

MUSKEGON

MIRROR

THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FOR MUSKEGON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISSUE 55 • JANUARY 2022

2022



new year, new story



HAPPY NEW YEAR BIG REDS!

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HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
MONDAY - FRIDAY

Please call for an appointment outside of scheduled hours.



TINA WRIGHT

Chief Financial Officer and Talent Management

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Human Resources Supervisor
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231-720-2056 • afooster@mpsk12.net

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Administrative Assistant
231-720-2008 • dfox@mpsk12.net

EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS



EDUStaff

www.edustaff.org

Enviro-Clean Services

www.enviro-clean.com

Dean Transportation

www.deantransportation.com

Chartwells

www.chartwellsk12.com

HIRING: EDUStaff SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS and SUPPORT STAFF

PERMANENT BUILDING SUBSTITUTES:

- Assigned to a single building
- Scheduled Mon - Fri, 7:45am - 3:15pm
- \$140 full day/ \$70 half day
- Minimum Requirements:
 - 60 college credits
- Apply online at: <https://muskegonpublicschools.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/>
- You may also call Debbie Fox at 231-720-2008 for more information

***2021-2022 EDUStaff Teacher Substitute Rates:**

- \$100 per day
- \$140 per day (21st consecutive day)
- \$200 per day (61st consecutive day)

***2021-2022 Support Staff Substitutes Rates:**

- \$14.07 – Classroom Assistant/Para Educator
- \$11.55 – Lunchroom Aide
- \$14.65 – Secretary
- \$15.88 – Secretary (21st consecutive day)

*\$10 daily incentive for each day worked during pay period

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Keith Allen.....	Bunker.....	Lunchroom Aide
Jasmine Allen.....	Marquette.....	Para Educator
Samantha Bateman.....	High School.....	Building Substitute
June Bishop.....	Oakview.....	Building Substitute
Allison Bryan-Cortez.....	High School.....	Social Worker
Audrianna Burney.....	Moon.....	Teacher
Charity Burt.....	Marquette.....	Lunchroom Aide
Alicia Camacho.....	Marquette.....	Building Substitute
Lena Castaneda.....	High School.....	Secretary
Lakisha Churchwell.....	Oakview.....	Building Substitute
Cameron Copeland.....	Marquette.....	Lunchroom Aide
Ja'Leesha Crews.....	Oakview.....	Building Substitute
Deja Dawkins.....	Middle School.....	Building Substitute
Debora Douglas.....	Moon.....	Building Substitute
Kayanna Evans.....	Bunker.....	Lunchroom Aide
Dawn Fields.....	Bunker.....	Occupational Therapist
Kevin Foley.....	High School.....	Teacher
Allison Giannola.....	Marquette.....	Teacher
Felicia Graves.....	Bunker.....	Teacher
Idania Hernandez.....	Marquette.....	Building Substitute
Timothy Hichue.....	High School.....	Teacher
Miciah Holman.....	Bunker.....	Lunchroom Aide
Brett Holt.....	Moon.....	Building Substitute
Sydney Hunt.....	Middle School.....	Teacher
Kristoffer Jackson.....	Middle School.....	Building Substitute
Maricela Jimenez-Velazquez..	Marquette.....	Building Substitute
Ashanti Johnson.....	Marquette.....	Building Substitute
Brandon Jones.....	High School.....	Building Substitute
Tamyra Longmire.....	Middle School.....	Lunchroom Aide
Juwan Loudermill.....	Middle School.....	Building Substitute
Trevor Lukasik.....	Middle School.....	Teacher
Alexander Madison.....	Oakview.....	Lunchroom Aide
Jaime Mccool.....	High School.....	Teacher
Karen Mendiola.....	Bunker.....	Lunchroom Aide
Jennie Naffie.....	High School.....	Building Substitute
Delaney Niswonger.....	Marquette.....	Lunchroom Aide
Tayla Robertson.....	Marquette.....	Para Educator
Jacquelin Robinson.....	Bunker.....	Building Substitute
Marquon Sargent.....	Marquette.....	Lunchroom Aide
Inari Spralls.....	Moon.....	Lunchroom Aide
Beth Sturr.....	Bunker.....	Teacher
Beatrice Terrell.....	Bunker.....	Building Substitute
Brittney Vargas.....	Marquette.....	Teacher
Katrina Woodyard.....	Moon.....	Teacher
Bethannee Yeoman.....	Oakview.....	Teacher
Korina Young.....	Marquette.....	Teacher



Matthew Cortez
Superintendent, Ed.S.
Muskegon Public Schools

Happy New Year Big Red Nation!!

I hope that all of you are happy, healthy and rejuvenated from the holiday season. I wish you all the best for this coming year and that life gets a bit less hectic and easier for you and your family. Our district is continuing to operate in conjunction with Public Health Muskegon County, Muskegon Area Intermediate Schools, and our community to mitigate the risk factors

for contracting the Covid 19 virus. We truthfully have adjusted to a new normal that I hope does not continue to rule our lives into the future.

With the beginning of a new year comes a renewed hope for the future. Hope that this pandemic does not continue to drag on.

Hope that we can come together as a district and do more for one another. Hope is the key to the brighter future that our students, parents, staff, and community deserve. It is what allows us to venture forward in trust that doing the right thing will bring us all closer and make us a stronger Big Red Nation.

2021 was quite a year. We have bid our many bond projects and construction is set to begin in 2022. The bond that was so graciously entrusted to our district is going to begin to reveal the physical improvement and transformation of our district. In the spring we are launching our feedback reporting system in the Mirror called "Promise Made, Promises Kept" (PMPK). PMPK will be used to illustrate and give periodic updates to all of our community on the tremendous responsibility entrusted to our district with the bonds. Our students, staff, and community deserve a district second to none and our bonds will help to establish our facilities as the leaders and best.

Superintendent of Schools



RETIREMENT • Thanks for the years of dedication and service to the Big Red Nation!



Jeff Cramer
Maintenance I at
District Services Building
25 Years

Kristen Uganski
Teacher at Bunker
32 Years

Corry Lohman
Muskegon Middle
School Principal
26 Years

Mary Vazquez
TWI Teacher at
Marquette
32.5 Years

Julie Ray
Reading/Writing Specialist
at Administration Building
9 Years

Mary Vinton
ParaEducator at Bunker
22 Years



MUSKEGON MIRROR

The Muskegon Mirror is published three times per year by Muskegon Public Schools, 1458 5th Street, Muskegon, MI 49441.

