

MUSKEGON

MIRROR

THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FOR MUSKEGON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISSUE 59 • MAY 2023

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS



Congratulations!!



CLASS OF
2023

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HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



OFFICE HOURS:
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
MONDAY - FRIDAY
SUMMER HOURS: M-Th • 8-3
STARTING 6/19 - 7/28

Please call for an appointment outside of scheduled hours.

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WELCOME NEW STAFF

Oneata Bailey.....Paraeducator.....Marquette
 Ilaya Blake.....Lunchroom Aide.....Moon
 Lisa Brown.....Building Substitute.....High School
 Courtney Carlson.....Paraeducator.....Bunker
 Tome Ellis.....Lunchroom Aide.....Middle School
 Kimi George.....Construction Trades Instructor.....High School
 Sharon Hinken.....Lunchroom Aide.....Marquette
 Elynn Kartes.....Lunchroom Aide.....Moon
 Sara Keegstra De Hernandez.....Interventionist.....Muskegon Christian School
 Marcherice Larkin.....Payroll Specialist.....Central Office
 Theresa Lee.....Paraeducator.....Marquette
 Molly Studier.....Teacher.....Moon
 Shanise Winters.....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

EDUStaff Substitute Teachers & Support Staff Requirements to work as a substitute teacher:

- 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

2023-24 EDUStaff Teacher Substitute Rates for Muskegon Public Schools:

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

2023-2024 Support Staff Substitutes Rates:

- \$15.07 – Classroom Assistant/Para Educator
- \$12.37 – Lunchroom Aide
- \$15.69 – Secretary
- \$17.01 – Secretary (21st consecutive day)

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

Mark Benson

Teacher
High School
31 years

Andrew Bos

Teacher
Oakview
31 years



Kathryn Coffey

Math Specialist
Administration Building
5 years

Linwood Lee

Teacher
Oakview Elementary
33 years

WELCOME BACK PROUD MICHIGAN EDUCATORS CAMPAIGN



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

Source: https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5683_14795_83465---,00.html



Matthew Cortez
Superintendent, Ed.S.
Muskegon Public Schools

It is that time of the year again, BIG RED NATION!

We celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of our students and honor our staff in recognition of their hard work!

Congratulations CLASS OF 2023

The class of 2023 is a remarkable and unique group of seniors. They were the freshman class when I began as superintendent and the same year that COVID hit. They are a resilient group that performed beyond expectations and did this with dignity and class. We must join in celebrating the end of this journey with us and the beginning of their journeys yet to come. The transformation they have done is a mirror of the transformation we see around us all: the city, the neighborhoods, and the district. Changes are at a structural level with our homes, buildings, and schools, thanks to the support and hope our community has for all of our futures.

As we enter into summer, I would like every student and family to know that we have a few changes for the 2023-24 school year:

- Moon Elementary School is closing at the end of this year, and the three remaining elementary (Bunker, Marquette, and Oakview) boundaries have been redesigned.
- The central offices located in the Charles Poole, Sr., Administration Building will relocate from July 23-January 24 to the J Building as a result of construction.
- The TWI program will be moved to Bunker Elementary School. Mr. Amado Perez will be welcoming you all!
- Marquette Elementary School: all grades will be at Nelson School for the year as a result of construction upgrades for Marquette Elementary School. In Fall 2024, Marquette Elementary School will return to a newly renovated and updated Marquette Elementary School.
- Oakview Elementary School will have its K-5 grades held at the former Moon Elementary School building for the year due to bond construction work. Oakview will return to a newly renovated and updated Oakview Elementary School in Fall 2024.
- MCEC will be located in the East wing of Nelson for the 23-24 school year.

While change is hard for some of us, it is essential to fulfill the Promises of our 2020 Bond.

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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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

May 16, 2023	September 19, 2023
June 20, 2023	October 17, 2023
July 18, 2023	November 21, 2023
August 15, 2023	December 19, 2023

The Board's Organizational Meeting will be held in January 2024



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

Anytime during emergency school closures, the board meetings will be available via live stream. Please check online for Board Minutes and Agendas for the live stream link.

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2022-2023

Lynnette Marks (President)

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231-740-6249

Louis Churchwell (Vice President)

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Zachary Anderson (Treasurer)

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310-666-8375

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231-773-7179

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mwitmer@mpsk12.net
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BOARD PRESIDENT



Lynnette Marks

President

Muskegon Public Schools
Board of Education

Greetings Big Red Community,

I would like to take this time to thank all of you who nurture, support, guide, educate, and love our students. As the saying goes, "*it takes a village*". Our Big Red Village includes teachers, support staff, food service, bus drivers, maintenance, janitors, coaches, administrators, volunteers, families, neighbors, community, alumni, businesses, city staff, and elected officials. You all have a hand in the

accomplishments of our students. THANK YOU.

Please take this time to celebrate those accomplishments. Throughout all our lives there are big and small milestones that warrant celebration. This is particularly true for our students. They have worked hard to learn and grow this year. I ask that you take time to celebrate with the young people in your life and make a habit to celebrate accomplishments throughout each year.

First Day of School. Last Day of School. Learning Shapes. Learning ABCs. Reading a book. Reading a chapter book. Learning the times tables. Learning to ride a bike. Losing a tooth. Learning to play an instrument. Making a new friend. Finishing an art project. Moving from 5th grade to middle school. Moving from middle school to high school. Learning to swim. Getting 100% on a Spelling Test. Being Recognized as Student of the Month. Getting a driver's license. First job. Making it to the playoffs. Volunteering. Graduating from high school.

The above list is just a small sampling of our student's accomplishments. They each take hard work & effort to achieve and ARE worthy of celebration.

I would like to issue a correction from my last MIRROR letter. Zachary Anderson did not resign from the school board. He remains an active and dedicated part of our board. I personally celebrate our school board and superintendent. It is a pleasure to serve which such a passionate and dedicated group of people who want the best for every student.

I hope that you all enjoy our beautiful Muskegon summer. Check out some of the "little libraries" around town, and our beautiful Hackley Public Library. Keep learning, keep reading (signs, cereal boxes, library books, your books...), and keep celebrating!

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

Muskegon Public Schools Partnerships

What are Partnerships?

Partnerships are mutual agreements between two organizations to create a common goal. Contributions may vary; however, seeing results will require commitment and understanding of responsibilities from all participants. Within school systems, partnerships serve as outreach, connecting students to the community and vice versa. Partnerships between schools and communities convey a mutual investment that requires organizations to work together.

How do Muskegon Public Schools Utilize the Partnership Model?

Muskegon Public Schools has whole-school support through a network of over 65 community partners this school year. These partners include nonprofits, corporations, individuals, and government agencies. The district utilizes these partnership relationships to improve student academic achievement, provide state and local support and resources, and require accountability to attain the goals the school district and partners agreed upon.

Muskegon Public Schools further seeks to use the partnerships to integrate Career Education, Exploration, and Soft Skills Development strategies into its curriculum by implementing goal number four of the Muskegon Public School's improvement plan: students will pursue/enroll in high-quality degrees and meaningful employment credentials. We intend to meet this goal by:

- All students have classroom instruction to enhance their employability, including problem-solving, personal management, organizational skills, negotiation skills, teamwork, and social/emotional learning relevant to careers.
- The plan involves age-appropriate career resources conducive to their current career interest.
- We are connecting students to actual workplace environments and higher-level institutions. Students will particulate and perform job duties, and District staff will provide career-related activities in collaboration with work facilities and Local College Access Networks.

Community involvement is critical when helping students find employment. Collaboration with local businesses will ensure students have access to employment opportunities. Gaining support from outside resources will help expand the program. Stakeholders will help the project increase in numbers and include more individuals. The policies will consist of support systems to ensure that all MPS students have a mentor to address non-academic issues. Building partnerships with outside resources will lead to healthy relationships; therefore, we can evolve our practices.

As a district, we have learned that Industry and community partners can add incredible value and authenticity to our school community. The partnership model has helped MPS better understand how partnerships offer continuous support to our staff, students, and overall learning community.

