

Muskegon M I R R O R W I K K O K



Muskegon Public Schools
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Superintendent's Message to the Community

On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration, welcome back! School starts Tuesday, September 2, 2014 with a half-day of instruction for students.



Jon Felske,
Superintendent
Muskegon Public
Schools

It has been a busy and exciting summer as many students and families took advantage of extended learning opportunities and summer food service dining. Our custodial/maintenance staff have worked hard to prepare the district's facilities and we await the return of staff and students.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following administrators who will be working in different buildings or positions this year:

- Gregory Morris, District Director of Special Education and Curriculum at Hackley Administration
- Kristina Precious, Principal at Marquette Elementary School
- Duane Cook, Dean at Marquette Elementary School
- Kelly Baldwin, Assistant Principal, Nelson Elementary School
- Todd Smith, Dean at Muskegon High School

This issue of the Mirror provides important back-to-school information regarding enrollment, transportation, food service and other news that will

help you and your children prepare for the new school year. If you have any questions regarding the beginning of the school year, district programs and opportunities on how you can become involved with Muskegon Public Schools, please call any of our building principals or program directors. Please consider joining one of our parent groups, participating in one of our district activities, or taking your family to one of our many extra-curricular events.

Feel free to contact me at (231) 720-2001 with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

GO BIG REDS!

Music Education Can Improve "Brain Power"

By Marti Johnson

Imagine being able to improve students' memory and attention span, and increase English and math standardized test scores up to 20%! Music education is the way to accomplish these goals. And this is just the beginning of what can be gained by being involved in band, choir and orchestra programs, specifically in school-aged children, and the earlier the better.

Research by The Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, Canada, tells us that Music Education contributes to a stronger connection between brain

regions and higher IQ's. "Performing music requires both hemispheres of the brain to work together in ways that few other activities do," explains Nick Mosley, MHS orchestra and choir director and Oakview's music teacher.

Students also increase their self-confidence. Elizabeth Knoll, Muskegon Middle School orchestra and choir teacher, notes "It's team work on a daily basis. Students realize pretty quickly that the more you put in, the more you get out."

Mosley agreed. "It has always been the case in my years of teaching that the students involved in the school music programs tend to be much more successful academically than the average student. At the end of the school year when the Top 10 is announced, most of them are involved in music."

Middle and High School music directors emphasized it's not too late to join music programs. Contact them for more information.

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Breakfast and Lunch Program Changes

For the upcoming school year, there will be a change that directly affects students who attend Muskegon Public Schools, stated Colleen Johnson, Director of Dining Services. In 2012, MPS was approved for a federal program that allowed all students to eat both breakfast and lunch for **free**. The program, Community Eligibility Option (CEO), was based on the number of students who directly qualify for free meals, such as those directly certified, homeless, runaway, and migrants within a building.

For the 2014/2015 school-year all students will need to submit a

Free/Reduced Lunch Application. While all students will be able to eat breakfast and lunch for free, federal guidelines require schools to collect the applications. The Free/Reduced Lunch application and instructions will be mailed to you. Please complete the form and return it to your child's school as soon as possible. **Failure to do so could result in the termination of this program!**

The updated U.S.D.A. nutritional regulations will continue. Students will be served more variety and amounts of fruits and vegetables, more whole grains, lower sodium items, and

minimum/maximum quantities of foods that will be offered. Students will be required to have a fruit serving and/or a vegetable serving on their tray for lunch every day.

Johnson encourages any parent with questions or concerns to contact her office at 720-2807.



MPS Announces Staff Changes for 2014-15

By Marti Johnson

New and familiar faces will greet students, staff and visitors to Muskegon Public Schools (MPS) this fall; however, some will be in different buildings and with different titles.

Administrative changes include: Duane Cook moves to Marquette as Dean of Students from his MHS Assistant Principal position; Kristina Precious will be Marquette's Principal, leaving her position as Executive Director of Academic Services at Hackley. Todd Smith leaves Marquette as Dean of Students and relocates in the same position at MHS. Greg Morris will add Curriculum Director

to his Director of Special Education position; his office is located in the Hackley Building.

New faces in the Hackley Building are Poppy Hernandez, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, and Camille Gabris is the K-12 Professional Development Coach.

MPS welcomes three new teachers to its ranks this fall. Katelyn Werra joins the Marquette staff as a Speech/Language Pathologist, where she will work with Kindergarten through sixth graders. At the High School, two new but experienced teachers

join the staff. Kimberly Huetteman comes to Muskegon from Haslett, Plymouth and Detroit Public Schools and will teach Spanish 1. Huetteman uses "traditional and communicative methods, games and technology to teach students Spanish". Sherie Wagner, most recently from the Derby/Wichita, Kansas area, becomes a member of the Math Department and will teach Algebra 1 this fall. Wagner is also trained in Positive Intervention strategies that help improve students' success.

