Natural Resources &

Agriscience.

Lincoln High School offers CTE classes in accounting, web design, computer applications, culinary and hospitality services, automotive technology, drafting/CAD, manufacturing technology and dental assisting. Students interested in other pathways can take classes at consortium schools.





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# Warren Consolidated Schools

## Responding to the need for skilled workers



# Skilled Trades

Partnering with business professionals, post-secondary educators and community leaders, Warren Consolidated Schools prepares its students for future success. Graduates leave high school with a solid foundation that they can build upon as they pursue their unique goals, be that college, military, work or family.

"Warren Consolidated Schools offers all students the opportunity to gain hands-on skills through 21 cutting edge Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, offered at our three traditional high schools and at our state of the art Career Prep Center," said Superintendent Dr. Robert Livernois.

The Career Prep Center (CPC) exposes students to a wide variety of high-demand, high-paying careers. Through hands-on activities and real work experiences, students strengthen their academic knowledge, develop technical skills and explore growing career fields.

"CTE provides real world work experience and exposure to help students achieve success, regardless of which post-secondary path they choose. We believe all children learn differently. While some students thrive in a traditional academic setting, others find success at CPC by discovering alternate routes and certifications. We aim to identify and cultivate the individual talents and interests of our students, providing them direct access to a variety of post-secondary options," he said.

Among the career pathways offered at the CPC are: Building trades, collision repair, computer aided design (CAD), computer information systems, culinary arts, cybersecurity, dental science, emergency medical technician, health science, marketing, metal technology, robotics and mechatronics and visual imaging and printing technology.

These career pathways, said Livernois, are aligned to the Michigan Hot 50 Publication, which

highlights top trending high demand, high wage careers that offer a mix of long term job growth, projected annual job openings and median wages. The publication also lists these in-demand careers and STEM occupations by education and training requirements so students can clearly see what will be required of them.

Supplementing this information is an advisory committee comprised of business leaders, students, parents and post-secondary education partners.

"Our instructors rely on our industry leaders to keep us informed of current trends, equipment and certifications," said the superintendent. "The committee meets twice per year to brainstorm ways to improve our programs to best meet the needs of the community and current industry demands."

With this input, Livernois added, Warren educators have a constant pipeline to current community needs and industry trends.

"This partnership allows us to provide our students with the most current knowledge, skills and hands-on training necessary to directly fill the skills gap in our community," he said.

While classroom knowledge is powerful, so is work-based learning. As students participate in ambulance ride alongs, construct homes and cater community events, they get a realistic view of their chosen career and are in a better position to know if this is an area they wish to continue to pursue or whether they want to switch gears into another employment sector.

More than 700 students participate in CPC classes. They are juniors and seniors from four high schools: Community High, Sterling Heights, Warren Cousino and Warren Mott.

According to Livernois, a work-based learning coordinator pairs second year students with local businesses, providing part time employment, job shadowing opportunities and internships.

"This program allows students practical experiences with highly qualified professionals within their field," he said.

This commitment to preparing students for future success can be found throughout Warren schools. All Warren Consolidated Schools are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the State of Michigan, and 13 of its schools have been awarded the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Award. Two are national blue ribbon schools. A blue ribbon school is recognized for achieving a high level of all-around excellence through a quality curriculum, extensive educational opportunities and a solid pathway to success in college or the workplace.



CPC Building Trades



CPC Auto Shop



CPC Metals



CPC E.M.T.



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## WARREN WOODS

# Construction projects to touch every building at Warren Woods Public Schools

By Jane Peterson  
For MediaNews Group

If you had the opportunity to walk around the campus of Warren Woods Public Schools this summer, you might have been surprised by the level of activity in progress.

The district is in the midst of a construction project that will completely transform its facilities into places where children can continue to learn and thrive for years to come. By the time students return to school in the fall, families will see what construction crews and district administrators have been busy working on for months.

"It's a super exciting time," said Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici.

Just in time for the fall sports season, work is wrapping up on athletic concession and restroom buildings, which will now include team rooms for both away and home teams. In the past, away teams had to assemble on their school buses before the game and during halftime festivities.

In addition, existing home bleachers will be upgraded to a grandstand so there will be plenty of space for the marching band and fans alike when the bleachers fill up for games starting later this fall.

Funds, provided by the 2017 bond issue approval, are also being used to address student safety and bring new technology to classrooms across the district.



Construction will touch every building in a variety of different ways. Some buildings are receiving new secure entrances, parking lots are being replaced, new playground equipment has been installed, HVAC systems are receiving much-needed upgrades, brick restoration work is underway and classroom renovations are taking place.

"We're focusing on projects that directly impact the classroom," she said. "We always consider what is best for the kids first."

The district serves 3,500 students in three elementary schools, one middle school and two high schools. Denewith-Fici described this as the perfect size: Large enough to offer a complete slate of academic programs, but small enough so building principals know every student by name. The community, she said, is very tight-knit, so cherished traditions, such as building homecoming floats, are an event that everyone looks forward to each year.