We would like to thank all the community partners that have invested time, talent, and resources in MPS to offer students a sense of authenticity when collaborating with adult professionals, experts, parents, or community members during a project. Here are several actual examples of the 65 partnerships that offer opportunities for MPS students to work with external organizations, businesses, and experts:

- **Muskegon High Schools Mock Interview and Career Day**
- **Diatribes Tribe Poetry Empowerment**
- **MOCR Men of Color Read**
- **West Michigan Works Ascend Program/Career Launch**
- **Health West Systems of Care**
- **Muskegon Community College Fab Lab Experience**
- **Jobs for Michigan Graduates JMG**
- **Mavin Solutions Grow MainStreet**
- **High School Esports League**
- **Sherman Poppen Performing Arts Program**
- **City As School Career Readiness Partnership**
- **AFS Foundry In a Box**
- **GVSU Trio Program**
- **Consumers Energy Career Day**
- **Detroit 67' Muskegon Frauenthal Theatre**
- **Michigan Humanities Poetry Out Loud**

How can you become involved in a partnership with Muskegon Public Schools as an organization?

Muskegon Public Schools welcome outside agencies and organizations with the opportunity to become partners. Increasing partnerships throughout the community will offer students more exposure to potential job opportunities and experiences. Before establishing a possible relationship with Muskegon Public Schools as a district, we want to ensure your organization's goals align with our mission and purpose. We will provide your organization with expectations and guidelines to build a dialogue with the community, staff, and students. As a potential partner, you can significantly impact the community and become an asset to our students. ***How might you/your organization partner and support the overall learning community of MPS?***

**If you are interested in learning more about the
Muskegon Public Schools Community Partnership Program,
please contact Chauncy Williams at:
cwilliam@mpsk12.net**

CURRICULUM

Spring/Summer Science Update 2023

by Joshua Presson, K-8 Science Specialist

Another exciting school year here at MPS is almost wrapped up already! This year seems to have flown by. Our MPS elementary



students at Bunker have been given a new learning opportunity. The STEM Lab opened in Bunker in February and generated a lot of excitement. Perhaps you saw a news story on WZZM13 or read about it on Mlive? The STEM Lab is all hands-on learning where our students are presented with a problem or challenge to solve and they work with a partner or two to complete the challenge or problem. There are over 400 hands-on activities to complete with our kits that get students to collaborate and work together. Our science and STEM Lab curriculums will work together where the lab will support the learning happening in the science classroom. How cool is that? This is a non-traditional learning environment that our Bunker students are so excited about! If your student doesn't attend Bunker, don't worry! There are plans already in the works to bring a STEM Lab to Marquette and Oakview elementaries in the future.



Our middle school students participated in part of a pilot curriculum looking for a new district approved curriculum. This Open

Sci-Ed curriculum was very exciting with plenty of opportunities for them to be engaged in hands-on investigations. We are still on the quest to find the right middle school curriculum that will engage our MMS students while helping them be successful on our standardized testing. Our elementary students continued to receive their instruction through the use of our district approved Cereal City Science curriculum which gave them all exposure to earth science, life science, and physical science units.

The harsh reality of our beautiful Michigan summers is what we call summer learning loss. As summer starts, please consider some of the available resources included below to help your MPS student stay educated on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

- <https://cerealcityscience.org/learn-at-home>
- <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/science/>
- <https://mysteryscience.com/>
- <https://www.legendsoflearning.com/> (Register as a student and it's free!)

◆ SHINY PENNIES ◆



Here is a fun activity you can do at home with your child called Shiny Pennies. You can experiment with Shiny Pennies by following the directions below:

MATERIALS:

- An adult helper
- Dirty or dull pennies
- 2 paper cups
- Vinegar
- Dish soap
- Paper towel
- Other liquids from around the house (ketchup, soda, etc.)

PROCEDURE:

1. Make some guesses about which liquid will make the penny the shiniest.
2. Put each penny in a paper cup. In one up, pour in enough vinegar to totally cover the dirty penny. In the other cup, pour in enough dish soap to totally cover the dirty penny.
3. Wait about ten minutes.
4. After ten minutes, take the pennies out, rinse them in water, and rub them with a paper towel.
5. Now compare the pennies and see how clean they got!
6. Lastly, try it with other liquids from around the house.

Pennies get dull over time because the copper on the exterior reacts with oxygen from the air. The copper and oxygen form copper oxides that make the penny dull and dark. The acetic acid in the vinegar dissolves these chemicals and leaves the penny looking new and shiny. Dish soap is great for cleaning lots of things, but it can't dissolve copper oxides.

Please have a great summer!

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions about our science program.

Joshua Presson

K-8 Science Specialist • jpresson@mpsk12.net

Social Studies - Celebrating and Supporting our Students for their Futures! by Kristy Tolbert

Kickstart to Career is a child's savings account program funded through a collaborative effort by the Community Foundation for Muskegon County and the Muskegon Area ISD. All Kindergarten students in Muskegon County receive a career savings account with \$50 to get it started. Families can continue to save with this account through the child's school years to help fund their future education. Muskegon students have participated in this program for several years. But this year, we took it to another level!

In February and March, our MHS Seniors taking our Personal Finance class created presentations for all elementary students in grades K-4. These presentations focused on the importance of saving for the future, how the Kickstart program works, and what they plan to do for their own career planning after graduation. The Seniors then visited each elementary, doing their amazing presentations for students and getting them excited about the Kickstart program! To help with the excitement, all elementary students received a \$5 deposit from the Kickstart program on our district-wide Deposit Day. Seniors who provided additional support on Deposit Day received a scholarship for \$250 to help facilitate their own career goals after graduation!

Thanks to everyone who participated in this partnership, including Lindsay Crockford and Kristy Tolbert with MPS, Kari Wiersema with Kickstart, and the Community Foundation and MAISD for all their support! And thanks to all the parents who sent in deposits to help plan for their child's future beyond their K-12 years!



Reading - Supporting Students Foundational Reading Skills

by Julie Ray • Elementary Reading/Writing Specialist

The Science of Reading - a phrase that is getting a lot of attention in the world of teaching children to read. It is really a simple formula: Word Recognition x Language Comprehension = Reading Comprehension. However, simple is a misleading word. It is not simple at all. There are five components of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and fluency. If a student struggles with any of these components, reading comprehension - the ultimate goal of reading - suffers. Without strong foundational skills, students will struggle to read with success.

This winter and spring, MPS has been piloting two programs that address one component of this formula - phonics. Phonics is the ability to connect sounds with letters or groups of letters. For instance, the /k/ sound can be spelled as c, k, ck, or ch. Without this skill, reading progress can stall.

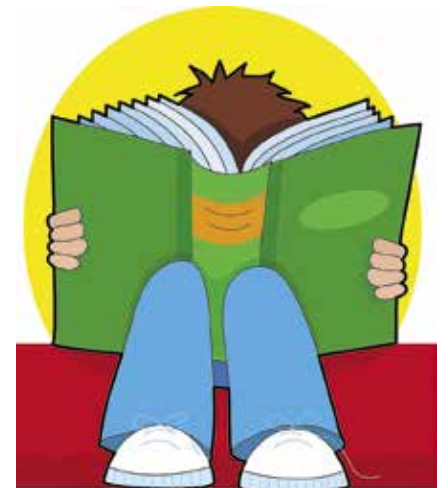


One pilot program is called **BookNook**. **BookNook** is providing online one-on-one tutoring for 47 students in grades 2nd-5th at Moon and Marquette Elementary Schools. These students meet with their tutor 3 days a week for 30 minutes. They work on lessons that have been chosen specifically for that student, helping to close any gaps they may have in their phonics skills.

The second program is called **Phonics for Reading**. This program is designed to help older students (grades 3-5) who are still in need of support with foundational phonics skills. These lessons are appropriate and written for these upper elementary students. There are groups of 4 to 7 students being tutored with this program at each of our elementary schools. Reading interventionists work with their groups 4 days a week for 20-30 minutes. Again, students are working on skills necessary for their success in reading.

The best way to improve reading skills is to read at least 20 minutes a day, especially during the summer.

A good resource to keep your child reading all summer is startwithabook.org, and your local library, of course!



