



# *The* Norsemen Pride

May 2021 | Issue 26

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INSIDE

## Division 4 Coach of the Year

North Muskegon Tennis Coach Cody Liverance was named the Division 4 Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association, a statewide organization. Mr. Liverance coaches boys and girls tennis programs at NM, provides private lessons, helps run summer camps for our community, and is part of the planning committee working on creating eight new tennis courts for North Muskegon! He is also one of our MS/HS Social Studies teachers. Cody has led our boys tennis team to their first conference title and a state ranking at No. 6. Our girls tennis team won a regional championship and two conference titles, among other honors. Mr. Liverance, a graduate of North Muskegon, has proven his dedication to our NM students and athletes, and his skill as a teacher and coach.

Congratulations Mr. Liverance on this well-deserved honor!



*Pictured: Mr. Cody Liverance, Sarah Muzzy, Carina Steketee*



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## A Message From Our Superintendent!



### Hello Norse Nation!

I hope this edition of Norsemen Pride finds you and your loved ones doing well and staying healthy! Spring is definitely in the air and I am hopeful you are enjoying it!

Yes, these continue to be trying times, but as you read this edition please take in all of

the amazing things our students have accomplished. Our students, staff, parents and community can be proud of our perseverance and Norse pride. It shines through in the following pages - enjoy!

As we move through our last month or so of this school year... I ask all of us to stay positive, continue to look out for each other, trust in positive intention, and work together for the advancement of our students. We are going to make the home stretch of this school year AMAZING! Thank you Norse Family!

Take care!

Dr. Babcock  
Superintendent

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# TEAM TATE!



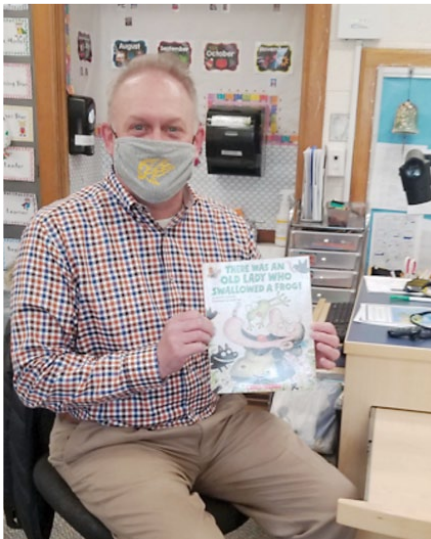
Recently, 8th grader Tate Pannucci was diagnosed with B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. He has received wonderful care at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital! Students, staff, and friends have joined together to create a Team Tate shirt, designed by senior Greta Goszkowicz. Mr. Byard led an "Orange Out" day for staff and students to celebrate Tate's birthday and show our support. Our Norse community sends good wishes and positive thoughts to Tate and the Pannucci Family!



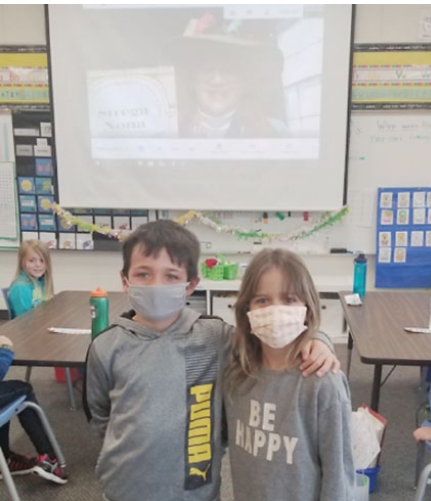
TEAM  
  
TATE





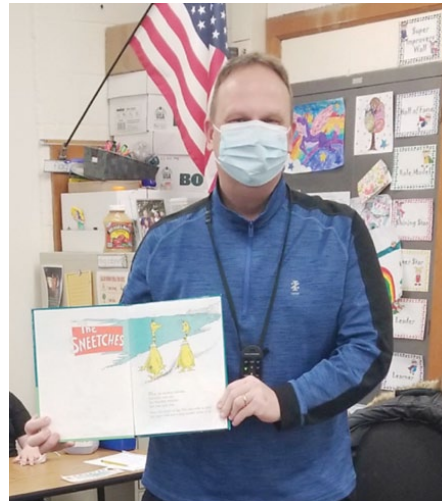


Dr. Babcock, NMPS Superintendent, reads to Kindergarten students in Mrs. Atchison's room



