

# *Make* Macomb Schools *your home*





# 2022-2023 MACOMB COUNTY

# PRESCCHOOL

## Head start 586-469-5215

Federally funded program offering 2 options:

- Early Head Start (ages birth-3)
- Head Start Preschool (ages 3-5)

Support services for both programs that include disabilities, mental health, education, nutrition and family services.

## Great start Readiness program

586-228-3468

State funded preschool program  
for 4 year olds.

strong  
parent  
involvement  
component

High  
quality  
programs

- Half day and school day options are available.
- Some programs offer before and after school care.



Great  
Start  
Readiness Program  
Michigan's Nationally Recognized Pre-K Program



Macomb  
Community  
Action

MISD

[www.greatstartmacomb.org](http://www.greatstartmacomb.org)



# MISD provides assistance with mental health needs to schools countywide

By Jane Peterson  
For Media NewsGroup

From learning strategies, specialized programming, professional development, technology assistance and more, the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) offers invaluable support for Macomb County school districts by providing the resources, training and programs they need to support families and students of all ages countywide.

With preparation for the 2022-23 school year under way, MISD administrators have identified mental health as a huge priority as school districts continue to help students, staff and families navigate the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our behavioral and support team members are all-stars, able to help educators better understand the role mental health plays throughout the regular school day," said Justin Michalak, assistant superintendent for Special Education & Student Services.

As part of its larger role to provide local districts with the resources, training and programs they need to support families and students of all ages countywide, the MISD has taken a multi-pronged approach to mental health that includes access to counseling and crisis resources, self-care strategies and access to help for basic needs like food, shelter and heat.

In response to students struggling with mental health issues that increased in some cases because of the pandemic, MIBEST (Macomb Intermediate Behavioral & Emotional Support Team) began accepting referrals from all local districts in December 2020. This staff of highly skilled mental health clinicians provides therapeutic interventions to students during their school day, so they can better cope with their current struggles, while still attending to their school needs. The program is able to respond quickly to an urgent need and helps provide the necessary

supports in their time of crisis.

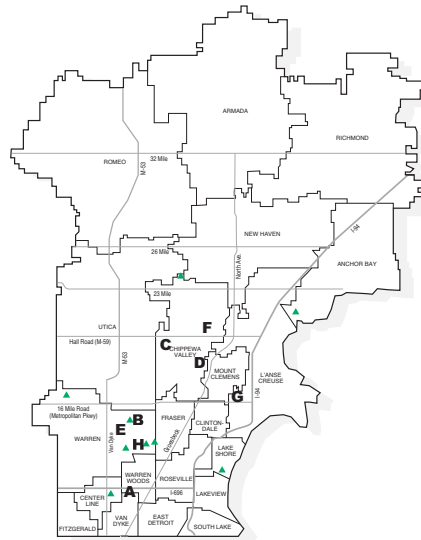
The Calm Classroom program is another example of how just being mindful of potential stressors can help. By maintaining an organized, purposeful and peaceful learning environment, students may be in a better position to cope with mental health issues like anxiety and depression.

Calm Classroom provides mindfulness techniques like breathing, stretching and relaxation exercises. Taking these actions can help students maintain focus, clarity and concentration throughout the day, boosting learning retention and academic performance. It may also help deter negative behaviors that can impact the learning process of an entire classroom. To date, the MISD has trained approximately 1300 educators, administrators, and support staff across the county.

Michalak said the MISD maintains strong relationships with the Macomb County Health Department as well as Community Mental Health. These relationships continue to benefit all families as the MISD can quickly reach out to its partners for support in the event of a crisis or need for ongoing assistance.

"We have been adding more services and staff, including clinical social workers and licensed professional counselors who specifically focus on mental health needs," he said.

When the COVID-19 crisis hit and school officials, parents and students were faced with the reality that school wasn't going to operate as it had in the past, the MISD quickly stepped up. The largest intermediate school district in Michigan, it offers a continuum of services



## Macomb Intermediate School District

- A. Keith Bovenschen School, (586) 757-7880
- B. John A. Bozymowski Center for Education, (586) 939-5391
- C. Educational Service Center, (586) 228-3300
- D. Robert G. Lutz School for Work Experience, (586) 286-0230
- E. Maple Lane Elementary School, (586) 977-9170
- F. Glen H. Peters School, (586) 465-6251
- G. Neil E. Reid High School, (586) 469-1590
- H. Rockwell Middle School, (586) 939-2290
- ▲ Sites with Autistic Impaired Programs, (586) 698-4014



misd #1: Photo courtesy of the Macomb Intermediate School District.

available to all 21 public school districts, charter schools and private/parochial schools in Macomb County, touching more than 150,000 students, including 19,000 who need special education services.

In a typical year, the MISD provides quality educational opportunities for special education students through its center program schools, oversees various programs and coordinates transportation for students with disabilities. In addition to working directly with students and families, it also offers technical and instructional support to all Macomb County school employees.

During the pandemic, the MISD responded to immediate needs, working with Macomb County officials to coordinate distribution of personal protection equipment (PPE) and organizing professional development training to help Macomb County teachers make a smooth transition to remote learning. The MISD also hosted vaccination clinics.

The emphasis on mental health is necessary because it directly impacts student learning, said Michalak, adding that students may be grieving the loss of a loved one to COVID-19 or even considering suicide themselves as one way to deal with heightened feelings of isolation and loneliness.

The MISD's goal is to provide Macomb County school districts with the tools they need to prepare for, identify and take action on mental health issues. Teachers, paraprofessionals and other school staff members have access to numerous health course offerings through the MISD that address Restorative Action Plans,

the importance of developing positive relationships with students, suicide alert training and other topics.

Among its other services, the MISD also operates schools and comprehensive programs for children with special needs as well as partners with local school districts to offer educational opportunities districts may not be able to fill or fund on their own.

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.

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 early intervention and the support they need.

## For more information:

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

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



## ANCHOR BAY

# Anchor Bay School District to educate, motivate, collaborate and cultivate the future

By Jane Peterson

Anchor Bay School District is looking forward to the 2022-23 school year with a newly minted strategic plan and graduate profile to guide future curriculum and facility decisions.

A strategic plan formalizes the school district's mission, vision, values, goals and objectives. This enables stakeholders to voice and agree on the same priorities and focus on the same path to improvement.

"We took our community shareholders' input on what is best for our students and created a five-year plan to implement. It is always exciting to come together and see what our parents, staff and community members want for the future at Anchor Bay," said Superintendent Phil Jankowski.

A major highlight is a recommendation to go forward with a bond proposal that would provide infrastructure support for the next generation of learners in the district. The guiding principles of the 2022 bond proposal will focus around enhancing educational programming by developing meaningful connections between classroom experiences for students and their future academic and career goals.

At all grade levels, Anchor Bay wants to place a stronger focus on career preparation and STEM programming. A bond would address aging infrastructure, geographical concerns to reduce student transportation costs and time students spend on buses every day, improve safety and security measures and increase

building efficiency by reducing operational costs.

"We want students to be college- and career-ready by the time they graduate," said Jankowski. "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 — Junior ROTC, Project Lead the Way (PLTW), Career Technical Education (CTE) 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.

Part of the strategic planning process was to create a Portrait of a Graduate. This is a document that a school district develops with input from local stakeholders to specify the cognitive, personal and interpersonal competencies that students should possess when they graduate from high school. In the end, these are the four areas that the district will focus and build programs and curriculum around. For Anchor Bay, all stakeholders need to remember is E=MC2.

- Educate — Problem-solving, content knowledge, critical thinking and financial literacy

- Motivate — Perseverance, accountability, purpose-driven and self-directedness

- Collaborate — Leadership, communication, community involvement and real-world experience

- Cultivate — Growth



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANCHOR BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Anchor Bay School District has a K-12 Project Lead the Way and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program which gives all students the opportunity to learn and apply their knowledge to real-world applications.

mindset, college readiness, empathy, kindness and cultural responsiveness

"It is important for a school district to have K-12 programs meet students where they are and foster growth, get them excited about learning and expose them to different experiences and opportunities," says Jankowski. "We support our elementary students through programs like Literacy Workshop and spark their curiosity through STEM and PLTW. When they reach the middle and high school, we continue to support student achievement and provide opportunities for students to explore enrichment and athletic activities."

Offered K-12, PLTW and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) pro-

grams provide students the opportunity to learn and apply their knowledge to real-world applications. At the high school level, PLTW Engineering program places students into the role of engineer. They are given real problems and asked to use their knowledge and leadership skills to develop creative solutions. Oftentimes their solutions become reality, creating young people who make a difference in their communities.

CTE is another way to prepare students for success. Anchor Bay offers 16 CTE pathways including auto maintenance and light engine repair; horticulture; finance; medical education; construction trades; and cybersecurity.

Middle school students can join the Junior Honors

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Ashley Elementary School, 52347 Ashley St., New Baltimore
- Great Oaks Elementary School, 32900 24 Mile Road, Chesterfield Twp.
- Lighthouse Elementary School, 51880 Washington St., New Baltimore
- Lottie Schmidt Elementary School, 33700 Hooker St., New Baltimore
- Maconce Elementary School, 6300 Church Road, Ira
- Naldrett Elementary School, 47800 Sugarbush St., New Baltimore
- Sugarbush Early Childhood Center, 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, 6319 County Line Road, Fair Haven
- Early Childhood Center and SACC, 52680 Washington, New Baltimore
- Aquatic Recreation Center, 52401 Ashley, New Baltimore

Academy with classes in math, English, science and social studies. Eighth graders can apply for the Anchor Bay High School Honors Academy, 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.

Outside the classroom, Anchor Bay students enjoy various extracurricular activities. The high school offers 52 competitive teach

sports with no pay-to-play fees. This past spring, 36 student-athletes signed letters of intent to play at the collegiate level. Anchor Bay also has award-winning theatre, art, instrumental and vocal music programs, and student clubs like HOSA, BPA, E-Sports and Mock Trial that compete annually at local, state and national levels.

"Student success on such a broad scale is due to our amazing staff and parental support. You don't have students performing at such a high level without teachers, coaches and parents going that extra mile for kids," said Jankowski.





# • Educate • Motivate • • Collaborate • Cultivate •

*Empowering All Students to Succeed*

## Welcome Future Tars!



### Anchor Bay Offers 3 Options for Kindergarten-Age Children

#### FULL- DAY KINDERGARTEN

Children must be 5 years old by Sept. 1 of the school year in which they plan on attending Kindergarten.

#### HALF- DAY KINDERGARTEN

Students continue on to Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> Grade the following year based on progress.

#### YOUNG FIVES

Young Fives is a full day program designed for children turning 5 years old between June 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>. Students will enter Kindergarten the following school year.

~ **Schools of Choice available  
for all Kindergarten options!**~

### Anchor Bay Elementary Schools offer:

- Three Options for Kindergarten-Aged Students
- K-5 Art, Music, Literacy, Physical Education, and Technology Classes
- K-5 Project Lead the Way STEM Classes

### 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

### Anchor Bay High School offers:

- 16 Career Technical Education Programs
- Honors Academy including 9 Advanced Placement Courses
- Over 50 Competitive Team Sports with No Pay-to-Play Fees
- Award Winning Theatre, Art, Band, and Choir
- JROTC Programs for 9-12 Graders
- Foreign language: French, Spanish, & German

### Strong Student Achievement:

- Anchor Bay students scored higher than county & state averages in every area tested on Spring 2019 assessments.
- Over a Decade of Excellence: we have led the county in test scores since 2009.



**Anchor Bay is a Schools of Choice District. Empower your student to succeed - apply today!**  
**[www.anchorbay.misd.net](http://www.anchorbay.misd.net) or call 586.725.2861**

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



## ARMADA

# Armada Area Schools continues tradition of academic excellence

By Jane Peterson

Armada Area Schools may be a smaller school district, but it is a mighty one.

While more rural when compared to its urban neighbors, having approximately 1,800 students enrolled districtwide offers some distinct advantages.

For one, the Armada community in general is very close-knit and committed to working together to provide students a quality education. Fewer students also translate into smaller class sizes where teachers get to know their students and their families, providing a very personal academic experience closely tailored to each child's needs. For many, this leads to accelerated learning opportunities or extra assistance to meet grade-level expectations.

"Armada has a history of academic success, and the pandemic did not derail the district," said Superintendent Michael Musary. "We have remained face-to-face during the entire pandemic and the staff have gone above and beyond to make the learning experience as normal as possible."

Today, as many districts are focused on "catching up" their students, Armada Area Schools continues to push forward. Musary recognized early in the pandemic how important it was to keep students in class face-to-face while following strict safety protocols. It was clearly a step that parents and guardians also wanted, with 85% of students attending face-to-face classes throughout the pandemic despite an available virtual learning option.

"Our biggest point of pride in the district is we are a leader in Macomb County for academic achievement. Even though we are on the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS

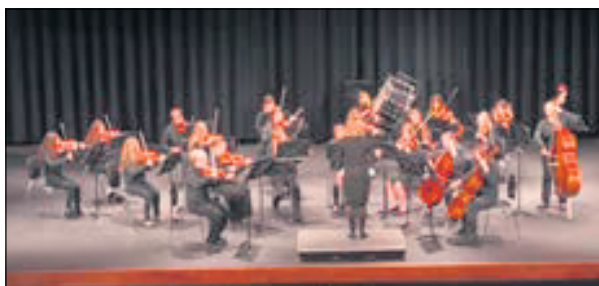
Even though Armada is one of Macomb County's smaller districts, it has had the most all county academic students for several years in a row.

smaller end in our county for size of districts, we have had the most all county academic students for several years in a row," he said.

