

MUSKEGON

# MIRROR

THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FOR MUSKEGON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISSUE 56 • MAY 2022



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## HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS THRU JUNE 17:  
7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
MONDAY - FRIDAY

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS  
JUNE 20 - JULY 29 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.  
MONDAY - THURSDAY (Closed on Friday)

Please call for an appointment outside of scheduled hours.



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## EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS



**EDUStaff**  
www.edustaff.org

**Enviro-Clean Services**  
www.enviro-clean.com

**Dean Transportation**  
www.deantransportation.com

**Chartwells**  
www.chartwellsk12.com

## RETIREMENT



**Dawn Makin**  
**Teacher**  
**Middle School**  
**21 years**

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

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

Roosevelt Beasley.....	Building Substitute .....	Oakview
Alisha Brown.....	Teacher .....	Middle School
Jessie Burt.....	Lunchroom Aide .....	Moon
Stephanie Derks.....	Teacher .....	Marquette
Erin Finn .....	Bilingual Parent Advocate.....	Marquette
Quientaey Fletcher.....	Lunchroom Aide .....	Oakview
Tommeke Glover.....	Lunchroom Aide .....	Oakview
Sarah Harbeck.....	Behavior Assistant .....	Marquette
Neasha Hogg.....	Building Substitute .....	Marquette
Maegan Lamphere.....	Secretary.....	Moon
Darneal Marble.....	Lunchroom Aide .....	Marquette
Catrina McMillian .....	Lunchroom Aide .....	Bunker
Leah Plank .....	Teacher .....	Bunker
Nicholas Reed.....	Building Substitute .....	High School
William Roberson .....	Paraeducator .....	Marquette
Bailey Scofield.....	Paraeducator .....	Middle School
Kory Surbrook.....	Behavior Assistant .....	Bunker
Joann Swanson.....	Secretary.....	Middle School
Johnathan Washington .....	Lunchroom Aide .....	Bunker
Aviance Watts .....	Lunchroom Aide .....	Bunker
Jarod Wierengo.....	Building Substitute .....	High School
Gianni Williams.....	Building Substitute.....	Moon

## WELCOME BACK PROUD MICHIGAN EDUCATORS CAMPAIGN

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is launching the Welcome Back Proud Michigan Educators campaign for educators with expired credentials to return to the teaching workforce by reducing or eliminating professional learning recertification requirements. The campaign recognizes these educators' experience and preparation while providing an opportunity for immediate employment with a local education agency (LEA), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), as part of strategic efforts to increase the number of certified educators in areas of shortage. Contact the human resources office for more information at (231) 720-2008.



Source:

[https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5683\\_14795\\_83465---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5683_14795_83465---,00.html)



**Matthew Cortez**  
Superintendent, Ed.S.  
Muskegon Public Schools

# Congratulations CLASS OF 2022

As the COVID pandemic has eased up within our community, it is only now that we can truly begin to see the possible obstacles that have been created. All of us have been so drastically affected in

many ways from the pandemic; just like the uncertainty of how to stop or mitigate COVID, there is uncertainty on how to fix the after affects as well. Some will say mental health wellness and social-emotional learning are the ways forward while others claim more individual and personal-based remedies. There is no clear answer and no one-size-fits-all solution, but there are many tools for us to rely upon for help.

As we begin our end-of-the-year celebrations, I would like to reflect on the resilience of the Class of 2022 and our community.

Muskegon Public Schools is a district with 150 years of long standing, bold, and proud traditions. These traditions create a connectedness between Big Reds that is not often found in other schools. Since coming here three years ago, I have learned many aspects of what it means to be a Big Red—like witnessing the Big Reds’ strength and resilience in the face of the most unpredictable and unprecedented school years in history.

All of these unprecedented and unpredictable situations with which we are faced can create anxiety, panic and even social withdrawal in people of all ages. This is where our traditions and values as a community come into the equation. The value of relationship, caring, empathy, and patience are the keys to discover just how we help one another to take our next steps. Now more than ever we need to concentrate on being one district, one community, one Big Red Family.

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!! Your resilience will serve you well into the future. On May 25, 2022, we will gather to celebrate your graduation and how your continued resilience has been an inspiration to us all.

Yours in Big Red Pride,



Superintendent of Schools

## TEAMWORK



### 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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### 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



**Lynnette Marks**  
President  
Muskegon Public Schools  
Board of Education

### **Greetings MPS Community,**

This publication, the *Muskegon Mirror*, is the one communication that reaches directly into homes across the city whether you have students enrolled or not. It is communication beyond robo-calls, Dojo updates, phone calls, emails, web updates, power school, newsletters, and notes from teachers (lost in the bottom of backpacks). Whether you are a student, parent, staff member, business owner, life long Muskegon resident, or new Muskegon resident, you are part of our community. WELCOME.

YOU are a part of our Big Red Community. Muskegon Public Schools are an integral part of the city and all our neighborhoods. You and our neighborhoods are an integral part of Muskegon Public Schools.

As I write this in March the rain is mixed with snow, and while you read it in May the snow will (hopefully) be long gone with leaves and flowers making their appearances. Life is a series of changes and growth, much like the seasons. I ask that you think about the people that made a difference in your life as you were growing up. What things grabbed your attention to get you hooked on learning? What things touched your heart? What would have been something to get you engaged, or made you feel supported?

Your ideas and concerns matter. Thank you to all who have attended community meetings and participated in surveys. Your input is important to us. MPS staff have connected a wide variety of community businesses, organizations, and individuals with our students for project based learning activities. These are some of the most memorable and engaging lessons which get students excited about learning. If you have a skill, knowledge, or experience to share, please reach out. We will make connections. There are many ways to volunteer: ongoing such as reading with elementary students, or one-time providing knowledge or support for an event. We have wonderful events such as concerts, plays, student displays, and sporting events. There is ALWAYS space for more people in the audience.

If you don't have students in school, how do you know what is going on? Both the district website ([muskegonpublicschools.org](http://muskegonpublicschools.org)) and Facebook provide updates on activities and opportunities. Contact numbers for school officials are also included in this publication. Please reach out and stay connected.

As a Seattle transplant to Muskegon after college, parent of Muskegon graduates, and school board member, I am continually humbled by the passion and dedication of the Big Red Community.

**Go Big Reds.**  
- Lynnette

### **Board of Education 2022-23 Meeting Schedule**

#### **Tuesday's at 7pm**

May 17, 2022	October 18, 2022	January 17, 2023
June 21, 2022	November 15, 2022	February 21, 2023
July 20, 2022 <i>July Retreat (tentative)</i>	December 20, 2022	March 21, 2023
August 16, 2022		April 18, 2023
September 20, 2022		May 16, 2023
		June 20, 2023



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

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION 2021-2022**

**Lynnette Marks, President**  
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**Zachary Allen Anderson, Trustee**  
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231-571-8978

## The Pandemic - YUCK. Field Trips - YEAH!

For over a year, Muskegon Public Schools students experienced online learning like many other students throughout the country. As any teacher would tell you, learning online was difficult and could never compare to the benefit of in-person learning. Throughout the pandemic, the State of Michigan and the Federal Government provided MPS with additional funding for technology, internet in our students' homes, training for teaching online, additional cleaning supplies and custodial staff and many other allowable items to help with safe environments and ways to reach our students while teaching online.

One of the outcomes of learning online for MPS students and students around the country is a marked decline in reading and math scores. MPS is focused on supporting students in gaining academic skills through a variety of supports such as extended day, after school tutoring, online credit recovery and summer school. While considering the importance of our student learning goals we were approved by the State of Michigan to utilize our recovery funding to ensure our students are able to learn in the classroom and experience real-world environments that connect to their learning goals.

It is our goal to have the following students experience real-world learning field trips during the 2022-2023 and the 2023-2024 school year at no cost to our students or families.



