

MUSKEGON

MIRROR

THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FOR MUSKEGON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISSUE 58 • JANUARY 2023

HAPPY

new year
2023

**MUSKEGON
BIG REDS!!**



WHAT'S NEW IN THE NEW YEAR!!

✓ **VOTE: Restore Non-Homestead Tax**
Vote in May • See page 12



✓ **VOTE: Renew Tech & Security Millage**
Vote in May • See page 12



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HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



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

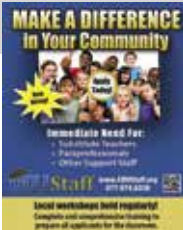
*Please call for an
appointment outside of
scheduled hours.*

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WELCOME NEW STAFF

Amy Akers.....	Paraeducator.....	High School
Kenneth Bankhead.....	Media Center Parapro.....	High School
Crystal Bell.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Marquette
Susan Bouck.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Erica Brubaker.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Amber Burbridge.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Marquette
Savannah Cabot.....	Teacher.....	Bunker
Vicki Charles.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Bunker
Jason Chronister.....	Teacher.....	High School
Tambyla Cobb.....	Teacher.....	Bunker
Hannah Covert.....	Secretary.....	High School
Kesha Davis-Irby.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Moon School
Paul Deboer.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Brittney Dial-Previe.....	Interventionist.....	Muskegon Catholic
Kelly Dornbos.....	Instructional Coach.....	Muskegon Catholic
Shane Durga.....	Secretary.....	Middle School
Alyssa Eddy.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Marquette
Jessi Frankhouse.....	Teacher.....	Marquette
Leah Gantjos.....	Speech Language Pathologist.....	Marquette
Kayce Goll.....	Social Worker.....	Middle School
Stacy Guajardo.....	Teacher.....	Marquette
Zhane Harris.....	Building Substitute.....	Moon School
Perla Hatch.....	Teacher.....	Marquette
Fluarry Jackson.....	Social Worker.....	Bunker
Raelynn Jewison.....	Teacher.....	High School
Lisa Keeney.....	Secretary.....	Moon School
Lyndsay Lenoir.....	Psychologist.....	Bunker
Marquese Livers.....	Paraeducator.....	Middle School
Krystina Lovins.....	Teacher.....	High School
Christian Martinez.....	Building Substitute.....	Middle School
Rena Moore.....	Occupational Therapist.....	Bunker
Jamichael Moore.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Oakview
Jennifer Mudd.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Lena Neal.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Marquette
Gregory Nimitz.....	Assistant Principal.....	Middle School
Thomas Nolan.....	Substitute Teacher.....	Administration Building
Stacey Nyenhuis.....	Speech Language Pathologist.....	Moon School
Beverly Petersen.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Nathan Pledger.....	JROTC.....	High School
Ann Roethlisberger.....	Teacher.....	Marquette
Nathan Smith-Manley.....	Building Substitute.....	Marquette
Hayley Soliz.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Moon School
Robert Szymoniak.....	Building Substitute.....	Administration Building
Lori Vanderhoef-Hilborn.....	Building Substitute.....	Middle School
Katherine Westveer.....	Teacher.....	High School
Julie Williams.....	Teacher.....	Marquette
Javonna Williams.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Marquette
Willie Wilson.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Bunker

EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS



EDUStaff
www.edustaff.org

Enviro-Clean Services
www.enviro-clean.com

Dean Transportation
www.deantransportation.com

Chartwells
www.chartwellsk12.com

EDUSTAFF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS & SUPPORT STAFF

2022-23 EDUStaff Teacher Substitute Rates for Muskegon Public Schools:

- Official transcripts with a total of 60+ credit hours and a minimum 2.0 GPA from accredited colleges/universities
- Fingerprinting and background check required
- Contact EDUStaff for more information
www.edustaff.org

* 2022-23 EDUStaff Teacher Substitute Rates for Muskegon Public Schools:

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

*2022-2023 Support Staff Substitutes Rates:

- \$14.63 – Classroom Assistant/Para Educator
- \$12.01 – Lunchroom Aide
- \$15.24 – Secretary
- \$16.52 – Secretary (21st consecutive day)

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

Donna Allen

**Family
Engagement
Coordinator**
Administration Building
4 years



Dawn Roesler

Teacher
Bunker
Elementary
23 years



Matthew Cortez
Superintendent, Ed.S.
Muskegon Public Schools

Happy New Year BIG RED NATION!

As we embark on the new year and work to maintain our resolutions, it is a natural time to reflect on where we are and discuss where we would like to be. I envision a year of real tangible achievements within our school district. These achievements begin by focusing on career readiness, community partnerships that positively impact our students and facility improvements that are a result of your continuous support.

Our district leads the way in Muskegon County with innovative and unique programming, learning, and state of the art facilities. Examples implemented this school year include new MHS courses in Photojournalism, Peer Mediation, Broadcasting, and Amped on Algebra. We continue to expand other offerings of Geometry and Construction, Algebra 2 and Construction and our student-led school store. At the middle school we have introduced Design Thinking, Peer Mediation and a student-led Urban Garden Co-Op experience, which are the first steps toward transforming our middle school learning environment. In grades K-5 we continue with our rich history of offering Two-Way Immersion (dual language education), piloting PK4ALL (preschool for all), re-introducing Band as a pilot for fifth grade at Oakview and we steadily work toward greater teacher autonomy.

This new year will mark the debuting of renovated and theme-based elementary schools. In the fall Bunker Elementary will be

equipped with our first state-of-the-art STEAM lab for all students to use in their exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. This STEAM lab will be the first of multiple STEAM labs across our district as we begin the renovation processes at Marquette, Oakview, Glenside and the MHS campus. Sadly, we will bid farewell to Moon Elementary after over 100 years of educating our youngest students, but this makes way for Moon to transform into a community education building, which will serve multiple ages of students.

Our progress as a district is only possible because our BIG RED NATION continues to support and invest in our schools, students and staff. The financial support with the passing of bonds and millages have defined a new collective future for our community. This May the restoration of our non-homestead millage and the renewal of our county-wide technology and security millage will appear on the ballot. Historically, both of these have served our children well.

Our bright future allows us to remain ambitious in reaching for the stars via innovation and accomplishment. We should be guided by the words of Maya Angelou, "The desire to reach for the stars is ambitious. The desire to reach hearts is wise." It is through this wisdom that we can work together to touch the hearts and minds of all children in our community. Let us leave no doubt that the BIG REDS are and always shall be the leaders and best.

Educationally Yours,



Superintendent of Schools



MUSKEGON MIRROR

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

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

BUILDING PHONE NUMBERS

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education 2023 Meeting Schedule

Tuesday's at 7pm

January 17, 2023 March 21, 2023 May 16, 2023
February 21, 2023 April 18, 2023 June 20, 2023

July Retreat (tentative July 19th)



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

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2022-2023

Lynnette Marks

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Morgan Witmer

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616-215-0611

Louis Churchwell

lchurchw@mpsk12.net
231-724-6547

Open Board Seat - TBD

Officers to be determined at the January 17, 2023 Board Meeting

*Many thanks to Bill O'Brien, 26 years, and Zachary Anderson, 8 years,
for their service to the Muskegon Public Schools Board of Education.*

BOARD PRESIDENT



Lynnette Marks

President

Muskegon Public Schools
Board of Education

Greetings MPS Community,

Happy New Year!! I hope that you all were able to enjoy time with family and friends over the holiday season. We have a lot to look forward to in 2023.

Whether you are in a school with your student, or going by a school in your neighborhood, I am sure you have noticed construction. School buildings are in a little bit of controlled chaos with construction either ongoing or upcoming in all of our buildings. I encourage you to take a walk or drive by Laketon and

Peck to watch the rise of the new Charles Hackley Middle School. If you are curious about the details on any of the projects, progress and plans are updated monthly on the MPS website. Thank you for your patience and flexibility during these renovations, it will be worth it.