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please contact Mark Williamson at (231) 766-3038
or email: mark@orshaldproductions.com**

BUILDING PHONE NUMBERS

MAIN OFFICE.....	231-720-2004
COMMUNITY ED CENTER.....	231-720-2150
HIGH SCHOOL.....	231-720-2800
MIDDLE SCHOOL.....	231-720-3000
BUNKER.....	231-720-2300
GLENSIDE.....	231-720-2560
MARQUETTE.....	231-720-2600
MOON.....	231-720-2700
OAKVIEW.....	231-720-2450



Bill O'Brien
President
Muskegon Public Schools
Board of Education

Happy Holidays Big Red Nation.

I trust all of you can enjoy some time off with your families. This year brings a special significance not only to our Big Red family but to our own families. The ability to get vaccinations for all our students is paving the way to be able to get rid of the masks and truly get back to normal. Our students, staff, and community deserve and need that. With that said, our administration has done an outstanding job navigating all the issues that Covid has brought to us while at the same time keeping our students and staff as safe as possible. Please continue to be patient and take time to thank them whenever possible. Our students continue to be the focus, but we still need to be appreciative of the effort put forth by our teachers and administrators.

We all continue to strive for excellence in the safety of our students, but with the bond, the expectations of improving their learning environment are at the forefront. I am sure that all of you understand what it takes just to paint a room in your home. Imagine trying to get all the buildings in our district set up with good security, a clean and warm environment, and a good visual environment. Our administration has done an incredible job of getting the right colors and textures that will make our district the showpiece we all want. This not only looks great but has been proven to enhance learning. Thanks to a lot of community, staff, administration, and board input, your buildings will have a nice blend of the past and present. Older alumni like myself will remember the old red and white color scheme. Our school colors have evolved, just like we all have. We now have a nice mix of red, white, grey, and black in our buildings and hallways that match our logos and uniforms.

Thanks to your input, we have set a high bar for what we expect to see in our district when all the remodeling and building is done. The Big Red Nation will continue to pave the way for excellence in our community for years to come.

Go Big Reds.

Board of Education 2022 Meeting Schedule Tuesday's at 7pm

January 18, 2022

February 15, 2022

March 15, 2022

April 19, 2022

May 17, 2022

June 21, 2022

July Retreat (tentative July 20th)

Meetings are held in Room E123 at
Charles W. Poole Sr. Administration Building,
located at 1458 5th Street Muskegon, MI 49441.

**The Board's Organizational Meeting will be held
January 18, 2022 beginning at 6:30 p.m.*

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2021-2022

Bill O'Brien, President
eobrien@mpsk12.net
231-578-9844

Louis Churchwell, Vice President
lchurchw@mpsk12.net
231-724-6547

Lynnette Marks, Secretary
lmarks@mpsk12.net
231-740-6249

Treasurer - currently vacant

Billie J. Bruce, Trustee (Secretary Pro-Tem)
bbruce@mpsk12.net
231-773-7179

Zachary Allen Anderson, Trustee
zanderso@mpsk12.net
231-571-8978

Kwame Kamau James, Trustee
kkamau@mpsk12.net
310-666-8375

Ensuring Big Reds are Readers and Mathematicians

Reading is essential for having a successful career and for enjoying life. At MPS, we are committed to ensuring our students have the skills to read and do math at high levels. Our goal is to make sure students can read for fun and enjoyment as well as have the skills needed for reading manuals at work or reading research articles in college. Math is no different. Whether mentally determining change at a store or calculating exponential graphs for a global pandemic, our students need to be prepared in an ever-changing mathematical world.

To help students read and do math at high levels, we use iReady to determine their level of ability in the fall, test again in the winter to measure growth and then again in the spring as a final measurement. In the fall, students are provided with a learning path that moves them from one level of reading or math to another. Students are required to complete 45 minutes a week of reading and 45 minutes of math on their personalized learning path.

i-Ready is an online program for reading and/or mathematics that will help your student's teacher(s) determine your student's needs, personalize their learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year. i-Ready allows a teacher to meet your child exactly where they are and provides data to increase your child's learning gains. i-Ready consists of two parts: Diagnostic and Personalized Instruction. The i-Ready Diagnostic is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit your student's needs. Each item a student sees is individualized based on their answer to the previous question. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier questions. i-Ready Personalized Instruction provides students with lessons based on their individual skill level and needs, so your student can learn at a pace that is just right for them. These lessons are fun and interactive to keep your student engaged as they learn.



Tips to Support Your Student



Visit the Family Center for more information, tips, and tools.



Explain

Explain to your student how working on *i-Ready* will help their teacher(s) figure out what to teach them and how to better support them while also helping them focus their learning on exactly what they need.



Make a Plan

Make a plan with your student for how to spend their time at home and when they will work on their learning activities. It can be helpful to put the plan in writing and post it somewhere visible. As you make the plan, follow any guidance you received from your student's teacher(s) on what they should work on.



Share

Share the experience with your student. Both of you can become familiar with the different parts of the [student dashboard](#), and you can learn with your student as they complete a lesson.



Encourage

Encourage your student to take each lesson and quiz question seriously. Emphasize "thinking before clicking" because just clicking through will not be a productive use of their time nor reflect what your student actually knows. Remind your student to read passages in their entirety, use paper and pencil to solve math problems, and use the tools that appear at the bottom of the screen in some lessons.



Track and Discuss Progress

Regularly review progress with your student using the My Progress page. Please ask your student's teacher(s) for guidance on how many minutes they should spend on lessons each week, as schools have discretion on what they assign. Our recommendation is that your student should aim for 45 minutes of *i-Ready Personalized Instruction* per subject per week while passing at least 70 percent of lessons.



Celebrate

Celebrate your student's progress. Celebrating milestones, such as passing a lesson or reaching a specific goal, can help keep your student motivated. You can share celebrations with the rest of the family and even decide on a fun activity as a reward. You can use these [data trackers](#) as you and your student discuss and keep track of progress.