**Kindergarten students** go to Lewis Farms to study everything that plants and animals need to live and grow. They'll see science live and in-person as they visit the animals at the farm and learn about the crops grown there.

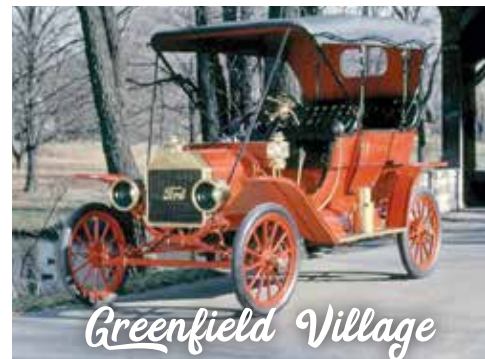
**Second grade students** will go to several Muskegon area sites because this grade covers our local community in social studies. We will visit a local business as we study economics, Hackley Park, Heritage Landing and the Muskegon Lake Channel as we study geography, the Lakeshore Museum Center as we study history, and a local park or site to identify a public issue and put civics into action.



**Fourth grade students** will visit the Michigan State Capital in Lansing and the Impression Five Museum to study our state government and various science topics. In 3rd grade students are first introduced to how our government works, and this learning continues into 4th grade. Students will visit the state capitol and see firsthand where and how the three branches of government work!

**Sixth grade students** will go to the Muskegon Winter Sports Complex to study forces and motion. Students learn all about this topic in middle school science and will get an engaging preview of the topic with the luge! Students will also experience a day of outdoor fun with campfires, cooking their own lunch outside, skiing, ice skating and ice hockey!

**Eighth grade students** will visit the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and Greenfield Village to study US History up close and personal! 8th graders focus on US history, which is continued into high school. Both of these sites will provide numerous connections to learning done in 8th grade, and will build background knowledge for US History II in high school.



As research shows, field trips offer a unique opportunity for students to create connections, which will help them gain understanding and develop an enjoyment of learning. Students on field trips sharpen their skills of observation and perception by utilizing all their senses (Nabors et al., 2009). Thank you to our community, our parents and our staff for all they do to support our students in their quest to love learning and experience real-world learning experiences.

# CURRICULUM

## Science - Spring/Summer Science Update 2022

by Joshua Presson, K-8 Science Specialist

Another exciting school year here at MPS is almost in the books. Our students and staff have all been learning in new and exciting ways. Students and staff continue to learn in both new and traditional ways. We were fortunate enough to return to a sense of normalcy this school year as students returned to face-to-face learning. This allowed us the opportunity to get back to some hands-on science curriculum.

Our middle school students participated in part of a pilot curriculum looking for a new district approved curriculum. This Mi-STAR curriculum was very exciting with ample opportunities for them to be engaged in hands-on investigations. Our elementary students continued to receive their instruction through the use of our district approved Cereal City Science curriculum which gave them all exposure to earth science, life science, and physical science units.

As thorough and engaging as our teachers are, we know that summer learning loss is real. As summer starts, please consider some of the available resources included below to help your MPS student stay educated on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

- <https://cerealcityscience.org/learn-at-home>
- <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/science/>
- <https://mysteryscience.com/>

## ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

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

## HACKLEY COMMUNITY CARE

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



## MUSKEGON TEEN HEALTH CENTER

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

## Here is a fun activity you can do at home with your child to make a homemade lava lamp!

You can build a lava lamp by following the directions below:

### MATERIALS:

- 1 clean, plastic soda bottle with cap\*
- Vegetable oil
- 1 Alka-Seltzer tablet for a 16 oz soda bottle or 2 tablets for per liter bottle
- Food coloring
- Water

\* It is a great idea to reuse a plastic soda bottle from a recycling bin (just wash it out before beginning the experiment)

### PROCEDURE:

1. Gather materials over a surface that cannot be damaged by oil or can be wiped clean. Another good option is to cover a table with old newspapers.
2. Fill the plastic bottle  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with vegetable oil.
3. Add water to the neck of the bottle, leaving a little space between the water line and the top of the container. (You can always add more water at a later time.)
4. Decide on a color for your 'lava lamp' bottle. Select the food coloring accordingly.
5. Add 10 or more drops of food coloring to the bottle until a rich color is seen.
6. Break the Alka-Seltzer tablet into smaller pieces (6 to 8). Add one piece at a time observing each reaction.
7. When the bubbling stops, replace the bottle cap.
8. Tip the bottle back and forth and observe the reaction. Tip, twist, and shake the bottle in different directions. Observe the reactions and take notes.

Oil and water do not mix because they cannot form any chemical bonds with each other. Water is made up of highly charged, hydrophilic compounds (or "water loving") while oil is made up of long chains of carbon that are hydrophobic ("scared of water"). The long chains of carbon that make up oils do not carry a charge and are not attracted to the water molecules. This causes the separation we see in this experiment as well as in our kitchen sinks and oceanic oil spills. Furthermore, the oil will float on top of the water because it is less dense than water.

Alka-Seltzer is technically both acidic and basic. The tablets contain sodium bicarbonate (a base) and citric acid (an acid) which, when mixed with water, react with each other and produce bubbling carbon dioxide. This creates the bubbles you see within the colored fluid in the soda bottle.

*Please have a great summer! As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions about our science program.*

[jpresson@mpsk12.net](mailto:jpresson@mpsk12.net)



**Social Studies - Black History Celebration of Learning**

by Kristy Tolbert

On Thursday, March 3, MPS held its first, district-wide **Black History Celebration of Learning**. This community event, organized by our district Family Engagement Coordinators was an exciting display of student learning and achievements from Black History Month and throughout the school year. Classroom teachers from all grade levels did some wonderful projects with students, but it was our Encore teachers (Art, Music, PE and Technology) who really dug deep into their learning on various Black History topics related to their content area. They spent weeks working with students at all grade levels on projects like civil rights songs and spirituals, a Scott Joplin unit, African drumming, a "Change Sings" mural drawing based on the book by Amanda Gorman, and in PE, fitness stations correlated to notable Black athletes. In tech class, students did research projects focused on notable Black inventors and leaders, which were shared using Google Slides or another tech-based method.

Many of our encore teachers from each elementary building attended our event on March 3 with their students, and worked with them to display or perform their work for their parents and other community members. MPS gives a huge thank you to Mr. DelRaso, Ms. Elder, Ms. Moore, Ms. Westcott, Ms. Young, Mrs. Chamberlain, Ms. Cooper, Mr. Hilliker, Mr. Sikkenga, Mr. Kaiser, Mr. Darga, Ms. Douglas, Mrs. Schuitema and Mrs. Carr for all their efforts as they spent time focused on important Black History with their students. We look forward to seeing how we can develop these projects further next year and create an even more exciting **Black History Celebration of Learning** event!



# CURRICULUM

## Summer Reading and Writing

by Julie Ray

Our much needed summer break is before us, and it is important to be aware of the learning loss that can happen over the summer months. Your child and your child's teacher have worked hard this year, and we want it to stick! It is well-known that children who spend no time reading and writing over the summer can lose as



much as 20% of their learning. If your child has been invited to attend summer school, or has access to other summer activities, please find a way to make sure they attend. In addition, please see the following tips and activities that will keep your child learning all summer:

- Make sure your child reads for **at least 20 minutes a day**. If you don't have abundant books in your home, **visit the local library**. When children choose their own books, they are more likely to read them. Our local libraries also have summer programming for children.
- **Have conversations** before, during, and after reading together. This increases vocabulary, higher-level thinking, and language skills.
- Help children learn how to break sentences into words and words into syllables.
- Help children sound out words smoothly.
- **Model reading fluently** by practicing reading aloud with your child.
- **Ask your child to write** about the characters, problem/solution, or interesting things learned from their reading. Reading and writing develop together.

