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view

The District Newsletter for **Mona Shores**
Public Schools

JANUARY 2023 • ISSUE 64



2023

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a letter from Our Superintendent

THE FUTURE OF COMMUNICATION IN MONA SHORES

Communication in Mona Shores took a giant leap forward in the New Year. As 2023 begins so does a variety of new communication tools for families to access information about Mona Shores, individual schools, events, and more.



The Mona Shores App

The new Mona Shores App is available in the App Store for Apple and in the Google Play Store for Android. Just search Mona Shores and download the App today. A district-wide notification with links was sent in early January.

The Mona Shores App will put all of the important information right at your fingertips for easy access on any mobile device. You can also set up alerts, view the dining menu, subscribe to the news feed, view the calendar of events, and more. The app is designed for quick access to important information for all users.

Updated Website

The Mona Shores website also underwent an overhaul and update. The new and improved site is much more vibrant, intuitive, and user-friendly. It matches the look and feel of the App but with all of the information you are used to being available there. The web address remains the same but the user experience will be completely new.



Bus & Route Tracking, Video Monitoring, and Student Check-In

Work is also underway with potential additions to the tools our transportation team and our families are able to utilize with regard to bussing. This school year we upgraded the interior and exterior cameras on our buses. The additional interior cameras allow much better vision of the entire bus and the exterior cameras now provide the necessary views the police require to help enforce any red light runners. The increased safety has already impacted our students in a positive way!

Looking to the future, tools such as GPS bus and route tracking/monitoring along with the potential for student check-in on buses are all part of the discussion and future planning. While implementation dates, costs, definitive pieces, and functionality are all still in the exploration phase we are excited by the options available to continue to improve the experience for our kids and families.

The Future

Mona Shores Schools looks forward to our continued partnership with our families. A major piece of that partnership is the ongoing clear communication that we believe is vital for the success of our kids, our families, and our schools. Thank you for your continued commitment to partnering with us to make Mona Shores that absolute best place to be!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Bill O'Brien, Superintendent
 Mona Shores Public Schools

**Board of Education
2023 Meeting Schedule**

Jan 97:00 PM to 9:00 PM..... Combined Session HS-LMC
 Feb 67:00 PM to 9:00 PM..... Work Session HS-LMC
 Feb 13.....7:00 PM to 9:00 PM..... Regular Session HS-LMC
 Mar 67:00 PM to 9:00 PM..... Work Session HS-LMC
 Mar 13.....7:00 PM to 9:00 PM..... Regular Session HS-LMC
 Apr 107:00 PM to 9:00 PM..... Combined Session RP-PLC
 May 87:00 PM to 9:00 PM..... Work Session RP-PLC
 May 15.....7:00 PM to 9:00 PM..... Regular Session RP-PLC
 Jun 57:00 PM to 9:00 PM..... Work Session RP-PLC
 Jun 12.....7:00 PM to 9:00 PM..... Regular Session RP-PLC

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2022-2023

(Offices are subject to change at January Organizational meeting)

Stan Miller, President
(231) 557-4039

E-mail: millers@monashores.net

Chris Burnaw, Vice President
(231) 557-4949

E-mail: burnawc@monashores.net

Jay Keessen, Treasurer
(231) 206-0889

E-mail: keessenj@monashores.net

Kandace Boysen, Secretary
(231) 375-0459

E-mail: boysenk@monashores.net

Jeanne Cooper-Kuiper, Trustee
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E-mail: cooperj@monashores.net

A.J. Eckert, Trustee
(616) 889-2063

E-mail: eckerta@monashores.net

Mary McClellan, Trustee
(231) 486-5285

E-mail: mcclellanm@monashores.net

a letter from
Our Board President

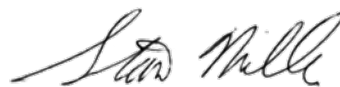
One of my favorite duties as a board member is interviewing and helping to choose our student representatives. This is our fifth school year with student reps at the Board table, and the choice seems to get harder every year. What a great “problem” to have!

We interviewed eight outstanding candidates last month for our junior class representative. Those eight students participate in an incredible range of extra- and co-curricular activities, speak passionately about wanting to help their fellow students, and devote countless hours to student and community service. Any of them would have been a great addition to the Board table.

Ultimately we chose Jace Brainard to join senior Syd Olthoff as our student reps for the 2022-23 school year. Jace is a member of Link Crew, the Student Senate, the National Honor Society, the Tri-M Honor Society, the Choir Student Executive Board, Allegros, and more.

While our student representatives cannot vote, they regularly provide valuable insights and perspectives that adults just cannot have. And while our decisions are always guided by what’s best for students, there’s nothing like having their voices in the room. We look forward to working with Jace and Syd this year, and if you come to Board meetings or watch and listen to them remotely we’re sure you’ll be as impressed with them as we are.

Please join me in welcoming Jace to the Board table, along with re-elected trustees Jeanne Cooper-Kuiper and Jay Keessen and newly elected A.J. Eckert.