Muskegon's first elementary STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) lab is at Bunker. Elementary students will be doing hands on exploration and learning in the lab. As construction continues, there will be STEAM labs in all of our elementary schools.

You may have noticed staff wearing T-Shirts with the logo "Better Together" listing all our school buildings. This is a theme for our 2022-2023 school year. "Better together" also extends to the greater Muskegon Community. Our city and schools are both better together. In 2022 we held a joint session of the Muskegon Public School Board and Muskegon City Commission. This was a great opportunity for dialogue between the two organizations about how we can support one another, for the betterment of our students and citizens. One of the things to come out of this meeting was to include information from the city in the Muskegon Mirror, starting with this issue!

In November, Timothy Kozal, Public Safety Director, brought employees including firefighters and police officers into our schools to meet with students and serve them lunch. MPS Food Service (Chartwells) coordinated this project. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with the city. Thank you Mayor Ken Johnson, (*Muskegon Big Red Class of 1999*), commissioners, and staff for your commitment to Muskegon Public Schools.

I would like to close by recognizing "Earl" Bill O'Brien and Zachary Anderson who ended their terms on the Board in December 2022. Bill was on the board for 26 years, including time as President. Zak has been on the board for 8 years and brought youthful insight. Thank you both for your dedication and service. You have made a difference and will be missed. Please join me in welcoming Morgan Whitmer as the newest member of the Muskegon Board of Education. Morgan begins her term in January 2023.

Go Big Reds. - Lynnette • lmarks@mpsk12.net • 231-740-6249

Muskegon High School is proud to announce the new Broadcasting class!



Students in the class are learning about such topics as ethics in journalism, freedom of the press, and media bias. They are also learning the history of broadcast journalism, basic camera operations, how to program and use a teleprompter and the skills needed to edit videos.



By using the QR code above, you view students' very first projects for the MHS Broadcasting students. For these videos they needed to gather B-roll footage, write and rehearse scripts, and learn how to use the TriCaster studio. Students operated 100% of the equipment and produced their videos using a team approach. A special thanks to our Broadcasting teacher, Mrs. Carter who is very knowledgeable, patient and kind!

Muskegon High School has introduced a NEW Photojournalism class!

Students use state of the art Apple iMac computers equipped with Adobe Photoshop to edit the photos taken with Canon DSLR cameras and a digital camera on a smartphone. Students are also advancing their written storytelling ability in the journalism aspect of the course by using the Google Suite.

Represented here are some student samples from the new Photojournalism class. Students were working on an abstract or color choice project. For each image they needed to use, exhibit, and explain elements of photography and rules of composition.



Jada Martinez showed formal balance in her photo along with space to show depth. Her focal point was placed using the rule of thirds.



Konner Jones- photo with leading lines



Dakyla Penn- photo focusing on texture



Giselle Martinez- photo with a different viewpoint



Nevaeh Anderson- texture and contrast



Marianna Cammon- in this abstract photo, she used the rule of thirds and color to emphasize her subject.



Ameiyiah Blake
- formal balance and shapes

CURRICULUM

2023 Winter Science Update

by Joshua Presson, K-8 Science Specialist

Welcome to 2023! Hard to believe our school year here at MPS is already halfway over. With the new year comes some new and exciting happenings for science around the district.

Through the bond, Bunker Elementary has been able to install a new STEAM lab classroom in their building dedicated to science, technology, engineering, and math. They are partnering with Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute which will allow an exciting collaboration in which Bunker's students will learn more about the freshwater resources Muskegon County has to offer.



One of the plans include the upper elementary grade levels taking an educational trip out on Muskegon Lake aboard the W.G. Jackson to study the water. Another plan is called "Salmon in the Classroom." In this program, students raise salmon in a big aquarium in the classroom until they are ready to be released into the wild. They then take

a trip to a local river to release the salmon into their natural habitat!

Muskegon Middle School is also in the middle of some exciting new news. The construction on the new Charles Hackley Middle School is progressing nicely. Our current team of middle school science teachers were able to meet and pick out furniture for the new building along with some other ideas to make the new science classrooms state of the art and ready for some great learning. I know our teachers are excited about the building and our students should be too!

With winter upon us, the time we spend indoors often increases. If there is a need to fill some of that time, 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/>

Tornado in a Bottle

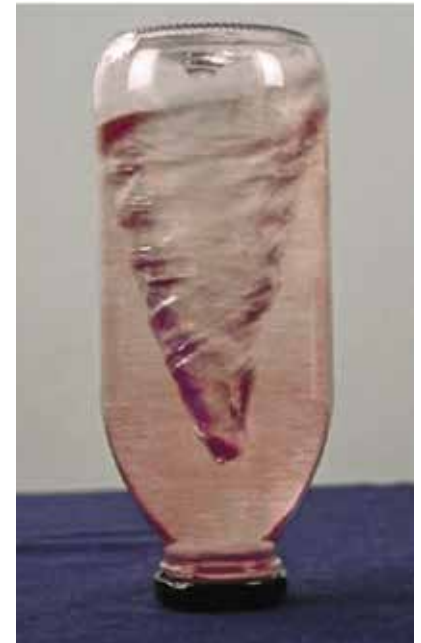
Here is a fun activity you can do at home with your child called Tornado in a Bottle. You can create your own tornado in a bottle by following the directions below:

MATERIALS:

- An adult helper
- Empty Glass Bottle with Lid
- 3-4 tablespoons Glitter (the more glitter the better!)
- Funnel
- Water

PROCEDURE:

1. Use the funnel to put 3-4 tablespoons of glitter in an empty glass jar.
- HELPFUL TIP:** The more glitter you use, the better you will be able to see the tornado. And after all, you can never have too much glitter, right?
2. Next, fill the jar about 3/4 full of water.
3. Put the lid back on the jar and make sure it is really tight.
4. Turn the bottle upside down and quickly move the bottle in a circular motion for 10-15 seconds.
5. Finally, set the bottle down on the table and observe the tornado that has formed.



HELPFUL TIP: It will take some practice to get the tornado to show up as much as the one in the picture above. But even with a little shaking, a child should be able to get the water and glitter to spin around in the bottle.

Q: How Does the Tornado in a Bottle Science Experiment Work?

A: When you spin the bottle in a circular motion it creates a water vortex that looks like a tornado. The water spins around the center of the vortex because of centripetal force. Centripetal force is any force that causes an object (in this case water) to move in a circular path. Because there is glitter in the water you can see the spinning water more clearly. The glitter is similar to the dust and debris that are found spinning in an actual tornado.

Stay warm and stay safe! As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions about our science program.

Joshua Presson • jpresson@mpsk12.net

Social Studies - by Kristy Tolbert

Big Red students have been out and about this school year! We are utilizing Covid Relief Funds to facilitate field trips all over Muskegon County and beyond for the 22/23 year. So far, most kindergarten students in the district have visited Lewis Farms. Those who did not yet visit the farm will do so this spring. These students were able to see science live and in-person as they visited the animals and learned about the crops grown.

Our 2nd graders have visited two area businesses to make real life connections to economics in our local community. As we moved into our geography unit, these same students visited Hackley Park, Heritage Landing and the Muskegon Lake Channel. Students made observations about the geographic features of each location and mapped them as we went. A big thanks to our BUS DRIVERS who helped make all of this possible!

Please enjoy some photos of all of our fun travels so far this year. Stay tuned for more as our 4th graders travel to Lansing, 6th graders visit the Winter Sports Complex and our 8th graders travel to Detroit throughout the winter and spring!

Math - by Kathy Coffey, K-5 Math Specialist

Learning math is often thought of as a lonely activity that students should do by themselves. But, we now know that when students work together learning is strengthened and lasts longer. Talking and interacting with others not only helps children learn math, it also helps their brains to grow as they learn how to think strategically, communicate respectfully with others, take turns, and other very important skills.