In addition to the wonder of reading a great book that you hold in your hands, there are also resources for online reading:

- **Mel.org** - Michigan's eLibrary, part of the Michigan Department of Education
- **Storylineonline.net** - award-winning children's books read aloud by celebrated actors
- **Worldbookonline.com** - easy-to-read content for elementary school learners - hundreds of activities, science projects, and experiments
- **Pbskids.org** - light, fun online activities that help teach beginning reading skills
- **Tweentribune.com** - articles on all sorts of interesting nonfiction topics

Whatever method or activities you choose, it will all make a difference in the amount of learning your child retains, or even gains, over the summer. We want your child to be prepared for the 2022-2023 school year feeling confident and strong, and look forward to seeing them in the fall.

A colorful advertisement for the Hackley Public Library's 2022 Summer Reading Program. The top left features the Hackley Public Library logo with the tagline "Everything Imaginable". The main graphic shows a person in a kayak reading a book, with the text "OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES" in large, bold, orange letters. Below this, it says "2022 Summer Reading Program" and "June 13 - August 13 Hackley Public Library". At the bottom, it provides the address "316 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon, MI" and the website "hackleylibrary.org | 231-722-8000". A circular inset on the left shows a photograph of the Hackley Public Library building.

**HACKLEY**  
Public Library  
Everything Imaginable

**OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES**

**2022 Summer Reading Program**

**June 13 - August 13**  
**Hackley Public Library**

316 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon, MI  
hackleylibrary.org | 231-722-8000





## K - 5 Math

by Dr. Kathy Coffey

### HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD LEARN MATH?

Children are more likely to be successful learners when parents are positively and actively supportive of their child's learning. Helping your child may seem more difficult these days because math is taught differently than it was when parents were learning math. Even so, there are some common ways that parents can easily help nurture positive attitudes toward learning math both at home and at school.

#### MATH AT HOME

Parents can influence their child's attitude about learning math in negative or positive ways. You can't make your child love or even like math; however, saying things like "Math is hard," or "It's okay, I didn't like math and wasn't very good at it either," or "Don't worry about doing well in math, you can do something else for your career," can undermine your child's math ability and confidence. You can be a positive influence by encouraging your child to do their best and by doing fun and interesting math-related everyday activities with your child at home.

Counting is the foundation of basic numeracy skills. Everyday activities such as doing laundry, doing the dishes, picking up toys, getting dressed, and going for a walk are all opportunities to increase your child's confidence and counting abilities. Ask your child to count "how many" aloud with everyday objects such as coins, buttons, dishes, silverware, glasses, socks, shoes, toys, the number of letters or magazines that came in the mail, or other things around your house or yard. Go for a walk and have fun counting by asking your child to take "two big steps and three little steps," or "hop four times and turn around one time." Make sure to compliment your child's efforts! Playing games and reading math-related books with your child can also provide opportunities to engage in positive math activities.

#### MATH AT SCHOOL

Connect with your child's teacher to find out how you can extend the mathematical concepts that are being taught in the classroom to home. This will help your child know that learning math is important to both you and the teacher, that math is not just a subject for school, but a subject that helps make life understandable, more interesting, and more enjoyable.

It's important to make sure you know and understand the system your child's teacher is using to assign homework, how homework is graded, if homework is meant to be done independently, and what methods and strategies are being used to teach mathematical concepts in the classroom. Look for and read the "Family Letter" that your child's teacher sends home about once a month at the beginning of each new unit and the "Home Link" that is sent home for many of the lessons in each unit. Your child's teacher can also give you tips for how to help your child at home

if they are struggling with specific math concepts like counting, learning addition, subtraction, multiplication, division facts. Finally, you and your child's teacher can work together to set up a system for studying at home and give each other feedback on the mathematical successes and challenges your child is experiencing at school and at home.

**Ways a Parent Can Help with MATH**

- 1 Look for shapes and patterns in real life
- 2 Have your child measure ingredients for a recipe you are making
- 3 Ask your child to explain the math skills he or she is working on in school
- 4 When helping your child with homework or school assignments, ask him or her to explain how he or she got an answer
- 5 Help your child find some appropriate number and problem-solving games to play online
- 6 Play card or board games that involve counting or patterns
- 7 Ask your child to count change at the grocery store, or to estimate the total cost while you are shopping
- 8 Compare: Which is the tallest? ...the heaviest? ...the longest? ...the smallest? ...the fastest? ...the hottest? ...the most expensive?
- 9 Have tools such as a ruler, a scale, a calculator, and a measuring tape available to use in your house
- 10 Encourage your child to track or graph scores or stats for a favorite sports team
- 11 Use dice or playing cards to make a game out of practicing math facts

**Point out ways math is part of "real" life: money, computers, music, art, construction, cooking...**  
All around us, every day.

©2013 For the Teachers - [www.fortheteachers.org](http://www.fortheteachers.org)

# IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!

Muskegon  
Public Schools



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in Muskegon

## STUDENT SERVICES - ENROLLMENT

### MPS Enrollment



**Brenda Kota**

Central Registrar &  
Student Services Support

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

Simply go to our website:

([www.muskegonpublicschools.org](https://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. All our buildings have computers available. If you have any issues with uploading the required

documents, make sure to answer all the questions and you can email the documents directly to me ([bkota@mpsk12.net](mailto:bkota@mpsk12.net)), or you can bring them to any one of our buildings.

### 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), no junk mail.
- 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
- Transcripts and current grades from previous school for High School students

### ATTENTION 2022/23 KINDERGARTNERS

Muskegon Public Schools are accepting enrollments for kindergartners. We will also be testing all new kindergartners for Kindergarten Readiness in August. Please call Brenda Kota, 231-720-2013 to get your student scheduled.

If your student attended PreK For All through Muskegon Public Schools, you do not need to enroll your student for kindergarten.

If your student attended Glenside Pre-K, you do have to enroll your student to attend Muskegon Public Schools.

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



Preparing for kindergarten can be exciting and stressful for your whole family. Kindergarten may be very different from the way it was when you were a child. Many parents wonder if their child is ready for school.

- Some children seem too young or not ready for school. Some families and teachers believe that getting older will help the child get ready for kindergarten. This is not always true. Remember that children change a lot between May and September.
- Children grow and develop by learning from the world around them. Meeting new people and interacting with other children will help your child learn and grow.
- Kindergarten can help parents help their children at home. Every child wants to feel safe and ready to succeed in school. Family is the most important factor in supporting your child to achieve these feelings. Family support helps encourage your child to learn.

When preparing your child for kindergarten it is important to think not only of their academic skills, but also your child’s maturity and social skills, as well. Remember to make learning fun. Young children need to learn through play. They are not able to sit still for long periods. Learn things like letters, numbers and colors through play using manipulatives and sensory items, such as play-doh or shaving cream, and even adding gross motor fun by going on scavenger hunts, skipping, jumping, etc.

## THE FOLLOWING ARE SKILLS TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN BEFORE ENTERING KINDERGARTEN:

### 1. WRITING

- Help your child practice writing letters, especially the letters in his/her name.
- Teach your child how to write his/her name with an uppercase first letter and the remaining letters in lowercase.
- Write using shaving cream in the bathtub, salt or sugar in a cake pan or finger paint to make practicing more fun and multisensory.

### 2. LETTER RECOGNITION

- Play games to help your child recognize some letters of the alphabet.
- Play hide and seek with refrigerator magnets.
- Rather than drilling your child with flashcards, use them to play a game of alphabet Go Fish.

### 3. BEGINNING SOUNDS

- Make your child aware of the sound that each letter makes.
- Find items around the house that begin with the same sound and identify the letter that makes each sound.
- Overemphasize the first sound in words to help your child hear the individual sounds in words.

### 4. NUMBER RECOGNITION AND COUNTING

- Count throughout the day. For example, count the crackers he/she is eating for snack or the socks that you take out of the dryer.
- Point out numbers you see in your environment and have your child name them.

### 5. SHAPES AND COLORS

- If your child is having trouble recognizing certain colors, you might add a little food coloring to cookie dough,

milk or vanilla pudding to emphasize those colors.

