

Muskegon MIRROR



Muskegon Public Schools Newsletter • Vol. 40 • January 2017

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Superintendent Felske Retires



I would like to take this opportunity to announce my resignation as Superintendent of Muskegon Public Schools effective December 31, 2016. While I am looking forward to my retirement, I am sad to leave Muskegon Public Schools and consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with a quality staff, dedicated school board and a caring community. I would like to thank the families for their commitment and support as we made the very difficult but necessary changes our district needed to make over my tenure. I

am very grateful to all those people who have worked hard to make Muskegon Public Schools a great place for children to learn. Because of your commitment to collaboration, the district is more stable and better positioned to move toward providing the best possible education for students in the city of Muskegon. I look forward to watching the district grow under the new leadership of Mr. Justin Jennings.



Welcome Superintendent Justin M. Jennings



Justin M. Jennings
Superintendent
Muskegon Public Schools

We are pleased to announce Justin M. Jennings as the new Superintendent for Muskegon Public Schools!

Born and raised in Metro Grand Rapids, Michigan, I am one of four children. Throughout my elementary, middle and high school years, my parents stressed the value of a good education and strong work ethic as well as the importance of family and faith. My parents set high expectations for my siblings and I to excel in the classroom and on the athletic fields. Both of my parents were excellent role models, teaching us about the importance of personal integrity and ethics.


Throughout my elementary years I enjoyed going to school and being involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities. While attending Grand Rapids Central High School, I played three varsity sports, served 3 years as captain of the basketball team, was editor of the school newspaper and served as a class president for 4 years. I chose to attend Purdue University on a basketball scholarship and majored in both Law and Society and African-American Studies.

in Michigan at the time. After completing Master’s Degrees in Educational Leadership and Special Education Administration at Grand Valley State University, I also eventually earned my Master’s Degree in Special Education with a focus in the area of learning disabilities.

Ready for a new leadership challenge, I accepted a position as the Principal at Grand Rapids Union High School in April of 2010. During my second year, I continued to pursue my Educational Specialist Degree from Grand Valley State University. I next served as the Principal of Holland High School and New Tech High School, then as the Executive Head Principal at Ypsilanti Community Schools. During my tenure at Ypsilanti, I served as the President of the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP), in which I was chair of the Mentoring/ Aspiring Principal Committee. I also served on the Michigan Department of Education to revise the School Improvement Framework and the Michigan Department of Education State Task Force on School Discipline.

A year and a half ago I accepted the Special Education Director position here at Muskegon Public Schools. In July of 2016, I received a promotion to Assistant Superintendent of Special Education. I have enjoyed becoming a part of the “Big Reds” nation and look forward to continuing the great work of the MPS School Board, Superintendent Jon Felske, Administrators and the great staff of Muskegon Public Schools.




A graphic with a red banner that says "HAPPY RETIREMENT!" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The banner is surrounded by colorful stars (blue, yellow, red) and swirling lines.

BEST WISHES RETIREES

RETIREMENTS AS OF JAN 1ST, 2017

Bridget Fox Counselor at MHS 40 years	Jon Felske Superintendent 5.5 Years with MPS 32.5 Years in Education	Jan Ibershoff Clerk at MHS 28 Years
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Decorative elements on the right side of the banner, including colorful stars (blue, yellow, red) and swirling lines.



Betty Savage
Assistant
Superintendent for
Human Resources

A Message from the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Happy New Year! We hope that you've had a relaxing and enjoyable time with family and friends over the holidays. This is an opportune time to review your goals for change or renewal. The Human Resources staff remains committed to the recruitment, development and retention of highly qualified individuals that will assist in

providing the best educational experiences for our students possible. We continually explore innovative methods to improve our processes and service delivery.

Providing great customer service is at the core of everything we do in the Human Resources department. We are excited to introduce our new webpage redesign which will launch in January. Great care was taken in assessing the needs of our staff and the community in order to deliver current and relevant information. Access to district forms, school calendars, payroll and benefit information as well as other beneficial information will be available online. Interested parties can readily access current job postings as well as view links to positions that are available through our employment partners.

EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS:

EDUStaff
www.edustaff.org

Dean Transportation
www.deantransportation.com

Enviro-Clean Services
www.enviro-clean.com

Chartwells
www.chartwellsjobs.com

Human Resources Office Open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Debbie Fox

Administrative Assistant
Supporting Certified Staff
231-720-2008
dfox@mpsk12.net

Sheila Brown

Administrative Assistant
Supporting Non-Certified Staff
231-720-2025
sbrown@mpsk12.net



WORKLIFE SERVICES Employee Assistance Program

WorkLife Services is an assistance program provided by MPS for employees and their immediate family members. MPS recognizes personal and family problems can, at times, affect your health and ability to perform your job. WorkLife services give you a resource to help you identify these problems and assist you in achieving your goals, both at home and on the job.

WorkLife Services EAP can help with:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Stress
- Substance Abuse
- Marital Problems
- Grief and Losses
- Job Performance/Job Concerns
- Family Problems

Services are confidential and offered by highly trained professional staff.

Getting the help you need is easy.

Call 231-726-3582 to obtain professional and confidential help.

HIRING SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Muskegon Public Schools is offering substitute teacher increased rates in an effort to fill open positions.

Requirements to work as a Teacher Substitute

- Minimum 90 semester hours of satisfactory credit (2.0 GPA or better) combined from one or more regionally accredited two- or four-year colleges or universities.
- Fingerprinting and background check required.
- Contact EDUStaff for additional information.

Competitive Rates

EDU Staff Standard Sub Rates

- \$100 per day
- \$110 per day (21st consecutive day)
- \$200 per day (61st consecutive day)

EDU Staff

Nelson School Sub Rates

- \$100 per day (1-15 days)
- \$110 per day (16-30 days)
- \$120 per day (31-45 days)
- \$130 per day (46-60 days)
- \$140 per day (61-75 days)
- \$150 per day (76+)

MPS Retiree Teacher Sub Rates

- \$110 per day

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE
in Your Community**

Now Hiring! **Apply Today!**

Immediate Need For:

- Substitute Teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- Other Support Staff

EDUStaff www.EDUStaff.org
877.974.6338

Local workshops held regularly!
Complete and comprehensive training to
prepare all applicants for the classroom.

Why I Working at MPS : Big Red Education Fund

I love the traditions, history, and the fact that we are moving in the direction of celebrating the brilliance of our students and superstar staff members. - Justin Jennings, Admin Bldg

I've subbed all over the ISD, and Muskegon High School is far-and-away my favorite place to work. I love the students, I love the faculty, and I love the staff. Every August I get anxious, counting the days until I can come back and continue doing what I love: collaborating with the best professionals I know and shaping young minds for the better. - Jon Horne, MHS

I love working at MPS because of the great leadership, teamwork, and diversity the staff brings to work everyday. Working with a staff who value everyone's role, and works TOGETHER, to provide the best educational experiences any student could ask for... - Jim Webber, MMS

I love working at MPS for many reasons. First, I am always impressed with how helpful and forgiving our students can be and there is nothing better than when we laugh, cry, learn, and do life together. There are also really talented, strong, and supportive teachers in this school who want students to succeed and are willing to do what it takes to see that happen. Most of all, I like working here because MPS is more than just a school, it's a family. - Brian Gerst, MHS

I love working at MPS because I am alumni. I still bleed Red & White c/o 87. I consider it an honor to be a part of the learning process of students in MY community, many of whom I attended school with their parents. If I can make a positive and impacting difference in just one student's life, my love for MPS will continue to be strong!!! Go Big Reds!! - Alisha Watkins-Johnson, Oakview

I work with suspended and expelled students in the tutorial program. This program recognizes that even students who have made some serious mistakes should continue learning. The program's goal is that they will eventually return to their respective schools. High school students in tutorial work toward earning credits for graduation. Older students who remain out of school for many months and maintain no connection to their curriculum are less likely to return to school. Then the street often wins. As a part of the tutorial program, I have a terrific boss and a wonderful administrative assistant with whom to work, and a talented colleague and fellow tutor. I think I have one of the best jobs in the district! - Jan Irwin, Admin Bldg

I love the people at MPS! We have such incredible families, inspiring students, and amazingly dedicated staff. - Christine Martin, Moon

I love working at Muskegon Public Schools because the students bring an energy to the classroom that I've never experienced anywhere else. There is such a sense of pride when we accomplish a new technique or piece that you can't help but be excited for what is going to come next. - Elizabeth Knoll, MMS/MHS

I love working at Muskegon Public Schools because the staff are incredibly dedicated to serving our kids! - Poppy Hernandez, Admin Bldg