Stan Miller, President
Mona Shores Board of Education

BUILDING PHONE NUMBERS

CENTRAL OFFICE(231) 780-4751
 ADULT EDUCATION @ GLENSIDE.....(231) 720-2530
 CAMPBELL ELEMENTARY(231) 755-2550
 CHILD CARE OFFICE(231) 780-6720
 CHURCHILL ELEMENTARY(231) 798-1276
 COMMUNITY SERVICES.....(231) 780-4748
 LINCOLN PARK ELEMENTARY.....(231) 755-1257
 PRESCHOOL.....(231) 780-4748
 ROSS PARK ELEMENTARY.....(231) 798-1773
 MIDDLE SCHOOL.....(231) 759-8506
 HIGH SCHOOL.....(231) 780-4711

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Bonded Construction Update

by Robert Jonker, Director of Finance

CAMPBELL

Campbell Elementary is finished! All classrooms and common areas are complete and the students and staff have settled into their new spaces. This building was scheduled to be completed in February 2023, but was accelerated to the end of November due to the diligent work of Triangle (our construction management firm) and all the contractors. Original construction cost was \$12,629,815. We had budgeted an additional \$1,227,000 in construction contingencies and allowances of which we have \$112,125 remaining to date, for a total build cost of \$13,856,815. We fully expect to have some minor items pop up and need correcting throughout the winter, which could reduce that remaining contingency amount should that occur.



ROSS PARK

Construction is continuing to go well. Ross Park Elementary is on schedule and our new gym/music space and main lobby will be finished and available for use after Christmas break. The Middle School eighth grade locker commons was completed in October and we will transition students into that space sometime after Thanksgiving. Construction at both buildings will continue throughout the school year in various spaces. We expect Ross Park to be complete at the end of August 2023 with the remodel of the daycare wing and new drop off loop on the south side of the building. At the Middle School, the seventh grade wing will be renovated over the upcoming summer. Once again, I would like to thank our community and staff for their support and patience throughout this project.

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WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER?





As the new Chief of the Roosevelt Park Police Department, I'd like to take this opportunity to share a little bit about myself and what I and my agency will do to benefit you, your families, and your Mona Shores Public School student.

I've spent the last 32 years working, and studying in the Law Enforcement field. I hold a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, have begun working towards my Master's Degree in Public Administration, and am a

graduate of dozens of specialized Law Enforcement schools and trainings, including the prestigious Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

Prior to being hired by the Roosevelt Park Police Department, I spent nearly 27 years with the City of Muskegon Police Department, retiring in January 2022 as Detective Captain.

Since becoming the top cop in Roosevelt Park this September, I have been approached numerous times and asked about my philosophy on policing and the direction I will lead the Department. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thoughts on policing and the role of the Roosevelt Park Police Department within this community.

I am a very strong advocate of community involved policing. This concept is not new, these are not my original ideas, and most importantly it's certainly not a list of activities which you go down and check off the boxes as completed. It is a value system which permeates the department.

The goal is to work cooperatively with individual citizens, groups of citizens, and both public and private organizations to identify and resolve issues which potentially affect the livability of the community. Working with the community we will stress prevention, early identification and timely intervention by dealing with issues before they become unwieldy problems.

Officers are encouraged to spend considerable time and effort in developing and maintaining personal

relationships with citizens, schools, businesses, and community organizations. By fostering this relationship, we can significantly improve the ability of the department to discover criminal conduct, clear offenses, and make arrests. This is a process that evolves, develops, takes root and grows, until it is an integral part of the formal and informal value system of both the police and community as a whole.

My philosophy of policing emphasizes citizen interaction and participation in problem solving. It exists when officers spend a significant amount of their available time out of their patrol cars, when officers are a common sight in schools, businesses, parks and walking around town. It is when an organization wouldn't even think of tackling a significant issue of community concern without involving the police.

Policing is much more than law enforcement. Officers need to accept a significant role in issues that might be referred to as "social work". Roosevelt Park Police Officers understand that being involved in "social work" is a form of valid and valuable police work, which affects the livability of a community. Rather than treating these activities as diversions from "real" police work, officers need to understand that this is the essence of their work.

The department will define success and accomplishment primarily by outcomes and the satisfaction of the consumer of our services, the citizens of Roosevelt Park, rather than by strictly internal measures of the amount of work completed. We need to increase the emphasis on outcomes. Doing the right thing is as important as doing things right.

I am very fortunate to have the type of caliber of men and women who are currently employed within the department to start this journey with. They are consummate professionals that have dedicated themselves unselfishly for the betterment of our community. We are excited to bring our service to the next level and for all the successes that lie ahead.

I look forward to serving you, and as always, **GO SAILORS!!**



Roosevelt Park Chief of Police,
Shawn Bride



THE VIEW

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Technology Update

by Chad Pranger, Director of Technology



What does the picture above have to do with radio waves? Not the cellular tower in the middle. The new field turf, actually! The majority of it was funded by the sale of a piece of ITFS/EBS spectrum owned by Mona Shores.