Mrs. Mary Bakale, former 1st grade teacher at NM Elementary and grandma to Will and Penelope Peterson, visited the classroom virtually, dressed as Strega Nona! She enjoyed reading "Strega Nona" to Mrs. Atchison's kindergarten class!

## Relishing Reading at NM Elementary!



Elementary Principal, Dr. Steven Sanocki, reads a favorite Dr. Seuss book to Kindergarten students in Mrs. Atchison's room!



NMPS Board Member Mrs. B reads to our 2nd grade students.

# March is



## Our 3rd grade celebrated "March is Reading Month" with a traditional Lumberjack breakfast!



The third graders had a "Lumberjack Breakfast" to celebrate Reading Month. The jacks ate a delicious breakfast in the grub hall (classroom) consisting of flappers (pancakes), sausage, black lead (coffee, but hot chocolate for us) and sinkers (donuts).

They learned about Michigan's role in the lumber era. The kids also learn about Muskegon (The Lumber Queen) having an essential part in our



# Reading Month!

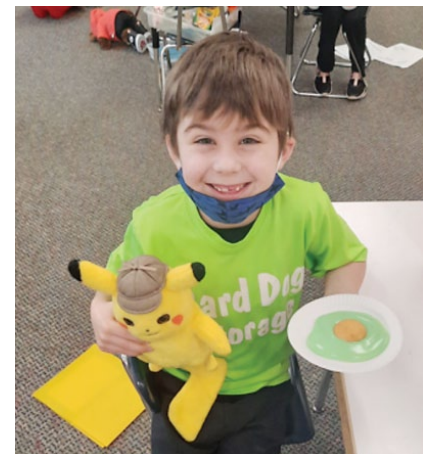


Mr. DeLong, Mrs. Budzinskiy, Ms. Gerardi, and Ms. Cutler dressed as Lumberjacks for the celebration...with masks to match!

state's economic activity of logging. The classes read *Journey Back to Lumberjack Camp* by Janie Lynn Panagopoulos to help understand a jack's life in a lumber camp.