Follow the Teacher's Guidance

Follow the teacher's guidance as you plan how your student will spend their learning time. Your student's teacher is your best resource for ensuring there is variety in the activities your student works on beyond the time they spend on online learning.

WHOLE SCHOOL, WHOLE COMMUNITY, WHOLE CHILD

A collaborative approach to learning and health

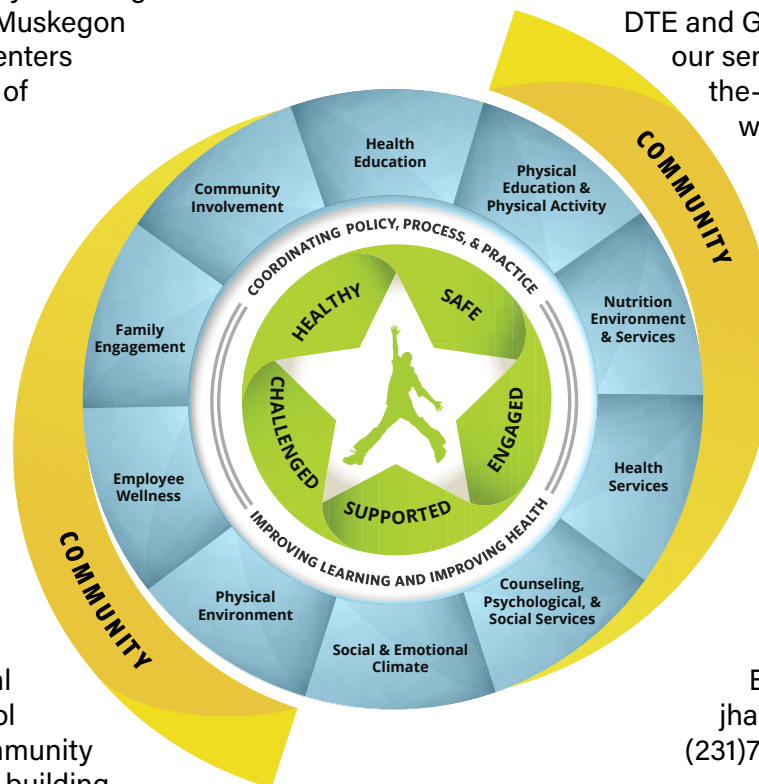
After returning to school this fall, nothing has been more important than ensuring we are caring for each child academically, socially and emotionally. The diagram below is a guidepost in our work at Muskegon Public Schools. Developed by the Centers for Disease Control using the tenets of the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, the focus is on the partnership of educators, parents and community partners to ensure our students are safe, healthy, engaged, supported and challenged.

While we are always looking to expand our community partnerships, we have developed many programs based on the expertise and wisdom of area professions for which we will be forever grateful. Our partnership with Health West allows our students and their families to see a doctor, a nurse, a dentist, or a mental health professional in our own school buildings. Our relationship with Community EnCompass allows us to utilize their building

and renovation skills with our sophomores in Geometry in Construction where students learn to apply their knowledge that will last a lifetime. We have also partnered with DTE and Greenhorn Training Solutions to offer our seniors the opportunity to learn on-the-job skills and to earn a living wage within 3 months after graduation. We have opened a PreK4All preschool and daycare program based on the needs of our families and the support of area donors and businesses such as Howmet, United Way Lakeshore, Shape Corporation, and many more!

It is our strong Muskegon community that has a positive impact on our students everyday. Thank you from the Muskegon Big Reds!

If you are interested in partnering with MPS, please feel free to contact Dr. Jennifer Hammond, Executive Director of Instruction at jhammond@mpsk12.net or (231)720-2083.



Social Studies - Office of Instructional Services

by Kristy Tolbert

This February, our encore teachers (P.E., Art, Music, Technology) will be creating a special school-wide program for Black History Month. Each of these teachers at the elementary buildings will design a project related to their subject area and highlighting an area tied into Black History. They will work on this project for 5 weeks with their students and in late February or early March, each school will showcase their projects. This showcase may be live or a video presentation, but these wonderful projects will be put on display for the whole MPS community. We are excited to see their new learning and hard work! Thanks to our encore teachers for all the effort and planning they put in to enrich the overall learning experience for our students!

These five week projects will be tied into our normal curriculum, specifically in the area of social studies. Students in 2nd and 3rd grades are continuing with their project-based learning, and at various grade levels we are incorporating lessons into our existing curriculum with stronger connections to black history. This includes lessons on local and cultural celebrations and festivals, learning about the Great Migration of African Americans from the south into Michigan and specifically the Muskegon area, and lessons focused on the great African Kingdoms. Stay tuned to our social media and website to find out more information about how you can view our showcase of learning in the near future.

Reading and Writing - Inside Out

by Julie Ray, K-5 Reading/Writing Specialist

Winter is here, and for some of us, that means hunkering down inside until the sun feels warm again. And for some, the winter beauty calls them outside. The families of our students at MPS are important partners with us, and this time of year is the perfect opportunity to participate in cozy, meaningful reading and writing activities together. Doing activities with children at home allows practice of the skills they are learning in school while having fun with family at the same time.

START WITH A BOOK. Find a book that has a winter theme - building a snowman, a winter storm, sledding, etc. Some favorites are *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats and *The Mitten* by Jan Brett. Read it together. If your child needs your support, remember it is less important for them to get every word right, and more important to learn to love reading. What better way than reading with someone they love!

At this point, if your family is on the adventurous side, go outside for a winter walk, build a snowman or fort, go sledding. Talk with your child about what they are doing, what they see, and how they are feeling. If you'd rather stay inside, have them draw a picture and have the same conversation. Developing oral language and vocabulary skills leads to better readers and writers.

WRITE ON! Follow the reading/language activity with a writing activity. Reading helps children become better writers, and writing helps them become better readers. If your child is young, let them dictate the story to you, write what they can, and read it together. Older students can write on their own. Ask them questions about their writing, and give enthusiastic feedback. Don't be overly concerned with mistakes. It is more important to have the courage to write and want to continue.

Whether your family enjoys winter inside or out, take this time to help your child continue to grow as a reader and writer. At MPS we know the value of families to help us with the education of our children, and we thank you for your partnership.

