



The Lighthouse View

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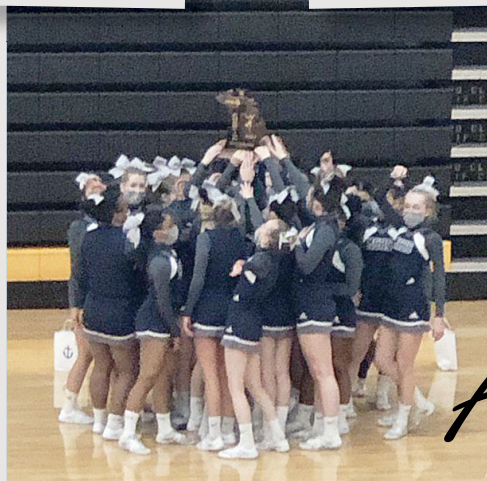
Mona Shores Sailors Find Success in Unique School Year



Academics



Arts



Athletics



PROGRESS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

Progress through the pandemic has been a very challenging concept. Despite that challenge, we know our Mona Shores community expects progress to continue. Future thinking and planning is a key for our District to continue to set the bar for student success and community support. While we are always planning and thinking about academics and student success, we have also had the unique opportunity to focus on our facilities thanks to the community support of the 2018 Bond.

Construction continues all around Mona Shores Schools. An intentional focus on the elementary buildings has been our mantra from day one. When construction is complete all 4 elementary buildings will be like brand new, inside and out. Plumbing, electrical, carpet, paint, lockers, furniture, classroom technology,

offices, windows, doors, HVAC, and digital signs are just some of the features that will be updated when this work is complete. Pictures of the progress can be found at <https://www.mspsbond2018.com>.

At this time all four elementary buildings are under construction. Our students, staff, and families have been incredible with their flexibility as construction often changes entrances, drives, and hallways. We look forward to the completion of each of these projects. The timeline is below:

Campbell: Currently under construction with scheduled completion in December 2022.

Churchill: Currently under construction with scheduled completion in April 2022.

Lincoln Park: Currently under construction with scheduled completion in September 2021.

Ross Park: Currently under construction with scheduled completion in September 2023.

The middle school construction is set to begin about one year from now. The work there is scheduled to include new locker commons at the end of each wing, all classrooms will be refreshed with carpet, paint, classroom technology, and furniture. Windows, doors, restrooms, plumbing, electrical, and HVAC are planned as well.

As you can see, progress, planning, and future thinking have continued in our schools. We look forward to being able to welcome our school community into these updated and overhauled facilities when they are complete. As always, thank you for your partnership and support as we all work to make Mona Shores the best place to be a student!

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

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BONDED CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

By Robert Jonker, Director of Finance

Construction at all elementary buildings is well underway. Lincoln Park Elementary is about 70% complete and will be fully completed by September 2021. Churchill Elementary is about 60% complete and is scheduled to be completed by April 2022. Campbell Elementary started this December and is 10% complete with a scheduled completion date of December 2022. Finally, Ross Park elementary started construction this spring break and has a completion date of September 2023. Total construction cost for all four buildings is approximately \$56,495,000 not including contingency and fees. Currently, of the \$46,179,375 received for the bonds we sold in February 2019, we have approximately \$9,300,000 remaining.

On April 1, 2021 we closed on our second series of bonds for a total amount of \$47,044,904 to fund the remaining balance of construction. These bonds sold at a premium with a par value of \$38,170,000 and a coupon rate which varied between 4% and 5%. The effective interest rate the District will have to pay on this series is 2.79% over the life of the bonds which will be fully redeemed in 2048. We had excellent participation in the bond sale with

over \$168,000,000 worth of orders for the bonds, equating to more than a 400% subscription rate. This demand reflects the quality of the issue and the desire and trust the market has in investing in Mona Shores!

When we asked our community to approve the bond in 2018, we presented a 30-year plan where we could address the needs of the District without having to increase the millage rate over that period. Part of that plan is to renew the 2015 Bond when it matures in 2030. I'm happy to report that based on how the two bond sales for the 2018 Bond were structured, in regards to interest rates and maturity payoff schedules, when we ask the community in 2030 to renew the 2015 Bond we will be able to generate approximately \$60 million without having to increase the debt levy. This will allow us to complete whatever is still needed at the Middle School and do some great things at the High School. Overall, the District is set up well to address its infrastructure needs for the foreseeable future. What an exciting time to be a Sailor!