Wishing everyone a great school year!

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BACK TO

Muskegon students go back to

► The first day of school for **all** students is a **HALF DAY** on Tuesday, September 2.

► Elementary students attend a **HALF DAY** of school on Wednesday, September 3.

► Middle & high school students attend a **FULL DAY** on Wednesday, September 3.

► All high school students should plan to attend a 30-minute **EARLY REGISTRATION** August 18-21.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

The first day of school for all elementary schools in the district will be Tuesday, September 2. Elementary students will attend a **HALF DAY** on September 2 and 3 from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. No lunch will be served on those days.

Regular elementary school hours will begin Thursday, September 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:39 p.m.

Regular school meals will begin Thursday, September 4.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

The first day of school for middle school students will be Tuesday, September 2. Middle school students will attend a **HALF DAY** on September 2, from 7:45 to 11:00 a.m. No lunch will be served the first day of school.

Regular middle school hours will begin Wednesday, September 3, from 7:45 a.m. to 2:43 p.m.

Regular school meal service will begin Wednesday, September 3.

:Your Right To Know

: All Muskegon Public Schools' buildings operate Title I or Title I-like programs. You may request the following information about the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s):

1. Whether the teacher has met Michigan licensing requirements for the grade level(s) and the subject area(s) in which the teacher provides instruction;
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status through which Michigan licensing requirements have been waived;
3. The teacher's college degree(s), major(s), and field(s) of discipline, as well as any graduate degree or certification that he or she may have earned.

: In addition, you may also request this information about any paraprofessional who provides Title I or Title I-like services to your child.

:School Bus Routes

: Every school day, 1800 students are transported to and from school on Muskegon Public Schools buses.

: Transportation is provided to elementary students who live one mile or more from their home school, and to middle school and high school students who live one and one-half miles or more from their home school. Transportation is **not** available for out-of-district students or in-district students attending a school outside of their neighborhood attendance area.

: The Transportation Department will notify every family that is eligible for busing of their child's bus stop and pick up time. These notices will be mailed to families **the week of August 24**.

: Parents who have questions about their child's eligibility for transportation or questions about their child's bus stop may call the Transportation Office at 720-3170.

: On the cover

Pictured on the cover of this issue of the *Muskegon Mirror* are summer school students from Marquette Elementary School.

SCHOOL



school on Tuesday, September 2

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Early registration for high school students is August 18-21. At early registration, students will receive class schedules, get locker assignments, and have photos taken for their student ID's. Students will receive an emergency card, lunch form, and Teen Health Center form in the mail prior to registration week and should turn in their completed forms on their scheduled day. All students should plan to be at the high school for about 20-30 minutes during their scheduled times:

9th graders:

Monday, August 18

8:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.

10th graders:

Tuesday, August 19

8:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.

11th and 12th graders:

Wednesday, August 20

8:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Make Up Day

Thursday, August 21

8:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Please call the high school guidance office, 720-2830, if you have any questions about early registration.

The first day of school for high school students will be Tuesday, September 2. Students should report to their 1st hour class at 7:45 a.m. Students who did not attend early registration should report to the gymnasium. High school students will attend a **HALF DAY** on September 2, from 7:45 to 11:15 a.m. No lunch will be served the first day of school.

Regular high school hours will begin Wednesday, September 3, from 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

MUSKEGON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER

Registration for Alternative Education, Adult Education and GED Prep begins August 18.

The first day of school for MCEC students will be Tuesday, September 2. Alternative Education students will attend from 8:20 - 11:22 a.m., morning adult education students will attend from 8:30 - noon, and evening adult education students will attend 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Regular alternative education hours will begin Wednesday, September 3, from 8:20 a.m. to 3:18 p.m.

It's Not Too Late to Enroll

For families new to the district, there's still plenty of time to enroll your child in Muskegon Public Schools.

Enrollment is easy, too: simply visit the school you want your child to attend and complete the necessary paperwork.

School offices are open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and staff are looking forward to helping you.

Your 3 to 4-year old may enroll for Head Start or GSRP by contacting Glenside School. Your K-6th grade

child may enroll at any elementary school in the district.

Muskegon Public Schools' open enrollment policy for in-district residents lets you enroll your child in any school in the district, regardless of where you live, **as long as there is space available** in that school. However, busing is **not** provided for students who attend a school outside their neighborhood attendance area.