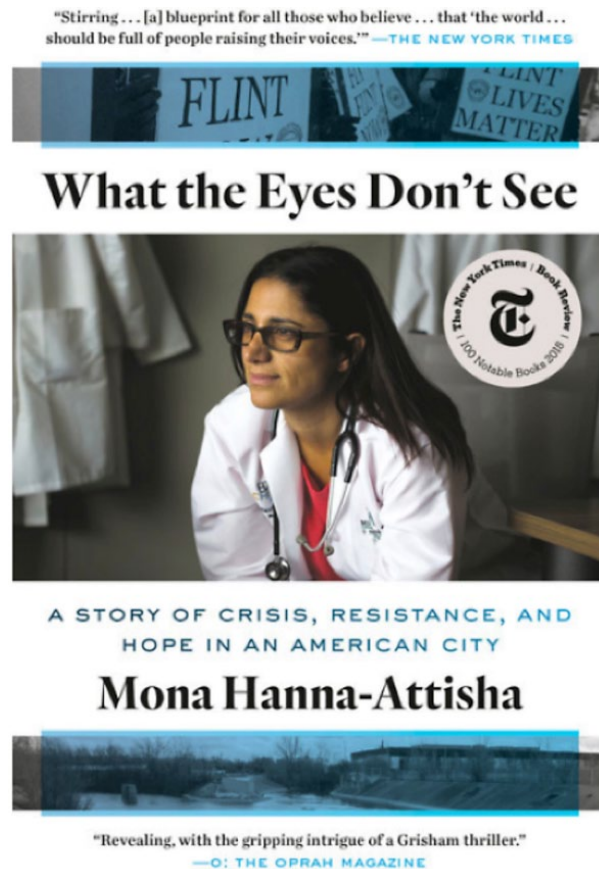


**Green Eggs  
and Ham  
for Reading  
Month in  
1st Grade!**





# NM Students Meet Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha!



Mr Jarvis's AP Environmental Science students had the awesome opportunity to meet virtually with Flint pediatrician and author of *What the Eyes Don't See*, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha. Mrs. Brett Howard communicated with the Great Michigan Reading Program and other districts to organize this talk. Dr. Mona was scheduled to come talk with North Muskegon and other area schools as a part of the Michigan Humanities Great Michigan Read Program last year, but that was cancelled due to COVID-19. So after a year of waiting, we were excited to ask questions and listen to Dr. Mona. She is credited with helping to reveal the seriousness of the Flint Water Crisis, and inspiring countless communities toward making policy choices for the greater good for all. Through careful examination of high levels of lead in children's blood, she was able to shine a light on "What the Eyes Don't See" and what became a public health crisis. Dr. Mona is a hero! She is an inspiration to us all, reminding us of our true potential to leave a positive impact.

The work has just begun!



## Future Proud Michigan Educator Grant Awarded to NM!

Our School Improvement Specialist, Jonathan Allen, applied for and received a \$10,000 Grant this spring to help plan and prepare to run a Proud Future Michigan Educators program. This program will help recruit, train, and support North Muskegon students interested in becoming teachers and other educators over the next several years.

This grant, awarded by the Michigan Department of Education, is intended to help meet the huge need for quality educators now and in the years to come. Students will be specifically recruited from underrepresented demographic groups and those interested in high-demand positions such as special education and mathematics. Of course, any and all students thinking about entering the teaching profession are encouraged to join!

The money from the grant will specifically support our customized, local curriculum for training our own future teachers and giving them an abundance of real-life practice within our entire district. High School students thinking about becoming teachers will have an elective class available to them starting this fall! After mastering the skills in that class they may opt to enroll in a course similar to "student teaching" to collaborate with one of our own teachers to lead student learning! We plan to also help provide additional support for these students as they navigate college applications and the teacher certification process in the years following graduation.

Ultimately, we hope to have a number of our own Norse graduates return to us in the following years to serve a new generation of our students!

# North Muskegon Library Endowment Fund Donation Enables Diverse Book Purchases District-wide

By: Brett Howard

Over the summer of 2020, North Muskegon residents Dorsey Sherman, Jessica Cook, and Mike Schanhals wanted to do something to positively impact the North Muskegon Community. They worked with the Muskegon Community Foundation to create an endowment for North Muskegon Public Schools' libraries to purchase books that promote diversity and equity. The endowment's mission to provide funding for the purchase of books that promote diversity



is in keeping with the North Muskegon School Library Media Centers' Mission Statement and Philosophy which says: "The North Muskegon School Library Media Centers exist to serve the entire school community. We support and encourage the curiosity and skills that lead to lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. We promote a love of reading through a diverse collection that allows students to see themselves and understand and respect other people, cultures, and ways of life."

Thanks to generous donations from community members, the Library Endowment Fund met (and surpassed) its initial fundraising goal of \$10,000, which enabled an inaugural gift to the school libraries of \$2000 to purchase



diverse books for March is Reading Month. The Library Endowment Fund hopes that with continued community support, it will be able to provide annual donations to the school libraries for many years to come.

On a side note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Library Endowment Fund founders, and the amazing community members who provided the donations that made this fund possible; your generosity is so appreciated! It will help us to provide "mirrors and windows"

experiences for our students. These allow students to see themselves reflected in the pages of a book, as well as glimpse the lives and experiences of others, helping to build empathy and understanding. The North Muskegon School Libraries appreciate this support from the community, and we are grateful to be able to share our love of reading with North Muskegon students!



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# NM's Winning Writers!