One way Big Red elementary students work together to learn math is through playing math games. At Marquette Elementary, 4th grade students get together once a week with 2nd grade math buddies to play strategic math games that help them learn and practice extended counting, place value, fluency with facts, and other math concepts. At Moon Elementary, 2nd grade students play the game Salute! to practice addition and subtraction facts. Students at Oakview and Bunker also work together to play math games as a regular part of their daily math instruction.

Here are some photos of Big Reds working together to learn math.



CURRICULUM

Reading - The Magic of 20 Minutes

by Julie Ray • Elementary Reading/Writing Specialist

At Muskegon Public Schools, our Kindergarten through 8th grade students are receiving their reading instruction with a program called Success for All (SFA). A very important part of that program is the expectation that students read for a minimum of 20 minutes every day at home. In addition to the reading, we ask that students complete a response form, signed by parents, that is returned to school each day. This response form varies by age, grade level, and teacher expectation.

What does this look like for my child? The main purposes for this expectation are to help your child develop fluency (reading smoothly, accurately, and with expression), and maybe more importantly, to develop a love of reading. Most students will bring a book home from school, but if your child has abundant books at home, or a library card, any book will do, as long as the book is of interest to your child. Make this an enjoyable experience. Listen to your child read if possible. It's not a tutoring session, and the reading may not be perfect. But the time spent practicing and the bonding you will have with your child is priceless.

How does 20 minutes a day help? There is a wealth of research supporting daily reading. Reading is "brain food." It provides one of the most enriching and complex brain activities available in life.

Reading daily improves listening skills and early literacy skills. Reading daily allows time for children to practice, and the more we practice something, the better we get. A child with strong reading skills will succeed and thrive in school. Reading daily together can help improve your relationship with your child.

Do you need more convincing? Here are some statistics supporting 20 minutes of daily reading:

- If a child reads for 20 minutes every day, they are exposed to about 1.8 million words of text every year.
- If families read together for 20 minutes a day, 7 days a week, they get more than 121 hours of bonding time every year!
- For every year you read with your child, average lifetime earnings increase by \$50,000. You make a \$250,000 gift to your child from birth to age five by reading aloud, just 20 minutes a day.
- Children who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school are 3 - 4 times more likely to drop out in later years.



Parents and families of MPS students, please put aside just 20 minutes a day to work this magic!

<http://www.readingfoundation.org/parents.jsp>
National Adult Literacy Survey,
(1002) NCES, U.S. Department of Education



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OSI Department Updates

Muskegon Public Schools has been engaging in a program supported by Grand Valley State University. It is called P2P- or Peer-to-Peer and it is a school-wide program designed to increase academic, independence, and social engagement opportunities for students with autism and other disabilities. Peers without disabilities learn about their schoolmates with developmental or intellectual disabilities and it provides students knowledge and skills to increase understanding and acceptance. Students learn to advocate with, and for students with disabilities. Through school and extracurricular activities, peers model typical academic and social behavior while students with disabilities can practice and use skills in natural settings by learning from peers in a positive and dignified manner. Authentic relationships form as students actively participate in activities together. These activities can include painting, studying, playing board games, crafting, or sports. The P2P is alive and thriving at Muskegon High School. What's new for 2023 is that the program is expanding! The students involved in the Muskegon High School program are taking the skills they've used and are going into the elementary classrooms! The Muskegon High School peers will be training

older elementary students on how to become peers to younger elementary students! Both Marquette and Bunker Elementaries are hosting peer programs and will also be participants in the Muskegon High School P2P student-led training. They will focus on friendship and belonging with the goal of making friends, laughing and having fun all together. The results have created a growing atmosphere of acceptance of diversity and inclusivity!



IMPACT • AFTERSCHOOL



21st CCLC IMPACT Program Tunes In To Tune Up

A new West Michigan Symphony string instrument program was launched this fall at Marquette Elementary and Oakview Elementary Schools as part of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Impact Program. 21 students are enrolled in the charter class in this after-school program. Tune Up students receive free use of a musical instrument and multiple hours of weekly instruction in ensemble and sectional lessons.

The West Michigan Symphony Tune Up program allows Impact students to enroll for free in this exciting new music class. Students receive free use of a violin or viola while enrolled in the program, learn to play that instrument, participate in ensemble and sectional lessons, meet professional musicians and guest artists, and receive music and academic support from experienced teaching artists and qualified staff.

Tune Up program goals are to work in tandem, and in support of, the successful Muskegon Middle School and High School Orchestra programs. Students will have the opportunity to stay in

the Tune Up program throughout the elementary grades and move into their middle school orchestra program if they choose.

Because of the vision of the WMS and the support of the community through numerous donations, Tune Up has become a reality. Students not only have the opportunity to gain a new skill and new experiences, but Tune Up provides them an early pathway to Muskegon Public School Orchestra.



The 21st Century Community Learning Centers After School Programs are funded in part by a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant through the MDE.

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

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MUSKEGON TEEN HEALTH CENTER

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

The logo for CTC Career Tech Center features the letters "ctc" in a stylized font with colorful waves above it, followed by the text "CAREER TECH CENTER".

ctc CAREER TECH CENTER



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.
Learn how students are exploring and accelerating their
careers while in high school!

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

STUDENT SERVICES - ENROLLMENT

MPS Enrollment



Brenda Kota
Central Registrar &
Student Services Support

All MPS families enroll their student(s)
online. Simply go to our website
(www.muskegonpublicschools.org)
and 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), 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. *Must be removed from the
envelope before providing the proof.*
- 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 or doctor's office.
- Custody/Guardianship court documents (if applicable)
- Copy of most current Special Education/IEP (if applicable)
- Transcripts and current grades from previous school for High
School students

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



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WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER?



TECHNOLOGY

Hello Big Red Nation,

Networking upgrades - We are in the planning phases of upgrading our network infrastructure district-wide with new equipment. The last upgrade was completed in 2016, so it's time for a refresh. We've also updated the fiber in some of our buildings as part of the bond work and hope to do the same in the rest of our buildings as the bond work continues. Upgrading fiber will help ready the district's infrastructure to keep pace as the speed of network connections continue to increase.



Classroom technology upgrades - As we work through the 2020 Bond project we're taking the time to upgrade some of the technology used in the classrooms by students and teachers. Technology is always changing so we have to make sure we're keeping pace. One size doesn't fit all so we always make sure that what we implement aligns with the district's goals. The Charles Hackley Middle School will feature new technology including, audio-visual (AV), digital signage and STEM labs. Bunker Elementary will be the first school to feature a brand new STEM lab later this school year!

The high school has gone through quite a bit of work recently as part of the bond project and one major upgrade that happened is the installation of a new surveillance system. This camera system features analytics which will allow administration to track an individual or item throughout the campus without sitting for hours and looking through tons of video. We just set the rules in the system to identify what we're looking for and the system does the bulk of the work. We also have new door access controls that integrate with this new surveillance system.

We're also in the second year of our four year Chromebook refresh plan. Students in Kindergarten and 1st grade are issued a touchscreen Chromebook while students in grades third through twelve are issued non-touchscreen devices. This year, we refreshed devices in grades Kindergarten, 2nd, 6th, and 9th.

Make sure you download the Muskegon Public School app from the Apple AppStore or the Google PlayStore. We share a lot of information via the app and its use will continue to grow! The QR Code is below for easy access to the school app.



MUSKEGON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER

"Big Red Nation!"

On Wednesday, 11/02/2022, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and MAISD leaders visited with MPS and MCEC leaders and staff to celebrate the accomplishments of the MCEC students and staff over the past 36 months. Over 3 years ago, MDE identified MCEC as needing to improve experiences for their students; and as a result, the MCEC staff responded by increasing the graduation rate, improving reading and math achievement, and increasing positive student behaviors.



Paul Kurdziel

Muskegon Community
Education Center

We are proud of our staff and students at MCEC and the Michigan Department of Education suggested they share their strategies and successes with other similar schools throughout the State of Michigan! Way to go BIG REDS! Hats off to MCEC Students and Staff!"

