

lighthouse ●

# view

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

JANUARY 2024 • ISSUE 67



Thank you to Stan Miller for serving the Mona Shores community as School Board President for the last 6½ years! Mr. Miller is stepping down this month as President. Our schools and our community are stronger today because of his leadership.

*Thank you Mr. Miller!*



*Happy New Year Sailors!*

# 2024

SUPERINTENDENT.....2  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION.....3  
 HUMAN RESOURCES.....5  
 TRANSPORTATION .....5  
 SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON ....6  
 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE .....7

ATHLETICS.....8-9  
 HIGH SCHOOL .....10-11  
 COUNSELOR'S CORNER ..... 12-13  
 COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT..... 14  
 TEACHING AND LEARNING .... 15  
 MIDDLE SCHOOL..... 16-17

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ..... 18  
 SPECIAL EDUCATION..... 19-21  
 EARLY CHILDHOOD..... 22  
 FUTURE SAILORS ACTIVITY ..... 23  
 KINDERGARTEN ..... 24

*a letter* from our Superintendent



January brings the half-way mark to our school year. It also brings the New Year which is an awesome time to pause, reflect, and celebrate the success of the first half of the school year. A few highlights:

- ⚓ Awarded the U.S. News Best High Schools distinction
- ⚓ Awarded the Best Communities for Music Education for the 8th consecutive year
- ⚓ Mona Shores High School Named to Advanced Placement (AP) School Honor Roll
- ⚓ High School teacher Mel Brown won the Excellence in Education Award sponsored by the Michigan Lottery
- ⚓ Middle School Principal Doug Ammeraal was recognized as the Michigan Elementary & Middle School Principal Association's (MEMSPA) Regional Principal of the Year
- ⚓ Completed construction on our 4th elementary building and Early Childhood Center (Ross Park)
- ⚓ Completed the second of three locker commons additions and classroom wings at Mona Shores Middle School.
- ⚓ Partnered with Fresh Coast Counseling to provide on-demand mental health supports pre k-12 during the school day
- ⚓ Welcomed over 4,000 people to our annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Show
- ⚓ Earned multiple conference titles in athletics
- ⚓ The 8th Annual Sailor Salute Football Game Honoring Active-Duty Military, Veterans, and First Responders
- ⚓ Over 20,000 positive behavior recognitions earned by our students
- ⚓ Kicked off the 10th year of our Ride with Pride program celebrating positive behavior

The list could go on as there are always amazing things to celebrate with our Shores students, families, staff, and community. We are thankful for our families, our community partners, our amazing staff, and of course the incredible students that we get to work with each and every day. Thank you all for the partnership in making Mona Shores a great place to celebrate!

Superintendent, Bill O'Brien  
 Mona Shores Public Schools  
 (231) 332-8201  
[obrienb@monashores.net](mailto:obrienb@monashores.net)



*Have an amazing 2024 and we look forward to all that is to be celebrated in the second half of the school year!*

**Mona Shores** Public Schools **THE VIEW**

The VIEW is published three times per year by Mona Shores Public Schools, 121 Randall Road, Norton Shores, MI 49441.

Mona Shores Public Schools accepts advertising to defray the cost of production and distribution and appreciates the support of its advertisers. **Mona Shores Public Schools does not specifically endorse advertisers or their products or services.**

**To advertise in The VIEW, please contact Mark Williamson at: (231) 766-3038 or email: [mark@orshairdproductions.com](mailto:mark@orshairdproductions.com)**

It's everything Mona Shores, in your pocket.

News Events Documents  
 Staff Alerts Dining

Download the Mona Shores Public Schools app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable notifications.

## Board of Education 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule

January 8, 2024.....	7:00 pm.....	Combined Session RP-PLC
February 5, 2024.....	7:00 pm.....	Work Session RP-PLC
February 12, 2024.....	7:00 pm.....	Regular Session RP-PLC
March 4, 2024.....	7:00 pm.....	Work Session RP-PLC
March 11, 2024.....	7:00 pm.....	Regular Session RP-PLC
April 8, 2024.....	7:00 pm.....	Combined Session RP-PLC
May 6, 2024.....	7:00 pm.....	Work Session RP-PLC
May 13, 2024.....	7:00 pm.....	Regular Session RP-PLC
June 10, 2024.....	7:00 pm.....	Work Session RP-PLC
June 17, 2024.....	7:00 pm.....	Regular Session RP-PLC
July 8, 2024.....	7:00 pm.....	Combined Session RP-PLC