Back in 1963 the FCC authorized the Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) later to be known as the Education Broadband Service (EBS). The intent of this was to allow education television broadcasts for the license holders locally, over this licensed radio spectrum. Schools typically lacked the resources to get into the broadcasting business. The FCC recognized this and authorized leasing of the spectrum in the late 70's. Many were not even aware of its existence. In the early 1990's, Mona Shores secured their eligible portion of the EBS spectrum and it remained unused.

2005 came and technology in schools was starting to see greater use and adoption. Lane White, Director of Technology at the time, recognized the value of this resource and negotiated a lease agreement with a third party. From this agreement, Mona Shores received one of the early school enterprise grade WiFi installs in Muskegon county, monthly cash benefit and several other services. The lessee used the spectrum to backhaul its wireless system to provide WiFi services to underserved areas.

The original benefits and agreement ran their course in 2020. The wireless landscape had changed immensely by this time. 2019 had seen the FCC remove its requirements for the spectrum to be used for educational purposes only. Most of the spectrum in this range had been converted over for 4G cellular usage and was no longer used for television. 5G networks were on the horizon and the spectrum was once again generating interest. Mona Shores began communication with an interested party about the outright sale of the spectrum.

In 2021 an agreement was reached between Mona Shores and a party for the outright sale of the ITFS/EBS spectrum. The proceeds of this sale were used to fund the installation of the field turf for Sailor Stadium. The field turf has greatly expanded the use of the field due to its durability. This is a great resource for Mona Shores to have in place after many years.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

By Dave Muskovin, Transportation Supervisor

At the November 7, 2022 meeting of the Mona Shores School Board of Education, our transportation mechanic, Jim Leach, was recognized for his efforts in keeping our school bus fleet safe and mechanically sound for the many needs of Mona Shores staff and students. Each year, all Michigan school districts have an annual school bus inspection in which each bus is carefully inspected and given either a pass or fail from an official of the Michigan State Police. Examples of a few items which are inspected are the lighting systems, braking system, steering system, safety equipment as well as the structural integrity of the undercarriage and many more.

The photo below is recognition of Mr. Leach's hard work and dedication not just for the four day state inspection process, but for his efforts all year long to give assurance that our fleet is kept to the highest standards and safe for travel.



Thank you Jim.

**We appreciate your efforts
now and always.**

Athletic Update

~ a message from Todd Conrad, Director of Athletics

The 2022 fall athletic season at Mona Shores High School was yet another successful one for the Sailors. Girls golf, boys soccer, and football all won OK Green Conference championships while volleyball and boys tennis both won Greater Muskegon Athletic Association championships. Volleyball, football, and soccer all had exciting playoff runs with each team appearing in the MHSAA District finals. Check out more highlights below:

- While Academic All-State honors for most sports won't be announced until later in the winter, we do know that the volleyball team continued their decades-long streak obtaining this honor. Seniors Chloe Rose, Ava Dunn, Ali Trautner, and Lauren Morea also received academic all-state as individuals from the Michigan Volleyball Coaches Association.
- The 60th year of football was another successful one as the boys earned Coach Koziak's 100th win as a Sailor, enjoyed their 6th consecutive season opening the MHSAA playoffs with a win, bringing our overall football playoff record to an impressive 22-7.
- The girls swim team had a conference champion in senior Delaney Buckner, who won both the 100 fly and the 100 backstroke.
- Senior Robyn Hunt capped a tremendous four-year run of simultaneously competing in cross country and swim every fall. Incredibly, she received all-conference honors for both sports this season. Robyn will take her talents to Duquesne University, where she will compete in intercollegiate triathlons.
- For the first time since 2016, the Mona Shores cross country program qualified individuals for the MHSAA state finals. Senior Caleb Branch and freshman Ellery Horness both finished in the top 100 in Division 1 at the Michigan International Speedway on November 5th.

The big highlight of the fall, though, has to be the boys tennis team, who qualified as a team for the state championships for the first time since the 2000-2001 school year. Coach Traci Hackney was named Regional Coach of the Year while her son, junior Drew Hackney, finished as a state quarter finalist in the #1 singles division. This is the third year in a row that Drew has been named first-team all-state by the Michigan Tennis Coaches Association, bringing his overall career record to 74-10. Probably the most exciting match of the state championship weekend for Mona Shores, though, was the first-round #1 doubles match with senior Tommy Stewart and junior Liam Gossett. The Sailor duo beat the team from North Farmington in a back-and-forth affair that lasted roughly two hours. It was a proud moment for the boys as they played in front of at least a couple dozen Mona Shores teammates, parents, and fans in the indoor courts at the Greater Midland Tennis Center. It was a wonderful weekend of competition and camaraderie for the whole team.



GO SHORES!

High School

a message from High School Principal, Jennifer Bustard

"Sailor P.R.I.D.E."

Personal responsibility | Respect | Integrity | Disciplined | Engagement



Social Emotional Learning (SEL) supports for Mona Shores High School students, staff and parents

MSSH is very fortunate to have the very best of educators and support staff who care for the well being and learning of all our students. As a District we are committed to engaging in SEL strategies to further enhance their educational experience in high school. The following are just a few of the projects students and staff have taken on this school year to support the social and emotional well being of students and staff.