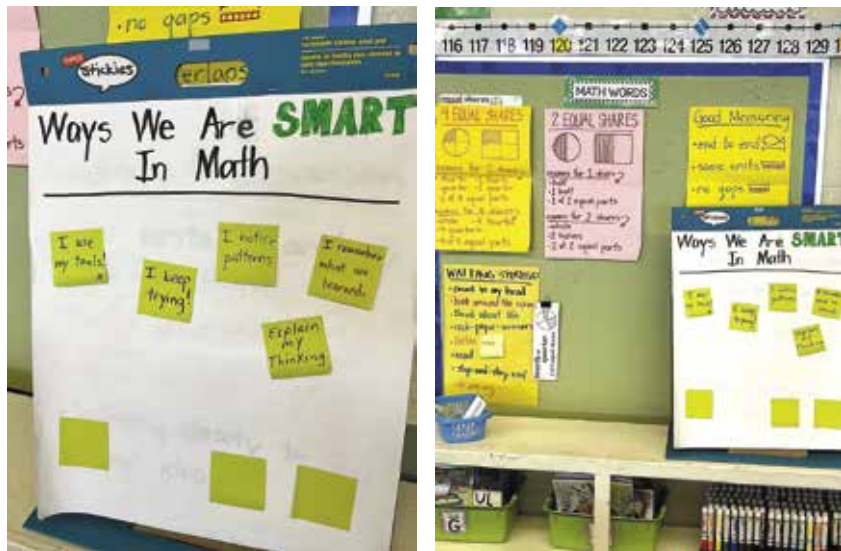
CURRICULUM

Math -Supporting and Celebrating Students in K - 5 Mathematics by Kathy Coffey, K-5 Math Specialist

We have been celebrating and supporting MPS students in K - 5 mathematics in a variety of ways this school year--and there's a lot to celebrate! Recognizing, acknowledging, and celebrating students' strengths in mathematics and supporting engagement and mathematical thinking through the use of non-permanent vertical work spaces are two ways Big Reds have been accomplishing this.

Celebrating Students' Mathematical Strengths

Too often, when students know all of the facts tables or are fast at computation, they are thought of as "smart" and "strong" in math and students that have difficulty with facts or are slower at calculations are thought of as "weak" and "not a math person." That could not be further from the truth! Certainly, knowing facts and computation are critical skills to have mastered; however, knowing facts and computational skills are only a small fraction of the whole mathematical picture leading to student success. Students also need to be able to learn deeper mathematical ideas, reason mathematically, and develop the ability to communicate mathematically about those ideas and their own reasoning.



At MPS, teachers have been working on recognizing, acknowledging, and celebrating a wide range of students' strengths in mathematics that go beyond simply knowing fact tables and being fast at calculations. Classroom discussions, charts, and public recognition help to celebrate and make those strengths visible in classrooms. Those strengths include being able to persevere, use problem solving skills; think slowly and deeply; explain strategies and ideas; listen to others' ideas; ask good questions; take risks; create visual representations such as drawings, number lines, and with manipulatives; curiosity about mathematical ideas; and identify, understand, and explain patterns just to name a few.



Supporting Engagement with Non-permanent Vertical Work Spaces

In many math classrooms, students sit at their desks and work independently at solving problems in their notebooks or on paper. Opportunities for working together, talking through problems, asking questions, explaining reasoning, and taking risks are infrequent. Experience with these infrequent opportunities are necessary to practice and develop the mathematical strengths mentioned above. Recent research suggests (Building thinking classrooms in Mathematics, grades K - 12, P. Liljedahl, Corwin, 2021) the private, horizontal workspace of a desk or table is not conducive to sustaining student engagement or thinking and promotes mimicking. Instead, Liljedahl's work has found that having students work in random groups at vertical whiteboards resulted in students thinking longer, persevering in solving harder tasks, and more mathematical discussion. Big Reds have been supporting engagement and mathematical thinking using non-permanent vertical work spaces.

We're Here To Help You

Harbor Psychological Associates
& Harbor Center for Sexual Health

1148 Fourth Street
Muskegon, MI 49441

231-726-2299
www.harborpsychological.com

Your Feedback is Important to MPS!

Muskegon Public Schools receives State and Federal funding for the purposes of creating a learning environment that promotes high levels of learning for all students. Federal grant monies are allocated to the district based on the number of economically disadvantaged students and/or English Learners enrolled in our schools. MPS receives the following Federal grants:

Title I monies are used for extra educational services for children most in need of educational help. The focus of the Title I program is to help students meet the high standards expected of all children. Only our elementary schools and Muskegon Middle School receive Title I funding. Our building principals and their leadership teams along with parent input determine the use of funding. Examples of Title I funding include:

- Instructional Coaches
- Success for All Reading program
- Playworks Playground Supervisor program
- Building Level Parent Liaison
- McKenny Vento Liaison and Tutors
- Celebration of learning ceremony for 5th grade students & parents
- Kinderfest
- Success for All parent engagement initiatives
- Parent learning nights to support parent involvement
- Open house for Title I services
- Math & science nights to support parent involvement
- Kits to create at home learning activities
- One School, One Book events
- March is reading month events

Title IIa monies are allocated to MPS to increase student academic achievement through strategies such as improving teacher and principal quality and increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in the classroom. Muskegon Public Schools uses Title IIa funding for the training and development of all professional staff.

Title III funding is used to ensure that English learners attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic achievement and assist teachers, administrators, and other school leaders in developing and enhancing their capacity to meet the needs of English learners. Muskegon Public Schools uses Title III funding for materials, programs, and professional development for teachers and administrators to best support English learners. MPS uses Title III funds on English learner teacher salaries, Accelerated Reader Intervention software, and professional development.

Title IV monies are used to **1)** provide all students with access to a well-rounded education, **2)** improve school conditions for student learning, and **3)** improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. Muskegon Public Schools uses Title IV funding for technology purchases, programs, and professional development for teachers and administrators to best support all students.

ESSER funds, or Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds, are monies awarded to Local Education Agencies for the purpose of providing those agencies with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools. ESSER awards are allocated in the same manner as Title I funds. Muskegon Public Schools has allocated these funds using input from stakeholders in the district, including parents, students and staff. Some of the largest purchases are new HVAC systems for cleaner airflow throughout our buildings, new windows and doors, technology necessary for remote learning and a large investment in the remediation of learning loss among students due to the coronavirus. This learning loss investment includes after school tutoring, summer school, teacher training, the purchase of technology just to name a few.

As always, we encourage parents and families to provide input in our continuous improvement process. If you have any suggestions or ideas for program improvement, please contact your child's building principal. If you have any questions regarding our Federal funding, please contact the Executive Director of Instructional Services, Dr. Jennifer Hammond at (231)720-2083. Thank you for your continued support of Muskegon Public Schools.

Mavin Grow MainStreet Project

Students in Dylan Darga's technology class at Marquette Elementary could not contain their excitement when they were recently presented with a project sponsored by the **Grow MainStreet** Project, to research, collaborate and design their own shoe. Students were thrilled to learn that they would spend one semester studying the fashion and apparel industry through a language many students speak: athletic shoes. During the **Grow MainStreet** Project, 4th and 5th-grade students in Mr. Darga's class who complete the Apparel & Fashion module in **Grow MainStreet** will:

- Conduct market research on athletic apparel
- Measure, scale, and sketch an athletic shoe
- Personalize a 3D CAD shoe design and 3D print it
- Explore at least four local jobs/companies and three educational programs aligned with the fashion & apparel industry
- Write logical connections between their design project and the related industry jobs and educational programs
- Report their feelings about their learning throughout the activity

As students complete **Grow MainStreet**, they construct a personalized digital talent profile demonstrating and



documenting knowledge, skills, and competencies aligned to industry-defined job functions and educational standards.

Grow MainStreet emphasizes competencies in 3D design, rapid prototyping, computational thinking, enterprise resource planning, the Internet of Things (IoT), cybersecurity, and data analysis. There are 7 **Grow MainStreet** modules that students can complete, which expose them to the following industries:

Construction & Design, Apparel & Fashion, Transportation & Energy, the Food Supply Chain (Farm to Fridge), Safety & Security, Water and Waste Management, and Health & Informatics.

Students at Muskegon Public Schools get to explore not only the hands-on possibilities of combined science, technology, engineering, art, and math lessons but also work on building confidence, curiosity, and awareness of potential career paths.





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

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

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

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

1. WRITING

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

2. LETTER RECOGNITION

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

3. BEGINNING SOUNDS

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

4. NUMBER RECOGNITION AND COUNTING

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

5. SHAPES AND COLORS

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

milk or vanilla pudding to emphasize those colors.