This kind of support and this level of personal attention directly correlate with student achievement. Knowing the importance of community, middle school students are placed into

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Warren Woods Public Schools, visit [mywwps.org](http://mywwps.org) or call (586) 439-4401. Warren Woods Public Schools includes:

- Warren Woods Early Childhood Center, 12900 Frazho Road, Warren
- Briarwood Elementary School, 14100 Leisure St., Warren
- Pinewood Elementary School, 14411 Bade Drive, Warren
- Westwood Elementary School, 11999 Martin Road, Warren
- Warren Woods Middle School, 13400 East 12 Mile Road, Warren
- Enterprise High School, 28600 Suburban St., Warren
- Warren Woods-Tower High School, 27900 Bunert Road, Warren

teams, which essentially transforms the larger school environment into a smaller school within a school.

Students on each team have the same four teachers for each of the core curriculum subjects: Math, science, language arts and social studies. Even if friends don't have the same class period, they know what concepts the teacher is covering. Students also participate in the same projects, field trips and other activities as a unit.

Students benefit because they build bonds. They feel a sense of belonging that is so important to middle school development. The advantages to teachers are that they get to know students and, if they see a pattern emerge in their class, such as sudden missing assignments, they can check in to see if the other team teachers are experiencing the same issues. If so, they can



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The construction currently under way at Warren Woods Public Schools are projects that directly impact the classroom.

address their concern with the family.

"In middle school, kids are so curious and want to learn, but it can be a challenging time as they develop their critical thinking skills and assert their independence," said Denewith-Fici. "What teams do is allow students to make strong connections with their teachers and peers."

Connections are important to the school community as a whole. Warren Woods Public Schools enjoys the support of its families, businesses, stakeholders and community organizations. The Bosch Community Fund, for example, donated funds in 2018 and 2019 to support Warren Woods Public Schools' Elementary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiative and science instruction. The elementary



Some buildings at Warren Woods Public Schools are receiving new secure entrances.

STEM program is part of the district's weekly specials classes along with art, music, physical education and media.

At the secondary level, students select from a variety of STEM courses as well as music and fine arts classes. They have access to college and workforce preparation programs, like Career and

Technical Education (CTE). Warren Woods is part of a consortium with Center Line, Fitzgerald and Van Dyke school districts. Warren Woods hosts the health and science and cosmetology programs. At the completion of each program, students can test to receive licensing credentials that they can use to get a job right out of high school.





# Warren Woods Public Schools

## Make it Happen - Together

- 100% Highly Qualified Teaching Staff
- Full Day Kindergarten Programs
- Award Winning Fine Arts Program
- Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Program
- Cutting Edge Career and Technical Education Programs
- Advanced Placement Courses and Programs
- College Dual Enrollment Opportunities
- Early Middle College Opportunities
- Student progress is continually assessed and individualized instruction is provided
- Fully Accredited Programs

For more information, visit our website at [www.mywwps.org](http://www.mywwps.org) or by contacting the Pupil Services Office at 586.439.4468.

It is the policy of the Warren Woods Public Schools no person shall on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender/sex, age, disability, height, weight or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or employment.





# Macomb County Public Schools *and*

# Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD)

## Leadership, Shared Services and Partnerships in Education

*Macomb County K–12 public school enrollment* has remained constant at 135,000 students during the population downturn in the state over the past decade. People are moving to Macomb County because of quality education offered by our schools, affordable housing, and safe neighborhoods.



Anchor Bay Schools [www.anchorbay.misd.net](http://www.anchorbay.misd.net)

Armada Area Schools [www.armadaschools.org](http://www.armadaschools.org)

Center Line Public Schools [www.clps.org](http://www.clps.org)

Chippewa Valley Schools [www.chippewavalleyschools.org](http://www.chippewavalleyschools.org)

Clintondale Community Schools [www.clintondaleschools.net/home/](http://www.clintondaleschools.net/home/)

Eastpointe Community Schools [www.eastpointeschools.org](http://www.eastpointeschools.org)

Fitzgerald Public Schools [www.fitz.k12.mi.us](http://www.fitz.k12.mi.us)

Fraser Public Schools [www.fraser.k12.mi.us](http://www.fraser.k12.mi.us)

Lake Shore Public Schools [www.lakeshoreschools.org](http://www.lakeshoreschools.org)

Lakeview Public Schools [www.lakeviewpublicschools.org](http://www.lakeviewpublicschools.org)

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools [www.lc-ps.org](http://www.lc-ps.org)

Mount Clemens Community Schools [www.mtcps.org](http://www.mtcps.org)

New Haven Community Schools [www.newhaven.misd.net](http://www.newhaven.misd.net)

Richmond Community Schools [www.richmond.k12.mi.us](http://www.richmond.k12.mi.us)

Romeo Community Schools [www.romeok12.org](http://www.romeok12.org)

Roseville Community Schools [www.rcs.misd.net](http://www.rcs.misd.net)

South Lake Schools [www.solake.org](http://www.solake.org)

Utica Community Schools [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org)

Van Dyke Public Schools [www.vdps.net](http://www.vdps.net)

Warren Consolidated Schools [www.wcskids.net](http://www.wcskids.net)

Warren Woods Public Schools [www.warrenwoods.misd.net](http://www.warrenwoods.misd.net)



**Macomb Intermediate School District**  
44001 Garfield, Clinton Twp, MI 48038-1100  
586.228.3300

[www.misd.net](http://www.misd.net)