

# The Lighthouse View

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**In 2020, Learning is Happening Everywhere!**

## A LETTER FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

### #STRONGERTOGETHER

As I write this we are wrapping up week 9 of the school year and it has been nothing short of incredible. Whether in-person learning or distance learning at home was the choice that was best for your family during this first trimester we hope it has been as positive of an experience as possible. We certainly know that it has been different, but we celebrate the fact that our kids are learning, are engaged, and are connected.



In-person learning this year looks different, but it feels like it always has. Our students and staff have been absolutely amazing since day one. The care, respect, and intentional safety protocols that are meant to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our schools are working just as they were designed to do. There have been zero cases of COVID spread inside our schools. It has been clear from the first day of school that our families did an incredible job of preparing their kids to be back in school, follow the safety protocols, and most of all give their best effort each and every day. The resiliency our kids have shown during this time is inspiring as they have adjusted and adapted in order to keep moving forward.

At-home distance learners have navigated a whole new way to learn. Family support has been critical in making this work. We are thankful for the incredible work our staff has done to make this at-home learning a possibility

and we are equally thankful for the support our families have provided for their students. We know that learning at home takes a ton of support and the younger the learner the more support they need. While we look forward to the days when we can have all of our students face to face again, we also know that this at-home learning is a critical support for our families during this time.

It often gets said that "teamwork makes the dream work". That has never been more true than this year. The Sailor team, consisting of students, families, staff, Board members, public health, and community members has been an incredible support for our kids. Throughout the early days of the pandemic we would use #StrongerTogether as an anchor for our work as a community. Today, with an immeasurable amount of thankfulness for all of you, I can say that stronger together is what defines the Mona Shores community. It is because of our work together that our kids are learning safely, their mental health is supported, and our schools are providing the structure and routine that are keys to success.

Bill O'Brien, Jr.  
Superintendent, Mona Shores Public Schools



## A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

In 2018, I wrote in this space about how you might be surprised by the work put in by Mona Shores staff during the summer. That has never been more true than this year -- and it started well before summer.

When in-person school was shut down in March, our entire staff went into overdrive. In just a few days, they devised and executed a plan to educate our students and keep them connected in the early phase of the pandemic. Even before the last day of school last spring, they were talking about what worked well and what needed to get better if we had to keep teaching virtually in the fall. Through a summer filled with uncertainty and ever-changing guidance, they thought through and planned for every scenario and recommended a return-to-school plan the Board was proud to pass.

On top of all that, staff at Churchill and Campbell elementaries and central office administrators managed major construction projects to on-time completion despite pandemic-related work stoppages and supply chain disruptions.

And they did all that work and more while learning new tools and shepherding themselves and their own children and families through the fears and changes wrought by the pandemic. Their unceasing sacrifices of time and energy were and continue to be incredible, and I could not be more proud of their accomplishments.

Please join me in thanking these dedicated public servants for their work on behalf of our kids, our district and our community.

Stan Miller  
Board President  
Mona Shores Public Schools

## BOARD OF EDUCATION 2020-2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION
December 7, 2020	7-9 p.m.	Work Session	PLC
December 14, 2020	7-9 p.m.	Regular Session	PLC
January 11, 2021	7-9 p.m.	Combined Session	PLC
February 1, 2021	7-9 p.m.	Work Session	PLC
February 8, 2021	7-9 p.m.	Regular Session	MSHS
March 1, 2021	7-9 p.m.	Work Session	PLC
March 8, 2021	7-9 p.m.	Regular Session	Campbell
April 12, 2021	7-9 p.m.	Combined Session	Ross Park
May 3, 2021	7-9 p.m.	Work Session	PLC
May 10, 2021	7-9 p.m.	Regular Session	PLC
June 7, 2021	7-9 p.m.	Work Session	PLC
June 14, 2021	7-9 p.m.	Regular Session	PLC
July 12, 2021	7-9 p.m.	Combined Session	PLC

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# BONDED CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

*By Robert Jonker, Director of Finance*



Churchill Classroom Addition

To say it's been a challenging year is an understatement, especially for our construction projects. The shut down in spring forced us to adjust our phasing plans for both Churchill and Lincoln Park buildings. Here are some highlights of what we have accomplished since March.

## Churchill

Four new classrooms have been added at the south end of the west wing where the media center was located. A new media center has been added to the south side of the existing gym and is currently sectioned off into two temporary classrooms to give us relocation space during construction. A new art room is being created in the east side of the existing gym and a new kitchen/serving area is in process on the west side. Once complete, the existing gym will become our new cafeteria. We hope to have the kitchen/cafeteria available for use in January 2021. There is a new drop off loop and parking lot on the west side of the building and a new gym and music room is underway on the east side. We hope to have the new gym/music space ready for occupancy by spring break 2021.