I work with the most caring and hard working professionals I have ever worked with. The teachers for Muskegon Public Schools go above and beyond to show how much they really care so deeply about the students and their families! - Amanda Thielbar, Nelson

I love to help students discover their full potential. Helping students to make long terms goals for their future, and then watching those goals become a reality. This is why we do what we do, we are building futures. Futures that can change our community and our world. - Corry Lohman, MHS

Because it is home. Earlier in my career I was teaching and working with the children of my former classmates. I am already beginning to see our grandchildren coming through these halls! I am vested in our future. - Mrs. Lauren Johnson, Oakview

The students, because they are our future. The staff because they are caring and supportive of the students and each other. In the words of Garrison Keillor..."Nothing you do for children is ever wasted" so I work at Muskegon Public Schools! - Amy Carnes, Marquette

I love working for MPS because over my ten years of working for this district I have met so many people who have the best interest of our kids at heart. Many employees and volunteers will use their own time, talent, and finances to do everything they can for each other and our students. - Kathleen Varboncoeur, Moon

I'm doing something I'm passionate about and fulfilling one of my life's purposes; making this world a better place than it was given to me. Post-Secondary Education attainment whether it be trade, certificate, associate's, bachelor's, master's, or doctorate is essential to improving the quality of one's life. I digress from my thesis now. - Jamar Ragland, MHS

I love working with the kids and making an impact in their lives and being there for the other kids that need me and I enjoy the staff. - Robert Bilek, Lakeside

I love working at MPS because I want all of the students at Muskegon Public Schools to have a bright future and wonderful life experiences. I believe that all our students can develop into high character men and women. I love my job because I truly get to see the transformation once students realize that they are capable of becoming who they want to be! That's why I love all the kids at MPS. - Rodney Walker, Admin Bldg

I love working at MPS because it provides a daily challenge. Where the students require educators to use all their resources to provide a quality education to a diverse population. I have been offered employment in other districts but MPS gives me an opportunity to thrive in a community I grew up in. The challenges and obstacles are all worth it when you can promote positive change in tomorrow's generation. - Chauncy Williams, Oakview

The kids! They are the reason I get up and come to work every day! They are eager to learn, and fun to spend my day with! - Laurie Mancuso, MMS

The MPS Big Red Education Fund has been proudly supporting the work of Muskegon Public Schools teachers since 1991. See the list of grant winners for 2016-17 below totaling over \$23,000. Donations to the MPS Big Red Education Fund may be made



through the Community Foundation for Muskegon County on-line by typing **<https://cffmc.org>** in the address line and selecting GIVE on their website, then typing MPS Big Red Ed Fund in the Specific Fund(s) box.

Applicant Name	Building	Condensed Project Description
Laurie Mancuso	MMS	Purchase whiteboards, etc.
Dawn Makin	MMS	Purchase "discussion boards"
Kelly Brickley	MMS	Purchase young adult book titles
Ardena Duren	MMS	Purchase young girl incentive items
Tina Grennan/Don Showich	MHS	Marching band Fall competition
Sherry Chapman	Oakview	Purchase flexible seating
Kristi Horan	Moon	Purchase up-to-date biography books
Jennifer O'Brien	MHS	Purchase diverse protagonists books
Sarah Hill	Moon	Continue Moonies Newsies newsletter
Nancy Hammond	Marquette	Purchase ball pit for autistic students
Karli Baldus	MHS	Purchase software for PA announcements
Stacie Zietlow	Oakview	Purchase Wobble chairs
Jessica Bailey	Administration	5 day camp for 12 MMS students
Jessica Louzon	Nelson	Purchase materials for "Enrollment Bags"
Angelica Herrera	Marquette	Purchase materials for 5 literacy stations
Sandra Elder/Deb Krispin	Oakview	Purchase 2 bass xylophones
Dana Judd	MMS	Purchase 6 Drum & Store Bucket Sets
Lisa Kolbe	MHS	Purchase Breakout Kits
Stephanie Plescher	Nelson	Purchase materials for Lunch & Learn
Emily Hoffman-Sperry	MMS	Attend MS Journalism Conference at MSU
Brian Kamyszek	MMS	Purchase Sphero starter kit & Lenovo Tab 3
Kara Unger	MHS	Purchase Fusion Print More package etc
Christine Martin	Moon	Purchase materials to support student phonics
Nancy Raad	Marquette	Fund one field trip
Elizabeth Knoll	MHS	Fund field trip to Sphinx Competition in Detroit
Chauncey Williams	Oakview	Young Women & Men of Excellence Project
Stacy VandenBosch	Lakeside	Purchase paper crimper, etc. for art "texture"
Regina Knudsen	Moon	Purchase materials for Moon Reading Fair
Bernard Loudermill	MHS	Purchase materials for Saving Our Girls project
Kathleen Varboncoeur	Moon	Fund bus costs for weeklong history experience

	Elementary Schools (K-6)	Middle School (7-8)	High School (9-12)
January 2	No School	No School	No School
January 3	School Resumes	School Resumes	School Resumes
January 4	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
January 11	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
January 16	No School <i>MLK Day</i>	No School <i>MLK Day</i>	No School <i>MLK Day</i>
January 18	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
January 25	No Late Start	No Late Start	No Late Start <i>Half Day Exams</i>
January 26	Half-Day	Half Day	Half Day Exams
January 27	Half-Day <i>End of 2nd MP</i>	Half Day <i>End of 2nd MP</i>	Half Day Exams <i>End of 1st SEM</i>
January 30	Half-Day	Half Day	Half Day
January 31	Half-Day	Half Day	Half Day
February 1	No Late Start	No Late Start	No Late Start
February 8	Late Start <i>Count Day</i>	Late Start <i>Count Day</i>	Late Start <i>Count Day</i>
February 15	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
February 17	Half-Day <i>Mid-Winter Break</i>	Half-Day <i>Mid-Winter Break</i>	Half-Day <i>Mid-Winter Break</i>
February 20	No School <i>Mid-Winter Break</i>	No School <i>Mid-Winter Break</i>	No School <i>Mid-Winter Break</i>
February 22	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
March 1	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
March 8	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
March 15	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
March 17	Regular School Day	Regular School Day	Half Day
March 20	Half-Day	Half Day	Half Day
March 21	Regular School Day	Regular School Day	Evening Conferences
March 22	No Late Start	No Late Start	No Late Start <i>Evening Conferences</i>
March 24	Half-Day <i>End of 3rd MP</i>	Half Day	Half Day
March 27	Half-Day <i>Evening Conferences</i>	Regular School Day	Regular School Day
March 28	Half-Day <i>Afternoon & Evening Conferences</i>	Regular School Day	Regular School Day
March 29	No Late Start	No Late Start, Half Day <i>End of 3rd MP Evening Conferences</i>	No Late Start
March 30	Regular School Day	<i>Evening Conferences</i>	Regular School Day
March 31	Half-Day	Half Day	Half Day
April 3-7	No School <i>Spring Break</i>	No School <i>Spring Break</i>	No School <i>Spring Break</i>
April 12	Late Start	No Late Start	No Late Start
April 14	Half-Day <i>Good Friday</i>	Half-Day <i>Good Friday</i>	Half-Day <i>Good Friday</i>
April 19	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
April 26	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
May 3	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
May 5	Half-Day	Half-Day	Half-Day
May 10	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
May 17	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
May 24	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
May 26	Half Day <i>Hackley Day</i>	Half Day <i>Hackley Day</i>	Half Day <i>Hackley Day</i>
May 29	No School <i>Memorial Day</i>	No School <i>Memorial Day</i>	No School <i>Memorial Day</i>
May 31	Late Start	Late Start	Late Start
June 7	Late Start	No Late Start	No Late Start
June 9	Half Day	Half Day	Half Day <i>Exams</i>
June 12	Half Day	Half Day <i>Exams</i>	Half Day <i>Exams</i>
June 13	Half Day	Half Day <i>Exams</i>	Half Day <i>Exams</i>