*By Ms. Sarah Knuth*

"The Run" is a seventh grade zombie apocalypse plague short story series on ReadWorks.org. After reading the seven-part series, students answered comprehension questions and were assigned a FanFiction writing task. They could decide whether to write a new beginning, add a scene, create a backstory for a character, or write an alternate ending. Other ideas were welcomed as well. As students neared the due date for their final draft, they were invited to submit their piece to a class contest (with a reward of being excused from vocabulary work for a week). Peers in each class chose their favorite story. Both classes needed a second voting round to break ties. Congratulations to third hour Kai (Lola) Perry and fourth hour

Jacinda Patrick for winning first place (and another free week from vocabulary) for their classes. Sierra Sikkenga (3rd hour) and Oliver Fricke (4th hour) won second place. Naomi Zziwambazza and Hunter Wilder tied for third place for third hour and Jordan Thomas won third place for fourth hour.

Written by ReadWorks.org staff during COVID-19, students discussed how the fictional piece relates thematically to the global pandemic we have been experiencing.

Congratulations to our winning writers!



**The North Muskegon Athletics  
Calendar is available online at**

**[www.nmps.net/athletics](http://www.nmps.net/athletics)**

These schedules are regularly updated to reflect any necessary changes





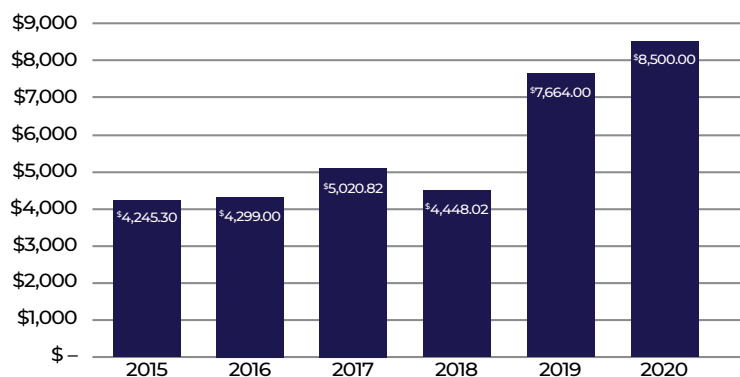
## Norse Education Foundation Update

The Norse Education Foundation was established to enrich the educational experiences of our students by funding excellence in teaching and learning beyond what is provided through operating funds. The foundation is held at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County and is sustained and advised by a board made up of school staff, parents and community members who raise funds and make spending decisions. Since 2012, NEF has supported mentoring programs, high-tech classroom equipment, dozens of specialized learning and teaching materials and hundreds of books to enhance literary resources and expand classroom libraries.

**Board of Directors:** Chairperson- *Dorsey Sherman*, Executive Director- *Kristie Hall*. Members: *Curt Babcock, Mary Moulton, Kerry Stewart, Sheli Vanderlinde, Kim Senkow, Carolyn Nedeau, Stephanie Dye*.

## NEF Donors are Investing in Educational Excellence at NMPS

### Norse Education Foundation Grant History



# NORSE EDUCATION FOUNDATION



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 DONORS

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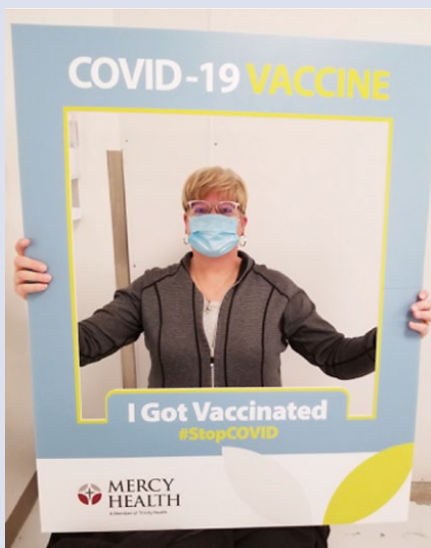
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# It's Great to Vaccinate!

**Many of our NM Staff members were able to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations recently. Congratulations everyone!**

For more information on where to receive a vaccination, for yourself or others, please visit [www.vaccinatewestmi.com](http://www.vaccinatewestmi.com).



