

Muskegon

# M I R R O R M I B B O B



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 8, 2015 with a half-day of instruction for all students.

It has been a busy and exciting summer as many students and families took advantage of extended learning opportunities and summer food service dining. The Board of Education approved a new two year contract with the Muskegon City Teachers' Education Association, and new three year contracts with the Muskegon Clerks-Classroom Assistant Association and the Muskegon Non-Instructional Employees Association. I would like to thank the numerous staff members who participated in negotiations to achieve these

new contracts. Our new custodial company Enviro-Clean and district maintenance staff have worked hard to prepare the district's facilities and we await the return of staff and students.



Jon Felske,  
Superintendent  
Muskegon Public  
Schools

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new administrators to the district:

- Justin Jennings, Director of Special Education
- Jennifer Halverson, Principal, Lakeside Elementary 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 720-2001 with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. GO BIG REDS!

## Classroom Technology Improves the Learning Experience

By Marti Johnson

Kahoot!, Schoology, Raz Kids, Bord, Wonster Words and Moby Max. No, they're not video games, but they are some of the online tools that are changing the way, for the better, that teachers teach and children learn.

The District's purchase of Android tablets and Chromebooks for classroom use give students and teachers the opportunity to experience the "blended learning model," explains Jerry Johnson, MPS Data and Technology coach. "Students work on a device while the teacher meets with, teaches/guides/

coaches individuals or smaller groups of students. Sometimes the station or center concept is used; at other times the entire classroom is on the device at different times of the day. At Nelson," Johnson continues, "all students have a device, so it's a 1:1 learning environment."

Not all work is done on a device, but programs like Achieve 3000, a 3rd-12th grade non-fiction reading program, Lexia Core 5, a Kindergarten through 6th grade reading program, and Bord, a K-1 digital chalkboard app to practice spelling, vocabulary

and simple math, are producing great results. Reluctant learners become more comfortable trying something on devices that they would normally shy away from in a traditional classroom environment. "It's the teacher's expertise that makes the difference, however, not the technology," Johnson reminds us. "Our teachers' strengths, in conjunction with those tools and devices, will continue to benefit our students and push learning forward."

# Register now!

Classes start August 24.

[www.muskegoncc.edu/apply](http://www.muskegoncc.edu/apply)



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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 2015/2016 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 your home shortly. 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.

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

## Staff Changes This Fall

By Marti Johnson

As students return for the 2015-2016 school year, they will be greeted by some new faces, see familiar faces in new places and miss those who have retired.

Muskegon Public Schools welcomes Justin Jennings, new Special Education Director, who joins the District from Ypsilanti Community High School where he was Executive Principal. Jennifer Halverson is Lakeside Elementary's new principal. She taught 4th grade at Oakview for the past three years and brings "a very strong background in curriculum, instruction and school improvement" to the position, according to Betty Brookshire-Savage, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

New hires include Rebecca Gallardo, 5/6 Grade Bilingual Teacher at Marquette from Aurora, IL and Jennifer Botbyl, Educational Specialist for Head Start at Glenside.



Jennifer Halverson



Justin Jennings

Staff in their new positions include: Shelia Brown, Human Resources Administrative Assistant; April Bryant, Nelson 2nd grade; Beverly Burrell-Johnson, Marquette 5th grade; Amy

Carnes, MMS 2nd Clerk; Bridgette Collins, MHS Library Clerk; Jennifer Fisher, MHS Read 180; Lauren Johnson, Oakview Academic Interventionist; Johnathan Marion, Lakeside Health Care Aide; Debra Pennington, Oakview 4th grade; Kathy Stevens, Oakview 6th grade and Michele Templeman, Marquette 1st Clerk.

To the retirees go thanks for their many years of service and well-wishes as they begin a new journey: Dee Carlson, Debra Christensen, Sherry Frazier, Margie German, Jennifer Grow, Maureen Johnson, Debra Mellema, Julie Moss-Essenburg, Tami Pierce, Barbara Valentine, Vicki Whiting and Sue Youngdahl.



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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 8.

► **All** students attend a **FULL DAY** of school on Wednesday, September 9.

► All high school students should plan to attend a 30-minute **EARLY REGISTRATION** August 24-27.

### ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

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

Regular elementary school hours will begin Wednesday, September 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Regular school meals will begin Wednesday, September 9.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

The first day of school for middle school students will be Tuesday, September 8. Middle school students will attend a **HALF DAY** on September 8, from 7:45 to 11:15 a.m. No lunch will be served the first day of school.

Regular middle school hours will begin Wednesday, September 9, from 7:45 a.m. to 2:46 p.m.

Regular school meal service will begin Wednesday, September 9.

## :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 **August 27th**.

: 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 Kairi Felty, Marlee Blackmer, and Silvano Ochoa.**

# SCHOOL



## school on Tuesday, September 8

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**Early registration** for high school students is August 24-27. 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 24

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

#### 10th graders:

Tuesday, August 25

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

#### 11th and 12th graders:

Wednesday, August 26

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

#### Make Up Day

Thursday, August 27

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 8. 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 8, 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 9, from 7:45 a.m. to 2:46 p.m.

### MUSKEGON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER

Registration for Alternative Education, Adult Education and GED Prep begins August 24.