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Amanda Acker.....	Special Education Teacher.....	MMS	Tammy Junge	Elementary Teacher.....	Nelson
Jennie Ackerman	Elementary Teacher.....	Nelson	Katherine Lohman.....	Elementary Teacher.....	Marquette
Kendra Beckstrom.....	Interventionist.....	Nelson	Carla Kevern.....	Interventionist.....	Nelson
Mary Bewley.....	Virtual Instructor.....		Gerlad Mabrito	Share-Time Teacher	
Kimberly Budnik.....	Elementary Teacher.....	Marquette	Erin Mepyans	Elementary Teacher.....	Moon
Sarah Byce	Elementary Teacher.....	Nelson	Stephanie Messel	Virtual Instructor	
Audrey Chambers	Intervention Specialist.....	Nelson	Alyssa Nelson	Elementary Teacher.....	Nelson
Charles Chapman.....	Lunchroom Aide	Moon	Linda Oestman	Retiree Substitute Teacher	
Claudette Cherry.....	Lunchroom Aide	Marquette	Chey Orr.....	Elementary Teacher.....	Nelson
Angelica Corona.....	Lunchroom Aide	Marquette	Rebecca Palen.....	Elementary Teacher.....	Marquette
Danielle Covert.....	Elementary Teacher.....	Oakview	Nicole Reese	Elementary Teacher.....	Nelson
Clinton Crawford.....	Lunchroom Aide	Marquette	Fatima Roberson	Secondary Teacher	MHS
Jessa May Custodio Romaniello ..	Classroom Assistant.....	Nelson	Alberto Saenz.....	Bilingual Teacher	Marquette
Bonnie Davis	Lunchroom Aide	Moon	Christina Sanchez.....	Lunchroom Aide	Lakeside
Jennifer Dewitt	Secondary Teacher	MHS	Ilene Sherburn	Interventionist.....	Nelson
Kristen Emmons.....	Elementary Teacher.....	Oakview	Roosevelt Sherrod.....	Lunchroom Aide	Marquette
Kayanna Evans	Lunchroom Aide	Lakeside	Jennifer Simms	Intervention Specialist.....	Nelson
Robyn Fisher	Special Education Teacher.....	Marquette	Samantha Spoelman	Elementary Teacher.....	Nelson
Ann Marie Goodwin.....	Special Education Teacher.....	Lakeside	Elizabeth Stalzer.....	Share-Time Teacher	
Marquetta Gordon	Elementary Teacher.....	Oakview	Melissa Stark	Occupational Therapist.....	Lakeside
Jamie Goulet.....	Elementary Teacher.....	Nelson	Kenneth Thomas.....	Virtual Instructor	
Kurtis Gruppen.....	Share-Time Teacher		Landen Vandever	Share-Time Instructor	
Bronwyn Guiles	Psychologist	Admin Bldg	Pamela Varga	SIG Coordinator	Nelson
Jeremy Holmes	Share-Time Teacher		Randall Van Wingerden ..	Share-Time Substitute Teacher	
Damontay Johnson.....	Lunchroom Aide	Moon	Stephanie Voelck	Art Teacher.....	Moon
Megan Johnson	Special Education Teacher.....	Oakview	Christie Wygant.....	Lunchroom Aide	Nelson
Nathanael Johnston.....	Share-Time Teacher				

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES



Keri Cooper

Principal
Marquette Elementary

We are pleased to announce Keri Cooper as the Principal of Marquette Elementary.

Keri earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Grand Valley State University. Her teaching career began in 1993 and she joined the MPS family in 1998. She has been a classroom teacher at Angell, McLaughlin, Marquette, Oakview and at Muskegon Middle School. Additionally, she spent three years at Oakview as the Instructional Coach working with teachers and focusing on curriculum, data and

instruction.

Over the years, Keri has taken on various leadership roles within the MPS community as a part of the District Technology Leadership Committee and as a School Improvement Team Leader. She has also participated in other district committees in the areas of math, reading, writing and technology. In her new role as the principal of Marquette Elementary, Keri looks forward to continuing her dedication to helping teachers reach their full potential and ensuring the academic success of all students.

In her free time, Keri enjoys our Lake Michigan shoreline, traveling, and spending time with her two daughters, Danika and Luci.



Shelly Hammond

Principal
Nelson Elementary

We are pleased to announce Shelly Hammond as the Principal of Nelson Elementary. Shelly graduated from Grand Valley State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Group Social Science and an emphasis in Psychology. She began her teaching career in 1997 and joined the MPS family in 2000. She has taught in many of the district's elementary schools primarily as a second grade teacher at Nims Elementary. Most recently, Shelly served as the Instructional Coach at Nelson working with teachers and focusing on curriculum, data and instruction. Shelly's commitment

to excellence will be invaluable facilitating improvements to instruction, increasing student engagement along with parental support and enhancing school climate and culture. Her free time is spent with her husband and four children enjoying all outdoor activities such as snowboarding, running, camping and paddle board racing.

A quick update on the Sinking Fund Initiative:

The District has contracted with Owens-Ames-Kimball to do an assessment on all of our buildings to help us determine our highest priorities. We look forward to their report and recommendations regarding our facilities' needs. Please check our website for updates and more details on plans for repairs and upgrades at Muskegonpublicschools.org

From the Office of Volunteer Services

Nelson Elementary's Reading Buddies Program

To put it simply, Nelson Reading Buddies started as a need - a need that community member Charlotte Johnson felt in her heart to fulfill. Over five years ago, Charlotte was asked to serve on the advisory board at Muskegon Middle School where her objective was to help fight poverty. As she became involved, she began to notice that many of the children who were going through the Muskegon Public School district had poor reading skills. That is when Charlotte Johnson knew exactly how she could make an effort to fight poverty: with the children. She knew that one way to fight poverty is to help students succeed in school. By starting at the ground level, we can help give children not only the ability to read, but also the desire to learn how to read well. The ground level, of course, is during their preschool and elementary school years. Charlotte chose to apply her efforts at Nelson Elementary. In collaboration with Community enCompass, Lynn Kamps, and others from the community, the Nelson Reading Buddies program began in February of 2013.

Nelson School's staff has graciously welcomed the program and volunteers - even giving the Reading Buddies program it's own classroom. Classroom teachers in grades K - 6 refer students who need extra help with their reading skills to the program. Volunteers from the greater Muskegon community read one-on-one with each student for 30 minutes per week. Each year, between 25 and 30 volunteers have given over 800 total volunteer hours! Reading scores have risen and positive relationships have been made between the mentors and the children.

In 2014 the Nelson Neighborhood Association generously gave the program \$500 for the purchase of many beautiful new books to supplement the room's collection. Having been gifted a world of different levels and genres of children's books, Reading Buddies is able to connect with students at their own individual level of comprehension and assist them in reaching higher levels as they continue throughout their school year.

Nelson Reading Buddies is more than just a simple program created to help children improve their reading. Nelson Reading Buddies is a community working together to help give our children more opportunities for a better future, because our future begins with them.

The reading room is open on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday afternoons and Thursday afternoons. New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Charlotte Johnson (hnp@communityencompass.org) or Lynn Kamps (lynnkamps1@gmail.com) for information on how to volunteer your time.

If you are interested in becoming a Nelson Reading Buddy or partnering with MPS's Volunteer Program in other ways, please contact Kay Pittman at 231-720-2039 or by e-mail at tpittman@mpsk12.net. There are many ways to be involved!

"Every Child Deserves A Champion" ~ Rita Pierson



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WE HAVE A NEW LOOK! And a dedicated mission to provide high quality after school programming that will positively impact the life of every child that regularly attends our program.

Our IMPACT students are doing great things! In addition to taking advantage of the extended academic learning time provided through 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLCs), our students are experiencing youth development opportunities that are enriching and extraordinary!

We are excited to announce that our **21st CCLC IMPACT** site at **Marquette Elementary** is 1 of 11 Michigan sites selected to participate in the **NASA STEM CHALLENGE**. Additionally, we have been selected to be 1 of 2 evaluation/observation sites in the State.

What is the NASA STEM CHALLENGE? NASA, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education, has developed four unique science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) challenges and one Global Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) science investigation. Each STEM challenge is based upon real mission data and experiences that occur during human and robotic exploration of the solar system and the GLOBE investigation focuses on science protocols. These content opportunities are designed for grades 5-8, and connect students in 21st CCLC with NASA scientists and engineers to discuss proposed challenge solutions and science protocols in real time.

Ten of our 5th and 6th grade students (*Elijah Aguero, Latavia Allen, Braiden Atherson, Heaven Bell-Williams, Cam'ron Hale, Camille Hale, Ava Howe, LaFaith Gooden, Lorena Flores, Jayda Johnson*) will work as a team to create and submit brief videos showcasing their responses to the challenge. U.S. Department of Education leaders and NASA scientists and engineers then select student videos to highlight in a culminating live Web event or to be showcased during state-based culminating experiences.

Our challenge: **Parachuting onto Mars**

Objective: Students design and build a drag device to slow a spacecraft entry onto the Martian surface.

Final Product: Student teams will produce and submit a video featuring the steps of the engineering design process they followed to create their team drag device to slow the descent of a space craft or probe.

