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Macomb Intermediate School District: Crisis brings community together to keep students fed and well educated

By **Jane Peterson**
For Media NewsGroup

It's hard to describe the collective reaction that happened when the COVID-19 crisis hit and school officials, parents and students were faced with the reality that in-person instruction had ended. After the initial shock wore off, it quickly became apparent just how severely students would be impacted by not being able to be in class with their teachers and friends every day.

Many families depend on schools for free breakfast and lunch, childcare and social-emotional support. Younger and older students alike missed their interactions with classmates, and students with special needs were upset by not being able to see their favorite friends, teachers, bus drivers and other support personnel.

The Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) provides leadership in all areas. The largest intermediate school district in Michigan, it offers services directly to schools, students and families. The MISD serves all 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.

When concerns arose about students going hungry, the MISD quickly stepped up to support local school district food programs.

"We were immediately prepared to address the issue," said Carolyn Thomas, child nutrition consultant for the MISD. "We had a well-oiled transportation system that we could leverage to feed children."

The operation sprang into action quickly. Food hubs were established in the MISD administration building in Clinton Township and at Sterling Heights High School in collaboration with Warren Consolidated Schools. Two or three days a week, staff and volunteers gathered to stuff boxes with seven days' worth of breakfast and lunch meal kits. The family-friendly kits were then transferred in thermal coolers to the MISD building where fresh, cold milk was added. Finally, the kits and



curriculum packets were shipped to the buses to be delivered directly to MISD student homes via 100 bus routes.

Students loved seeing the buses pull up in front of their house, said Thomas. "It kept them connected to the school, knowing that people who cared about them were putting together these packages," she said. "Meeting the needs of our students is paramount."

Families, Thomas added, were very grateful, not only because the deliveries relieved some financial burden, but because it removed the stress of worrying about how to get to the store while caring for a child with special needs and possibly exposing an immuno-compromised student to a contagious virus.

In addition, the Farmers to Family Food Box program and Gleaner's Food Bank provided food boxes that community members suffering from the financial fallout of the crisis could pick up at MISD buildings. More than 350 families received fresh fruit, vegetables and more each week.

During the school year, the MISD offers a full continuum of services, said Justin Michalak, assistant superintendent for Special Education & Student Services. 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.

When schools had to quickly adjust to remote learning, the MISD was

there to offer support and resources to local school districts, said Michalak, as this was an especially challenging time for districts with students who needed access to devices and Internet connections to be successful at home.

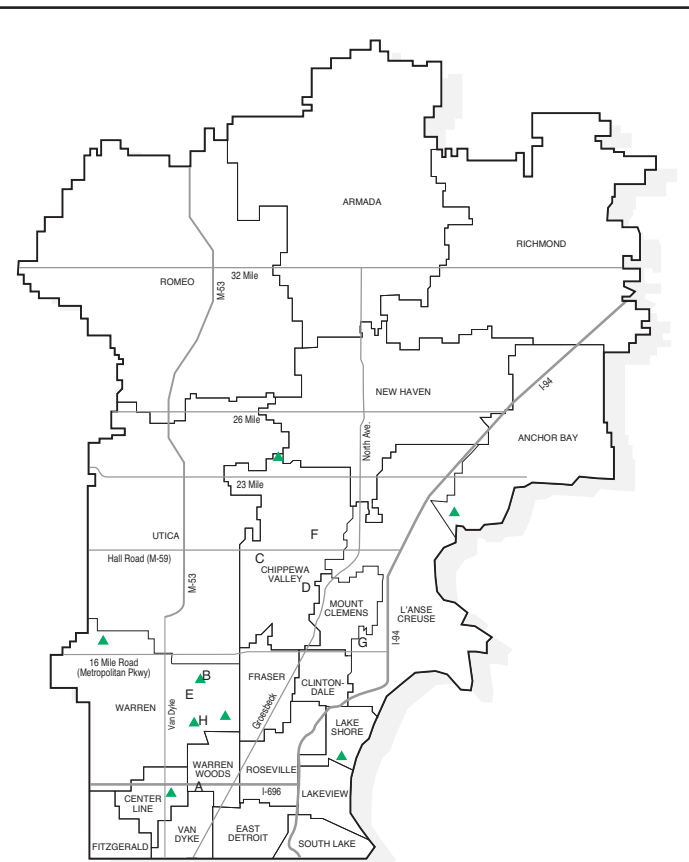
The MISD's special education services address the needs of children from birth to age 26 with physical, developmental or emotional disabilities who may require additional attention, support materials, hands-on care or specialized equipment to learn, grow and thrive.

"Our MISD team is caring and compassionate, giving support to families and helping them navigate the steps to services that 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.

The Macomb Infant Preschool



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

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.

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.

For more information

To learn more about the Macomb Intermediate School District, visit 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

Parents/Caregivers –

If Your Child Turns

5

**years old by
September 1, 2020,***

**please contact your local
school district ASAP to complete
Kindergarten Registration forms.
This is an IMPORTANT time for
your child's learning.**

*According to Michigan law, if a child residing in a district is not five years of age on or before September 1, 2020, but will turn five years of age not later than December 1, 2020, the parent may contact the school district to obtain a possible waiver for their child to enter Kindergarten this year.

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ANCHOR BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District ready for whatever comes their way this fall

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," district leaders are eager for students to gather back in the classrooms, but preparing for numerous scenarios based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and recommendations from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Whatever new normal develops from the COVID-19 crisis, Anchor Bay will be ready, with plans already in progress for a safe return to the classroom, cleaning and safety protocols in place and the Anchor Bay Virtual Academy ready for those choosing to remain at home.

Anchor Bay has also implemented several unique programs that promote not only knowledge and learning, but also character, leadership and teamwork. These will continue to be emphasized throughout the 2020-21 school year.

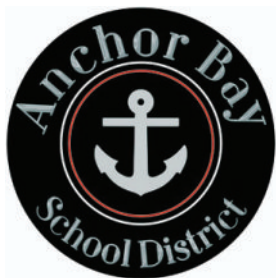
The result is a wellrounded

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, that include Junior ROTC,

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Anchor Bay School District, visit 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



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 a few remaining 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 K-12 Project Lead the Way and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs which give all students the opportunity to learn and apply their knowledge to real-world applications. At the high school level, PLTW Engineering program



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANCHOR BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The district has K-12 Project Lead the Way and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs which give all students the opportunity to learn and apply their knowledge to real-world applications.

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.

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, 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 environment.

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.

The elementary schools have three options for kindergarten this fall: Full-day, half-day and Young

Fives. Children must be 5 years old by Sept. 1. In addition, Mandarin is offered from kindergarten to fifth grade, middle schools offer 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 support for the \$22.5 million 2017 bond issue, Anchor Bay has taken on a number of infrastructure, construction and technology projects, most notably the purchase of six new buses, installation of new teacher workstations and a synthetic turf athletic field at Anchor Bay High School, renovations to the Aquatic Center, playground upgrades and new kitchen equipment at some elementary schools, paving projects and roof replacements, installation of running track surfaces at the middle schools and improvements to the high school tennis courts.



INSPIRING, CHALLENGING & EMPOWERING *All Students to Succeed*

READY FOR FALL 2020 WITH IN-PERSON & ONLINE OPTIONS

Anchor Bay Elementary Schools offer:

- Three Kindergarten Options: Young Fives Program, Half & Full Day Kindergarten
- K-5 Art, Music, Mandarin, Physical Education and Technology Classes
- K-5 Project Lead the Way and STEM Classes
- Literacy and Math Intervention Specialists
- 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
- Full Sports Program (No Pay-to-Play Fees)
- Award Winning Band & Vocal Music Program
- 6th-8th Student Activity Clubs

Anchor Bay High School offers:

- Honors Academy including 9 Advanced Placement Courses
- 52 Competitive Team Sports (No Pay-to-Play Fees)
- Award Winning Theatre, Art, Band and Vocal Music
- JROTC Programs for 9-12 Graders
- Foreign Language Courses in French, Spanish and German
- 16 Career Technical Education Programs
- PLTW Engineering College Program & Women in Engineering Cohort

ANCHOR BAY IS A SCHOOLS OF CHOICE DISTRICT.

EMPOWER YOUR STUDENT TO SUCCEED - APPLY TODAY!

Visit www.anchorbay.misd.net or call 586-725-2861 for details.



HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Anchor Bay students scored higher than county and state averages in every area tested on Spring 2019 assessments.

#1 in Macomb County
English Language Arts
3rd, 4th and 5th Grade

#1 in Macomb County
Mathematics
3rd, 4th and 5th Grade

#1 in Macomb County
Social Studies
8th Grade

#2 in Macomb County
SAT
ABHS



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

ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS

Focusing on the positives despite challenging times

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Like many other school districts across Michigan, Armada Area Schools officials spent most of the summer planning for what ifs. There was Plan A if students returned to school, Plan B if everyone needed to stay at home, Plan C if some students planned to attend classes and others wanted to take advantage of virtual learning opportunities ... the possibilities were endless.

Despite the unknown, students and their education remained the district's top priority.

"We need to keep everyone as safe as possible while providing them with a quality education," said Superintendent Michael Musary.

Thanks to a variety of innovative programs and a committed community, 96 percent of Armada Area Schools graduates attend college or trade school.

Students, he said, are well prepared for these new challenges. The typical Armada High School graduate has already earned 12 credits toward a college degree due to participation in the district's Advanced Placement (AP) classes and programs like the district's partnership with Ferris State University where students can earn up to 14 college credits while still in high school.

"We're a small school district with big goals for our students," said Musary.

Exposure to future career opportunities and college studies helps students see the possibilities. Armada students can take advantage of a number of unique and valuable learning opportunities through the district's robust Career Technical Education (CTE)

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

program. Courses of study include construction trades, culinary arts, health occupations and emergency medical technician. The heavy machine operator and automotive technology programs are held at Richmond and Romeo, respectively.

Thanks to a Marshall Fund grant for \$500,000, the district instituted a career navigator program that helps students explore areas of interest and learn how they can turn them into careers. 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.

High school students also visit various businesses in the community to speak with employers about their expectations on the job.

The district's hard work has paid off as Armada Area

ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS

Armada High School students enjoy robust fine arts opportunities, including theater.



Exposure to career skills, like those offered through robotics, help Armada students see future possibilities.

Schools has racked up a long list of achievements. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, Armada High School was ranked the top high school in Macomb County according to the Michigan Department of Education.

It 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. In 2019, 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.

COVID-19 hasn't stopped Armada from helping students reach their goals; it may just end up changing the way the objectives are delivered. Musary said administrators and teachers



Armada's boys bowling team brought home a Division 3 state championship earlier this year.

are planning on running full programs this upcoming school year and might even teach some outdoors to further reduce the chances of COVID-19 spread.