- Help your child recognize more difficult shapes, such as diamonds and rectangles, by showing her how to draw them on paper and cut them out.
- Play games in which your child finds objects of particular colors and shapes around the house or in the neighborhood as you drive.

### 6. FINE MOTOR SKILLS

- Give your child several different writing options (colored pencils, crayons, markers, etc.) to help keep him/her interested in writing and drawing.
- Play with play dough to strengthen the muscles of the hand that will be used for writing.

### 7. CUTTING

- Purchase a good pair of child-safe scissors and let your child practice.
- Give him/her old magazines or newspapers to cut up, or allow him/her to make a collage of the things he/she likes by cutting them from magazines and gluing them to a piece of paper.

### 8. READING READINESS

- Run your finger under the words as you read to your child to help her learn that words go from left to right and top to bottom.
- Play games with rhyming words to help your child hear similar sounds in words. For example, as you are going up the stairs, name one word that rhymes with cat for each step as you go up.

### 9. ATTENTION AND FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

- Read lots of stories with your child and work up to reading longer chapter books, one chapter each night

**ENROLL YOUR  
KINDERGARTENER AT:**  
Poole Administration Building  
1458 5th Street, Muskegon, MI 49441  
**(231) 720-2013**  
PLEASE CALL FOR UPDATED OFFICE HOURS

or as long as he/she remains interested and focused.

- Give your child two and three step directions. For example: “Put on your pajamas, brush your teeth and pick a book to read.”
- Play Simon Says with two or three step directions. For example: “Simon Says, jump up and down and shout hooray.”

### 10. SOCIAL SKILLS

- Give your children opportunities to interact with other children in preschool, church or social groups or play dates.
- Teach your child how to express his/her feelings if he/she doesn’t like something.
- Role-play different situations he/she might experience on the playground or at school. Help find solutions for typical problems he/she might encounter.

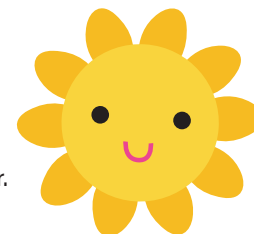
### 11. INDEPENDENCE

- Use the bathroom independently. This includes wiping, washing his/her own hands and making sure clothes are in the right place and fastened before opening the door.
- Put on and take off coat and backpack by themselves.
- Eat independently, including opening containers or packages for lunch or snack.
- Clean up after themselves.

*Chances are you’re already practicing many of the skills your child will need for kindergarten. Remember to keep it fun and don’t make it stressful for you or your child. With just a little practice, your child will be prepared for his/her elementary school debut!*

## YOU CAN HELP PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN SUCCESS

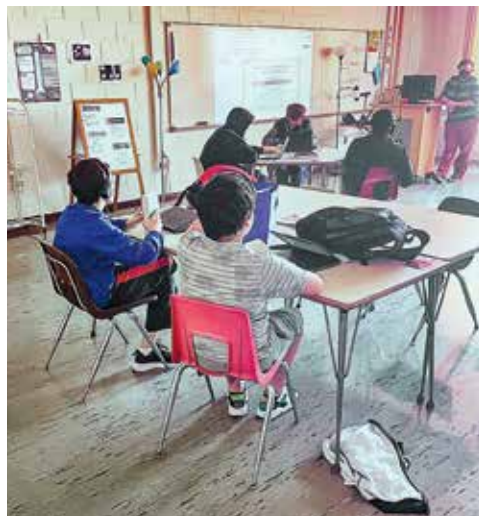
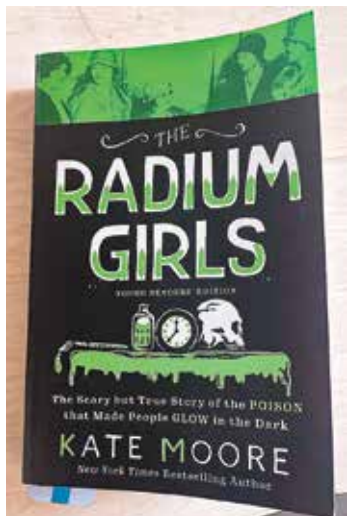
- Talk about school in a positive way. Share your favorite things about your school experience.
- Ask your child about their fears and don’t ignore the feelings they share with you. Going to school for the time can be very scary!
- Drive by the school your child will be attending and talk about it or stop and play on the playground.
- Attend open houses and/or orientation so that your child can become familiar with the inside of the building and meet their teacher.
- A few weeks before school starts establish a routine at night to make sure your child is getting plenty of sleep.
- Talk about what will happen on the first day of school. Who will take them? Who they may see at school? What they may have for lunch?
- READ! READ! READ! Go to the library and get new books, make predictions while reading, make connections to other books or real life.
- WRITE! Give your child a journal to write in every day. Writing can mean drawing pictures or practicing letters, numbers or words.
- Play games with your child – and don’t always just let them win. Taking turns and winning and losing gracefully are great skills to have.
- Make all outings educational. Look for letters in their name or play “I Spy” finding colors, letters and numbers.
- Go out and explore! Any time your child is out, they are learning. Talk to them about what they are experiencing. Encourage questions and curiosity.



## OFFICE OF SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION

### Academic Strategies Class

During the spring semester, Sarah Anklam, a resource teacher at Muskegon Middle School, began a project with students enrolled in her 8th grade Academic Strategies class. Together, the class is reading the book **"Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women"** by Kate Moore. One of the students stated that "Radium Girls is a cool book because it involves real people and history!"



The story is about the newly discovered element - radium. Radium was used in many household projects like body lotion and toothpaste during the first World War before anyone knew that it was toxic. Those who worked the jobs in the factories where radium was present were considered lucky. The "Radium Girls," as these workers were referred to, were well paid and well respected. However, the women working in the factories started suffering from a mysterious illness. Once the leaders in the corporations running the factories realized this illness was due to radium poisoning, they tried to cover it up. The story is about the "Radium Girls" determination to fight back and save people's lives.

The students are reading the story together as a class. Ms. Anklam sometimes reads aloud to the students and sometimes the students take turns reading to their peers. They are tracking their progress as they read each chapter and earning Mystery Motivator rewards. This is a research based strategy that encourages and increases student engagement. Ms. Anklam notes that the students are very invested in the story and the plight of the girls. One of the students stated that, "There is a lot of pain inside the book - the girls are like test subjects." Another said, "I find it interesting because it's about girls and how they are treated differently."

Sarah and her students are reading all thirty-seven chapters together!

## MUSKEGON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER

### MCEC Fam,

On April 11, 2022, the MCEC Fam moved down the street to Nelson School, leaving our current home in the "J" Building on the Muskegon High School campus. At our new home, we will be using the first-floor main-hallway classrooms, which have been recently renovated. The west entrance (off the parking lot near the field entrance) will be the entrance used for students, staff, and families.



**Paul Kurdziel**  
Muskegon Community  
Education Center

Eligible students will continue to receive transportation to and from school, and we will follow the very same daily schedule we currently follow. Breakfast will be available until 9:10 every morning, and students will select lunch from several choices each morning in their first-hour classes. Yes, we will be in a new building; however, mostly everything else will remain as it is currently for the MCEC Fam.

One change: students who leave the building once they have arrived will need to arrange for a parent/guardian to contact Mr. Kurdziel or his designee to reenter the building since we will have a closed campus (this means students may not leave the building at lunch time). Predetermined medical or dental appointments will, of course, count as the parent contact as long as the documentation is provided when students return to the building.

Some new things: we are excited to be able to have our own cafeteria, which doubles as an auditorium for group events or special speakers. Furthermore, we will have our own gym and outdoor space; this means students will continue to have options for physical activity as they improve their grades and maintain good attendance. Finally, the MCEC Fam will be already moved and ready to go for the Fall 2022-2023 school year.