The first day of school for MCEC students will be Tuesday, September 8. Alternative Education students will attend from 7:45 - 11:15 a.m.

Regular alternative education hours will begin Wednesday, September 9, from 7:45 a.m. to 2:46 p.m.

Adult Education classes begin September 8. Morning, afternoon, and evening classes are available. Call 720-2530 or 720-2548 to enroll.

## 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

# The Pre-School Advantage

By Marti Johnson

Did you know that children attending Pre-School gain a significant advantage for success over those who don't upon entering Kindergarten? If enrolling your child in Pre-School has been on your mind, now is the time to look closely at the FREE programs offered by Muskegon Public Schools for 3 or 4 year olds. "Pre-School is important and research shows it! Pre-School is the first step in preparing your child for Kindergarten," explains Diane Aamodt, Principal of Early Childhood Programs for Muskegon Public Schools. Three Pre-School programs are offered: Head Start, Great Start Readiness Program and Early Childhood Special Education.



Head Start, a federally funded Pre-School program, is free and familiar to most. Head Start is a ½ day program for those meeting Federal income guidelines. Special Needs children also qualify for Head Start programs. Children in Head Start spend 3½ hours, Monday through Thursday mornings or afternoons. A meal and snack are also provided. A Head Start bus

provides transportation to and from your home and Glenside School where the program is held.



The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is Michigan's FREE pre-Kindergarten experience. Children must be 4-years-old on or before September 1, 2015 to enter this all-day program, which focuses on promoting productive learning attitudes and fostering positive self-images. Income requirements must be met as well. GSRP has classrooms at Nelson, Moon, Oakview, Marquette and Glenside. "Both Head Start and GSRP use The Creative Curriculum®, which helps children develop creativity, confidence and lifelong critical thinking skills," according to Aamodt.

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) is held at Glenside and provides collaboration services for qualifying children; in-home for birth to 3 years old, ½ day for 3 year-olds, and classroom for 4 and 5 year-olds.

For Head Start or GSRP registration/information, call: (231) 720-2560, 720-2568 or 720-2540. For ECSE registration call 720-2560.

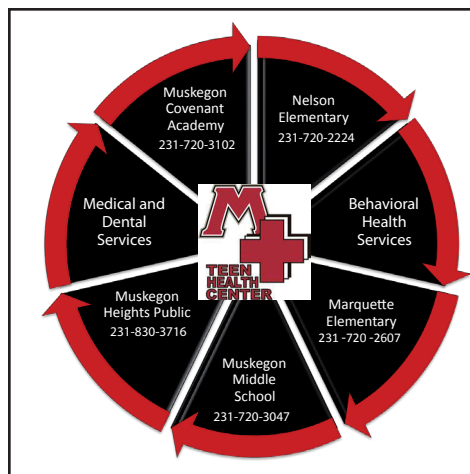
## Parents Needed for Advisory Committee

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 & community based 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](http://www.muskegonpublicschools.org)

Parents who are interested in serving on the district's Parent Advisory Committee should call the Director of Curriculum & Instruction at 720-2083.



## Hackley Community Care School Network HUB (231) 733-6680

The Teen Health Center located at Muskegon High School serves as the "Hub" for the new Hackley Community Care School Network Hub and has oversight of five satellite schools that include: Marquette Elementary School, Nelson Elementary School, Muskegon Middle School, Muskegon Covenant Academy, and Muskegon Heights Public Academy.

The Teen Health Center provides full clinical services which include Medical, Dental and Behavioral Health services to youth. The School Network Hub is a model of care for underserved children and youth that increases coordination of health and behavioral healthcare services. Nelson Elementary and Muskegon Covenant Academy sites provide full time individual and group counseling with licensed Behavioral Health counselor and Muskegon Middle School, Marquette Elementary, and Muskegon Heights Public Academy offer School Wellness Programs which include a School Nurse and a Behavioral Health counselor on site.

# • 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](http://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 18, 2015.

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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## : Alumni News & Achievements

: Alumni	Class	College/Career	Degree/Title	Major/Field
: Erran Briggs	2010	Kalamazoo College	BS	Chemistry
: Abigail Cotton	2010	GVSU	MSW	Social Work
: Erica Douglas	2011	GVSU	Pursuing BA	Advertising/PR
: Felicia Harmon	2009	MSU	BS	PreMed
: Terrance McMillian	2008	U.S. Marine Corp	Pursuing AA	Military Service
: Ashley Nash	2011	GVSU	Pursuing BA	Art/Illustration
: Adrianna Nebedum	2001	Spelman/Georgia State	Doctorate	Physical Therapy
: Tierra Pierce	2009	Indiana Wesleyan	BS	Human Services
: Jason Ruud	2006	Hope College	BA/CPA	Accounting
: Aja Sanzone	2007	Okinawa Institute of Science & Technology		Immunology
: Thomas Serio	2006	RE/MAX	Licensed Realtor	Real Estate/Landlord

: **Attention MHS Graduates** - We would love to hear from you! Email your post-graduation information to [info@mpsk12.net](mailto:info@mpsk12.net) including your name, year you graduated from MHS, college attended, degree, major, military service/rank, career, and any other information you'd like to share. We will feature your news on Facebook, Twitter, and MPS web site. Go BIG REDS!