While putting in tireless hours of work to make contingency plans for students while adhering to the district's high standards, Musary is proud of the community's commitment to its extra-curricular activities as well.

Armada's 1,800 students at Krause Elementary School, Armada Middle School and Armada High School enjoy numerous activities, including a full slate of athletics, fine arts, music education, academic competition teams, robotics and more. Armada was named a "2018, 2019 and 2020 Best Communities for Music Education" by

the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) and the co-ed trap team won a state championship in only its fourth year of the program. The boys bowling team also brought home a division 3 state championship earlier this year.

Residents in Armada, a bedroom community located within 80 square miles, support the success of its students and the district as a whole, providing a wide range of opportunities for its students. Armada students, for example, can participate in the Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Middle Academy of Arts and Sciences. 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.

Achievement

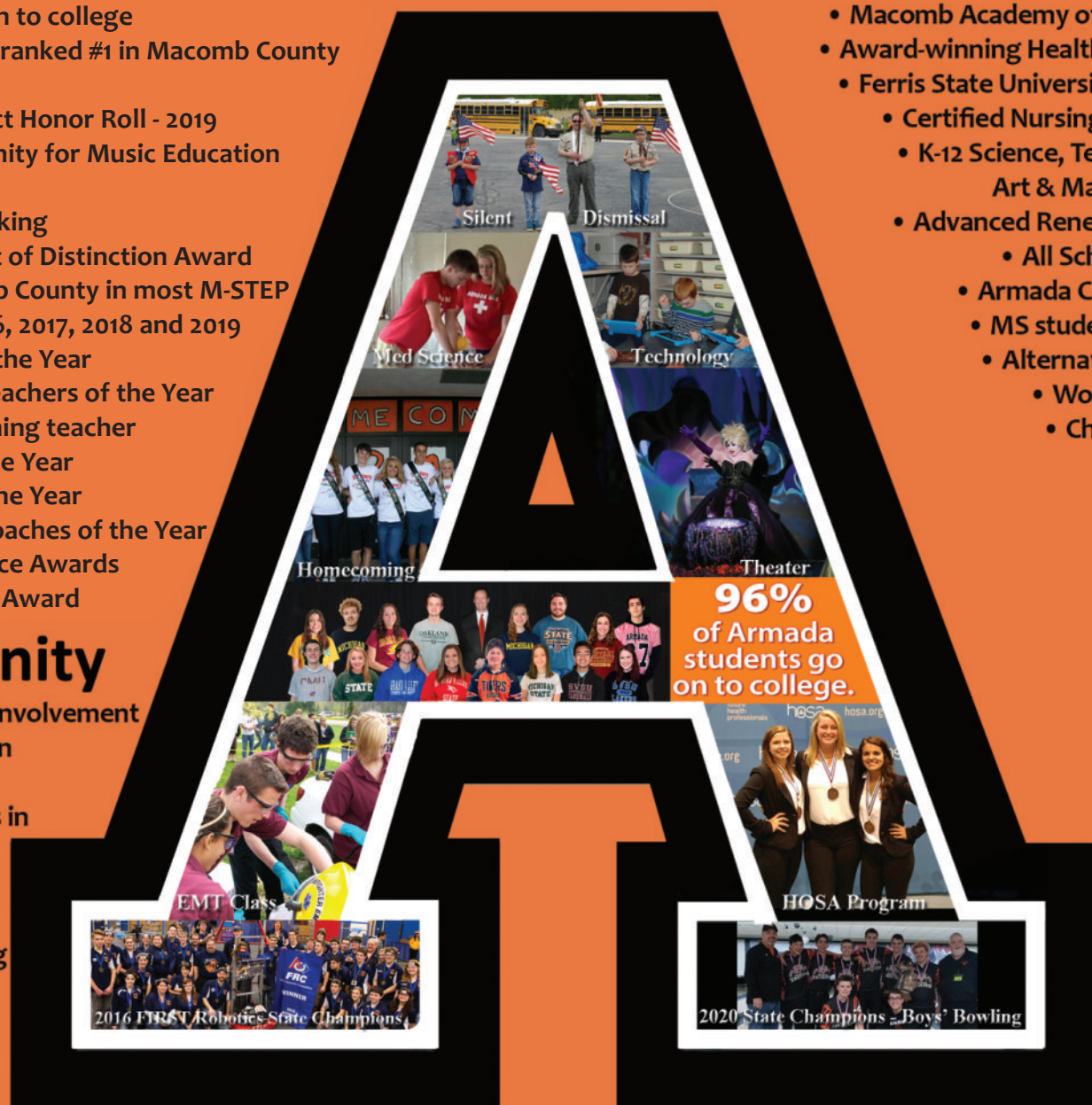
- Highest graduation rate in Macomb County
- 96% of students go on to college
- Armada High School ranked #1 in Macomb County in 2018, 2019 & 2020
- 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll - 2019
- NAMM Best Community for Music Education 2018, 2019 & 2020
- 5-Star Preschool Ranking
- 2015 National District of Distinction Award
- Ranked #1 in Macomb County in most M-STEP categories - 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019
- 2 State Principals of the Year
- 4 Macomb County Teachers of the Year
- 1 Milken Award Winning teacher
- 3 State Coaches of the Year
- 1 National Coach 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 (MA²S)
- Award-winning Health Occupations Program
 - Certified Nursing Assistant Certification
 - K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math (STEAM) curriculum
- Advanced Renewable Energy Program
 - All Schools Cognia accredited
- Armada Conservatory of the Arts
 - MS students can earn HS credits
- Alternative education program
 - 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 for information about our Schools of Choice program or call 586.784.2112 to arrange a tour.



CENTER LINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFERS A PLACE AND A PROGRAM FOR EVERY STUDENT

This fall, students have three learning options, each with instruction provided by certified and highly-qualified teachers:

- All courses on-site in our buildings.
- A few classes on-site in our buildings and others taken virtually.
- All courses taken virtually through Academy 21, the first K-12 virtual program in Macomb County.

On the Cutting Edge of Educational Innovation & Student Workforce Preparedness

Visit the Academies of Center Line High School, backed by Ford Next Generation Learning and the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development Group that have attracted local and international attention from the Michigan Department of Education, other districts, and international educators have made site visits to see our wall-to-wall academies in action.

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

JOIN OUR FAMILY

- **Kindergarten:** Unlimited School of Choice openings for the 2020-2021 school year (Macomb County residents only) through September 11, 2020.
- **Grades 1-12:** Limited School of Choice openings (Macomb County only) are available August 2-31, 2020 for on-site learning.
- **Academy 21 (K-12 virtual):** Unlimited School of Choice openings through September 11, 2020 for Macomb and contiguous counties. Graduates of Academy 21 receive a Center Line High School diploma.



See more at www.clps.org!

CENTER LINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Big district options in a small district setting!



- New this fall: One-to-one technology - Chromebooks for every student
- Early Childhood Center with preschool, Head Start, and Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), half or full day
- Developmental Kindergarten
- Acellus Stem and Coding Labs at each elementary building
- Intro Robotics, Underwater Robotics, and VEX Advanced Robotics at Wolfe Middle School
- First Robotics Team and VEX Robotics at Center Line High School
- CLPS students graduate with college credits and/or industry certifications in high demand jobs
- AP courses/dual enrollment/Early College and articulation credit agreements through Macomb Community College
- Health and Human Services Academy includes award-winning JROTC program, Firefighting, EMT, Law Enforcement, Lifeguarding, and Teacher Cadet pathways of study
- Industry, Technology & Innovation Academy includes FANUC CNC and Robotics certifications, welding, AIS heavy equipment program, Visual Imaging & Graphic Communications, Business & Entrepreneurship and Art & Design pathways
- Additional pathways of study, such as automotive technology, culinary, dental, medical assistant and cosmetology, offered through our Southwest Macomb Technical Education Consortium (SMTEC)
- Music classes at all levels; award winning high school band program
- Championship sports teams - no pay to play
- Highly recognized English as a Second Language programs

- برامج اللغة الإنجليزية كلغة ثانية معترف بها و مجانية
- দ্বিতীয় ভাষার প্রোগ্রাম হিসাবে উচ্চ স্বীকৃত এবং বিনামূল্যে ইংরেজী

- Reading and literacy coaches
- Extensive mental health support
- Ascension School Based Health Clinic at Center Line High School
- AdvancED District Accreditation
- Buildings all being updated and improved from passage of our 2017 bond, including a new elementary school with an early childhood wing

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.



Planning &
Economic
Development



CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

District meets the needs of students during COVID crisis and beyond

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

For all the challenges that the COVID-19 crisis has presented school districts, Chippewa Valley Schools Superintendent Ronald Roberts prefers to look on the bright side.

"It has really highlighted what is so important about school," he said. "In-person, face-to-face instruction can't be replicated virtually. We have to provide academic and emotional support to kids when we can't see them every day."

In this respect, the pandemic has reinforced the role school districts play in their local communities and how important its traditions are to families. In elementary schools, for example, facilities offer parents and students a strong sense of community. Parents can bond with others and share their triumphs and struggles about parenting. Children form lifelong friendships and explore the depth of their potential.

In middle school, students are allowed to spread their wings, become more independent and try new activities in order to discover their passions. Families can feel safe allowing them to do that at school while offering a supportive shoulder when needed. By the time students enter high school, they and their parents are firmly focused on the future while enjoying all the traditions and rites of passage of young adulthood, like homecoming, Friday night football games, prom and graduation.

This process was disrupted by COVID-19



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

LEGO Robotics is offered at both the elementary and middle school level. Students use a specialized robotics construction LEGO set to build and program their own robots.

last spring, but teachers and administrators tried to keep as much normalcy as possible. They put their heads together and got creative, organizing car parades for fifth, eighth and 12th graders to say goodbye to teachers and offer a bit of closure as students move on to the next steps in their academic careers. Staff delivered yard signs to celebrate the Class of 2020 and, after speaking with district families, organized 13 100-person socially-distanced graduation ceremonies that were held over the course of three days. Roberts was there for each and every one.

"That milestone is so steeped in tradition, it's the highlight of the school year," he said.

Roberts said providing Chippewa Valley students with a rigorous curriculum that prepares them for future success in the college classroom and workforce is a top priority, pandemic or not.

In early July, when plans were still uncertain for the start of the new school

year, district leaders were preparing to launch a virtual academy, a comprehensive plan offering high quality lessons for students completely online. Another plan calls for a hybrid model for education, combining inclass learning with online lessons in order to support social distancing efforts in school.

"We will do what is right at the time, but we look forward to having everyone back in school," said Roberts.