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The Lighthouse View

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Mona Shores

2021 STATE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Beginning after Spring Break (April-June), schools in Michigan traditionally begin giving the annual State assessments in 3rd grade through 11th grade. The COVID-19 Global Pandemic cancelled these assessments in 2020, but The Federal and State government have been debating about what the correct approach may be for this year. 3rd grade through 8th grade will give the M-STEP, which is the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress. 8th graders will also be taking the PSAT for ELA and Math. 9th and 10th grade students will take the PSAT and 11th grade students will take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which includes SAT/ACT WorkKeys and the M-STEP. Much of these required assessments are administered on-line. The MDE has granted an extended testing window and there may be further flexibility and guidance soon. In the meantime, Mona Shores will be fully prepared for the M-STEP, SAT, and all other State Assessments from a student, staff, and technology perspective.

- The M-STEP will assess students in 3rd-7th grades in English language arts (reading, writing, and listening) and mathematics. Science and Social Studies will be assessed in 5th and 8th grades.
- Grades 8, 9, and 10 will be assessed using the PSAT which assesses reading, writing, math, and critical thinking.
- Grade 11 will be assessed in Science and Social Studies in addition to the SAT.

Grade	Assessment	Assessment Window	Estimated Time
k-12	WIDA	Jan.27th - April 9th	80 minutes
3rd grade	ELA and Math	April 26 - June 4, 2021	3.5 hours
4th grade	ELA and Math	April 26 - June 4, 2021	3.5 hours
5th grade	ELA, Math, Science, & SS	April 12 - May 21, 2021	6 hours
6th grade	ELA and Math	April 26 - June 4, 2021	4 hours
7th grade	ELA and Math	April 26 - June 4, 2021	4 hours
8th grade	PSAT, Science, and SS	April 12 - May 21, 2021	5:10 hours:mins
9th grade	PSAT	April 27,2021	2:40 hour:mins
10th grade	PSAT	April 27, 2021	2:40 hours:mins
11th grade 11th grade 11th grade	M-STEP Science & SS SAT ACT Work Keys	April 12 - May 21, 2021 April 27, 2021 April 28, 2021	2 hours 4:22 hours:mins 3 hours

The table to the right will help lay out our assessment plan for the 2021 testing season.

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TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION



The Mona Shores Public Schools Transportation Department is currently taking applications for current and future school bus drivers and school bus aides.

If you or someone you know has a positive attitude, enjoys being around kids of all ages and

would like to commit to a few hours of work each school day, then driving a school bus may be a great opportunity to meet new people and learn new skills!

Driving a school bus or assisting students as a bus aide can be a great way to stay involved with your school, get to know other students and staff and also have a positive impact on hundreds of students each school day.

Our personalized in house training program is flexible enough to accommodate most any schedule yet rigorous enough to get you licensed and certified within the state required timelines.

As a special incentive, we are also offering a sign on bonus of \$500 for each successful bus driver or bus aide as well as a \$500 referral incentive should you bring us a successful bus driver or aide. This referral program applies to any person currently employed by Mona Shores Public Schools or any person associated as a third party contractor for Mona Shores Public Schools.

(For detailed qualifications please contact the transportation office.)

In closing, if you or someone you know would like to learn more about the opportunities in the Mona Shores Transportation Department, please call Dave Muskovin at 231-332-8269 or Robyn Richardson at 231-332-8270 for more details.