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

6. FINE MOTOR SKILLS

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

7. CUTTING

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

8. READING READINESS

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

9. ATTENTION AND FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

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

**ENROLL YOUR
KINDERGARTENER ON
JUNE 1ST from 4 PM - 6 PM**
Poole Administration Building
1458 5th Street, Muskegon, MI 49440
or call (231) 720-2013 for more information

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

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

10. SOCIAL SKILLS

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

11. INDEPENDENCE

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

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

YOU CAN HELP PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN SUCCESS

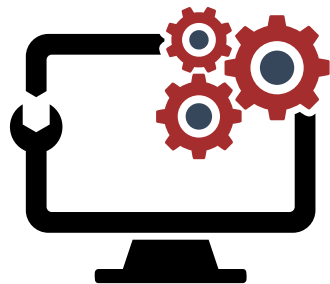
- Talk about school in a positive way. Share your favorite things about your school experience.
- Ask your child about their fears and don't ignore the feelings they share with you. Going to school for the time can be very scary!
- Drive by the school your child will be attending and talk about it or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



TECHNOLOGY

We're always looking for ways to encourage and support our students in any way possible.

This past school year, we had the luxury of having one of our high school seniors job shadow with the technology department. The student, De'Antae Mayhew, is enrolled in the Internet, Network and Security Technologies program at the Career Tech Center. After high school, he plans to double major in computer information systems and music.



During his time with the technology department, De'Antae was able to provide support for presenters and staff members during the district's professional development day that was hosted at Muskegon High School. He also had the opportunity to help troubleshoot issues with student devices and help setup classroom

technology as part of the ongoing bond construction renovations.

We plan to continue giving students opportunities to job shadow in the technology department to help fuel their dreams and desire to learn.

CAREER CAMP >>

For 7th & 8th graders at the Career Tech Center



June 12–June 15, 2023

Seats are limited so enroll today at

SUMMERCAREERCAMP.ORG



CAREER TECH CENTER

200 Harvey Street | 231.767.3613

MUSKEGON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER



**Spring is here!
Thankfully,
the weather is
warming up!**



Paul Kurdziel
Muskegon Community
Education Center

I would like to deviate from talking about the MCEC Fam for this article, so I am able to share some information about an organization that directly supports teachers and students all across the MPS Fam, The MPS Big Red Education Fund!

(If you would like to see some of the cool things happening at MCEC, please check out our Facebook page, Muskegon Community Education Center.)

Beginning in 1989, the MPS Big Red Education Fund has received donations from alumni, neighbors, and friends... resulting in over \$330,000 in grants given directly to teachers to create experiences and opportunities for MPS students!

Please consider giving a gift to the MPS Big Red Education Fund: the fund is held at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. Your tax-deductible donation can be made online at www.muskegonfoundation.org/give-now (search MPS Big Red Education Fund).

The MPS Big Red Education Fund grants make a difference! Teachers are able to apply for grants for projects about which they are passionate, projects that excite students' curiosity, engage students in unique work, and give students opportunities to try new things! Your gift would be greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions, please contact
Mr. Paul Kurdziel at 231-215-9534,
on Facebook (search Paul Kurdziel), or
pkurdzie@mpsk12.net.

M MUSKEGON
Public Schools

Strong Schools, Stronger Communities

OSI Department Updates

On Thursday, March 2, 2023, the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children selected **Rose Ja "Jazzi" Hardy** to receive the **2023 Yes I Can! Award for Self Advocacy.**



This award was presented to her at the 2023 Michigan Council for Exceptional Children's Conference at the DeVos Place Convention Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mr. Luis Gomez, the Supervisor for the Office of Specialized Instruction attended the award ceremony with Jazzi and her family.

Jazzi currently participates in the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD) Transition Program at Craig Campus. She was a student at Muskegon Public Schools until she completed her program and graduated in 2020.

Jazzi is currently employed in the food services department of Muskegon High School, where she is a valued and valuable member of the team. With tenacity and grit to overcome her vision impairment, physical challenges and inability to communicate orally without an assistive device, Jazzi relies on her self-advocacy and strengths to meet her needs and as well as improving the lives of the people and community around her.

Jazzi has partnered with students at the Biotech Engineering Program at the MAISD's Career Tech Center to co-design adaptive equipment to increase her own independence and to expand her current job opportunities. Jazzi exemplifies the power of self-advocacy in improving the lives of individuals with disabilities, recently coordinating communication between service providers to ensure a funding request was successfully submitted for the acquisition of a new communication device. In order to complete activities of daily living, Jazzi also connected with a representative from the Muskegon Area Transit System (MATS) to report her concerns about an unsupported interaction she recently had with a MATS bus driver. Unfortunately the driver was dismissive of Jazzi's attempts to communicate with him using her communication supports, and was unable to effectively share her message about her needed stop. Following her report to a Transit representative about this interaction, instruction regarding supportive communication strategies has been provided to all MATS bus drivers.

Jazzi continues to contribute to the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in her community by advocating for ALL people to have equitable access and resources. **Congrats Jazzi on your MCEC Yes I Can! Award. You make us proud!**

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. All our buildings have computers available.

Make sure to answer all the questions and click SUBMIT. If you do not, you will have to fill out the complete application again. You must also do an application for each student you need to enroll.

Once you have submitted your enrollment, you must visit our office to complete your student's enrollment

(1458 5th Street, Muskegon, MI 49441, Room E126).

Required Documents:

- Two proofs of residency: **MUST** provide a copy of your utility bill, assessment/property tax statement, rental/lease agreement (must include landlord's telephone and signature), 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





Muskegon High School

This Project is 78% Complete

WORK IN PROGRESS

This Month

- Finished patching and painting on 2nd floor
- 3rd floor units set and and piped
- Light replacement in unit E
- New clock system installed
- Start ductwork on the 3rd floor



3rd Floor Classroom Unit Ventilator



Corridor Lights and Ceilings

Next Month

- Big shutdown for HS campus
- Add another switch for power requirements
- Start ceilings on 2nd floor
- Complete ductwork on 2nd, and start on 3rd
- Continue ceilings where overhead work is complete

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Safety

This month's Safety Goal focuses on safely using ladders. Since falls are the leading cause of death in the construction industry, it is important to properly use a ladder which include; position, security, 3-point contact and more. 38,112 HOURS have been worked on this project without a lost-time incident as of March 2023.



Crane Setup

Schedule

- Tracking well for completion of phase 2A in May
- Phase 2B to begin in June

Other Progress

- Materials are being procured for upcoming work.

New Middle School

This Project is 55% Complete

WORK IN PROGRESS

This Month

- Completed all areas of roofing except classroom wing
- Overhead mechanical/electrical work ongoing in all units
- Boilers set, electrical gear installed in mechanical room
- Gym floor slab poured, running track precast set
- 3rd floor bearing walls complete



3rd Floor Classroom Bearing Walls



Gym Floor Slab

Next Month

- Set classroom wing roof precast
- Build classroom wing parapet, start roofing
- Continue overhead MEP in all units
- Start mass grading in athletic field
- Continue remaining interior masonry walls

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Safety

This month's Safety Goal focuses on safely using ladders. Since falls are the leading cause of death in the construction industry, it is important to properly use a ladder which include; position, security, 3-point contact and more. 57,047 HOURS have been worked on this project without a lost-time incident as of March 2023.



Mechanical Room/Boilers

Schedule

- The project is scheduled to finish December of 2023

Other Progress

- Materials are being procured for upcoming work.
- Project management and trades continue coordination for a smooth delivery.

Bunker Elementary

This Project is 80% Complete

WORK IN PROGRESS

This Month

- Ceilings on 2nd floor
- Continue on storefront work
- Plaster repair completed on 2nd
- Painting ongoing, bathrooms on 2nd floor complete
- Overhead on 2nd floor substantially complete



Corridor Finishes

Next Month

- Complete the curtain wall system
- Installing new storefront windows
- Set chiller
- Complete ceilings on 2nd floor
- Install egress windows

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Safety

This month's Safety Goal focuses on safely using ladders. Since falls are the leading cause of death in the construction industry, it is important to properly use a ladder which include; position, security, 3-point contact and more. 38,225 HOURS have been worked on this project without a lost-time incident as of March 2023.



New Window System

Schedule

- The project is scheduled to finish in August of 2023

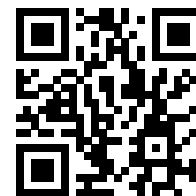
Other Progress

- Materials are being procured for upcoming work.
- Project management and trades continue coordination for a smooth delivery

THERE IS A LOT GOING ON AROUND THE CITY. We're excited to share the opportunity for you to sign up for online newsletters to stay in the loop on engagement opportunities, project updates and more.