For more ideas like these, visit
www.readingrockets.org



Ensuring Big Reds are Readers and Mathematicians

by Dr. Kathy Coffey, Elementary Mathematics Specialist

GUARANTEED CURRICULUM

It's hard to believe it is already January and we are almost half way through the school year! Teachers have been working hard to implement a "guaranteed curriculum" for math in grades K - 5. You might wonder what that means? A "guaranteed curriculum" is defined as a means through which all students have an equal opportunity, equal time, and equal access to learn rigorous grade level content--in our case, math content. This work is important because, according to Marzano (2003), having a guaranteed curriculum is "The single most important initiative a school or district can engage in to raise student achievement..." The key word in this is "all". In order for all students to have, not only "all" students but also, "all" teachers. When all teachers implement a guaranteed curriculum for all students with fidelity, student achievement is bound to improve.

This work began in August 2021 with the K - 5 Math Leadership team as they began to determine the essential math content for each grade level. A byproduct of their work has been the development of "Guaranteed Curriculum Components Guide" documents for each Everyday Mathematics unit for each grade level. The members of each grade level team have identified which components of each unit and lesson are non-negotiable, guaranteed, and will be implemented with fidelity by all MPS teachers. Lesson components that are optional, when time allows, have also been identified. This gives teachers flexibility to meet student needs, interests, and strengths.

The Math Leadership Team has been surveying classroom teachers each time a Guaranteed Curriculum Components Guide for a new unit is released. So far, the feedback from teachers has been very positive! MPS students are now learning more math content than ever before and are experiencing success.

McREL
INTERNATIONAL

For more information on what it means to have a "guaranteed curriculum", visit the McREL website:
<https://www.mcrel.org>

OFFICE OF SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION

START training

Our OSI team at Bunker Elementary School has an exciting learning opportunity. They are currently participating in a training series called The Statewide Autism Resources and Training Project (START/GVSU). This Intensive Training series focuses on evidence-based practices to increase knowledge and skills that enhance the educational programming and outcomes for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and related disabilities from preschool through post high school. Intensive training is provided to multidisciplinary teams including teachers, administrators, ancillary staff, community partners, and parents.



Each team is composed of six individuals who attend each training session and work collaboratively to develop implementation plans for target students, classrooms, programs, and school buildings. This year there are two teams from Bunker Elementary school going through this intensive training. The training is a 2 year commitment for the Bunker staff. One of the pieces that the team is most excited about implementing this year is a Peer To Peer Program. The program will be called *Bunker Besties* and will allow students with and without disabilities to build a kind and inclusive community of learners. The phenomenal Bunker team engaging in this training includes the following Muskegon Public Schools and Muskegon Area Intermediate School District employees: Taylor Thorpe (School Psychologist/BCBA), Leanne Bauer (OSI Instructional Coach), Beth Sturr (ASD Teacher), Dawn Fields (Occupational Therapist), Lyssa Cooper (Kindergarten Teacher), Molly Plowe (Level 1 Resource Teacher), Amy Donaldson (Speech Pathologist), Matthew Beld (Speech Pathologist), Latanya Wheeler (School Social Worker), Martha Knoll-Loader (ASD Teacher), Kori Hansen (Assistant Principal/Supervisor), and Missy Post (MAISD).

If you would like to learn more about START,
you can visit the website at
<https://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/>

MUSKEGON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER

ESports

Over the course of the 2021-2022 school year, the MCEC Fam has worked with the City of Muskegon to create a space for a student ESports team.

A team from the City of Muskegon renovated and retrofitted a room at The Center on Jackson Hill, creating a multi-station online gaming room. Conversations between the City of Muskegon and the MCEC Fam have yielded a partnership that puts students in positions to compete against other students from around the region in online gaming.



Students practice as a team several times a week and participate in competitions. This is an exciting opportunity because across the nation more and more schools and colleges and universities are entering into and competing in online gaming competitions.



TECHNOLOGY

New Year

Last school year was a major learning experience for everyone here in the district, especially in the Technology Department. Over the course of the school year, everyday seemed like a new experience when it came to supporting students, staff and parents with their online learning experience. For us, we're used to being able to reach out and touch the users we support, so that was a pretty big adjustment. We have definitely grown from that experience, as we were forced to find new and better ways to support our end users and we're grateful for it.

1:1

We have been a one to one district for a while now, but it was not a take home one to one until COVID struck. We've had some devices that were starting to get a little up there in age, so we implemented a device refresh policy where Chromebooks will be replaced with new devices every four years. This year, Chromebooks were replaced with new devices in grades 1st, 5th and 9th. We also transitioned our kindergarten students to touchscreen Chromebooks. We'll continue this cycle on a yearly basis, as this will help keep devices fresh, and we will see less wear and tear over the life of the device. Remind students that their Chromebook is theirs during their time at Muskegon Public Schools, so they need to take great care of their device at all times!

Call the help desk with any technology questions or concerns and someone will gladly speak with you or return your call as soon as possible.

**Technology Help Desk number:
(231) 720-2060**

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Medical, Dental, Behavioral Health Services
Accepting New Patients ages 5-21

We accept Medicaid products and most private insurances. Medical copays are waived.

**HACKLEY
COMMUNITY CARE**



MUSKEGON TEEN HEALTH CENTER

80 West Southern Ave., J Building, Room E113 • 231.733.6680
Monday - Thursday 8am-4:30pm, Friday 8am-12pm

STUDENT SERVICES

MPS Enrollment

Our MPS families are now able to enroll their student(s) online.

Simply go to our website:
(www.muskegonpublicschools.org),
under Parent Resources,
enrollment information,
select the enrollment link.

You can take a picture of all required documents to upload during the online enrollment process. We have computers available at each one of our buildings including the Administration Building (now located at 1458 5th Street, Room E126).

Required Documents:

- Two proofs of residency: **MUST** provide a copy of your utility bill, assessment/property tax statement, rental/lease agreement (must include landlord's telephone and signature) and one other piece of mail, no junk mail. Dated within 30 days at time of enrollment.
- Parent/Guardian's Identification: Driver's license or passport
- Birth Certificate: An original certified/state issued birth certificate that can be viewed and copied by MPS
- Official Michigan Immunization Records: State law requires that your child's immunizations must be up-to-date or your child cannot enter school. Pick up a copy from your local health department.
- Custody/Guardianship court documents (if applicable)
- Copy of most current Special Education/IEP (if applicable)
- Transcripts and current grades from previous school for High School students

If you have any questions,
please call
Brenda Kota,
Central Registrar at:
231-720-2013
or email
bkota@mpsk12.net.