Armada High School is ranked first in Macomb County out of 28 high schools in the Michigan Department of Education's Top-to-Bottom list for three consecutive years in 2018, 2019, and 2020. It also has been named a "Best Communities for Music Education" by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) for the fourth straight year — one of 686 school districts in the United States and among only 14 districts in Michigan to receive this honor in 2021.

An Armada High School graduate is competent, perseverant, a communicator, problem solver, creative, collaborative and technology savvy, said Musary.

With a graduating class of approximately 150 each year, students at Krause Elementary School, Armada Middle School and Armada High School enjoy a variety of classes, academic programs, clubs, athletics, fine arts programs, music education, academic competition teams, robotics and



Students at Armada Middle School enjoy a variety of classes and activities, including orchestra.

extracurriculars to explore while preparing for college and future careers.

Every sixth grader has a technology class that is part of the nationally recognized Project Lead The Way Program. Elementary students enjoy specials in technology, music, art, science and physical education.

"The district offers a great variety of academic options for our secondary students, and they receive a great start to their academic career at Krause Elementary," said Musary.

In addition, Armada provides summer school opportunities for all grade levels as well as access to several academic camps like Camp Invention, where elementary students participate in science projects for a week and PAL camp, where mid-

dle school and ninth grade students attend a traditional outdoor camp off-site and spend the week in cabins.

A full 96-98% of Armada Area Schools graduates attend college or trade school — and most of them have already earned several credits toward a college degree before even graduating, thanks to the district's Advanced Placement classes and programs like the district's partnership with Ferris State University that allows many to enter college as sophomores instead of freshmen, saving both time and money.

Armada students can take advantage of several unique and valuable learning opportunities through the district's robust Career Technical Education



Armada provides summer school opportunities for all grade levels as well as access to several academic camps like Camp Invention, where elementary students participate in science projects for a week.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Armada Area Schools, visit [armadaschools.org](http://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. High school students also visit various businesses in the community to speak with employers about their expectations on the job and can participate in the Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Middle Academy of Arts and Sciences based on their interest and potential to achieve in math and science.

Always looking to move forward, Armada Area Schools will have a \$26.5 million bond issue on the November ballot. Many items proposed are improvements designed to increase operating efficiency, address potential security concerns and update facilities, including:

- New high school offices
- Secured entrances at

Armada High School and the Macomb Academy of Arts & Sciences

- HVAC improvements at the high school
- New furniture for students and staff in all buildings
- Expanded elementary parking lot
- Additional paving throughout the district
- New school buses
- New synthetic turf for the varsity softball and varsity football/soccer fields
- New concession stand and bathrooms at the entrance of the football/soccer field
- Expansion of the middle school cafeteria
- Secondary roof upgrades
- Other site and building improvements



## Achievement

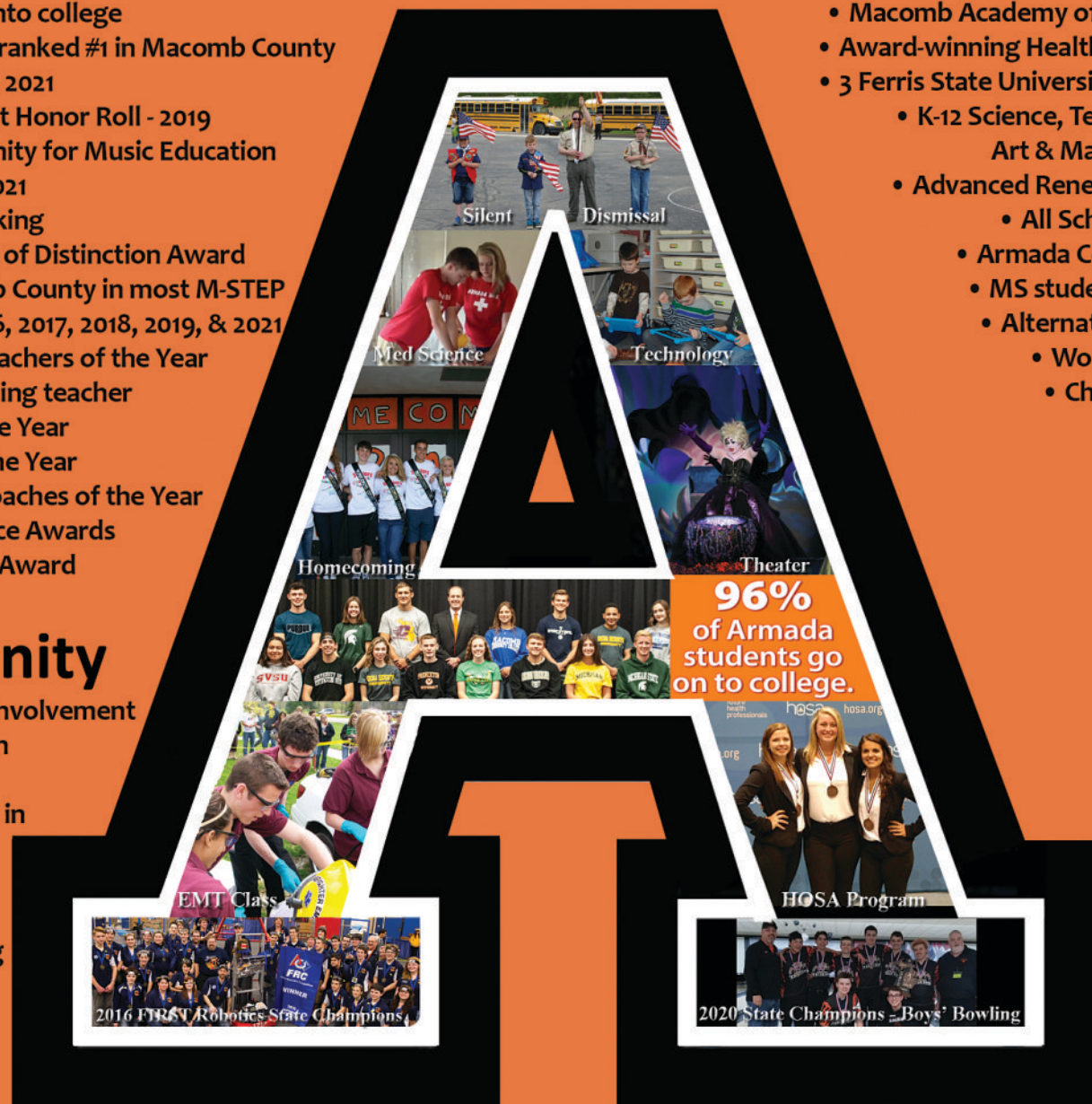
- Highest graduation rate in Macomb County
- 96% of students go onto college
- Armada High School ranked #1 in Macomb County in 2018, 2019, 2020, & 2021
- 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll - 2019
- NAMM Best Community for Music Education 2018, 2019, 2020, & 2021
- 5-Star Preschool Ranking
- 2015 National District of Distinction Award
- Ranked #1 in Macomb County in most M-STEP categories - 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2021
- 5 Macomb County Teachers of the Year
- 1 Milken Award Winning teacher
- 5 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 (MA<sup>2</sup>S)
- Award-winning Health Occupations Program
- 3 Ferris State University Early College Classes
  - 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](http://www.ArmadaSchools.org) for information about our Schools of Choice program or call 586.784.2112 to arrange a tour.





## We have much to celebrate!



With the support of multiple local fire departments, seven of our students earned their state **Firefighting Certification** this year.



Janaesia Alston was awarded a **full ride** scholarship to Eastern Michigan University through the **Dollars for Scholars** program.



CLPS sees the importance of extra-curricular activities in student development and **does not require students to pay-to-play**. This year, CLHS the varsity softball team was a Division II state semifinalist!



This fall, **Roose Elementary** students will move into a newly-renovated building at 4701 Marcy in Warren thanks to a 2017 bond passed by the community.



Center Line Public Schools is a **Ford Next Generation Learning Community**--1 of only 3 school districts in Michigan to earn this designation!

Sakeenah Jaffri received the **Michigan 2022 Breaking Traditions Merit Award** that honors students who overcome obstacles and stereotypes to succeed in Career Technical Education (CTE) programs.



New in fall 2022, Center Line High School will be offering an **AIS Heavy Equipment Technology Program** in partnership with AIS, a two year program teaching the safe operation, maintenance, and repair of common off-road construction equipment.

Center Line High School placed 1st out of 333 teams in this year's MI Social Studies Olympiad **Stock Market Challenge**.



Administration is always active and puts **students' voices first**. Superintendent Joe Haynes presented a lesson on beekeeping, one of his personal hobbies, to middle school science students.



# CENTER LINE HIGH SCHOOL

ACADEMIES OF CENTER LINE

### Freshman Academy

- Helps with transition from middle to high school
- Forms small learning community
- Builds skills to be successful
- Explores interests and careers

### Health & Human Services Academy

- Health & Wellness
- First Responders
- Law & Justice
- Public Service

### Industry, Technology & Innovation Academy

- Engineering Technology
- Innovative Art & Design
- Business, Commerce & Entrepreneurship
- Digital Design & Communication

**Center Line High School is bridging the world of work and school.**



## Eyes on the Future

Connections with local and nationally recognized businesses help prepare our students for life after high school, providing students with **hands-on, real-world** experiences. CLPS students can graduate with **college credits and/or industry certifications in high demand jobs**, increasing graduates' chances of finding future employment while filling a need in the community for skilled trade workers. CLPS participates in the Early College of Macomb and Dual Enrollment programs, where students can earn college credits at no cost while still in high school.

Scan the QR code or visit [linktr.ee/CenterLinePublicSchools](https://linktr.ee/CenterLinePublicSchools) for videos highlighting our academies and other great links!



**Our community supports our students!** Through bond funds, a new Peck Elementary was opened in 2021, and renovations are being made to each of our school buildings.



**Our students support our community!** Volunteering helps our students become better citizens. Younger students participate in service projects, and each high school student graduates with at least 20 hours of community service.



**CLPS has student-to-student support at all levels.** Younger students are partnered with older students through Link Crew, WEB (Where Everyone Belongs), and our elementary leadership teams.



**All CLPS schools are one-to-one.** Each student receives a personal Chromebook with all of the necessary tools to be successful.

**CLPS provides support for our students beyond academics.** In addition to a full complement of counselors and social workers, our high school also hosts an **Ascension School-Based Clinic** that provides free services to the children of our community.



**The Early Childhood Center:**  
**Where the roots of education begin!**  
Call 586-510-2800 to register in one of our programs, the *Great Start Readiness Program* or our *Early Childhood Special Education*.

## Discover - Explore - Experience

Join us for full-time face-to-face learning or stay fully virtual through our Academy 21 program, established in 2011. CLPS is open for school of choice to Macomb County residents only for grades 1-5 through August 24, and for kindergarten and grades 6-12 through September 8. Visit [clps.org](https://clps.org) for more information or contact us at 586-510-2000 or [enroll@clps.org](mailto:enroll@clps.org).





## CHIPPEWA VALLEY

## Chippewa Valley Schools expanding its STEM, technology programs

By Jane Peterson

Although some subjects can be studied by themselves, that's not the case with science. Science encompasses several different areas, including math and engineering concepts, so after two years of development, Chippewa Valley Schools is ready to launch its expanded STEM+ special for students in grades K-5.

"We wanted to take a broader look at STEM topics, which include Science, Technology, Engineering and Math," said Superintendent Ronald Roberts. "STEM+ will allow us to provide additional learning opportunities for students during their 'specials' schedules."

Specials are classes elementary children attend for one hour a week. They include subjects like art, music, physical education and others. The U.S. Department of Education and the Committee on STEM Education of the National Science and Technology Council have determined that STEM education is essential. The course also meets newly adopted state standards and is supported by the Chippewa Valley Board of Education.

The district's instructional technology coaches and classroom science teachers worked collaboratively to develop a vision for the STEM+ program and the curriculum materials to support the shared vision. Lessons were designed to be appealing to young children with developmentally appropriate lessons that utilize hands-on activities. Many times, children will work together to solve a real-life problem, so as they broaden their critical thinking abilities, they will also enhance their collaboration, communication and creativity skills.

"Integrating real life problems allows students to learn at a deeper level and see STEM as relevant to their lives," said Roberts.

Students in grades 2-5, for

example, may learn coding by working with Sphero robot kits. Younger children may learn coding concepts using play-based activities as part of the Sphero indi Robot kit. All might take part in building age-appropriate LEGO robots from the ground up. These activities break complex problems into smaller, simpler challenges, allowing students to build on their topic knowledge and think through a problem.

In addition to studying STEM concepts, students will develop general technology skills, sharpen their computer skills and discover what it takes to be a good digital citizen. A list of age-appropriate computer skills will be reinforced for all students.

Roberts said knowing how to respectfully relay ideas and process information online plays a huge role in developing the ability to safely and responsibly navigate digital technologies. Teachers will cover topics like privacy and security, cyberbullying, communication and more.

Those who develop a passion for STEM can add to their academic experience in grades K-8 through participation in extracurricular LEGO Robotics teams and continue them into high school by joining the Esports team or pursuing a Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway in mechatronics and robotics and other STEM-based subjects.