Chippewa Valley offers an intense level of college-prep studies, including Advance Placement (AP) classes, the International Academy of Macomb, Early College and dual enrollment programs. These courses of study 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 pathways 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 cabinetmaking.

These classes allow students 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Chippewa Valley Schools, visit 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.

Chippewa Valley Schools is home to 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 in 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.

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

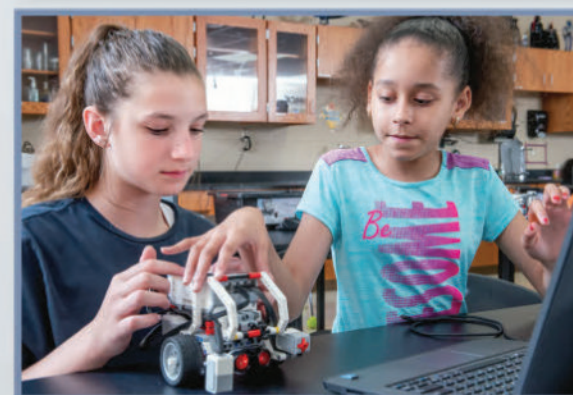
At the elementary level, education in the core subject areas of math, language arts, science and history are balanced with special classes like art, music, physical education and STEM classes. STEM, an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, includes exploration in areas like robotics.

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.

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 Center 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 Chippewa Valley Virtual Academy (CVVA) offered for the 2020-2021 school year!



Chippewa Valley Schools...
Inspiring and empowering learners to
achieve a lifetime of success

For enrollment information,
call 586-723-2240, or visit: choosechippewa.com

CLINTONDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

District prepares students for bright, dynamic futures

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Clintondale Community Schools may be among the smaller school districts in Macomb County, but its environment is one in which students are thriving.

It begins with younger learners. Clintondale Community Schools offers a Young Fives program, which is designed to provide five-year-old children with 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 first grade.

Many Clintondale students spend most of their academic career with the district. Recent graduate Immanuel Luster-Bey said students feel valued. This can make a huge difference when students are struggling with certain academic concepts or uncertain and anxious about what the future holds.

When he found his calculus class to be more rigorous than he anticipated, for example, Luster-Bey didn't drop the course or suffer in silence. He sought assistance from his trusted teacher, who Luster-Bey said was very approachable and more than willing to lend a helping hand.

"Whenever I went to his desk, he was always willing to help and do a 1-on-1," he said.

Students at Clintondale Community Schools thrive and it shows because they are more engaged, leading to higher assessment scores, improved attendance and higher graduation rates.

Being part of a smaller

school, everyone knows each other and students are able to build strong relationships with each other and their teachers, said 2020 graduate Kalya Jackson. Teachers, coaches, administrators and staff members are all good people who set an excellent example for students, he said. Teachers, Jackson added, are motivational and inspirational, providing students with a solid learning foundation.

"Teachers care about you passing and your grades," he said. "Counselors are easy to talk to and help you figure out college."

All adults, agreed Luster-Bey, are focused on helping students achieve their goals. He said he learned so much and feels prepared for future challenges because his teachers, counselors and coaches took the time and invested in his success.

While at Clintondale High School, Luster-Bey participated in football, basketball, track and baseball. He was also a member of the robotics team, which he said really helped him focus in on what he wanted to do past high school. Luster-Bey plans to enter the Navy this month and will be studying to be a technician in the electrical field. He chose the Navy, he said, because of the many benefits it offered and the opportunities to travel. Through his participation in robotics, he discovered that he enjoyed hands-on work and the satisfaction that comes with building something as part of a team.

"I feel very much prepared for the future," said Luster-Bey.

Jackson also participated in the robotics club and said he really appreciated the focus



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Clintondale Community Schools, visit 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

on acts of community service while at Clintondale High School. He plans to attend the University of Detroit Mercy to study architectural engineering.

At Clintondale, there is a strong focus on preparing students for life after high school. In recent years, the district has expanded its Career and Technical Education (CTE) to include multiple career pathways within these CTE programs:

- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
- Business, Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Many CTE classes are offered at Clintondale High School, while others are hosted by nearby partner schools.

CTE courses provide students with a real-life workplace experience. These courses 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.

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



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLINTONDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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



Clintondale has an award-winning Culinary Arts program.

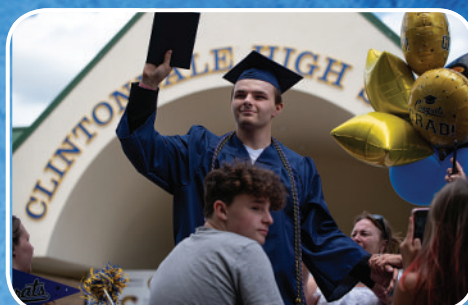
Science Center in Warren; Early College with Macomb Community College; and dual enrollment with Macomb Community College.

Clintondale High School also offers a variety of Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors classes.

Both Luster-Bey and Jackson were honor students who said that, while they are ready to move on to pursue their goals, they will always hold a special place in

their heart for Clintondale Community Schools.

They are now alumni and the motto "Once A Dragon, Always A Dragon" is certainly lived up to at Clintondale Community Schools, which boasts one of the strongest alumni groups in Macomb County. Through the fundraising efforts of those alumni and local businesses, numerous scholarship opportunities are afforded to students.



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***Location: All Clintondale Elementary Schools**



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EASTPOINTE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Preparation, planning pays off for Shamrocks

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Typically, school districts are pretty busy places in the summer. Janitorial staff members spend the warmer months deep cleaning buildings, maintenance employees make repairs and improvements to facilities, grounds crews take care of landscaping, teachers enroll in professional development activities and administrators make plans for the upcoming school year.

This summer, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the rhythm was a little bit different.

With many office and administrative staff working from home, Eastpointe Community Schools, like many other districts, was quieter than usual. However, the behind-the-scenes work continued and as districts cautiously prepared to open schools for the fall under an umbrella of uncertainty, Eastpointe was ready with a three-pronged plan designed to meet the needs of all its 2,700 students and their families. The plan includes:

- Face-to-face instruction, following Michigan's Return to School Roadmap recommendations with hand sanitizing stations and lots of deep cleaning

- Hybrid learning, with some classes held online and others in person

- Virtual classes: This is not to be confused with remote enrichment activities. Virtual lessons will provide a high level of education to students. If students need a device or access to the Internet, their needs will be addressed

"We have options so parents can make the best decision for their families," said Caitlyn Kienitz, communication



PHOTO COURTESY OF EASTPOINTE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Forest Park Elementary School kindergartners enjoy a "Friendsgiving" feast before the Thanksgiving holiday.

and marketing coordinator. "These are your neighborhood schools. We care about students."

The COVID-19 crisis has touched almost all aspects of learning, but Eastpointe educators have risen to the challenge. Kienitz said that when in-person instruction abruptly ended on March 13 and it became clear that students wouldn't be back in the classroom anytime soon, teachers and administrators sprang into action.

They quickly developed plans to keep students academically and socially engaged for the first three weeks of the stay-at-home orders.

"We are so proud of the way our staff transitioned," she said. "Teachers really switched gears. We were so impressed with the way teachers stayed in touch with their students, especially those who didn't have access to technology."

Teachers used their creativity to make learning fun. Kindergarten teachers, for example, shared read-along videos with their students and another teacher taught students how to make a simple guacamole recipe from her home kitchen during a Cinco de Mayo lesson.

District leaders and staff

also immediately recognized that many students had other needs that would have to be met. All Eastpointe students, regardless of their financial situation, receive free breakfast and lunch. However, without access to those programs at school, some students would suffer with hunger.

To address these needs, staff served pre-packaged meals that families picked up in a drive-thru fashion. District leaders also forged a community partnership with Gleaners Community Food Bank, which distributed other foodstuffs twice a month.

"We were able to give support to the whole child," said Kienitz.

Officials also brainstormed creative ways to safely bring the 2019-20 school year to a close. Teachers took it upon themselves to find ways to make students feel special during a time when nothing really felt normal.

- Made signs for students celebrating birthdays and posted them in their yards during quarantine;

- Held a drive-thru parade for preschoolers;

- Created signs for the Class of 2020 valedictorians;

- Stopped at the houses of the 7th grade Students of the Year;



- Held a virtual graduation and a socially-distanced diploma pickup event with cap and gown photos for seniors.

Before the pandemic hit, Eastpointe students celebrated many successes. In athletics, the district's basketball team defended its conference title and the football team shared a conference title in addition to making the playoffs. Academically, the district plans on 1-to-1 instruction for grades 3-12 once the devices ordered for all students are delivered.

Eastpointe Community Schools offer a complete slate of preschool programs that focus on the fundamentals of literacy and math while promoting individual cognitive, social and emotional development and preparing students for kindergarten.

At the elementary school level, Eastpointe's two K-2 and two 3-5 buildings offer individualized instruction and are focused on literacy to provide students with a solid foundation for future learning.

Earlier this year, the fifth grade band program was re-established at Bellview and Pleasantview elementary schools.

Eastpointe Middle School is a grade 6-7 building 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.

Eastpointe High School prepares students for future academic endeavors and careers. The district has expanded the number of honors courses offered and partnered 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.

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

Career Technical Education (CTE) program allows students to explore future career choices and prep for future employment in fields like culinary arts, law enforcement and marketing and web design. The district has recently expanded the program to include the medical field.

"Teachers go above and beyond for our students," said Kienitz.



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- ✿ 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 YMCA partnership
- ✿ International Baccalaureate classes and programs for middle school students
- ✿ Career and Technical Education opportunities, including Law Enforcement, Culinary Arts, Medical Careers and more
- ✿ Free college credits and dual enrollment through Macomb Community College

**Learn more about
Eastpointe Community Schools at
www.eastpointeschools.org**

FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Students to return to several changes at Fitzgerald schools this fall

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

The energy at Fitzgerald Public Schools has been tremendous this summer. In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, the district continues to move forward, pushing ahead with a number of construction projects made possible thanks to a \$46.7 million bond issue that was passed in May 2019. These improvements include numerous safety and security enhancements, technology upgrades and building renovations.

It has definitely been a busy summer, said Bill Rudd, Director of Operations for the district.

The renovations touch every building, but many are infrastructure projects necessary to maintain facilities and equipment. These are projects that are necessary to keep students safe and warm, but they are not very visible and likely won't be noticed by most students.

"We're almost done installing new fire alarms, clocks and public address systems that are more reliable," said Rudd in late July.

The most significant projects are designed to improve energy efficiency with roofing, lighting and mechanical system replacements. Schofield Early Childhood Center is getting a new boiler. Mound Park Upper Elementary School will have a new roof by the time school starts in the fall.