Mrs. Michele Lipka



Mrs. Stephanie Atchison



Mrs. Beth Soelberg, Mrs. Lori Vanderweele,  
and Mr. Joe Grelewicz



Mr. Jeff Reeths



Mrs. Tracy Schofield and Mrs. Colleen Christophersen



Mrs. Lori Willson





# Unity Day 2021

Wednesday, May 5 • 1:45 p.m. to 2:45

Conversation focused on the impact of Race and Racism in our Communities. We heard from a panel of local community members who shared their personal stories and experiences with a student interviewer. The interviewer asked questions submitted by NM students prior to the event.

The goal of Unity Day is to promote unity within and across our communities through the healing power of storytelling. Our motto for our annual Unity Day event is "Let Love Lead." We are working with the Kingian principles of nonviolence:

**PRINCIPLE THREE:** Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people. Nonviolence recognizes that evildoers are also victims and are not evil people.

The nonviolent resister seeks to defeat evil, not people.

**PRINCIPLE FOUR:** Nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform. Nonviolence accepts suffering without retaliation. Unearned suffering is redemptive and has tremendous educational and transforming possibilities.

Our NM clinicians and counselors provided mental health support and mindfulness exercises for our staff and students before and after our Unity Day event.

*\*Unity Day has been funded by a grant from the Stephen H. Clink Philanthropic Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County\**

## Panel Participants



**Zaneta Adams, J.D.** is the Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. In 2006, after eight years of service in the U.S. Army, National Guard and Reserve, Zaneta Adams was medically

discharged with honor. During her time in the military, Adams served as a Joint Counter Narcotics Task Force Agent for the National Guard. Prior to her gubernatorial appointment to the MVAA, Adams was an attorney at Williams Hughes PLLC, assisting veterans with compensation and pension appeals. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Columbia College and Juris Doctor from Western Michigan Cooley Law School.



**Jill Young** was born and raised deep in the Bible Belt. Chattanooga and Nashville, TN are the places where she grew up, played sports & shaped, upended, and reshaped her faith. She

attended Lipscomb University, and met her husband of 21 years, Paul. She received a degree in Communications with a minor in Business, but found that ministry was where she could use her gifts best.

Jill engages and challenges young people through her work as a Pastor at Bethany Church, as a member of the Youth Empowerment Program Steering Committee, as Co-Director of CATCH Camp in Muskegon (a collaboration

with Community Encompass), coaching youth sports & volunteering around the city. Her most cherished title is "mom" of four amazing, beautiful and stubborn kids.



**Sheriff Michael Poulin** has been serving in Muskegon County for the past 34 years. He is a graduate of Northwestern University Center for Public Safety and the FBI National Academy.

While under his direction the Muskegon County Sheriff's Office received two Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission awards and ten awards for Excellence in Traffic Safety. In 2014 Sheriff Poulin received the Richard H. Austin Traffic Safety Award. In 2019 Sheriff Poulin was appointed by Governor Whitmer to the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission. Sheriff Poulin has participated with the United Nations Development Program and the State of Kuwait, in support of implementing a "National and Integrated Traffic and Transportation Strategy". In doing so, Sheriff Poulin has helped to build designated crash investigation units as well as assisting in the establishment of Kuwait's National Traffic Safety Guidelines.



**Michelle Tyson** has been a resident of Muskegon Heights for 24 years and she is a graduate of Muskegon Heights. Having been in management for 31 years, she has been able to mentor

and develop young minds into hard working, responsible and mature adults and this has

become her passion.

Michelle has been working hard as the founder of Taking Back Muskegon, a non-profit working to develop 24 hour youth crisis centers that will provide education, recreation and job developmental skills along with job opportunities for youth in Muskegon county.

Michelle continues to serve and educate our community on the executive committee for the NAACP, as a member of the Democratic Black Caucus and the Michigan Democratic Party, as well as her work as a host for The Muskegon Channel. She is also CEO of A & M Political Views talk show, where she combines her knowledge and compassion to work towards unity, education and equality in our community.