Scan the QR code or visit mkgcity.com/contact to register today.

~ Happy Spring! *Deborah Santiago-Sweet/Community Engagement Manager/City of Muskegon*



PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

One of the City of Muskegon's 2027 Strategic Goals is *to create an environment that puts an emphasis on improving amenities and investing in the traits that positively affect residents' quality of life and attract visitors.* Since being set in Summer 2022, progress towards this goal includes the hiring of a new Parks & Recreation Director, Kyle Karczewski. Kyle will be responsible for working with the community on updating the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The new Parks & Recreation Director was hired in February 2023 and is ready, "to engage the community and learn their needs and wants for the direction of the Parks & Recreation Department." The next step toward developing a Parks & Recreation Master Plan will be to re-establish the citizens advisory board for our Parks & Recreation Department and then begin gathering data and feedback.

VOTING PRECINCTS UPDATE

Do you usually vote at Muskegon Middle School, Marquette Elementary, or Glenside Elementary? Your voting location has officially changed. Beginning with the May 2, 2023 election, your voting location will be as follows:

PRECINCT	PAST VOTING LOCATION	NEW VOTING LOCATION
3 + 4	Muskegon Middle School	Central Assembly of God, 896 Home Street
2	Marquette Elementary	Bethesda Baptist Church, 575 S. Getty
11	Glenside Elementary	Celebration Community, 1260 W. Sherman

If you have questions regarding your voting location, please visit muskegonvotes.com or call the Clerk's office at **231-724-6705**.

DPW SEASONAL POSITIONS

Each year the City of Muskegon partners with GoodTemps Staffing Solutions to hire seasonal workers to help support our City. The seasonal workers support parks, cemetery, highway, buildings, and events. The season runs from April – November/December. All positions require the candidate to have a valid driver's license. Interested candidates can complete the online application at www.goodtempsemi.com or they can visit the GoodTemps office at 271 E. Apple Avenue in Muskegon.

MCGRAFT PARK FREE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Join hundreds of community members at one of the seven 2023 McGraft Park FREE Summer Concert Series. Concerts start at 7 PM at McGraft Park Bandshell, 2204 Wickham Dr. Questions? Contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 231-724-4100.

2023 MCGRAFT PARK FREE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES SCHEDULE

- **TUESDAY, JULY 11- BLACKTHORN**
Celtic Music | Sponsored by Michigan Irish Music Festival
- **TUESDAY, JULY 18- AUSTIN BENZING**
Grateful Dead Tribute | Sponsored by the Edith McGraft Park Trust Fund
- **TUESDAY, JULY 25- WEST SIDE SOUL SURFERS**
Local Celebrities Tribute Band | Sponsored by Joseph & Norma Horan Fund
- **TUESDAY, AUGUST 22- LARRY LATIN** • Soul, Rhythm, and Blues Music | Sponsored by the Edith McGraft Park Trust Fund
- **THURSDAY, AUGUST 3- SUNCHASERS BAND**
Country Music | Sponsored by the Edith McGraft Park Trust Fund
- **THURSDAY, AUGUST 10- PLAIN JANE GLORY**
Bluegrass and Folk Music | Sponsored by AgeWell Services
- **TUESDAY, AUGUST 15- POST FONTAINE** • Free Glenside Neighborhood Association
Ice Cream Social • Soft Rock Favorite | Sponsored by the Edith McGraft Park Trust Fund

DPW DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION

The Department of Public Works (DPW), which includes engineering, cemetery, forestry, highway, launch ramps and marina, water and sewer, parks and recreation, sanitation, and water filtration has new leadership. Dan VanderHeide, the former Deputy Director of Public Works now leads the division as Director of Public Works. His predecessor, Leo Evans, recently moved out of state. To fill Dan's vacant spot, newly hired Todd Myers joins the team as the new Deputy Director of Public Works. The pair look forward to continuing to improve the City's infrastructure and to modernizing the City's public works department and services.

BEACH PARKING PASSES

City of Muskegon households are entitled to two free beach parking passes until April 30th (starting May 1st, one pass per household is offered).

To receive a free Muskegon Beach Parking Pass, you must:

- ◆ Live within the City Limits of Muskegon (this applies to residents only, not business owners)
- ◆ Pick up the pass at the Police Department or
- ◆ Complete the form on our website to have a pass mailed to you

Non-resident beach parking passes are also available for purchase. Please visit mkgcity.com/parking for more details.

HACKLEY LIBRARY



HACKLEY
Public Library
Everything Imaginable

TEEN ROOM



Comfortable space for
teens to hang out

Laptops available for
in-room checkout



Downtown Muskegon
316 W. Webster Ave

First Congregational Church



Come see us in person or
check us out online for services
Sundays at 10:30AM.



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

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

We offer vocal & hand bell
music opportunities, Youth
Group, Saturday Breakfasts,
LGBTQ+ Events, Community
Vegetable Garden, Scripture
conversations, and Community
Service Opportunities.

1201 Jefferson St.,
Muskegon, MI 49441
231-726-3254
www.fccmuskegon.org



THE NANCY POPPEN PROGRAM

The Nancy K. Poppen Program has been operating
out of Nelson school this school year, and we are
having a great time! We have several graduating
seniors to congratulate this year:



**POPPEN
PROGRAMS, INC.**

Heaven Bell-Williams, Voice
LaNina Brooks, Violin
Andrew Jagnecki, Piano
Tanea Keys, Flute
De'Antae Mayhew, Bass
Jai Oliver, Trumpet
Jay Prestly, Trumpet
Kennedi Richardson, Spoken Word
Tyrie Ross, Viola
Bryce Thompson, Visual Arts

We are going to miss them! Several of these students will
continue to receive support in their post-secondary endeavors in
the Sherman R. Poppen program.

The high school Poppen students were able to go on several
outings this year, to Black Violin and Detroit '67 at the Frauenthal
Center for the Performing Arts, as well as a trip to the Detroit
Institute of Arts to view Van Gogh in America, while visiting colleges
in Detroit. It was such a gift to be able to spend time experiencing
arts and culture in person together again! Our picture is from our
Detroit trip.



Any Muskegon Public School student currently in third through
eleventh grades who shows talent in the arts may apply for the
Nancy K. Poppen program. Call Claire for details: 231-720-2040.

Students in the Poppen program can access private lessons and
classes and camps, in music, visual arts, creative writing, theatre,
spoken word performance, or dance.

WINTER 2022/23 GREEN ALL CONFERENCE

The MHS Athletic Dept. would like to congratulate the following student-athletes on being named to OK Green All-Conference teams in their sports. You have made everyone at MHS proud and all of your hard work is paying off.

BOY'S BASKETBALL

1ST TEAM

Jordan Briggs
David Day III
Anthony Sydnor III

HONORABLE MENTION

Terrance Davis Jr.

GIRL'S BASKETBALL

1ST TEAM

Ty'veonna Davis
Mariah Sain

HONORABLE MENTION

Aaliyah Winston
Bre'asia Gamble-Jones

WRESTLING

1ST TEAM

De'Shaun Wallace-
Oakes

COMPETITIVE

CHEER

1ST TEAM

Dasaya Hartfield
Marcelina Hunter
Jayda Johnson

HONORABLE MENTION

Faith Woods

BOWLING

1ST TEAM

Emiliano Jaramillo

HONORABLE MENTION

Ernest Harris

GO MUSKEGON
BIG REDS!!



STUDENT-ATHLETE COLLEGE SIGNINGS

The MHS Athletic Dept. would like to recognize the following student-athletes that signed National Letters of Intent over the Winter sports season with various colleges and universities. We are proud of all of you and look forward to seeing you stand out at the next level.

BASKETBALL

DAVID DAY III - Aquinas College

FOOTBALL

PRINCETON BLACKMON - Adrian College

KINGSTON BLACKMON - Adrian College

JAY'V'ON GILBERT - Adrian College

AMARIYAN GLOVER - Siena Heights

SETH HARRIS - Kalamazoo College

DOMINIQUE WILLIAMS - Olivet College

NCAA UPDATE

In January of 2023 the NCAA Division I Council passed a vote to remove standardized test scores from student-athlete's initial eligibility requirements. What this means is that ACT and SAT scores will no longer be factored into whether or not a student-athlete can qualify to compete at the NCAA Division I and II levels.