MCEC Fam, the quote above was released on social media and through our district communication network. We are very grateful to the many partners who were involved in our school's progress. However, we would also like to thank the folks we prize the most for their honesty, hard work, humor, and keep-it-real-ness: our students! As a program, we all work together each-and-every day to support students who are seeking their purpose. Along with our students, we are most grateful for the many ways students' parents and guardians partner with us. Together, we all text, Facebook message, call, and meet in person to best support the students here at MCEC. All of the data we shared would not be possible without the willingness of students and their parents and/or guardians to enter into proximity with us in a true partnership!

We look forward to our continued shared journey together!
The MCEC Fam



Important Dates

GRADUATION: WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023

- Rain Dates are Tuesday, May 23 or Thursday, May 25.

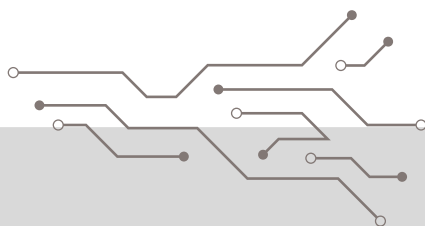


VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023 - DISTRICT IS SEEKING TO RESTORE AND RENEW ON MAY BALLOT



- **Restoration of the Non-Homestead millage.** This is to authorize adding two mills to our operating millage (collection cannot exceed 18 mills) to avoid further rollback of the 18 mills as a result of the Headlee rollback. When property taxes rise more than the rate of inflation, operating millages get decreased, or rolled back, as result of the Headlee Amendment in Michigan's constitution. **Passage of this proposal would allow the district to return to the full 18 mills of non-homestead property tax** and maintain a buffer for the future.
- **Renewal of the countywide technology and security millage of .9831 mills.** This is **NOT** a tax increase! The same .9831 mill for technology and security would continue from 2024-2033. These funds are designated to be used for technology and security only.

THESE IMPROVEMENTS RESULTED FROM OUR CURRENT TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY MILLAGE



Computer devices and support



Internet infrastructure upgrade



Wireless internet district-wide



Classroom technology upgrades



Campus Response and Safety Teams (CRST)



Secure lobbies at all schools



Key card access expansion



Security camera upgrades



IP phone system

This millage enhances student and staff safety and allows MPS to continuously evolve our technology.

Promises made, promises kept, promises expanded

As we begin the New Year, now is a great time to look at the status of our bond projects and the progress that was made in 2022. As always, we are incredibly grateful to our community members that made these projects possible through the support of the 2020 bond issue. We are excited about the transformations taking place and their positive impact our students, staff and community for years to come.

New Middle School 30% complete!

Promises Kept

Construction is progressing at the new middle school with the three-story classroom wing, gym, and cafeteria starting to take shape.

Promises Expanded

Through careful planning and budgeting we were able to add additional classrooms to the middle school from the original bond scope.



Muskegon High School 40% complete!

Promises Kept

New HVAC, lighting, and ceilings are being installed on the second and third floors. The new boiler system started up at the end of 2022 for construction areas.

Promises Expanded

The new science windows, picturesque courtyard with new concrete, and the refreshing of all classroom walls and paint are happening above and beyond expectation.



Bunker Elementary 53% complete!

Promises Kept

The bulk of the upgraded HVAC and electrical systems are in place, allowing work to begin on flooring, ceilings, and paint finishes.

Promises Expanded

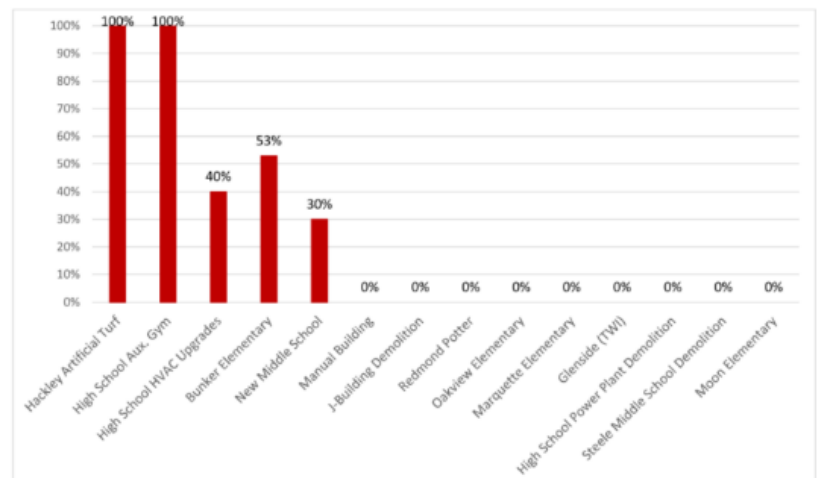
We're now able to include a new secured main entry and office, STEAM lab, chill zone, three early childhood classrooms, and new windows and doors thanks to additional federal funding.



Thank You to Our Project Partners and Many Trade Contractors!



Bond Construction Schedule Progress



HELLO FROM THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER! As we begin a new year, I am happy to be writing a new section in the Mirror where I can share what's new in city government with all of you. ~ *Leighann Mikesell*

NEW CITY MANAGER

First of all, we have a new City Manager, Jonathan Seyferth. While Jonathan is new to his position at the city, he is not new to Muskegon. Jonathan is a Muskegon County native and a proud product of the public education system from kindergarten through graduate school. He attended North Muskegon Public Schools and



graduated from Whitehall High School.

After high school, Jonathan attended Central Michigan University for undergraduate and graduate school. He received his Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado-Denver and brings nearly 20 years of public service experience to the City Manager's office. He has spent the last seven years in the Deputy/Chief Administrative Officer positions at the City of Coopersville and in Kent County's Gaines Charter Township.

Jonathan has a passion for public engagement and is eager to work with staff, residents, elected officials, and partners from throughout the community, noting, "it's the City's goal to keep Muskegon a welcoming

community for all current and future residents."

Jonathan believes that Muskegon Public Schools and the City have a symbiotic relationship, and he's eager to engage with the MPS administration to ensure future success for both organizations. "A City's public school system is rightly a point of pride, especially for its alumni. And although I'm not a Muskegon High graduate, I'm proud to be part of the Big Red community!"

You'll often find Jonathan and his partner Matt out and about in the community supporting local restaurants and businesses and participating in the many community events the city has to offer. So, if you see them out and about, please say hello!

NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Our city commission and leadership staff are committed to improving and increasing communication and connection with our residents, workers, business owners, and visitors. We have developed and established a new position to lead the effort, and our new Community Engagement Manager, Deborah Santiago Sweet, started in November. Deborah is a longtime Muskegon resident and is grateful to be in this new role. She will be working among residents, city staff, and our elected officials to bring fresh and transparent updates to you and to ensure your ideas and concerns are being considered. To do this we'll be enhancing existing communication channels, and we'll be launching new ways to hear from and communicate with our community. What's up first? Keep an eye out for a recurring newsletter that will be hitting your mailboxes soon. This will be a key source of information for residents. Deborah looks forward to meeting (and hearing from) more Muskegon residents soon.

NEW PARKS AND RECREATION FOCUS

Some of you may have benefitted from the parks and recreation programming that used to be prevalent in the city. I know I spent many summer days at the park making arts and crafts projects, and my mom still has a potholder or two from those days. Our commissioners support a return of more parks programming, taking something old and making it new again. A second new position, for a Parks and Recreation Director, was included in our budget this year. The new director will be seeking input on our Parks and Recreation Plan and what programming is needed. We are anxious to partner with groups who are already providing recreation programming and help to grow programs that will benefit our neighbors. Please watch for opportunities to share your input.

NEW HOMES

As the city continues to partner with developers to construct new homes on vacant lots within our neighborhoods, we are hoping to bring new neighbors to Muskegon and new students to the school district. You will see new homes in Nelson, McLaughlin, Jackson Hill, Campbell Field, and Marquette neighborhoods. Our goal is that every neighborhood is complete and vibrant, offering housing options for all types of families.