**Chauncy Williams** grew up in a community where very few people either had the advantage or took advantage of an education. Williams quickly realized the opportunities he would have

if he completed education beyond high school. He wanted to be a model for individuals who were hesitant, afraid or doubted their abilities. At a young age, he decided to be an outlet for children by showing that going beyond your current circumstances and becoming successful is possible.

A graduate of Muskegon Heights Public Schools, Michigan State University, Cambridge College, and Cornerstone University, Chauncy holds a Master's of Education, Career Specialist Certification from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a second Masters in Ministry Leadership.



**Nick Rossiter** is a Chinese-American writer who has attended MCC for two years. He will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall, with the intention of pursuing a degree in English.

In the past year, he has done research into race relations in the United States, with an intent on figuring out ways to dismantle racist systems that still have effects to this day. Ask him anything!



**Kim Sims** is a proud wife of 26 years and mother of 3. She is a graduate of Grand Valley State University with a BA in Film Video production, with an emphasis in communications. Kim is

the former Mayor of Muskegon Heights. She is most proud to advocate for the heartbeat of the community, those who often get overlooked or silenced. Giving voice to the grassroots and taking the story to every level of Government. Kim is inspired by youth, and welcomes the opportunity to listen and learn from them. Youth are not just the future, they are our today.



**Chief Edward Viverette** is the North Muskegon Chief of Police. He is originally from the Muskegon area and he served 29 years with the Michigan State Police, from which he retired as detective lieutenant.

He had been based in the metro Detroit area. Chief Viverette also served with the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a senior master sergeant for 33 years.



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## North Muskegon MS/HS Library gets a LEGO table!

*By Brett Howard*

Mr. Byard contacted me over the summer and asked if I would be interested in a LEGO table for the library. I couldn't pass up the opportunity! A LEGO table offers a way for students to take a "brain break", exercise a little creativity, and just take a moment to have a little fun. In the past, we also have had many Norse United mentors who bring their mentees to the library for their time together. A LEGO table provides a fun activity for mentors and mentees to collaborate on, while getting to know each other. Thanks to a Norse Education Foundation Grant, I was able to purchase LEGO base plates, a couple LEGO sets, and storage bins. I'm really looking forward to seeing our students using the table in the 2021-2022 school year!



## March Is Social Work Awareness Month!

### What is a School Social Worker?

Social workers are an essential part of keeping communities of people healthy. The job of a school social worker is to work with individuals, families, groups & communities to make positive changes & to help students reach success in their academics. School social workers are required to have a Master of Social Work Degree as well as a certification in school social work and license to practice in their state.

### What exactly does a school social worker do?

School social workers work with administrators, staff, students & families to improve policy, mental health interventions, crisis management & support services for students. Their main purpose is to ensure all students have access to a fair education. Not only do North Muskegon's social workers advocate for the education of students individually but you will also see them teaching social emotional skills in classes from time to time. Our social workers want to do everything they can to keep our community happy and healthy!

### How can a school social worker help you?

School social workers are here to help you. Social work offices for both elementary and secondary, can be found on the main floor in the high school. You can also access a plethora of resources and get connected to your school social workers by visiting [www.nmps.net](http://www.nmps.net).

### Meet our Norse Social Workers!

Mrs. Theresa Seaberg, LMSW: Mrs. Seaberg has been a social worker at North Muskegon for 12 years. She hails from Grand Valley State University where she earned her Bachelor & Master in Social Work degrees. Mrs. Seaberg is also the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison and will soon be a certified trainer in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention. Currently, Mrs. Seaberg is assigned to the elementary school. In her free time, Mrs. Seaberg enjoys spending time with her family and playing with her puppy!

Mrs. Lisa Cobb, LMSW: Mrs. Cobb has been a social worker at North Muskegon for 4 years and has been a school social worker in Muskegon County for over 20 years. Prior to working in education, she worked in mental health administration. She hails from Michigan State University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree and Eastern Michigan University where she earned her Master in Social Work degree. She is also certified in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention & Mindfulness Trainer. Mrs. Cobb is also a public speaker who teaches others how to gently and safely go within to release limitless beliefs and behaviors impeding emotional and physical well-BEing. Currently, she is assigned to the middle and high school. Mrs. Cobb enjoys sailing and spending time with her family and friends in her free time!