During the height of the pandemic, Chippewa Valley Schools transitioned to virtual learning. The district committed to a 1:1 program where each student has access to a computer and those in grades 3-12 are allowed to take their devices home nightly so they can continue to collaborate and work solo on homework assignments.

As classes, staff meetings and other activities shifted online, it quickly became apparent that technology could be used to benefit specific areas of staff professional devel-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

Chippewa Valley schools are places where students can explore different passions and become more independent.

opment and student learning. District leaders looked at how technology could be leveraged as a tool, like traditional textbooks, to boost student engagement and learning.

Instructional technology coaches work with classroom teachers to support the curriculum. They share ideas about ways teachers can maximize technology to directly impact student learning and achievement.

Introducing STEM concepts at a young age, said Roberts, gives students more time to explore the wide-reaching umbrella of STEM subjects so when they get to high school, they are better prepared to make educated and informed decisions about the career areas they want to focus on. High school is short and there are a variety of choices. With CTE, Advanced Placement classes, the International Academy of Macomb, Early College and dual enrollment programs, students can tailor their class selections and make the most of their high school experience.

"This is an excellent fit as students move through the grade levels to be able to identify their interests earlier on," said Roberts.

In addition, being involved in finding collaborative solutions and working together as a



For students, Chippewa Valley Schools is committed to 1:1 device technology. Every student in the district has access to a computer and those in grades 3-12 are allowed to take their devices home nightly so they can continue to collaborate.

team develops the "soft skills" employers are looking for, he added. These are skills that relate to how people work as opposed to what they know. Soft skills can include communication, time management, listening skills and other abilities that allow employees to deliver innovative results and work through tough challenges.

## For more information

To learn more about the Chippewa Valley Schools, visit [choos-chippewa.com](http://choos-chippewa.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.





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## SAFE & SECURE

Students learn best when they feel safe and secure. In 2018, we implemented the Safe Schools, Strong Schools Bond, which funds essential security enhancements district wide. School guard glass, emergency alert systems, security cameras, and improved locks and door systems ensure our students feel safe at school.

## CTE PATHWAYS

At CVS, we're committed to preparing students for post-high school success. Our award-winning Career and Technical Education program is launching students into high-paying careers. With 15 comprehensive pathways to choose from, we support all our students' diverse interests.

## DEDICATED EDUCATORS

Our learning community would be nothing without our tremendous teachers and support staff, who feel like family. They all help to create a warm, inspirational learning environment in which your child will feel at home. Our teachers share a clear focus to ensure an outstanding classroom experience for every student.

## CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

A close-knit school community is one of our biggest assets. We believe parent involvement and community support are key to student success. Parents and families volunteer, attend meetings, conferences, and extracurricular events throughout the school year to show students they care.

## FINE ARTS

Fine arts programs give learners the chance to explore their passions. Our students receive local, state, and national awards in the arts. With classes in art, photography, music, band, choir, theater, and more, we're igniting students' creativity.

## ATHLETICS

Athletics at CVS are an essential part of learning cooperation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership - qualities that last a lifetime. They make players into community leaders and teach them how to strive for a goal, handle mistakes, and cherish growth opportunities.

**To learn more about enrolling in the  
Chippewa Valley School district visit:  
[choosechippewa.com](http://choosechippewa.com) or call us 586-723-2240.**





## CLINTONDALE

# Clintondale Community Schools moves full speed ahead with strategic plan goals

By Jane Peterson

With a motivated staff committed to the district's Strategic Plan goals, a robust summer school program and the introduction of a new math curriculum, educators are enthusiastic about what the future holds for Clintondale Community Schools students.

Like all children in Macomb County, Clintondale students have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving forward with academic plans such as updating the high school science curriculum will create engaged learners who are ready for college and future careers, say district leaders.

A big part of the process involves the piloting of the Big Ideas math curriculum this fall, replacing the current Everyday Math system that has been in place for more than 20 years. According to Chief Academic Officer Heather Halpin, a focus committee vetted several math programs and recommended Big Ideas because it emphasizes partner work, student discussion and sharing of ideas; utilizes real-time data through digital formative assessments; and offers tiered supports as well as cross-curricular activities and center work to reinforce concepts.

"We anticipate great improvement in our math scores as our curriculum will finally be vertically aligned and taught with fidelity K-12," she said.

Math teachers will receive Big Ideas professional development training

in August and will have the additional benefit of a monthly check-in with the publisher for technical and academic support.

Clintondale educators are also implementing several strategies to overcome potential learning losses created by the pandemic when traditional face-to-face instruction wasn't possible. The district's Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) will compare common assessments throughout the year to monitor student progress. These groups of educators will work collaboratively to identify and address any learning concerns by creating flexible groups through use of a math workshop model.

In addition, the district plans to increase intervention support in all elementary and middle schools by adding coaches to support both math and reading instruction. This action will focus on taking care of any academic concerns early on, so students can build a solid learning foundation and become more confident in their ability to master math and reading concepts, allowing them to flourish at higher grade levels and complete more rigorous academic work.

Many students aren't waiting until fall to get back to work. Halpin reports that approximately 500 students enrolled in Clintondale's robust summer school program that offers additional academic support for students entering grades K-9 as well as credit recovery for high school students. Every summer school class is



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLINTONDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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

taught by a highly qualified, certified Clintondale Community Schools teacher.

In surveying students, district leaders confirmed that students would need more than academic assistance to be successful. Throughout the pandemic, many students shared that they felt isolated and missed out on school experiences during the mandated online learning period. Younger students couldn't have

the traditional in-person school experience at all. This prompted the district to establish a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) committee in the summer of 2021 and led to Clintondale's Michigan Continuous Improvement (MiCIP) Goal to be social emotional in nature.

"After vetting numerous programs, we landed on using the Positivity Project in the elementary schools and Positive U for grades 6-12," said Hal-

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- McGlinnen 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

pin. "The Positivity Project provides 10-15 minute lessons on character traits and Positive U is a hands-on approach to social emotional learning. Through assemblies and lunchtime chats, the Positive U team will support our secondary students through a robust mentorship program."

All these strategies are expected to lead to higher assessment scores and improved attendance while boosting graduation rates and preparing students for the challenges of college and future careers.

At Clintondale High School, students can prepare for college by taking advantage of Early College and Advanced Placement (AP) programs. For those who want to explore future career choices, enter the workforce after high school or attend a trade program, internship or apprenticeship, Clintondale Community Schools offers expanded Career and Technical Education (CTE) choices in a variety of interest areas, including Teacher Cadet, Architect-

ture & Construction and Hospitality & Tourism.

Other options include the International Baccalaureate Programme in Macomb; Butcher Math and Science Center in Warren; a variety of honors classes; and dual enrollment with Macomb Community College.

Athletics, arts and extracurriculars keep students focused and working hard on their studies. These opportunities include a culinary arts program, entrepreneurship program, American Sign Language program, sports marketing, TV production, STEM activities, robotics, arts and ceramics, performance choir, drama, 6-12 band, baseball, boys and girls basketball, bowling, Esports, football, track, bowling, cheer, dance, softball, track and volleyball. Clubs include Anime, Art Club, Drama Club, National Honor Society, Peer Mediators, Quiz Bowl, Science Olympiad, Student Congress and Yearbook Club. There is no fee to participate in athletics.





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## EASTPOINTE

## It's an exciting time of change for Eastpointe Community Schools

By Jane Peterson

From its youngest learners to those preparing for graduation, Eastpointe Community Schools meets the needs of all its students and supplies them with the tools they need to be successful.

As the 2022-23 school year approaches, students and their families will notice many exciting developments, including a new leader at the helm, Superintendent Christina Gibson. Gibson served as assistant superintendent under former Superintendent Dr. Ryan McLeod, who after holding the position for seven years, announced his retirement earlier this year.

Caitlyn Kienitz, communication and marketing coordinator for the district, expects the leadership transition to be a smooth one, saying that Gibson is a familiar face to the Eastpointe community. She has been with the district for nearly seven years and in her role as assistant superintendent, she spearheaded curriculum and human resources departments. Gibson officially took the reins on July 1.

In addition to new leadership, construction crews have been busy throughout the summer working on building improvements at all of Eastpointe's elementary schools and its early learning center. Each building is having a new entryway canopy installed as well as all classroom flooring replaced.

"These changes will be very visible to families before they even come through the doors," said Kienitz. "This past year those buildings had new front doors and foyer areas installed to increase safety and security, so this is essentially a completion of that work."

The new canopies will provide added shelter for students as they wait for the first bell to ring in the morn-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EASTPOINTE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Preschoolers at the Early Learning Center watch as their baby chicks hatch in an incubator.

ing and offer a refreshing update to the appearance of the buildings. Also new will be digital marquee signs that coordinate with the canopies.

"It's another tool that will be used to communicate with families," she said.

Eastpointe Community Schools is also firmly focused on academics. Currently the district's 2,700 students have access to Chromebooks or iPads as part of a 1:1 initiative that utilizes the benefits of technology whether students are in the classroom or working on homework.

This year, the district is moving forward with plans to expand programs for its preschool and high school students. Recognizing the importance of early learning, especially after emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic when many children were unable to participate in typical enrichment activities for socialization and early learning skills, Eastpointe Early Learning Center opened two additional classrooms for three-year-old students. Due to overwhelming demand, there is a waitlist for this program already, said Kienitz.

Eastpointe Early Learning Center serves 3- and 4-year-old students and houses the

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Eastpointe Community Schools, visit [eastpointeschools.org](http://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

district's early childhood special education program. The entire building is dedicated to preschool learning and is specifically designed for young children with kid-sized furniture and facilities. In addition to the 3-year-old program, Eastpointe operates a Great Start Readiness Program for qualifying 4-year-olds. The full-day program provides an engaging hands-on learning curriculum that emphasizes social-emotional development, math and literacy skills, fine and gross motor skill development and science and art

experiences.

From the very beginning of their educational journey, Eastpointe Community Schools offers a comprehensive slate of programs that encourages students to love school and become enthusiastic, life-long learners.

For educators, that also means focusing on social-emotional needs. As students navigated the pandemic, many felt isolated, unable to have the social contact that is so important to children and teenagers.

Understanding that many students lost loved ones dur-



Students in Chef Shoemake's culinary arts class at Eastpointe High School prepare dishes as part of their final exam.

ing the coronavirus outbreak, Bellview elementary educators held a memorial walk to support grieving students and let them know that they are not alone during this difficult time. School staff also implemented a grief support group and social workers who spearheaded these efforts are hoping to bring them to other schools this year.

In addition, social workers embedded at each of its buildings help students process complicated emotions and build connections within their school community. The pandemic highlighted how important these staff members are to Eastpointe students.

Eastpointe High School prepares students for future academic endeavors and careers. The district offers honors courses, partners with Macomb Community College for dual enrollment, runs an Early College program, operates the C2 Pipeline after-school program in partnership with Wayne State University where participants

explore various career options while participating in hands-on projects and provides a Career Technical Education (CTE) program.

CTE programs allow students to explore career choices and prep for future employment. This year, the district is expanding its culinary arts, law enforcement and marketing programs by providing additional interaction with the community.

Culinary students, for example, go on field trips, host bake sales, made cookies with special education students and catered a school board appreciation event. Eastpointe's law enforcement teacher is retired from the Detroit Police Department and took the students on a tour of the various DPD facilities this year. She has also been helping interested graduating seniors start the process of applying for the DPD Police Academy. Marketing students traveled to Ford Field and Comerica Park to talk to their team about marketing efforts.





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- ✿ Preschool programs with small class sizes at the Eastpointe Early Learning Center
- ✿ Individualized literacy programs for all elementary students
- ✿ Before- and after-school care available in district through YMCA partnership
- ✿ Grade-level teams and collaboration for middle school students
- ✿ Strong Career and Technical Education opportunities, including Law Enforcement, Culinary Arts, Marketing, and more
- ✿ Free college credits and dual enrollment through Macomb Community College
- ✿ Opportunities for art, music, physical education, and more across all grades

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



## FITZGERALD

# Specials, electives add to the overall academic experience of Fitzgerald students

By Jane Peterson

While some view specials and electives as “extras,” Fitzgerald Public Schools educators view them as an important part of the academic experience. These classes, which cover topics such as technology, art, music, physical education and health, enhance learning and often connect students to the school community.

These topics often get students enthusiastic about learning and give them something to look forward to, especially if they find core academic subjects challenging. Plus, students find additional ways to express themselves and communicate with others, whether by developing gaming codes, painting a picture or participating in sports.

Superintendent Kim Pawlukiewicz said for the 2022-23 school year, Fitzgerald has restructured its specials and electives at the elementary and middle schools.

“Students in grades kindergarten-third grade will have an additional media special along with technology, art, music, physical education and health,” she said. “We are utilizing some of our middle school teachers who have specialized training to offer world languages, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), art, music and physical education to our students in grades 4-5.”

At Chatterton Middle School, students will have the opportunity to choose from new electives such as Gaming Technologies, Broadcasting, STEM and Spanish.

There are other changes



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fitzgerald students enjoy a safe, supportive environment in which to learn their academic lessons.

that returning students and their families will immediately notice as well. Throughout the summer, the district has been busy implementing Series II of its \$46.7 million bond issue passed in 2019, with the bulk of this work being completed at Fitzgerald High School to reorganize the space and update it to meet current best practices in education.

