

Macomb County Public Schools • August 13, 2023

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MISD

MISD offers programs to get young children off to a good educational start

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

The county's youngest students may look like they are playing, but they are actually building solid skills that will form a foundation for future learning. That's why it's important to identify any potential issues early on, before students have the opportunity to fall behind their peers in class.

The Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) offers a comprehensive early childhood program for children ages birth to age 3. Services include:

- Assessments to identify possible developmental delays

- Early On, a statewide early intervention system that provides family services and supports for infants and toddlers who have developmental delays or a diagnosed condition that may lead to delays

- Early On: Macomb Infant Preschool Program (MIPP), a parent education program that provides services for children who qualify for special education

- Child Find, which offers free evaluations for hearing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, cognitive delays and speech and language

Many of the young children involved in the MISD's Early Childhood programs today were born during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means they most likely grew up being sequestered from others, including their peers. Instead of playdates, meeting friends at the park or attending daycare, parents understandably kept their little ones at home. However, that has created a pent-up de-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MACOMB INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The MISD offers a variety of programs that can give children a good start to their academic experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Autism 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

mand for services.

"We've seen a dramatic increase in little ones referred to the MISD," said Justin Michalak, assistant superintendent for Special Education & Student Services. "The pandemic has made a tremendous impact on families."

In prior years, the MISD might have provided early childhood services to 700-800 Macomb County families. Today, there are 1,029 infants and toddlers involved.

Early childhood intervention is crucial to future learning. Teachers, occu-

pational therapists, physical therapists and speech pathologists can work with children to catch them up before they start attending preschool or kindergarten. Its programs also offer valuable instruction for parents, providing them with learning tools they can work on with their child at home and connecting them to other families and community resources for support.

"Parents are their child's best teacher," said Jennifer Shelton, director of Preschool and Assessment Center Services for the MISD. "Our ser-



Early On, for example, is a family-centered program where an Individualized Family Service Plan is created for participants.

vices are family oriented."

Early On, for example, is a family-centered program where an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is created for participants. The IFSP considers the family's unique circumstances and offers a multidisciplinary approach that integrates learning into everyday activities they enjoy.

Many children are referred by their pediatrician. Others come to the MISD via the MISD's community partners, like the Macomb County Health Department and Macomb County Community Mental Health. However, referrals are not necessary to inquire about services. If parents are concerned about their child's development, notice that their child isn't talking by age 2 or just have general questions about their child's develop-

ment, they are welcome to call the MISD at (586) 228-3321 and schedule an evaluation or complete a referral online at 1800earlyon.org.

"They are not alone," she said.

Assessments will evaluate a child's:

- Communication and speech/language skills
- Hearing
- Fine and gross motor skills
- Social interaction and play skills
- Thinking and problem-solving skills
- Vision

Early childhood services may be provided in the home, in a natural environment where the child feels safe and comfortable. Staff may also visit with them at their daycare or parents are welcome to bring their child to one of five learning center

sites throughout the county.

It's important to note that not all children who receive early childhood services will need special education services in the future. Many are able to move on to preschool without special education services due to the early intervention services. If children still require special education services, these will continue when they transition to their local school districts at age 3.

In addition to the early childhood services, MISD provides leadership in all areas impacting education. It operates school centers that deliver services to special education students with moderate to severe disabilities and offers instructional support to school employees, assisting with curriculum development and other leadership areas.

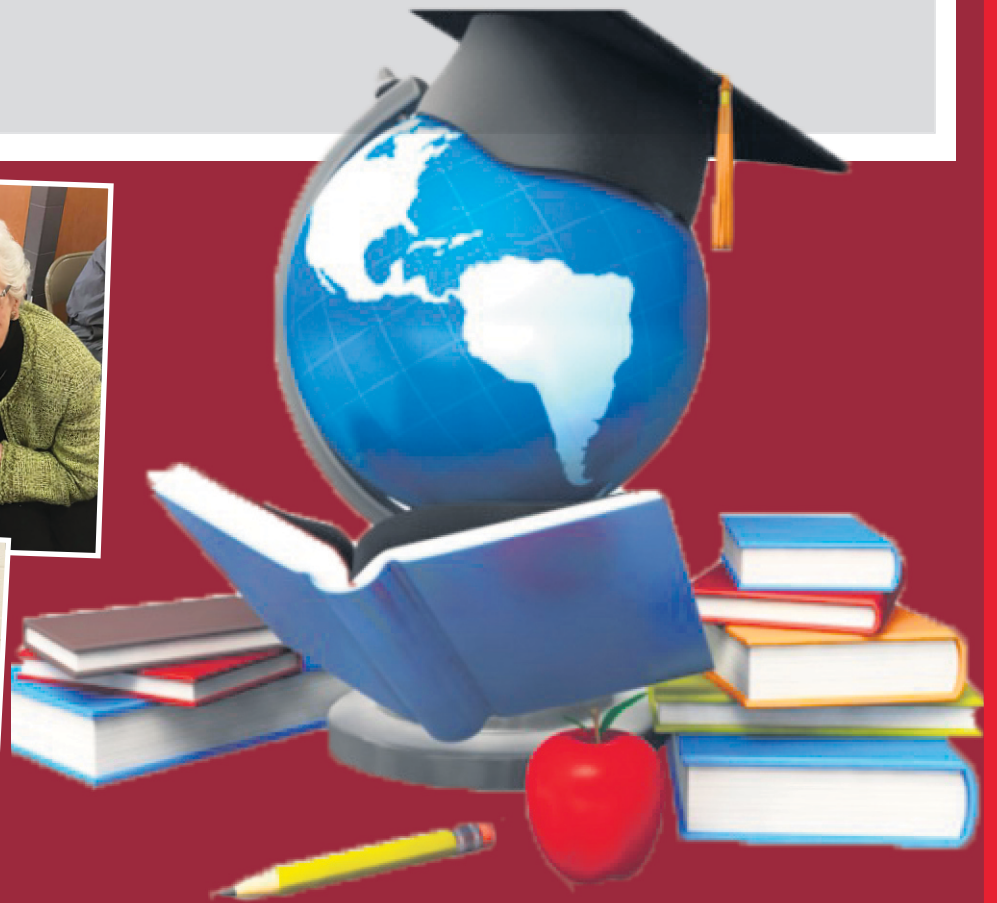
The MISD's special education services address the needs of children from birth to age 26 with physical, developmental or emotional disabilities who may require additional attention, support materials, hands-on care or specialized equipment to learn, grow and thrive.

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, para-professionals, speech therapists, psychologists, literacy consultants and others so children receive early intervention and the support they need.



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VAN DYKE

Van Dyke Public Schools focuses on the needs of every student, every day

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Creating safe and welcoming spaces for students to learn and thrive is a priority for Van Dyke Public Schools. Educators have focused many of their efforts on securing facilities, increasing academic opportunities for students and implementing mental health supports for students and staff.

Superintendent Piper Bogнар also wants to make going to school fun again.

“We want to bring back the joy in education,” she said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional school activities that many children looked forward to — field trips, college tours, graduation celebrations — had to be missed. Even after students returned to class face-to-face, activities like these were often limited as school resources were dedicated to preventing further illness.

Now, the district is once again able to offer some of these opportunities that enhance student learning, provide additional socialization and get children excited about coming to school every day.

Parents are also being invited back into the buildings to volunteer in classrooms, attend parent-teacher conferences in person and enjoy events like parent nights, concert performances and special programs.

“Our middle school students went to a Detroit Tigers game and we had a Farewell Clap-Out for our graduating seniors,” said

Bognar. “We have a Women of Tomorrow group at the high school that goes on college tours and explores various careers.”

A new food service company is encouraging students to try foods they never have before and supporting the school community with food tastings and participation in special events, such as Staff Appreciation and the Royal Ball for preschoolers.

Administrators are hoping that staff and students will light up at the sight of the district’s new four-legged staff members. These canines, working with Elite K9 Detection, perform double duty as therapy dogs that students can pet or read to while seeking to keep everyone safe.

Van Dyke has a very active summer school program that continues the learning and fun for five weeks during the summer break, helping students to boost core curriculum skills, prevent learning loss and spend time with their friends in a safe, structured environment. The summer school program is available to families free of charge, with transportation, breakfast and lunch provided free of charge daily.

Knowing that everyone is in a different place with their pandemic recovery, Van Dyke Public Schools continues to offer a variety of services that support learning.

The district’s Success Academy is a blended virtual learning program where students work toward their high school diploma without physically



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VAN DYKE SCHOOLS

Van Dyke Public Schools educators are making school fun for students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VAN DYKE SCHOOLS

Yoga can help calm students and focus their energy on school tasks.

attending the school campus daily. Instead, each student has a personalized learning plan and complete assignments mainly online. However, students can still

come to school to take Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes, enroll in band and participate in athletics.

Thanks to state safety

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

and mental health grants, Van Dyke Public Schools is creating calming spaces for students and staff in its buildings. With comfortable, plush seating and soft music, they are the ideal place to take a deep breath, mentally prepare for a tough challenge ahead or escape the busyness of the typical classroom to just be still with one’s thoughts for a moment.

Bognar said the district will create similar spaces in school lunchrooms as well, for students who want to sit by themselves and read or just enjoy a little break during the school day.

Additional staff members

work diligently to keep students safe and well protected. The district safety and crisis response director just completed his first year on the job. A former school administrator, he works on updating the district’s safety plan, attends local and statewide meetings that address school safety issues and coordinates safety drills.

A second community resource officer joined the district in September 2022. As current Warren police officers, they are a commanding presence in the buildings should there be security issues, but they are also a friendly presence, letting them know that they are available if students need assistance or just someone to talk to.

“These two officers are really part of our school community,” said Bognar. “They do things like play basketball with students and are valuable members of our staff.”

These positions support those the district added last year to assist with mental health, including licensed elementary school social workers, a district psychologist and middle and high school social workers, counselors and behavior intervention personnel.

Since teachers are often the first line of defense during a crisis, they will receive training in situational awareness this fall. This will train them to look at the best actions to take in case of emergency.

In addition, training for parents about how to protect young eyes from the dangers of social media is scheduled for this autumn.

Excellence Starts Early

ENROLL TODAY FOR 2023-24

In Fraser Public Schools, we are committed to providing options that fit every family's needs, starting with our littlest learners. Our early childhood programs are free or low-cost, and open to all Macomb County residents.

EARLY CHILDHOOD FOR ALL

	3-Year-Old Tuition Preschool	4-Year-Old Tuition Preschool	GSRP	Young 5s
Ages	Must be 3 by December 1	Must be 4 by December 1	Priority given to students who are 4 by September 1. If space is available, students who turn 4 between September 2-December 1 may be accepted.	Must be 5 by December 1
Schedule	Tuesday and Thursday 2.5 hours a day	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2.5 hours a day	Monday-Thursday Full Day	Monday-Friday 8:35a.m. - 3:30p.m.
Class Size	12	16	16	17



Registration for all programs is currently open. For information on our early childhood programs, visit dooley.fraser.k12.mi.us. To register for Young 5s visit GoToFraser.com.



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FRASER

Early childhood instruction opens up a world of possibilities at Fraser Public Schools

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Young children are wonderful learners and early childhood programs can help them get their education off to a great start.

Fraser Public Schools offers a comprehensive slate of tuition-based and free preschool classes that provide options for all families with children between the ages of 3 and 5 by Dec. 1. With small class sizes and experienced, caring educators, Fraser's Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is in demand and will expand this year.

"There is absolutely a need," said Dr. Sara Delgado, director of elementary instruction.

Just two years ago, Fraser only had one session of GSRP. The district added a second class at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year and a third midway through the year. After adding another class last year, a fifth session will be available to parents this fall.

GSRP is one of several programs at Fraser's Dooley Little Learners Center. It is a state-funded program available at no cost to eligible families. Fraser's other early childhood offerings include:

- 3-year-old tuition preschool that meets for 2.5 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays

- 4-year-old tuition preschool that meets for 2.5 hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

- Young 5s, which is free for all, meets for seven hours Monday-Friday. This program is currently held at Edison, Eisenhower and Twain elementary schools

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Dooley Little Learners Center, 16170 Canberra St., Roseville
- Walt Disney Elementary School, 36155 Kelly Road, Clinton Township
- Thomas Edison Elementary School, 17470 Sewell Avenue, Fraser
- Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School, 31275 Evesing Drive, Fraser
- Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School, 32151 Danna St., 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

- Paid childcare program

Young 5s is a program specifically designed for children who are age 5 between May 1 and Dec. 1. It closely follows the kindergarten curriculum but teaches concepts using strategies that allow children to practice their developmental skills. Delgado calls it a "growth year" that helps students have a successful kindergarten experience.

Fraser's early education programming is open to all Macomb County residents at the Dooley Little Learners Center, a dedicated building designed around the unique needs of small children. Delgado said everything is appropriately sized for young children and the atmosphere is colorful and fun.

Dooley is hopping with activity every day. Parents are excited for their children to make friends and learn new skills. During the

COVID-19 pandemic when today's 4- and 5-year-olds were toddlers, they were mostly isolated from their peers. That makes socialization through school even more essential.