Parents who have questions about enrollment are encouraged to visit or call their school office.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Glenside School	720-2560
Lakeside Elementary	720-2300
Marquette Elementary	720-2600
Moon Elementary	720-2700
Nelson Elementary	720-2200
Oakview Elementary	720-2450

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Muskegon Middle School	720-3000
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HIGH SCHOOLS

Muskegon High School	720-2800
Alternative High School	720-2530
Adult Education	720-2548

Urban Farming Educates Summer Middle School Students

By Marti Johnson

Basil and snap peas and kale, oh my! These are samplings of food being grown in the grant and District-funded **Growing Goods Project** garden, a collaborative effort coordinated by Muskegon Public Schools, which helps feed the 107 summer school students at Muskegon Middle School (MMS).

MMS 7th and 8th graders not only eat the garden's goodies, they learn about nutrition and help farm and harvest food from the garden located behind the Health Department on Apple Avenue. Under direction of a Public Health nutritionist, students take garden-grown items, prepare lunch dishes, create table menus, set tables and decorate them with fresh garden flowers. Enrichment classes include Planned Parenthood's "Safer Choices," McLaughlin Grows' Lifeskills in the Garden, and Physical Fitness, which are all geared toward helping students make healthy choices.

A typical day for students, who need credit for fall promotion, begins with two hours rotating through enrichment classes. Required math and English/Language Arts classes follow, where "students must meet weekly benchmarks for targeted standards," explains Josh Smith, summer school principal and assistant MMS principal. "Students who get behind receive

additional instruction until they meet the weekly benchmarks." Joining students for a family-style lunch are BOOM Youth mentors from Public Health's Peer Leadership program, teachers, administrators and other adult volunteers.



KenVante' Wallace's "Selfie" captures Senator Geoff Hansen, lower center, and the BOOM Leaders after lunch with summer school students in the MMS cafeteria.

State Senator Geoff Hansen, a "huge believer" in the program, toured the Apple Avenue garden and lunched with the students and mentors on July 15th. "Mentoring is not a one-day job," he told BOOM leaders; BOOM-ers reiterated Hansen's statement. Adam Swanson, second year BOOM member, stated mentors get students to "face issues before they happen." Angelo Hernandez commented "it's all about the kids, and it's an all around way to give back to the community. It's amazing to see them (MMS students) grow and help them take their [learned] skills into the world. Cecelia Shaw, 2014 MHS graduate, summed up the program well: "It goes beyond academics and gardening; it builds relationships."

For more information on the *Growing Goods Project* visit the website at:

www.muskegonpublicschools.org/schools/mms/Programsanddepartments/GrowingGoodsProject

Parents Needed for Advisory Committee

Muskegon Public Schools has adopted a Parental Involvement Policy to ensure that parents become full partners in their children's education. The district has a **Parent Advisory Committee** to provide input. The district's Parent Involvement Policy states that the district will:

- Assist parents in understanding topics such as the state's academic content standards;
- Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children;
- Educate its teachers, principals and staff about how to reach out and communicate with parents;
- Encourage schools to develop practices that encourage parent involvement;
- Coordinate parent programs with Head Start, Reading First and other programs;
- Ensure parents receive information about the school, parent programs, meetings and other activities.

A copy of the district's Parental Involvement Policy can be found on the Muskegon Public Schools' website, at: www.muskegonpublicschools.org

Parents who are interested in serving on the district's Parent Advisory Committee should call Director for Curriculum Services, at 720-2012



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• Muskegon Public Schools Posts Nondiscrimination Policies

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

• Any questions concerning Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap or Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, Title IV of the Michigan Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of ability and potential, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, or the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, should call 231-720-2006.

• Grievance Procedures

• Section I - Informal

• Any person believing that the Muskegon Public School District or any part of the school organization has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (2) Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, (3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (4) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, or (5) Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 may bring forward a complaint, which

shall be referred to as a grievance, should call 231-720-2006.

Section II - Formal

The person who believes a valid basis for a grievance exists shall discuss the grievance informally and on a verbal basis with the Local Civil Rights Coordinator, who shall in turn investigate the complaint and reply with an answer to the complainant within five (5) business days. The complainant may initiate formal procedures according to the following steps.

STEP 1 - A written statement of the grievance signed by the complainant shall be submitted to the local Civil Rights Coordinator within five (5) business days of receipt of answer to the informal complaint. The Coordinator shall further investigate the matters of grievance and reply in writing to the complainant within five (5) business days.

STEP 2 - A complainant wishing to appeal the decision of the Local Civil Rights Coordinator may appeal through a signed, written statement to the Superintendent within five (5) business days after receipt of the Coordinator's response. The Superintendent shall meet with all parties involved, formulate a conclusion, and respond in writing to the complainant within ten (10) business days.