The main office, for example, has been relocated to provide a secure entrance to the building. A student commons area will invite social engagement, three collaborative classrooms will encourage students to work together on projects and a student activities center will provide a space where

all students are welcomed.

In addition to these projects, Chatterton Middle School students will be greeted with a new cafeteria and serving line, creating a more efficient and pleasant environment for fueling up with nutritious foods to tackle afternoon learning.

At Mound Elementary School, an outdoor classroom space has been added. Studies have consistently shown that an outdoor setting enhances learning as children are often calmer and more relaxed among the fresh air and greenery of nature, leading to better concentration, behavior and overall performance.

“Our bond projects are updating our buildings to give our students and com-



Fitzgerald's First Robotics team celebrated a very successful competition season.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Schofield Early 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

munity new and exciting learning spaces and environments that foster collaboration and teamwork,” said Pawlukiewicz.

Summer school is also a good way to reinforce learning skills in a fun and engaging manner. Fitzgerald Public Schools operates an extensive summer school program for K-12 students, including additional programming for middle school students in English Language Arts this past summer.

“Our staff continues to work tirelessly to ensure that our students are provided with an engaging education that prepares them for the future. They are dedicated to the success of our students and truly care about the whole child,” she

said.

Being a smaller district, Fitzgerald Public Schools is a family-oriented community. Located in the southwest corner of Warren, the district serves more than 2,200 students.

New curriculum and technology initiatives encourage students to engage in learning and create a partnership with families by creating new ways for teachers and families to communicate. Each student has an iPad or Chromebook to use at home and connects on a common platform to check assignments and receive additional assistance.

“We are excited about the positive trends in our student growth data and know that with our additional initiatives, we will

continue to see additional growth from our students,” said Pawlukiewicz.

Fitzgerald is focused on nurturing enthusiastic learners who are invested in their education. This begins with its youngest students. Great Start Readiness Program 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.

Middle and high school students have access to a one-of-a-kind science curriculum, including hands-on learning in the astronomy unit thanks to the Chatterton Middle School planetarium.

The district also offers numerous Career Technical Education 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.

“A Fitzgerald graduate is someone that is resilient and not afraid of hard work. Our students are well rounded and have opportunities to learn and develop in career/technical education, Advanced Placement courses, dual enrollment, athletics, clubs and so much more,” said Pawlukiewicz. “Our students leave us prepared for their next step as they move into adulthood.”





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

- ✓ An outstanding kindergarten/young 5's program that actively engages children in hands-on learning experiences that support their academic, social and emotional development.
- ✓ 1-1 take home technology (iPads or Chromebooks) 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 Media Productions/ Advanced Media Productions - 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 9-12 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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**Questions? Contact the Fitzgerald Public Schools Superintendent's Office at (586) 757-1750.**



## FRASER

# Career and Technical Education expands to all grades at Fraser Public Schools this fall

By Jane Peterson

It's never too early for students to start thinking about their future careers — not even kindergarten. As the 2022-23 school year prepares to get under way, Fraser Public Schools administrators and educators have been busy developing ways to engage students at all grade levels with work-based learning.

For Director of K-12 Career and Technical Education Brent Brasure, this expansion of Fraser's CTE program is about making connections with careers throughout a child's K-12 educational journey, providing continuity and clarity as students wonder "why do I need to know this information?"

Many high school families are familiar with CTE. Various career pathways provide an intensive study and behind-the-scenes look at what knowledge, skills and personal attributes it takes to succeed in a specific job path. Typically, these courses blend classroom knowledge with on-site learning as students work firsthand with local business professionals. In many cases, upon completion of course requirements and testing, students receive certifications and are ready for entry-level jobs in the field of their choice.

During the 2022-23 school year, CTE will be introduced to elementary students as well. Beginning in Young 5s or kindergarten, and as they move through the grades, Fraser Public Schools will have opportunities for students to take programs and extracurriculars that align with subjects they are interested in.

While this long-term ap-

proach won't require in-depth study like at the high school level, it will start getting younger students thinking about future careers and involved in activities that could inspire future choices like Makerspaces and FIRST Robotics.

This past year, some classrooms participated in 'field trips' where third and sixth grade students visited Fraser High School to explore career opportunities.

With Brasure's assistance, third-grade students in Tina Frazier's and Nicole Parenteau's classes at Edison Elementary School toured Fraser High School's CTE department. While there, each student selected up to four different classes they wanted to attend. Class selection included robotics, electronics, Augmented Reality, welding/shop Tour, school store/marketing, finance/insurance, sports medicine, fashion design, coding/cybersecurity and 3D printing/design. The younger students were able to learn more about the topics and participate in hands-on activities.

Edison Elementary sixth graders visited Fraser High School for a career exploration day in May. Students spoke with professionals in eight different career pathways, the first time this opportunity was available. District leaders plan to expand the experience to sixth grade students at all six Fraser elementary schools next year.

"We want to expose them to everything so they can find the right career pathway for them," said Brasure. "It's about hearing those a-ha moments when students to make that connection with careers."

To support this expanded



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRASER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Fraser High School Teacher Cadet helps two elementary students with a Straw Tower Challenge. The activity is part of the STEM Summer School program in Fraser.

venture, Fraser Public Schools has hired three career navigators, staff members who help students identify career pathways and what steps are needed to achieve their goals.

Fraser High School offers 15 CTE programs that prepare students for jobs in specific industries, such as business leadership, CAD and engine technology, culinary, cybersecurity, electronics, family and consumer sciences, fashion design, finance, future teacher, health sciences, insurance, marketing, web design, welding and woodworking.

CTE students often use the same equipment in class as workers do on the job. They can walk into a lab, for example, and work with different samples and see the results in real time versus studying worksheets, reading lab reports and watching PowerPoint presentations.

While providing a wealth

of knowledge about careers before students even decide on a college major, choose a trade school or apply for an apprenticeship, students naturally model various employability skills, or "soft skills." These are competencies like problem-solving, time management and communication skills that students develop as they experience industry expectations, like getting to class on time and meeting deadlines. Often, these skills are just as important to success in their future careers as topic knowledge.

Some students are also able to earn college credits while still in high school, giving them a head start on a post-secondary education and eventually allowing them to earn a degree with less debt.

In addition to CTE courses, Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) are a required element for each of Fraser High School's CTE



Third grade students from Edison Elementary School learn how to use the industrial sewing machines in Stacie Yokhana's class at Fraser High School during a Career and Technical Education field trip to Fraser High School.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Dooley Little Learners Center, 16170 Canberra Road, Roseville
- Walt Disney Elementary School, 36155 Kelly St., Clinton Township
- Thomas Edison Elementary School, 17470 Sewell Road, Fraser
- Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School, 31275 Evingerside 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

programs. Involvement in these student groups, like DECA, FIRST Robotics, HOSA and SkillsUSA helps participants expand their skills through various competitions and focus on their leadership skills.

The plan is to develop a

mentoring program where high school CTE students work with middle and elementary school students to explore career pathways together, participate in activities and challenge each other to reach career and educational goals, said Brasure.



# In Fraser Public Schools, we know that every child's pathway to success is different.

From the moment your child walks through our doors, they have choices and opportunities to follow their own path and pursue their passions.

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## LAKE SHORE

# Lake Shore Shorians celebrate, take great pride in their school district

By Jane Peterson

These past couple of years have been challenging, trying to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic while balancing the best interests of students and staff. Still, Lake Shore Public Schools continued with the work at hand and found plenty of positives to celebrate.

The district embraces the whole child, choosing to focus on aspects beyond academics to ensure that each student reaches their full potential and achieves their unique goals. This has been especially important as the world emerges from a health pandemic that often left students separated from their peers and traditional activities.

Throughout the past school year, the district, with the support of the Lake Shore community, worked to find solutions for the district's approximately 3,500 schoolchildren. Today, the district celebrates its collective successes of the past year while looking forward to an exciting 2022-23 school year.

Lake Shore looks back at some of the top headlines that shaped its 2021-22 school year, raising Shorian pride to new levels and helping students and staff create a vision for continued success.

## Celebrating the Class of 2022

High school seniors received a traditional graduation ceremony in 2022 complete with a bagpipe entrance, inspirational speeches, presentation of diplomas and performances by the school's choir and band.

The community supported the graduates in many different ways:

- A billboard was placed



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAKE SHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thanks to the passage of a \$66.7 million bond proposal in May, the district will have the funds necessary to make several upgrades and improvements.

on I-696 at 11 Mile Road, honoring their accomplishments

- Personal lawn signs were stationed along 13 Mile Road
- A Senior Sunrise breakfast was held
- Names of graduates were displayed on marquee signs outside each building and on the stadium big screen
- A senior video was created, highlighting Shorian memories
- An honors assembly and prom were held
- Scholarship recipients and the Top Ten students were featured on video announcements
- Seniors were lauded on social media

## Displays of kindness, generosity to others

With many families and individuals struggling to purchase food, gas and other basic necessities, the Lake Shore school community came together with incredible displays of gener-

osity and kindness throughout the past holiday season. Students, staff and families participated in the following activities:

- Gratitude Letters for Believe Campaign resulted in 3,183 letters totaling \$6,366 for Make-A-Wish Michigan. Stakeholders were asked to write a letter to one person who made a difference in their lives at Lake Shore Public Schools. Each letter generated \$2 to Make-A-Wish Michigan
- The Tunnel of Lights, which sent messages and photos to pediatric patients at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak on behalf of Lake Shore Public Schools and the Saint Clair Shores community
- Operation Gratitude Candy Donations generated 250 pounds of candy for Vietnam veterans
- A nonperishable food drive for Goodfellows resulted in the collection of 2.5 tons or more than 5,500 pounds collected
- The district's management team collected dona-

tions for Goodfellows

- More than 50+ lawns were raked during a seasonal clean-up effort
- Fifty free Thanksgiving meals were delivered to families in need

## Projects for the future

Thanks to the passage of a \$66.7 million bond proposal in May, the district will have the funds necessary to make several upgrades and improvements. Projects will touch every building at all grade levels with new construction, exterior and interior work, technology, safety and security, instructional technology and furniture and equipment.

## Embracing the Positivity Project

The Positivity Project is a districtwide initiative designed to inspire students to build positive relationships and become their best selves. In all, 24 character traits, ranging from gratitude, kindness and self-con-



With countywide Special Olympics events cancelled due to the pandemic, Lake Shore Public Schools decided to host a scaled-down version of the games for these special athletes.

trol to curiosity, teamwork and integrity, are discussed throughout the school year, with each trait receiving its own focus week. Lessons are taught through presentations, student recognitions, building-specific displays, special projects, classroom discussions and more.

## Hosting Special Olympics Field Day

With countywide Special Olympics events cancelled due to the pandemic, Lake Shore Public Schools decided to host a scaled-down version of the games for these special athletes.

Participants took part in nine different activity stations, like softball throw, bean bag toss, soccer goal kick, 50 meter dash and obstacle courses that were staffed by Lake Shore High School's baseball, cheer, and football teams.

## Congrats to Lake Shore Early Childhood Center

The district celebrated Lake Shore Early Childhood Center's first anniversary in December. While early childhood education

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Lake Shore Public Schools, visit [lakeshore-schools.org](http://lakeshore-schools.org) 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
- Early Childhood Center, 23340 Elmira St., Saint Clair Shores

has always been a part of Lake Shore's mission, the center reopened in December with a newly renovated facility and a new name.





*Once a Shorian...always a Shorian!*



## 2022 SAFETY GRANT AWARDEE

In May 2022, Lake Shore was awarded the prestigious Michigan State Police Competitive School Safety Grant, providing \$250,000 for additional safety and security upgrades to our classrooms & schools.

- 1:1 technology; a device for every student
- Advanced placement, early college & dual enrollment opportunities
- Career & technical education (including building trades)

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING



Lake Shore Public Schools



[lakeshoreschools.org](https://lakeshoreschools.org)

586-285-8483

## \$66.7 MILLION BOND PROJECT

In May 2022, the Lake Shore community approved a bond proposal to improve instructional spaces, expand community space, update play & activity areas, and address building infrastructure needs.

- Safe, secure classrooms & schools
- Award winning fine arts
- Updated learning spaces
- World-class teachers & staff



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## LAKEVIEW

# New Strategic Plan to guide Lakeview Public Schools through 2027 school year

By Jane Peterson

Every successful achievement is paired with a great plan, a map that outlines how to get from where you are today to where you want to be tomorrow.

That's the idea behind the new Strategic Plan recently approved by the Lakeview Public Schools Board of Education.

"The document summarizes key ideas that will guide staff and students for years to come," said Lakeview Public Schools Superintendent Karl Paulson. "Annual goal setting at the school and individual level is organized around the five Key Priority Areas and Goal Statements. Lakeview has been focused on putting our money on the mission — and that prioritization is yielding successful results."

Survey data collected from staff and families were utilized by teams comprised of school administration, staff, families and community stakeholders to carefully craft the Strategic Plan into a cohesive vision that would serve as the future of education in Lakeview Public Schools.

The Lakeview community has also shown its support with approval of a \$54 million bond issue in November 2019 that prioritized funding for security, technology and facility improvements.

With those crucial elements in place, the district turned its attention to creating flexible spaces and installing technology that facilitate student engagement and learning.

This fall, Jefferson Middle School will open with eight new classrooms and a new kitchen that will allow food service staff to offer new options for meals.