In addition, early childhood educators are trained to recognize developmental delays and can refer parents to early intervention resources that can assist if there are concerns with speech, hearing, vision and other issues, said Delgado.

Jill Rice has been an early childhood teacher for 28 years. She said a preschool education is essential to get students prepared for kindergarten.

"It helps if they know their letters and know how to sit still, walk in a line and listen to a story," she said. "There are social-emotional aspects as children learn independence and conflict resolution, too."

Plus, children learn so much between the ages of



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRASER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Students in the GSRP program at the Dooley Center learned about the weights of different items through measuring with small plastic bears.



Preschool students were surprised when Director of Early Childhood Ms. Melissa Laseck brought in her pet bunny, Ziggy. The students learned how he uses his whiskers to feel around, how soft he is, and that he uses a litter box. The preschool teachers also built lessons around different pets and what different pets need.

3 and 5, she added. Each day, for example, students are asked to sign in when they arrive at school. At the beginning of the year, children are given their name to trace and copy. Eventually they can fluently print their own name without any assistance.

A typical day at GSRP

preschool is a busy one. After signing in, students wash their hands for breakfast. Following the meal, they gather for group time to review specific activities the teacher selects. Children might work on their phonetics, sounding out letters in words or they might sing songs or participate in

other music activities. Then, they get to burn some energy with a half hour of play outside, or in the gym if the weather isn't cooperating. Dooley Little Learners Center has new playground equipment that the children have been loving, said Rice.

Back inside the classroom, students sit for a story. As they follow the plot, they listen to pronunciation and fluency as the teacher speaks. She may prompt them to look at photos to anticipate what might happen next or they might discuss the meanings of specific words.

After the story wraps up, it's back to learning through play using the centers concept. During centers, students rotate through different stations with different activities targeting fine motor skills; letters, numbers, colors and shapes; and art. Sometimes they work with the teacher or co-teachers and other times they practice their skills independently.

Once they have finished the tasks the teacher requested, students have some free choice time to engage in activities that they enjoy. Choices include centers like science, blocks, dramatic play, library reading, art and writing. Students discuss their choices and activities during another group session. Then, the day wraps up with lunch, more center time, rest period, journal writing, snack time and fine motor skill activities.

Registration for all programs is currently open. For more information, visit dooley.fraser.k12.mi.us. To register for Young 5s, visit GoToFraser.com.

ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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ROSEVILLE

STEAM curriculum for middle school students a major focus for Roseville Community Schools

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) activities at a young age engage students of all ages with hands-on educational experiences. It gets them excited about learning, opens doors to innovative classes in high school and introduces students to a wide range of exciting career possibilities.

A year ago, the Roseville Board of Education completed a policy review and adopted a Strategic Plan to guide the district for the next three to five years. It included transitioning to a curriculum focused on STEAM concepts.

“We have shifted our programs to be more STEAM-focused,” said Superintendent Mark Blaszkowski, “so this continues building that interest through middle school and into high school where we have a robust selection of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in a variety of career fields.”

Four new STEAM classes have been added to the course offerings at Roseville Middle School and Eastland Middle School this fall. They are:

Project STEAM, an introductory course for sixth graders that will investigate scientific concepts through project-related activities that students create, design and build. Introduction to Robotics. Designed for seventh and eighth graders, students will learn about design, prototypes and team problem solving during a series of project builds. They will utilize engineering kits, 3D printing and coding as



STEAM camp participants enjoyed design challenges, used power tools, and interacted with female STEAM professionals.

well as compete in challenges against rival teams. Remotely Operated Vehicles. Students will brainstorm, prototype, and communicate their processes to create their vehicles in a collaborative environment that encourages critical thinking and creativity. It is geared toward seventh- and eighth-grade students. Media Applications. This class is offered to seventh- and eighth-grade students interested in media arts, including video announcements, student newspaper and school yearbook. Students will work independently in these areas while learning the importance of meeting deadlines and working in groups. “Middle school is a time for students

to find their interests. Giving them the opportunity to try these activities before high school is key,” said Blaszkowski. “These classes are open to all students. We have had a good response during registration, so there’s an obvious interest in them.”

Educators know that sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students are interested in these topics and by gearing subject materials toward middle school grade levels, provides them with a head start on career exploration. “While STEAM classes are more career-focused on high school, in middle school it’s more about exploration,” he said.

A STEAM camp for sixth-grade girls celebrated a sec-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

ond successful session this summer. Camp participants enjoyed design challenges, used power tools, and interacted with female STEAM professionals. “We introduced students to AT (assistive technology) and completed a design challenge using an AT device,” said STEAM camp teacher Sheryl Vitale. “The girls also learned how to use power

tools, including soldering a toy to make it more accessible to a child with a disability.”

Students also learned how to make complete circuits with a battery, LED, and copper tape, used a code kit called littleBits to create inventions making circuits, and learned how to code a robot, the Lego Spike Prime. “The summer STEAM camp

aims to build self-efficacy by engaging, inspiring, and connecting females with school and career pathways in STEAM,” added Vitale.

At the elementary school level, Roseville Community Schools revamped their elementary Gifted and Talented Program in 2021, transitioning the program to a STEAM curriculum. Offered to students in grades 3-5, the STEAM instruction enhances the traditional science curriculum with engineering-forward projects while focusing on the four C’s: collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

Students used Makey Makey technology, learned how to do computer programming-coding, and worked on coding two kinds of robots: Sphero SPRK+ and Lego Spike Prime. They also collaborated with a special education class using the Engineering Design Process to design and construct an AT (assisted technology) game controller to assist each student.

Roseville High School’s CTE program prepares students for a successful transition into a job, college, trade school or externship after graduation. The district has invested in making sure students are learning with the same tools that professionals use in the workplace. These courses include Building Trades, Auto Tech, Mechatronics (Robotics), Web Design & Digital Media, Business Skills & Technology, Computer Science, Computer Applications, Accounting, Marketing, Woodworking, Welding & Metal Fabrication Technology, Machine Trades, and Hospitality Management.



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LAKEVIEW

Community takes pride in Lakeview Public Schools as construction continues

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

With construction work continuing at Lakeview Public Schools thanks to the November 2019 bond approval, now the exteriors of the buildings will look just as good as the interiors.

The \$54 million bond issue prioritized funding for security, technology upgrades, and facility improvements. Now that many of those crucial elements have been put into place inside schools, Superintendent Karl Paulson said updates are currently underway to facility exteriors, including parking improvements, signage and playgrounds.

“Our elementary campuses were outdated and while this will transform the curb appeal of the facilities, it will also enhance safety by improving traffic flow, parking and entrance ways,” he said.

Some of the bond work was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges that resulted from that, including supply chain delays, price increases and labor shortages. Now, the bulk of the projects are expected to be completed by summer 2024.

At the high school, to bring the stadium up-to-date, athletic turf will be replaced, as well as additional home bleachers and a new press box. This update is sorely needed because while Lakeview is a Class A school and its football and soccer teams have made the state playoffs (seven times in the past 10 years for football), its stadium has not kept pace, explained Paulson.

Older equipment has been removed from elemen-

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

tary playgrounds to create comfortable outdoor spaces where children can gather to play and socialize. Located in neighborhoods, these areas are places where families can also spend time together after school and on weekends. Paulson said the playgrounds and LHS stadium are used often by the community.

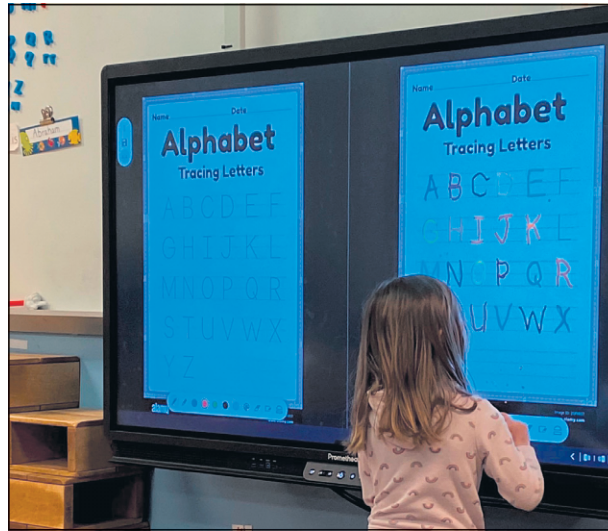
As part of the interior plan at all buildings, staff members were also consolidated into the school office area in each building. This means counselors, social workers, principals and other administrative staff have central offices and access to other facilities like conference rooms.

District officials really took a close look at how the buildings are used today and worked within teams to create flexible spaces to address those needs both now and for the future. Last fall, Jefferson Middle School opened eight new classrooms and a new kitchen that allowed food service staff to offer new options for meals.



“The 1950s kitchens were not adequate for today’s student body,” said Paulson. “With the renovations to the kitchens and the added classrooms, all of our facilities will be more capable of handling the needs of students as they move up through the grades.”

Flat panel computer boards in every classroom provide new options for teaching and learning as a laptop can be connected to it to display individual work, he said. The district’s 1-1 initiative at the secondary level provides all 6-12 grade students with a laptop computer to facilitate their learning while elementary students also have better access to computers in every class-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAKEVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Technology boards allow all students to practice their skills.



New athletic turf will be installed as well as additional bleachers and a new press box at Lakeview High School.

room.

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

“These projects bring changes for the district that

are transformational,” he said. “The updates allow students to flourish in ways they never could before because now these spaces will be safe, functional, and up-to-date.”

There’s a lot of pride in Lakeview Public Schools. Teachers love working in their “destination district,” said Paulson, who himself is starting his 16th year at the helm as superintendent. This type of consistency matters to parents, students and community stakeholders as staff understand the community and its needs and can follow through with projects.

Every action has been intentional, helping to equip students with the skills they need to fulfill their potential in the college classroom or workplace environment. Paulson said the technology and equipment utilized in the classroom is now more in line with what students will see in the workplace, creating a more seamless transition after graduation.

Lakeview students can also dual enroll in Baker College and Wayne State University right on campus, where professors come to the high school to teach. Large numbers of high school students also attend classes on the campus of Macomb Community College. This is all facilitated by the unique “hybrid block” schedule.

Approximately 35% of the district’s seniors will graduate with some form of college credits. Some students will graduate with more than 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.

TOP TEN REASONS TO BECOME A NEW HAVEN ROCKET

1.

A small district that is a melting pot of diversity and inclusion and 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.

Curriculums for the 2023-24 school year include STEM for Y5s-5th and ELA for Y5s-8th.

7.

Several opportunities for our youngest learners: GSRP, 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.

Truly, we're a hidden gem!



Preschool:

- Small class sizes and low ratios
- Onsite childcare with before & after care
- Family participation opportunities

Elementary:

- New math and reading curriculum
- Teacher-developed priority standards
- Literacy coaches for student success
- Zero 3rd grade retentions
- Active parent clubs

Middle School:

- After-school activities: drama, chess club, robotics, Kindness club, National Jr Honor society, Student Council
- Restorative facilitator for conflict resolution
- STEM classes: drones, coding, robotics

High School:

- Increasing advanced placement courses
- Onsite Partnership with Lawrence Tech University *at the high school*
- Competitive athletics program
- Growing Career and Technical Education Program
- Post-secondary exposure: college and industry visits

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NEW HAVEN

New Haven Community Schools strengthens social studies, science curriculums and bolsters safety efforts

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

The staff at New Haven Community Schools continues seeking better ways to help students master core standards. For the last few years, the district has been reviewing curriculum and piloting programs. New Haven has adopted new math and English Language Arts (ELA) programs for the district and this upcoming school year have added new programs for high school U.S. history and middle school science.

“We’re always looking for new ways to include and engage students,” said Superintendent Cheryl Puzdrakiewicz. “Scientists know more about the brain and how we learn than ever before. It’s important our curriculum is regularly updated to reflect those best practices for student learning.”

Both the middle and high schools have active robotics teams that meet after school and compete against other schools. There are additional enrichment opportunities for students during summer school classes such as Girls Coding and Girls in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) as well as STEM and literacy for younger students. Elementary students are introduced to STEM concepts during weekly class “specials,” that rotate daily and include art, music and physical education classes.

The district has always offered a comprehensive academic curriculum for pre-K through 12th grade students, but the new curriculums incorporate digital components that are very familiar to today’s students. Instead of rote learning and memorizing facts, these curricu-

lums challenge students to think creatively and work collaboratively.

The digital capabilities can also help teachers quickly identify and offer support strategies to students who may be struggling with mastering the material.