Kids need stability to thrive

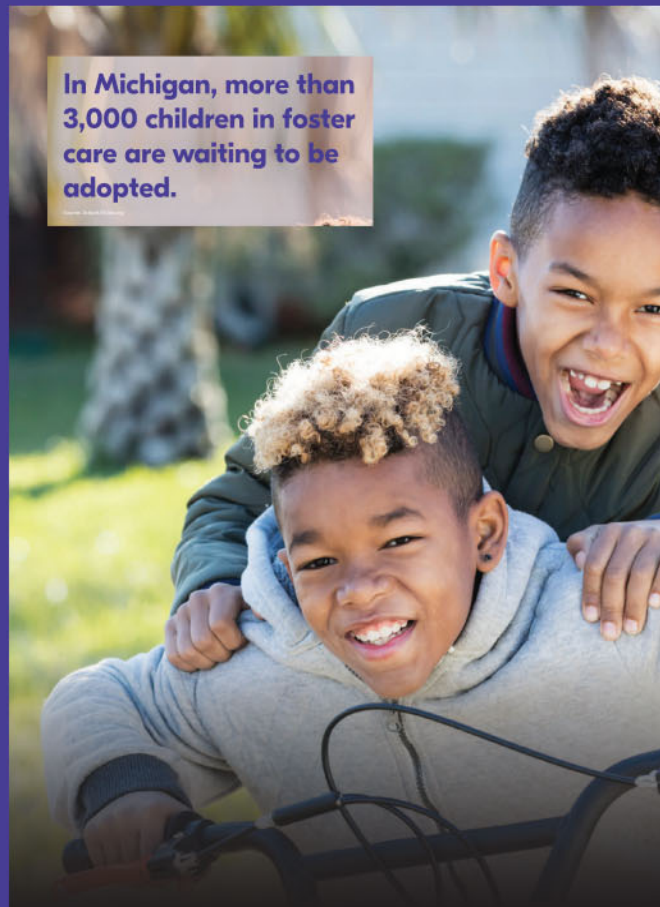
Children in foster care often move from place to place. You can give them a place to call home.

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Foster care and foster care adoption vary by state.

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Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics Bring Sense of Hope and Security to Muskegon County School Employees

By Sue McAvoy, Director of Human Resources

Keeping mentally, physically, and emotionally healthy during “normal” life is challenging enough, but add in a pandemic and....well, you all know what that does. Let’s face it, we have all been living it for over a year now.

However, from the time the Covid-19 vaccine became available back in December of 2020, local school superintendents have been working closely with officials at Public Health Muskegon County to fast track getting our school employees

vaccinated so that in-person instruction could either continue or in some districts begin for the first time this school year in a safe and healthy manner. This led to the development of local vaccine clinics held at Mona Shores High School from mid January through mid March. Weekly between three and four hundred plus local school employees, including Muskegon Community College staff, were able to receive both doses of the Moderna Vaccine. As our volunteers talked with the individuals receiving the vaccine, it was evident that it brought hope, it lifted spirits, and it gave people a sense of life back. And even though we are not fully “out of the woods,” it has brought a feeling of security to so many of our local educators. The vaccine clinics also brought a sense of community back as well. After receiving a dose of the vaccine, it was required of the “patient” to wait a period of fifteen minutes while being observed by a doctor, prior to being released from the building. During that fifteen minutes, it was not uncommon to see the 6 foot spaced chairs in the “waiting area” being turned toward their neighbor and year long catch up conversations taking place. Keep in mind that although these staff members may work for the same school district, they have not been able to collaborate in person for over a year. Seeing each other and being able to spend that fifteen minutes with their colleagues felt like a kid at recess. It was a feeling of pride and freedom even if for such a short period. Truth be told, as their fifteen minutes expired, we actually had to start asking people to leave the waiting area, with a smile of course, as laughter and loud voices shared story after story with their “long lost” comrades.

Putting these clinics together was important and necessary work and took numerous volunteers from both Mona Shores and Public Health Muskegon County. I would most certainly be amiss if I did not publicly thank our Mona Shores office staff for their commitment to this mission every single Saturday for over two months. They showed up week after week with a smile and a servant attitude. In addition, Public Health Muskegon County also provided incredible nurses, a doctor, those staff needed to input data into the state vaccination portal, as well as a Public Health leader. Quite honestly, it felt like a family after being together every Saturday for this period of time. I also want to thank Mona Shores Superintendent, Bill O’Brien as well as Whitehall Superintendent, Jerry McDowell for their vision and leadership at these clinics. I believe it goes without saying, but without these incredible volunteers and their commitment to getting school employees vaccinated, these clinics would not have taken place. We are grateful to each and every one of you.



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GO SAILORS!

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.



If interested, virtual options may be available

Mona Shores COMMUNITY CHILD CARE CENTER

Mona Shores Community Child Care Center

offers families a warm and enriching environment where young children can play, learn and grow together. We care for children ages 6 weeks through fifth grade by offering age-appropriate opportunities for learning through play. Each of our lead staff is certified in Early Childhood Development and trains yearly to further their professional skills and learn the latest in early childhood education.



INFANT - TODDLER AGES 6 WEEKS - 2 YEARS

For more than 20 years, parents have trusted our licensed center to provide a warm and welcoming place for their infants and toddlers to grow and discover the world around them. Our experienced and certified staff provides loving care and age-appropriate play, feedings and rest time in a structured daily routine.