These changes were made as part of an eight point plan that the NCAA has put together to advance racial equity across all of its athletic programs. With the elimination of test scores the NCAA has kept many of its academic standards the same for incoming student-athletes. To compete at the Division I level all incoming student-athletes must have a 2.3 core course GPA (Math, Science, Social Studies, English, etc.), have 16 completed core course credits with 10 of those being completed by the beginning of their Senior year, and have proof of graduation from high school. Division II requires a 2.2 core course GPA, completion of 16 core courses, and proof of high school graduation.

You can find out more about these changes by visiting the NCAA Eligibility Center at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/> and going to the Resources page.



Tim Hoffman

Muskegon High School
Principal

On behalf of Muskegon High School, please enjoy the following information from Lindsey Crockford, Personal Finance Teacher at MHS. In collaboration with many MPS staff members, senior MHS students were able to share some of their knowledge with elementary students in the district. We are proud of Mrs. Crockford and our MHS students.

Over the past few months, seniors in Mrs. Crockford's Personal Finance class had the opportunity to work with MPS elementary school students and share the importance of saving money for their future. The benefit to the high school students was the opportunity to engage younger students in our district and authentically share their knowledge. As it turns out, all of the kindergarten through fourth grade students in our district are part of the KickStart to Career Savings program through the Community Foundation of Muskegon County.

KickStart to Career is designed to encourage hope, build savings, assist with career training or college expenses, and increase financial education. Each kindergarten student attending an MPS Elementary School has the opportunity to be the beneficiary of an account, opened with a \$50 deposit from the CFMC. It is a deposit-only savings account, which means the funds remain in the account until CFMC approves a withdrawal for future education and training expenses.

Throughout February and March, the seniors at MHS prepared presentations to share with the elementary students highlighting the importance of saving for their future, as well as explaining the KtC program. Every senior in Personal Finance had the opportunity to visit and present to one elementary school classroom. The seniors also shared their personal experiences with saving and what their plans are for the future. Lastly, they explained to the younger students "Deposit Day," where they had the opportunity to bring in money to deposit into their KtC account.

A select group of MHS Personal Finance seniors returned to the elementary schools on March 28 to help facilitate Deposit Day. The students helped count and write receipts for the elementary student deposits. There was a lot of excitement on Deposit Day because each student received an additional \$5 to put in their KtC account. In addition, the fifteen seniors that helped on Deposit Day received a \$250 scholarship from the Community Foundation.

We had a great turn out with family participation. The total collected on March 28 was over \$600 from 70+ different families! The goal was to have more families aware and engaged in the KtC program and our high school students did a great job at spreading the word! We are looking forward to continuing this partnership in future years so all Big Reds know the importance of saving money.

Go Big Reds!

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of Mrs. Crockford
Tim Hoffman • Muskegon High School Principal



“Motivating Young People to be Better Citizens”



JROTC Program updates:

Good afternoon, here are the updates for the JROTC program for Muskegon High School. On the 3rd of March we received our charter officially to stand up the program for Muskegon High School.

On the 28th of March we received our school code and ID for supplies to be submitted and ordered for Muskegon HS and we were opened in the JROTC Command Information Management System (JCIMS).

As we move forward in the coming months there will be a lot of moving parts and exciting times as supplies and uniforms come in for the JROTC program. I would also like to acknowledge the support that we have received from our future Senior Instructor (SI) for the JROTC program Colonel Deback, who has been a great partner in moving this process along from doing middle school visits to meeting with local recruiters to see how they can support our students here at Muskegon high School.



**FOOD THAT’S IN,
WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT**

Hey, kids and teens! Meet Up and Eat Up. Join us for nutritious summer meals at no charge. Children under the age of 18 are able to receive meals free of charge at participating locations. They do not have to live in the Muskegon school district to participate.

The district will post any updated information on the districts Facebook page and website as needed. We are working diligently with community partners to provide more sites around the city while renovations and improvements are underway at many schools over the summer months.

Questions can be directed to Brad Davis, Chartwells Food Service Director, Muskegon Public Schools at (231) 720-2807 or visit www.michigan.gov/MeetUpEatUp or text **Food to 877-877** to find a site near you.

The FREE meals served at Meet Up and Eat Up follow USDA nutrition guidelines. Eat right this summer with friends at a local, safe place near you!

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

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

**HACKLEY
COMMUNITY
CARE**

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



MUSKEGON TEEN HEALTH CENTER

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



Mrs. LaKisha Loudermill
Muskegon Middle School Principal

As we take a moment to reflect on the **2022 - 2023 school year**, one thing we should celebrate is the resilience of our students' success over the course of 180 days. Our students have cultivated healthy relationships with their peers and staff, demonstrated academic proficiency and growth, engaged in community service projects, nurtured gardens, showcased their athleticism on the field, court, and gym, designed classrooms and common spaces for our new Charles Hackley Middle School, and exhibited their musical talents and the list goes on.

We know for many of our students who are engaged in extracurricular activities at school they have higher levels of engagement in the classroom and better grades. It is our hope that we are able to expand our offers so that all students will have an opportunity to be involved.

Academic Achievements

Students who have achieved academic success in our classroom were recognized for their achievement. Maintaining All A's or A/B throughout the year is an intentional decision which demonstrates their focus and drive to reach their goals. These students were recognized for their Honor Roll status for semester one.

6TH GRADE ALL A'S

Maria Esquivel, Nicholas Lee, Spencer Richards, Leea Rowe

6TH GRADE A/B

Justice Blackmon, Beatrix Bozik, Avion Buchanan, Jeremiah Coleman, Christinna Coulter, Da'Caya Cross, Jaxon Cutler, Eian Hainley, Alissa Hall, Maddison Heater, Suntario Houston, Angel Jefferies, Angel Lara, Erionna Martin, Leiann Messenger, Cesar Pena, Addison Porter, Marcus Sandifer, Kei'Asia Sims, Nathan Welch, Heriberto Zambrano

7TH GRADE ALL A'S

Belinda Ayala, Neve McGinn, Vivian Witmer

7TH GRADE A/B

Cameron Alston, l'Aura Anderson, Olivia Burks, Ta'Kayla Burks, Aneka Cantue, Neola Cantue, Onica Caviness, Rayna Chambers, Kameryn Covington, Demetrio Dockery, Quintan Henderson, Emmalyn Mascarro, Miranda Navarro, De'Niyziah Olison, Carly Parker, Halo Tibbitts, Jyzel Todd, Connor Willis, Carlton Williams, Kimah Williams

8TH GRADE ALL A'S

Aaliyah Jordan, Angela Sumlin, Jayla Williams-Winston

8TH GRADE A/B

Enrique Cermeno, Isaiah Cooper, Nolan Crumback, Merari Diaz-Rodas, Darnell Gee, Ashton-Izaac Holden, Xzander Hurlbert, Isaiah Irving, Alayah Longmire, Cadence Nichols, Jamaun Robinson, Kdriann Rone, Kaeden Smith, Kenya Summers, Jeremiah Thomas, Khristian Watson, Samaria Wilson-Buchanan, & Tyson Worthington

Our students take the **iReady Reading and Math Diagnostic** three times a year. The data is used to determine their placement in Reading and Math course. It is also designed to identify who is ready to enroll in high school courses of English 9 and Algebra. For our spring diagnostic, we had 147 students who were on or above grade level, or made their stretch growth!! We also moved 13% of our students out of the Tier III status of two or more years below category. In Math, 46% of our students made a years growth and Students like Spencer Richards, Beatrix Bozik, Carly Parker, Vivian Witmer, Aaliyah Jordan, and Xzander Hurlbert have maintained their "above grade level" status the entire year! We are very proud of the growth our students are showing!

Students enrolled in our Design Thinking course had the opportunity to design classrooms, the Media Center, and the Chill Zone for our new institution for learning, the Charles Hackley Middle School. They were given the opportunity to meet with architects, contractors, designers, the Career Technology Center Instructional Staff, Superintendent, and district staff. They were required to research, design and present their projects to an audience. We look forward to their future endeavors of space planning, engineering and architecture design.