WELCOME CALLIE TO THE MSSH FAMILY!

We are thrilled to welcome Callie to our HS. Callie is a certified therapy dog and her trainer is Business Teacher Mrs. Heather Claussen. Callie has extensive training in a HS setting. Students and staff alike can visit Callie during the passing period. Teachers and counselors can also request a visit to their room.



The Student SEL Advisory Leadership team proudly presented the November Wellness Week.

Daily activities for students and staff alike to participate were created.

#mentalhealthmatters
#youmatter
#bekind
#breakthestigma

NOVEMBER 14	NOVEMBER 15	NOVEMBER 16	NOVEMBER 17	NOVEMBER 18
Mindful Monday	Together Tuesday	Work Out Wednesday	Thankful Thursday	Fun Friday
Eating Disorders and OCD Awareness	Learning Disorders and Autism Awareness	Depression and Anxiety Awareness	PTSD & Panic Disorders Awareness	Schizophrenia Awareness
Dress in purple and/or pajamas or yoga attire today!	Dress in blue and/or as a twin today!	Dress in green and/or workout clothes today!	Dress in teal and/or crazy socks today!	Dress in grey/silver and/or wear something you are a part of - MS, a club, a team, etc.!
Activity: 1st Hour - Video/Mindful Activity	Activity: 2nd Hour - Video/This or That Activity	Activities: Walkathon 9:15-9:55 am 3rd Hour - Video	Activities: Lunch - Thanksgiving Meal 4th Hour - Video/Gratitude Cards	Activity: 5th Hour - Video/Game Activity

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WE WELCOME MS. TAYLOR JONES, FRESH COAST COUNSELING CLINICIAN TO MSSH

Taylor is a graduate of Grand Valley State University and is a licensed Social Worker. Taylor will be available for students and staff to provide therapeutic support during the school day. As well as, provide monthly mental health strategies and activities for students, staff and families.



WIN TIME 'WHAT I NEED'



MSSH Staff Led Focus Group is thrilled to be exploring a schedule for students that provides a mini class period for academic support on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will be piloting this schedule starting in February through the end of the school year. **WIN Time** (What I Need) period is designed to help students balance high school academic life while preparing for post secondary goals. During WIN time teachers will

be assigned to students from each grade level and will remain with those students throughout their HS career. During this time students will review their progress on their HS academic progress. Students will have the opportunity to be scheduled with other teachers for enrichment and academic support.

What makes a successful WIN time?

- Targeted instruction + Time = Learning
- Available to 100% of students
- Get help, get better, get ahead
- Student reflection on classes, workload and time management

Schedule:

- Tuesday's and Thursdays for 40 minutes following the 1st hour in a meeting period schedule.

Why WIN Time?

- MSSH cares deeply about the success of all students. Students and teachers are in need of additional time during the day time to maximize the learning experiences for all students. MSSH understands that students are very involved in multiple activities after school such as fine arts, athletics, and work making it challenging to manage time to complete all tasks. MSSH understands that rest and sleep is essential for students to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

PREPARING FOR POST SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES . . . SCHEDULING SEASON BEGINS

We are now at the midway point of the 2nd trimester, and it's hard to believe we are gearing up for the scheduling season for our high school students. Please review the Counselors' Corner for more specific information regarding meeting dates and course selection form return dates. This is an exciting time for our students as they plan for their high school schedule and post-secondary aspirations. For more information, please visit the Counseling Department Web page.

We continue to have much to celebrate and to look forward to here at the high school and would encourage you to join us at any of our events that are sure to highlight student talents and performances! You can also follow the many events on the official MSSH Twitter and Facebook account @MSSHPRIDE.

Thank you for your support, commitment, and dedication to Mona Shores. If you have any questions please contact me at 231-780-4711, extension 8499, or by email at: bustardj@monashores.net.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next event! • **Go Sailors!** • Jennifer Bustard, Principal



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GO SAILORS!



CAREER TECH CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 26, from 5-7 p.m.

Area 8th-11th graders, parents, and community members are invited to the annual Career Tech Center Open House. Join us to see how students are exploring and accelerating their careers while they are in high school!

For details call 231-767-3613 | 200 Harvey Street, Muskegon

Counselor's Corner

by Danielle Smith-Walker, Director of Counseling

The mission of the Mona Shores High School Guidance and Counseling Program is to provide support for student achievement in partnership with parents, staff and community. Counseling services will be provided in a safe and positive environment with a focus on college, career and life readiness.

COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE READY!

In an effort to ensure that all students are College, Career and Life Ready, we employ a wide variety of tools to assist them. We begin early utilizing career interest inventories to assist students in identifying possible career pathways. Currently, we utilize XELLO. Xello helps students plan their own unique journey whether it involves a trade, college, university, entrepreneurship, or other training. Our district will develop Educational Development Plans (EDP) with students in order for them to understand their skills, values, career choices and college training options. The district shares a Career Specialist that is based out of the MAISD that may facilitate work based learning opportunities for students that include job shadows, externships, and internships. In addition to the learning opportunities, students are also exposed to several career exploration events such as: Modern Manufacturing Week, MiCareerQuest, and the senior Job Expo. There are lots of options for students! As we approach the new scheduling season, if interested in any of these or to learn more information, please contact the counseling office.