"These are long term investments that are very beneficial," said Rudd. "All the lighting is energy efficient, allowing us to save money and add value in other areas."

Mound Park was also remodeled to include a new



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Schofield Early 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

secure entrance that features a vestibule area where parents can say goodbye to their children in morning. However, in order to gain access to the rest of the school building, visitors will have to be buzzed into the office first.

Throughout the district, Rudd said "security measures will be tightened thanks to the installation of card readers on doors. This will limit the number of keys in circulation and ultimately provide more control over who has access to the facilities. When an employee leaves a position, for example, administrators don't have to wait for them to turn in their key to prevent access, they just reprogram the card," he said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

New construction at Fitzgerald Public Schools includes numerous safety and security enhancements, technology upgrades and building renovations.



Fitzgerald Public Schools has been moving forward with a number of construction projects made possible thanks to a \$46.7 million bond issue that was passed in May 2019.

What children will be delighted about, said Rudd, is the new playground equipment installed at each elementary school. The outdoor areas were updated with interesting new features that are age specific. Younger children, he said, will enjoy the bouncy bees while older schoolchildren won't be able to wait to get out and try the new rock wall.

Bond monies are also being used to upgrade technology and technology infrastructure.

New classroom workstations and computer labs have been installed and infrastructure is ready to support future student learning.

Other projects included the purchase of five new buses and installation of new blinds and shades at Schofield. The early childhood center is also getting a stage makeover with new lights, sound system and a whole new look. The area was original to the building, which was built more than 60 years ago.

Work is scheduled to begin on the new weight room at the high school soon.

"Some of these are small projects, but they will have a big impact," said Rudd. "These contribute to the long-term success of students for a nice, safe learning environment."

Plans are already taking shape for next summer, he said, with early bids set to go out soon.

Located in the southwest corner of Warren, Fitzgerald Public Schools serves more than 2,500 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.

Nurturing enthusiastic learners who are invested in their education and their community starts with the

district's 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 the Chatterton Middle School planetarium, which was updated and received upgrades as part of the bond project. This indepth study, including STEM topics and robotics, prepares Fitzgerald students for the rigors of college and career.

Currently, the district offers numerous Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways, including Arts & Communication; Business, Management, Marketing and Technology; Engineering/Manufacturing & Industrial Technology; Health Sciences; Human Services; and Government and Public Administration. These courses provide students with hands-on lessons and interactions with local business leaders.

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 21st century. Give your child the Fitzgerald edge!

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- ✓ 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 help 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 K-12 Academy will offer an online option for families that are more comfortable with their children learning at home.
- ✓ Schools of Choice enrollment.



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FRASER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Building strong bonds a critical part of the strategic plan for Fraser Public Schools

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

Without a doubt, things are going to look different at Fraser Public Schools this fall. With the COVID-19 pandemic shaping the start of the school year, like many other districts, Fraser administrators and teachers are developing several plans to accommodate those necessary changes — whatever they may be.

A Return to School committee has been working hard all summer to develop plans for the 2020-21 school year, said Superintendent Carrie Wozniak. There has been an emphasis on the district's strong digital eco-system, leveraging the district's longtime 1:1 strategy where every student has access to a school-issued iPad or Mac-Book to collaborate with their teachers and peers online whether in the classroom during the day or at home in the evening.

"We're always focused on the learner and recognize that learning is a 24/7 process," she said. No matter what school looks like this fall, across all the Fraser plans are four constant factors, which form the foundation of the district's new strategic plan that was approved last fall:

Teaching practices. Infusing proven instructional practices and emerging innovative practices

Learning partnerships. Building dynamic relationships between students, teachers, families and the community

Learning environment. Growing a climate and culture for organic learning — interactive spaces where students are engaged and motivated

Digital ecosystem. Embedding digital technologies into classroom life to accelerate, amplify and add value to learning



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To learn more about Fraser Public Schools, visit 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 Eveningside 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

School Board President Laura Edghill said these four practices will help students develop the six skills that make up the district's Portrait of a Graduate: Critical thinking, communication, creativity, character, collaboration and citizenship.

"These are important skills to launch them out to the adult world," she said.

The district has been very intentional about the skills they want students to achieve, said Wozniak, and the importance of students being able to apply them in meaningful ways to their future experiences.

Building relationships is a crucial component in that process. Wozniak said when students feel like they have that bond, they are more open to learning and that naturally creates stronger instructional practices.

As a parent of three Fraser students, Edghill understands that relationships with teachers are a top priority for students. As a result, the district has been doing a lot of work with restorative practices, a philosophy founded in the belief that people in authority are more effective leaders when they work with people on relationship-building and problem-solving.

Laura Purdy is an intervention mentor and restorative practices trainer. Her goal is to give everyone a voice and a platform to be heard. All teachers are trained in these methods, she said, and often gather students around in a circle to give everyone an opportunity to share. They even formed virtual circles this spring.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRASER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

All six Fraser elementary schools hosted a 6th-grade sendoff event, where students and their families received end of the year awards and honors.



Fraser High School hosted a drive-thru graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020. Students and their families drove onto the track where graduates received their diploma from the Board of Education. The event was livestreamed for family and friends at home.

These connections to each other are what develops traits like empathy and understanding and provide a better atmosphere for learning, said Purdy.

"It's building a healthy culture of learning," said Edghill.

Fraser is a tight-knit community with a real family feel. Because of this sense of belonging that comes with being a part of the "Fraser Family," district leaders expect that it will be easier for teachers to reach out to students one-

on-one this fall to establish new bonds as students get to know their new teachers and acclimate to a new classroom whether the setting is in their current school, a new building or even online.

"We're going to concentrate this fall on resilience," said Edghill. "School might be different, but a high priority for us is teachers reaching out to the kids in an intentional way."

Embedded into the curriculum is the need for flexibility. She said district leaders plan to celebrate how

the world is a changing place so students can be well equipped to embrace change rather than be fearful of it.

For students transitioning to a new school building, the change can be overwhelming. A student's freshman year is critical to future success in high school, so to help with the adjustment, Link Crew is a program where upperclassmen are teamed up with new students to answer questions, participate in team building activities, tour the building and meet high school staff so they are comfortable and confident in their new environment.

These factors won't change with virtual learning. Whether in-person or online, Fraser Public Schools officials will create quality experiences for incoming students. That includes athletics and extracurricular activities like music programs. Wozniak said the marching band has created a socially-distanced show that maintains its family-like flair.

The district considers the arts part of a well-rounded education, so programs like elementary school band are still offered, said Wozniak.

Fraser Public Schools is committed to being flexible and giving families choices in a time of uncertainty.

We create dynamic relationships where students are deeply engaged and motivated – building a strong foundation tailored to your child's individual needs.

OPTION #1 – Face-to-Face Learning K-12

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OPTION #2 – Fraser Virtual K-12

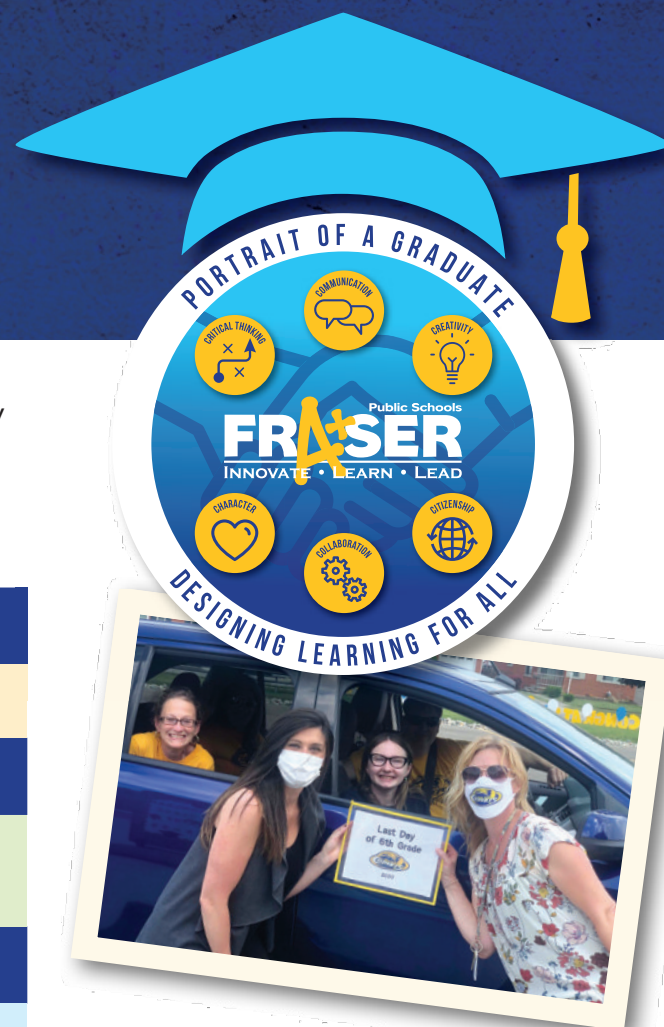
Students learn at home with opportunities for occasional small group instruction and supports.

OPTION #3 – Blended 7-12

Students participate in both face-to-face and virtual classes.



All options provide high-quality learning from Fraser teachers, and an opportunity to participate in athletics, performing arts, student activities and student organizations.



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LAKE SHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District ready to transform learning for a new generation

By Jane Peterson
For Media NewsGroup

It has never been more clear that learning does not need to take place with 25 kids and one teacher sitting in one classroom.

While the end of in-person classroom instruction created challenges for Lake Shore Public Schools and educators everywhere last March, once students and teachers settled into a routine with online learning and the arrival of summer drew the 2019-20 school year to a close, the time away from the classroom provided some space to step back and evaluate how materials are being presented to students.

Lake Shore Public Schools Superintendent Joe DiPonio looked at it as an opportunity to transform learning for a new generation.

After all, education standards and teaching practices are always in a constant state of evolution. Yesterday's chalkboards that were replaced with today's smartboards are now being displaced by tomorrow's 1:1 devices like Chromebooks, laptops and iPads.

Lake Shore Public Schools provides each student with a Chromebook for in-class and at-home learning. Students and teachers relied heavily on these devices in the spring when remote learning became necessary. Now, educators are taking a look at how the Chromebooks can help them tailor instruction so each student receives a more personalized education that meets their unique needs and state curriculum requirements.

DiPonio said there is a need to strengthen support for students struggling with instructional concepts,



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Lake Shore Public Schools, visit LakeShore.ss12.sharpschool.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

as well as providing schoolchildren who excel with materials and resources that challenge them.