In addition, Princeton and Ardmore elementary schools are currently under construction with additional classrooms being added and the office complex being renovated.

The COVID-19 pandemic did not slow any of Lakeview's momentum down. When the pandemic took hold and virtual learning was implemented for all students at the end of the 2020 school year, Paulson said Lakeview Public Schools was already ahead of the game as the district has always been committed to technology, with the bond monies providing new equipment throughout the district.

"New flat panel computer boards in every classroom will provide new options for teaching and learning," said Paulson. "Our 1:1 initiative at the secondary level provides all sixth-12th grade students a laptop computer to facilitate their learning. While they will not be assigned to every student, all elementary schools will also have more computers available for student use."

Updated wireless infrastructure ensures the new equipment will operate properly and smoothly.

This past spring schools continued to introduce more normalcy by scheduling events for families and students to attend, such as ice cream socials, assemblies, awards nights and other activities. Graduation for both Lakeview

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Ardmore Elementary School, 27001 Greater Mack, Saint Clair Shores
- Greenwood Elementary School, 27900 Joan St., Saint Clair Shores
- Harmon Elementary School, 24800 Harmon St., Saint Clair Shores
- Princeton Elementary School, 20300 Statler St., Saint Clair Shores
- Jefferson Middle School, 27900 Rockwood St., Saint Clair Shores
- Lakeview High School, 21100 East Eleven Mile Road, Saint Clair Shores
- Wheat Early Childhood Center, 27575 Harper Avenue, Saint Clair Shores

High School and Lakeview Virtual School was held on different dates in the district's 1,500-seat auditorium.

"Families commented positively about our decision to bring back these important events for all to attend," he said. "Being in school every day also positively impacted student achievement. Our staff can be proud that the academic performance for many Lakeview students on the NWEA assessments demonstrated growth beyond what was projected."

The district remains committed to educating the whole student from preschool through college with an expansion of preschool classrooms at Lakeview's Early Childhood Center. This fall, Lakeview is also offering a new Young Fives program, which will add to the continuum of services for its youngest learners.

"My son has had a great experience at the Lakeview

Early Childhood Center this year — I would recommend this program to everyone who has a 3- or 4-year-old!" said proud father of a preschool student and Board of Education Trustee Peter Accica, Jr.

For district leaders, 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. That's why Lakeview Public Schools offers many types of educational programs, including supports for those who need extra help and accelerated programs.

Additional staff at elementary schools will provide a multi-tiered system of support for new instructional intervention. The district is also hiring another mathematics specialist to complement its three reading coaches.

The high school hybrid block schedule where students take a total of four



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAKEVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hundreds of computers are ready to go to buildings as part of the district's 1:1 laptop initiative.

to six classes per semester helps students accelerate their learning by taking more core graduation requirements as freshmen and sophomores, freeing them up for more electives, such as career preparation classes and college opportunities, as juniors and seniors.

Lakeview students can dual enroll in Baker College and Wayne State University, where professors come to the high school campus to teach. Students can also attend classes on the campus of Macomb

Community College.

Approximately 30-35% of the district's seniors will graduate with college credits. Some students will graduate with as many as 30 credits.

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.





# Lakeview Public Schools St. Clair Shores, MI



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School of Choice - Macomb County Residents

Unlimited Openings Kindergarten and 6th through 11th Grades

Limited Openings 1st through 5th Grades

(Deadline for School of Choice application 8/19/2022)

Lakeview Virtual School - Unlimited Openings K-12th Grade

For more information visit [www.lakeviewpublicschools.org](http://www.lakeviewpublicschools.org) or call (586) 445-4000, ext. 2504



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For more information about Macomb Schools, go to [www.misd.net](http://www.misd.net)



## L'ANSE CREUSE

# L'Anse Creuse Public Schools works to remove barriers to student learning

By Jane Peterson

As the nation emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools is investing in additional staff that can help students remove barriers to learning and future achievement.

"We're adding counselors, social workers and psychologists to provide supports for students," said Superintendent Erik Edoff. "There isn't one universal experience from the pandemic, everyone is coming back at different points. Our job is to teach kids. These staff members can help identify issues that hurt the ability of students to learn and, if necessary, refer them to additional resources."

L'Anse Creuse teachers and administrators remain focused on student growth and learning. Edoff said helping students work through their mental and emotional needs is part of that process, especially since for the past couple of years the institutional structures and peer relationships that particularly pre-teens and teens relied upon were disrupted.

"We understand each student's needs and work with them so they can grow academically and emotionally," he said.

The district has always relied on a strong core of academics balanced with diverse offerings in athletics, arts, robotics, clubs and other activities to create enthusiastic learners who are actively involved in their educational process. During the pandemic, students met in person as much as possible and utilized technology to conduct research, connect with teachers and complete and submit assignments to enhance the overall learning experience.

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools

is a 1:1 district. All students in grades 6-12 have a Chromebook that they can use both in the classroom and at home.

Younger students depend on group interaction to learn social behaviors and develop critical thinking skills. Teachers are re-establishing traditional classroom routines and building bridges to learning to get their educational journey off on the right start.

Kindergarten provides a solid developmental foundation for children. This fall the district is continuing its transitional kindergarten program for students whose parents think they will benefit from added time. This two-year program consists of one year of transitional kindergarten followed by a year of traditional kindergarten.

"It's an excellent option for those who want their child to take kindergarten at a slower pace," said Edoff.

Kindergarten, as well as grades 1-3, are very academic in nature as children form literacy and math skills that they will continue to build upon throughout elementary, middle and high school. Strong mastery of these skills at an earlier age will serve students well throughout high school and beyond.

The district's middle school model helps students develop into mature learners ready for rigors of high school. The focus is on team-building activities, problem-solving skills and establishing solid study habits. This is also a time for students to explore their interests and try new activities.

Edoff said students need to be around each other not also to learn concepts and debate ideas in the classroom, but how to interact socially with others



PHOTO COURTESY OF L'ANSE CREUSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Among the district's extensive fine arts curriculum offerings are performing arts and theater.

and become good citizens.

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 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, which provide a college-like experience with a robust curriculum. An advanced math program meets the needs of accelerated students.

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

Edoff speaks highly of the district's teaching staff. He said schools have a great mix of new educators as well as returning teachers, creating a nice synergy of ideas and enthusiasm about education that doesn't go unnoticed by students and their families.

"Teachers remain the most important element at all our schools," he said.

Beyond a welcoming, nurturing environment, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools provides a safe, secure place to learn. The safety of staff and students is always a priority, and the district continues to invest in classroom locking mechanisms, emergency locking systems and school resource officers. HVAC systems have also been updated for adequate ventilation and optimal air circulation.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Atwood Elementary School, 45690 North Avenue, Macomb
- Joseph M. Carkenord Elementary School, 27100 Twenty-Four Mile Road, Chesterfield
- Green Elementary School, 47260 Sugarbush Road, Chesterfield
- Francis A. Higgins Elementary School, 29901 Twenty-Four Mile Road, Chesterfield
- Emma V. Lobbestael 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



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- College credit opportunities through Advanced Placement courses, Dual Enrollment and Early College of Macomb
- Over 20 Career Technical Education courses linked to jobs in demand
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*Join the L'Anse Creuse Family! [www.lc-ps.org](http://www.lc-ps.org)*



## MOUNT CLEMENS

# Mount Clemens Community Schools is close-knit, filled with lifelong learners

By Jane Peterson

Many school districts serve multiple generations of families who have lived in the community for decades, but fewer can say that they have generations of educators teaching their students.

"Many of our staff are graduates of Mount Clemens schools," said Superintendent Monique Beels.

That's important because building relationships with students often helps them make the connections they need to feel part of the school community and excited about getting on the bus and heading to school.

"Our teachers are caring and compassionate," Beels said. "We are hiring some very excited teachers this summer. Many of them have previous experience in other districts, and some are brand new teachers. We are looking forward to learning from our new staff and growing together as a family."

The teaching staff is concentrated on its goals, one of which is 100% graduation. The district has developed a portrait of a graduate that reflects the community — diverse, ready to go, eager to begin something new. Beyond the important first step of graduation, another staff achievement objective is having 100% of students attending either a college, university or trade school.

Student learning and engagement is the focus for all staff, she said. Special emphasis is placed on reading and mathematics, particularly at the younger grade



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOUNT CLEMENS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Developing a joy for learning begins at the preschool and elementary school level, where students establish a strong academic foundation.

levels, but science and social studies also receive a good deal of time and attention.

Classroom lessons will be supplemented by new promethium boards in all the elementary classrooms, which complement the district's existing state-of-the-art technology for staff and students.

Seminole Academy students will be greeted by a new face this fall, newly hired principal Diya Bethel. She comes to Mount Clemens from the Redford Union School District, where she was assistant principal/interim principal at Hilbert Middle School, and prior to that the Detroit Community School District, where she served as master teacher of mathematics.

"She has a lot of ideas, plans, hopes and dreams for the students and staff at Seminole," she said.

Beels considers the staff to be one of the district's biggest points of pride,

right up there with the beautiful, clean school and Mount Clemens families, many of whom have also been with the school district for generations.

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 its school district. Parents, grandparents and guardians appreciate the value of an education, and many have enrolled their children in Mount Clemens Community Schools' active Summer Education Program, which offers classes for enthusiastic learners at all grade levels.

According to Beels, many students are eagerly attending classes, learning about curriculum topics like reading and math while participating in fun, creative activities. She said younger students are enrolled in



Students can enhance their learning with enrichment classes like Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) instruction.

sessions that are designed to help tackle learning loss that often occurs during summer break while secondary students can get a fresh start with credit recovery classes or enhance their learning with enrichment classes like media production and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) instruction.

"Kids are excited to be here and I'm glad that we provide these fun and interesting sessions for them," she said. "We are getting students ready for first grade at Seminole and offering many other options for students. We are bringing in the book mobile from the Mount Clemens library — all good things."

Summer school has also given children more opportunities to be socially active and build bonds within their school community. Beels said when

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- M.L. King Academy, Pre-K, GSRP, ECSE, 400 Clinton River Drive, Mount Clemens, (586) 461-3100
- Seminole Academy, DK/K-5, 1500 Mulberry St., Mount Clemens, (586) 461-3900
- Mount Clemens Secondary Complex, Grades 6-8, 161 Cass Avenue, Mount Clemens, (586) 461-3300
- Mount Clemens Secondary Complex, Grades 9-12, 155 Cass Avenue, Mount Clemens, (586) 461-3400

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 respected and appreciated.

Mount Clemens Community Schools creates lifelong learners, students who are curious about the world around them and always seek more than just one simple answer to a question. Developing that

joy for learning begins at the preschool and elementary school level, where students establish a strong academic foundation that begins by becoming good readers and understanding basic math skills. At the secondary level, students expand on their problem-solving skills, collaborate with their classmates and develop a resiliency that is necessary to adapt to today's ever-changing world.





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***Our students, staff, and families come first.***

***Read what our parents and students have to say and join us in educating our future.***

- *I am a second grade student at Seminole Academy. I have learned so much. My teacher has helped me write, read, and learn new things in math. I am getting ready for third grade and I am so thankful from my head to my heart.*
- *I appreciate Mount Clemens schools more than ever. With the pandemic, things were hard for me and my family. The school put the kids in front of themselves and I will be forever grateful.*
- *My daughter's teacher genuinely loves her students and wants to see each of them reach their full potential. As a special needs parent, having my voice heard and being a valued member of my daughter's team is as important to me as her education. I need to know that my daughter's IEP will be followed, that she will be safe, and that I will be kept in the loop. In my experience, it is the kind and caring people at Seminole that make it a great school.*



**For more information, visit us at  
[www.mtcps.org](http://www.mtcps.org) or call (586) 469-6100**



## NEW HAVEN

# New Haven Community Schools' comprehensive curriculum helping students thrive

By Jane Peterson

With the introduction of a new math curriculum last fall and a language arts curriculum this school year, New Haven Community Schools is making the learning experience challenging and engaging for students by harnessing the power of technology.

The district has always offered a comprehensive academic curriculum for pre-K through 12th grade students, but the new curriculums will incorporate a digital component.

Superintendent Cheryl Puzdrakiewicz said students are used to working on computers, especially after the virtual learning that was required during the COVID-19 pandemic. New Haven Community Schools students are 1:1, meaning that each student is issued a Chromebook to use during the school day. Students in grades sixth-12th are allowed to take their Chromebooks home to complete homework assignments and connect with other students while younger students keep their computers at school.

The math curriculum that was adopted for the 2021-22 school year offers a rigorous curriculum as well as a digital platform that allows students to master concepts by providing extra support. When students return to class in August there will be a new K-8 English language arts that focuses on both reading and writing and several new ELA programs to supplement the high school ELA classes.

While New Haven grad-

uates are more than prepared for the future challenges they face in college or the workforce, the new curriculums are being implemented at the request of district leaders, who consistently strive to build upon the practices and processes in place to improve student achievement and success.

Elementary students will also notice a change in their "specials," classes like art, music and physical education that students attend on a weekly basis. Puzdrakiewicz is excited to add a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) class to the rotation, exposing students to exciting careers in these growing industries early on in their education.

"They will love the hands-on lessons designed to inspire students and create an authentic learning experience," she said.

Enhancing classroom lessons are extracurricular robotics clubs at the middle and high school levels.