Brenda Kota
Central Registrar &
Student Services Support

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Thinking back to your time in elementary, middle, and high school... did you have a parent or guardian that was engaged in your school? As I look back at my own time in school, my parents were not very involved in the day-to-day happenings. There were younger siblings at home to take care of, and long hours working to make ends meet. But one memory stands out to me... donut day, 1970. Standing in line with my money, who do I see passing out donuts, my Mom! Even after all of these years, I remember how special I felt seeing my Mom at school volunteering.

A growing body of research tells us that for schools to fully partner with families, they must respect and embrace all the various family's cultures, structures, and circumstances. It is essential that schools shape their efforts to partner with parents in ways that support parents' motivation for involvement, making them feel welcomed (Hoover-Dempsey & Sandler, 1995, 1997). If you had a negative experience in school or with a teacher, how comfortable are you entering your child's school, do you feel welcomed?

As the District's Family Engagement Coordinator, I'm excited to partner with our families by seeing that the Middle Schools and each of our Elementary Schools now have their own Family Engagement Coordinators. The Family Engagement Coordinators will provide programs and services to promote, encourage, and empower parents and guardians in their role as their child's most important teacher. This partnership cannot be successful unless home to school connections are easier for families. One way for parents to become involved in their child's school is to be a part of the newly formed School – Home Partnership Teams which are being organized by the Family Engagement Coordinators. Teams will meet monthly to give parents the opportunity to be updated on school happenings, build trust with families, and empower families to voice their ideas and concerns.

"My vision for family engagement is ambitious... I want to have too many parents demanding excellence in their schools, I want all parents to be real partners in education with their children's teachers, from cradle to career. In this partnership, students and parents should feel connected – and teachers should feel supported. When parents demand change and better options for their children, they become the real accountability backstop for the educational system." Arne Duncan, Former U.S. Secretary of Education, May 3, 2010. I'm proud to be a part of a district that knows the importance of parent engagement.

If you would like to know more about your school's Family Engagement Coordinators or how to contact them, please feel free to reach out to your school's Clerk or you may contact me.

Donna Allen, District Family Engagement Coordinator
Email: dallen@mpsk12.net
Office Phone: 231-720-2014

IMPACT • AFTERSCHOOL

Twenty First Century Community Learning Centers are funded in part by a 21st CCLC grant from the US Department of Education.



One of our fun enrichment focuses this after-school year has provided our students the opportunity to explore other countries, all without leaving the building! In order to better explain the melting-pot concept of our country, we decided to add a multicultural theme to our enrichment year in order to embrace diversity. Each month our students travel to a different destination around the world, destinations such as Israel, France, Nigeria, and Brazil, just to name a few. Through hands-on activity sessions, the students are exploring the culture, currency, education, art, cuisine, traditions, and so much more! They are also learning words and simple phrases from the various countries. Repeating these phrases for the month is a fun way for students to learn a bit of a foreign language! So from our IMPACT Family to yours we say...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Bonne Année! Buon anno! ¡ Feliz Año Nuevo!
Shanah Tovah! Barka da sabuwar shekara!!!*

Additional enrichment opportunities offered this year through our vendors and community partnerships are:

- EXTREME HIP HOP
 - WEBSITE DESIGN
 - SOUL FILLED COOKING
 - FINANCIAL LITERACY
 - YOGA
 - KEYBOARDING
 - POETRY
 - JEWELRY MAKING
 - LINE DANCE
- ... and so much more!!!

IMPACT provides a safe place where professional youth staff connect with kids, engage them in hands-on learning, help them navigate challenges, and talk about how to make good decisions.

IMPACT staff are trained to focus on the whole child and offer fun and enriching activities that encourage young people to try new things, build confidence, and develop social skills.

Our IMPACT academic focus and enrichment activities have been intentionally designed to support and enhance student growth in ELA and math. Beyond that, our participants are provided the opportunity to enjoy a broad array of enrichment experiences that support their development in the arts, STEM, drug and violence prevention, music, technology, recreation, character development and much more! For more information or student registration please contact Shalon Rankin at 720-2061.

Blessings in the New Year,

Kimberly Leavell
Director, 21st CCLC



NEW HOURS

Beginning
Jan. 3

316 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon, MI

Main Hackley Library Building:

Mon-Tues: 9-7pm

Wed-Sat: 9-5pm

Torrent House - Local History/Genealogy:

Tues-Sat: 10-5pm



HACKLEY
Public Library

Everything Imaginable.

THE NANCY POPPEN PROGRAM

The Nancy Poppen Program has had a nice fall semester getting back to our lessons, and great increased interest in new applications this fall! We are hoping to make room for all interested, talented, and committed students to participate!

Once a Big Red student is accepted into the Poppen Program, they are able to participate in weekly after-school arts lessons, in visual arts, creative writing, music, dance, theatre, or spoken word performance. We also participate in cultural events together, take trips to visit college campuses, and have opportunities for summer camp tuition scholarships. If a student in the program chooses to study their art after graduation from Muskegon High School, they are eligible to apply for our Sherman Poppen college scholarship program as well.



Pictured: a collaborative reproduction of a Degas painting done by Poppen students Justelle Messenger, Brenda Rodriguez, and Neveah Featherstone, and their instructor Hallie LeBlanc, MFA, during the spring of 2021.



"The Health Science Academy program, at the Career Tech Center, taught me about a wide variety of careers in healthcare giving me a head start on my career path."

Taylor Carson-Zachary
Health Science Academy student

READY TO ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER?
See your school counselor to enroll. muskegonctc.org

Our next upcoming application deadline will be May 1, 2022, for lessons to begin in the fall of 2022. Call Ms. Claire at 213-720-2040 to learn more.

The MHS Athletic Department would like to congratulate the following student-athletes for being acknowledged as All OK Green and All-Region performers.