Best wishes to the Marquette NASA Stem Challenge Team!

If you are interested in learning more information about **IMPACT** and your student is enrolled in one of our site Elementary Schools, please contact the respective site coordinator for additional information:

Moon Elementary: Ben Bempong bbempong@mpsk12.net (231) 720-2719	Marquette Elementary: Jackie Williams jwilliam@mpsk12.net (231) 720-2650	Kimberly Leavell Director, 21st CCLC IMPACT, MPS 231-720-2557
Oakview Elementary: LaTanya Harrell lharrell@mpsk12.net (231) 720-2491	Lakeside Elementary: Brishelle Longmire blongmir@mpsk12.net (231) 720-2368	

Technology Department

What is Blended Learning?



Blended learning is an instructional model that is becoming increasingly more prevalent in our schools and classrooms. Blended learning is a blend of traditional and online class learning. Many of our classrooms are using Chromebooks as a tool to foster learning in their classrooms. While not all learning happens on a device, the Chromebook does allow students the opportunity to go online to increase their learning potential whether it be through the use of a tool such as Lexia Core 5 or to do research on a website like the Michigan Electronic Library (mel.org). In addition, many teachers are now using a tool called Google Classroom to help deliver content to students in a much easier way. With our district using Google Apps for Education, now called G Suite, Google Classroom allows teachers and students to use the Google Suite of Tools much easier in an online "classroom" environment.

Some other updates happening across the district include the installation of new projectors in Moon School over the holiday break. Moon joins the projector updates that took place this summer at Muskegon Middle and Muskegon High School. The projectors are much brighter and do not require a light bulb which reduces the cost of the device over the device's lifespan. The rest of the project will be completed during the Summer of 2017.

Moon School is also the recipient of new Chromebooks and Chromebook carts. Moon is now Muskegon Public Schools' second 1:1 Chromebook school (Nelson being the other school). Marquette School was happy to take

the devices that were being used at Moon in order for Marquette to expand blended learning and also be more "tech ready" for online testing coming this Spring. We did something similar at Oakview School where a new mini computer lab was installed recently. We have added more computers in order to provide more time for students to work with some of our instructional tools as well as to better prepare for online testing.

The State of Michigan Online assessments are back this Spring in all of our buildings. Below is an outline of the testing schedule for our students and teachers. As you can tell below, MSTEP is back this year in grades 3rd-8th, and 11th. The testing takes place over a four week span and the weeks are staggered to better help schools plan in the best way possible. April will be a very busy month with MSTEP, SAT, ACT WorkKeys, and PSAT testing all taking place. Our technology department will be preparing after the holiday break to get our district "test ready."

We continue to be grateful and thankful for the passing of the county wide technology millage in order for our students and teachers to grow as learners in an ever increasing online environment.

Go Big Reds!

Jerry Johnson, Director of Technology

#mpsbigredpride

Spring 2017 Testing Schedule for Summative Assessments																		
	Week of																	
	2/6- 2/10	2/13- 2/17	2/20- 2/24	2/27- 3/3	3/6- 3/10	3/13- 3/17	3/20- 3/24	3/27- 3/31	4/3- 4/7	4/10- 4/14	4/17- 4/21	4/24- 4/28	5/1- 5/5	5/8- 5/12	5/15- 5/19	5/22- 5/26		
M-STEP Grades 5, 8, and 11										4 weeks								
M-STEP Grades 3, 4, 6, and 7													4 weeks					
MI-Access Alternate Assessments										7 weeks								
College Entrance: SAT with Essay										4/11 only		4/25 only						
Accommodations Testing*										4/11 – 4/25								
Work Skills: ACT WorkKeys										4/12 only		4/26 only						
Accommodations Testing										4/12 – 4/26								
PSAT**										4/11 or 4/12		4/25 or 4/26						
Accommodations Testing*										4/11 – 4/25								
WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0	7 weeks																	
WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs	7 weeks																	
* Only students who appear on the Non-standard Accommodation Report (NAR) are eligible to test within the 2-week window. Students approved for testing over two days must be tested on consecutive days.																		
** Schools can elect to administer the PSAT test to 9th graders on one day, 10th graders on the other day, or test both grades on the same day. As long as all students in the same grade are tested on the same day, schools can choose which date works best for them for both the initial test dates and the makeup test dates.																		

MHS COUNSELORS' HIGHLIGHTS

STUDENT SCHEDULING FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

Counselors held class assemblies in December to review the online scheduling process with students. Individual scheduling meetings will be held during the meeting dates listed below, where students will be given a copy of their transcripts to review and help guide them in course selection for next year. Parents can assist their sons and daughters by reviewing their choices, signing their course request sheets, and reminding students to return them to the Guidance Office. Counselors will be visiting Muskegon Middle School in mid February 2017.

CLASS	MEETING DATES	COURSE SELECTION RETURN DATES
2018	Week Of January 9th	Friday, January 13, 2017
2019	Week of January 16h	Friday, January 20, 2017
2020	Week of January 30th	Friday, February 3, 2017
FEB. 11, 2017	JAN. 6, 2017	JAN. 7-20, 2017

FAFSA

Students and parents should have completed the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as of October 1, 2016. This is an online process. Paper applications may be downloaded at FAFSA.ed.gov or by calling 1-800-4-fedaid. Both the student and parent must apply for a FAFSA ID number which will serve as their electronic signature. This replaces the PIN that was formerly used. A financial aid night was held on Wednesday, November 02.

SAT

The state of Michigan will pay for all juniors to take the SAT in April 2017. This will be the first phase of the M-Step Exam. Juniors will be able to send their scores to four colleges that they are considering.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

Students in need of tutoring can receive assistance every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the Media Center from 3:05 to 4:30 PM. In addition, they can schedule before and after school tutoring time with their teachers.

CAREER CRUISING

A county-wide portal system is available to all districts allowing students, counselors and parents a web-based, personalized tool to assist students in the process of career and post-secondary exploration. Our district will develop Educational Development Plans (EDP) for all students in an effort to help them understand their skills, values and career options.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Students should visit their Guidance Counselor and College Advisor to research available scholarships. They should also check the scholarship showcase located in the Southern Street hallway. Scholarships will also be featured on the daily announcements.

- **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP** offers numerous scholarships for students. There is one application for multiple chances for scholarships. Students may apply at www.cffmc.org. The deadline for this scholarship is March 1, 2017.
- **GERBER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP** will award at least one \$2,000 scholarship to a Muskegon High School student. There is a maximum GPA requirement of 3.7 to target average to above average students. Students can apply at www.gerberfoundation.org.
- **MICHIGAN COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP** is available for any student who attains a qualifying score of 1200 on the SAT and has submitted a FAFSA by March 1. Students must attend a Michigan public college and show financial need.
- **WOMEN'S DIVISION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** will award five \$1,000 scholarships. Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA and reside in Muskegon County. Applicants must also plan to attend either Muskegon Community College, Baker College or a Muskegon County Technical school full time. Applications are available in the guidance office or online at www.womensdivision.org. The deadline for this scholarship is March 10, 2017.
- **TUITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP)** This is an incentive program that provides tuition assistance to eligible students for the first two years of college and beyond. To meet requirements a student must be or have been enrolled in Medicaid coverage for 24 months with a 36 consecutive month period. If you think your student may be eligible, please contact the guidance office.
- **KANITZ SCHOLARSHIP** is a scholarship for Muskegon High School graduates only. It is based upon the following criteria: GPA, SAT scores, M-Step tests, attendance, extra-curricular activities and a submitted essay. Every student in the graduating class is eligible to apply for this scholarship. The application becomes available in Early April from the guidance office.

Muskegon Community Education Center (MCEC)

We are off to a great start here at Muskegon Community Education Center (MCEC). The students were very excited about returning to school.

We here at MCEC are excited to recognize our Students of the Month. These students were honored at a luncheon held in November which the staff catered. The following students were honored:

Aniya Bates-Williams
Trevair Covington
Keishawn Crowley
Markeon Hardy
Leroy Hill
Brion Hubbard

Jasmine Larson-Lambert
Natasha Manurs
Nancy Rodriguez
Dominique Scott
Demitri Wallace
Ne'Sean Walker



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General music has long been a mainstay of the elementary school experience, and at Muskegon Public Schools, it is no different. We are fortunate to have a tremendous elementary music team who extends the learning experiences past the traditional “sing-a-long” format of years gone by. As such, all Muskegon elementary students get an opportunity to prepare themselves to become the future Big Red Band, choir and orchestra stars with an intensive music curriculum.