LEADERSHIP

Students in grades six through eight had the opportunity to participate in our **Student Leadership Council** under the guidance of Mrs. Turner- Terry and Mrs. Martinez-Ruiz. Students met throughout the year to plan activities and community service projects for the MMS student body. Toys for Tots, Pennies for Patients, Relay for Life, Spirit Week, Concession Table for athletic events, and student dances.

Our Student Leadership Members:

Heather Bayne, Maleya Gamble, Alivia Guerra, Spencer Richards, Onica Caniness, Hanna Hendricks, Jerarriah Kitchen, Lyske Miranda Rosario, Brooklyn Crawford, Merari Diaz-Rodas, Zaenevia Johnson, Ja'Maun Robinson, Kadriann Rone, Caroline Cuevas, Demya Steward, Kaeden Smith, Angela Sumlin, De'Quisha Davis, and Kimah Williams

Our students also had the opportunity to serve on the **Superintendents MMS Student Representative Advisory**. Students met on the second Thursday of each month. During this time they had lunch with the Superintendent and Director of Instructional Services to discuss the culture and climate of the school.

The **Urban Agriculture Club** is an after school club that focuses on teaching students how to cultivate, process and distribute agricultural products. Students also had the opportunity to learn how urban agriculture plays an important role in growing not only fresh, healthy food, providing jobs, responding to climate change, and beautifying neighborhoods. The students at MMS met and maintained our community gardens after school and experienced additional learning on their field trip to County Dairy.

MUSIC

Band, Orchestra, and Choir are year long courses offered to all students. The music department offers multiple opportunities to perform in front of audiences throughout the year. MMS has 415 students enrolled in our music program. Our students have done an awesome job this school year and we are looking forward to their growth and development musically and as a student.

ART

Our students' artwork has been on display throughout the school year for all to see. The year will culminate with the Expressions Art Show and a reception for all MAISD 6-12 artists at the Muskegon Museum of Art April 10 - April 30. Our Art students are able to use their creativity to experience and explore collage, color theory, drawing, painting, printmaking, pastels, digital art, and hand-building with clay with an emphasis on craftsmanship. Students further explore mixed media collage, painting, printmaking, pastels, digital art, and advanced techniques in hand-building with clay with a strong emphasis on craftsmanship. Advanced Art students further explore mixed media collage, painting, printmaking, pastels, digital art, and advanced techniques in hand-building with clay with a strong emphasis on craftsmanship. Advanced Art students are also introduced to weaving and glass fusing.



ATHLETICS

Our students at MMS have done an outstanding job in the area of sports. Students have participated in Boys and Girls Soccer, Cheerleading, Basketball, Wrestling, Volleyball, and Track.

Teacher Success with Donors Choose Partnership

Shout out our MMS Teachers for their partnership with Donors Choose. We have had 40 projects awarded this year for a total of \$11,188.62. Emily Hoffman-Sperry is the Teacher Ambassador for Muskegon Middle School. Donors Choose is a charity that funds classroom projects. All donations are tax deductible.

Congratulations Mrs. Sarah Anklam, Mrs. Lindsey Blue, Mrs. Susan Bouck, Mrs. Kelly Brickley, Miss Erica Brubaker, Mrs. Laurie Davis, Ms. Jennifer Hesse, Mrs. Carmen Martinez, Mr. Nick Reed, Mrs. Emily Hoffman-Sperry, and Mrs. Valerie Zinser.





Okeelah McBride
Bunker and Moon
Elementary Schools
Principal

Reminders

One last reminder about the parking lot for the year. I know many park their cars around the school, please be courteous in the neighborhood as to not block a home owner's driveway or park in a fire lane. The home owners that have driveways being blocked are within their rights to contact the police department.

Community Officers

The City of Muskegon Police Department and Fire Department took time to serve and eat lunch with our students. This was an awesome opportunity for our students to meet with and talk to the Community Officers of our great city!

Reading Month

March was dedicated to Reading Month across our district, as it brings families together and encourages the love of reading. Bunker's theme this year was 'Wild About Reading,' while Moon's theme was 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.' Both schools enjoyed celebrating Reading Month with spirit days such as Pajama Day, Hat Day, Crazy Hair Day, and Crazy Socks Day!

Wrapping up the year

As we wrap up the 2022-23 school year, we want to wish our 5th graders the best as they move on to the next step of their education. They have formed many memories and built a foundation here at Bunker and Moon that will guide them as they move forward.

Be on the lookout on our Facebook page for information regarding summer learning activities. We, of course, want the students to have fun in the sun, relax and enjoy summer, but it is always a good idea to stay current with skills. I encourage students to partake in math and reading activities for 20 minutes a day in the summer. We will provide ideas and suggestions.

Although it is always nice to have a break from the routine, we will miss our students greatly and look forward to welcoming them back in August. On behalf of the staff at Bunker and Moon, we would like to wish all of our families a happy and safe summer!!

Class Lists

Dear Parents, Our staff is in the process of making class placement decisions for the 2023-2024 school year. Much time, thought, and consideration is given to this process. As has been our policy in past years, we do not take specific teacher requests. There are many reasons for this policy. First, with 400 plus families, we would be unable to honor everyone's request. In addition, we cannot guarantee that a teacher will be teaching a specific grade level as staffing changes can still occur throughout late spring and into the summer. Thank you for your understanding of this important policy.

Thank You Bunker/Moon Communities!

As we reflect on this past year, we are so grateful for the home-school connection. Whether you participated in our new found PTO, donated to a fundraiser, attended a family night, or gave some of your time as a classroom volunteer - our schools are better because of our parent communities! Thank you for your partnership and for sharing your children with us!

End of Year Appreciation from Principal McBride

Are you all as shocked as I am that this is our last Mirror article of the school year? At the beginning of this year I read a post from a Facebook group called the Principal's Desk. There was a principal on the site that explained how she chose a word to guide and direct her year. In all of the experiences that passed during the year, she related them to her chosen word. I loved this idea. As a result, I chose the word "appreciation" for this school year. It seems appropriate that I share the appreciation I have for the work that has happened at Bunker and Moon Elementary.

Here is my appreciation list:

- I appreciate teachers that work long hours planning lessons, guiding student behavior, improving practice, loving students and so much more.
- I appreciate support staff – assistant principals, Dean of Students, Youth Safety Advocates, paras, extended day staff, secretaries, health and counseling staff, lunchroom staff, custodial staff – that step up to help take care of whatever needs to be done and care about our kids.
- I appreciate students who do their best to make progress and be learners. They work hard every day at being kind, safe and responsible. They are not perfect but they are pretty awesome and I cannot imagine my life without them.
- I appreciate parents that work with me to provide the best we can for their kids, parents that enrich the lives of not only their own children but all of the children at Bunker and Moon. They share access to resources and connections. Parents who will work with our school team to help make the educational experience of our students a good one.
- I appreciate my parents who support me in my passion to make a difference. They understand that I work hard and they share me with about 600 students, their parents and my staff. They never make me feel guilty for the time I spend away from them.
- I appreciate the people who influence me to do better and be better.

I could continue on and on with this appreciation list because I find things to appreciate just about every day. It keeps me coming back after hard days. It also adds to the joy of the good days, and it creates hope for future days. I challenge you to find what you can appreciate in each day and to help your children to do the same. This time of year can be full of busy tasks that we may not appreciate. Don't let those tasks prevent you from finding what you do appreciate. I appreciate that you share your children with me. I appreciate the opportunity to finish up this year and plan for the next. *Let's do this!*