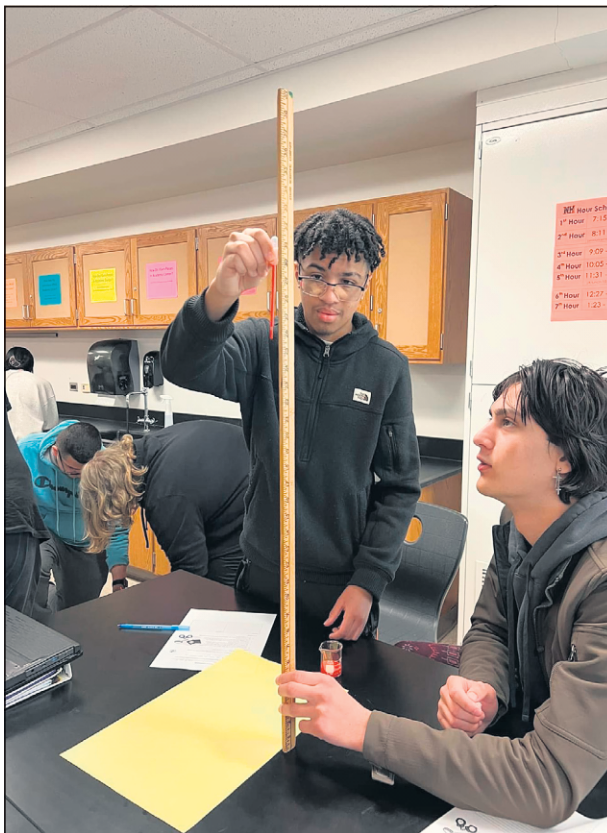
Since New Haven Community Schools students are 1:1, meaning that each student is issued their own Chromebook, the transition to digital materials is seamless. Students in grades 6-12 can take their Chromebooks home to complete homework assignments or conduct further research while younger students keep their computers at school ready for classroom use.

With the new curriculums, the district is investing a lot in its students and their successes. Last year, New Haven introduced a language arts curriculum and the year before that launched a new math curriculum. Nothing is left to chance as piloting programs before purchasing the curriculum allows teachers to evaluate its strengths and weaknesses. Sometimes, said Puzdrakiewicz, what looks good on paper doesn’t always translate well in the classroom.

Elementary literacy coaches work with teachers to create engaging lessons for students that strengthen English Language Arts skills. The district has purchased several new computer programs that can help students where they are at through use of customized learning plans.

New Haven received a Book Nook grant to offer 1:1 virtual targeted tutoring to K-5 students and hired a new School Resource Officer as well as a district school nurse.

A state safety grant



New Haven has always had a comprehensive academic curriculum for pre-K through 12th grade students, but new curriculums incorporate digital components and hands-on lessons that promote collaboration and critical thinking skills.

helped fund safety updates, including installation of a boot to secure all doors in every building, installation of door locks and intercom to “vet” anyone who is wishing to enter the building before doors are unlocked, additional cameras and installation of special window film that provides extra protection in an active shooting situation.

A smaller school district, Puzdrakiewicz enjoys working closely with teachers and community stakeholders. The school community has a small-town feel, she said, with every child known to at least one adult — and very often multiple adults — in

their school building. This gives students someone to look up to and reach out to for encouragement when times are tough.

This also creates more accountability for students and results in increased academic achievement because Puzdrakiewicz explained that when students know their teachers and adult staff members care about them, they are more engaged and take responsibility for their own learning. They may be more willing to ask questions during class, for example, or reach out for extra assistance before they fall too far behind.

“Our kids don’t fall



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

New Haven’s new curriculums incorporate digital components that are very familiar to today’s students.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

through the cracks because they are known by adults,” she said.

However, a small school district doesn’t mean limited opportunities. New Haven High School students enjoy robust Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in pathways such as Business/Marketing Education, Automotive, Graphic Design, Sports Medicine and Medical Careers. CTE courses provide students with hands-on lessons and real-life experiences in the career field of their choice. Many times, they meet with local industry professionals and tour work facilities. Through partnerships with neighboring school districts L’Anse Creuse and Rich-

mond, students have access to an expanded slate of CTE opportunities.

In addition, high school students can take advantage of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Early College Macomb and dual enrollment.

New Haven Community Schools serves the communities of New Haven as well as portions of Chesterfield, Lennox, Macomb and Ray townships, serving more than 1,400 students — and it continues to grow.

“Our numbers have been way up,” said Puzdrakiewicz. “Our student body is very diverse. In addition to rigorous academics, we offer strong athletic programs, a great band program and fine arts opportunities.”



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- STEM focused programming at all levels
- Comprehensive Special Education programming

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Focus Areas: Teaching and Learning, Safety and Wellness and Community of Collaboration

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EARLY CHILDHOOD

- 2023-24 Full renovation of Croswell Early Childhood Center with a new 10,000 sq. ft. addition.
- Comprehensive programming for 3 and 4 year olds with a variety of programs
- Expanded GSRP preschool classrooms for 2023-24 school year.
- Hands on and experiential learning that focuses on development and kindergarten readiness.

ELEMENTARY

- New specialized classroom additions that support expanded STEM, Art and Music instruction.
- Newly renovated classrooms that include brand new classroom furniture.
- Student-focused Young 5s developmental kindergarten.
- New comprehensive English Language Arts curriculum.

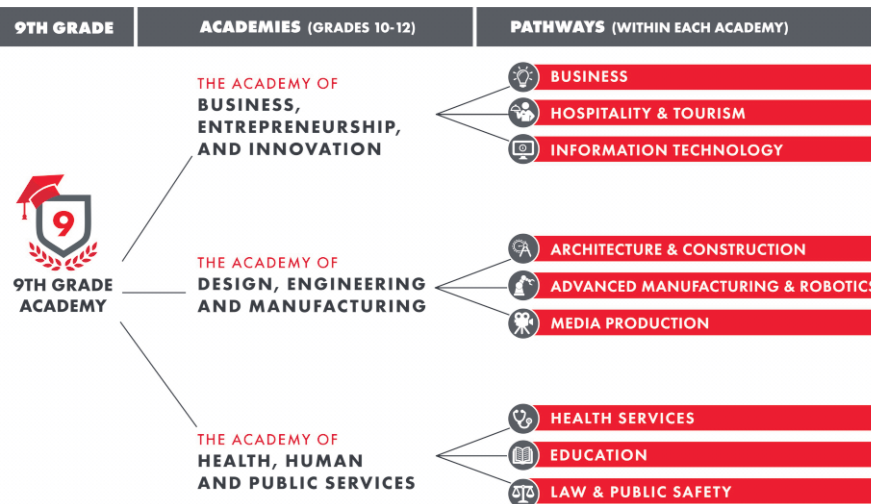
MIDDLE SCHOOL

- One comprehensive middle school for all 6-8th grade students.
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- Comprehensive elective classes and extra-curricular programming.
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- 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
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ROMEO

Romeo Community Schools to engage, educate and empower students with new Strategic Plan

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

With a new Strategic Plan touted by district leaders as the roadmap to continued growth and excellence and several construction projects in development, the 2023-24 school year promises to be an exciting one for Romeo Community Schools (RCS).

"We are very excited to finally complete a comprehensive strategic planning effort that began last August. There has been great work going on in RCS for the last few years, but this process allowed us to organize and prioritize what is most important to our school community," said Dr. Todd Robinson, RCS superintendent.

During the process, a steering committee made up of representatives from all stakeholder groups reviewed the district's mission and vision statements, updating them to reflect post-pandemic circumstances.

Additionally, the district revisited their core values. "The pandemic had a dramatic impact on so many things and, when the group looked at our core values, they felt it was important to reach back out to our staff and bring them up to date," said Robinson. "We are so grateful for our community and business partners in all we are trying to do now to give our kids a well-rounded school experience that prepares them for college, career and life."

Meanwhile, once the Board of Education approved the new plan in late January, district and building leaders were busy de-

signing year 1 action plans. These plans included detailed strategies and action steps within the overall Strategic Plan, which has three key focus areas:

- Safety and Wellness
- Teaching and Learning
- Community of Collaboration

This is a focus on students and staff feeling safe and connected to school with strategies that provide further enhancements to an already robust system of school safety infrastructure and priorities. In the first year of the plan, security and supervision staffing expanded, school resource officers joined the district and safety protocols were established, with the district finalizing its relocation plan for each school building in the event of a full-scale evacuation.

This focus area also targets mental health support for students and staff and formed a Wellness Committee to further develop a specific action plan to address overall wellness.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning emphasizes relevant learning experiences. In 2018, RCS redesigned the high school with The Academies at Romeo High School, the first officially designated Ford Next Generation Learning community in Michigan. Students receive career and technical education experience from 10th-12th grades in one of 15 pathways that interests them.

The strategic plan will develop connected programming for K-8 students beginning with Ro-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROMEO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Along with Indian Hills Elementary School, Hamilton-Parsons Elementary School is receiving new STEM classrooms this year. These will be built at all five elementary schools.



meo Middle School, where their work and the Association for Middle Level Education will merge with support from Ford NGL to create a three-year master plan filled with engaging learning experiences for students in sixth through eighth grades.

The elementary level will receive specific planning emphasis during the Strategic Plan's second year.

Strategic efforts in this area also include advancing the district's multi-tiered approach to academic, social and mental health, RCS will also complete an audit of student activities to ensure there is something for everyone that creates excitement, builds relationships and allows for success

outside of the classroom.

Community of Collaboration

This includes streamlining communications, consistently connecting with parents and providing educational information and resources to support parents. The goal is to create deeper, more meaningful connections to parents, partners and the community.

Student voice will be an integral part of this area by engaging students regularly for their input. Increasing involvement in student organizations and activities that appeal to their individual interests, students can connect to their peers and school community.

The Strategic Plan also calls for expanding the district's community partners network beyond the current business partner ef-

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Romeo Community Schools, visit Romeok12.org or call (586) 752-0200. Romeo Community Schools includes:

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

orts with The Academies at RHS to support well-rounded programming for all students.

Beyond the Strategic Plan

RCS continues making facility improvements thanks to the 2021 bond approval. Projects set for completion between this summer and early 2024 include a renovation to the RMS cafeteria serving area and additions at Hamilton-Parsons and Indian Hills elementary schools. These additions include STEM and fine arts classrooms which will be updated at all five elementary schools within this bond. When completed, all buildings will have specialized instructional spaces for STEM, music and art programs.

Croswell Early Childhood Center, home to educational programming for 3- and 4-year-olds, is also receiving a major renovation

along with a new 10,000 square-foot addition. This will prepare the district to offer all preschoolers in the community a research-based, developmentally-sound curriculum that prepares them for kindergarten and beyond.

"The district is grateful for the community's support of two consecutive facilities bonds totaling an investment of almost \$170 million over a period of 11 years once all projects are completed," said Robinson.

The new round of projects, currently in the design phase, will include the additions slated for Amanda Moore and Washington and a new STEM and Robotics facility with construction set to begin in the spring/summer 2024. This phase of the bond also calls for new varsity baseball and softball fields at RHS, which will pave the way for an athletics facilities renovation at Romeo Middle School in the future.



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WARREN WOODS

Warren Woods Public Schools a close-knit community where no child is left behind

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Board members who act in the best interests of students. Teachers who focus on day-to-day instruction. Staff members who keep the buildings well-maintained and work to keep students well-fed and nourished. Everyone plays an important role in keeping Warren Woods Public School students safe and healthy.

It is a community-oriented district large enough to offer numerous academic programs, but small enough so building principals know every student by name.

“A Warren Woods graduate knows the staff in Warren Woods cares about them. They are prepared to be productive citizens because they are critical thinkers who communicate effectively and make informed decisions,” said Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici.

With a return to more traditional learning after the COVID-19 pandemic, she said she is extremely proud of all the support district staff offered students this year. Based on recommendations from a consultant, they addressed safety items. Additional mental health professionals were available to aid those who needed a caring adult to speak with and those struggling with academics could reach out for assistance before, during and after school.

Staff offered high dosage tutoring, specialized advisory reinforcement, countless intervention groups and one-on-one support as well as numerous opportu-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Warren Woods graduates are prepared to be productive citizens because they are critical thinkers who communicate effectively and make informed decisions.

nities for staff to work together to improve their instruction for all students.

“Additionally, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to those whose work is not always ‘seen’ but is essential,” she said. “Through concerted efforts from food service and support staff, we were able to get many families to complete the Household Info Report, allowing us to maximize funding and opportunities for students. The behind-the-scenes efforts of our maintenance, custodial and transportation staff enabled the rest of the staff to focus on our students and community, knowing that

the facilities are well-maintained and safe.”

Students and staff worked together to create one of the strongest Peer-2-Peer high school programs in the state, said Denewith-Fici. This is a school-wide peer partner program intended to promote belonging, independence and enhanced academic opportunities for all students. During Peer-2-Peer activities, students with and without disabilities join to enjoy shared activities. The result is everyone learning together in a respectful, reciprocal manner.

“One of the most amazing stories is that we had a

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

To learn more about Warren Woods Public Schools, visit 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

student get honored at the county level for his efforts in a CTE (Career and Technical Education) course,” she shared. “The honorees were allowed to bring two people to the banquet and this student chose to bring his peer. They were able to make incredible connections and friendships this year.”

Under the supervision of staff and with support from parents, business leaders and community members, Warren Woods students thrived.