For Sandy Elder, two of her most important goals for elementary music students are for them to develop their creativity and expand their horizons. She explains, “creative thinkers are successful in whatever fields they pursue in life, and the Arts are a perfect venue for exploring and developing these skills. In addition, giving students a chance to experience music of various cultures, time periods and genres is a great way for them to develop their understanding of the world and make connections between their own cultures and the world beyond.”

An important academic goal the K-12 music teachers have for their students is the ability to read music by the time they leave elementary school. “This starts with our youngest students learning very simple rhythms and increases in complexity through the grades. Learning to read music not only prepares them to enter secondary choir, band or orchestra, but helps develop their minds, especially the parts of the brain related to math and reading. There have been many neurological studies linking music literacy to development of the parts of the brain active in both math and reading. A recent study even showed that, when jazz musicians improvised, several areas of their brains on both hemispheres were active.”

Music experiences also include performing for an audience, something that Deb Krispin’s second grade students work on for their annual holiday shows.

“I want students to have the total experience- learning the music, rehearsing (practice makes perfect!), learning speaking parts, acting if necessary, watching the director, stage presence, setting up, cleaning up, being in front of an audience, etc.”

When asked about this year’s show, she continued, “I always use second grade for my holiday show so that everyone gets to perform in one Christmas musical during their elementary years. This year’s is a compilation of songs with scripting before each song. Songs include celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and Las Posadas. We use instruments purchased for us by the Big Red Ed Fund on some of the songs. Thirty students are memorizing parts, Santa, Mrs. Claus and Rudolph will be stopping by at the end of the show.”

While elementary music can bring much joy for students and teachers, it can also have its challenges. “One of our biggest challenges is that we only see the students once per week,” explained Miss Elder. “This means the students must remember what they’ve learned in our classes from one week to the next. Because elementary music is very participatory, meaning most learning takes place during class through active participation, it can be very challenging for absent students to catch up on lost learning.”

However, when the day is done, the rewards of elementary music far outweigh any challenges. “I LOVE how great kids feel about themselves after they have performed,” said Mrs. Krispin. “They are so proud--parents, family members, teachers, staff, all build them up--it’s a huge boost to their ‘love bank!’”



DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
1/9/17	2nd hour	Senior Class Meeting - Ordering Caps and Gowns	Auditorium, students only
1/20/17	7:00 PM	"Aladdin" Performance	Auditorium
1/21/17	2:00 & 7:00 PM	"Aladdin" Performance	Auditorium
1/25/17	Half Day	1st and 2nd hour Exams	
1/26/17	Half Day	3rd and 4th hour Exams	
1/27/17	Half Day	5th and 6th hour Exams	
1/30/17	Half Day	Records Day	
1/31/17	Half Day	Teacher Professional Development	
2/2/17	7:00 PM	Orchestra Concert	Auditorium
2/10/17	Half Day	Mid- Winter Break	
2/13/17	No School	Mid- Winter Break	
2/15/17	7:30 PM	Band Concert	Auditorium
2/27/17	6:30 PM	NHS Induction Ceremony	Auditorium
3/17/17	Half Day	Records Day	
3/20/17	6:00 PM	Winter Sports Banquet	Cafeteria
3/21/17	4:00-7:20	Parent-Teacher Conferences	Redmond-Potter Gym
3/22/17	3:30-6:30	Parent-Teacher Conferences	Redmond-Potter Gym
3/22-23/17	7:00 PM	West Michigan Student Showcase	Frauenthal Center for Performing Arts
3/23/17	Half Day	Teacher Professional Development	
3/24	Half Day		
3/31	Half Day		
4/3-4/7	No School	Spring Break	
4/11/17	Day	SAT Testing	All Juniors
4/12/17	Day	9th Grade- PSAT 9, 10th Grade- PSAT 10, 11th Grade- ACT Work Keys	
4/12/17	Day	Seniors- College Visit or Job Shadowing Experience	Off Campus
4/14/17	Half Day	Good Friday	
4/17/17	7:00 PM	Senior Oscar Night	Auditorium
4/26/17	7:00 PM	Band Concert	Auditorium
5/5/17	7:30 PM	Spring Theater Show	Auditorium
5/6/17	7:30 PM	Spring Theater Show	Auditorium
5/8/17	Half Day	Teacher Professional Development	
5/9/17	7:00 PM	Orchestra Concert	Auditorium
5/11/17	Day	Senior Exams- 1st-3rd hour	
5/12/17	Day	Senior Exams- 4th-6th hour	
5/12/17	7:00 PM	JRTOC Awards Ceremony	Auditorium
5/16/17	TBD	AP / Ceramics Art Show	Library
5/17/17	8:00 AM	Senior Breakfast	Cafeteria
5/17/17	9:00 AM	Senior Honors Program Practice	Gym
5/17/17	7:00 PM	Senior Honors Program	Gym
5/18/17	TBD	Jazz on the Waterfront	Heritage Landing
5/24/17	9:00 AM	Commencement Practice	LC Walker Arena
5/24/17	7:00 PM	Commencement	LC Walker Arena
5/26/17	Half Day	Hackley Day	
5/29/17	No School	Memorial Day	
6/9/17	Half Day	1st and 2nd hour Exams	
6/12/17	Half Day	3rd and 4th hour Exams	
6/13/17	Half Day	5th and 6th hour Exams	

MHS Principal, Arthur Garner



Arthur Garner
Muskegon High
School Principal

Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season was full of joy and love. With the coming of the New Year, we encourage parents to help us assist students in achieving their potential during the remainder of the school year. Our attendance goals require our students to achieve at least 95% attendance (fewer than 9 absences per year), at least 80% subject mastery on content assessments, and at least 90% homework completion. As a Big Reds Family, I am strongly suggesting that you partner with us in increasing the academic progress of your child by doing the following:

- Limit the amount of television watching or video games each day
- No Technology and Social Media for at least an hour every evening and devote at least 30 minutes to reading non-academic work
- Make sure that your child is well rested by having a reasonable bedtime each evening
- Make sure that your child has a quiet place to complete homework and has support with the work; if your child needs help and does not have support at home, be sure to ask for help
- Continue to check PowerSchool and communicate with teachers for guidance to support your child
- Ensure your child participates in after school tutoring if extra support is needed or if he/she needs a quiet place to study
- Reinforce the Big Reds "Positive Behavior Intervention Support" (PBIS) expectations that your child comes to school ready to follow school rules, listens to adults, and is a productive citizen in Muskegon High School's teaching and learning environments

Muskegon Public Schools uses PBIS as an intervention to manage behaviors. The PBIS team monitors and encourages appropriate social norms and behaviors with students. Students may earn tickets for appropriate behavior which may be spent at the monthly PBIS store or special events.

B - Believe
I - In
G - Greatness

R - Respectful
E - Excellent
D - Dependable
S - Safe



Have a great conclusion for the year,
Dr. Arthur Garner



Keith Guy
Athletic Director

Athletic Director
Keith Guy

CONGRATULATIONS to our All Conference and Honorable Mention Athletes!!

1st Team All-Conference

Kalil Pimpleton • Football
Jacorey Sullivan • Football
Anthony Bradford • Football
Antwan Reed • Football
Devin Sanders • Football
Derek Spann • Football
DJ Jackson • Football

Andrew Ward • Football
AJ Melton • Football
Demonte Neal • Football
Raquis Mcdonald • Football
Demetrio Lopez • Football
Angel Demetrio Lopez • Soccer



Honorable Mention

La'Darius Jefferson • Football
Jaden MCGough • Football
Dovell Wilson • Football
Willie Shanks • Football
Carlos Hernandez-Sias • Soccer
Renee Sischo • Volleyball

Congratulations to our Football
Team, and Coach Fairfield, for
winning the OK Black Conference,
District and Regional Titles.

CONGRATULATIONS BIG REDS!



BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Fri.	Jan. 13	Kenowa Hills H.S. (STAFF APPRECIATION GAME)	HOME	6:00 PM
Sat.	Jan. 14	Kenowa Hills H.S. (Floyd Mayweather Classic)	AWAY @ Ottawa Hills	TBA
Tues.	Jan. 17	Grand Rapids Union HS	AWAY	7:00 PM
Fri.	Jan. 20	Loyola High School	HOME	7:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 24	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	AWAY	7:30 PM
Fri.	Jan. 27	Jenison High School	HOME	6:00 PM
Fri.	Feb. 3	Mona Shores H.S. (PINK GAME)	HOME	6:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 7	Fruitport H.S.	AWAY	7:00 PM
Fri.	Feb. 10	Kenowa Hills H.S.	AWAY	6:00 PM
Sat.	Feb. 11	Ypsilanti Community Schools	AWAY	6:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 14	Grand Rapids Union HS	HOME	7:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 21	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	HOME	7:00 PM
Fri.	Feb. 24	Jenison H.S.	AWAY	6:00 PM
Thurs.	Mar. 2	Loy Norrix HS	AWAY	7:15 PM



GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Fri.	Jan. 13	Kenowa Hills H.S.	HOME	7:30 PM
Tues.	Jan. 17	Grand Rapids Union HS	HOME	7:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 24	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	HOME	7:00 PM
Fri.	Jan. 27	Jenison High School	HOME	7:30 PM
Sat.	Jan. 28	East Lansing (E. Grand Rapids Showcase)	AWAY	2:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 31	Grand Haven H.S.	HOME	7:00 PM
Fri.	Feb. 3	Mona Shores H.S. (STAFF APPRECIATION GAME)	HOME	7:30 PM
Sat.	Feb. 4	Ypsilanti Community Schools	HOME	6:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 7	Fruitport H.S.	HOME	7:00 PM
Fri.	Feb. 10	Kenowa Hills H.S.	AWAY	7:30 PM
Tues.	Feb. 14	Grand Rapids Union HS	AWAY	7:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 21	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	AWAY	7:00 PM
Fri.	Feb. 24	Jenison High School	AWAY	7:30 PM




VARSITY WRESTLING


DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Wed.	Jan. 11	Double Dual	AWAY @ Catholic Central	5:00 PM
Sat.	Jan. 14	Sparta Invitational	AWAY @ Sparta H.S.	10:00 AM
Sat.	Jan. 21	GMAA Invite	AWAY @ Reeths Puffer	9:00 AM
Wed.	Jan. 25	Double Dual	HOME	5:00 PM
Sat.	Jan. 28	Montague Invite	AWAY @ Montague H.S.	9:00 AM
Wed.	Feb. 1	Double Dual	AWAY @ Mason County Central	5:00 PM
Sat.	Feb. 4	OK Conference Tournament	AWAY @ Jenison	9:00 AM




VARSITY COMPETITIVE CHEER

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sat.	Jan. 14	Allendale Invite	AWAY @ Allendale H.S.	10:00 AM
Wed.	Jan. 18	Conference Jamboree	HOME	6:00 PM
Sat.	Jan. 21	Sparta Invite	AWAY @ Sparta H.S.	11:00 AM
Wed.	Jan. 25	Jenison Jamboree	AWAY @ Jenison H.S.	6:00 PM
Wed.	Feb. 1	Conference Finals	AWAY @ Fruitport H.S.	6:00 PM
Sat.	Feb. 4	Fruitport Invite	AWAY @ Fruitport H.S.	10:00 AM
Wed.	Feb. 22	GMAA Invite	AWAY @ Reeths Puffer	6:00 PM

 VARSITY BOWLING				
DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Wed.	Jan. 11	Kenowa Hills H.S.	AWAY	3:30 PM
Thurs.	Jan. 19	Jenison High School	HOME	3:30 PM
Mon.	Jan. 23	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	AWAY	3:30 PM
Wed.	Jan. 25	Fruitport H.S.	HOME	3:30 PM
Sat.	Jan. 28	Zeeland East Invitational	AWAY	8:30 AM
Mon.	Jan. 30	Grand Rapids Union HS	HOME	3:30 PM
Wed.	Feb. 1	Mona Shores H.S.	HOME	3:30 PM
Sat.	Feb. 4	Rocket Invite	AWAY	12:00 PM
Mon.	Feb. 6	Kenowa Hills H.S.	HOME	3:30 PM
Tues.	Feb. 14	Jenison High School	AWAY	3:30 PM
Wed.	Feb. 15	GMAA Tournament	HOME	2:00 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 16	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	HOME	3:30 PM
Sat.	Feb. 18	Post Conference Tournament	AWAY	9:00 AM

 BOYS 9TH GRADE BASKETBALL				
DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thurs.	Jan. 12	Kenowa Hills H.S.	HOME	5:30 PM
Tues.	Jan. 17	Grand Rapids Union HS	AWAY	4:00 PM
Fri.	Jan. 20	Loyola High School	HOME	4:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 24	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	AWAY	4:00 PM
Thurs.	Jan. 26	Jenison High School	HOME	5:30 PM
Tues.	Jan. 31	Grand Rapids Christian HS	AWAY	5:30 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 2	Mona Shores H.S.	HOME	5:30 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 9	Kenowa Hills H.S.	AWAY	5:30 PM
Sat.	Feb. 11	Ypsilanti Community Schools	AWAY	2:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 14	Grand Rapids Union HS	HOME	4:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 21	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	HOME	4:00 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 23	Jenison H.S.	AWAY	5:30 PM

 GIRLS 9TH GRADE BASKETBALL				
DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Tues.	Jan. 10	Fruitport H.S.	AWAY	4:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 24	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	HOME	4:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 31	Grand Haven H.S.	HOME	4:00 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 2	Mona Shores H.S.	AWAY	5:30 PM
Tues.	Feb. 7	Fruitport H.S.	HOME	4:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 21	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	AWAY	4:00 PM



Keep Your Student Healthy With Regular Scheduled Check-ups

Muskegon Teen Health Center
 80 W. Southern Ave.
 J Building—Room E113
 231.733.6680
 M, T, Th, F: 8 am—4:30 pm
 Wed.: 10 am—4:30 pm

Oakridge Teen Health Center
 251 S. Wolf Lake Road
 Oakridge Middle School Room 14
 231.733.6830
 M, T, Th, F: 8 am—4:30 pm
 Wed.: 10 am—4:30 pm


We accept most Medicaid products and private insurances (Copays are waived).


Both locations provide medical, Dental and Behavioral Health services to students from ALL districts ages 5—21.

WWW.HACKLEYCOMMUNITYCARE.ORG

 BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL				
DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thurs.	Jan. 12	Kenowa Hills H.S.	HOME	6:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 17	Grand Rapids Union HS	AWAY	7:00 PM
Fri.	Jan. 20	Loyola High School	HOME	7:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 24	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	AWAY	7:30 PM
Thurs.	Jan. 26	Jenison High School	HOME	6:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 31	Grand Rapids Christian HS	AWAY	6:00 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 2	Mona Shores H.S.	HOME	7:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 7	Fruitport H.S.	AWAY	6:00 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 9	Kenowa Hills H.S.	AWAY	6:00 PM
Sat.	Feb. 11	Ypsilanti Community Schools	AWAY	7:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 14	Grand Rapids Union HS	HOME	7:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 21	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	HOME	6:00 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 23	Jenison H.S.	AWAY	7:15 PM
Thurs.	Mar. 2	Loy Norrix HS	AWAY	

 GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL				
DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thurs.	Jan. 12	Kenowa Hills H.S.	AWAY	7:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 17	Grand Rapids Union HS	HOME	5:30 PM
Tues.	Jan. 24	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	HOME	5:30 PM
Thurs.	Jan. 26	Jenison High School	AWAY	7:00 PM
Tues.	Jan. 31	Grand Haven H.S.	HOME	5:30 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 2	Mona Shores H.S.	AWAY	7:00 PM
Sat.	Feb. 4	Ypsilanti Community Schools	HOME	4:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 7	Fruitport H.S.	HOME	5:30 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 9	Kenowa Hills H.S.	HOME	7:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 14	Grand Rapids Union HS	AWAY	5:30 PM
Tues.	Feb. 21	Reeths-Puffer H.S.	AWAY	5:30 PM
Thurs.	Feb. 23	Jenison High School	HOME	7:00 PM

 JUNIOR VARSITY WRESTLING				
DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sat.	Jan. 7	Holton Invite	AWAY @ Holton H.S.	9:00 AM
Sat.	Jan. 28	Grand Haven JV Invite	AWAY @ Grand Haven H.S.	9:30 AM

 JUNIOR VARSITY COMPETITIVE CHEER				
DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sat.	Jan. 14	Allendale Invite	AWAY @ Allendale H.S.	10:00 AM
Sat.	Jan. 21	Sparta Invite	AWAY @ Sparta H.S.	11:00 AM
Sat.	Feb. 4	Fruitport Invite	AWAY @ Fruitport H.S.	10:00 AM



WINTER SPORTS

Muskegon Middle School

School Technology Opens Doors to **ACHIEVE**

By Joshua Smith, Assistant Principal at MMS



MPS students are using 21st century classroom technology to increase reading comprehension and language use skills. Classroom sets of Google Chromebooks and programming called ACHIEVE3000 have opened doors for students to take their learning to new heights.