NEW PUBLIC SAFETY EFFORTS

Our Public Safety Division has begun a new initiative with the school district. Our police and fire staff are serving meals to students in an effort to open positive lines of communication between public safety staff and students. The first meal was served at the high school just prior to Thanksgiving, and the goal is to serve at every school in the city.

NEW TRAFFIC CONFIGURATION

You have likely seen the new traffic configuration on Terrace Street downtown. The boulevard has been removed between Shoreline Drive and Muskegon Avenue, and the next phase will be completed in the spring. When complete, Terrace Street will be an extension of Peck Street with two-way traffic and parking on both sides of the street. The city is seeking funding for a bike path to be constructed along Sanford Street between Laketon Avenue and Apple Avenue, and continuing along Terrace Street to connect to the existing bike path along Shoreline Drive. This new path will create an important link between two regional trail systems and offer a direct link for improved transportation.

NEW WEBSITE

Lastly, the city recently unveiled our new website, www.muskegon-mi.gov. Please take some time to review it and share your thoughts with us.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. I hope you have learned a little about what's happening in our city. We would love to connect with you and receive input on what you'd like to see in your city. You are always welcome at City Commission meetings, and you can contact the manager's office by calling 231-724-6724 or emailing leighann.mikesell@shorelinecity.com.

LET'S BUILD TOGETHER

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Forms

The Big Red Nation welcomes the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee into the Muskegon Public Schools family. Over the last several months, eleven passionate individuals from the Muskegon Community have found the inspiration and commitment to become the voice to improve the culture and climate of the district.



Members of the DEI Committee: seated from left, Jonathan Wilson, Kim Kanaar, Morgan Blizzard-Thompson, Ruth Hernandez, Debra Warren and Jonathan Witmer. Standing from left, Benika Longmire, Charlotte Johnson, Jeffery Burr, BreOnna Sanders and Portia Kidd. Charlotte Johnson and Jeff Burr are Co-Chairpersons of the Committee. Robert Tolbert, Community Relations Liaison is responsible for overseeing the formation of the committee. All of them have come together in a commitment to ensuring that all students, staff and administration have the best in mind, words and deeds when embracing diversity, equity and inclusion.

The DEI Committee is passionate and dedicated to creating an environment that promotes and values diversity. The committee will align its efforts with the district to ensure all students are engaged, feel included, valued and safe. Equity in education guarantees each student has the opportunity to get the support and resources needed to achieve their educational goals.

Continuing to build a culture of equity isn't just the right thing to do, it's the necessary thing to do.

Special thanks to Ebony Williams, Oakview Elementary Family Engagement Coordinator for designing the DEI T-Shirts.

THE NANCY POPPEN PROGRAM

Poppen Programs, Inc. is an incredible opportunity available only to Muskegon Public Schools students and we are happy to spread the news!



**POPPEN
PROGRAMS, INC.**

We are lucky to have funding available in the Nancy K. Poppen program for fine and performing arts lessons, such as visual art, creative writing, dance, private music lessons, and theatre. Muskegon Public Schools students currently in 3rd through 11th grades may apply.

The next application deadline is deadline May 1st, 2023.

Applications are available in your school's front office, or by emailing director Claire Root Benson at cbenson@mpsk12.net.

Also, due February 1st are applications for the Sherman R. Poppen college scholarships, available to MHS seniors currently active in the Nancy K. Poppen program who intend to major in their fine or performing art field in college. Contact program director Claire Root Benson for more details. 231-720-2040

We have had a wonderful fall in the Nancy K. Poppen Program, getting programming back up to speed after Covid interruptions. We will visit Detroit on December 8th, where current students will have the opportunity to visit the College for Creative Studies, Wayne State University's Music and Creative Writing departments, the Detroit Institute of Art, and the Mowtown Museum.

Current Nancy K Poppen students are invited to join us for Black Violin at the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts on February 26th, 2023. Contact Claire to reserve your tickets!



ATHLETICS

MHS ATHLETIC UPDATES

The MHS Athletic Department would like to thank everyone that was involved in the upgrades that have taken place at the high school over the last couple of years. There are so many people that have donated their time and money into making sure our students have top class facilities to use on a daily basis. It started with our Legacy Room and since that unveiling we have added much more. This year we have added a renovated weight room, new Boy's and Girl's Basketball locker rooms and a new Varsity locker room at Hackley Stadium. Our coaches, student-athletes, and athletic staff are very excited for the future of Big Red Athletics. We hope to see all of you come out and continue your support of our amazing student-athletes. **Go Big Reds!!!**



Weight Room



Locker Room



New Aux. Gym

MHS FALL COLLEGE SIGNEES

The MHS Athletic Department would like to congratulate the following student-athletes on signing letters of intent to attend colleges and universities on an athletic scholarship next year. We are proud of what you have accomplished so far and wish you luck during your senior seasons.

BOYS BASKETBALL

JORDAN BRIGGS - Wayne State University

Jordan is a 3 year member of the Big Red Boy's Basketball team. Last season he was voted OK Green 1st Team All Conference, All Area, MLive Muskegon Player of the Year, and First Team All State. He is a member of the MHS National Honors Society and helped lead the Big Reds to an OK Conference and District championship last season.

ANTHONY SYDNOR - Ferris State University

Anthony is a 3 year member of the Big Red Boy's Basketball team. Last year Anthony was voted OK Green 1st Team All Conference, All Area, MLive Muskegon Dream Team, and was also named Honorable Mention All State. He is a member of the MHS National Honors Society while also helping lead the Big Reds to an OK Conference and District championship last season.

2022 FALL ALL CONFERENCE

The MHS Athletic Dept. would like to recognize the following student-athletes for being named OK Green All Conference for the 2022 Fall sports season.

FOOTBALL

1ST TEAM

Miguel Botello
Karl Brooks
M'Khi Guy
Amariyan Glover
D'Andre Hudgins
CJ Ivey III
Nickarri Lane
Destin Piggee
Jakob Price

HONORABLE MENTION

Princeton Blackmon
Stanley Cunningham
Amariyan Glover

BOYS SOCCER

HONORABLE MENTION

Michael Williams

Please meet the Library Media Center Team:



Kenneth Bankhead
Muskegon High School Library
Technology Paraprofessional



Kristen Borgman
District K-12
Librarian



Sandy Bennett
Marquette/Oakview Library
Technology Paraprofessional



DD Sones
Muskegon Middle School Library
Technology Paraprofessional



Maria Pashak
Bunker/Moon Library
Technology Paraprofessional



Many students have been visiting their school library and are actively checking out materials. We are so excited to see students utilizing the library again! Please be sure to ask your student what they are reading or what book they have checked out from the library. As of mid-November our school libraries K-12 have circulated almost 8,000 books... that's a lot of pages being turned! We love to see Big Reds reading! Be sure to ask your student what they are reading. It can be difficult to ask questions when you aren't reading the book with your student, so here are a few suggestions on how to ask your student about what they are reading:

- How did you find your book? What made you decide that this book is a good-fit or is something you want to read?
- This book is new to me. Tell me what you think I should know about the book/story.
- What is your favorite part of the book so far?
- Who is your favorite character?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What book are you planning to read next?



Hackley Public Library Partnership

MPS libraries are currently partnering with Hackley Public Library to pilot issuing Hackley Public Library cards through the schools to students. This partnership will provide greater access to library materials and information services. A select group of students at Marquette Elementary and Muskegon High School will be participating. These students will receive a limited access library card that will allow for the students to check out up to three items from the library and use digital resources such as Hoopla and Overdrive to access ebooks and eaudiobooks. If you or your student are interested in a full-use library card, please visit Hackley Public Library in person and be sure to bring a government-issued ID and proof of address.

Don't forget to checkout <https://www.hackleylibrary.org> for additional HPL information.

In addition to the library card pilot, MPS is partnering with Hackley Public Library to bring Irene Miller, a Holocaust survivor, to speak with students in January. There will be an evening event for the general public in addition to her presentation to students. Further information with specific dates and times will be forthcoming. For more information about Irene Miller, please visit www.irenemillerspeaker.com

Having a library card can save you
THOUSANDS
of dollars each year!