Churchill Gym/Music



Lincoln Park Gym/Music

## Lincoln Park

All new domestic and HVAC water lines have been replaced and an additional boiler has been installed. We have also replaced the air conditioning chiller unit and added an emergency generator. The existing gym has been mostly demolished and is in process of being converted to a new lobby/bathroom space for our new gym and cafeteria. The new gym/music room and kitchen/cafeteria walls and roof are mostly complete and interior work is in process. We hope to have this space ready for occupancy by spring break 2021. Additionally, we have torn down the old media center and are in the process of building the new office/lobby space in that location. We hope to have that space ready at approximately the same time as the gym/cafeteria.



Churchill West Parking Lot



Lincoln Park Office

## High School

The fire alarm panel and all related devices and wiring were replaced over the summer. There has been an issue with false alarms over the

years and this work was undertaken to correct the situation. We also resurfaced the track and painted new lines. The underlying asphalt was in excellent condition so we hope to have several years of use with the new surface. The tennis courts had some concrete removed and replaced as well as cracks in the asphalt sealed. We then resurfaced all courts and installed new nets. While this isn't a permanent repair, we hope to get five or more years of use before we will have to resurface again. The middle school courts were resurfaced and nets replaced as well.



High School Tennis Court



High School Track

## Sinking Fund

While we have been holding the majority of the funds in the Sinking Fund in reserve to assist with our bond construction projects, we did utilize some of it this summer to improve the appearance of the bus garage/maintenance location. We have removed the old baseball fields which were in unplayable condition and made the area green space. We have sunk new irrigation wells and irrigated the entire area. Old dead or dying trees were removed and new trees planted along with the entire area being re-seeded.

Overall, construction is proceeding well and we hope to start construction at Campbell Elementary this November. That building is currently out for bid as I write this and bids are due October 27. We hope to go out for bids on Ross Park Elementary this December with construction on that building starting this spring. What an exciting time to be a Sailor!

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—Hunter Duzen,  
Mona Shores High School

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# TEACHING *and* LEARNING

*A Message from Andy Hogston, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment*

## LEARNING DURING A PANDEMIC

A year ago at this time I certainly would not have been able to predict that we would be enduring the life altering complications of a world-wide Pandemic. The last 7 months have been challenging, uncertain, and unpredictable, but through it all we remain resolute in our commitment and convictions to provide viable education options for our school community. This includes both in-person and virtual/distance learning K-12. Extensions of learning outside the classroom are beginning as some of our safety guidelines ease. Fall sports are underway. Flexibility and a sense of humor have been paramount to navigating the new educational landscape.

## IN-PERSON LEARNING

The majority of our parents and students chose the option of “in-person” learning this fall. This equates to roughly 75 percent of students enrolled at Mona Shores (K-12). It looks different and feels different in many ways, but has provided some sense of things slowly returning to normal. Many have expressed an appreciation for reconnecting and that restoring the learning community has had a great impact socially, emotionally, and on learning in general. Students and staff are required to wear masks, social distance, and adhere to strict safety guidelines, but we are collectively making things work.

### ***In-Person Learning at a glance:***

**Elementary** - 5 days a week from 8:25 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Breakfast and lunch in the classroom. Recess and specials facilitated by classroom teachers.

**Middle School** - 4 days a week from 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in-person with Wednesday at home learning. Breakfast in the classroom and lunch sent home with the student. Students are in contained classrooms and taught Remotely (facilitated by classroom teacher).

**High School** - Hybrid Model: A/B Cohorts 2 days per week (7:40 a.m.-2:50 p.m.) in person and three days a week from home.

## VIRTUAL/DISTANCE LEARNING

Twenty-five percent of our families have committed to virtual/distance learning for the 1st trimester. This equates to 960 students district-wide that have opted for this learning experience. This has been a massive undertaking and has required the collaboration and cooperation of many. Patience, understanding, and grace have allowed all of this planning, coordination, and implementation to happen. Virtual/distance learning is a commitment for the first trimester. Should technical support be required for the District issued Chromebook, please call 231-780-6730.

### ***Virtual/Distance Learning at a glance:***

**Elementary** - 5 days a week from 8:25 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Middle School** - 5 days a week from 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

**High School** - 5 days a week from 7:40 a.m.-2:50 p.m.

This all feels like an experiment of sorts as we venture into uncharted territory. Our goal is to provide the best educational experience possible despite more variables, constraints, and considerations than ever before. We continue to learn, improve, and adapt our efforts daily. This has not been without frustrations and obstacles, but the students, families, and staff of Mona Shores have shown what can be accomplished with a true Sailor team effort! In mid-October we will officially begin planning for the second trimester.