A smaller school district, Puzdrakiewicz enjoys working closely with teachers and the community. She said teachers really get to know their students and families, making valuable connections that are crucial for student success. She explained that students tend to perform better academically when they know their teachers and adult staff members care about them because they are more academically engaged and willing to respond positively.

New Haven Community Schools serves the communities of New Haven as well as portions of Chesterfield, Lennox, Macomb and Ray townships, serving more



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
New Haven High School seniors celebrate at graduation.

than 1,300 students — and it continues to grow.

The community is supportive of the district's efforts, approving a \$25 million bond in May 2019. These funds were used for improvements in technology, the 1:1 program, transportation, infrastructure and safety and security efforts.

"Our community is close-knit with a small-town feeling," she said. "We are a very welcoming community. We are not just a school district, but a family."

What they are doing is working. New Haven Community Schools celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Puzdrakiewicz and other school officials are looking forward to many more.

"Our staff is amazing," she added. "They really go above and beyond. Many have their own families with their children attending New Haven schools. Others graduated from our district and returned to

teach."

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 3- and 4-year-old tuition-based programs, Great Start Readiness Program for eligible 4-year-olds, early childhood special education and Macomb Intermediate School District Head Start program. Tuition-based childcare is also available.

Bond monies were also used to fortify the district's Career Technical Education (CTE) programs at



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

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

New Haven High School. Programs include Business/Marketing Education, Automotive, Graphic Design, Sports Medicine and Medical Careers. Through partnerships with neighboring school districts L'Anse Creuse and Richmond, students have access to additional CTE opportunities. CTE provides students with hands-on lessons and real-life expe-

riences in the career field of their choice.

In addition to CTE, secondary 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.



# TOP TEN REASONS TO BECOME A NEW HAVEN ROCKET

1.

A small district that embraces diversity and inclusion but offers a 21st-century curriculum.

2.

Kindergarten through 5th grade students have 1-to-1 Chromebooks in school and can sign them out for homework.

3.

Kindergarten through 12th grade math curriculum includes a digital platform to assist with homework and mastery of key concepts.

4.

6th-12th grade students receive 1-to-1 Chromebooks for the entire school year!

5.

Monthly Rocket Resolution Program that focuses on self care and positive conflict resolution.

6.

New curriculums for the 2022-23 school year: STEM for Y5s-5th and ELA for Y5s-8th.

7.

Several opportunities for our youngest learners: GSRRP, 3 & 4s preschool, Y5s, Head Start and on-site child care.

8.

ASL and Spanish offered for foreign language credit.

9.

Several AP courses & dual enrollment opportunities for our high school students, and a partnership with LTU with university classes on our campus.

10.

Students are well known and supported by their teachers and administration.



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Call the enrollment office:  
**(586) 749-5123 option 3**



## RICHMOND

# Career and Technical Education prepares Richmond students for life after graduation

By Jane Peterson

Richmond Community High School's extensive Career and Technical Education program not only equips students with the academic knowledge they need to be successful, but it also teaches them employable skills and provides them with job-specific information about careers they are interested in.

The district has an active CTE program that includes 10 career pathways. The AIS Heavy Machinery Operation, Repair and Maintenance program is unique to Macomb County. In recent years, the three newest CTE pathways — Automotive Technician, Education/Teacher Cadet and Computer Programming and Video Game Development — were added based on student interest.

"We have a strong CTE program," said Renee Ara, executive director of curriculum, "but were interested in expanding, so we sent a survey to high school students asking what pathways they were interested in. We were delighted by their choices."

CTE pathways consist of elective courses that offer students the training and education they need for entry-level positions. They provide students with career-specific information so they can decide if this is an area that they want to continue to pursue by going to a four-year university, community college or trade school after graduation. Since many CTE pathways offer certifications, some students also opt for entry-level employment or

apprenticeships.

"It's a good starting point for a future career," she said.

School leaders work closely with Macomb County officials to design CTE programs where there is a need for workers in the community as well. Some industries can't find enough employees to fill open positions, so CTE students may have an easier time securing a good job when they are ready.

This fall, Richmond Community Schools is partnering with local car dealership Dick Huvaere of Richmond to teach students how to apply their technical knowledge and safety skills to the maintenance and repair of vehicles, including braking systems, steering and suspension, engine repair, HVAC systems and other mechanical components related to the automotive industry. At the end of the two-year program, students can earn certification by passing the State of Michigan Mechanics Test or the Entry Level Automobile Service Technology Test.

In the Teacher Cadet pathway, students interested in education work closely with Richmond staff. Students will learn about leading small groups, preparing a classroom, creating special projects and developing and teaching a lesson of their own at all grade levels.

"Students can get a real feel for what type of teaching and grades they want to pursue," said Ara.

Upon completion, Teacher Cadet students can earn certification for Michigan Youth Development As-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICHMOND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is one of the career pathways in Richmond Community Schools' Career Technical Education program.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Early Childhood Learning Center, 68399 South Forest St., 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

sociation and potentially work as paraprofessionals or long-term substitute teachers.

Computer Programming and Video Game Development, she said, is an introduction to Python coding and game design. At the end of the program, students plan to decorate the classroom and invite the community to play at Richmond High School's own arcade featuring original video games developed by students.

The CTE program schedule at Richmond High School includes:

- Accounting
  - AIS Heavy Equipment, Operation, Repair and Maintenance
  - Automotive Technician
  - Business Management and Technology
  - Computer Programming and Video Game Development
  - Criminal Justice
  - Culinary arts
  - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
  - Cybersecurity
  - Marketing
  - Teacher Cadet
  - TV and Broadcast Media
- Students become im-



The district has an active CTE program that includes 12 career pathways. The AIS Heavy Machinery Operation, Repair and Maintenance program is unique to Macomb County.

mersed in the subjects using processes and equipment that are utilized in the workforce so if they choose to continue in the field, they can easily make the school-to-work transition without much on-the-job training.

Much learning is done outside the classroom within the school and general community. Marketing students, for example, operate the Devil's Den student store; EMT students work with Richmond Lenox EMS Ambulatory services for Emergency Medical Technician; and culinary arts students run the Blue Devil Café, a full-service restaurant that serves the public. TV production students often work with city leaders and other members of the

public when 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.

As students work with the public and communicate with industry professionals, they discover the value of other skills needed in the workplace, like time management, responsibility and teamwork.

The district has partnership agreements, so in addition to the CTE classes held on Richmond High School's campus, students interested in other topics can take other CTE classes at neighboring school districts, too.



# Richmond Community Schools

## WWW.RICHMOND.K12.MI.US

35276 Division | Richmond, Michigan 48062 | (586) 727-3565



**Full Day 7:50-2:50pm | M-T-W-Th**  
**Half Day 11:50-2:50pm | M-T-W-Th**

TUITION-FREE Preschool for qualifying students. Qualifications based on income. This program is a State-funded preschool program designed to meet the educational needs of the students with a Full-Day and Half-Day Program.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION (ECSE)**  
**7:50-10:40am | 12:00-2:50pm**

The ECSE Program is an early intervention service designed to provide children and families with early learning experiences in a nurturing environment to promote successful educational experiences. ECSE is staffed with a highly qualified Early Childhood teacher, professional support staff and experienced paraprofessionals. Children must meet eligibility criteria to receive services and/or attend the ECSE Program.

## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION



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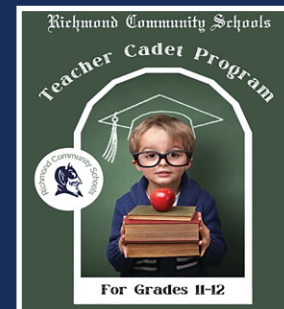
**3 YR OLD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**  
**7:50-10:50am | M-W-F**

High-quality, tuition-based preschool programs use nationally recognized Creative Curriculum for instruction. Creative Curriculum focuses on the whole child development centered around 11 areas: Blocks, dramatics play, toys & games, art, library, discovery, sand & water, music & movement, cooking, computers and outdoor.

**4 YR OLD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**  
**7:50-10:50am | M-T-W-T-F**  
**11:50-2:50pm | M-W-F**



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**Culinary Arts**



**Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) In Partnership with Richmond-Lenox EMS**



**Television Production In Partnership with The City of Richmond**

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In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Richmond Community School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, military status, national origin or ancestry, sex (including sexual orientation), disability, age (except as authorized by law), height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Should you need to contact someone about discrimination of any kind in the school district, contact the Superintendent at 35276 Division, Richmond, MI 48062. (586) 727-3565

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## ROMEO

# Romeo Community Schools ready to greet enthusiastic learners this fall

By Jane Peterson

After the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, the tragedy at neighboring school district Oxford Community Schools and the undertaking of various construction projects, Romeo Community Schools has been through a lot these past few years, but it has emerged stronger than ever.

Today, with new projects, programs, additional safety measures and initiatives, excitement is building for the 2022-23 school year. Superintendent Todd R. Robinson gives the staff a lot of credit for creating eager learners in their classrooms.

"Their dedication, flexibility and commitment to kids is by far our No. 1 point of pride," he said.

Since the passage of a facilities bond in November 2021, school campuses have been buzzing with activity and students will hear about exciting changes when they return to class this fall.

These bond monies are considered a continuation of the district's 2016 bond, which focused on the district's secondary buildings. In 2019, a new high school for grades 10-12 opened 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 former Powell Middle School into the 9th Grade Academy in 2020.

The final two projects from the 2016 bond — new high school tennis courts and a new transportation facility — will be wrapping up con-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROMEO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Ford Next Generation Learning districts employ a wall to wall career academy model at the high school level. Pictured are students who are part of the Health, Human and Public Service Academy.

struction this year.

This time around, the emphasis of the bond issue is squarely on the district's youngest learners at the preschool and elementary school level with nearly half of the funds dedicated to facilities, equipment, programs and furnishings for pre-K-fifth grade students.

Croswell Early Childhood Center will receive a new addition as well as renovation of the existing building and new furnishings while Hamilton-Parsons Elementary School — due to increased enrollment — will receive a new classroom as well as an addition to house its STEM, music, art and outdoor classrooms. Indian Hills Elementary will get a long-anticipated elevator corridor, STEM, music and outdoor classroom addition. These are among the first group of projects to be completed.

"We are very appreciative of the continued community support for our facilities," said Robinson. "This is an exciting time for our school district."

Other projects in group

one will include student locker and indoor door replacements and cafeteria/serving area improvements at Romeo Middle School and renovations to the Memorial Field facility.

Safety and security issues were also on the mind of school officials. The bond included monies for upgrading older mechanical equipment to improve airflow, replacing drinking fountains with water bottle fill stations and upgrading and adding security camera and access controls among other measures. Additional mental health and academic support staff were also hired.

In response to the tragic events in Oxford, the district has re-trained more than 500 employees in their active violence emergency response procedures. The district also finalized plans for evacuation and reunification efforts should it ever become necessary.

The district remains very proactive in safety and security, so more work is still left to be done. While the previous bond monies provided for



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.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Romeo Community Schools, visit [romeok12.org](http://romeok12.org) or call (586) 752-0200. Romeo Community Schools includes:

- Croswell Early Childhood Center, 175 Croswell St., Romeo
- Amanda Moore Elementary School, 209 Dickenson St., Romeo
- Hamilton-Parsons Elementary School, 69875 Dequindre Road, Leonard
- Hevel Elementary School, 12700 E. 29 Mile Road, Washington
- Indian Hills Elementary School, 8401 W. 29 Mile Road, Washington
- Washington Elementary School, 58230 Van Dyke Road, Washington
- Romeo Middle School, 11091 W. 32 Mile Road, Romeo
- 9th Grade Academy, 62100 Jewell Road, Washington
- Romeo High School, 62300 Jewell Road, Washington

some safety and security investments, additional initiatives recently received with school board approval. This includes a school resource officer at Romeo Middle School in partnership with the Village of Romeo and Bruce Township. Additionally, the district has contracted professional security and super-

vision personnel for their secondary school campuses.

Romeo Community Schools serves more than 5,200 students. For several years, the district has invested in transforming the way it educates its students and today is an official Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) Community — the first

in Michigan at the time.

NGL districts employ a wall to wall career academy model at the high school level. 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.

Romeo High School has three academies:

- Design, Engineering and Manufacturing Academy
- Business, Entrepreneurship 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. 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 was the first to make their way through the entire program. They did this with great success, having completed an in-depth exploration of their career path as they made decisions about their futures. The goal is to prepare students for college, career and life.