We all realize that change is never without some bumps in the road, but we are excited to "have our own place," too! Most students and parents still have Mr. Ellis, Mr. Kurdziel, and Mr. Williams' contact information that was given out during the orientation meetings at the beginning of this school year, so if there are any concerns now or in the near future, please give us a call, a text, or message us on Facebook, so we can best support your MCEC student.

Yours, Paul Kurdziel

## PROPOSAL I • Promises Kept

### MUSKEGON HIGH SCHOOL • Fall 2023

- HVAC Upgrades: Heating + Air Conditioning
- Roof Replacement
- LED Lighting
- Interior Refresh
- Electrical Service Upgrade

### BUNKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • Fall 2023

- HVAC Upgrades: New Boilers + Air Conditioning
- Electrical Service Upgrades
- Roof Replacement
- LED Lighting
- New Early Childhood and Kindergarten Classrooms
- Interior Refresh
- Parent + Bus Drop-Off/Pick-Up Improvements
- New Parking Lot
- Playground Relocation with ADA Accessibility
- Renamed Bunker Elementary

## PROPOSAL II • Promises Kept

### HACKLEY STADIUM • Late Fall 2020

- New Turf Field



### REDMOND POTTER BUILDING • Late Fall 2020

- Replace Gym Bleachers

### MUSKEGON HIGH SCHOOL • Late Spring 2023

- New Auxiliary Gym
- New Athletic Offices
- New Secured Front Entrance
- New Camera Security System

### Auxillary Gym Progress



### New Middle School Construction

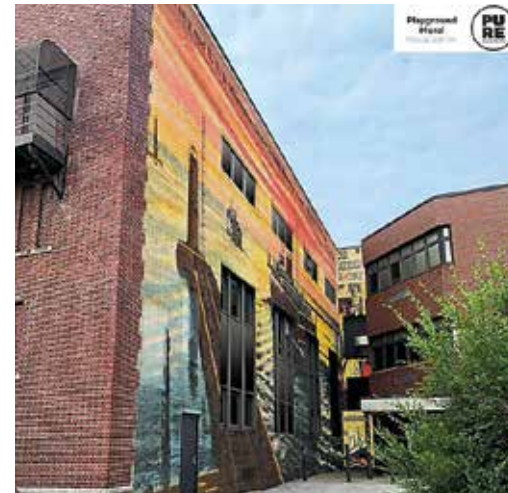
Things are under way!



## PROPOSAL I & II • Promises Expanded

### BUNKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • Fall 2023

- Conversion of Auditorium to include:
  - New secured main entrance
  - STEM lab
  - Chill Zone
  - 3 New early childhood classrooms
- New Windows and Doors
- Local Artistic collaboration



### HACKLEY STADIUM • Late Fall 2020

- New brick wall surrounding the field proper
- New concrete sidewalk areas and along Jefferson
- New coating of epoxy chip and seal on stadium grandstands

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Today's busy families tend to shy away from adding one more thing to do, including the various typical responsibilities that come with being in a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). When parents think about the traditional PTO model, all that comes to mind is being involved in a bunch of fundraisers.

The Family Engagement Department re-branded the traditional PTO into the School-Home Partnership Team (SHPT) at each of our elementary schools and the middle school. Not only have we rebranded PTO to SHPT, but we have also completely refocused the goals. The SHPT vision statement reads, "Partnering with families, schools and communities for the lifelong success of our children". Note, no fundraising required. SHPT meetings are held monthly at each school and are focused solely on creating an environment for parents to be actively involved in what's going on in their students' school.

The school's Family Engagement Coordinator facilitates each meeting with a well thought out agenda to ensure that the SHPT members' time is productive and constructive. The meetings start out making families aware of current events happening in the school or any opportunities to volunteer.

The second half of the meeting is spent giving families an opportunity to ask questions or share concerns. The teams are slowly growing in participation, with parents feeling empowered to share their thoughts and have their questions answered all the while, meeting new families.

From one SHPT middle school parent, "I am so happy things like this (SHPT meeting) are happening - I found out things today that I would have never found out. Times have changed at MPS and I am happy to see this is the direction you all are going in. I will be back"

"I believe the SHPT meeting is an amazing movement. The parents that have attended are loving the open communication that these meetings provide. I have hosted 2 SHPT meetings so far with over 25 parents in attendance. I have an ever-growing parent database where parents are receiving exclusive updates and staying in the know. Parents are loving the direction of things as well. MPS is definitely showing they want more parent involvement and I believe with the help of family engagement we will see some positive changes soon." Alex Turner - MMS FEC

I have been working with families in various school settings for the last 20 years. I truly believe that if schools can increase parental involvement, student success will increase, parent and teacher satisfaction will increase with an overall improvement to school climate.

If you would like more information on the School-Home Partnership Teams, whether you are a parent or a community member, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the school's Family Engagement Coordinators. All stakeholders in MPS schools are welcome. I am happy to also announce that next year MPS will have a Family Engagement Coordinator to support the High School!

## IMPACT • AFTERSCHOOL

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



### **An AMAZING Year!**

Our dedicated site coordinators along with their team of youth development specialists, have worked exceptionally this year maintaining high-quality, safe and engaging after school learning programs that have granted our participants experiences and opportunities that have had positive effects on school attendance, student grades and academic work habits.

In conjunction with the opportunity to complete IReady minutes daily the students also had a ball with the multicultural enrichment focus exploring the culture, currency, education, art, cuisine, traditions, of various world destinations! Through hands-on activity sessions that embedded academics, they built the pyramids of Egypt, the learned the versatility of the yam in Africa and prepared pies! They made the soaps of Brazil, the perfume of Paris, and so much more!!! Each month brought with it a new and exciting destination and learning experience! The end of the year field trip to Mackinac Island complemented the enrichment learning focus. The students got to explore some of the offerings and uniqueness of Michigan! What a ball!!!

### **SUMMER IMPACT!**

Are you interested in having these same intentional fun, learning and growth opportunities for your elementary student during the summer months? Join us!

In collaboration with the District, IMPACT will offer 6 weeks of summer program. So not only will your student enjoy the safe, supportive and engaging interactive environment of the IMPACT STEM CAMP, but will receive focused academic instruction in Math and ELA by Muskegon Public School's instructional staff.

The Middle and High Schools will also offer "JUMPSTART" a summer program that will bridge the gap from elementary to middle school and middle to high school. The program is designed for exiting 5th and 8th graders only. The goal of the program is to assist students in successfully transitioning into the middle or high school learning environment by equipping them with the necessary academic and personal skills to help prepare them for and get a jumpstart on the middle/high school learning experience.

Summer learning can be very beneficial in combating summer learning loss and narrowing the achievement gap. It is also a way to provide structure to the child's summer experience. For additional information on summer programming and registration please contact the 21st CCLC Administrative Office at 231-720-2061, or your building site coordinator.

- Start Date: June 11
- Breakfast and lunch provided daily
- Free
- Limited Spacing - **REGISTER EARLY!**
- Transportation available for eligible students

## CALENDAR

May 6 .....	Half Day AM
May 13.....	Half Day AM
May 20.....	Half Day AM
May 27 .....	Half Day AM
May 30.....	Memorial Day, No School
June 3.....	Half Day AM
June 7.....	Exams, ½ Day AM for MMS, MHS & MCEC
June 8.....	Last Day of School, Half Day AM



♥ Hello Summer ♥



## First Congregational Church



First Congregational Church of Muskegon has recently confirmed its commitment to being Open and Affirming.

This means that we care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.

We embrace into our full life and ministry persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.