### **A Comparison of Virtual/Distance Learning & In-Person Learning:**

Grade	Virtual/Distance Students	In-Person Students
Kindergarten	68	202
First	76	189
Second	76	184
Third	82	180
Fourth	77	180
Fifth	91	185
Sixth	70	203
Seventh	83	224
Eighth	106	204
Ninth	61	280
Tenth	64	256
Eleventh	57	267
Twelfth	49	260
<b>Total</b>	<b>960 (25%)</b>	<b>2,814 (75%)</b>

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## ASBESTOS ANNOUNCEMENT

The regulations of federal law 40 CFR 763.84, as published in the Federal Register, require that local educational agencies annually notify various groups, including building occupants or their legal guardians, regarding asbestos containing materials in the school district buildings and plans related thereto. The above are hereby notified that management plans and inspection reports are available for review at both the Mona Shores Schools Administration building and the office of the Principal in each individual school building.

As specified in the management plans, the district inspects its facilities on a regular basis in compliance with the regulations of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. The areas in district buildings containing asbestos have been evaluated and judged to present no health hazard in their current condition as determined by the guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Public Health.

The district will continue to regularly inspect all areas to assure that the buildings will meet all federal, state and local health and safety standards.

## PESTICIDE ADVISORY

Please note that Mona Shores staff must occasionally apply pesticides within and around our school buildings. Except in emergencies, prior notice will be provided by mail before these applications occur to parents who submit a request form. If an emergency application takes place, you will be informed immediately thereafter. If you desire prior notification, please complete the Request for Advance Notification of a Pesticide Application available on our website at [www.monashores.net](http://www.monashores.net) on the Parents tab or in district building offices. For additional information, please contact **Mona Shores Public Schools Operations Department, attention Kurt Jeffries, 121 Randall Road, Norton Shores, MI, 49441, 231-780-4751, extension 8268.**

## A Look Ahead:

- November 25 Half Day K-12th Grade (No PM Preschool Classes)
- November 26-27 No School PS-12th Grade – Thanksgiving Break
- December 3 First Trimester Ends
- December 4 No School K-12th Grade – SEL Day
- December 21- January 1 No School PS-12th Grade – Holiday Break

**Head Start:** A federally funded preschool program that offers three and four year old children a full day of educational experiences. Breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack are provided.

**Great Start Readiness Program:** A state sponsored preschool experience for 4-year-olds. AM or PM sessions are offered.

**Classrooms are located in Ross Park Elementary. Please call 231-865-4102 for information.**

Both programs are FREE to families that qualify.

**We accept applications all year long!**

*If interested, virtual options may be available*






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Visit us under  
**Mona Shores Public Schools**

## Accepting New Patients ages 5-21

Medical, Dental, Behavioral Health Services

### Our mental health therapists are waiting to talk to you!

Students can speak with a behavioral health provider via a device with a camera and a microphone. The device can be a Smartphone, Laptop, Tablet, or Personal Computer. The patient needs to ensure you are connected to Wi-Fi and using Chrome, FireFox, or Safari as a web browser. You should always conduct your virtual visit in a private space.

**Call the Muskegon Teen Health Center at 231.733.6680 to schedule your virtual visit.**



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**BUILDING PHONE NUMBERS**

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CAMPBELL ELEMENTARY .....	(231) 755-2550
CHILD CARE OFFICE .....	(231) 780-6720
CHURCHILL ELEMENTARY .....	(231) 798-1276
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**Mona Shores Food Service is excited to announce free meals for ALL children 18 and under for the entire school year! We will also be offering weekend meals, snacks, and supper meal packages on distribution days.**

For students who are all virtual, there is a 7 day meal pack, with 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 snacks and 7 suppers.

Students who are going in person 2 days will receive a 5 day meal pack. (5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 snacks, 7 suppers.)

Students who are in person 4 days a week (Middle) will receive a 4 day pack, (4 breakfast and lunches, 7 snacks and suppers)

Students who are in school 5 days a week will receive a 2 day pack (2 breakfast and lunches, 7 snacks and suppers).

Please go to [www.monashores.net](http://www.monashores.net), click on food service, and click on the Meal Pick up Sign up Form. We ask that you please sign up so the food service knows how many packages to prepare. You may also sign up for siblings who are not yet in school, or are 18 and under.

Distribution is Wednesdays at Mona Shores Middle School from 10:00AM-11:00AM and 5:00PM-6:00PM in the West Parking Lot Loop (Football Field Area)

**If you have any questions, please reach out to Bethany Taylor-Moore at [mooreb@monashores.net](mailto:mooreb@monashores.net).**

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