2021 FALL ALL CONFERENCE & ALL REGION FOOTBALL

1ST TEAM ALL OK GREEN

Duane Anderson
Meshayne Crowley
Jeremiah Dault
Jamarrius Dickerson
Damari Foster
Tyquarius Irby
Destin Piggee
Dominic Sugin
Myles Walton

ALL REGION

Miguel Botello
Messhaune Crowley
Jeremiah Dault
Damari Foster
D'Andre Hudgins
Tyquarius Irby
Destin Piggee
Jakob Price
Myles Walton
Brian Wright



**GO MUSKEGON
BIG REDS!!**

HONORABLE MENTION OK GREEN

D'Andre Hudgins
Tamareon Oakes
Jakob Price
Earnest Young

your way home



MUSKEGON

3145 HENRY ST., SUITE 200 | MUSKEGON, MI 49441
231.830.3000

The MHS Athletic Dept. would like to update Big Red Nation on where some of our former Big Reds are these days. The following student-athletes are making our school and community proud at their various colleges and universities across the country.



Daz'sha Day

MHS class of 2018

Aquinas College

Daz'sha is a Senior on the Aquinas College Women's Basketball team. The former Lady Red is coming off a record setting performance on 11/16/2021 versus Goshen College where she made an Aquinas record 8 three pointers in a single game. She has also helped the Saints to a 7-4 record this season while starting all 11 of their games. Daz'sha is averaging 11.5 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 assists per game for the 21/22 season. While at MHS she was a three year member of the Lady Red basketball team and helped guide them to an OK Black, District, and Regional championships during her senior year in 2018.



Demetrius Harris

MHS class of 2018

Cornell University

Demetrius is in his fourth year at Cornell and has started 7 of their 9 games so far this season. He has totalled 42 tackles with a fumble recovery and an interception. Cornell is 2-7 on the year and has a game versus Columbia to finish off the 2021 season. Demetrius is enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the SC Johnson College of Business. Demetrius was a member of the Big Red football and baseball teams during his time at MHS. He was also a member of the National Honors Society.



Clinton Jefferson

MHS class of 2018

Ferris State University

CJ is in his third year on the Ferris football team as a Slot receiver. He has helped the 2021 Bulldogs to a 10-0 record and the GLIAC Championship heading into the second round of the NCAA DII Football Playoffs. He will hope to add to the 2019 GLIAC and a NCAA DII Regional Championship he was a part of. CJ has 15 carries for 164 yards and 30 catches for 399 and 1 score so far this year. CJ was a member of both the Big Red football and basketball teams while at MHS.



La'Darius Jefferson

MHS class of 2018

Western Michigan University

La'Darius is in his second year with the Broncos after transferring from Michigan State. He has helped Western to a 6-5 record while rushing for 680 yards on 163 carries and 10 TDs. His career totals to this point are 250 carries for 1145 yards and 14 TDs. The Broncos are bowl eligible and will be closing out their regular season versus Northern Illinois. La'Darius was a member of the Big Red football team and National Honors Society while at MHS.



Kalil Pimpleton

MHS class of 2017

Central Michigan University

Kalil has been a member of the Chippewa football team for the last 3 seasons and was voted First team All-MAC in 2019 and Second team All-MAC in 2020. So far this season the Chippewas are 6-4 with two regular season games left against Ball State and Eastern Michigan.

Kalil has 13 carries for 55 yards and 2 TDs rushing, 47 catches for 747 yards and 3 TDs receiving, and 11 punt returns for 223 yards and 2 TDs during the 2021 season. Kalil broke the school record for longest punt return when he had a 97 yard punt return TD versus Western Michigan.



JaCorey Sullivan

MHS class of 2017

Central Michigan University

JaCorey has been on the Central Michigan Chippewa football team for four years. In 2019 he was voted First Team All-MAC with 57 catches for 808 yards and 3 TDs. He has helped them to a 6-4 record this season with 38 catches for 558 yards and 8 TDs in 9 games. For his career he has 129 catches for 1,695 yards and 13 TDs. Along with fellow Big Red Kalil Pimpleton he has helped lead a resurgence of the Chippewa Football program over the last three seasons. JaCorey was a member of the Big Red football and basketball teams during his four years at MHS.



Alyza Winston

MHS class of 2019

Michigan State University

Alyza is a Junior for the MSU Lady Spartan basketball team that is 4-2 so far this season. Alyza has started all six of their games and has started 22 games over the past two seasons. She is averaging 15.3 points, 1.5 rebounds, and 2.8 assists per game during the 21/22 season to this point. She helped to guide the 20/21 team to a 15-9 record and a trip to the NCAA tournament. During her time with the Lady Reds she was a part of two teams that won back to back OK Black, District, and Regional championships with the 2019 Lady Reds making it to the MHSAA Division 1 semifinals.



**MUSKEGON
BIG REDS
4EVER!!**

HIGH SCHOOL



Tim Hoffman
Muskegon High School
Principal

Big Reds are back and we'd like to welcome you into our new home!

If you've been anywhere around the corner of Sanford and Southern Ave recently, you can't help but notice that big things are happening for the Big Reds. While the staff and students are still adjusting back into the swing of things from the COVID 19 pandemic, construction crews have been steadily working away to help keep Muskegon High School the amazing place we've all come to expect.

The first thing you will notice as you head west on Southern Ave, past the historic entrance to Muskegon High School, is the construction of our new auxiliary gymnasium. Crews have been working tirelessly throughout the summer and fall to keep things on track for a late spring, early summer opening. This new facility will allow our Big Red athletes and coaches to continue to be one of the state's best in a multitude of sports. With a little luck and good weather, the outside construction will be wrapped up before too much snow flies and they can put the final touches on the inside prior to the 2022-23 school year. We look forward to the community seeing the hard work of the construction crews pay off.

With the construction of the new gymnasium, the need has emerged for a new, safer and more secure entrance to the High School. Construction finished in early November and the main office staff is eager to help students, staff, and their families in its new location. You can find the main entrance just south of the band practice field near the administration building. This is located at the corner of Washington and Jefferson near the Charles Hackley memorial statue. With our new service window and secure vestibule, it is our goal to service families in the most efficient way possible.

As many of you remember, the start of the 21-22 school year was sweltering. The next big project on the horizon at Muskegon High School is the installation of air conditioning into the historic building. Your administrative team, along with the architects and engineers, have designed a plan to provide safer conditioned air to the students at MHS without any major changes to the facade of the building. The much needed HVAC work will begin in the spring of 2022. We are looking forward to providing a safer and more comfortable learning environment for our students all year long.