Students enjoyed Homecoming with a pep rally, parade, floats and indoor dance. Parent volunteers returned to buildings after pandemic concerns eased and field trips were once again available to students. In addition, Denewith-Fici said the district is excited to relaunch its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) opportunities at the middle school level.

“Students in grades 6-8 will now have an opportunity to engage in hands-

on activities in elective courses. These courses will expand upon the STEM concepts students have garnered in the STEM special in grades K-5. These K-8 opportunities, coupled with the CTE opportunities we offer through our consortium, will prepare students for higher learning and entering the workforce,” she said.

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.

As part of a statewide

goal, all CTE students had an opportunity to take industry credentialing exams this year. Warren Woods students took or will be taking the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant exam, Patient Care Technician exam, Microsoft Specialist and Cosmetology exam, said Denewith-Fici.

Other points of pride for Warren Woods Public Schools include:

- Implementation of new Bridges Math program for grades K-5 after a two-year investigation and successful pilot program

- Usage of Kagan structures to increase student engagement and promote cooperation and communication skills in grade 6-12 classrooms

- DECA Club members competing at the national competition following their success at the state level. DECA, formerly called Distributive Education Clubs of America, is a 501 not-for-profit career and technical student organization that focuses on career readiness and success

- Offering high dosage tutoring, specialized advisory reinforcement, countless intervention groups and one-on-one support as well as opportunities for staff to work together to improve instruction for all students

- A robust Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at all levels. This is an evidence-based, three-tiered framework designed to improve and integrate data, systems and practices that affect student outcomes daily. PBIS creates schools where all students succeed



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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 1st 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 1st and December 1st. Students will enter Kindergarten the following school year.

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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:

- 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
- 16 Career Technical Education Programs

Strong Student Achievement & Community Support:

- Anchor Bay students scored higher than county & state averages in every area tested on Spring 2022 assessments.
- Over a Decade of Excellence: we have led the county in test scores since 2009.
- Our voters approved a \$169 million Bond Proposal in 2022



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Questions? Call 586-725-2861, Anchor Bay School District, 5201 County Line Rd., Casco, MI 48064

ANCHOR BAY

Anchor Bay School District focuses on creating Career Pathways for students

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

Thanks to the Anchor Bay community passing a \$169 million bond in 2022, the Anchor Bay School District is implementing a new strategic plan and incorporating career preparation into classrooms across the various grade levels over the next decade. Bond renovations, which started this summer, will create the Career Pathway Framework that brings all 16 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to Anchor Bay High School.

The Career Pathways Tracks include:

- Engineering, Manufacturing, Natural Science and Agriculture
- Health and Human Services
- Arts and Communication
- Business and Technology

This reconfiguring of the CTE programs will not only bolster Anchor Bay High School students' opportunities, but it will also allow for the district to integrate Career Exploration classes for all K-12 students.

"Career Pathways allow students to connect what they are learning in the classroom to possible future careers," said Superintendent Phil Jankowski. "Pathways provide the structure to guide students toward well paying, skilled fields. Students gain education, training and support services while they acquire marketable skills before graduation."

At the elementary level, students will begin to gain exposure to a wide variety



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANCHOR BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

K-8 students participate in the Positivity Project to help foster a welcoming school environment for everyone.



Anchor Bay HOSA Club earned 1st place in the Gift of Life Competition by registering the most new donors to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry during the competition.

of careers. They will learn and experience these different career fields as they work alongside business partners while focusing on 21st century skills such as public speaking, working in teams, creative problem-solving and multi-step project organization.

In middle school, students will have the opportunity to take introductory courses

in various career areas and begin examining career interests and aptitudes. These one-term courses will enable students to experience a broad spectrum of career fields.

Finally, at the high school level, all students will have the opportunity to take career and college readiness courses and could graduate with college credits, ca-

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Ashley Elementary School, 52347 Ashley St., New Baltimore
- Great Oaks Elementary School, 32900 24 Mile Road, Chesterfield Twp.
- Lighthouse Elementary School, 51880 Washington St., New Baltimore
- Lottie Schmidt Elementary School, 33700 Hooker St., New Baltimore
- Maconce Elementary School, 6300 Church Road, Ira
- Naldrett Elementary School, 47800 Sugarbush St., New Baltimore
- Sugarbush 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

reer experiences or industry-recognized certifications that will enable them to gain above entry-level positions in their chosen career field.

"We look forward to working with our local businesses and college partners over the next several years to develop these opportunities and we thank the community for its support in making it possible for our students," said Jankowski.

Safety and security were also cornerstones of the 2022 bond initiative. Anchor Bay has already put the bond money to good work and completed installation of

many security features, such as installing door barriers in all classrooms and will soon begin the process of updating all door access controls and security cameras.

"It is with deepest gratitude that I thank our community and voters for their faith in our district through the recent passage of the school bond. The funds will prove vital to modernizing our buildings with the latest in security features and efficiencies," said Jankowski. "Safety and security aren't just adding a lock to a door and deeming a building secure, it is about taking a

comprehensive and proactive approach that puts all the pieces together to keep our kids and staff safe."

As part of this comprehensive approach, Anchor Bay school board members approved a contract with the Fortis Group in August 2022 to provide eight armed school safety officers (SSOs) for the district.

"We want to be proactive in our approach to safety and security. The bond proposal will address the infrastructure issues, this contract adds the human component of having trained individuals assessing the day-to-day activities in our schools," said the superintendent.

Outside the classroom, Anchor Bay students enjoy various extracurricular activities. The high school offers 52 competitive team sports with no pay-to-play fees. Anchor Bay also has award-winning theatre, art, instrumental and vocal music programs and student clubs like Future Health Professionals (HOSA), Business Professionals of America (BPA), E-Sports and Mock Trial that compete annually at local, state and national levels.

The district will be expanding afterschool and summer programming as it works on building partnerships with New Baltimore and Chesterfield through the use of the Aquatic Center and surrounding schools to provide more community programming.

"I believe these partnerships will create many new opportunities for students and families to take part in educational and athletic programming," said Jankowski.

Richmond Community Schools

WWW.RICHMOND.K12.MI.US

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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.

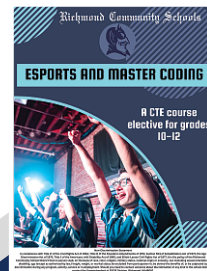


3 YR OLD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
 7:50-10:50am | M-W-F

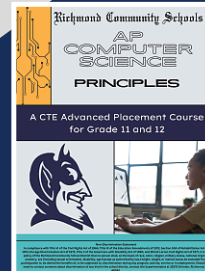
High-quality, tuition-based preschool programs use nationally recognized Creative Curriculum for instruction. Creative Curriculum focuses on the whole child development centered around 11 areas: Blocks, dramatics play, toys & games, art, library, discovery, sand & water, music & movement, cooking, computers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

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.



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AP Computer Science Principles



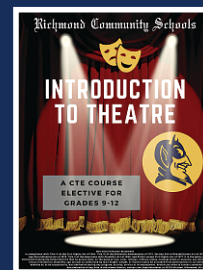
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In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and Elliott-Larsen 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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RICHMOND

Rich elective programs prepare Richmond students for unique high school experience

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Richmond Community Schools officials are moving full STEAM ahead with K-8 programs that help students explore science and technology subjects and prepare them for possible careers in these in-demand industries.

In recent years, the district has implemented numerous Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) classes and after-school programs that provide students with creative and innovative ways to learn complex concepts. Students are introduced to STEAM subjects as early as elementary school, where they attend “specials,” or regular classes during the school day that support the district’s core curriculum.

The curriculum was designed using guidance from several state and national resources, including Michigan Integrated Technology Competencies for Student Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, Michigan Computer Science Standards, Michigan standards for English Language Arts and math, and National Art Education Association Standards.

Executive Director of Curriculum Renee Stapels said these specials are complemented with a variety of clubs and after-school programs. Robotics, for example, is an extracurricular activity offered for students in grades K-12 where students learn grade-specific concepts. Participation encourages creative thinking and problem-solving skills as students are often presented with a challenge and then use provided tools that

they can manipulate any way they wish to solve the problem. Working in small groups also teaches collaboration skills and the value of teamwork.

Many of Richmond’s robotics teams participate in competitions that display the tasks their robot can complete. Some competitions require students to play a field game against other competitors. Being a part of these competitions develops leadership and critical thinking skills while providing students with a strong foundation in coding and engineering education.

The STEAM Specials is a series of classes that begin as early as kindergarten and goes through fifth grade. Five units of study emphasize grade-specific themes:

- Build It (engineering and math)
- Explore It (sciences)
- Create It (coding and robotics)
- Solve It (a challenge students solve based on knowledge accumulated in the previous three units)
- Present It (an end-of-unit presentation).

These skills are taken with children into middle school, where elective classes become available to them, including STEAM Innovations segments for sixth and seventh graders that introduce more critical thinking and collaborative skills designed to grow confidence and inspire future curiosity.

Richmond Middle School operates on a seven-period schedule so there is plenty of opportunity for students to explore their personal interests through elective classes in addition to taking required core classes.

“Middle school is a time

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Richmond Community Schools, visit www.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

when students learn a lot about themselves,” said Stapels. “Students are offered a plethora of electives that they can take to recognize their own skill sets.”

Animation Studio is a course for seventh- and eighth-grade students that covers all types of animation, beginning with cave drawings of yesteryear to the popular flipbook style of computer-generated animation used today. Students learn about the technical processes behind their favorite animated movies and create their own comics, flipbooks, digital animation and more.

Augmented Reality is another course option for seventh and eighth graders. Students create videos, sound files and animations using a variety of software, then develop hot spots that can be activated with a mobile device.

Other middle school electives include computer programming, multimedia development, video production, web design, music, band, choir and music appreciation.

“These art, computer science and fine art pathways lead to Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs

at the high school level,” she said.

CTE classes are designed to provide students with employable skills and job-specific information about careers they are interested in. Richmond High School offers 10 career pathways, including Computer Programming and Video Game Development, which is an introduction to Python coding and game design. During the course, students visited Oakland University to explore the different elements of video game programming.

In its first year, the Computer Programming and Video Game Development course had the maximum number of students enrolled at 31. Using a variety of platforms and programs, these students created their own “Choose Your Adventure” video game.

Richmond High School has also introduced an ESports and Master Coding CTE course that explores digital graphics, print media, computer animation, audio production, video production, web design and other newly emerging forms of digital media. Students become team leaders, manage project deadlines and develop related projects.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICHMOND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Students are introduced to STEAM subjects as early as elementary school, where they attend “specials,” or regular classes during the school day that support the district’s core curriculum.



Richmond’s K-8 STEAM programs help students explore science and technology subjects and prepare them for

- *Small, Community-centered schools*
- *Student Issued Technology*
- *K-12 transportation opportunities for All Students*
- *Accelerated academic programs at every level*
- *Experienced and compassionate teachers*
- *Before and after-school child care*
- *No cost for athletics or extracurricular activities*
- *Career and Technical Education, Culinary Arts, and Auto Shop*
- *Advanced placement courses*
- *College credits available with dual enrollment*



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SOUTH LAKE

Changes at elementary schools provide positive results for South Lake Schools

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

After making some changes to elementary classrooms and putting additional literacy supports in place, South Lake Schools is pleased with the progress its youngest students have made, particularly with their reading development.

“We’ve seen big increases in achievement scores, especially at the grade K-2 level,” said Superintendent Ted VonHiltmayer. “Teachers and students have both responded positively to the changes we have made.”

The first of those changes was a reconfiguration of the classrooms by putting all students in the same grade in the same building. This allows teachers to work more as a team, since they all have a common planning time. They can use this planning time to collaborate on upcoming lessons, communicate their challenges or engage in professional development activities.

“It was something we needed to do during the COVID-19 pandemic to balance class sizes, but had additional benefits to student education,” said Director of Instruction and Assessment John Thero. “In addition, since teachers are presenting the same lessons at the same time, if one is out sick, their students can attend class with another teacher and utilize that time wisely. Everyone is on the same page with a common daily schedule.”

Another advantage is that experienced and new teachers have more time to interact with each other during the school day, said Von-

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

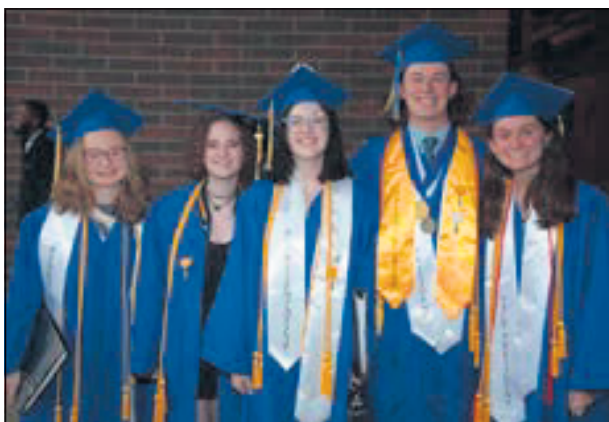
- Avalon Elementary School, 20000 Avalon St., St. Clair Shores
- Elmwood Elementary School, 22700 California St., St. Clair Shores
- Koepsell Elementary School, 21760 Raven Road, Eastpointe
- South Lake Middle School, 21627 California St., St. Clair Shores
- South Lake High School, 21900 E. 9 Mile Road,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

Hiltmayer. Veteran teachers may share tips and proven learning strategies with newer teachers, who bring a fresh perspective on educational methods to the conversation.