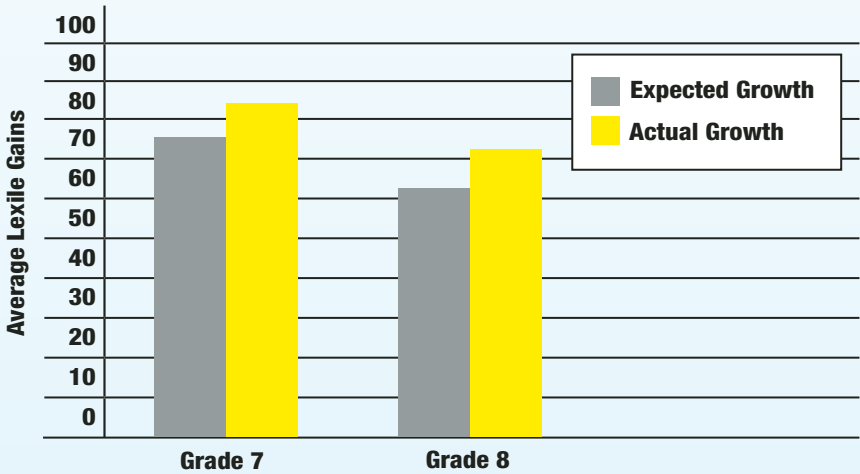
New technology makes it possible for a struggling reader to sit next to a student reading multiple grade-levels ahead and read the same article at each individual’s respective reading levels. This ensures that each student will be able to understand the material while still being challenged at a level that will help them experience growth.

ACHIEVE3000 allows for a teacher to assign an article to his or her class using a Chromebook. While any given class of 25+ students could have any combination of varying reading levels, Achieve3000 assures that when each individual student opens up his or her computer, the article that they see will be delivered at their specific reading level. Tens of thousands of AP articles were written and re-written so that each article can be delivered to students at their specific grade level, grades 1-12. The students can also read the articles in Spanish. Achieve3000 offers eight different versions of articles written in Spanish.

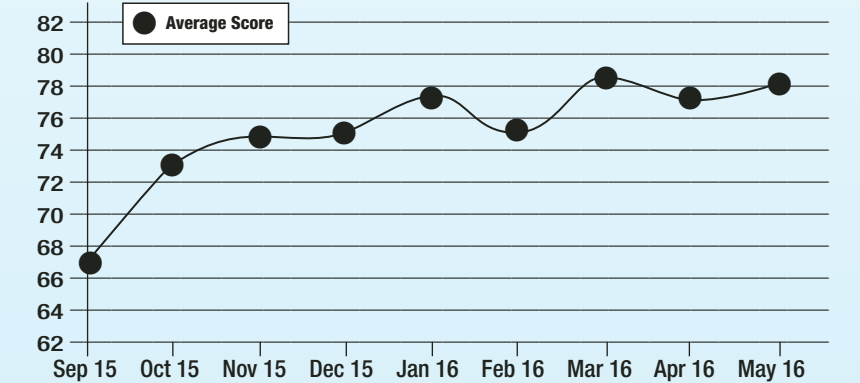
At Muskegon Middle School, the Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science classes read at least eight articles a month among the three classes. Last year, while teachers set out to ensure that their students were developing their reading and language skills at school, 86% of MMS students additionally logged onto ACHIEVE3000 after school on their own. In fact, since MMS started using ACHIEVE3000 to improve reading comprehension as a school, MMS students have logged on 5,154 times outside of school.

software), are called to the office and awarded a prize. The students are given their prize, and then their name is added to a drawing. After the semester ends, one of the weekly winners will have their name drawn, and they will be awarded the new iPad. The hardest working students have opportunities to win each week. The more a student reads, the more likely that student will have his or her name added into the hat for the drawing.

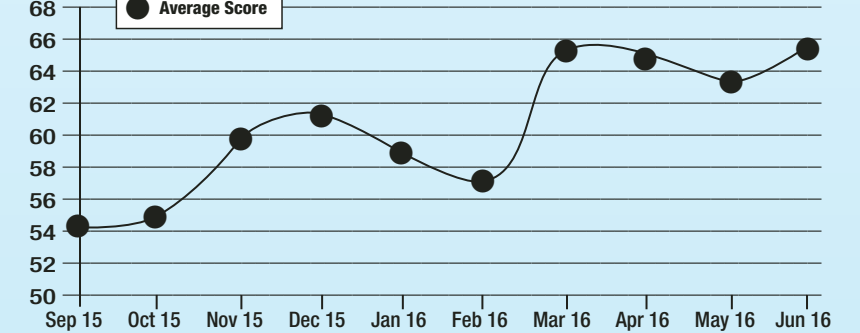
ACHIEVE3000 is being used throughout Muskegon Public Schools. Ask your kids if they are reading their articles.



Between September and May, students completed 86,676 vocabulary questions. Students Demonstrated an average 11.4 point gain on the vocabulary components of Michigan’s Curriculum Framework Content Standards and Benchmarks.



Between September and June, students completed 93,668 critical thinking questions. Students Demonstrated an average 11.2 point gain on the critical thinking components of Michigan’s Curriculum Framework Content Standards and Benchmarks.



When a student is done reading, specific questions are asked to test the students’ comprehension skills and vocabulary usage. They are also assigned writing prompts that require them to put their developing language skills to use. Last year, both the 7th and 8th grade student bodies exceeded their projected growth goals, increasing their reading levels more than one full year’s worth of growth. This was evident as the students answered a staggering 93,668 critical thinking questions and 86,676 vocabulary questions.

This year at Muskegon Middle School, one hard-working student will win a brand new iPad as a result of his or her hard work after school.

The highest “Achievers” (the individual students that demonstrate the most growth in any given week as identified by ACHIEVE3000

Marquette Elementary

"At the end of the day the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents." ~Jane D. Hull

At Marquette Elementary School, we believe that parent involvement is crucial to a child's success and we are focused on bringing parents, students, and teachers together in the educational process to ensure that all students are effective learners.

On October 27, 2016, we had our first parent involvement night at the school. It was an evening of learning and fun attended by approximately 700 parents and students. One of our activities had students and parents reading together with flashlights and parents were given special bookmarks that highlighted ways to help their students when reading at home.



Parents and students were also provided with math and writing activities to use at home in an effort to bridge the learning for all students.



Families had the opportunity to stop in the library for our Scholastic Book Fair and Teresa Sandoval, our DHS worker, was on hand to help out.

Our next Book Fair will be the week of March 6-10.

Our staff from Hackley Health Care Center was available to talk with parents and students about the negative effects of bullying.

When communities, families, and schools come together, anything is possible. The staff at Marquette School is committed to working with students and families.

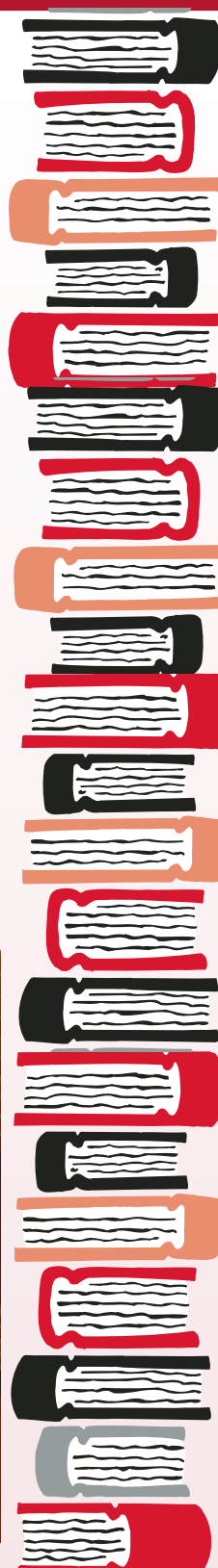
We will have at least two more parent partnership events this school year - one will be in March for Reading Month and the other will be to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Please be watching school newsletters for specific dates of these events. We hope to see you at Marquette!

STAFFING CHANGES:

- Keri Cooper - Principal
- Jennifer Kempster - Instructional Coach
- Kim Budnik - Kindergarten
- Kristina Precious - Second Grade
- Dylan Darga - Third Grade
- Rebecca Palen - Fourth Grade
- Katherine Lohman - Fifth Grade
- Alberto Saenz - 5th Grade TWI
- Robyn Fisher - ASD Teacher

Parent Meetings are held in the Marquette Library from 4-5 pm:

February 1, 2017
March 1, 2017
April 12, 2017
May 3, 2017
June 7, 2017



Lakeside Elementary

Lakeside Elementary Students Score a Goal with Muskegon Lumberjacks Reading Caravan Program!