STEP 3 - If unsatisfied, the complainant may appeal through a signed, written statement to the Board of Education within five (5) business days after receiving the Superintendent's response in Step 2. In an attempt to resolve the grievance, the Board of Education shall meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within forty (40) days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) days of the meeting.

STEP 4 - If at this point the grievance has not been satisfactorily settled, further appeal may be made to the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C., 20202. Inquiries concerning the nondiscrimination policy may be directed to Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. The local Civil Rights Coordinator, on request, will provide a copy of the district's grievance procedure and investigate all complaints in accordance with this procedure. A copy of each of the acts and the regulations which this notice is based is found in the office of the Local Civil Rights Coordinator.

Rights and Privacy Act

The families of Muskegon Public Schools community are hereby notified that the school often publishes for public view the names and/or photographs of MPS students.

Publications may include the *Muskegon Mirror*, the district annual report, building newsletters, our district web site (muskegonpublicschools.org), and/or similar type publications. The purpose varies and may involve honor rolls, attendance lists, special awards, athletic rosters, and/or team organization photographs, etc.

• If for any reason you do NOT wish your child's name and/or photograph to be published, please contact your school office by September 15, 2014.

This notice is in compliance with the Rights and Privacy Act P.L. 93.380.

Schools, every person who is currently employed shall notify his or her supervisor of his or her conviction of any criminal statute for a violation occurring in any school area as defined above, no later than five days after such conviction.

Any employee who violates the terms of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action as set out in the various collective bargaining agreements and personnel policies of the District, up to and including non-renewal or discharge from employment. Referral of the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency for prosecution may also result.

• Drug Free Schools

• Students & Staff Share Responsibility

• It is the policy of the Muskegon Public School District that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. It is also the policy of the District that no student enrolled in any school in the Muskegon Public School District, nor any person employed in the Muskegon Public School District, shall unlawfully manufacture, distribute, possess or use on or in the school area any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana or any controlled substance as defined in Schedule I through V of Section 202 of the Controlled Substance Act (21 U.S.C.812) and as further defined by Regulation 21 CFR 1300 through 1300.15.

• "School area" is defined to include any school building or any school premises; any school owned vehicle or any other school approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school activities; off school property during any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function, such as a field trip, where students are under the jurisdiction of the school district.

• Information regarding available drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and reentry programs may be obtained by contacting the Human Resources Department or building principal.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Muskegon Public School students shall abide by the terms of the school district policy respecting a drug-free school area.

As a condition of continued enrollment in any Muskegon Public School building, every student who is currently enrolled in school shall notify his or her principal of his or her conviction of any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in any school area as defined above, no later than five days after such conviction.

A student who violates the terms of this policy shall be advised of drug or alcohol assistance rehabilitation programs, and shall further be subject to disciplinary action as prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct, up to and including suspension and expulsion. Any sanctions imposed, whether for suspension or expulsion, shall be in accordance with prescribed school district administrative regulations and procedures. Referral of the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency for prosecution may also result.

EXPECTATIONS OF EMPLOYEES

Each person who is currently employed by the Muskegon Public School District shall abide by the terms of the school district policy respecting a drug-free school area. As a condition of continued employment in Muskegon Public



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Lea esta edición del "Muskegon Mirror" en español. Encuentre la versión electrónica en la siguiente dirección, www.muskegonpublicschools.org/mirror

: Alumni News & Achievements

Alumni	Class	College	Degree	Major
Alicia Clifford	2007	FSU	BS	Dental Hygiene
Ashton Leggett	2007	Illinois State	BS	Criminal Science
Corey Cox	2009	MSU	BS	Kinesiology
Fluarry Jackson	2009	Hope College	BA	Sociology
Jasmine Young	2008	GVSU	BS	Political Science
Kelci Vanderstelt	2009	Baker College	AAS	Paralegal
Kelsey Walker	2007	MSU	BA	Family & Community Services
Kierra Jones	2008	MSU	BA	Family & Community Services
Robert Roundtree	2008	Ferris State	BS	Criminal Justice
Stephany Yack	2006	Baker College	BA	Elementary Education
Teyondra Burch	2008	CMU	BA	Sociology
Vernesha Jones	2009	U of M	BS	Biopsychology Cognition
Viniece Richards	2008	GVSU	BBA	Management
William Rule, Jr	2008	MSU	MA	Psychology/Youth Development
Yvonne Gorajec	2008	GVSU	BA	English, Secondary Education

: Attention MHS Graduates - We would love to hear from you! Email your post-graduation information to dcarlson@mpsk12.net including your name, year you graduated from MHS, college attended, degree, major, and any other information you'd like to share. We will feature your news on Facebook, Twitter, and MPS web site. Go BIG REDS!