“Working as a team, they can learn from each other and grow with each other,” he said.

A valuable member of these teaching teams is the building’s literacy coach. Joining the district in 2022, literacy coaches research and implement instructional programs and practices that directly impact student learning. They then work directly with the teaching staff, sharing the information they have learned and modeling specific literacy lessons and strategies that teachers can then deliver to their students.

“Literacy coaches evaluate reading programs as a whole, and how they fit



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOUTH LAKE SCHOOLS

South Lake students are well prepared for their future upon graduation thanks to honors courses, Advanced Placement classes, Career and Technical Education and other programs.

with other county-wide efforts by attending monthly meetings at the Macomb Intermediate School District,” said Thero. “They can work with students when needed, but mostly provide teaching support.”

South Lake Schools also implemented a new literacy curriculum for lower elementary students. It utilizes components from multiple programs including Bookworms and Phonics to Read-

ing to ensure all students receive what they need to learn vocabulary, master reading material and meet grade level expectations. It includes strategies such as:

- Shared reading, where students, guided by the teacher, read the same text together. Students are able to hear pronunciations, fluency and expressions used by the teacher to model their own reading experience.



South Lake Schools implemented a new literacy curriculum for lower elementary students. It utilizes components from multiple programs including Bookworms and Phonics to Reading to ensure all students receive what they need to learn vocabulary, master reading material and meet grade level expectations.

- Interactive read-aloud, a learning strategy where the teachers read a text passage, then pause to allow for class discussion on what they just heard.

Small-group instruction, where teachers can identify small groups of students who work directly with the instructor for differentiated skills instruction, including targeted intervention and remediation.

“The curriculum uses phonetics for reading, letting students sound out words to decode them,” said Thero. “It also provides that direct instruction time where students can meet in small groups to address specific learning needs.”

District leaders also implemented a handwriting component, noting that there are some deficits in this area due to COVID-19.

In math, South Lake Schools is investing in a new curriculum for elementary

learners that gets students talking about math and designing solutions as opposed to repetitive practice.

“It will focus more on the process,” said Thero. “The goal is to engage students more in the learning experience.”

Teachers will receive digital and print educational materials as well as professional training.

The middle and high schools have already implemented new math and English Language Arts programs.

An additional learning component is a focus on character traits and social-emotional health. South Lake utilizes restorative practices, a disciplinary method that seeks to create a positive experience from a negative interaction. It acknowledges the behavior while working on resolving conflict and repairing relationships.

MACOMB COUNTY

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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 free preschool program for four-year-olds. As a nationally recognized preschool program, the Macomb County GSRP Preschool Programs provide developmentally appropriate learning in a safe, nurturing and positive environment; promoting high-quality instruction balanced with play-based experiences rich in language and literacy.

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

Strong parent involvement component

High quality programs

ENROLL NOW!



Macomb Community Action



www.greatstartmacomb.org

Parents/Caregivers –

If Your Child Turns

5 years old

by September 1, 2023,*

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



*According to Michigan law, if a child residing in a district is not five years of age on or before September 1, 2023, but will turn five years of age not later than December 1, 2023, the parent may contact the school district to obtain a possible Waiver for their child to enter Kindergarten this year.

- Anchor Bay Schools
www.anchorbay.misd.net
- Armada Area Schools
www.armadaschools.org
- Center Line Public Schools
www.clps.org
- Chippewa Valley Schools
www.chippewavalleyschools.org
- Clintondale Community Schools
www.clintondaleschools.net
- Eastpointe Community Schools
www.eastpointeschools.org
- Fitzgerald Public Schools
www.fitz.k12.mi.us
- Fraser Public Schools
www.fraser.k12.mi.us/
- Lake Shore Public Schools
www.lakeshoreschools.org
- Lakeview Public Schools
www.lakeviewpublicschools.org
- L'Anse Creuse Public Schools
www.lc-ps.org
- Mount Clemens Community Schools
www.mtcps.org
- New Haven Community Schools
<https://newhaven.misd.net>
- Richmond Community Schools
www.richmond.k12.mi.us
- Romeo Community Schools
www.romeok12.org
- Roseville Community Schools
www.rosevillepride.org
- South Lake Schools
www.solake.org
- Utica Community Schools
www.uticak12.org
- Van Dyke Public Schools
www.vdps.net
- Warren Consolidated Schools
www.wcskids.net
- Warren Woods Public Schools
www.warrenwoods.misd.net

Make
Macomb
Schools
your home

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



We have much to celebrate!



With the support of multiple local fire departments, all seven of our students passed their practical exams for their state **Firefighting Certification** this year.

CLPS sees the importance of extracurricular activities in student development and **does not require students to pay-to-play.**



Through a partnership with the Center Line Department of Public Safety, **School Resource Officer (SRO) Tony Valdes** is stationed at Center Line High School to provide an added measure of safety and to serve as a liaison with Center Line and Warren PD. He is also on call to assist at the other schools in our district. Welcome, Officer Valdes!



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

Three of our Health & Human Services Academy students qualified for **state level HOSA competition**: *Olivia Lesniak* and *Riley McCoy* for EMT, and *Kaylynne Powers* for Veterinary Science.



In partnership with **AIS**, Center Line High School offers a **Heavy Equipment Technology Program** that teaches the safe operation, maintenance, and repair of common off-road construction equipment.

Seth Fulton was named **All-State** for wrestling while *Harley Limberger* was named **All-State** in softball.



Administration is always active and puts **students' needs and interests first.** *Superintendent Joe Haynes* held an after school cooking and nutrition workshop with middle school students, funded by a grant from Extra Credit Union.



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 for videos highlighting our academies and other great links!



Our community supports our students! Bonds were passed in 2017 and 2023. The new Peck Elementary was opened in 2021, and renovations are being made to each of our school buildings.



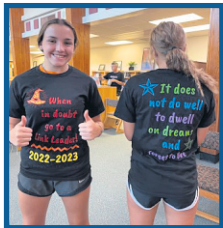
Our students support our community! Volunteering helps students become better citizens. Younger students participate in service projects, and each high school student graduates with at least 20 hours of community service. Here CLHS students participate in an Empty Bowls fundraiser for Gleaners.



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



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.



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 (GSRP)* or *Early Childhood Special Education*.

Discover - Explore - Experience

Join us for full-time face-to-face learning or hybrid learning through our Academy 21 program, established in 2011. CLPS is open for school of choice to Macomb County residents only for grades 6-12 through August 22, and for Academy 21 students (contiguous counties, grades 6-12 through September 7. Visit clps.org for more information or contact us at 586-510-2000 or enroll@clps.org.





MOUNT CLEMENS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH

ENROLL NOW
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Seminole Academy, DK/K-5
Starting fall of 2023
Early Childhood Programs,
Great Start Readiness Program,
Early Childhood Special Education
Call 586.461.3900

Mount Clemens Middle School, 6-8
Call 586.461.3300

Mount Clemens High School, 9-12
Call 586.461.3400

For more information,
visit us at www.mtcps.org
or call (586) 469-6100

Calling all preK-12 students and families
to our Back 2 School Bash at the
Mt. Clemens Secondary Complex!

- ★ Enroll for 2023-2024 ★
- ★ Meet the teachers and tour the school ★
- ★ Receive curriculum and course information ★
- ★ Learn about our new extracurriculars and athletic teams ★
- ★ Giveaways and prizes ★ Free food and refreshments ★
- ★ Free haircuts ★ Family fun for all! ★



Tuesday, August 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
155 Cass Avenue, enter on southbound Gratiot

MOUNT CLEMENS

Mount Clemens Community Schools emphasizes what's best for all students

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

During his first weeks on the job as Mount Clemens Community Schools' new superintendent, Julian Roper didn't waste any time meeting staff, students and stakeholders. He is excited to join the district and eager to get to know everyone.

"I just love people and I love kids. That's why I got into this line of work," he said. "You won't see me sitting beyond a desk every day. I'm going to be very visible in the classrooms and the community."

Right after he took the helm, Roper met with staff. The next week, he visited the first day of summer school classes.

Mount Clemens is a small, hometown district located in a community rich in beauty. Both the waterfront and its thriving business district are assets to the town, which is filled with parents, grandparents and guardians who appreciate the value of an education. Many have registered their students for summer school, which helps build academic momentum going into the new school year while providing opportunities for children to be socially active and build bonds within their school community.

He said every action the district takes under his leadership will be about what's best for students.

"I want school to be a place where every student feels comfortable and safe," said Roper. "I know there is support in the Mount Clemens community for the school district. There is lots



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOUNT CLEMENS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Mount Clemens Community Schools' new superintendent, Julian Roper didn't waste any time meeting staff, students and stakeholders during his first weeks on the job.



At the high school level, students make plans to pursue their dreams. That can mean attending a college, university or trade school.

of history, legacy and pride here."

Forging relationships with students is the first step to building a climate

and culture of learning and growth, he said. That's because when students feel connected to their teachers and peers, they become

part of a school community. As a result, students feel a sense of love that can ultimately encourage their effort and belief in themselves.

Essential for Roper is meeting children where they are. While academic achievement is the goal, he said educators need to understand that some students are coming to them with trauma and risk factors that they don't have the skills to overcome, which can be a major barrier to student success.

Roper plans to transform Mount Clemens Community Schools into a district driven by data. He said much of the data, like attendance records, perception and student achievement data have been collected and will

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- M.L. King Academy, Pre-K, GSRR, 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

be analyzed to determine what strategies the district will implement to reach all students.

"We're going to be intentional with what we do to create an environment conducive to growth," he said. "That includes identifying the needs of not only students, but staff as well. Perhaps that means we will need to get out of our comfort zones."

Mount Clemens Community Schools seeks to create lifelong learners, students who are curious about the world around them and willing to explore all angles of a question instead of simply processing one answer. In partnership with staff, families and the community, the district will continue to offer rich learning experiences that focus on skills relevant to today's workforce, like critical thinking, resilience to adapt to changing technology and respect for those around them.

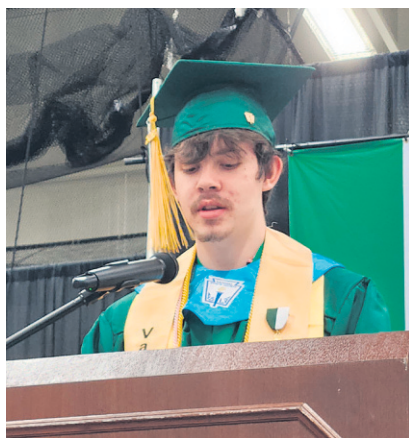
Developing this wonder for knowledge begins at the preschool and elementary school level, where students learn the fundamentals of reading and begin building their math skills. In middle school, students

can explore their interests with elective classes, athletic competitions and extracurricular activities. They can also start forming their future goals.

At the high school level, students make plans to pursue their dreams. That can mean attending a college, university or trade school. It can also include serving in the military, securing an apprenticeship or entering the workforce to gain on-the-job skills and explore career paths.

The road to preparing students for a satisfying post-graduate life begins at school. Roper said that's why it is so important to meet the needs of all students, whether that means providing support programs to help struggling students meet grade level standards or offering advanced classes for accelerated students to challenge them and keep them engaged.

"There are two signs in my office that guide me," said Roper. "One says 'Finding and Defining Our Purpose.' The other reads 'Standard of Excellence.' That's exactly what we are going to continue building here in Mount Clemens."



empower care succeed

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- ✿ Dedicated, caring, highly-qualified teachers and staff
- ✿ Family engagement events and after-school activity opportunities
- ✿ 1:1 technology for all K-12 students
- ✿ 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
- ✿ Strong Career and Technical Education opportunities, including Culinary Arts, Law Enforcement, 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 at www.eastpointeschools.org.

EASTPOINTE

Community engagement is vital at Eastpointe Community Schools

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

After a successful year of rebuilding its school communities after the COVID-19 pandemic, Eastpointe Community Schools is expanding its reach by involving the community in student activities and partnering with local organizations to enhance learning opportunities.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, for example, will open a facility next to Eastpointe High School later this year. It will offer a convenient, safe place for Eastpointe students to learn new skills, have fun with their peers and make social connections with others during afterschool programming. Programs will include career-based activities based on student interests, helping to create a strong foundation for students to focus on their dreams.

Eastpointe Community Schools hired Russell Ball as its Athletic and Activities Director for pre-K to 12th grades to oversee these programs and introduce new ones, like eSports, that can benefit students throughout their academic careers. He was previously the middle school gym teacher.

Clubs, athletics and other student organizations not only provide a valuable outlet for students to explore new passions, but they get children excited about coming to school every day. Good attendance is critical to student achievement and can help struggling students from falling further behind.