STUDENT SCHEDULING FOR 2023-2024 BEGINS IN JANUARY

Counselors will begin meeting with students regarding scheduling shortly after the holiday break. Similar to last year, ALL students will receive scheduling instructions at the same time. Students should review their historical grades in their portals to review previous classes and their current schedules to complete their Graduation Audit and update their four year plan. Parents can assist their students in this process by reviewing their choices, signing the course selection sheet, reminding them to return the materials to school on time and finally scheduling with them online at home. Counselors and students will meet individually during this time to review their scheduled course selections for accuracy and planning.

The following scheduling time frame will be followed:

CLASS	COUNSELOR MEETING/COURSE SELECTION RETURN DATES
2026	Monday, January 23- Friday, January 27
2025	Monday, January 30- Friday, February 3
2024	Monday, February 6- Friday, February 10

** 8th Graders: Class of 2027**

8th Grade Assembly - February 27 (2nd hour: 8:50 am - 9:45 am at MS Middle School)

8th Grade Parent Night- February 27 (7:00 pm HS Auditorium)

Course selection Return Date: Thursday, March 2 (All day during Social Studies Classes)

Friday- Any make-up schedules returned



EXTENDED DAY AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

Students needing tutoring can get assistance every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school in the Media Center. There are teachers and National Honor Society students available to tutor in core subjects from 3:00 - 3:45 PM. Have your student check out these very valuable resources! Please contact your student's counselor for more information.

SAT

Junior Registration: The State of Michigan will pay for all juniors to take the SAT test on April 12 during the school day. On April 13 students will take the ACT Workkeys. Juniors will be able to send 4 free scores to colleges that they are considering attending. They should give this some thought ahead of time because they will be asked to give that information. **Parents, please be mindful that this is the third day after Spring Break (State Mandated Date) and it is important that your student be present. Also, please note that this exam is required for graduation.**

FAFSA

Students have to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, for each school year to qualify for grants, scholarships, federal work-study and federal student loans. But deadlines vary for federal, state and institutional aid. Each year, the FAFSA opens on Oct. 1. File your FAFSA as close to Oct. 1 as possible to improve your chances of qualifying for the most grant, scholarship and work-study aid. **Please Note:** You can call the Financial Aid Office at Baker College or Muskegon Community College and get help for FREE on filling out the Financial Aid Form. Beware of people who want to charge you for this service, or of people who promise to get you Financial Aid if you pay them to complete your form. When in doubt, call first for advice. Go to <https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/> for an early estimate of federal aid eligibility. Additional information is available at <https://studentaid.gov/>.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER continues on page 11....

Teaching and Learning

a message from Andy Hogston, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

I recently saw a t-shirt that said, "Our Best Days are Ahead!" It may not seem all that significant or important, but that message really resonated with me. Believing that we are destined for great things can be the motivation we need to work harder, care more, and do better. In fact, this belief can be seen, heard, and felt throughout our district and school community. We are blessed to live in a community that values and invests in education. To be witness to astounding feats and pursuits in academics, arts, and athletics is both awe inspiring and encouraging. We are focused on the moment, but plan and prepare for the future. Preparation and planning leads to a better tomorrow and this is an approach and mindset that we embrace.

This time of the year is a good time for reflection and developing a renewed sense of purpose. Often, this results in reprioritizing, recommitting, and in many cases eliminating some distractions. Sometimes it is about changing daily routines and other times about venturing down an entirely new path to try something new. The vast opportunities that Mona Shores provides students, parents, families, and staff are notable and considerable. We are a team, family, and community. We appreciate one another, support one another, and look for the best in one another. Wishing all of **Sailor Nation** the best year yet - **2023!**

"If my mind can conceive it, if my heart can believe it--then I can achieve it." - Muhammad Ali

Spring Assessment Schedule

The table below will help lay out our assessment plan for the 2023 testing season:

GRADE	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT WINDOW	ESTIMATED TOTAL TESTING TIME
3rd grade	ELA	April 10 - May 5, 2023	2 hours
3rd grade	Math	April 10- May 19, 2023	1.5 hours
4th grade	ELA and Math	April 10- May 19, 2023	3.5 hours
5th grade	ELA, Math, Science, & SS	April 10- May 19, 2023	6 hours
6th grade	ELA and Math	April 10- May 19, 2023	4 hours
7th grade	ELA and Math	April 10- May 19, 2023	4 hours
8th grade	PSAT	April 12 - May 19, 2023	2.5 hours
8th Grade	Science, and SS	April 10- May 19, 2023	3 hours
9th grade	PSAT	April 12-18, 2023	2.5 hours
10th grade	PSAT	April 12-18, 2023	2.5 hours
11th grade	M-STEP Science & SS	April 10 - May 19, 2023	2 hours
11th grade	SAT	April 12, 2023	4 hours
11th grade	ACT Work Keys	April 13, 2023	3 hours

.....COUNSELOR'S CORNER (continued from page 10)

SCHOLARSHIP NOTICES

Visit our scholarship page to see many more available scholarships at: <http://www.monashores.net/our-schools/mona-shores-high-school/hs-departments/counseling/financial-aid--scholarships/>.