In addition to teaching methods, DiPonio said that students also need to develop new skill sets. Knowledge retention isn't as important as it once was because students have access to information at their fingertips and can answer inquiries quickly. Instead, what students really need is the ability to use information to accomplish tasks and complete projects while being innovative and creative. Educators are emphasizing skills like effective communication and the ability to adapt in an



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAKE SHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Administrators contacted each graduate's family to see how they wanted to mark the special occasion.

everchanging environment.

These are assets that will serve students well throughout their academic and career journey.

With the uncertainty surrounding the upcoming fall school schedule, DiPonio said the Lake Shore Public Schools is ready for anything.

A survey of Lake Shore parents earlier this summer revealed that 50 percent want to return to the traditional classroom. Another 10 percent were not ready yet and a full 40 percent remained uncertain.

"If 50 percent of our families are not ready for an inclass experience, we need to be ready to deliver something else," he said. "We just don't know what tomorrow is going to bring."

Ultimately, the district will likely rely on the strength and wisdom of the Lake Shore community, tapping into their knowledge and working together to find solutions for the district's approximately 3,500 schoolchildren.

"Lake Shore has always rallied together. We need to protect everyone's health and safety while providing a quality education," said DiPonio.

He said he saw the best of the community this spring when numerous volunteers pitched in to make sure children were being adequately fed. With schools shuttered in March, many families relied on the district's free breakfast and lunch program for meals and, just because the cafeteria was closed, it didn't mean kids went hungry. Food distribution of pre-packaged items fed thousands all spring and summer long.

Teachers also made sure they checked in with students to see if they faced any struggles community resources could help with. When it came to celebrate end of the year milestones and birthdays, teachers made those special for their students with car parades and other safe virtual

activities. Administrators contacted each graduate's family to see how they wanted to mark the special occasion.

"A one-fits-all solution just wasn't going to work," said DiPonio.

While COVID has forced the district to change how it operates and inspired staff creativity, the virus has not impacted its rigorous and rich course offerings. Students continue to take advantage of robust academic opportunities, including college-level Advanced Placement (AP) classes, dual enrollment 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.



When it came to celebrate end-of-the-year milestones and birthdays, teachers made those special for their students with car parades and other safe virtual activities, like kindergarten graduation.



Lake Shore Public Schools held a virtual kindergarten roundup this spring.

Other programs are designed to help connect and support students, including:

- 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 encourages students to offer support and a voice for fellow students facing challenges instead of being bystanders

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



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**ENROLL
TODAY**

LAKEVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hybrid schedule allows Lakeview students to tackle dual enrollment

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Lakeview Public Schools Superintendent Karl Paulson likes to talk about numbers. Here are a few he is particularly proud of:

Out of each year's senior class, roughly 40 percent of students graduate with college credits

Some students will graduate high school with as many as 20 or more college credits

Some Lakeview students have been known to complete a bachelor's degree just two years after their high school graduation

None of this is by accident. For district leaders, even beginning in middle school, every class 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 that gives students the freedom to pursue dual enrollment opportunities is a unique hybrid block schedule. Student schedules are comprised of 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, such as career preparation classes and college opportunities, as juniors and seniors.

In typical dual enrollment agreements, students attend classes on the college campus. That leaves many students



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.

who want to participate unable to do so for a variety of reasons, including lack of transportation during the school day.

Most Lakeview students don't have to worry about these barriers to dual enrollment because professors from Baker College and Wayne State University come to the high school campus to teach. In any given semester, there are five to seven college classes to choose from. Students can also attend classes on the campus of Macomb Community College.

Typically the classes offered are general courses that are likely to transfer to the student's school of choice

after graduation. As a result, Lakeview classrooms are filled with motivated students ready to put in the hard work necessary to achieve their goals and get a head start on their college education.

What this arrangement ultimately does, said Paulson, is set students up to succeed. Staying on Lakeview's campus provides a smoother transition experience from high school to college. High school counselors can follow-up with students and offer guidance. The peers they have grown up with are there for support when the professor ramps up the expectations. High school staff can provide encouragement and keep students focused on



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Lakeview Public Schools, visit 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

long-term goals.

"The structure helps kids believe that they can do well in a college level course," he said. "By the time they graduate, they have already experienced what a number of college classes and professors are like, and they have increased confidence to succeed at a college campus next year."

For families, there is also a significant cost savings. Many students, for example, have earned enough college credits while in high school to officially start college as sophomores or even juniors. That means fewer classes to pay for as an undergrad. Plus, if students have earned a four-year scholarship, but

already have two years of college credits complete and transferred, they may be able to use the remainder of their scholarship funds to start graduate school. That's a huge savings.

"The hybrid schedule, plus dual enrollment, equals greater opportunities for our kids," said Paulson. "It's all the pieces of the puzzle fitting together to prepare our graduates for the future. It really is a win-win situation."

In addition to dual enrollment, Lakeview High School offers Advanced Placement (AP) classes and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. AP classes are college-level classes and students who

earn a qualifying score on the Advanced Placement course examination earn college credit.

Through CTE, students can earn certifications and licenses before graduation. Lakeview High School hosts four CTE courses on its campus: Auto 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 between 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.

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

Younger students also benefit from Lakeview Public School's commitment to college preparation. At Jefferson Middle School, Paulson said many high school classes are available to eligible middle schoolers so they can get a jump start on graduation requirements.

"Our goal is to allow students who can to accelerate when they hit middle school," he said. "Whatever they are ready for, we are ready to provide."



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

L'ANSE CREUSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

L'Anse Creuse goes above and beyond to meet the diverse needs of students

By Jane Peterson
For Media NewsGroup

Helping students reach their potential is nothing new at L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. From its youngest learners to its soon-to-be graduates, teachers and staff members work hard every day to build relationships with families and provide a strong core of academics balanced with diverse offerings in athletics, arts, robotics, clubs and other activities.

Kindergarten provides a solid developmental foundation for children. This fall, the district is introducing a transitional kindergarten program at Higgins and Yacks elementary schools for students with birthdays between June 1 and Dec. 1, those who have not attended preschool or students whose parents think they will benefit from added time. This two-year program consists of one year of transitional kindergarten followed by traditional kindergarten.

During this full-day program, children will develop oral language, literacy and foundational math skills in classrooms with smaller sizes than traditional kindergarten. Students will also receive a social experience and participate in music, art, physical education and Spanish activities.

A rigorous elementary school program addresses both social and educational development, as children collaborate with peers, learn to work with others and develop conceptual thinking skills. Three elementary schools are Lead in Me schools, which focuses on critical thinking skills, discipline, teamwork, time management and other skills so students develop into life-long leaders.

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools strives to meet the varied needs of all students,



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, visit www.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. Lobbstael 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, 24600 Frederick Pankow Blvd., Clinton Township
- DiAnne M. Pellerin Center, 24001 Frederick Pankow Blvd., Clinton Township

said Superintendent Erik Edoff. Teachers are caring and attentive, ensuring that students meet grade expectations and identifying those who are struggling or excelling. The district has a comprehensive support

system to offer students who need extra assistance and advanced programming for those who need the challenge of accelerated learning plans.

The district's middle school model helps students develop into mature



PHOTO COURTESY OF L'ANSE CREUSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CTE programs, like Culinary Arts, provide students with 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.

learners. The focus is on team-building activities, problem-solving skills and establishing solid study habits. This is a time for students to explore their interests and try new activities. High school level classes are also available for eligible students.

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.

Many opportunities are available for high school students. The district offers a rich fine arts curriculum with instrumental and vocal music, performing arts, theater and production design courses and extracurricular activities, he said.

Students can select from 23 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, which provide a college-like experience with a robust curriculum. The

district has reduced barriers to enrollment, allowing more students to try and challenge themselves with AP classes, added Edoff.

An advanced math program meets the needs of accelerated students, maximizing their scholarship potential and boosting their chances during competitive college application processes.

Freshmen students transitioning into the high school environment are welcomed by the Link Crew, a leadership program that pairs upperclassmen with new students in a mentorship role.

The district's Pankow Center is home to its Career and Technical Center (CTE) programs, a place where teen learners explore careers and set goals for their future.

The Pankow Center accepts students from around the area and houses seven CTE programs:

- Arts and Communications
- Business, Management, Marketing and Technology • Computer Technology
- Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Technology
- Health Sciences
- Human Services

- Natural Resources & Agri-Science

CTE programs provide 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.

L'Anse Creuse continues to develop new courses and explore expanded offerings. Classes are led by educators and supported by a career development facilitator and a work-based learning/externship coordinator. Students often hear from visiting business leaders in the field who speak about current topics and challenges in their industry.

L'Anse Creuse maintains an active in-district special education services department, said Edoff. Staff includes speech and language professionals, cognitive impaired specialists, social workers, psychologists and others who work in tandem to create the best educational plans for students.

"This helps us meet the needs of all the kids in our district," he said.

Students also celebrate success at the Pellerin Center, home to the district's alternative high school. Developed for non-traditional students who may have specific barriers to achieving educational goals, the program offers credit recovery classes, a rigorous curriculum and plenty of personal attention to help students reach their potential and prepare for careers or college. Students from within or outside the district may attend and receive a L'Anse Creuse diploma.



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MOUNT CLEMENS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

School district creating enthusiastic, lifelong readers

By Jane Peterson
For Media NewsGroup

There are some skills that you have to master before you can move on to tackle others. Math is one of those subjects, because each new concept presented builds off the one before. Reading is another. In fact, developing a joy for reading can establish a firm foundation that will continue serving students well across the curriculum throughout their academic careers and beyond.

Superintendent Monique Beels, who joined Mount Clemens Community Schools in July, said when students are excited about the story, they are excited to talk about it and that can set the foundation for a future filled with reading, exploring different topics and increased learning opportunities.

To further encourage that process, the district is piloting a new language arts program for elementary students at Seminole Academy. Called Reading Wonders, it is a K-5 core reading program that helps young learners become proficient readers who can access, understand and write about text on deeper level.

Beels is excited about it because there are elements designed to appeal to all students. Stories, for example, are a mix of fiction and non-fiction. They cover subject matters that children find interesting with diversified characters students can identify with and a crisp, upbeat writing style that grabs the attention of young readers.

"The more you read, the better you get at reading," she said. "This can open up a lifetime love of reading."



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Mount Clemens Community Schools, visit 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

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.

For the past couple of years, the district has been implementing new curriculum initiatives. Beels, who brings years of experience with her to the position, served six years as superintendent at Clawson Public Schools before her retirement in 2018. She plans to continue building upon Mount Clemens Community Schools' current practices while strengthening core skills overall.

One way to do that is by getting children excited about coming to class every



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOUNT CLEMENS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

Mount Clemens High School students receive hands-on training and engaging lessons.