**In Person & ONLINE  
Worship Service  
Sunday - 10:30 AM**

1201 Jefferson St.,  
Muskegon, 49441  
231-726-3254  
[www.fccmuskegon.org](http://www.fccmuskegon.org)



## THE NANCY POPPEN PROGRAM

**The Nancy K. Poppen Program is accepting new applications for fall of 2022!**

Current third through eleventh graders at MPS schools are eligible to apply for music lessons, visual arts classes, creative writing classes, spoken word performance lessons, dance or theatre classes. The application deadline is May 21st, 2022. You can apply through our website, [poppenprograms.org](http://poppenprograms.org), or pick up a hard copy application folder in your school's front office. Call Claire with questions, 231-720-2040.

Monday, March 14th was our first Poppen Programs college visit trip since the beginning of the pandemic, and that feels great! We were able to visit Western Michigan University and Olivet College. This trip is open to all high school students in the Nancy K. Poppen Program.

I am inviting former Poppen Program students Jubenal Rodriguez, Rhyuhn Dotson, and Ashley Nash to come in this spring, to speak with current students about their careers, pizza provided! Jubenal is a local muralist and graphic designer, Rhyuhn is a painter and illustrator in Grand Rapids, and Ashley is an illustrator and graphic designer in Grand Rapids.

On May 25th, we will take any Poppen students who register, plus one family adult, to see the Dance Theatre of Harlem at the Frauenthal Center. The Dance Theatre of Harlem Company tours nationally and internationally, presenting a powerful vision for ballet in the 21st century. The 18-member, multi-ethnic company performs a forward-thinking repertoire that celebrates the belief that ballet belongs to everyone. Email Claire to RSVP.

Also coming up, we are sponsoring four Poppen students for Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp this summer, and contributing toward two additional students, helping their families fund the Pre-College Summer Experience at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit.

We've had a busy winter with our spoken word students and our musicians, representing Poppen Programs at the Pathfinders Black History Month Event, the MPS Black History Month evening, and an event with Culturally Vigilant and MADL celebrating the 100th anniversary of the NAACP in Muskegon County, and with a student competing at the State level in the Michigan Humanities' Poetry Out Loud competition. (See photo for Colbert at the event) It has been lovely to have a chance to perform for our students who are itching to get out there!

**Our Year-End Art Show and Recital will be held June 14th from 4:30-6:40 pm at The Block, the West Michigan Symphony's chamber music venue on the second floor of the Russel Block building on Western Avenue in downtown Muskegon.**

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.



### Brionne Crews

MHS class of 2019

Aquinas College

Brionne is a 2019 graduate of Muskegon High School and received a Basketball scholarship to Aquinas during her senior year. She helped lead the Lady Reds to back to back OK Black, District, and Regional titles her junior and senior years. The Lady Reds also made an appearance at the MHSAA Girls Division I semifinals her senior which marked the furthest the Lady Reds had advanced in the MHSAA state tournament. She was a three sport athlete at MHS where she participated in Volleyball, Basketball, and Track. Brionne has been a member of the Aquinas Women's Basketball program the last three years and has been a contributor for Coach Brian Morris and the Saints.



### Billie Roberts

MHS class of 2020

Bowling Green State University

Billie graduated from MHS in 2020 and was a three sport athlete (Football, Basketball, Track) for the Big Reds. Billie received a scholarship to Bowling Green during the winter of his senior year. While at MHS he was a part of a Big Red football program that won a State Championship and had two Runner Up finishes. As a member of the Big Red Basketball team he helped win 4 OK Black and 3 District Championships while also playing in 2 Regional Finals. He was a First Team All OK Black selection in Football and Basketball. Billie has been a part of the Falcon Football program for the past two years and has played in 15 of a possible 17 games with six starts this past season.



### DeShonna Day

MHS class of 2020

Ferris State University

DeShonna is a 2020 graduate of Muskegon High School. She received a Basketball scholarship from Ferris State during her senior year. During her time with the Lady Reds she was a three sport athlete (Volleyball, Basketball, and Track) and helped the Lady Reds to back to back OK Black, District, and Regional titles her junior and senior years. She was also a member of the National Honors Society and student leadership. During her Junior year she also helped the Lady Reds make a trip to the MHSAA Division I semifinals. DeShonna was a First Team All-OK Black performer for the Lady Reds during her senior year. She has been a member of the Ferris State program for the two years and this past season she was a contributor for the 2022 GLIAC Tournament champions that went on to play in the First Round of the NCAA Division II Women's Tournament.



### De'Arrius Ware

MHS class of 2019

Northwood University

De'Arrius graduated from MHS in 2019 and was a member of the National Honors Society, as well as, the Big Red Basketball program. During his time with the Big Reds De'Arrius was a part of an OK Black and District Championship team that finished the season 20-4. He was selected First Team All OK Black for his accomplishments after his senior season. He has been a member of the Timberwolf Basketball program for the last three seasons. This past year he played in 23 games while starting 13 of them and seeing his numbers increase as well. De'Arrius also earned GLIAC All-Academic honors while at Northwood.



### Jordan Porter

MHS class of 2020

Bowling Green State University

Jordan was a 2020 graduate of Muskegon High School where he played Football, Basketball, and ran Track. Jordan was a member of the National Honors Society and graduated Top 10 in his class. He was a member of back to back Big Red Football teams that finished as DIII runners up in 2018 and 2019. Jordan was also a part of the Big Red Basketball where he helped lead them to back to back OK Black and District trophies. He has been a member of the Falcon Football program for the last two years after receiving a scholarship during the fall of his senior year. Jordan has played in 16 of 17 games over the last two seasons and has 3 years of eligibility remaining. He was also a 2021 All-MAC Academic Honoree for his efforts in the classroom while at BGSU.

**MUSKEGON  
BIG REDS  
4EVER!!**





## 2022 WINTER ALL CONFERENCE

The MHS Athletic Dept. would like to recognize the following student-athletes that were selected to the OK Green All Conference teams for the 2021-2022 Winter season.

### BOY'S BASKETBALL

#### 1ST TEAM

Jordan Briggs  
Ethan Hill  
Maurice Sain Jr  
Anthony Sydnor III

#### HONORABLE

#### MENTION

Terrance Davis  
David Day III

### GIRL'S BASKETBALL

#### 1ST TEAM

Jamya Robinson

#### HONORABLE

#### MENTION

Layla Harris

### WRESTLING

#### 1ST TEAM

De'Shaun  
Wallace-Oakes

### COMPETITIVE CHEER

#### 1ST TEAM

Carresa Esch  
Jasmine Goins  
Ar'Monie Petty

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Jayda Johnson

### GIRLS BOWLING

#### 1ST TEAM

Dakota Murdaugh

# GO MUSKEGON BIG REDS!!



## BIG RED BOYS BASKETBALL

The MHS Athletic Dept. would like to recognize the four student-athletes that were inducted into the Muskegon High School NHS on February 28th. Jordan Briggs, David Day III, Maurice Sain Jr., and Anthony Sydnor III are all members of the Big Red Boys Basketball team that finished 20-3.

Jordan, Anthony, and Maurice were team captains and 1st Team All OK Green this past season. David was an Honorable Mention All OK Green pick. The Big Reds won their first OK Green Conference Championship since moving from the OK Black and also captured the District crown at Redmond-Potter on March 11th. We are very proud of these young men and their academic achievements.





**Tim Hoffman**  
Muskegon High School  
Principal

**The commencement ceremony for the Muskegon High School Class of 2022 will be held at Hackley Stadium Wednesday, May 25th.**

*\* In case of inclement weather the commencement ceremony will be moved to Thursday May 26th*

While the class of 2022 has lived through one of the strangest times of any class at MHS they have achieved greatness through the challenges. We are proud to say that they have been in-person all year and will be having a normal end to the school year including Prom and Show-Off. The staff at Muskegon High School is unbelievably proud of the accomplishments of these students. We all know how difficult it can be to manage being a student along with all of the other activities they participate in.

The students at MHS participate in activities such as, Athletics, Band, Orchestra, Career Tech Center, Dual Enrollment, Work-Based Learning, Theater, National Honor Society and various other clubs and organizations. We also hope that you will be able to join us over the next few months to see all of the renovations on campus as crews complete projects. There are exciting times ahead for the BIG Reds!