MUSKEGON AREA PROMISE: Award promised to resident graduates of high schools within MAISD. Students must graduate with cumulative unweighted 3.4 GPA or higher from a high school located within MAISD boundaries. Visit <http://www.muskegonisd.org/career-college/promise/> for more information.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MUSKEGON COUNTY: Deadline February 1. Application now online at Foundation website, www.cffmc.org. Visit the website for more information.

MEA SCHOLARSHIPS: Fill out scholarship application at <http://www.mea.org/mea-scholarship>. Deadline February 16.

MICHIGAN COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP: Any senior who attained a qualifying score of at least 1200 on the SAT is eligible. We will notify those who qualify and alert them to the next step. You must file the FAFSA, and it must be received by March 1. Social security numbers are required. See your counselor for details.

MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS: Starting with the high school class of 2023, students will be eligible for more financial aid from the State: Eligible if family demonstrates financial need on completed FAFSA. High school seniors can get started by filing the FAFSA and by creating a MiSSG Student Portal account three to five business days after filing your FAFSA.

WOMEN'S DIVISION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Applications available in the Counseling Office or online at www.womensdivision.org. Deadline March 11.

TUITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP): Incentive (and need based) program encouraging eligible students to complete high school by providing tuition assistance first two years of college and beyond. To meet financial eligibility requirement, student must have (or have had) Medicaid for at least two years between the age of nine and high school graduation. Contact MI Student Aid or call 888-447-2687 to learn more. Counselors met with TIP eligible seniors to review this opportunity. If you think your student may be eligible please contact their high school counselor.



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Special Education & Student Services

a message from Jennifer Briggs Russell, Director of Special Education and Student Services



Sailing Tips from the Therapy Crew



W-Sitting and Magic C Letters

JoAnn Hradsky, OTR/L Jessica Kever, MS OTR/L Lisa Luttrull, DPT Melissa Stark, MS OTR/L

What is W-sitting?

- It is a sitting position where the child's bottom is between the legs, with knees bent and the legs are rotated away from body.

Why do kids w-sit?

- It gives a child a wider base of support and more stability when sitting.
- It is a convenient position to play, because the child doesn't have to work on keeping their balance.



W-sitting



A better option

Why is W-sitting a problem?

- It limits trunk rotation and reaching during play.
- It affects development of balance reactions.
- It may shorten and tighten muscles of the hips & legs.
- It may lead to "pigeon-toe" walking and may cause back & hip pain.

What can you do to help?

- Encourage other ways to sit and work on core strength.



Handwriting at Home



What are Magic C Letters?

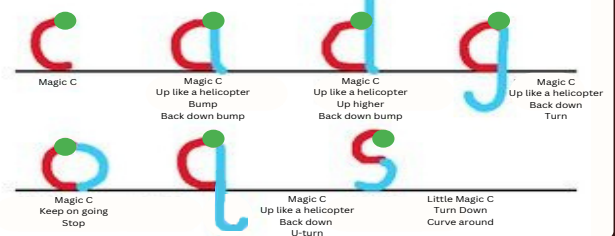
- Magic C letters are the letters in the alphabet that begin with forming the letter C first.
- Start with the letter C and just like magic the letter C can become 6 other lowercase letters and 3 uppercase letters!
- Letter C can become o, a,d,g,q and s or G, O, Q, and S.



Practice Magic C Letters

- Start at the green dot and follow the red magic c.
- The magic c starts on the middle line and touches the bottom line.
- After completing the magic c, follow the directions with the blue line to complete the letter.

Magic C Letters

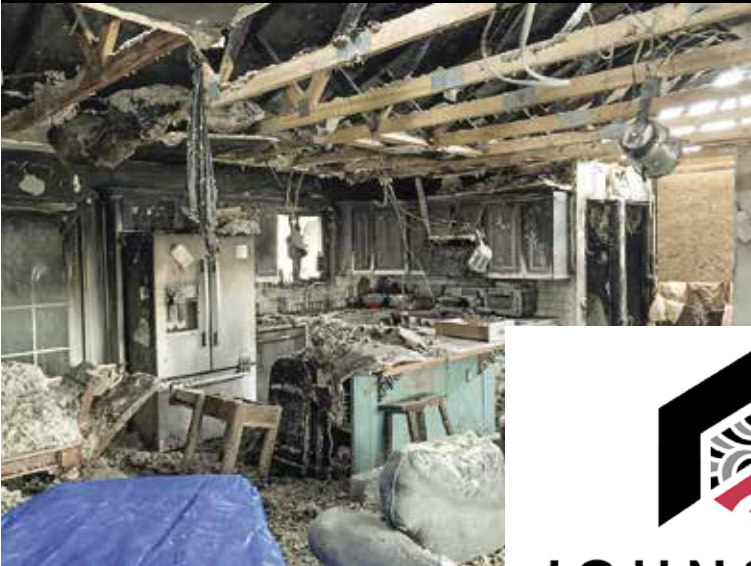


Tips and Resources for Developing Pencil Grasp

- Visit this link for more information on how to hold a pencil: <https://bit.ly/343e5y>
- Visit this link for more information on tricks to teach a functional pencil grasp: <https://bit.ly/3svFWV>
- Visit this link for more information about different kinds of pencil grips to assist with pencil grasp: <https://bit.ly/3suSHE8>



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Middle School *a message* from Principal, Doug Ammeraal

Grateful for and proud of our focus and commitment.