HACKLEY
Public Library

Everything Imaginable.



hackleylibrary.org



Tim Hoffman
Muskegon High School
Principal

Peer Mediation: A healthy way to negotiate conflict.

Internal and external conflicts are a part of our everyday life. We have to learn how to deal with those challenges positively to be successful inside and outside of the classroom. Luckily, if you are a student or staff member at Muskegon High School, there is a team in place to support you. This summer, an amazing group of MHS staff and students were trained in peer mediation. Peer mediation is a conflict resolution strategy that is collaborative, student-driven, and student-led. The team will provide a safe, confidential, and non-judgemental space for each participant to share their experiences and create a mutual agreement. Our vision is to create a proactive approach to conflict, reduce suspensions, maintain a positive culture, and empower students and staff with problem-solving skills. Students have:

- Completed a two-day intensive training
- Successfully mediated multiple conflicts
- Successfully mediated two teacher-student issues
- Created a QR code for mediation requests
- Created informative posters posted in multiple locations
- Presented to seminar classes
- Presented to the Board of Education (Camiyah Bonner, Da'Vonna Bennett, Ar'Monie Petty, De'Ontae Owens)



STAFF MEDIATORS

Sarah Ego
Jennifer O'Brien
Dan'Yiah Bobo
Juwan Loudermill
Jarod Wierengo
Bernard Loudermill

STUDENT MEDIATORS

Da'Vonna Bennett	La'Nard Gordon	Ka'Niyah Martin
Jakari Bolden	M'Khi Guy	De'Ontae Owens
Camiyah Bonner	Shamari Hamilton	Ar'Monie Petty
Key'Yaun Bradford	Jasmine Jacobsen	Destin Piggee
Mia Castanon	Brandon Johnson	Jakob Price
Charles Chatman	Christopher Jones	Yahdira Tinoco
Karen Garcia	Summer Jones	

“Motivating Young People to be Better Citizens”

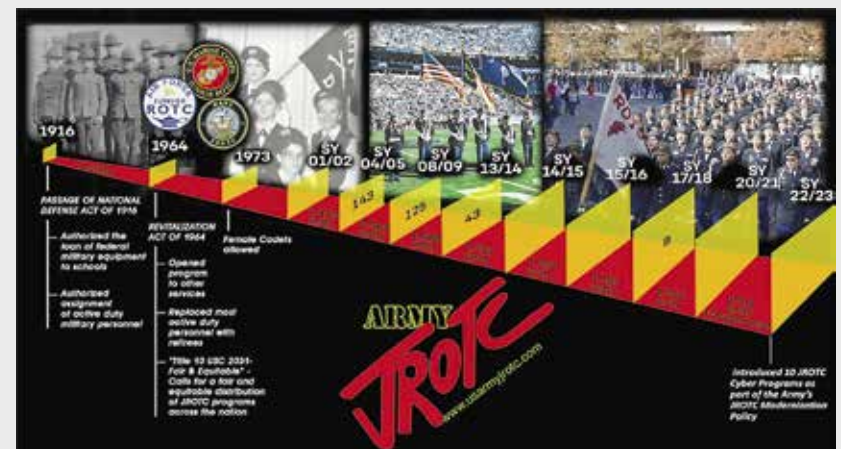


JROTC USC Title 10 Mission:

- It is a purpose of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps to instill in students in United States secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States (including an introduction to service opportunities in military, national, and public service), and personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment

Goals of the JROTC Program:

- High school students graduate prepared to succeed in post-secondary options and career pathways
- Make decisions that promote positive social, emotional and physical health
- Value the role of the military and other service organizations
- Act with integrity and personal accountability as students learn to lead others to succeed in a diverse and global workforce
- Engage in civic concerns that impact the community and society at large





**Mrs. LaKisha
Loudermill**
Muskegon Middle
School Principal

A Look Ahead... As we launch into the 2nd semester of the school year, the MMS Staff will continue our diligence to showcase our talented MMS Scholars and the work that they are producing in the classroom and in their extracurricular activities. At the onset of a New Year is the time where many individuals set New Year's Resolutions – goals and action plans identified to fulfill dreams, targets, or desires. Our team and student body are no different. We will continue to set goals to ensure that our students reach their full potential.

The mission of Muskegon Middle School is to develop independent, adaptable, motivated, goal-oriented, academically -prepared, and respectful young adults.

The pathway to fulfill this mission is to strengthen our partnerships with students, families, and community stakeholders. We will provide opportunities for our students to demonstrate success, expose our students to college and career opportunities, shine the spotlight on the achievements reached throughout this year. We invite you to partner with us by ensuring our students are excelling academically, attending parent engagement opportunities, making donations to support student celebrations and sharing the growth that we are making throughout the year.

We look forward to you joining the upcoming events this second semester. Here is a sneak peak of what's to come.

- Recognizing our student Scholastic and SEL achievements will be celebrated quarterly during our **Honor's Assemblies**. (January, March, June).
- Parent Engagement Opportunities will be offered: **Parent Meetings** (monthly), **District Black History & Literacy Celebration** (February/March) **Spring Parent Conferences** (March), **Volunteer to distribute PBIS Rewards** (monthly).
- Our Musical Department has a full schedule of activities prepared for our students: **Festival of Bands** (March), **Solo and Ensemble** (March/April), **Spring Honors Band Performance** (May) & **Community Parades** (May).
- Students will display their artwork at the **Muskegon Museum of Art Show** hosted by the Muskegon Intermediate School District and **MPS District Art Show** at Muskegon High School. (April & May).
- Students will have the opportunity to showcase their athletic talent and by participating on the **Big Red Athletic Teams**: Boys and Girls Basketball, Competitive Cheer, Wrestling, Girls on the Run, and Track.
- Last but not least, our Class of 2027 will celebrate the completion of the Middle School Journey with the completion celebration - **8th Grade Promotion Ceremony** in June.

Design Thinking

This year, Muskegon Middle School started a new elective in collaboration with the MAISD Career Technical Center. Design thinking is a process for solving problems by prioritizing the consumer's needs above all else. It relies on observing, with empathy, how people interact with their environments, and employs an iterative, hands-on approach to creating innovative solutions. To be truly human-centered, designers watch how people use a product or service and continue to refine the product or service in order to improve the consumer's experience. MMS Students are learning the process of Design Thinking by receiving a challenge to problem solve. They work as a team to create solutions. In order to do this, they use their background knowledge, research and reach out to community businesses to complete the project. Their task is to create a prototype for the new Media Center, Chill Zone, and Cardiovascular Rooms at the new Charles Hackley Middle School. Once the students complete their prototypes, they present their work to a team of educators, administrators, and community partners. Our 6th graders spend nine weeks in this class whereas our 7th and 8th graders engage in this course for a semester. It is no surprise that our students have amazing ideas that illustrate their deep reflection on how to solve problems.

Family Engagement Coordinator

Let's welcome **Ms. Cicely Smith** to Muskegon Middle School. She will join our team as the Family Engagement Coordinator. Ms. Smith is a Big Red Alumni, Class of 2001! Who comes to us with years of experience in the educational setting. She is excited to meet & get reacquainted with MMS parents. She will be hosting monthly parent meetings, facilitating parent and student engagement activities, while strengthening our community partnerships. Her overall goal is to bridge the gap between the school and the community in a positive and meaningful way. So parents, we look forward to you attending our meetings and sharing your voice to impact our students and families here at MMS.



Okeelah McBride
Bunker and Moon
Elementary Schools
Principal

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2023!**

Happy New Year Greetings from Principal McBride

Let me begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year filled with many successes and continued progress. During winter break I hope you had the chance to catch up with friends and family and enjoy some relaxation. I certainly spent some time reflecting on 2022 and thinking about the work and opportunities that lie ahead in 2023.