Muskegon High School would like to celebrate the accomplishments of the following students who earned their place on the Honor Roll for the first semester of the 21-22 school year.

We are proud of you!

## 9TH GRADE

Jalena Adams-Blackman  
Alyna Agüero  
Nevaeh Anderson  
Rose Barnhart  
Kiernel Barraza  
Zaylen Bell  
Jakari Bolden  
Ty Bordeaux  
Jayla Buchanan-Burse  
Robert Carson  
La'Niyah Carter  
Jose Castro-Torrones  
Emani Cherry  
Bryan Cortez  
Devantae Davis  
Javonah Dawson  
Freddy De Leon Rodas  
Omar Deleon  
Eli Salvador Diaz-Rodas  
Abria Dowell  
Nevaeh Featherstone  
Codi Ferguson  
Da'Moni Foster  
Karen Garcia  
Jovanny Gonzalez  
Tee'Yon Halmon  
Shamari Hamilton  
Jay'Narri Harris-Wade

## 10TH GRADE

Braiden Atherton  
Jaime Barragan-Diaz  
Miguel Botello  
Maurice Boyd  
Oshea Brown  
Azaria Cortez Hernandez  
Bryan Daye Toledo  
Aliya Elliott  
Torrie Elliott  
Kylee Foster  
Lamarkis Graham  
Victoria Guerrero  
M'Khi Guy  
Earnest Harris  
Evelyn Hernandez  
Alexandria Hunter  
Jayda Johnson  
Quincy Johnson  
Christopher Jones  
Taniya Keys  
Ava Kutz

Esteban Martinez  
Marquette Mcdaniel  
Yazmin Mendoza  
Kylee Northrop  
Ameenah Payne  
Ar'Monie Petty  
Emma Prestly  
Jakob Price  
Caleb Reed  
Rafael Rodriguez  
Yahdira Tinoco  
Abigail Torrenga  
Sonny Vance  
Mauricio Vazquez  
Raul Villa  
Esteban Villarreal  
Michael Williams

## 11TH GRADE

Alejandro Aguilar  
Nikole Alva de Madrazo  
Heaven Bell Williams  
Ja'Mari Briggs  
Jordan Briggs  
Omiri Brooks  
Lea Cashin  
David Day III  
Brielle Dean  
Sophia Dillingham  
Lorena Flores  
Sarah French  
Amariyan Glover  
Equazia Glover  
Yaylin Gutierrez  
Seth Harris  
Antrielle Hendricks-Johnson  
Marcelina Hunter  
Mason Hunter  
Andrew Jagnecki  
De'Antae Mayhew  
Qu'Shaunna Minton  
Valeria Morales  
Paige Nash  
Dustin Nichols  
Celeste Patino  
Dayanara Perez  
Nerelin Rueda-Rodriguez  
Mauricio Salgado Jr  
Ta'Miya Stewart  
Anthony Sydnor III  
Bryce Thompson  
Naomi Tolliver  
Jamiah Walker

## 12TH GRADE

Duane Anderson  
Ki'Asia Cooper  
Heaven Ferguson  
Fernando Figueroa  
Ja'Nia Flowers  
Damari Foster  
Evelyn Garcia  
Samuel Garza-Cazares  
Iyiana Godinez Resendez  
Jasmine Goins  
Aleasha Goliday  
Tanzania Hall  
Mackinzie Harris  
Issys Hilliard  
Matthew Holwerda  
Alayna Hussey  
Arsean Jackson  
Isis Jackson  
Albreanna Johnson-Ervin  
Keaveya Jones  
Jacob Lane  
Blake Ledesma  
Laquan Mack  
Amani Means  
India Mills  
Dakota Murdaugh  
Jesse Nichols  
Andrew Potter  
Fatima Ramirez  
Ariyanna Ricks  
Roland Roundtree  
Maurice Sain Jr.  
Rodney Sanders Jr.  
Kieona Sims  
Nya Smith-Spencer  
Ilayia Strong  
Camia Tucker  
Devin Wilson  
Tayla Wilson  
Tiera Winters  
Earnest Young  
Ismael Zuniga  
Jacqueline Zuniga



**6th Grade Middle Vision** | Our 6th grade students participated in the Career Tech Center Middle Vision program. These students were involved in the Culinary/Food Preparation segment.



**Middle Vision Program**

**City Champions MMS Wrestling** | A BIG RED SALUTE!  
MMS Wrestling Team - City Meet Champions!



**Wrestling Champions**

**Band Concert Families** | The Band and Orchestra concerts were near full house crowds of parents and friends. So proud of the MMS Music Students!



**Band and Orchestra Concerts**

**This year Muskegon Middle School has made some amazing gains in reading and math!**

Our iReady diagnostic scores from Fall to Winter have shown growth unlike any year thus far. Our students have done an amazing job of working hard, taking their time, and owning their growth goals. We are so proud of them!

On average, the median growth expected is for students to be 50% of the way to their growth goal. In math, our students were over 60% of the way, and in reading a whopping 130%! They made more growth in 4 months than they were expected to make in a year. Muskegon Middle School students outperformed all other students in the district.

So, what did we do? How did we make such great growth? We took a school-wide approach to iReady diagnostics. Every teacher is on board. Students take their diagnostics with their seminar teacher. That teacher discusses with students individually their current level, and the level they are expected to reach. Students have ownership in their scores and want to make progress. We created a testing environment to highlight the importance of this diagnostic. Students were rewarded if they stayed on task throughout the testing sessions. Students were also rewarded for making growth. We made a big deal about their success!

The staff at Muskegon Middle School are beyond proud of our students. The students have worked hard to make the growth we have seen. We look forward to the next diagnostic to see how much more we have accomplished.



**Robert Tolbert, MBA, M.Ed.**  
Muskegon Middle School Interim Principal



**Orchestra**

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - BUNKER



**Okeelah McBride**  
Bunker Elementary  
School Principal

### From the Desk of Miss McBride

*Hello Bunker Families!*  
I feel that Summer is in the air, in spite of the cold wind we get now and again. With Summertime comes a renewed sense of focus, a renewed joy, and the promise of sunshine and laughter. Everyone seems to smile a bit more, and steps are lighter as we round out the next few months together. That being said, please make note of any end of year celebrations and/or events, and make sure to mark these dates in your calendars. As we progress towards the merry-month of June, I want to take the time out to thank all of our families for your diligence in having your child(ren) to school on time, and well-prepared for learning each day. This both supports and optimizes our instructional goals for each child and aids us in helping your child be as successful as he/she can. As we plunge into Summer, please make sure to keep reading, reading, and reading some more with your child. High standards and expectations are the foundation of our school. We are an exceptional learning community comprised of parents, teachers, students and administrators. It is with pride that we hold these high standards, and ask each of our families to commit to maintaining this extraordinary legacy of Bunker Elementary.. Together we can achieve anything!

As always, if I can be of any assistance, my door is always open. You can reach me at [omcbride@mpsk12.net](mailto:omcbride@mpsk12.net) or call my office at 231-720-2301. ~ Heartfully, Miss Okeelah McBride, Principal | Bunker Elementary



### Please welcome our new Kindergarten teacher, Miss Leah Plank

"I have wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember. I used to have my little brother act as my student in my pretend classroom! I feel so lucky to now have my own real classroom full of Kindergarteners.

I was born and raised in Muskegon, MI and went to Reeths-Puffer Schools. I attended Grand Valley State University and I

was lucky enough to have Eric Poll as my mentor teacher, he truly taught me everything I know. In January, right after I graduated, I started my teaching career at Bunker Elementary.