In addition, performances and presentations by club members invite family and community participation. A huge crowd of family and friends turned out for the Fashion and Fabrics Extravaganza put on by

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

Bellview Elementary School students in June. The show capped the end of the year activities for the Fashion and Fabrics program, a student-led initiative that focuses on youth entrepreneurship and design concepts. Each student designed an outfit to model during the show and they also modeled other ensembles provided by JCPenney.

Pleasantview's Drama Club also attracted many families. They held a holiday play that was standing room only, so their spring play was moved to the high school auditorium.

Many student events attracted record parental turnout this school year, so much so that some elementary programs had to be moved to the high school auditorium for the increased capacity, said Caitlyn Kienitz, communication and marketing coordinator for the district.

"It takes all of us to be involved in education," she said. "When students know that their parents, grandparents, older siblings and friends are there to support them, it lets them know that

they believe in them and that gives them extra motivation to do well."

The 2022-23 school year was the first for new Superintendent Christina Gibson, who previously served as assistant superintendent. She has made overcoming pandemic learning loss and increasing student engagement a priority.

District leaders are guided by a new five-year Strategic Plan that was approved by the Board of Education in January. Created with input from teachers, staff, parents and stakeholders, it provides measurable objectives for the district by meeting students where they currently are while continuously challenging them to move forward.

With this in mind, a new core curriculum for K-8 students was recently implemented and portions of the high school curriculum is being updated as well.

Eastpointe Early Learning Center opened two additional classrooms for three-year-old students this past year. The facility now serves 270 children, helping them



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EASTPOINTE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Eastpointe Early Learning Center families planted flowers in front of the school this spring.



Bellview students participate in their annual memorial walk.



Pleasantview's Drama Club celebrates after their spring play, "Beauty is a Beast," at the Eastpointe High School auditorium.

to get a good start on meeting academic targets and thrive in the social school environment.

At Eastpointe Community Schools, academics, extracurriculars, career-based

programs and an emphasis on social-emotional needs all come together to take care of the whole child.

Understanding that many students lost loved ones during the coronavi-

rus outbreak, Bellview elementary educators held a second annual memorial walk to support grieving students and honor their loved ones. School staff also implemented a grief support group and school social workers expanded those efforts into other schools this year.

"It's easier when you know you're not going through something alone," said Kienitz.

In addition, social workers embedded at each of its buildings help students process complicated emotions and build connections within their school community. They see students in the hallway every day and provide an extra level of support and can connect them and their families with community resources as needed.

Many Eastpointe teachers live in the same neighborhoods as their students, so they often see each other outside of the classroom at the grocery store, library or park. This helps to build bonds and a community connection that makes students feel valued.

Construction crews have also been busy throughout the summer working on building improvements, like updating the district's media centers to make them more relevant to how students learn collaboratively today. The media center projects use federal ESSER dollars intended to help districts with pandemic-related learning loss.

The district's 2,400 students no longer need rows of desktop computers in the media centers because since the pandemic, they have had access to Chromebooks or iPads as part of a 1:1 initiative that students can take advantage of in the classroom or at home when working on homework.



WARREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

CREATING DYNAMIC FUTURES

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- Transitional Kindergarten
- Nationally recognized Performing Arts High School
- High School Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center
- State-of-the-art instructional technology in all classrooms
- Career Preparation Center with 15 state-approved Career and Technical Educational programs
- Innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- High School advanced placement, dual enrollment, and the Early College of Macomb
- Middle School Mathematics Science Technology Center ranked #1 Middle School in the State of Michigan by U.S. News and World Report
- Middle School Visual and Performing Arts
- Award winning band programs
- Championship athletics



More Information

 888.4WCS.KIDS

 WCSKIDS.NET

WARREN

Warren Consolidated Schools focused on celebrating student achievement

By Jane Peterson

For MediaNews Group

While maintaining focus on student achievement, Warren Consolidated Schools leadership and staff members are doing everything they can to support student learning and the overall well-being of families.

“Warren Consolidated Schools is fortunate to have such dedicated teachers and staff who put our students first. Our teachers and staff place student achievement, high expectations and strong relationships in the forefront of what they do,” said Superintendent Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.

As a result, students are thriving. They feel secure knowing that teachers and support staff genuinely care about them and their families. They feel comfortable enough to explore new ideas. They feel encouraged to be energetic, lifelong learners who are excited about attending school every day.

Staff members are clearly committed to children — and others outside of the district are taking notice as well. This year, Shawn Moore, a teacher at the district’s Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center was named the Macomb County High School Teacher of the Year through a nomination process led by the Macomb Intermediate School District.

In addition, Kyla Marcial, a school social worker at Grissom Middle School, was named the 2023 School Social Worker of the Year by the Michigan Association of School Social Workers. Last year, Warren Consolidated Schools (WCS) Social Worker Paige Greaves was named Michigan Social Worker of the Year.

These professionals 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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Warren Consolidated Schools elementary school students develop into lifelong learners who are excited about attending school every day.

WCS offers something for every learner, at every level, beginning with its youngest students.

“We have a high-quality 3- and 4-year-old preschool program where students will experience a positive introduction to the school setting, as well as an Early Childhood Special Education program,” said Livernois.

As children grow, they are able to build on their solid academic foundation and pursue their passions through participation in several specialty programs such as the Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center, the Middle School Mathematics Science Technology Center, the nationally recognized Warren Consolidated School of Performing Arts, the Middle School Visual and Performing Arts and the Career Prep Center.

The Middle School Mathematics Science Technology Center was ranked the No. 1 middle school in the State by U.S. News and World Report. In addition, Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center graduates received 100% college acceptance.

“WCS teachers and staff do an excellent job preparing graduates for the future and beyond,” he said.

In fact, the more than 900 students who graduated from Cousino

High School, Sterling Heights High School, Warren Mott High School and Community High School this past June earned an impressive \$15,490,880 in academic and athletic scholarships.

Most of the Class of 2023 will continue to college, trade school or the military. Many choose highly challenging, yet rewarding, fields of study such as computer science, medical, engineering, accounting, graphic design, law enforcement and teaching.

Teachers and staff are strongly supported by parents, stakeholders and the entire Warren community. In 2022, WCS voters approved a \$150 million bond proposal to improve district-wide facilities. This summer two huge projects were completed: Installation of new heating and cooling units at the three high schools and placement of additional security cameras in all buildings.

“WCS continues to head in the right direction through the strong support of our Board of Education who have very high expectations for staff, students and parents,” said Livernois. “The achievements of our students and staff, the state-of-the-art technology and continued facility improvements are excellent examples.”

Teachers and other staff members understand that the most important component for student success is a positive mindset and relationship with their school, so they work hard to nurture the whole child, forging bonds with students and families and offering extracurricular activities that keep students academically engaged.

Many of these extracurricular clubs did quite well this past year. Warren Consolidated School of Performing Arts (WCSPA) Thespian Troup 1000 was awarded \$3 million in scholarships at the annual Michigan Thespian Festival. Also, Butcher Educational Center Robotics Team 818 — The Steel Armadillos finished third overall at the 2023 FIRST Robotics World Championship in Houston, Texas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

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



CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

At Chippewa Valley Schools we inspire and empower students to achieve a lifetime of success. State-of-the-art facilities, tech-enhanced classrooms, and comprehensive instruction ready our learners for the rigors of the 21st century.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

From the moment your child enters school until the day they leave us, CVS is committed to their development and success. We provide a strong, challenging curriculum that ensures college readiness and creates productive, responsible, and caring students who love to learn.

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 or call us 586-723-2240.**



CHIPPEWA VALLEY

Chippewa Valley Schools working with community members to address current needs, future projects

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Providing Chippewa Valley students with a rigorous curriculum that prepares them for future success in the college classroom and workforce is a top priority, but sometimes students have barriers to learning because of other needs that should be addressed first.

When a survey of more than 1,300 Chippewa Valley parents showed a clear need for better access to mental health services for students and additional school-based supports, the district took action.

In January, the district introduced the Ulliance Student Life Advisor Well-being program. Through a partnership with Ulliance, students and families have access to a range of free mental health services, like a 24-hour crisis hotline and counseling provided by state-licensed counselors after school hours.

"It's a way to focus on the social, emotional and well-being needs of students by connecting them with locally based professionals who can help. Ulliance specializes in K-12 school districts," said Superintendent Ronald Roberts.

As part of the Student Life Advisor Well-being program, students can participate in one to five sessions. Those who need care beyond that are referred to local counselors.

The service is confidential and will continue to be offered to Chippewa Valley students this school year thanks to a grant from the State of Michigan.

"The response has been good. While not meant to be a long-term service, it is a valuable resource and im-

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

portant to those who need it," he said.

Chippewa Valley has also implemented a more intense approach to literacy learning at the elementary level.

Strong literacy skills like listening, speaking, reading and writing are the foundation to future success in the classroom and workplace. Last year the district intro-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

More than 1,200 seniors graduated from Chippewa Valley Schools in June. Of them, 446 achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.



duced six reading interventionists, who worked to identify struggling students and equip classroom teachers with strategies they need to provide literacy instruction in a consistent, effective manner.

Since the position directly impacts student achievement while providing invaluable support to staff, this year the district is adding six more interventionists. This action ensures that each elementary school building will have access to an interventionist.

"The data has been strong in showing that this is really making a difference," said Roberts.

As student achievement increases and the way they

learn continues to evolve in the classroom, changes are likely to be noticed within other facility areas, too. With passage of the 2018 bond, construction work continues, with the focus this summer on the media centers at Chippewa Valley High School and Dakota High School, said the superintendent.

"The redesigning of these media centers will reflect the way students use them today," said Roberts. "Students need more collaborative spaces to work together on projects and communicate. These spaces are no longer a place where students sit quietly alone in uncomfortable wooden chairs."

Tables large enough for three to four students will include screens so students can plug in their laptop to display their monitor to everyone in the group. There will also be areas of comfortable seating for students to relax while they study and another café-like section with high-top tables where

students can eat a snack or enjoy a beverage while working.

As the district seeks to make future changes to its buildings, curriculum and Strategic Plan, a new survey tool is helping Chippewa Valley administrators connect with the needs of the stakeholders they serve. Called ThoughtExchange, the data gathered will help shape the district's Strategic Plan, which focuses on three main goals: Curriculum, technology and school culture.

The real-time responses of participants to open-ended questions are displayed anonymously to other survey takers, who can then confidentially rate the ideas and suggestions that either resonate or aren't relevant to them using a scale from 1 to 5. At the end of the process, all participants can view the results where they can see the thoughts sorted by average star rating. More than 2,700 parent and 1,500 staff responses have been received to past surveys.

This unique survey method provides district leaders with critical feedback about areas the school system is excelling in and those where additional improvements are still needed. However, unlike traditional surveys, participants are encouraged to keep coming back to share additional thoughts, read and rate what others think, and view the results for as long as the survey is open, typically five to seven days.

"It's a modern way to collect information that ensures every voice is heard. The data is used to guide our Strategic Plan that directly determines future goals for Chippewa Valley students," said Roberts.

LAKE SHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Lake Shore Public Schools provides an exceptional education in a safe and nurturing environment. Our students are empowered to excel in an evolving global society, supported by the collaborative effort of staff, families, and community.

- Early Childhood programs
- Districtwide 1:1 initiative
- Championship athletics
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- Advanced placement, early college, and dual enrollment college credit opportunities
- Esteemed fine and performing arts programs

For more information, please visit

<https://www.lakeshoreschools.org/>



INSPIRATION - INNOVATION - CELEBRATION

LAKE SHORE

Lake Shore Shorians celebrate fantastic 2022-23 school year, look forward to future successes

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

From milestone moments to daily wins, every academic success deserves to be celebrated. After all, it's the small accomplishments that often lead to big achievements.

Throughout the 2022-23 school year, the district, with the entire support of the Lake Shore community, worked together to advance the goals of the nearly 3,500 schoolchildren enrolled in the district. After a year of hard work, Lake Shore looks back at some of its top headlines that shaped its 2022-23 school year and will help teachers and students create a vision for continued success, infused with Shorian Pride, during the upcoming 2023-24 school year.

Celebrating the Class of 2023

This year was a special centennial celebration with Lake Shore graduating its 100th class.

High school seniors received a memorable graduation ceremony complete with a bagpipe entrance, traditional presentation of diplomas and outstanding performances by the school's choir and band. In addition, 50-year alum and local businessperson Michael Agnello gave a speech about being part of the Lake Shore legacy; Senior Presley Saleh talked about what it means to be a Shorian; and fifth-grader Rebecca Parrinello discussed the future of Lake Shore. The keynote speaker was U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer sent a few congratulatory



PHOTO BY TASHA CANDELA — COURTESY OF LAKE SHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Participants in Special Athletes Field Day took part in nine different activity stations, like softball throw, bean bag cornhole, football bowling, 50 meter dash and obstacle course.



PHOTO BY STEWART PHOTOGRAPHY — COURTESY OF LAKE SHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

High school seniors received a traditional graduation ceremony in 2023 complete with a few extra special additions to mark the district's 100th graduating class.

remarks, too.