With fond Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday memories behind us, we cannot help but reflect with the start of a new year on the outstanding students and staff that we have at Mona Shores Middle School. We continue to be inspired, grateful, and appreciative for who they are as individuals, as educators, and as sailors.

Our families and community should be proud of the students and staff that enter this building every day! They should be proud of not only the academics and behavior, but also of the high-character young people that are developing and growing their character! They should be proud of learning experiences, depth of conversations, and relational capacity that occurs at MSMS! I know that we are!

Here are just a few points of pride regarding some of the positives happening at Mona Shores Middle School.

- **CREW** || Research shows us that student connection to peers, adults, and the building increases overall success, positive self-awareness, and overall positivity. This year, MSMS has started an advisory period at the beginning of the day, called CREW. CREW stands for **C**onnect, **R**espectful, **E**mpathy, and **W**ork. The spirit of Crew encourages all members of our School Community to work together to build meaningful relationships, enhance connections to peers and school, strengthen self-value, reflect on and monitor academic progress, and to focus on character development. Crew is a place where all students feel loved, valued, and appreciated; a place where they can feel that they belong and can be successful. We are excited about the start of the year, the connections that are being made, the activities/competitions that our students are participating in, and the continued focus on character. MSMS will continue to develop CREW, build relational capacity, and strengthen connections to our building and each other.
- **THERAPY DOG** || Beginning in November, MSMS welcomed Piper, our therapy dog! Having Piper, or any therapy dog, has shown evidence of physical, social, and cognitive benefits in schools. This includes helping to relieve students' stress, helping kids learn to read, and even boosting test scores and attendance. Not to mention that dogs are nonjudgmental and provide our students and adults with unconditional love, compassion, and connection. Already, we can see these benefits manifesting themselves at MSMS; Piper is making a difference with our students and within our building.
- **GRATITUDES** ||
 - **STUDENTS** || Students are why we do what we do...and we have some REMARKABLE students. We have students who are respectful, students that model positive behavior, students that demonstrate PRIDE, students that challenge and push themselves, students that impact our community, students that learn from their mistakes, and students who represent Mona Shores in amazing ways. We are grateful to serve these outstanding students, supportive parents, and a community that values education, positive behavior, and high character.
 - **TEACHERS** || We have some amazing teachers that work hard to plan, prepare, and deliver quality instruction to your students. Teachers who provide quality learning experiences to their students. Teachers who are constantly learning and growing in their craft. Teachers that show grace and hold high expectations for all of the different learning styles, diverse backgrounds, and unique challenges that our students face. We are grateful for each and every teacher and for what they bring to MSMS!
 - **SUPPORT STAFF** || Throughout our building, we have some of the BEST educators supporting our students. - paraprofessionals, lunch monitors, a success coach, clerks, food service, bus drivers, etc. Without these individuals, who are committed to the success of your child, we would not be able to offer the best support possible. We are grateful for each of them and for their dedication to our students and to MSMS.
 - **MSMS FAMILIES** || MSMS is blessed with tremendous students who have tremendous families supporting them. Thank you parents, grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, and siblings that support your students with academics, behaviors, character traits, drop off and pick up, coaching through middle school challenges, and for doing all you can to support our students. MSMS would not be the place it is without your dedication and commitment to supporting our students, no matter what.

As we continue to learn, grow, and strive to be the best Middle School for our students, we must continue to challenge each other to be the best version of ourselves that we can possibly be - our best as students, educators, parents, friends, and community members. We must also continue to look for moments of gratitude, appreciation, and thankfulness as we move through our days, weeks, and months. If we continue, collectively, to embrace this collective focus on being the best version of ourselves and in showing gratitude and appreciation towards others, Mona Shores Middle School will certainly be the best middle school it can possibly be - through a spirit of gratitude, high-character, and in being the best sailors that we can possibly be.

With the back half of the year right around the corner, please know that the team of high-quality, passionate educators at Mona Shores Middle School will continue to strive for excellence in all that we do! We will stay focused on our students, their successes, their failures, their emotional well being, and their overall experience at Mona Shores Middle School!



Therapy Dog



Remarkable Students



Super Support Staff



Amazing Teachers

Elementary News *a message* from the Mona Shores Elementary Principal Team



Does your child ever ask you for help with math at home, and you aren't sure what to do? Math blues got you down? So much has changed in the world of math even over the last 5 years, so it's normal for adults at home to be frazzled when it comes to math support. Your feelings are not alone.