Yours in Education,

Miss Okeelah McBride, Principal

2023 Bunker and Moon School Fifth Grade Graduation Class of 2030

Lyriq Allen	A'Meiya Harris	Kimberly Pena
J'Breon Almon-Gay	Ce'Renity Harris	Ivy Perez
Jesse Anderson	Camariyae Henderson	Michael Piggue
Tatymn Anderson	Malaysia Henderson-Raglin	Kanyla Porchia
Danika Anible	Dwayne Hendricks	Davon Randle-Coleman
Julian Aquino	Breonna Holman	Inocencia Razo Salinas
Ra'Quan Atkinson	Maxwell Hurlburt	Ka'Tya Reagen
I'Yonni Aubrey	Ca'Marrion Hurt	Ja'Miya Robertson
De'Maree Bailey	Francisco Jimenez	Johnathan Robinson
Ma'Risa Bailey	Alaysia Johns	Letzy Rodriguez-Hernandez
Ja'Nyah Beal	Malachi Johnson	Kalani Ross
J'Areion Benard-Bell	Myla Johnson	Zivah Ruelas
Gage Beyrle	Dakari Jones	Sahvid Ruelas
Eeon Black	Geonnia Kelly	Jesus Saavedra
Jordan Brown	Ni'aija Kimble	Ke'Anthony Sanders-Davis
Mariah Burks-Davis	Carlisle Knowlton	Kyrahn Sandford
Jalayah Carter	Nicholle Lang	Jaden Scott
Colton Chaffee	Aurora Langlois	Jarita Sharp
Amir Clanton	Day'Ari Lashley	Allen Sims-Elliott
Josiah Coleman	Larry Lawson	Leah'Asia Smith
Elijah Collins	Brayden Lee	Noelle Smith
Amoni Crews	De Ante' Levelston	Roman Soliz
DeShyia Crosby	Charles Lyons	Neylin Subias-Garay
Mya'Nasia Davis	Dondre Maddox	Christopher Tarver
Talayna Davis	Kingsley Marinelli	Dominic Taylor
Maurice Day	Cordello Martin	Marshall Tenney
Shayna Devries	Yamileth Martinez	Kendra Theodore
Alex Enriquez	Milan Martinez-Guerrero	Miamor Thornton
Paris Ervin	Lukas Mascorro	Braylen Todd
Daj'Shia Evans	Lee Matthews	Davion Walker
MacKenzie Eyestone	La'Miya McCorvey-Griggs	Selena Walker
Stephon Garcia	Evannah Mcgruther	Kevin Washington
Jeremy Gardner	Sariyah'Lynn Mcmann	Eryk Watson
Marquise Gates	Hope Mcmillan	Brayden White
Tyrone Gathers	William Melton	Steffan Wilks
Sophia Godinez-Resendez	Korbin Moore	Lola Willea
Kelo Gonzalez	Jord'N Mull	Charles Williams
Amir Goodman	Brayden Mullins	Anthony Williams
I'yanna Hall	Mason Nichols	Syria Williams
Omar Hall	Leah Parker	Julian Wilson-Olivares
Tyree Hamilton	Mark Parker	Isolde Wood
Gattlen Hannah	Mon'Yae Parker	Brooklyn Wright
		Kymani Wright
		David Wyrick

Fifth Grade Teachers

Ms. Martha Knoll-Loader
Ms. Anne Moore
Mr. Eric Poll

Ms. Tamara Williams
Ms. Katrina Woodyard
Ms. Quinette Yarbrough

Celebrating and Supporting our Early Childhood students!

Every day we celebrate the journey that the Pre-schoolers experience at Glenside, Marquette, and Oakview.

Today we are celebrating the 3-year-olds at Glenside as they grow and learn in the Head Start Program. As a 3-year-old, the children start the school year wide-eyed and not sure about this thing called school. This time of year the growth is amazing. They have learned about the school community, the teachers, riding the bus, eating at school with friends, how to share, and expectations in the classroom, and now love coming to school.

The curriculum focus is on Building and Connecting with school and friends, Conscious Discipline, Our Environment, How Structures are Built, Exploring Museums, Growing a Garden and so much more. This curriculum offers insight into the world and allows them the opportunity to play, learn and grow in a safe learning community.

The children understand the importance of following classroom routines, learning to sit on the rug to hear a story, songs, and counting, along with letter and number recognition. It is so exciting to see the enthusiasm they have in this classroom and the impact this program makes in the children's education.

If you know of a 3-4 year old looking to experience a positive learning environment please call **Glenside Early Childhood Center** at **231-720-2540** for information on how to enroll. **Now is the time to call.**



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - MARQUETTE

March is Reading Month - A First Grade Classroom

For March is reading month, the students in Mrs. Swift's first grade classroom enjoys reading their library books to the class. They practice with Mrs. Swift before presenting to the class. They take ownership of their reading skills and enjoy the opportunity to "be the teacher" as they read to their classmates! What a celebration of literacy for our youngest readers at Marquette!



Student of the Month

Students can't wait to be selected as the Student of the Month! Every classroom teacher, SFA reading teacher and Encore teacher chooses one student that is showing BIG REDS (respect, excellent, dependable and safe) Expectations each month. Names are announced at the monthly Big Red Assembly led by our Assistant Principal Mrs. Halverson. Celebrations for the Encore and SFA students include a reading session with one of the readers from the Men of Color Read program and a special treat! Students enjoy this time! The students selected by their classroom teachers enjoy a special luncheon with Mrs. Scott. Family members are invited to join their students for this luncheon. It is a celebrated occasion for all!



Moving Up from Roots to Wings

We like to celebrate achievement at Marquette and we really like to acknowledge our students that move up from the Roots Reading Program to the Wings Program! The Roots Program supports the phonics and reading strategies for figuring out an unknown word - this helps to give students a strong foundation. When students can decode words, they are ready to soar and are moved up into the Wings Program where they work on comprehension strategies. Every quarter we acknowledge the students that are making this transition and celebrate that they earned their "Reading Wings."

Pictured are a few of our students that have recently earned their Wings:

Promise Jackson-Hudson, Apollo Spears, and Anotonio Neal.



Oakview's Goal Crushers!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - OAKVIEW

Perhaps you have already seen someone wearing it? From behind, it doesn't look like anything very special. When you are face-to-face with it, however, an explosion of words and colors practically jumps right out at you! So what exactly am I even talking about? I am talking about Oakview's "Goal Crushers" t-shirts that were given to every Oakview student who has met or exceeded their student growth goal! For as long as I have been principal at Oakview, we have consistently celebrated our students at the end of every month using school-wide, virtual assemblies. Oakview's monthly assemblies allow us the opportunity to recognize individual students from each classroom and then share their accomplishments with classmates and family members. Our "Goal Crusher" initiative is taking Oakview's celebrations to newer and greater heights!

As parents and guardians to a Muskegon Public School student, you are probably already aware of the computer program called, i-Ready. At the start of every school year, MPS students take a diagnostic test in Reading and Math using i-Ready. Once a student has completed their first diagnostic test in the Fall, i-Ready will place them on their learning path as well as produce specific growth goals that have been tailored for that specific student. These growth goals provide a realistic and measurable target for every one of Oakview's students to reach for and achieve. Since MPS adopted i-Ready several years ago, Oakview's teachers and support staff have been working very hard to incentivize and support our students with achieving their goals. Our students and families are constantly being bombarded with outside information, and this can make it difficult for students and their parents to prioritize what is needed to be successful at school. Oakview's Leadership Team came up with "Goal Crushers" as a strategy to help focus Oakview's students' learning energy as well as to provide a more targeted way for families and caregivers to support the learning of their student(s)! The good news so far is that our "Goal Crushers" plan seems to be working!



Oakview's Goal Crusher strategy has worked so well, we needed to organize a celebration for all of Oakview's students who managed to achieve their growth goals early! Oakview had 144 students who achieved their end-of-year growth goal following their Winter, i-Ready diagnostic. This means nearly half of Oakview's students



met or exceeded their student growth goal after only one semester! Students who achieved their growth goals were identified as an Oakview "Goal Crusher" and, in addition to the cool t-shirt, each student was also allowed to select from a variety of different experiences or stations. The stations were created by Oakview's staff and were based on the interests of our students ranging from making homemade "slime" all the way to a glow stick dance party! Weeks after the initial "Goal Crusher" event happened, we are still hearing from students and families asking when we will be celebrating again. With our final diagnostic tests starting in May, there is still one more opportunity this year for Oakview students to join our "Goal Crushers" club! Through hard work and some strategic support from your friends here at Oakview, maybe you will have your very own "Goal Crusher" t-shirt too!

Brian Gamm, PhD • Oakview Principal





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Lately the Muskegon Police Department has investigated multiple reports of juveniles shooting paintballs or gel balls at each other or unsuspecting people. While this may seem like an innocent prank, it is reckless using a paintball gun or a gel gun on an unsuspecting person and is extremely dangerous. This danger increases when it involves a motor vehicle. The projectiles can cause serious injuries and the shooter can be charged with a felony, regardless of their age.

**Tim Bahorski • Captain • Muskegon Police Dept.
(231) 724-6751 • tim.bahorski@shorelinecity.com**



Jeffery L. Williamson Skilled Trades Education Fund

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Together We Can Strengthen Our Community