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- Professional security and supervision staff
- Secured entrances at all facilities
- Enhanced emergency communication systems

- Additional professionally licensed staff members to support the social, emotional and mental health needs of all students
- STEM focused programming at all levels
- Comprehensive Special Education programming

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INVESTING \$17 MILLION IN OUR FACILITIES OVER 1 YEARS**



### EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Early Childhood Center offers infant, toddler & children programs up to 4 yrs old
- A variety of preschool programs
- Focus on hands-on learning and creating experiences for our youngest bulldogs
- Expanded GSRP preschool for 2022-23 school year

### ELEMENTARY

- Student-focused Young 5s developmental kindergarten
- Expanded fine arts curriculum
- New STEM project-based class for all students

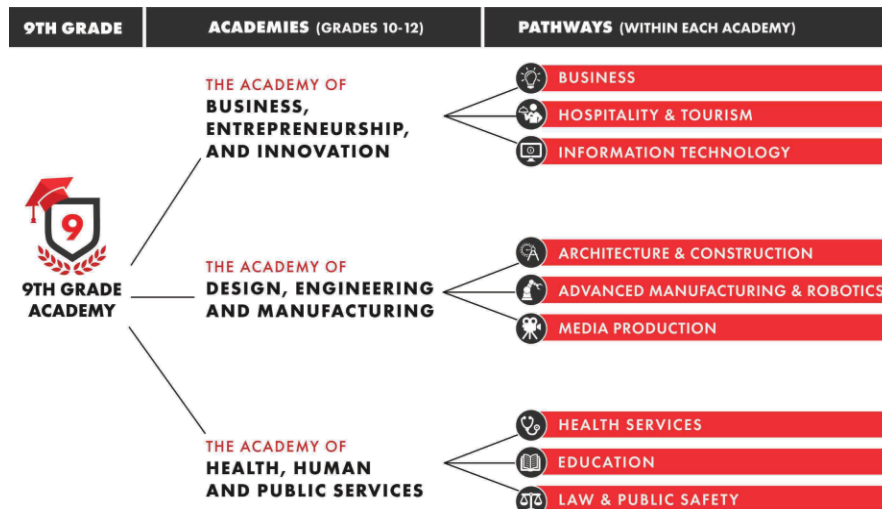
### MIDDLE SCHOOL

- New school opened in 2021!
- One comprehensive middle school for all students in grades 6 through 8
- Student Advisory Program focused on academic support, character education, social and emotional growth
- Comprehensive elective classes & extracurricular programs



THE ACADEMIES AT  
**ROMEO  
HIGH SCHOOL**

- Separate 9th-grade academy building
- The Academies offer each student a career-focused course of study (pathway)
- Preparing students for college, career and life
  - Experiential learning opportunities: Industry tours, job shadowing, and internships
  - Advanced placement courses, dual enrollment and early college programs



- 6-12th grade
- Earn a RCS Diploma
- In-person learning lab
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## ROSEVILLE

# STEM/STEAM a major focus of Roseville's comprehensive Strategic Plan

By Jane Peterson

With a freshly approved strategic plan in hand, Roseville Community Schools officials are ready to tackle achievement objectives in five key areas:

- Academics
- Learning environment
- Communication
- Operations
- Leadership/personnel

"Roseville is committed to providing an innovative education environment and giving our student community opportunities to be successful. We will continue to learn and grow to meet the needs of our ever-changing society," said Superintendent Mark Blaszkowski.

A policy review and revision was completed by the Roseville school board late last year and a strategic plan was adopted to serve as guide for district leaders for the next 3-5 years. Since then, sub-committees have been working diligently to create steps that meet these specific objectives — and school leaders have wasted no time getting to work.

"We know that these are important goals to achieve, and we look forward to reaching them," he said. "Every student will be prepared to be successful in whatever they choose as their next step."

That next step could be a four-year university, as many RHS Class of 2022 graduates will be attending colleges all over the country, including the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Louisville, John Hopkins, Tennessee State, and many other prestigious universities.

However, a four-year uni-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Roseville school leaders are taking technology to the next level by not only providing each student with a device that they can use for remote learning, but by outfitting every classroom with state-of-the-art equipment that supports a collaborative work environment for optimum classroom instruction.

versity isn't for everyone, as several graduates choose to go into the military, attend trade school or enter the workforce. Roseville's variety of career preparation programs help prepare students for a successful transition into a job or an externship after graduation.

Roseville High School offers a robust selection of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and has invested in making sure students are learning with the same tools professionals use in the workplace. These include accounting, auto technology, business, construction trades, machine trades, marketing, and web design. Additionally, a state-of-the-art kitchen opened at the high school last year to bolster the culinary arts program, and two new programs were added to the wide array of CTE offerings: Mechatronics/robotics and welding. Robotics continues after school hours as well with the RHS REST Club (Robotics, Engineering, Science & Technol-

ogy). The club is in its seventh year as an after-school offering for students and continues to win awards at state-wide competitions each year.

For many, having this hands-on instruction and building relationships with local employers in their field of interest will lead to a job, apprenticeship or additional training at a college, trade school or university.

In addition to CTE, Roseville High School offers Advanced Placement courses, which give students the opportunity to test for college credit upon completion. It also offers early college and dual enrollment programs.

After a year hiatus due to the pandemic, Roseville brought their elementary Gifted and Talented Program back to the classroom, transitioning to a curriculum focused on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM). There was an emphasis on the Engineering Design Process, which is a series of steps that engineers follow to find a solution



Technology continues to be an area of big investment for Roseville Community Schools.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Dort Elementary School, 16225 Dort St., Roseville
- Fountain Elementary School, 16850 Wellington St., Roseville
- Green 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

to a problem. Classroom challenges provided a hands-on, constructivist approach to learning, with students participating in energy studies, building circuits, coding, taking part in hands-on lessons regarding force and motion, and more.

"The STEAM curriculum engages students' minds and equips them with the four C's: Critical thinking, Communication, Creativity and Collaboration skills," said Blaszkowski.

These concepts carried

into this summer, as RCS introduced a week-long Girls' STEM Camp to its lineup of summer offerings. Held in early July for a select group of girls entering sixth grade in the fall, participants completed design challenges with LEGO Spike Prime robots, used power tools and interacted with female STEM professionals.

The Girls' STEM Camp is just the latest in the vast collection of programs offered for Roseville students to enrich learning during the sum-

mer. Now in its 9th year, the extended learning program provides elementary students with an additional five weeks of learning, mixing classroom learning with outdoor activities, field trips and fun projects. In addition, the district hosts:

- The Macomb Intermediate School District-sponsored Kinderconnect and First Fundamentals programs, designed for kindergarten and first grade students

- Math and literacy camps for middle school students

- Credit recovery courses for high school students

Also added to the Roseville Community Schools course list this summer was the Teacher Cadet Academy. Open for juniors and seniors interested in a future career in education, participants spent time in the elementary extended learning program this summer, shadowing a Roseville Community Schools teacher and working with students.

"As an educational institution, we have the perfect opportunity for our students to see the other side of education from a teachers' perspective. Hopefully this will encourage students to pursue the field of education to help our future students," said Blaszkowski.

Students went through an application and interview process earlier in the year, with those selected attending a workshop training session in June.

For younger learners, Roseville offers free Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) preschool for eligible students as well as full-day kindergarten. GSRP offers social and academic preparation for kindergarten.





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## SOUTH LAKE

# South Lake Schools adds academic supports, moves forward with curriculum initiatives

By Jane Peterson

While South Lake Schools officials faced many challenges throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, leaders are taking the lessons learned and creating positive experiences for students. It's all a part of the district's firm commitment to student learning and individual achievement.

Superintendent Ted VonHiltmayer said as students transition from virtual learning back into the classroom with an increased sense of normalcy, it's not possible to simply wipe the slate clean. He said it is important for school administrators and educators to recognize that each student dealt with the pandemic in his or her own unique way — and their experiences were vastly different.

Students whose parents were deemed to have essential jobs may have been anxious about them going in to work every day, for example. Some students may have known people who were infected with COVID-19 or even died from the virus. Others may have felt frustrated and isolated by the lack of typical school activities and not being able to interact with their friends as they had in the past. Some may have struggled with food insecurity and other issues from not being in class five days a week.

Whatever the case, South Lake Schools is taking the steps necessary to address, validate and help students work through their social and emotional needs.

"We really saw how important it is to connect with other people and be supportive of one another," said Von-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOUTH LAKE SCHOOLS

South Lake's elementary schools teach students strong fundamentals, so they have a solid foundation for future success.

Hiltmayer. "We are adding additional supports for students and getting back into regular routines as much as possible."

South Lake will be utilizing restorative practices, a disciplinary method that seeks to create a positive experience from a negative interaction. It acknowledges the behavior, works on resolving conflict and repairing relationships.

"It allows students to work through issues by getting to the heart of the problem," he said.

South Lake Schools follows a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). This is a process of providing educational and behavioral support in three tiers, with each level providing more targeted interaction, either in small groups or individually.

Teachers will be working in professional development with an outside facilitator to learn more about helping identify and assist children who need support.

VonHiltmayer is also hopeful that most students will return to a face-to-face

classroom learning environment. In 2020, the district moved to a 1:1 instructional format, where students use iPads every day in the classroom. Students in grades K-12 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 deliver lessons differently than in the past, sparking meaningful conversations and increasing classroom participation. Technology that students are so accustomed to already is used to draw them in to the learning process, generating increased retention and better preparing graduates for the rigors of the college classroom or workplace.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers utilized the iPads with Microsoft Teams to engage students by bringing them together even though they were studying separately. For various reasons, some families opted to remain online during the



South Lake Schools have created positive experiences for students throughout the pandemic, especially graduates.



South Lake students are excited to learn.

2021-22 school year, said VonHiltmayer, and that virtual learning will continue to be offered this year, but it will look a little different than the past two years, he said.

There are many benefits to technology, such as teachers being able to iden-

tify struggling learners more quickly and intervene earlier in the process.

However, bringing everyone together under one roof is also important to forge relationships, build connections and feel a sense of belonging. Plans are moving forward with traditional

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

activities to welcome students back for the 2022-23 school year, including Back to School nights, said VonHiltmayer.

Other programs will continue to operate as they have in previous years. Students will continue to have access to accelerated courses as early as the sixth grade. There are 17 honors courses offered at the middle and high schools. In addition, high school students can enroll in nine Advanced Placement (AP) courses, including AP Statistics, AP Calculus and AP Computer Sciences Principles.

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 experience hands-on learning in an environment similar to the workplace.



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- *Advanced placement courses*
- *College credits available with dual enrollment*



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[www.solake.org](http://www.solake.org)

[www.facebook.com/SouthLakeSchools](https://www.facebook.com/SouthLakeSchools)

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# Explore the value of a UCS education

“Our entire district takes great pride in how a Utica Community Schools diploma empowers students to succeed and transform their future,” Superintendent Robert S. Monroe said. “Through a high level of community involvement, the district offers its families and residents opportunities that set a national standard for excellence. A UCS education is built on the power of partnerships; we do not do this work alone.”

By any measure, UCS meets its commitment for excellence:

- The district’s graduation rate is one of the best in the region at 93.6 percent, more than 13 points above the state average.
- UCS programs, students and staff are recognized at all levels for excellence.
- Students on average outperform their state and national peers on standardized tests.

As Michigan’s second largest school district, UCS families have access to programs that will challenge students and allow them to explore their interests.



From the very beginning, a nationally-recognized early elementary program creates a strong foundation in English-Language Arts, social studies, mathematics and science.

Secondary students have access to a wide array of program choices, extracurricular activities and specialty options that are unique to Utica Community Schools.

We invite you to learn more about this value through a unique, year-long initiative that allows members of our community to tell the story of the value of a UCS education.

These are stories of how UCS has made a difference in the lives of graduates, partners with parents and businesses for student success and has staff members who are experts at their crafts and care deeply about their students. It is a story of how quality education improves the investments residents have made in their community and how businesses thrive in a destination district that attracts new families.

For more information, please visit: [UCSvalue.org](http://UCSvalue.org).

## What is the value of a UCS education?

- Success for all students with nationally recognized programs that are as unique as the children who walk through our doors.
- A destination district that supports higher property values for homeowners.
- Excellence and quality of life that draws families to support the growth of businesses and strengthen our local economy.







# THE VALUE OF A UCS EDUCATION

"The value of a UCS education is **priceless and ongoing**. I still reap the benefits of the lessons learned there. My teachers, counselors, and principals supported me and **prepared me for success**."

**Angel Stallings, Class of 2016 | Detroit Pistons Accounting Coordinator, Certified Public Accountant (CPA)**



"A UCS education is the **foundation that starts your career**. The industry knowledge and experience I gained through the UCS Career and Technical Education program is **what got me to where I am today**."

**Ryan Capshaw, Class of 2015 | Master Diesel Mechanic at Wolverine Freightliner**



"My teachers in UCS always made me feel like **nothing was impossible** and that we could all **accomplish whatever we set out to do** after high school."

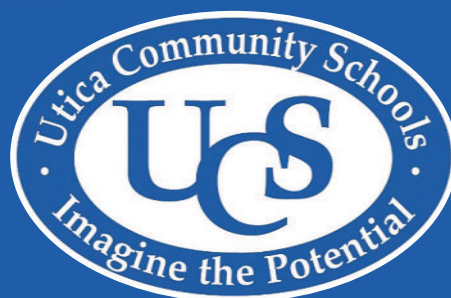
**Nicole Black, Class of 2010 | Vice President of Biomaterials and Innovation for Desktop Health, 2022 Forbes 30 Under 30**

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## VAN DYKE

# Van Dyke Public Schools seizing added opportunities for students, families

By Jane Peterson

The positive energy and enthusiasm for learning is evident at Van Dyke Public Schools as district leaders are committed to continually evaluating programming and the needs of the school community to ensure that no student is left out.