# ★ Students of the Month ★

## January Student of the Month



**Hope Johnson** is the daughter of Peter and Julie Johnson. She is the President of National Honor Society, Co-Chair for Norse United, and Senior Class President. She also enjoys being a member of the Environmental Club and a captain of the soccer team. Outside of school, Hope enjoys spending time with family and friends, going to the beach, writing, and playing club soccer. After graduation, she plans to study Biochemistry.



**Greta Goszkowicz** is the daughter of Richard and Kathleen Goszkowicz and sister to Grace. She is a member of National Honor Society, Environmental Club, Norse United, Interact Club, and Choir Council. She participated in varsity girls tennis and golf for four years, going to the state championships for tennis in 2019 and 2020 for golf. In her free time, she enjoys carving up the mountain on her snowboard, soaking in the sun at the beach, hanging out with friends, and taking long sailing trips with her family. After high school she plans to attend Western Michigan University and study to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing. In the future, Greta plans to become a pediatric nurse to work with children in hospitals.

**Brennen McManus** is the son of Kevin and Tracey McManus. He is a member of the National Honor Society, captain of the basketball and tennis teams, and is a co-chairperson of the Norse United Club. In his free time, he enjoys playing sports, fishing, and spending time with friends and family. After graduation, Brennen plans to attend the University of Michigan to study engineering.



## March Student of the Month

**Alicia Hall** is the daughter of John and Heidi Hall and older sister to Luke and Brielle and younger sister to Taylor. She is captain on the Girls Varsity tennis team and holds the Membership position in Norse United while also participating in National Honor Society, Interact, Norse 180, and volunteering at Noah Project. Alicia enjoys baking for her family and bringing them over to her grandparents to have afternoon talks. She also enjoys vacationing with her family in Florida and creating memories to last a lifetime. Alicia plans on attending Muskegon Community College through the Promise and later transferring to Grand Valley State University to pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy.



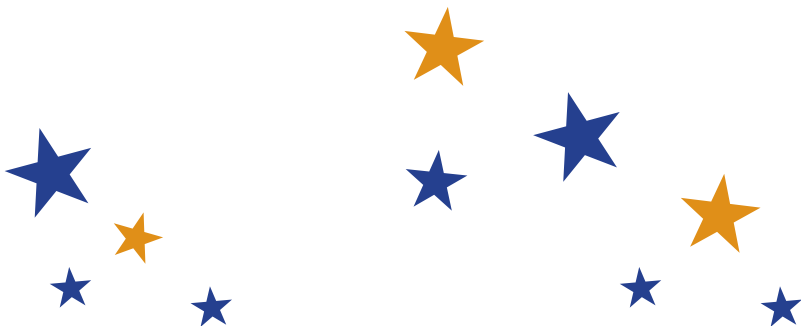
## February Student of the Month



**Anna Pollock** is the daughter of Kristen and Michael Pollock. She is a member of Orchestra, Environmental Club, and the National Honor Society. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with friends, making music, and creating something new in the kitchen. Anna plans to pursue her love of biology by majoring in Neuroscience and becoming the next Oliver Sacks.



**Grace Erne** is the daughter of Rich Erne and Heidi Stansell. She is the president of French Club, concertmaster of the orchestra, and a member of environmental club, Interact, and the National Honor Society. She is also the assistant concertmaster of the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony. Outside of school, Grace enjoys working at Hometown Creamery, going to the beach, traveling, boating, and playing music. In the fall, she will be attending the University of Michigan to pursue a degree in chemistry or environmental science.





# ★ Students of the Month ★

## April Student of the Month



**Christopher Erndteman** is the son of Joel and Sue Erndteman. He is a member of the National Honor Society, and an Early-College student at Muskegon Community College. He plays tennis and basketball. Chris loves helping coach the middle school tennis team and the girls varsity tennis team. Chris has one more year at MCC then he plans to attend a university to study finance and economics.