The Muskegon Lumberjacks, members of the USHL (United States Hockey League) and leading producer of NCAA players and future players in the National Hockey League (NHL), have teamed with Lakeside Elementary students to promote reading and literacy to our students.

The United States Hockey League and the Muskegon Lumberjacks share a goal where the hockey players develop into successful young men on and off the ice while providing Division I hockey scholarships to 95% of the players. The Lumberjacks are committed to providing quality, affordable family entertainment and being positive role models to students in Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Hekkema, Mrs. Lakos, Mrs. Mocere, Mr. Poll, Mr. Presson, Mrs. Skoglund and Mrs. VanDalen's classrooms. Eighty-three of the school's students accomplished their first reading goal and they will receive a string backpack with the Lumberjack logo on it.



Students were asked to choose a reading goal with their teacher for three marking periods during the year. Two Lumberjack players visited each classroom and talked about the importance of reading and making healthy lifestyle choices. They also do team building activities and talk about sportsmanship and the importance of being a good sport and team member even as a member of Lakeside Elementary.

Players also share what the experience is like to play in the USHL. The league consists of 16 to 21-year-old players. Many leave their homes even earlier than that and live with a family they have never met. Some go to high school while playing hockey and some start their college courses at Muskegon Community College. Their day consists of morning practice, school, afternoon practice, physical workouts and then doing homework. There is very little free time. Even road trips take them on 16 hour bus trips to



North and South Dakota and the other side of Nebraska! The Muskegon Lumberjacks will visit one more time during March to celebrate reading month with the students. The Lakeside third graders and teachers worked extremely hard all year and are very deserving of this recognition.

Lakeside Elementary Special Events Calendar

Math Family Learning Night

Games, Take-aways and small meal provided:
February 6, 5:30-7:00 in the cafeteria

Happy Birthday Party for Dr. Seuss

Reading activities, take-aways and small meal provided
March 2, 5:30 - 7 in the cafeteria

Book Fair

The week of March 27 during parent-teacher conferences

PTO Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 4:30 in the library on the 2nd floor

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Nelson Elementary

“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world”
~ Nelson Mandela

NEW STAFF!

There have been many staff changes at Nelson this school year. Nelson Elementary has welcomed a new principal, 10 new teachers, support staff, coaches, and the Early Childhood Special Education program into our building!

Nelson School greeted over 60 new students into our Nelson family this school year!!

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Nelson School was awarded a School Improvement Grant from the Michigan Department of Education!!! We were given 3.1 million dollars to spend over the next 5 years! The money gives Nelson School many opportunities to improve the overall quality of education students receive on a daily basis.

Here are some of the exciting changes coming this year with the grant:

- Reduced class sizes
- Additional reading/math interventionists
- Reading Coach
- Data / Technology Coach
- Climate / Culture Coach
- Parent Liaison
- Family Resource Center
- S.T.E.M. materials
- Improved technology resources



UPCOMING FAMILY EVENTS AT NELSON

January 25	.....Writing Celebration	3:30-4:30
February 28	.....S.T.E.M. Night	5:00-6:30
March 28	.....Family Movie Night	5:30-7:30
April 26	.....Grandparents Day	3:30-4:30
May 23	.....Celebration of Learning	5:00-6:30

Sophomores & juniors, before registering for fall classes...

#CONNECTWITHTECH

January 25, 5-7P.M.



- Complete forms for enrollment
- Witness demonstrations
- Participate in hands-on activities
- Meet instructors and CTC students
- Learn about FREE college credit
- Enter to win an iPad Mini!



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Moon Elementary

MOON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL- AN EXCITING ACADEMIC RETREAT AT CAMP COURAGE

Shekinah Christian Ministries and the West Michigan Worship Center have joined forces to assist the fifth grade students of Moon Elementary School in an “Adopt-a-Class” program. At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, the two fifth grade classes of Mrs. Fran Ward and Ms. Angela Lang were the recipients of much needed school supplies and other teacher specific items. The local ministries wanted to do this because they know teachers will often use their own personal funds so their students will have all the basic supplies that are needed. In addition, some classroom assistance and tutoring were offered.



In an effort to further encourage and motivate students to do well in academics, behavior, and attendance, a challenge was presented. Twenty-six students (13 boys, 13 girls) were given the opportunity to participate in a special academic, fun-filled, action packed retreat at Camp Courage.

The Coordination staff wanted to make sure every student chosen to participate in this project, would be able to do so, regardless of their family’s financial situation. They started raising the thousands of dollars needed to present this retreat in excellence! Area businesses, organizations and individuals, were approached to ‘invest’ financially in our children for this event and thereby, invest in our community’s future! The retreat staff, event presenters, and Camp Courage staff volunteered more than 700 hours to produce this event!



Camp Courage emphasized concepts that encourage character development, traits of leadership, cooperation, accountability, adaptability, problem solving and teamwork. The intent of this dynamic leadership weekend, seasoned in camping adventures while teaching these concepts, was to make a fun, memory-filled event which would underscore what the student’s current academic experience at Moon Elementary has provided.

Camp Courage veteran campers often brag about the wonderful food at the camp! There is no shortage of fresh vegetables and fruits in addition to the traditional bill of fare. And, no camp is ever complete without campfires and S’mores.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR MOON SCHOOL:

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
School Leadership Team Meeting (SLT)	February 28th and March 28th	4:15-5:45
Muffins for Moms	Thursday, March 9th	2:30-3:30
Doughnuts for Dads	Thursday, March 16th	2:30-3:30
Title I Reading Night	Thursday, March 30th	5:00-6:30
Scholastic Book Fair	March 27th - March 31st	9:00-3:00
Title I Parent Luncheon	Tuesday, May 2nd	1:30-2:30

Oakview Elementary

The staff at Oakview Elementary School recognizes students who are outstanding Big REDS in and outside of the classroom.

This acknowledgement takes place on a monthly basis with our Student of the Month (SOM) Program. Students who have demonstrated Big REDS (Respectful, Excellent, Dependable and Safe) behaviors are awarded with a Student of the Month Certificate from Oakview Elementary and a State of Michigan Student of the Month certificate from our State Senator Geoff Hansen at our Big RED Assembly. Their pictures are on display for the month on our Student of the Month Bulletin Board and each Student of the Month attends a Pizza Party.



**SEPTEMBER
STUDENTS OF THE
MONTH**



**OCTOBER
STUDENTS OF THE
MONTH**



**NOVEMBER
STUDENTS OF THE
MONTH**



**DECEMBER
STUDENTS OF THE
MONTH**

NEW STAFF: Introducing the New Director of Special Education



**Christine
Robertson, PhD**
Director of
Special Education

Christine has been a devout and diligent advocate for students, especially individuals with disabilities. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame, she began providing services to students in community mental health and youth treatment facilities. She then returned to graduate school and earned a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology and a Specialist Degree in School Psychology. Christine worked in the field of school psychology for over a decade at Allegan Public Schools, Allegan ISD, and Northview Public Schools providing academic and behavioral assessment and intervention across all grade levels. An interest in systems-level intervention work motivated her to pursue leadership opportunities. She accepted an administrative position with the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District as a service area director providing special education technical assistance to multiple local school districts for three years. A family relocation brought Christine back to West Michigan where she has been a special education administrator for Grand Rapids Public Schools implementing a multi-tiered system of support in early childhood education. In addition, the proximity to Western Michigan University allowed her to complete her Doctorate Degree in Education with an emphasis in special education leadership in December of 2016. She would like to continue to bring a focus of student centered, data based processes to individualize and intensify interventions for students that need supports to her work at Muskegon Public Schools.



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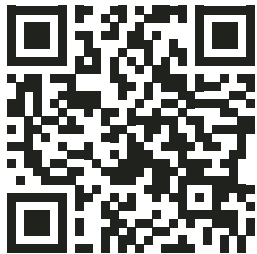


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Glenside Early Childhood Center

GLENSIDE PRE-SCHOOLERS EXPLORE

The setting... A large classroom with equipment to explore. Some of the items include: a water table with measuring cups and objects that float or sink, a sand table with trucks and hidden treasures to find in the sand, a bug collection to scope out, a reading area with special books, a white magnet board with activities to build on, a light table to look at different x-rays of animals and human parts, science area and more! This describes some of the items in the Explore Room for the Pre-school children at Glenside.

Each class takes time out to focus on exploring topics in the Explore Room. This room allows the children to take exploring and research to the next level with new items that are not available in their everyday classroom.

Having just one Explore Room allows the Early Childhood Program to purchase items to enhance their learning with the focused topic in the curriculum.

Here you see some of the areas the children are working on now.