Lastly and most importantly, we hope that you are able to visit campus and see our students performing live and in-person at our many events. Whether you enjoy sports, theatre, music, or anything else the Big Reds have to offer, our students would love to see your Big Red Pride this winter!

As always, stay safe and Go Big Reds!
Tim Hoffman, Principal Muskegon High



Greetings Big Red Nation!

We at Muskegon Middle School want to wish you a very Happy New Year in 2022!

We are proud to highlight with our readers one of our new staff members. Maria del Carmen Martinez Ruiz moved to Muskegon with her family from Barcelona Spain to teach Spanish for us at MMS. Senora Martinez joins our team with 18 years of teaching experience. We are so fortunate that Senora Martinez can share her culture and teaching experience with both students and staff. Senora Martinez also enjoys reading, swimming, traveling, and learning new languages.



Pekala for winning the Middle Vision Logo Contest. Each student designed a logo that they felt represented the Middle Vision program, there were many great ideas, but the final vote went to Jalen's entry.



January brings the end of the semester for our Middle School students. Please help support students to finish strong. For some students, this is their first time taking final exams; we appreciate any extra help in coaching students through this process. Below are some important dates to plan for:

- Jan. 13-14: Half Day for Exams
- Jan. 17: Honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 18: Half day of school, and the first day of the 2nd semester.



Some of our Middle School students have been involved in the Middle Vision program through our local Career Tech Center. This program focuses on Project Based Learning. These 6th graders attend the Career Tech Center for two hours every Monday through Thursday after school. This is a big commitment on their part, and they already have so much to show for it! We want to send a special shout-out to Jalen

**Thank you for all you do
to support our students
and staff!**

Corry Lohman
Muskegon Middle
School Principal





Okeelah McBride
Bunker Elementary
School Principal

Greetings Bunker Parents!

Oh, how I love this time of the year in elementary school. I love the excitement in the eyes of the children each and every day. It truly is the most wonderful time of year. However, with this wonderful time of year comes the c-c-c-cold outside. I have lived in the Muskegon area all of my life and I STILL am not used to this weather! Thank you for remembering to send your students with coats, gloves, hats, snow boots, etc.; whatever it takes to keep them warm each day as we go outside. Please keep in mind that we will be outside most days.

With the winter months and more severe weather conditions of winter, I want to review our inclement weather policy to both reassure and help parents, guardians, and students prepare and plan:

- We recommend that students arrive at school no earlier than 7:55 for supervision purposes.
- Children should arrive at school dressed for the weather of the day so they can safely and comfortably enjoy recesses. In winter months, children should remember to bring shoes to change into from their snow boots. All healthy children will be expected to go out for recess except in extreme weather conditions (wind chill, rain, snow, etc.).
- If your child cannot participate in recess for health reasons, please send a note to this effect. If it is to be a prolonged indoor stay (longer than 3 days) please send a note from the doctor.
- Students will remain inside in extreme weather conditions such as: very cold

temperatures (below 10 degrees) wind chill, heavy rain, and snowfall.

- Please be considerate and safety conscious as you drop off and pick up students at school. Along with winter months we will also see an increase in the number of cars at or around the school. Remember to: not block the flow of traffic, not block crosswalk areas, use parking spaces, and not use the pick up/drop off lanes if you need to enter the building.
- In the event of a major weather event (severe storm, power outage...) the district's PowerSchool system will be used to notify parents. This can be in the form of an automated phone call or email. For this information to reach you, it is important that you keep your contact information current with the main office and your child's teacher. Information will also be posted and updated on the school/district web page.

Family Engagement at Bunker Elementary

Family engagement plays a vital role in the success of our students at Bunker Elementary. Family Engagement Coordinator, Kaylen Wheeler-Gooden, is a fabulous resource by providing exciting opportunities for families to be involved and engaged in their child's school, connecting families with outside resources, as well as, being a liaison for parents and families.

Future events are currently being planned, so look for more information or reach out to Kaylen if you are interested in being on the planning committee. Future events include: Donuts With Dads and an Interactive Black History Celebration.

New to the district this year is our School-Home Partnership Team. This group is designed to provide a safe and inclusive space for parents to give positive input and voice concerns. School-Home Partnership Team is a school based group for parents/guardians to consistently remain active at Bunker. It is also a great way to learn about current volunteer opportunities.

School-Home Partnership Team bridges communication between home and school allowing parents to stay connected with other parents and remain informed about what's going on at Bunker.

Meetings are held every 1st Thursday of the month at 2:30 PM at Lakeside Baptist Church. Lakeside Baptist Church is located at 2250 Denmark St (Across the street from Bunker). Children are welcome!

For more information about future events, the school home partnership team or volunteer opportunities, please feel free to contact Kaylen Wheeler-Gooden-Family Engagement Coordinator at 231-720-2345 or kwheeler@mpsk12.net.

Hackley Community Care School Based Health at Bunker Elementary

Hackley Community Care's (HCC) School-Based Health Programs are designed to meet students and families where they live: in their neighborhoods. The purpose of the School-Based Health Programs is to create a model of care for underserved children and youth through health education. Services have continuously expanded to include health, dental care, and behavioral health services.

The Behavioral Health Service Model at Bunker Elementary is designed to provide counseling, mental health education, and other community resources to youth through the care of a licensed Behavioral Health Care Provider.

Lori Wiltenburg, LMSW, with the assistance of receptionist Chika Walker, is now available to assist the students and families of Bunker Elementary with mental-health related needs. Services can be provided onsite at the HCC Bunker office or virtually with the appropriate communication device and Wi-Fi connection. Services include: Individual Therapy, Group Therapy, Virtual and Telehealth Options, Family Counseling, and Referrals to Medical and Dental Services.

For more information, please call Chika Walker at (231)720-2382 or Lori at (231) 720-1323.

continued on following page

Staff and students have been very busy this school year at Bunker Elementary. The following pictures are from some of the events our students have participated in:

The Big Crunch



2nd Grade - Cotton Candy Factory



Yodel's



Halloween Parties/Parade/ and Halloween STEM Night, in which over 150 families participated.