**Audrey Wilson** is the daughter of Chris and Ann Wilson. She is class Vice President and a member of Interact Club, Environmental Club, National Honor Society, and Orchestra. She is also co-captain of the girls varsity soccer team. Audrey enjoys going to the beach, traveling with family and friends, and spending time with her sisters. This fall, she will be attending the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

# ★ Congratulations Students! ★

## Kids need stability to thrive

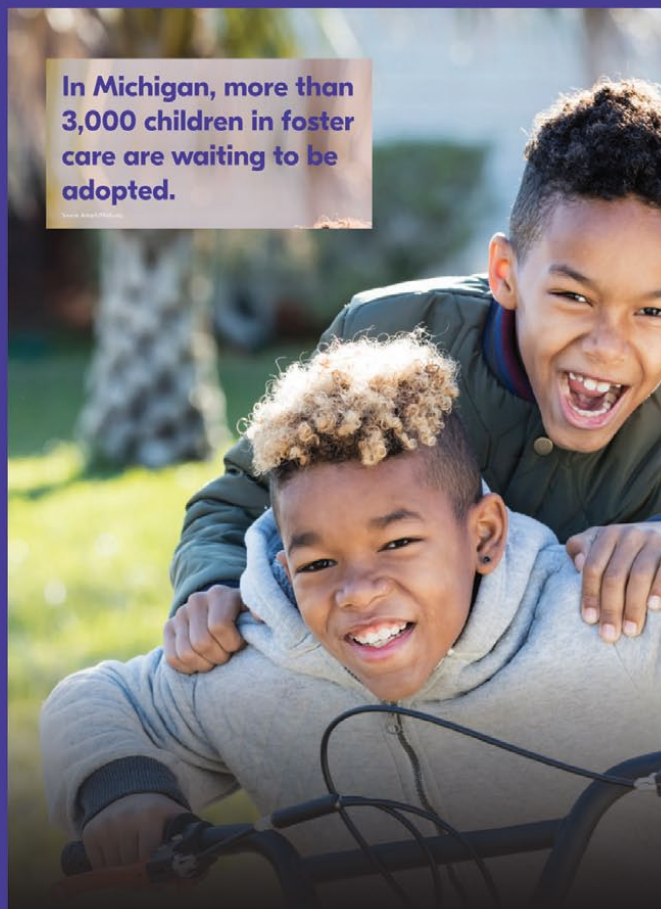
Children in foster care often move from place to place. You can give them a place to call home.

### You don't have to be perfect

We're looking for parents who can provide both structure and flexibility. Parents who have a sense of humor and are open to new parenting techniques. Parents who advocate fiercely and love generously.

- You **don't** have to be married.
- You **don't** have to own a home.
- You **don't** have to be wealthy or have a college education.

In Michigan, more than 3,000 children in foster care are waiting to be adopted.



You'll have a team behind you at every step, including post-adoption education and support.

FAMILIES ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED FOR CHILDREN AGES 8 AND OLDER.

**Take the next step today!**

(231) 215-0094  
[Bethany.org/FosterCareAdoption](http://Bethany.org/FosterCareAdoption)

Foster care and foster care adoption vary by state.

**Bethany**

175 West Apple Avenue  
 Muskegon, Michigan 49440  
[Bethany.org/Muskegon](http://Bethany.org/Muskegon)





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**Mission Statement: committed to equipping students with the tools they need for academic, personal and social achievement.**

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**DAR Awards  
Mr. DeLong!**

Our local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented Mr. DeLong with a donation to be used to support his classroom goals this year. Thank you to NM graduate Sarah (Deming) Gardner and the members of our Muskegon Chapter of the NSDAR for your generosity in supporting our students!

*Pictured: Dr. Steven Sanocki, Mr. Tom DeLong, and Ms. Sarah Gardner*

**SUPPORT THE NORSEMEN PRIDE!**

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