Mount Clemens is a small, hometown district located in an area rich in history and beauty. The community is very supportive of the school district.

day. Building relationships with students and offering a variety of extracurricular activities and athletics can help them make the connections they need

The district's athletic program is like a family away from home for many students.

As students work together to achieve a common goal, they learn skills like teamwork, time management and commitment.

The mission of Mount Clemens Middle and High Schools is to set the pace for excellence by creating a positive learning environment and striving to prepare all students to become lifelong learners ready to meet the challenges of their future.

In partnership with staff, families, and the community, the goal is to create rigorous and relevant learning opportunities for students that help them develop the academic mastery, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, respect and resilience necessary to thrive in an everchanging world.

The current COVID-19 crisis is presenting a number of challenges for district leaders, who, like their counterparts across the state and nation, have spent the majority of their summer working on various plans for returning to school this fall.

Mount Clemens Community Schools is utilizing technology tools like Google Classroom and Seesaw to keep the lines of communication open among teachers, students and families. Beels is also working on resources that can assist educators with building their lessons online so expectations remain high no matter what this fall's return to school looks like.

"We are working with teachers to develop quality lessons, so we can deliver quality instruction in a caring, nurturing environment whether that's in a classroom or at home," she said.

to feel part of the school community and excited about getting on the bus and heading to school.

According to Beels, building strong bonds within school communities can lead to increased levels of student achievement. When students feel cared for, they are more open to tackling new concepts and willing to share their thoughts and ideas in a safe atmosphere where their opinions are not only respected, but appreciated.

In addition, the district offers a number of programs at all grade levels so children can explore their interests, pursue their passions and perhaps even discover a talent they never knew they had.



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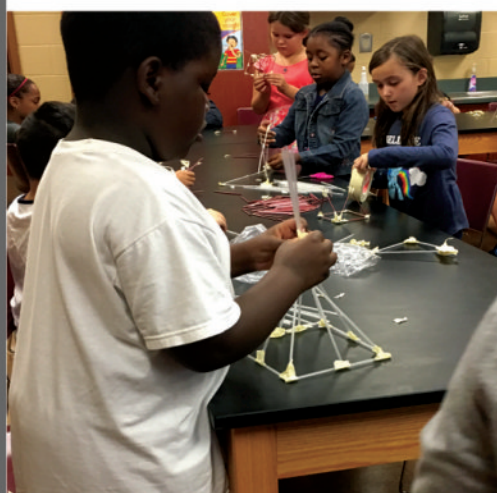
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NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

District is never content to rest on its laurels

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

New Haven Community Schools offers a comprehensive and challenging academic curriculum for pre-K through 12th grade students. It has for years and, as a result, its graduates are more than prepared for the future challenges they face in college or the workforce.

However, that's not enough for district leaders, who consistently strive to build upon the practices and processes in place to improve student achievement and success.

Former Superintendent Barbara VanSweden says the district's teachers want what is best for students and always have their best interests at heart.

"We strive to be better every day," she said.

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

Superintendent Cheryl Puzdrakiewicz is looking forward to working closely with teachers and the community as the district continues to face the challenges presented by COVID-19 this fall. Puzdrakiewicz, who joined the district in July, said administrators and staff are working together to develop an in-house virtual platform. This, she explained, would provide continuity of learning for students whose parents are not ready for them to return to face to face teaching in the fall and would better prepare the district in the case that in-person instruction is prohibited and remote learning required.

She said the district is seeking to boost its virtual learning program using the experiences of teachers,



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To learn more about New Haven Community Schools, visit 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

students and their families this past spring to guide them. Like most other districts, New Haven offered remote learning opportunities after the COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to close for the rest of the school year. Integration of technology into instruction, once students return to the classroom, can play a key factor in preparing students for future challenges, including being a source of support learning when students need extra help or to keep them on track when they are absent from the classroom.

New Haven Community Schools serves the communities of New Haven as well as portions of Chesterfield, Lennox, Macomb and Ray townships. Staff provide strong instruction in core content areas and support programs for students who need additional assistance.

The district, which serves 1,270 students, seeks to build upon programs already in place to create more engaged learners who are enthusiastic about going to school. Reading

plays a big role in a student's future success, so each of New Haven's elementary schools has a literacy coach on the staff.

Students receive a 90-minute block of literacy education every day. Literacy coaches collaborate with teachers developing strategies designed to engage students. Literacy 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 goal is to provide additional support for students and teachers.

New Haven officials are also seeking to strengthen its K-12 math program so students can build on their skills from one grade to the next.

In addition, elementary students are exposed to "specials" like art, music and physical education. This includes a technology class, so students become familiar with different types of devices and proficient in using them to



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Instilling a love for learning begins with the district's youngest students.



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.

enhance their education.

Instilling a love for learning begins with the district's youngest students. 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.

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 programs. Tuition-based childcare is also available.

The community supports the district's efforts, approving a \$25 million bond in May 2019. These funds are being utilized in numerous ways, including improvements in technology, transportation and other areas. The bond also provided clever touch boards for collaborative learning in the classroom, as well as 1:1 technology for students, said Puzdrakiewicz.

The bond funds have benefitted infrastructure, technology, Career Technical

Education (CTE) programs at New Haven High School, transportation and safety and security efforts, including the purchase of nine new school buses with cameras and communication devices. Improved security was achieved thanks to the installation of interior/exterior cameras and instant communication to classrooms in case of emergency.

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.

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.



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Community Schools



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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 28 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:

- 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.

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

While equipping students

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Richmond Community Schools, visit 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

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.

District leaders work closely with Macomb County officials to design



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.

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 third 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 school districts. Thanks to



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.

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

WWW.RICHMOND.K12.MI.US

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4 YR OLD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

7:50am-10:50am | M-Tu-W-Th-F

11:50am-2:50pm | M-Tu-W-Th-F

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ROMEO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

New middle school, programs to be unveiled this fall

By Jane Peterson
For Media NewsGroup

The 2020-21 school year promises to be another impressive one for Romeo Community Schools. From a new building and additional elective options to a strong, continuing commitment to its career model academies, excitement is building for the school year to get under way.

Just one year after the district opened its new high school, middle school students will be preparing to return to a new facility this fall, the former high school that was renovated to meet the needs of middle schoolers.

"We are super excited," said Superintendent Todd R. Robinson. "It's been a two-year effort to change the middle school experience at Romeo. We have an awesome team of teachers and support staff who support the 'whole child.'"

New electives and student enrichment activities have been added to the middle school offerings, providing students with additional areas to explore. The format is based on an interdisciplinary team teaching concept that supports a smaller learning community within the bigger school for each student. Additionally, RMS integrates a daily student advisory period that includes a rotating schedule of character education lessons, academic support, team building and other concepts to support healthy social and emotional growth. The teachers serve as advisors for these smaller cohorts of students that will meet daily as a foundational support to overall student success.

The realignment of the district's facilities was possible thanks to an \$86 million bond approved by voters in 2016. The new



**ROMEO
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To learn more about Romeo Community Schools, visit 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
- Romeo Middle School, 11091 W. 32 Mile Road, Romeo
- 9th Grade Academy, 62100 Jewell Road, Washington
- Romeo High School, 62300 Jewell Road, Washington

high school for grades 10-12 is set on the site of the former Romeo Engineering and Technology Center. This move made it possible for renovations that turned the old high school into a middle school and the current Powell Middle School into the 9th Grade Academy.

This enhanced middle school experience is a carefully planned effort to prepare Romeo learners for the rigors of high school.

"We're investing in them so they are better equipped to succeed in whatever path they choose after high school," he said.

Romeo Community Schools serves more than 5,200 students. For several years, the district has transformed the way it educates its students and today is an official Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) Community - one of 40+

NGL communities across

the country and the first in Michigan.

NGL districts employ a wall to wall career academy model. Students complete their Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements for a high school diploma within the framework of three career academies. That means their core classes, along with various other elective options, are delivered with a focus on career pathways that the students choose.

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

Romeo High School has three academies:

- Design, Engineering and Manufacturing Academy
- Business, Entrepreneur-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROMEO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Romeo school 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.

ship and Innovation Academy

- Health, Human and Public Service 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 go through a comprehensive career exploration experience as part of a fourth academy, the 9th Grade Academy. Thanks to a realignment of the district's facilities, ninth graders will be housed separately in the former Powell Middle School on the high school campus.

The freshman year is crucial to the success of students in high school. It forms the foundation of their study habits, is the time when students make new connections with teachers and their peers, provides the opportunity to further explore their interests in

athletics, clubs and the arts, and allows them space to discover their own unique strengths. According to Robinson, studies show that success in the 9th grade directly correlates to graduation rates.

After intensive exposure to various career choices, at the end of the year freshmen select an Academy and pathway. Their choice is acknowledged during a pathway reveal celebration in the spring.

The Class of 2022 is the first to make their way through the entire cohort. Robinson said they call this class their trailblazers. These students are now entering their junior year and will begin more in-depth exploration of their career path, including an opportunity to job shadow local community members.

Romeo school 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. Teachers invite local industry professionals into the classroom for projects and lessons that have real world relevance within the framework of that pathway. In addition, teachers visit business and industry sites to gain further understanding on the most current trends in these specific careers.

As part of this transition to a new format, Romeo students 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.



**ROMEO
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

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What's new for 2020-2021

Romeo Middle School

- The 2020-21 school year brings the opening of the “new” Romeo Middle School. The district is moving to one comprehensive middle school for all 6th-8th grade students.
- The 2016 Bond has provided 10 million dollars in new renovations to improve student experiences, including renovated classrooms, gymnasiums and an updated Media Center with large group, small group and individual learning spaces.
- Redesigned academic curriculum and expanded elective offerings to enhance student learning with new courses and programming.
- A Student Advisory Program focusing on social emotional learning and improving student outcomes in academics, character development and social growth.
- Increased security measures for student safety, including new high definition cameras inside and outside of the building along with a new secured entrance.
- Additional extracurricular opportunities offered to students through interscholastic athletics, a robust intramurals program, extracurricular clubs and activities.
- The school is grounded in an interdisciplinary teaming model that focuses on enhancing the student and teacher relationship.



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RHS Offers Four Academies:

- 9th grade Academy
- 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
- A comprehensive, student-focused Young 5's developmental kindergarten program is offered at several of our elementary schools.
- 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



For more information, contact the Enrollment Center at (586) 281-1404 or romeok12.org

ROSEVILLE

Technology upgrades transforming the way students learn

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

No matter what this fall brings, Roseville Community Schools will be prepared to deliver its students a high quality educational experience. Thanks to a \$59.4 million bond issue approved by voters in May 2018, each and every student in grades K-12 has been issued a device that they can use for remote learning, to support classroom instruction or to complete homework assignments.