As we approach the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., his work and legacy, I am reminded of one of my favorite quotes of his, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

One of the things I appreciate most about our school community is that we are not silent about the things that matter, and together we continue to provide high-quality service for children and families.

At both Bunker and Moon Elementary School, we place great value on seeing our students show continued success and academic progress as they move through their elementary school journey. I am excited to begin our work for the second half of the school year to ensure that learning continues. As we ring in the new year, we see this as an opportunity to check in with students and families, to ensure that our students are on track, prepared and ready for the second half of the year.

Bunker and Moon Elementary continue to strive to become schools that are focused on educational equity and find unique and innovative ways to partner, support, and create opportunities that make our neighborhood schools a place where all children enjoy learning, develop strong relationships, and continue to grow each day socially, emotionally, and academically. As always, thank you for your continued support.

S.T.E.A.M Lab



Did you know that Bunker Elementary will have a STEAM lab beginning next school year? It is a classroom where students will be engaged in innovative hands-on experiences that will prepare them for the future. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. The room is currently under construction on the first floor of our building. The classroom will feature brand new furniture, state of the art technology, tons of learning materials, and a beautiful one-of-a-kind mural that highlights the STEAM components. It is a fact that we need to prepare our students for careers that do not yet exist and this will be accomplished through our new STEAM curriculum.

We are adopting the SmartLab Learning curriculum. With this curriculum, not only will students gain valuable content knowledge, they will also gain life skills in communication, collaboration and critical thinking - which are all necessary skills that support a successful life.

Our SmartLab Learning curriculum encompasses four main components. They are the student learning process, an engaging learning environment, standards-aligned curriculum, and ongoing professional development. The student learning process empowers learners to make decisions and solve complex problems. The engaging learning environment is an

intentionally designed learning environment with experiences that keep students engaged with hands-on, minds-on learning. The standards-aligned curriculum is stored in the SmartLab LearningHub where educators can assess their students' learning. With ongoing professional development, we will ensure that educators are successful throughout the life of the program.

The STEAM Lab at Bunker Elementary is not just a classroom, the learning that will happen in this room will transcend the walls of our school. It will prepare our students for a lifetime of critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration. We are excited about the new opportunities this gives our students!

Community Partnerships

Bunker Elementary is on the move! We are developing community partnerships to better the lives of our students through access to practical needs, resources, and tools. Our current partners have been supportive and very generous with their time, attention, donations, and sincere service to students, families, and teachers. We want to say THANK YOU to our Community Partners that are making a difference at Bunker:

- Lakeside Baptist Church
- Consumers Energy
- Kids Food Basket
- All Shores Wesleyan Church
- Hand 2 Hand
- Kids Hope Mentorship Program
- MPS National Honor Society



- The Muskegon Lake Hawks
- Junior Achievement
- United Way of the Lakeshore
- Shop with a Cop
- Muskegon Community College
- Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
- Several Private Donors who want to remain anonymous

Through the generosity of our partners, Bunker students are growing, learning, meeting people in various careers, sharing with their families and friends what they are learning, and understanding the simple rule of gratitude when receiving and the importance of giving. We can not impact our students to this magnitude on our own. Partnering with these businesses and organizations is making a difference by strengthening our classrooms, our homes, and our community. We want to maintain our current partnerships and continue to build new relationships. We appreciate every opportunity that has come our way through Community Partnerships!

This Year in Art...

This year in ART with Ms. Chamberlain, students will learn about themselves and the world around them through a comprehensive visual arts education program. Students can look forward to growing their brains and achieving benchmarks in their artistic development. We will explore the elements of art (line, shape, color, form, value, texture, and space), and the principles of design (balance, unity, variety, proportion, emphasis, pattern, and movement), as well as integrated standards from other disciplines such as science, history, math, reading, writing, social emotional learning (SEL), and character development.

Bunker artists will be recognized and celebrated throughout the school year with the "Featured Artist of the Week" showcase on the first floor, rotating hallway bulletin board displays, a slideshow on the front office monitor, and student ART show opportunities. There are two student ART show opportunities available to Bunker artists: the annual "Expressions" Student Art Show at the Muskegon Museum of Art in late-April (Muskegon County-wide student art show), and the annual MPS K-12 District-wide Student Art Show at the Muskegon High School library in mid-May.

The continuation of the Aesthetics Education (AE) Program, in partnership with the MAISD, will be integrated into the visual arts program here at Bunker Elementary. AE is an inquiry based approach to arts education, where two of our Bunker BIG RED classes will have the opportunity to work with Teaching Artists from our community, learn about local works of art, and experience the Muskegon Museum of Art. The Poppen Program will also be available to qualifying 3rd-5th grade Bunker students. Nancy and Sherman Poppen established the Nancy K. Poppen Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County in 1993 to provide fine and performing arts opportunities for eligible Muskegon Public School students who wish to advance their talents through private study beyond the classroom.

Due to construction, the ART room will be moving to the third floor of our Bunker building for the remainder of the academic year. Learning will continue with fun skill-building activities and artwork production. In the ART room we maintain a positive attitude about participation, trying our best, and making mistakes. "Mistakes are proof that you are trying," and all I ask of your child is that they try their best in ART class. There is always an opportunity to turn a mistake into a "beautiful oops" to achieve success. We also strive to make BIG REDS (Respectful, Excellent, Dependable, and Safe) choices in the ART room, as well as all other locations throughout the building. With a positive attitude and BIG REDS choices, I am confident that your child will be successful in ART, and have fun in the process. The ART room welcomes and appreciates your donations: kleenex, baby wipes, sponges, sidewalk chalk, Ziplock bags (any size), aluminum foil, plexiglass (any size), beads, newspapers, and magazines. I look forward to a terrific year with our Bunker artists! Go BIG REDS!!!



Thankful, Grateful, Blessed

This 2022-2023 school year has started out with a lot of thankfulness and excitement. Moon School has been very fortunate to have received many donations. Here are just a few of the many donations Moon School has received during the first half of our school year:

Michael, the manager from Tradehome Shoes, dropped off 50 brand new boys and girls Under Armor tennis shoes.

Subaru of Muskegon gifted Moon with \$3000.00 dollars. The money will be used to buy supplies and materials for all the classrooms.

SAF-Holland, Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Community Members, and Moon Elementary Alum have been extremely generous with all the donated school supplies for our students!

Moon school is truly thankful for all of our donations!!!



Exciting Events & Experiences are happening at Moon Elementary!

Consumers Energy brought their trucks and equipment to provide Empowered Kids Presentation about Energy Safety and Careers to our 4th & 5th graders October 7th.



Students and staff celebrated the Big Crunch on October 13th. All the apples we donated from Peterson Farms.

Kindergarten students spent the day at Lewis Farms on October 20th

The Fire Marshall read and spoke to our 2nd & 3rd grade students about the importance of fire safety on October 25th.

Students have been earning their Big Red tickets for being Respectful, Excellent, Dependable, and Safe. They spend their tickets in the Moon School Big Red Store.

Many more events are to take place at Moon School throughout the year, so stay tuned.

First Honor's Assembly of the Year

Kiddos came in and out came the vicious mummies, nothing but laughter



was coming deep from their tummies! So many great awards and shiny certificates were given. Covering the teacher with TP was the only mission! Mrs. Dewit was clearly the first and number one winner, the only secret was to twist and spin her!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - MARQUETTE

Welcome to our ECSE program at Marquette.

We are excited to provide a high quality early childhood education program to our Muskegon community. Through Pre-K for All and Early Childhood Special Education, we provide high quality early childhood education opportunities that offer all children and families a strong start in school and life. Our students learn through play, experiences, and positive relationships. Our programs help children develop language, skills, and knowledge of the world. Our Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services include special instruction and related services provided to young children, ages three through five, who qualify under the Individuals with Disabilities Act.



In our early childhood classrooms, you can expect our students to begin and discover

what makes them unique and learn to play with others, show curiosity, ask questions, share creative ideas, and learn and practice new concepts. We encourage our students with any ability level to become a member of the classroom community. Using the inclusion model, we safely explore new ideas, materials, which will better prepare them for language, math, and critical thinking skills.