With the centennial celebration, the 220 graduates were also treated to a few special additions, including a new cap and gown design that was red with white arm stripes. The change reflected a sense of unity, as previously boys wore red and girls wore white.

Graduates also were invited to request the presence of a staff VIP — a staff member who had the big-

gest positive impact on their overall educational experience — to attend the ceremony. These VIPs were seated on the field in a reserved area where they could hug, high five, fist bump or wave at students who chose to honor them with this recognition.

Albert Williams, a 101-year-old World War II vet and prisoner of war, also joined the celebration thanks to his designation as

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- Dooley Little Learners Center, 16170 Canberra St., Roseville
- Walt Disney Elementary School, 36155 Kelly Road, Clinton Township
- Thomas Edison Elementary School, 17470 Sewell Avenue, Fraser
- Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School, 31275 Evening Drive, Fraser
- Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School, 32151 Danna St., 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

the oldest LSHS alum. Following the ceremony's conclusion, a brief fireworks show was held.

"For 100 years, Lake Shore has been an integral part of St. Clair Shores. We do not take our commitment or our families lightly," said Lake Shore High School Principal Janelle Bross. "For the next 100 years we will continue to inspire students, innovate for and with our students and celebrate our students, staff and long-standing legacy in this community."

The Class of 2023 selected purple as the class color and rose as the class flower. The class motto was "If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it."

Making an impact of the future of education

Michigan Gov. Gretchen

Whitmer visited Lake Shore Public Schools on March 21 to tour Rodgers Elementary School and participate in a panel discussion on education with administration, staff, students and community members. The stop provided the district with an opportunity to share its successes, challenges and ideas that could impact learning for students statewide and impact future generations. Staff highlighted the importance of music education and the impact of fine arts in learning as well as the district's health and wellness initiatives.

The visit perfectly aligned with that week's Positivity Project character focus strength of perspective with the governor actively listening to staff comments.

Embracing the Kids Heart Challenge

Violet Elementary School students enjoyed the health

benefits of jump roping while raising an amazing \$41,441 for the Kids Heart Challenge, earning them a first-place ranking among schools statewide. The fourth grader who raised the most funds among her peers showed great enthusiasm to honor her great grandmother, who had passed away from heart complications. Students also participated in a school assembly where they shared their heart stories and displayed their heart dedications.

Sharing warmth during Wellness Week

Warm hearts served welcoming cups of hot chocolate to Masonic Heights, Rodgers and Violet elementary families during morning drop-off time in March. The effort brought a little better sense of well-being and a lot of joy to the recipients during Wellness Week.

The more than 300 steaming cups of chocolate goodness were served by staff and student volunteers.

Hosting Special Athletes Field Day

Participants felt the love from their peers, family and community during Special Athletes Field Day in June. Participants took part in nine different activity stations, like softball throw, bean bag cornhole, football bowling, 50-meter dash and obstacle course that were staffed by Lake Shore student athletes.

The day offered everyone the opportunity to interact and learn from each other while providing cherished lifelong memories.



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CLINTONDALE
 **CARES**



CLINTONDALE

New programs increase student engagement, learning at Clintondale Community Schools

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Students at Clintondale Community Schools are thriving thanks to a variety of initiatives that have been implemented to help them combat learning loss that happened during the COVID-19 pandemic and propel them toward a bright future. The results of these efforts have been dramatic, leading to students who are more engaged, earning higher assessment scores and excited about going to school every day.

Because Clintondale is one of the smaller school districts in Macomb County, its school community is very close-knit with families receiving support from administrators, teachers and the community in general. Its alumni association, The C Club, is strong and models the slogan "Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon." School leaders know every student under their care and take a systemic approach to providing staff and students with social and emotional well-being supports, like the Positivity Project in its elementary schools and Positive You programs in the middle and high schools.

District leaders believe that these programs and supports will increase a sense of belonging for all students and encourage them to set small goals that can lead them to achieve big dreams.

The Positivity Project, for example, teaches young students character traits that not only help them become more self-aware about the person they want to become but also boost understand-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLINTONDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Students at Clintondale Community Schools are thriving thanks to a variety of learning initiatives.



Because Clintondale is one of the smaller school districts in Macomb County, its school community is very close-knit with families receiving support from administrators, teachers and the community in general.

ing about those around them and help them appreciate the differences between them. There are 24 character traits ranging from curiosity and integrity to kindness and forgiveness. Clintondale elementary students spend 10-15 minutes each school day focusing on a weekly character trait.

Meanwhile, older students in grades 6-12 watch and discuss a weekly video from the Positive You team that helps them find their purpose in life and make healthy choices to get where they want to be and lead happy, productive lives. After the video discussion, students journal about that week's character focus

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

- McGlennen 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

for 15 minutes daily. On Fridays, some students meet with Positive You coaches for additional support and guidance.

These efforts are making a difference. Tiffany Saigh, a fifth-grade educator at Rainbow Elementary School in Clinton Township, was recently honored as Outstanding Teacher of the Year at the Elementary School Level by the Macomb Intermediate School District. She is well known for her support in improving the emotional and social development of her students.

In addition to Saigh's efforts, the district's Professional Learning Communities (groups of grade level staff members who meet monthly to collaborate on ways to increase student achievement) are developing strategies to help support a sense of belonging in all Clintondale schools.

Educators are also implementing several strategies to overcome potential learning losses created by the pandemic when traditional face-to-face instruction wasn't possible. Among those is the Macomb Inter-

mediate School District's high-dose after-school tutoring program for elementary school students and in-class intervention blocks designed to boost literacy skills for middle and high school students. Tutoring and reaching struggling students at early ages with strategies developed specifically for them has been shown to increase student achievement.

While providing solid instruction, Clintondale also prepares older students for future career goals, particularly in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) as well as the healthcare field thanks to a partnership with the Wayne State University C2 Pipeline. This program uses hands-on, project-based learning activities to engage and inspire students by providing 2.5 hours of afterschool programming with special events on select Fridays. Students participate in a variety of engaging STEM activities and obtain college/career planning advice while building their leadership and teamwork skills.

Other unique program-

ing options at Clintondale Community Schools include:

- Drop-in tutoring for students who need extra support and academic assistance at the Continuing Education Center in the Clintondale High School library

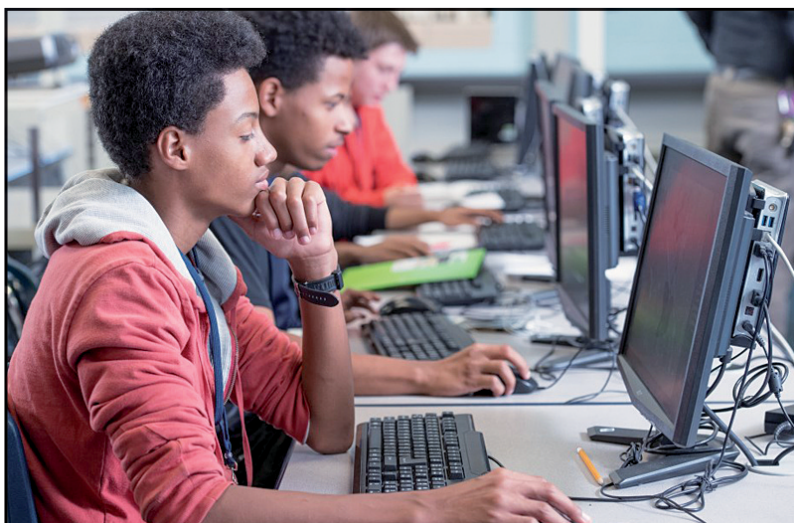
- Neway Works, a mentoring program that connects students with tutors and mentors to help them explore their interests, develop skills and boost their confidence so they can reach their full potential

- CTE courses that provide students with a real-life workplace experience by allowing them to explore the different career paths available within a specific industry to see what appeals to them and what doesn't. Clintondale now has a fully certified culinary program, and its teacher cadet program became fully certified this summer. The district also partners with consortium districts and offers transportation for any student who wishes to explore other CTE options not available at Clintondale High School

- Summer school, including bussing

- Robotics at Clintondale Middle school. Thanks to a grant from the Smart Factory Believers Program, the district will receive 30 smart rovers to inspire a positive STEM-forward experience

- The Building Healthy Communities curriculum. In partnership with Wayne State University, all three elementary schools will have physical education classes twice a week in the fall with all curriculum, materials and snacks donated.



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

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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Automotive Technology I-IV, Pharmacy Technician, Physical Therapy Aide I & II, Marketing, Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Advanced Marketing, Intro to Digital Media Production & 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.



We look forward to welcoming you to the Fitzgerald Family!

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

Fitzgerald Public Schools
21st CENTURY
EDGE

FITZGERALD

Innovative new programs, initiatives support learning at Fitzgerald Public Schools



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FITZGERALD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fitzgerald students work collaboratively to develop creative problem-solving skills.



Kenny Spear, executive director and founder of the Positive You program, shared some inspirational messages with Fitzgerald students.



Fitzgerald Public Schools is rich in diversity and strives to provide students with a well-rounded education.

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

While the Fitzgerald Public Schools community may be considered small, it certainly is mighty. Located in the southwest corner of Warren, the district serves more than 2,200 students, offering them a well-rounded education and a full slate of afterschool activities, athletics, fine arts, clubs and summer school opportunities.

“We collaborate with families and community members to create a positive and supportive learning environment,” said Superintendent Hollie Stange.

Thanks to innovative new programs and initiatives to support student learning, like after-school tutoring for all grades, the district is seeing increased student achievement in all areas of the curriculum. Each student has an iPad or Chromebook to use at home and connects on a common platform to check assignments and receive additional assistance.

High school students have access to numerous academic experiences that can help them explore career paths or get a head start on their college education, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses, dual enrollment, athletics and clubs. Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, such as Arts & Communication; Business, Management, Marketing and Technology; Engineering/Manufacturing & Industrial Technology; Health Sciences; Human Services; and Government and Public Administration, provide students with hands-on les-

sons and interactions with local business leaders.

“With increased funding for education, we continue our focus on student achievement and our commitment to diversity and inclusion,” said Stange.

Last year, for example, the district moved to serve daily Halal options for all students in grades preschool-12. Students also celebrate diverse cultures and learn from each other through participation in activities like Multicultural Club, Model United Nations and Student Council.

Chatterton Middle School families enjoyed a Celebrating You event, where parents and students discussed their treasured family traditions, foods, recipes and holidays. They also shared ideas and created a family crest.

The district encourages students and families to create strong bonds with each other during class and outside of school.

“We brought back our summer swim event, which is Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-noon at our high school,” said Stange.

The Family Swim is always a fun time. After spending a few hours

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

splashing in the water, many enjoy free lunch in the high school cafeteria. Anyone aged 18 and under may attend this special Meet Up and Eat Up event, part of a summer series offering mobile breakfast and lunch options to keep children well fed and nourished when they're not in school.

Family engagement events are held frequently throughout the year. At Westview Lower Elementary School, the Westview School Improvement Team planned at least one event each month. Many times, the activities centered on a theme, like Family Reading Night in March, Family Sweetheart Dance in February and Family Science Night in April.

Fitzgerald graduates appreciate the opportunities to participate in extracurriculars as most of the Class of 2023 took part in at least two or more activities. Many of their favorite memories from high school centered around those activities, like taking a trip with the band to Disney or hanging out with friends from extracurricular activities.

Fitzgerald students are exposed to a variety of topics at a young age, begin-

ning with special classes in elementary school where they explore technology, art, music, physical education and health. Through these activities, students often find additional ways to express themselves and communicate with others, like by developing gaming codes, painting a picture or participating in sports.

Stange hopes to continue building on these successes with the drama program, debate team, robust musical programs and Model UN team. The district also has amazing sports programs with many teams advancing to finals this last year.

Teachers and support staff play a huge role in student success. Educators focus on social-emotional learning, meaning that they support students by helping them not only acquire knowledge to become enthusiastic learners, but also how to develop skills that make them good citizens, like self-awareness, empathy for others and mindfulness of how their actions impact others.

Many projects the district is implementing as part of its 2019 \$46.7 million bond issue support this collaborative learning style. Construction projects are reorganizing spaces and updating them to meet current best practices in education.

Work started last November on a remodel at Chatterton Middle School that includes a new live plant wall and a student commons area, with new classroom updates and technology updates. Students will also have a new media center that encourages a collaborative and welcoming work environment.

A Great Place to Learn!



Our mission is to create a challenging collaborative learning community, which prepares all students for success in a global society.

We pride ourselves on meeting the needs of all our students with a robust curriculum and highly qualified staff.

- Offering Early Childhood programs and two Kindergarten options: Traditional Full Day and Transitional Kindergarten (2-year program)
- 1 to 1 Technology in grades 6-12 and interactive whiteboards in all elementary schools
- 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
- Specialized Math/Science/Technology (MST) program
- Esteemed fine and performing arts programs
- Competitive athletics in middle and high school



Join the L'Anse Creuse Family! www.lc-ps.org

L'ANSE CREUSE

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools develops long-term plan for student learning

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

As work began on the Strategic Plan for L'Anse Creuse Public Schools in January, seven areas quickly emerged as areas of focus: Curriculum, athletics, mental health, safety and facilities, community engagement and education, fine arts and extracurricular, and technology.