Our teachers have been working hard over the past few years to enhance teaching and learning through targeted math instruction. In fact, this summer our grade level teams participated in professional development with our Math Expressions textbook consultant, Robyn Decker. She shared her expertise surrounding the math resources and tools available to teachers through this math program, and she made sure that what is taught and how we test are the same at each building.

Fifth Grade Teacher Kristen Bordewyk, shared, "We were able to work with Robyn to understand new thoughts on teaching the lessons, as well as gain so much knowledge and many resources from the work she has done with Math Expressions."

In addition, many teachers have been trained in a research based math program called, Add+VantageMR (AVMR). These professional development courses focus on early numeracy development. The assessment, data collection, and teaching tools taught to educators are designed to accelerate the ability of educators to recognize students' current levels of numeracy understanding to make data-driven instructional decisions. Educators feel more ready to work with students and implement new knowledge in their teaching practices to meet the needs of a diverse range of students.

Amy VerMerris, 1st grade teacher at Campbell Elementary, attended the AVMR training and stated "AVMR is just a whole new way to look at Math. It is so beneficial for students and teachers; a hands-on approach with assessments that drive instruction, which lead to conceptual understanding."

So what's there for you at home? Check out these great resources that our teacher's recommend for helping your children. [KhanAcademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org), [MathPlayground.com](https://www.mathplayground.com) and the Math Recovery Community Hub (<https://www.mathrecovery.org>) all include math practice, puzzles, games, and additional resources for parents and students.

Early Childhood



The Mona Shores Tuition Preschool Program has an outstanding reputation in our school community.

Our newly remodeled facility will be complete in the fall and was designed with young learners in mind. Our experienced, caring, certified teachers are ready to work with your child and help prepare them for their next level of education.



Call Mona Shores Community Services to check for openings at (231) 780-6720.

We offer both three and four-year old preschool classes at Ross Park Elementary. Registration begins in March.

Mona Shores Child Care

Mona Shores Community Child Care offers a nurturing and caring environment filled with many experiences to allow your child to play, learn and grow. We provide care for children ages 6 weeks through fifth grade.

We also offer Sailor Care for before and after school care needs at all Mona Shores elementary schools. If you are interested in enrolling your child for child care or before/after school care, please contact us today at **231-780-6720**.



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

GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM:

A state-sponsored preschool experience for 4-year-olds to include a full day of educational experiences. Breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack are provided.



Classrooms are located in Ross Park Elementary. Please call 231-865-2497 for information.

Now enrolling for the 22-23 school year.

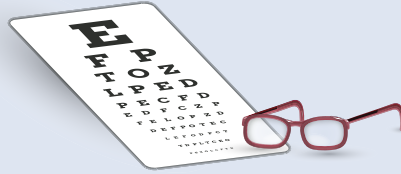
Both programs are FREE to families that qualify.

Have a child entering Kindergarten fall of 2023?

If you plan to enroll a kindergartener next year, you are required to provide proof of:



- a hearing screening
- a vision screening
- a dental exam
- current immunizations



Please contact your medical provider's office NOW to get documentation or make an appointment.

Providing documentation of hearing and vision screenings, a dental exam and current immunizations is required by Michigan law to enroll in Kindergarten. Your child cannot start school without it!



If you have a child who will turn 5 on or before September 1, 2023, please attend a Kindergarten Roundup!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023 - 6:00 PM AT EACH ELEMENTARY BUILDING

<p>Campbell Elementary 1355 Greenwich Rd. Muskegon, MI 49441 231-755-2550 Secretary: Monica Vorgias vorgiasm@monashores.net</p>	<p>Churchill Elementary 961 Porter Rd. Norton Shores, MI 49441 231-798-1276 Secretary: Sheryl Vanderlinde vanderls@monashores.net</p>	<p>Lincoln Park Elementary 2951 Leon St. Norton Shores, MI 49441 231-755-1257 Secretary: Belinda Schouten schouteb@monashores.net</p>	<p>Ross Park Elementary 121 Randall Rd. Norton Shores, MI 49441 231-798-1773 Secretary: Pam Matthews matthewp@monashores.net</p>
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Money earned will be deposited into a student account for your family and checks can be cut for any Mona Shores related expense including school lunch, 5th grade camp, 8th grade Washington DC trip, yearbooks, etc.

Participating retailers offer a substantial rebate on gift cards. Rebate will be anywhere from 2% - 17% or more. Many local retailers also participate.

Everyone in the Mona Shores School District is welcome to join our program. Elementary is a great time to begin growing your account. You do not have to be a band student to take advantage of this benefit. Your family members can also join to increase your earnings.



Gift cards can be purchased two ways.

1. ONLINE (more stores and 24 hour access) download RaiseRight App or website: www.raiseright.com
Contact coordinator for school code.



2. IN-PERSON every Wednesday between 5 - 6pm in the front Lobby of Mona Shores High School

For more information, please view sites or contact RaiseRight (Scrip) Coordinator Tia at: msbp.scrip@gmail.com
Facebook: **Mona Shores Band SCRIP**
Website: <https://www.monashoresbands.org/scrip>