I am a dog mom to a very goofy pup! I love being outside hiking and enjoying the sunshine, and spending all my free time with my family and friends. I'm blessed to be growing in my teaching career as a *Bunker Bulldog!*"

### March is Reading Month

At the beginning of the month, students received a calendar outlining their reading activity for the day and every Friday for the month was Spirit Day. Students and staff enjoyed the activities and dressing up for the different Spirit day themes. In addition to daily reading activities, Bunker Elementary's Reading Committee hosted Reading Night on Wednesday, March 23, 2022.



*FREE BOOKS* were available for all who attended! There were fun filled reading centers with raffles and prizes. Dinner was provided too! Whole families were encouraged to come!

What a great turn out we had for Reading Night. There were so many fun reading activities for students of all ages. Once students made their way through the activities they were able to sit down and enjoy a meal with their families. We had a fantastic turn out and a fun time was had by all! Thank you to the Bunker Reading Committee for hosting such an amazing event.



### Black History Month Celebration

To celebrate Black History Month, Muskegon Public Elementary Schools participated in Black History Night at All Shores Church on Thursday, March 3, 2022. There were rooms full of student artwork, students were presenting information on significant historical African Americans, through a variety of genres. There were live readings by staff members, and the

library at the church was giving away free books. There was plenty of delicious food being prepared outside the church and the aroma wafted through the church. There were so many MPS families and staff members there, it was truly an amazing event.



## Our Tribute

### Kathleen Ann (Corcoran) Varboncoeur

This section of The Mirror is dedicated to Kathleen Varboncoeur. She will be greatly missed and always remembered by the Moon and MPS family for her contagious smile and deep care for her students and her profession as an educator. Each day Ms. V took what she did as a teacher

seriously. She worked to find ways to deepen the learning of her students, and also to build stronger relationships with them. She found ways to meet their needs, whatever those might be. Ms. Varboncoeur showed love daily.

Kathleen attended Muskegon Catholic Schools and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education with honors from Hope College. She taught at St. Michael Catholic School and Three Oaks Academy before joining Muskegon Public Schools in 2003. Although she taught at Nims, Oakview and Moon, Ms. V spent the longest stretch of time at Moon Elementary, where she played an integral role in building the family environment of the school. The greatest joys of her life, her daughters Sarah and Hannah were Moon students for a time as well.

Kathleen was innovative and always willing to try new learning opportunities in her classroom. She was one of the first in the district to begin implementing a project-based learning curriculum. She worked to strengthen her craft as a teacher and was always willing to implement new methods of instruction to help her students. As we move forward, Moon and MPS won't be the same. Kathleen will be missed. But evidence of her impact will be seen as we continue on each day.

"When you take something ordinary and add a little something extra, you get something extraordinary and that was Kathleen Varboncoeur."

- Okeelah McBride, colleague and friend



"Kathleen was a teacher who was excited to try new ideas in her classroom and she always advocated for all students."

- Kristi Horan, colleague and friend



## Honor's Assembly

At the end of February, we had the honor and privilege of honoring student successes for the entire first semester. Students were recognized for Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, SFA Growth, Most Improved Academically and Behaviorally, Leadership, and Citizenship.

The bar has been set and we are so excited to continue moving students in the right direction for all-around success. We strive for excellence and we want to thank you as parents for



your support in getting students to school daily, achievement hour work, and supporting us as we teach social and emotional skills to our students. This work is collective with school, parental, and community support. Continue to encourage students to be their best and participate in learning.

Our Big Red Store runs monthly where we allow students who have earned Big Red tickets for being Respectful, Excellent, Dependable, and Safe to spend their "tickets" earned during school. This initiative helps to encourage and acknowledge student behavior.

Lastly, please continue to call the main office line to report your child's absence and keep them home if they are not feeling well.

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - MOON

## Thank You to our Community Partners

Moon Students were recognized by our Muskegon Police Department with the **Step Up, Be Safe Challenge**. Students in grades K - 5 who demonstrated good attendance, respect towards classroom teachers and students, are most helpful, have improved academically, and are dependable.

The mission of the challenge is to inspire and promote good positive behavior. The challenge is designed to reward students with a gift bag in appreciation for their outstanding achievements throughout the semester. The purpose of this challenge is to further promote community relations between the police and students.

We are ecstatic by the growth of our students and look forward to greater accomplishments this year!

## Step Up, Be Safe Challenge



## Subaru of Muskegon

**Subaru of Muskegon** has awarded Moon Elementary with \$3000.00 for the 2021-2022 School Year through the Adopt A Classroom.org program. Each grade level was awarded \$500 to purchase STEM materials to support class projects. We look forward to this continued partnership for the 2022-2023 school year.



## The Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos Ministry

**The Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos Ministry** has continued the partnership with Moon Elementary. Throughout COVID Pandemic, this organization has supported our students and staff with donations of school supplies, hats, mittens, and snacks.



Tribute to **Amy Zeeff**



A Spartan jersey is hung on the window of her classroom and students decorated Spartan helmets and wrote messages about Ms. Zeeff. The street sign of the "fun hallway" where Amy spent her first two years teaching at Marquette has been renamed Zeeff Way and has a Spartan helmet and a photo of Amy. *Ms. Zeeff will be missed and never forgotten at Marquette Elementary. "Go Green!"*



**MUSKEGON PUBLIC SCHOOLS TWO WAY IMMERSION PROGRAM**

Muskegon Public Schools proudly offers a Spanish/English Two-Way Immersion (TWI) Program for students in grades K-5. The program is housed at Marquette Elementary School, but is open to students from all over the district. Our TWI program attracts students from outside the district as well. There are currently ten highly trained bilingual teachers who provide a balanced multicultural education to 188 students in the TWI program. There are also a myriad of other bilingual staff who support student success as well. The TWI program is part of an international teacher-visiting program and is currently hosting three teachers from Spain. TWI teachers have extensive training in bilingual education, in addition to being highly qualified teachers. The program offers learners authentic, immersive, high quality instruction in both English and Spanish.

Two-Way Immersion, which is also referred to as dual immersion, is a way to learn academic content while becoming bilingual at the same time. Students in our TWI program come from either Spanish or English speaking homes. They receive the same academic instruction as students in traditional classrooms, with the added benefit of part of their curriculum being taught in Spanish. Because of the teaching strategies used, the students learn the concepts and skills for each subject area and develop the ability to read, write, speak, and listen in both Spanish and English.

Students enrolled in TWI programs generally develop an appropriate level of bilingualism, bi-literacy and a multicultural view of the world. Often, TWI students academically outperform students enrolled in traditional programs, according to testing data.

Immersion programs have become increasingly popular in education for the last few years, however our program at Muskegon Public Schools has been welcoming families since 2008. Our TWI program remains steadfast in our goal to allow students to showcase their language and culture while excelling academically. Each student in our program becomes a linguistic and cultural ambassador to their peers. We know that language and culture are a source of pride, and pride becomes success.





**Strong Schools, Stronger Communities**

*In Muskegon Public Schools, we nurture productive thinkers  
who thrive in an ever changing technological society.*

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The advertisement for Career Camp features a white background with a blue and green wavy border at the top. On the right side, there is a photograph of two students, a girl and a boy, working together on a wooden project. The text is arranged in a clear, bold layout. At the bottom, there is a blue banner with white text.

This summer, don't miss  
**7TH & 8TH GRADE**  
**CAREER**  
**CAMP >>**  
4 Days. 4 Exciting Careers.  
**June 13–June 16, 2022**  
Seats are limited so enroll today at  
**SUMMERCAREERCAMP.ORG**  
**CAREER CAMP >>**  
AT THE CAREER TECH CENTER 200 Harvey Street | 231.767.3613

The advertisement for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline features a green and white color scheme. The text is large and bold, with the word 'SUICIDE' in black and 'LIFELINE' in green. A green telephone handset icon is integrated into the letter 'I' of 'SUICIDE'. At the bottom, there is a green banner with white text.

**NATIONAL**  
**SUICIDE**  
**PREVENTION**  
**LIFELINE**<sup>TM</sup>  
**1-800-273-TALK (8255)**  
suicidepreventionlifeline.org