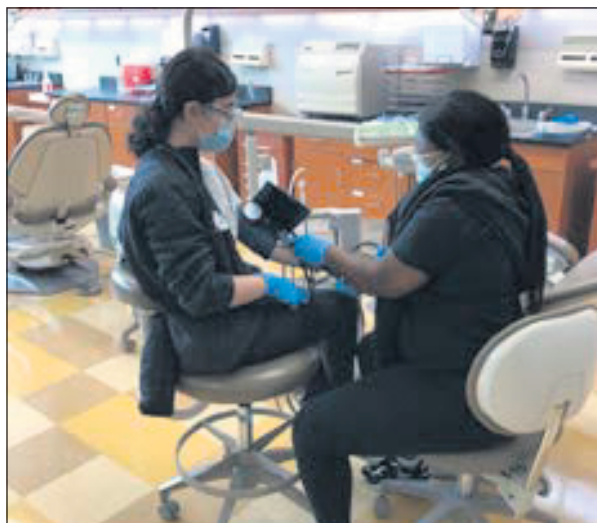
It's all part of the district's long-standing motto: "Every student, every day — no matter what," which means even more these days as everyone deals with the impacts from the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and strives to move forward.

"We are continually focused on each student's success, knowing that it looks different for everyone. We take the well-being of our entire school community into consideration and aim to guide compassionate, educated citizens into the world as independent young adults," said Superintendent Piper Bognar.

Since the pandemic started, emphasis has been placed on two major areas: Virtual learning and mental health support.

Many parents and educators are concerned about the mental health of young people as the efforts to keep them safe — social distancing, staying at home and wearing masks — made some students feel isolated from their friends and social supports. Socialization is crucial to student growth during the developmental years as children try new activities, learn appropriate behaviors and test the limits of their independence.

Piper said Federal Recov-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VAN DYKE SCHOOLS

Van Dyke students receive hands-on lessons and spend time with local business professionals as part of the school district's robust Career and Technical Education program.

ery Funds have allowed the district to make some adjustments in its mental and emotional health supports. Going into the 2022-2023 school year, each elementary school will have two licensed school social workers along with a district psychologist. At the middle and high schools, there will be social workers, counselors and behavior intervention personnel.

"We are also looking into on-site counseling support from an outside agency that will work directly with families district wide," she said. "We know that our students must be supported in all areas to succeed academically."

That includes virtual learning. Federal funds allowed Van Dyke to purchase 1:1 devices for all students at the beginning of the pandemic. So, even though grades preK-12 were fully face-to-face all year long,

the school district continued its robust virtual learning program and seized the opportunity to leverage it to make stronger connections with families and find new ways to reach all families in the school community.

"Some virtual instruction was helpful during illness, quarantines, etc. and allowed all students to access what they needed for daily lessons," said Bognar. "Students have developed new skills, guided by their teachers, in asking for specific assistance and using new resources during their studies."

Across all grade levels, Van Dyke teachers make it a priority to create strong bonds with students so they can help provide a welcoming and nurturing environment conducive to learning.

"The Van Dyke Community is unique and strong. We know our students and families, and everyone who



Yoga helps students stay focused throughout the school day.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Kennedy Early Childhood Center, 11333 Kaltz St., Warren
- Carlson Elementary School, 12355 Mruk Ave., 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

works here is doing what they do with a distinct passion. There is nowhere else like it," she said.

Van Dyke Public Schools serves approximately 2,300 students in grades K-12.

"Although we are a small district, we pride ourselves in being able to offer many of the things that only larger districts traditionally do," said Bognar. "Offering in-

novative programs means not being afraid to try new things and being willing to be uncomfortable, which we must model for our students."

Students are watching and they are ready to learn. The majority of Van Dyke's students participated in summer school, a rigorous five-week session focusing on academic and

enrichment opportunities as well as course recovery. Students in grades PreK-5 sharpened their English Language Arts, math and science skills during the morning session and those in grades 6-12 were able to recover or gain credits in advance. Afternoon sessions for K-12 focused on various areas of enrichment, ranging from foreign languages and athletics to law and drama.

"The Summer School program is available to families free of charge," said Wendy Cusic, director of curriculum. "Transportation is available, and so is free breakfast and lunch daily."

Seeing these students before the start of the next school year provided additional opportunities to assess their social, emotional and health needs. Bognar said schools are not only a place to learn, but also where students go for meals, health services and support. Every student in the district receives free, healthy breakfasts and lunches as well as free participation in athletics and access to a health and wellness center with a nurse on-site to assist with behavioral health and wellness care.

This commitment to students results in graduates who embrace their own abilities. They are kind, compassionate, inquisitive and ready to learn more about the world, said Bognar.

"They are focused on making their world better and being successful. They are empathetic and aware of how they affect others daily. They know, most of all, that they can and will make a big impact wherever they go."





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**Public Schools**  
Every Student, Every Day, No Matter What

- State-of-the-Art Buildings & Technology
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## WARREN

# Warren Consolidated Schools focused on celebrating student achievement

By Jane Peterson

Things may look pretty normal in Warren Consolidated Schools' classrooms this fall, but district leaders know that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are long-lasting.

While helping children overcome anxiety and feel safe and secure, Warren Consolidated Schools is maintaining its focus on student achievement, with district leaders and staff doing everything they can to support the learning goals of students and the overall well-being of families.

A huge part of this support depends on staff members who are committed to children. Warren Consolidated Schools (WCS) put a counselor in every school in the district, providing students with much needed support. For her efforts, Social Worker Paige Greaves was named Michigan Social Worker of the Year.

"Her commitment to children and families demonstrates what we believe across the district, which is the importance of the social-emotional health of our students," said Superintendent Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.

The district also scored very high marks when the Macomb County Office of Emergency Management reviewed its Security and Crisis Response Plan, a comprehensive set of strategies that utilize local, state and federal resources to protect its schools.

Teachers and other staff members understand that the most important component for student success is a positive mindset and many times that starts with them feeling safe, supported and connected to their school and the adults who teach and inspire them.

"An important part of our future is the continued commitment to strong relationships, high expectations for all stakeholders, and a focus on student achievement," said Livernois. "An important part of our future also includes an increased focus on the social-emotional well-being of students given all that they are facing in the world."

Their efforts don't come to an abrupt halt during the summertime, either. WCS operates a busy summer school program that offers a diverse set of learning opportunities for special education, elementary, middle and high school students. Some of these classes provide children with extra learning assistance and are by invitation only based on need while others appeal to the per-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

A \$150 million bond issue approved in May will allow the district to maintain its state-of-the-art access to technology and laptops for all students this coming year.

sonal interests of students, providing them with personal enrichment as they explore various cultures, books and wellness strategies.

Teachers and staff are strongly supported by parents, stakeholders and the entire Warren community. A recent survey administered as part of the district's national accreditation process showed very strong support of the district and its leadership. Among the survey highlights:

- 96% of parents strongly agree or agree that WCS schools communicate in ways that are easy for all families to understand.
- 91% of families strongly agree or agree that they can share concerns with institution leaders
- 94% strongly agree or agree that teachers and leaders are available when it is convenient for families
- 90% strongly agree or agree that teachers contact families to share information regarding student learning and student behavior

The community also provides financial support, passing a \$150 million bond issue in May that will allow the district to maintain its state-of-the-art access to technology and laptops for all students this coming year.

Livernois explained that when the pandemic first closed schools, the

Board of Education, led by President Susan Trombley and Vice-President Dr. Megan Papasian-Broadwell, felt strongly that all students should have access to high quality technology as they were learning from home. As a result, the board supported the purchase of nearly 13,000 laptops that were distributed to students at the end of the 2020 school year.

Technology is also utilized in the classroom by providing opportunities for students to collaborate with each other and complete project research.

The bond issue will also allow WCS to renovate and upgrade its heating and cooling systems to maintain optimal air quality as well as address many other critical infrastructure needs for the district like parking lots and roofs.

Strong schools, successful students and a supportive community is a combination that can't be beat.

"When I think about our world over the next 10 years, it is very clear to me that the most important part of our children's future is to have teachers and support staff who genuinely care about them and their families," said Livernois. "I am proud that those kinds of teachers and staff can be found all throughout Warren Consolidated Schools, and the future for our students is bright."

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Warren Consolidated Schools, visit [wcskids.net](http://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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## WARREN WOODS

## Teachers make the difference at Warren Woods Public Schools

By Jane Peterson

While the last two years have been challenging navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, there is still plenty to celebrate at Warren Woods Public Schools.

The district saw its first group of nursing students achieve their Certified Nurse Assistant certification through the Career and Technical Education's (CTE) partnership with Macomb Community College. Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici said these students, along with health science teachers, made their way through an intense, brand-new program during a pandemic, and district leaders are very proud of their efforts.

CTE training provides students with in-depth learning activities in their chosen field of study. Often students are taught by industry professionals, have opportunities to speak with local leaders and tour facilities. By the end, many receive certification and have enough knowledge for an entry-level job after graduation. Others pursue further education, and some decide that they want to look at another career option altogether. CTE allows students to make more informed choices about their future.

Many students — a record number, in fact — attended the district's summer school opportunities, which were available at all grade levels.

"We hosted the largest summer school program we have ever had with over 250 students enrolled in grades K-5 and over 230 students at the secondary level," she said.

Despite the positives, teachers continue to encounter the traumatic effects of the pandemic. De-

newith-Fici is proud to have provided in-person instruction for interested families since September 2020. By 2021, more than 96% of students returned to in-person classes.

"We felt it was extremely important for students to have the opportunity to work face-to-face with staff and peers for their academic and social emotional growth," she said. "I cannot imagine where we would be if our students had not had that option. How much more trauma would we be dealing with if they had not seen the smiling faces of 535 loving employees who come to work in Warren Woods on a daily basis? We could not have done this without each and every one of our staff members pouring their heart and soul into making Warren Woods a safe and caring learning environment. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to work with them."

Warren Woods has implemented many new strategies and programs to help students who have fallen behind during the pandemic, including an intensive tutoring program at the high school that pairs two to three students with one staff mentor who works with them daily.

The district is also the only one in Macomb County with a Reading Recovery site, said Denewith-Fici. Reading Recovery is a highly effective short-term intervention of one-to-one tutoring for low-achieving first graders. Each year a cohort of teachers are trained by a teacher leader, in conjunction with Oakland University, to develop observational skills and a repertoire of intervention procedures tailored to meet the individual needs of at-risk students.

In addition, Warren Woods offers:



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In-person instruction has been important for Warren Woods Public School and by September 2021, more than 96% of students had returned to in-person classes.

- A literacy coach at all three elementary schools who provides best practice literacy instruction techniques to teachers

- A K-5 elementary math coach who provides best practice math instructional strategies

- A secondary math coach and secondary instructional coach to support classroom instruction and to increase the effectiveness of tier one instruction

- A K-12 Instructional Technology coach to infuse technology into instruction and to promote student usage of state-of-the-art devices and hardware

- A Positive Behavior, Intervention and Support program in grades K-12

- Counselors at the sec-

ondary level and every building also has at least one social worker

- Four nurses who support the entire district and have been instrumental in the COVID response

"Our district is committed to student achievement within a caring environment. I think we proved this with our in-person instruction during the last two very difficult years," said Denewith-Fici. "Warren Woods staff showed up every day for our students and families even when they were unsure about what the day would bring. We have utilized one-time grant funds to help our staff get the tools and resources they need to take our students to the next level."

Warren Woods Pub-



Warren Woods is the only district in Macomb County with a Reading Recovery site.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- 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

lic Schools is a community-oriented district large enough to offer numerous academic programs, but small enough so building principals know every student by name. Community members showed their support by approving a \$45.5 million bond issue in May 2020. Because of this, students will see some changes this fall with added classroom technology.

The district is launching in-school 1:1 device accessibility for high school students in the fall. Students will have access to a laptop for every course and

new classroom technology, a Smart panel, document camera and sound system in every classroom.

Warren Woods is also introducing the Bridges Math program for grades K-5 after a two-year investigation and successful pilot program.

"As we look forward to the 2022-2023 school year, I continue to be confident and optimistic," she said. "I am confident that we will continue to provide the best environment to learn and work. I am energized just thinking about what is to come."





# WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MAKE IT HAPPEN—TOGETHER



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



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| Center Line Public Schools      | <a href="http://www.clps.org">www.clps.org</a>                                   |
| Chippewa Valley Schools         | <a href="http://www.chippewavalleyschools.org">www.chippewavalleyschools.org</a> |
| Clintondale Community Schools   | <a href="http://www.clintondaleschools.net">www.clintondaleschools.net</a>       |
| Eastpointe Community Schools    | <a href="http://www.eastpointeschools.org">www.eastpointeschools.org</a>         |
| Fitzgerald Public Schools       | <a href="http://www.fitz.k12.mi.us">www.fitz.k12.mi.us</a>                       |
| Fraser Public Schools           | <a href="http://www.fraser.k12.mi.us/">www.fraser.k12.mi.us/</a>                 |
| Lake Shore Public Schools       | <a href="http://www.lakeshoreschools.org">www.lakeshoreschools.org</a>           |
| Lakeview Public Schools         | <a href="http://www.lakeviewpublicschools.org">www.lakeviewpublicschools.org</a> |
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| Richmond Community Schools      | <a href="http://www.richmond.k12.mi.us">www.richmond.k12.mi.us</a>               |
| Romeo Community Schools         | <a href="http://www.romeok12.org">www.romeok12.org</a>                           |
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| Utica Community Schools         | <a href="http://www.uticak12.org">www.uticak12.org</a>                           |
| Van Dyke Public Schools         | <a href="http://www.vdps.net">www.vdps.net</a>                                   |
| Warren Consolidated Schools     | <a href="http://www.wcskids.net">www.wcskids.net</a>                             |
| Warren Woods Public Schools     | <a href="http://www.warrenwoods.misd.net">www.warrenwoods.misd.net</a>           |



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