The introduction of 1-to-1 devices began last fall when every middle school and high school student received a new laptop. Elementary students were scheduled to receive new devices this fall, but distribution was accelerated this past spring when inperson classroom instruction ended due to concerns regarding COVID-19. K-2 students were issued an iPad and 3-5 students were given a laptop to use. District leaders believe younger children, who are still developing their fine motor skills, would find an iPad easier to use than a laptop.

Superintendent Mark Blaszkowski said the technology upgrades will immeasurably enrich student understanding and transform the way students learn. He expects the new technology will help to improve student engagement in learning, encourage collaboration among students, teachers and parents and reduce the use of worksheets and textbooks.

While there was a learning curve, at first, as students adjusted to the devices and learned to navigate Schoology, the district's virtual learning

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Roseville Community Schools, visit 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



management system, learning improved every week. To assist students with learning how to use the devices, teachers offered help with troubleshooting and held virtual office hours.

Blaszkowski said now that students are familiar with their iPads and laptops and are used to how the virtual process works, expectations will increase this fall with additional materials released online and more challenging content available.

If students do return to the classroom, Roseville Community Schools has policies in place to teach effective handwashing skills, and there will be sanitizing stations in every classroom and other safety measures applied as recommended by the state and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

He realizes that when

school opens once again, some families won't be ready to send their children back.

"We are advocates for face to face education because we have found that this method is the most effective for students, but we are developing options and will be ready to meet the needs of our parents and students. Online courses will be a part of the solution, if it is what parents need," said Blaszkowski.

Those who opt for the K-12 Online Learning program will be afforded the same opportunities as those students who attend school in person. Students will take core courses, as well as have the opportunity to take electives, including career tech and performing arts courses. Students also will be able to participate in school sports, band and any other extracurricular activities.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Roseville's Career and Technical Education program includes numerous career pathways, including hospitality management. A new culinary arts addition is currently under construction at Roseville High School.



The introduction of 1-to-1 devices began last fall when every middle school and high school student received a new laptop. Elementary students were scheduled to receive new devices this fall, but distribution was accelerated this past spring when in-person classroom instruction ended due to concerns regarding COVID-19.

In addition to technology, the bond provided the district with many other new updates. Among the most visible is the culinary arts addition at Roseville High School. Currently under construction as there were delays due to COVID-19, the new facility is expected to be complete by the end of November.

"This is going to be a state-of-the-art culinary

center," said Blaszkowski.

In the meantime, students will continue to use the current facility in another location. With the new center, students won't lose instruction time traveling to another facility. They will also have use of a larger kitchen space, updated appliances and other features that provide an experience similar to a professional restaurant. Roseville is part of a CTE

consortium, so students from other nearby school districts will utilize the new culinary arts center, too.

Part of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, culinary arts is one of 11 career pathways Roseville students can study in depth to gain career knowledge. Others include accounting, auto technology, business, childcare, construction trades, hospitality management, machine trades, marketing, and web design. Two new CTE classes are being added this year: Mechatronics and welding.

In conjunction with the culinary arts center construction, a new entrance is being configured for the high school that is designed with safety features like a secure lobby that leads into the main office that visitors will be buzzed into.

Roseville High School offers 12 Advanced Placement courses which give students the opportunity to test for college credit upon completion. These also are early college and dual enrollment programs.

For younger learners, Roseville offers free Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) preschool for eligible students, as well as full-day kindergarten. The district also has an elementary Gifted and Talented Program for eligible third through fifth grade students.

Blaszkowski said Roseville staff members are highly trained and he is proud of the way they handled the transition to complete online learning this spring, and are prepared to tackle the challenges this fall may bring.



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SOUTH LAKE

Technology + teachers = enhanced instruction

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

South Lake Schools are focused on changing the way it teaches students and expects new technologies to make a big impact on how students learn curriculum materials, collaborate with their peers and communicate with teachers.

The district is moving to a 1:1 instructional format, where students use iPads every day in the classroom. The goal of the technological shift is to increase interaction, spark classroom discussion and connect with students by engaging them in lessons while better preparing graduates for the rigors of the college classroom or workplace.

Students in grades K-12 will each have their own iPad issued by the school. South Lake Schools serves 1,600 students in three elementary buildings, one middle school and one high school.

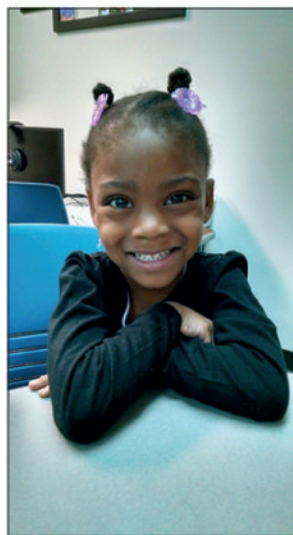
"The iPads allow teachers to teach a different way," said Superintendent Ted VonHiltmayer. "It doesn't change the content, but it does change how staff delivers instruction to make it more engaging."

The more students are engrossed in the materials and discussion presented, the more information they will retain afterwards. The new technology also can assist teachers with identifying struggling learners and allow them to better tailor instruction to fit individual needs. He said students having trouble with math, for example, can record themselves writing out problems to show the teacher their work and how they came to the solution they did. Teachers can watch



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOUTH LAKE SCHOOLS

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



Elementary students thrive in dynamic environment that has been created by caring and compassionate staff members.

the video and pinpoint where the problem lies.

"It transforms the way kids are learning and we are teaching," he said.

In addition, if students can't return physically to the classroom this fall in



traditional fashion, the devices will help those who need access to a device to connect from home. When in-person instruction ended in March due to COVID-19, students worked from home on all types of devices, creating challenging situations for educators. Having everyone on the same device will eliminate these issues, said John Thero, director of instruction and assessment.

VonHiltmayer said officials have received positive feedback from families regarding the 1:1 program and that students are excited to be able to use the iPads.

The 1:1 initiative, as well as various facility and technology upgrades, is part of a \$25.6 million bond proposal approved by voters in 2014. After the district spent a number of years upgrading its infrastructure to support the program and researching and putting into place software needs, the iPads are ready to be distributed to students, said Thero.

With the devices, teachers can utilize various software programs to streamline office processes. According to Thero, staff will have access to Office 365, Schoology and PowerSchool Performance Matters. Schoology allows

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about South Lake Schools, visit 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

teachers to send messages to students, post daily assignment reminders in a virtual classroom setting, keep track of attendance and assist with other daily tasks. Performance Matters is a software program that acts as a data warehouse for online testing analytics, integrating student data so teachers receive an overall view of student progress.

Parents and students will have access to PowerSchool SIS, a password-protected online portal that allows students and parents to view real-time data whenever they wish. Improving this visibility provides parents with insight into academic performance, attendance, schedules and school messages for all their children in one place. It can be a real game-changer to see if assignments are handed in on time or to view results from a test immediately after the teacher enters the score into the electronic gradebook.

For teachers, the software coordinates seamlessly with

each other so that, if they enter grades into one system, it automatically syncs with the remaining online tools.

Several elementary, middle and high school teachers volunteered to give up some of their summer for training last year. Throughout the 2019-20 school year, these teachers have been "Apple Pioneers," implementing iPad lessons so they can share what they learned with their colleagues. All teachers will receive additional professional development training on both the devices and software before students return for fall.

Teachers, who will build their curriculum in the online platform, will instruct students on how to use the iPads and software.

Students will continue to have access to accelerated courses as early as the 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.



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www.solake.org

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VAN DYKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District maintains focus on taking 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. So, when the COVID-19 crisis hit this spring, district leaders sprang into action and did what they could to make the best out of a challenging situation.

They immediately stepped up online instruction, using federal stimulus funds to invest in technology. Van Dyke Public Schools serves approximately 2,300 students in grades K-12. All will have access to laptops this upcoming school year, said Superintendent Piper Bognar, and use Google classroom features frequently to communicate with others during lessons.

"Kids will be able to shine using that classroom tool," she said, explaining that students who are normally too shy to speak up in a traditional classroom setting can share their thoughts and ideas freely.

However, Bognar said schools are about more than just reading, writing and arithmetic. They are places where students go for nourishment, for example, with every student in the district receiving free, healthy breakfast and lunch.

Van Dyke students also have access to a health and wellness with a nurse on-site. Students can receive assistance with behavioral health and wellness care.

During the pandemic, it was especially critical for teachers to check in with students and their families to see if they were struggling with any academic,



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Van Dyke Public Schools, visit 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

financial or mental health issues. The district established a hotline that families could call to be connected with services to help with their social and emotional well-being. If necessary, they could be directed to local, community-based services.

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

This summer, national events that followed George Floyd's death, including peaceful protests and disturbing riots, highlighted racial challenges. Since schools should be safe places for children, Bognar said the district has to be culturally proficient and aware of cultural impacts that can have an effect on students.

"There are conversations that need to happen," she said.

To assist with opening up communication within the district, some Van Dyke Public Schools staff attended the online seminar, "Be About It: Unpacking White

Privilege, Bias, and Anti-Racist Instruction" in June. This Teacher Talk was a two-day virtual conference centered on making thoughtful, intentional anti-bias transformations. It was designed to open up critical conversations in schools and communities through sustained change.

"This is an extension of what we are doing every day to put the focus on kids and their needs," said Bognar.

True to its commitment to families, Van Dyke Public Schools evaluates aspects of a child's education and contributing factors that could impact their success in the classroom. Because studies show that participation in athletics and extracurricular activities reinforces classroom learning by emphasizing concepts like collaboration, teamwork and goal-setting, there is no fee to participate in athletics within the district. Educators want children to



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VAN DYKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

be able to supplement their academics and explore their passions with activities that appeal to their interests without financial barriers.

This commitment is evident at all grade levels from young learners attending an early Head Start program, Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), transitional or traditional kindergarten to those in elementary and secondary schools.

The middle school focus is on making connections and developing relationships with others. Since 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 make it a priority to create strong bonds with students who they can help provide a welcoming and nurturing environment conducive to learning.

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



Lincoln High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) students can enroll in one of six career pathways that provide real-life experiences that they will find on the job.

Technical Education (CTE) classes.

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

As part of the SME PRIME* (Partnership Response In Manufacturing Education) initiative, the district partners with local manufacturers to bring manufacturing/engineering equipment, curriculum, professional development, scholarships and STEM-focused extra-curricular activities to the school.



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WARREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

WCS focused on student achievement, building strong bonds

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Warren Consolidated Schools recognizes that in order to maintain the most important component for student success – positive mindset and relationship with their school – they need to have exceptional teachers, principals and support staff. These professionals work hard to nurture the whole child, ensuring students feel safe, supported and connected to their schools.