"These are the areas where we have formed work groups that will be responsible for developing a list of top five goals to address in each specific area," said Superintendent Erik Edoff.

Each work group consists of parents, teachers and stakeholders so everyone is represented and all goals are aligned with current thinking. That's the idea behind the new Strategic Plan that will guide the district for the next five years.

"This is a long-term guidepost that reflects the needs of our constituency and prepares students for an ever-changing future," said Edoff. "The process began earlier this year when we launched a general question to everyone in the district as to what they thought our strengths are and where improvements can still be made."

Once the work groups narrow down their target goals, they will become a part of the Strategic Plan, a cohesive vision that will set the direction of the school district going forward. This plan will be presented to the Board of Education and once it is fine-tuned with the board's modifications and suggestions, they will vote to approve it, likely this fall.

The Strategic Plan is also expected to include a measurable list of objectives for the next years so administrators plot their progress and stay on track.

"The ultimate goal is to have our graduates be post-graduate

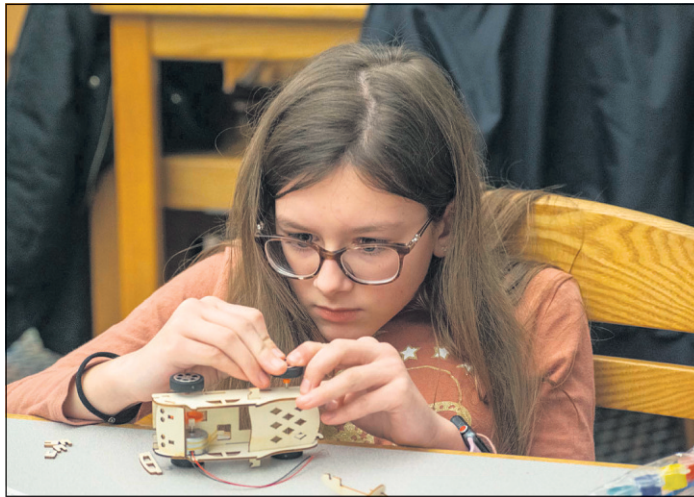


PHOTO COURTESY OF L'ANSE CREUSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

L'Anse Creuse students are immersed in learning, participating in creative projects that help them with problem-solving skills.



ready, whether that means college, trade school or the workforce. We want students to be aware of their options and have the ability to act on them," he said.

L'Anse Creuse educators provide guidance, not judgment. They understand that the skilled trades are woefully understaffed and this may be an area that students want to further explore. The goal is to invest in each student, considering their personal talents, skills, goals and interests.

While academics are key, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools has also invested in new staff positions to support students and remove barriers to learning, such as hunger, grief, anxiety and loneliness. Counselors, social workers and psychologists are trained to identify is-

suues that can limit the ability of students to thrive and work with them and their families to find solutions and, if needed, additional community resources.

"We are invested in meeting the individual needs of students," said Edoff.

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.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses allow students to immerse themselves in in-depth study of a subject that they are excited to learn about. As they work alongside professionals in the field, they gain valuable skills that they can rely on in college, trade school or at

work. Some CTE programs also include certification credentials students can acquire before they graduate from high school.

The district's Pankow Center is home to its seven CTE programs:

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

Other opportunities available for high school students include a rich fine arts curriculum with instrumental and vocal music, performing arts, theater and production design courses and extracurricular activities.

Students can also 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.

Younger students form literacy and math skills that they will continue to build upon throughout middle and high school years. They also learn social behaviors and develop critical thinking skills.

The district's middle school model helps students develop into mature learners ready for the 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 is always appreciative of the teaching staff, adding that professional development in current best practices and facilities enhancement are additional priorities for L'Anse Creuse Public Schools going into the 2023-24 school year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, visit 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

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, & 2022
- 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll - 2019
- NAMM Best Community for Music Education 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, & 2023
- 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 (MA²S)
- Award-winning Health Occupations Program
- 4 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



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ARMADA

Armada Area Schools moves forward with construction projects

By Jane Peterson
For MediaNews Group

Following passage of the \$26.5 million bond issue in May, Armada Area Schools is not wasting any time getting projects started. Much of this summer involved working with architects and reviewing project designs with construction expected to begin in spring 2024.

This will create a flurry of activity next year as the district makes numerous improvements to its facilities that will make them safer and more secure. Construction projects will include expanding the elementary parking lot, creating new high school main offices with a secured entrance and installing a secured entrance at the Macomb Academy of Arts & Sciences. Many improvements are also slated at the high school athletic complex, including new synthetic turf for the varsity softball and varsity football/soccer fields and a new concession stand and bathrooms at the entrance of the football/soccer field.

Meanwhile, work on sinking fund projects continued this summer as well. These projects include a new preschool playground and new carpet and tile in several classrooms as well as needed cement work and painting throughout the district.

Armada Area Schools serves approximately 1,800 students. As a rural school district, students enjoy smaller class sizes where teachers get to know their students and their families. This offers a very personal academic experience closely tailored to meet the needs of each child. That means students who need extra assistance have access to additional support and those who excel at their grade



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS

The Armada High School Band played the National Anthem at Comerica Park.



Armada Middle School students love PAL camp, a traditional outdoor camp offsite where they spend the week in cabins discovering more about themselves and what they potentially want their future to look like.

level receive accelerated learning opportunities.

Superintendent Michael Musary is proud that the district continues to be a leader in Macomb County for academic achievement. Its schools consistently rank at the top of Macomb County on state testing and every student completes a two-year career sequence and finance course before graduation. High school students have opportunities to participate in accelerated learning opportunities; earn college credit through a concurrent enrollment program with Fer-

ris State University, Early Middle College and dual enrollment; enroll in more than 10 Advanced Placement (AP) courses; and enjoy rich music and arts programs.

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



Armada students can take advantage of several unique and valuable learning opportunities through the district's robust Career Technical Education program. Pictured are the high school's EMT students.

Sciences and the Middle Academy of Arts and Sciences based on their interest and potential to achieve in math and science.

An Armada High School graduate is prepared for the future, said Musary.

"More than 95% of our students go on to trades school, community college or a four-year university," he said.

Preparation for a successful high school experience begins at the elementary and middle school level as expectations are set high for younger students and they are exposed to a variety of classes, academic programs, clubs, athletics, fine arts programs, music education, academic competition teams, robotics and extracurriculars.

Krause Elementary School students enjoy specials in technology, music, art, science and physical education. Every sixth grader

has a technology class that is part of the nationally recognized Project Lead The Way Program. They can further explore their interests and explore possible careers during summer school enrichment activities and enrollment in academic camps like Camp Invention, where elementary students participate in science projects for a week.

At Armada Middle School, students can attend PAL camp, where middle school and ninth-grade students attend a traditional outdoor camp offsite and spend the week in cabins discovering more about themselves and what they potentially want their future to look like.

The school board, administrators and teaching teams work hard to consistently update math, science, language arts and social studies curriculums to align with current best

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

practices and purchase quality print and digital materials to supplement learning. However, it's the daily grind in the classroom and the diligent, compassionate work of the teaching that make the difference for most students and their families.

"Armada is very fortunate to have outstanding staff at every level," said Musary.

This includes support staff, like bus drivers who often start the day off with a smile in the morning, food service workers who keep children well fed and nourished, and maintenance employees who keep the facilities in good working condition and comfortable for student learning.

Outside the classroom, Armada Area Schools continues to excel in both curricular and extra-curricular activities. Armada High School won the overall athletics cup in 2023 in its eight-team athletic conference and its robotics team continues to perform well at state and national competitions. In addition, Armada's trap team was runner-up in the state out of 74 teams at the state championship competition.



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"UCS has given me the resources and support necessary for my success. My teachers and peers throughout my years in the district have empowered me to achieve my future academic, professional, and personal goals."

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Gene L. Klida Utica Academy for International Studies Class of 2023
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"The MADE program that is affiliated with UCS gave me the resources to harness my abilities for the skilled trades. With help from instructors and peers, I was able to achieve a professional skill set for the real-world workplace."

Kristina Kopp

Stevenson Center for Manufacturing, Automation and Design
Engineering (MADE) Class of 2023



"I had amazing teachers that pushed me forward, challenged me, and instilled a love for life-long learning."

Drew Beckman

UCS graduate and Michigan State University Class of 2023 with high honors achieved for dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Physiology and Genomics/Molecular Genetics

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Our Mission for Excellence

Inspiring student achievement and success are at the very heart of Utica Community Schools.

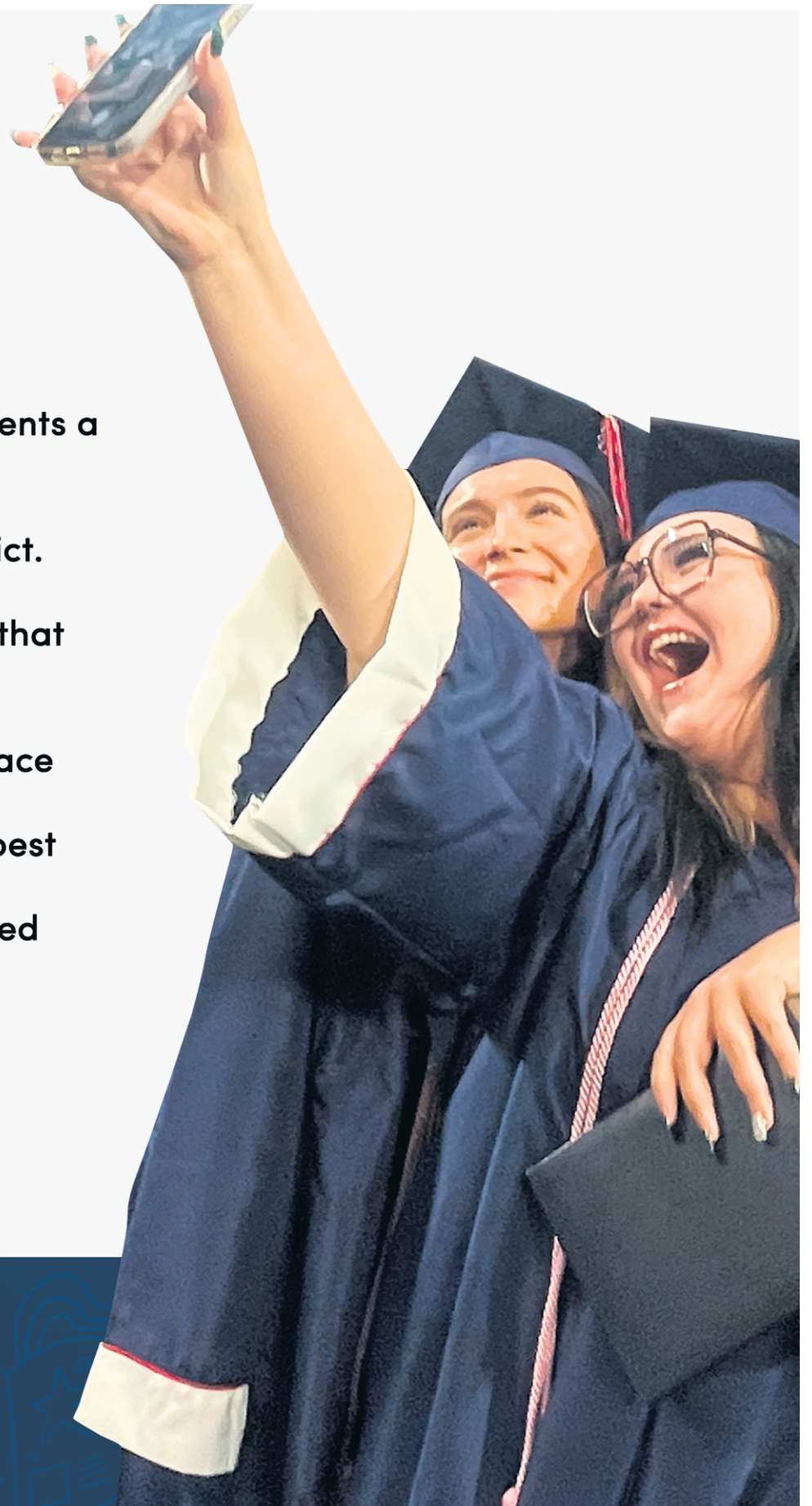
We foster excellence by providing students a wide array of nationally recognized programs and services offered only in Michigan's second largest school district.

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- Student achievement levels that outpace state and national averages
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- Programs and staff that are recognized throughout the country for excellence

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

Lake Shore Public Schools www.lakeshoreschools.org

Lakeview Public Schools www.lakeviewpublicschools.org

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

Mount Clemens Community Schools www.mtcps.org

New Haven Community Schools newhaven.misd.net

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

Romeo Community Schools www.romeok12.org

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