PRESCHOOL AGE AGES 3-5

Our preschool program serves children ages 3-5

and those enrolled in Mona Shores preschool, GSRP and Headstart programs. Full or partial day care is available for before, during or after school hours. Each day is filled with opportunities to carry on the lessons our preschoolers are learning in school. Sharing, calendar time, center play, arts and crafts and story time are just a few of our favorite daily activities.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 5TH GRADE

“Sailor Care,” is our before and after school program for children in kindergarten through fifth grade at each of our elementary schools. Our trained staff provides a variety of fun activities including crafts, games, sports, gym and outdoor playtime at each of our elementary schools in the Mona Shores Public School District.

CENTER HOURS MONDAY-FRIDAY, 7 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

Our Center is closed on major holidays, and a few other days throughout the year when we provide training to our staff. Ample time of these dates will be provided in the event that we are closing.

“Sailor Care” sites other than Ross Park Elementary are closed on Snow Days.

FEES

Please contact us today at (231) 780-6720 to learn about our current fees and availability. Space is limited.

SUMMER SAILOR CARE FUN

Looking for something fun for your child to do this summer? We have weekly adventures for children of ALL ages! Join us for fun activities such as ooey goeey science experiments, field trips, arts and crafts and lots of other fun opportunities! Summer Sailor Care sign ups begin in April. Don't wait, you won't want to miss this summer's daily adventures!



Visit our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/MonaShoresCommunityChildCareCenter!](https://www.facebook.com/MonaShoresCommunityChildCareCenter/)

2021-2022 TUITION PRESCHOOL

AT MONA SHORES SCHOOLS



Mona Shores Tuition Preschool offers preschool classes for children who will be three or four years of age by December 1st. We offer ½ day class and a full day class. All classes are located at Ross Park Elementary. Each class has two certified teachers that meet the requirements for Early Childhood Education through the State of Michigan.

Our tuition program has an outstanding reputation in our community for over 43 years!

We offer a play-based curriculum in a caring and supportive environment that allows young students to develop a lifelong love of learning. We collaborate

closely with Mona Shores Kindergarten and the Curriculum office. We are dedicated to making sure their year is filled with opportunities to prepare them for Kindergarten or the next level of preschool. Our preschool students have opportunities to explore special activities and school experiences which aid in providing a smooth transition, easing student fears, and helping them to adapt quickly. This joint effort means greater success for all children!

For more information or to enroll your child into preschool for the 2021-2022 school year, please contact our Early Childhood Office at 231-780-4748. Residency is not required for our tuition program. Non-resident students enrolled in our Mona Shores Early Childhood Programs are not guaranteed school of choice acceptance but are placed in a preferred category for school of choice openings.

A non-refundable \$40 registration fee along with one-month's tuition as a deposit is required with application. Tuition assistance may be available for families who qualify. Classes fill up fast – don't wait, enroll today!



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Mission Statement: Inspiring excellence, building character, and impacting the future through academics, arts, and athletics...Mona Shores!

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- CENTRAL OFFICE(231) 780-4751
- CAMPBELL ELEMENTARY.....(231) 755-2550
- CHILD CARE OFFICE(231) 780-6720
- CHURCHILL ELEMENTARY(231) 798-1276
- COMMUNITY SERVICES(231) 780-4748
- LINCOLN PARK ELEMENTARY(231) 755-1257
- PRESCHOOL.....(231) 780-4748
- ROSS PARK ELEMENTARY(231) 798-1773
- MIDDLE SCHOOL.....(231) 759-8506
- HIGH SCHOOL(231) 780-4711

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

2020-2021 has proven to be a challenging year for everyone, including Technology folks. This past year, we have experienced a dizzying pace of change with very significant decisions and little time to make them. As a result, we have tested our limits and realized what we can actually accomplish. Navigating equipment supply chain issues and repairs has been one of our biggest tasks throughout this time. I'd like to thank our Team, Joe, Steven, Ian and Ryan for their hard work.

2021-2022 brings more change with bond construction at the Elementary buildings. We will be shifting from the aged projector/screen setups that were installed in 2005, to interactive 86" LED panels for the remodeled classrooms. The interactive panels offer a more engaging experience with our students. We look forward to making this transition to the next generation of classroom learning with our teachers and students.

Chad Pranger
Director of Technology

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