“This has been a central focus for our entire district,” said Superintendent Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D. “In this time of pandemic, our top priority is connection and maintaining relationships with students and families. Currently, the emotional needs of people are enormous and educators have a key role in supporting children through these times.”

That was especially true as the Class of 2020 was greatly impacted by school closures in March. During the COVID-19 crisis, Livernois said, teachers remained in close contact with their students, maintaining strong relationships and high expectations for learning even in a remote environment. The district, in partnership with Gleaners Food Bank and the USDA, also distributed thousands of meals to Warren, Sterling Heights and Troy residents.

Even with current challenges, Warren Consolidated Schools has plenty to celebrate.

Livernois said the Class of 2020, like those who graduated before them, is headed in many directions – four-year universities and beyond, vocational programs and directly into the work force.

“Whichever direction they choose, we have a program to ensure they are prepared. Our high schools offer a variety of AP Courses and we



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Members of a leadership club at Agnes E. Beer Middle School in Warren explore problem-solving, decision-making and relationship-building skills.

have Early College/Dual Enrollment options available,” he said.

The Warren Consolidated School of Performing Arts (WCSA), is an award-winning, nationally-recognized program that specializes in all aspects of theatre performance and production. The daily in-depth study program is set in a professional working environment where students receive a complete theatre experience. In addition to the two-hour classes with teaching staff, students also learn from visiting professionals and guest faculty and benefit from university workshops, field trips, theatre organizations and scholarship opportunities.

Last December, senior WCSA students were awarded just over \$1 million in theatre scholarship offers at the Michigan Thespian Festival. This is the single largest amount of scholarship money ever offered to any one school in the area of theatre in the United States.

Middle school students also receive exposure to the fine arts. The Middle School Visual and Performing Arts (MS-VPA) builds on the success of WCSA. It is intended

for students who wish to blend their academically-focused schedule with their creative interest in the performing arts.

In addition to exemplary fine arts experiences, Warren Consolidated Schools’ three high schools, Cousino, Sterling Heights and Warren Mott, have all been listed by U.S. News and World Report top high schools. Macomb County’s High School teacher of the year for 2019, as well as the Middle School teacher of the year in 2018, both hailed from the district.

All three high schools offer a rigorous curriculum, as well as a myriad of other challenging programs, such as: Macomb Math and Science Center, an honors program for Macomb County students interested in advanced/accelerated mathematics, science and computer technology

Career Preparation Center programs, which are designed to provide students with the skills they need to enter the workforce or continue with additional college or workplace training. Students are often able to earn technical certifications, as well as col-

lege credit. These programs are open to Clintondale, Fraser and Warren Consolidated juniors and seniors

Community High School, an alternative education program for high school students. The primary objective of the school is to assist enrolled students in meeting their high school graduation requirements in a timely manner

The district’s early childhood, elementary and middle school programs provide strong foundational skills for students. Success begins with the Early Childhood team and its youngest learners, who may enroll as early as age 3.

“We have a strong track record of success with our youngest learners. The curriculum for all of our Early Childhood program focuses on the whole child and aligns with Kindergarten Readiness as a goal,” said Livernois.

Transitional Kindergarten is a popular offering for families who want to give their child more time to prepare for traditional kindergarten. Designed for students who turn age 5 from Sept. 1-Dec. 1, students come to school daily and participate in a program that combines academics with critical social and emotional development standards.

Well-rounded experiences for grade 1-5 students include literacy and math, as well as art, physical education, music and media. There is a strong STEM component to build skills for future challenges in middle and high school.

In addition to the curricular programs that focus on the rapidly changing needs of emerging adolescents, the Middle School Mathematics Science Technology Center offers an advanced mathematics, science, technology option.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Warren Consolidated Schools, visit WCSkids.net or call (888) 492-7543. Warren Consolidated Schools includes:

- Margaret Black Elementary School, 14100 Heritage, Sterling Heights
- Irma M. Cromie Elementary School, 29797 Gilbert, Warren
- Green Acres Elementary School, 4655 Holmes, Warren
- Homer Harwood Elementary School, 4900 Southlawn, Sterling Heights
- Sven Holden Elementary School, 37565 Calka, Sterling Heights
- Jefferson Elementary School, 37555 Carol, Sterling Heights
- Pearl Lean Elementary School, 2825 Girard, Warren
- John H. Siersma Elementary School, 3100 Donna, Warren
- Margaret I. Susick Elementary School, 2200 Castleton, Troy
- Maurice M. Wilde Elementary School, 32343 Bunert, Warren
- Irene Wilkerson Elementary School, 12100 Masonic, Warren
- Willow Woods Elementary School, 11001 Daniel, Sterling Heights
- Agnes E. Beer Middle School, 3200 Martin Road, Warren
- Will Carleton Middle School, 8900 Fifteen Mile, Sterling Heights
- Lois E. Carter Middle School, 12000 Masonic, Warren
- Virgil I. Grissom Middle School, 35701 Ryan, Sterling Heights
- Middle School Technology Center, 27500 Cosgrove, Warren
- Middle School Visual and Performing Arts, 27500 Cosgrove, Warren
- Paul K. Cousino High School, 30333 Hoover, Warren
- Sterling Heights High School, 12901 Fifteen Mile, Sterling Heights
- Warren Mott High School, 3131 Twelve Mile, Warren
- Community High School, 35201 Davison, Sterling Heights
- Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center, 27500 Cosgrove, Warren
- Career Prep Center, 12200 Fifteen Mile, Sterling Heights
- Butcher Educational Center, 27500 Cosgrove, Warren
- Hatherly Educational Center, 35201 Davison, Sterling Heights



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- Championship Athletics

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WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Students always drive decisions at Warren Woods schools

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

When Warren Woods educators sit down to discuss issues that will impact the future of schools, they may review finances, debate pros and cons and pour over the latest research. However, when it comes right down to it, the final determination is always made with the best interest of students in mind.

"Every decision we make is centered around one question: Is this what is best for kids?" said Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici. "This is how we make all our decisions."

It was this philosophy that prompted the district to ask voters in May to approve a \$45.5 million bond issue to fund projects in every single building, impacting all students in grades K-12. The request was overwhelmingly supported, creating an extra busy summer for district employees who also spent much of this time evaluating circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 crisis and crafting plans for fall. With the bond approval, Warren Woods Public Schools will:

Make school safety improvements, specifically at Warren Woods Tower High School and Enterprise High School. These upgrades will create secure entrances to help control security issues in the front of the building and route visitor traffic to the main office

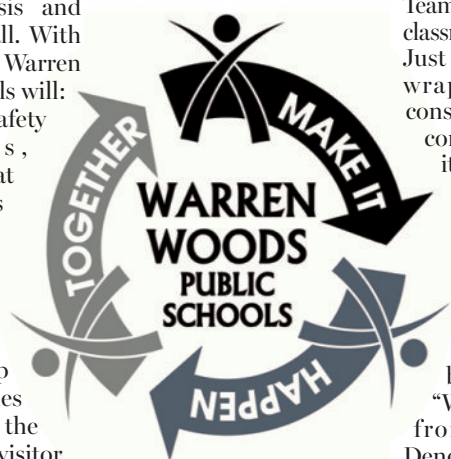
Enhance parking lots at two elementary schools, including new loops designed to make pickup and drop-off time safer

Renovate classrooms and athletic facilities

Replace items like roofs,



A Warren Woods Tower High School Class of 2020 graduate places his handprint on the senior wall.



lighting, flooring, furniture and buses that have reached the end of their life cycles

Focus on technology upgrades, such as providing laptops to teachers that utilize the Microsoft 365

Teams format and upgrading classroom technology. Just last year the district wrapped up numerous construction projects that completely transformed its facilities, including athletic concession and restroom buildings and bleachers, and addressed student safety and technology needs. These projects were funded by a 2017 bond issue.

"We have a lot of support from our community," Denewith-Fici said.

That was never more evident during this spring, when the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered schools and left some families struggling to find much-needed childcare and extra money for breakfasts and



Warren Woods food service staff prepare meals for the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Warren Woods Public Schools, visit 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

lunches that were normally served at school through the free and reduced food assistance program.

From mid-March through the end of June, the district served over 80,000 meals, and partnered with the Gleaners Food Bank mobile pantry for additional food assistance and continued to offer quality childcare options for families of essential workers. Virtual summer school, was also available for students to maintain grade-level learning and help students reach personal achievement goals.

"Every situation is different, but we support the whole child," said Denewith-Fici.

The district serves 3,200 students in three elementary schools, one middle school and two high schools. The superintendent 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.

This type of personalized support and individual level of personal attention directly correlates with student achievement. Knowing the importance of community and continuity, middle school students are placed into 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. Students also participate in projects, field trips and other activities as a unit using the same, unified curriculum for their grade level.

Students benefit because they build strong bonds not only with their teachers, but with their peers. They feel a sense of belonging that is so important to middle schoolers. For teachers, 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 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."

At all levels, students have opportunities to experience STEM courses, as well as music and fine arts classes. A large number of students participate in band and choir and all students 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



For more information,
visit our website
www.mywwps.org or
contact the Pupil
Services Office at
586.439.4468

- 100% Highly Qualified teaching staff
- Award-winning Fine Arts program
- Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math program
- Cutting-Edge Career and Technical Education program
- Advanced Placement courses and programs
- College Dual Enrollment opportunities
- Early Middle College opportunities
- Wide variety of Early Childhood programs
- Student progress is continually assessed and individualized instruction is provided
- 100% virtual option available for Fall of 2020

It is the policy of the Warren Woods Public Schools, that 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

People move to Macomb County because of quality education offered by our schools, affordable housing, and safe neighborhoods.



Anchor Bay Schools www.anchorbay.misd.net

Armada Area Schools www.armadaschools.org

Center Line Public Schools www.clps.org

Chippewa Valley Schools www.chippewavalleyschools.org

Clintondale Community Schools www.clintondaleschools.net

Eastpointe Community Schools www.eastpointeschools.org

Fitzgerald Public Schools www.fitz.k12.mi.us

Fraser Public Schools www.fraser.k12.mi.us/

Lake Shore Public Schools www.lakeshoreschools.org

Lakeview Public Schools www.lakeviewpublicschools.org

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools www.lc-ps.org

Mount Clemens Community Schools www.mtcps.org

New Haven Community Schools <https://newhaven.misd.net>

Richmond Community Schools www.richmond.k12.mi.us

Romeo Community Schools www.romeok12.org

Roseville Community Schools www.rosevillepride.org

South Lake Schools www.solake.org

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Van Dyke Public Schools www.vdps.net

Warren Consolidated Schools www.wcskids.net

Warren Woods Public Schools www.warrenwoods.misd.net



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