In a typical classroom day, your preschooler will learn in many different ways, including but not limited to whole group and small group activities, choice time where they are able to work with a variety of materials, and outdoor playtime with a focus on inclusion. Ensuring all learning abilities are part of the same learning community. These experiences lay the foundation for your child's future success in school and life. Our ECSE program focuses on the following concepts.

- Early social and emotional skills, such as sharing, solving social problems, and expressing and managing their feelings
- Learning skills such as problem solving, imaginative thinking, and persistence
- Pre-reading and writing skills, such as understanding that letters have meaning and can be combined to form words, and that reading and writing can be used to share information and ideas
- Early math skills, such as learning about numbers, shapes, sorting and patterns
- Physical strength and coordination skills, such as running and being able to use paint brushes and crayons.

We are excited to serve our Muskegon community and continue to ensure all learners have equal access and opportunities for education.

NEW-Parents as Playground & Lunchroom Supervisors

The 22/23 school year started out with only two playground/lunchroom supervisors at Marquette Elementary. On the first day of school, parents were approached and asked to help Marquette Staff with their "Watch Us Grow" theme in building



a climate where children can grow in both academic and social-emotional learning. So far, six parents have joined the team! The new supervisors have been able to collaborate and mentor so many more students than they thought possible. One of

the supervisors stated, "I see the need for all of our students now in growing and learning." Another stated that they feel blessed to mentor and be part of the Marquette team. One final statement was that this supervisor had a new understanding of how hard the teaching and professional staff work. Please call the front office if you are interested in joining and supporting the Marquette students and families.

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Marquette is now hosting a **Great Start Cafe**.

We host a cafe from 9:00 - 10:30 am in room 145 every Thursday. Facilitators from *Read Now Read Early* and *Public Health*, facilitate a group where caregivers, whether you are parents, guardians, sisters, brothers, aunts, or grandparents can connect. This space is for family support over coffee and donuts. We are excited to connect our school



with the Muskegon community and provide a place where we can talk and learn from each other. The Marquette Great Start Cafe is open to all. Please join us and share your knowledge and gain insight on how to best support not only our families, but ourselves. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Tasha Banks, School-Home Partnership Team Leader, at tbanks@mpsk12.net or call the Marquette Office at **720-2600**.



Oakview Elementary Parent Meeting School Home Partnership Team

Have you heard about the great things happening at Oakview? Oakview is using this month's Mirror article to highlight one of our 2022-23 strategies for making Oakview a GREAT place for students, families, and staff! Starting this school year, Oakview Elementary has organized a "School-Home Partnership Team" or SHPT. The School Home Partnership Team is made up of Oakview parents, teachers, and community partners, working together to promote the lifelong success of our students. Oakview's SHPT members meet on the second Monday of every month from 4-5 pm and are led by Oakview's Family Liaison, Mrs. Ebony Williams. For the past two years, Mrs. Williams has worked extremely hard to develop relationships with Oakview's staff and families. Mrs. Williams uses her relationships with Oakview guardians to better understand the obstacles facing our families and then communicate these challenges to Oakview's various support systems. Oakview Elementary is blessed to receive the support from many different outside organizations such as Hackley Community Cares, 21st Century Club, and Evanston Baptist Church just to name a few. During Oakview's monthly SHPT meetings, Ebony and her team of parents may discuss any of the following topics related to Oakview:

Advise and recommend better ways to improve processes and policies at Oakview School and within the district.

- Develop plans to improve school-to-parent communication and student achievement.
- Encourage and motivate other parents to get involved!
- Brainstorm ideas for future Family Engagement Events.
- Plan and organize volunteers for school fundraisers.
- Represent Oakview School within the district and in the community.
- Empower parents to effectively use their voices concerning the success of their children.
- To celebrate and promote all successes at Oakview School.

If you have any questions about Oakview's School-Home Partnership Team, or if you would like to learn more about any of the strategies designed to support Oakview students and their families, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or our Family Liaison, Ebony Williams, at 231-720-2477 or ewilliam@mpsk12.net.

Great Partnership

The Michigan Education Corps' (MEC) Early Learning Corps has returned for the third year of service at Glenside Early Childhood Center (ECC). We are so fortunate that the strong partnership between MEC and Glenside ECC has grown to incorporate five team members for the 2022-23 school year – An increase from what was originally two back in 2020. The increase in Early Learning Corps members gives our program the capacity to serve and develop relationships with 80 of our pre-k students.

The Early Learning Corps program focuses on pre-k aged children to prepare them for kindergarten by embedding highly trained members, also known as interventionists, who serve through AmeriCorps in a classroom where they spend the entire day interacting with students and serving alongside the teaching staff.

Interventionists assess each student in the class three times a year using the Preschool Early Literacy Indicators (PELI) and Early Math Inventory (EMI) assessments. Based on the data gathered from these assessments, the classroom team (Lead Teacher, Associate Teacher, Early Learning Corps Interventionists, Internal Coach, and Coaching Specialist) determines which students could benefit from targeted interventions and regularly monitor the student's progress to ensure that they are using the most appropriate intervention for that student's needs. Our data has shown that this extra time with students gives them increased skills and improves their readiness for Kindergarten and their future success in education.

Early Learning Corps is among three high-dosage, evidence-based tutoring programs delivered through Michigan Education Corps, an initiative of the Hope Network. The other two programs that serve throughout Michigan focus on kindergarten through third-grade reading literacy (Reading Corps) and fourth through eighth-grade math literacy (MEC Math Corps).

It takes a team to make Early Learning Corps a success. We are so fortunate to have support from the MAISD, Michigan Education Corps, and Glenside ECC staff. Their support of our members is vital to ensuring the success of this program.



If you are interested in learning more about the Early Learning Corps program, please visit the website at mieducationcorps.org.

If you are interested in more information about Early Childhood Programs sponsored by MAISD, serving Muskegon Public Schools please call 231 720-2560.



Strong Schools, Stronger Communities

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

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NO ONE UNDERSTANDS HOW HARD IT IS TO LIVE IN AN OVERCROWDED HOUSE



We are here to help because life is hard enough!

It's common to move in with friends or relatives because of tough circumstances. We can try to make things easier.

Contact us for information or to get help:

Nicole D'Arcy - District Liaison
ndarcy@mpsk12.net
231-720-2079

Laurie Mancuso - Middle School Advocate
lmancuso@mpsk12.net
231-720-3009



Who is McKinney Vento?

McKinney & Vento were senators who created the McKinney Vento Act which requires public schools to eliminate barriers to school for students experiencing housing instability or homelessness. The goal is to help kids stay focused on their academics.

Muskegon Public would like to try to help you if you are living in a temporary situation due to foreclosure, eviction, or other economic hardships (such as recent job loss). Let us know what is making attendance, homework or even concentrating in class difficult for your student and we can try to provide the items and resources to help.

Our support is created to fit your individual needs because we know not everyone is in the same situation or has the exact same struggles. For more information on how specifically we can help please contact the McKinney Vento Liaison at ndarcy@mpsk12.net or 231-720-2079.

We also have Building Advocates at the Middle School ldavis@mpsk12.net and High School bwhite@mpsk12.net who are here to help and are easy to reach. They can provide a variety of things to help make your students' day easy and ensure they have what they need to fully participate in all activities, to complete their homework, to get to and from school, or to be prepared to attend school with hygiene items etc. .



A healthy start keeps you smart! School breakfast gives you more energy, keeps your body healthy and helps you improve your grades!

FREE FOR ALL MUSKEGON PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Table with 3 columns: SCHOOL, TIME, LOCATION. Rows include Muskegon High School, Middle School, MCEC @ Nelson, Bunker Elementary, Marquette Elementary, Moon Elementary, Oakview Elementary, and Glenside Early Childhood Center.

All breakfast meals include an entrée, fruit, and milk.

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