Muskegon Bus Tour



Pathways to Potential at Bunker Elementary

The Department of Health and Human Services office - Pathways to Potential Program is also located at Bunker Elementary and is available to the families in the Bunker neighborhood. The purpose of the program is to work with families to identify and help reduce/remove barriers and connect them to networks of services. They engage community partners and schools in efforts to help families find their pathways to success. They can also provide help with food assistance, Medicaid, cash assistance, childcare and utility shut offs and other housing expenses.

For more information, please contact Jill Neely at (231) 329-7732 or neelyj2@michigan.gov



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - MARQUETTE

Marquette Celebrates Students

BIG RED ASSEMBLIES

Each month, Assistant Principal Amado Perez' hosts grade level Big Red Assemblies. Students gather in the gymnasium with their classmates and teachers to recognize and celebrate success. Every student has the opportunity to be recognized throughout the school year. Each assembly begins with a review of one BIG REDS school wide expectation. As a reminder, BIG REDS stands for "Believe In Greatness....Responsible, Excellent, Dependable and Safe". Mr. Perez' reviewed the BIG REDS expectations for riding the bus at the most recent Assembly. After the review of the BIG REDS expectation students are recognized and celebrated in the following ways:

1. Recognize class salutes

Marquette hallways can be busy so it is important that classes follow the building expectations for walking in the hallway. They are to be in line with a voice level of 0, bodies still and hands to themselves. When students are showing these behaviors, other adults in the building can "salute the class." The classroom teacher keeps track of the number of salutes the class earns during the month. The class with the greatest number of salutes earns an ice cream party! Students always love ice cream, even when it is cold outside!

2. Recognize Birthdays

Mr. Perez' announces the names of students that had birthdays during the previous month. Students stand when their name is called and other students applaud and offer well wishes. It is a special recognition for all students birthdays that took place during the month and recognition of each student.

3. Recognize Attendance

Students with perfect attendance are recognized and celebrated. Each student is given a special treat at the end of the day.

4. Student of the Month

This is the favorite award for the students. Each classroom teacher selects one student that has exhibited BIG RED expectations in and out of the classroom and is doing their personal best to earn academic success. The student of the month has their picture taken and displayed in the front foyer, is issued a certificate and prizes and earns a special lunch with Principal Mary Scott. Students are allowed to invite family members to join them for their special lunch.



Marquette Door Dash

New this year at Marquette Elementary is the virtual Marquette Door Dash store. Students earn Big Red tickets throughout the school day for being Responsible, Excellent, Dependable and Safe. They can earn these tickets in a variety of ways such as helping out a classmate in the classroom, begin safe on the playground or by being dependable by always turning in their reading log. They can use these tickets to "purchase" items from the Door Dash store. Each item has a ticket cost. The student decides how they want to spend their tickets. Ask your student what they are hoping to buy at the new store!



Here are few doordash quotes from one second grade class:

Andres said, "I like that we can buy stuff. I bought a soccer ball, a pencil grip, and a keychain. The soccer ball is my favorite."

Alonso said, "I like that you get stuff for being good. I got a pencil that never needs sharpening and a bag of stuff with candy, stickers, and a random thing"

Antoinette said, "I like it. They give us toys and fun stuff. I bought a bracelet and pencil sharpener."

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - MOON

Moon 3rd Graders & Yodels Frozen Yogurt Mentorship



Yodels Frozen Yogurt Truck visited 3rd graders at Moon Elementary in November! This fun experience was a part of their project-based learning social studies unit on Economics. Students listened to business-owner, Nick, discuss how he started Yodels, what resources he needs to run his business, and how he makes a profit. Kids then took what they learned to design their own food truck business in class!



To top off this fun day, 3rd graders received a free small cup of froyo from Yodels, and staff received a treat as well! Thanks to Yodels for partnering with us to help enhance student learning!

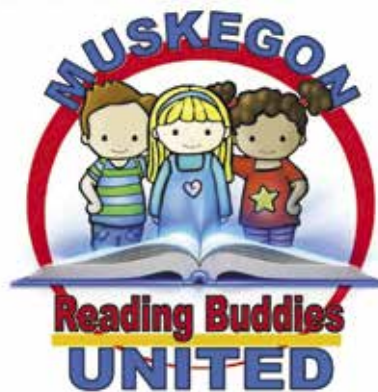


A big thank you to
Kristy Tolbert,
District Social Studies Specialist K-8
for coordinating this project-based learning opportunity. The students at Moon have enjoyed each learning experience and meeting entrepreneurs from the community.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - OAKVIEW

Oakview Reading Buddies

What makes a school different from any other building? Like all buildings, schools consist of walls, rooms, doors, and windows. At Oakview Elementary, it's the people inside those rooms and walls that make all the difference! In addition to the wonderful staff, students, and parents who walk our halls everyday, Oakview is blessed to have the Reading Buddies program.



The *Reading Buddies* program was brought to Oakview through a partnership between our Family Liaison, Ebony Williams, and the founder of *Reading Buddies*, Lynn Kamps. Prior to its closing, the *Reading Buddies* program operated at Nelson Elementary School for 9 years. We are happy to now benefit from it here at Oakview. Ebony and Lynn work with

Oakview's Intervention Team to connect community members with targeted students to improve their reading skills. Adult volunteers from the Muskegon community give an hour or two each week to read with students. The goal of the program is to help the targeted children improve their reading skills.

The *Reading Buddies* program provides a consistent opportunity for targeted Oakview students to practice reading their SFA (Success For All) story of the week to their Reading Buddy. After the student finishes reading their weekly SFA story, the student then discusses the text with their buddy using guiding questions that accompany each story. If time, the student is free to select a different book to read from the collection of books in the room.

Safety is very important to Oakview and our families! All of the adults have completed a volunteer application and background screening before being accepted as a Reading Buddy. Volunteers and students wear facemasks at all times. Additionally, all desks and surfaces are sanitized between groups of students.

Please contact Ebony Williams if you have any questions about the program or if you are interested in becoming a Reading Buddy. All it takes is an hour or two per week, a love for books, and a desire to help children improve their reading.

Sincerely,
Ebony Williams
Family Engagement Coordinator, Oakview Elementary
(231)720-2477

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With our Deepest
APPRECIATION
We Hereby Present

Tasha Bibbs-Jakes
board member, 2012-2022

With this award
in recognition for
your ongoing commitment
and dedicated service
to Muskegon Public Schools
for 10 years.



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