(All meetings are held at: Professional Learning Center,  
Ross Park, 121 Randall Rd., Norton Shores, MI 49441)

## Board of Education 2023-2024

**Stan Miller, President**  
(231) 557-4039  
E-mail: millers@monashores.net

**Chris Burnaw, Vice President**  
(231) 557-4949  
E-mail: burnawc@monashores.net

**Jay Keessen, Treasurer**  
(231) 206-0889  
E-mail: keessenj@monashores.net

**Kandace Boysen, Secretary**  
(231) 375-0459  
E-mail: boysenk@monashores.net

**Jeanne Cooper-Kuiper, Trustee**  
(231) 798-3815  
E-mail: cooperj@monashores.net

**A.J. Eckert, Trustee**  
(616) 889-2063  
E-mail: eckerta@monashores.net

**Mary McClellan, Trustee**  
(231) 486-5285  
E-mail: mcclellanm@monashores.net

## Promises made, promises kept.

After a complete renovation of all four of our elementary school buildings, those environments now reflect the quality of the education offered at Mona Shores. They provide our students with bright, welcoming spaces conducive to learning, our staff with a workplace they can be as proud of as they are of the district, and our community with modern spaces for all kinds of events.

It's been a long road, almost a decade since a facilities study pointed the way. Students, parents, and teachers have endured construction, classroom moves, and more with patience and grace and with their eyes on the prize: excellent facilities ready to serve the community for the next 50 years. And none of it would have been possible without you, your trust in District leadership, and your support of our millage renewal. Thank you!

In other news, the Board of Education welcomed Mady Rumsey as our new junior class student representative, joining senior Jace Brainard. They've both made valuable contributions to our discussions already this school year, and I'm proud that we have these important student voices at the table.

I'll close on a personal note. As you may know, the Board of Education elects its officers every January to one-year terms. It has been my honor to serve as Board president for 6½ years, but it's time for a change for me personally and for the District; if you're reading this after our meeting on Jan. 8, we already have a new president. My current term on the Board expires at the end of 2024, and several months of service without being president will help me decide by next summer's filing deadline whether to run for another six-year term. I will miss the opportunity to share a few of the great things happening in Mona Shores with you in this space several times a year, but a fresh perspective here will be good for the District too.



I wish you and  
your family  
all the best  
in 2024 and beyond!

Stan Miller, President  
Mona Shores Board of Education

**WE DON'T  
SAY WE'RE  
THE BEST.  
OUR CUSTOMERS DO.**

2150 E. Laketon Avenue  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
231.773.6857  
**CallBishop.com**



**HACKLEY COMMUNITY CARE  
SCHOOL BASED HEALTH**

**MUSKEGON TEEN  
HEALTH CENTER**

*Offers Medical,  
Dental, and Mental  
Health services for  
kids, teens, and young  
adults aged 5-21.*



**SPORTS PHYSICALS  
\$25**

231.737.6868  
HackleyCommunityCare.org

**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



**ERIC WAHLBERG**

NeXes Realtor • Licensed Builder



ericwilderness@yahoo.com  
**231-740-1698**



**SERENITY WELLNESS  
CHIROPRACTIC CENTER**

Dr. Lynnmarie S. Leyder  
Doctor of Chiropractic

542 S. STATE ST.  
SPARTA  
(616) 887-2178

www.SerenityWellnessChiro.com

374 SEMINOLE RD.  
NORTON SHORES  
(231) 375-5995

info@SerenityWellnessChiro.com

You may remember that in the Back to School addition of the Lighthouse View, I introduced the newly hired teachers and administrators that we had brought on board through last June. However, we have since filled the rest of our teacher vacancies for the 2023-2024 school year. Therefore, I would like to introduce our school community to the newest Sailor staff members. Mona Shores is fortunate to have them working with our students.



## NEW TEACHER AND ITINERANT STAFF MEMBERS

### MRS. JULIA GARZA

Mrs. Julia Garza serves as our school social worker at Lincoln Park Elementary. Mrs. Garza earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Baker College and her Master of Social Work from Western Michigan University. She also brings to Mona Shores her experience working for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as a Child Protective Services Specialist. She is a strong advocate for our students and a great addition to Sailor Nation. Welcome Julia!

### MS. JENNIFER LAYNE-ROY

Ms. Jennifer Layne-Roy was hired as our Intensive Resource Room teacher at Ross Park Elementary. Ms. Layne-Roy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our students having worked in several other school districts across Michigan as well as the County of Muskegon Health West. She is a graduate of both Aquinas College and Western Michigan University where she earned her Master's in Educational Leadership. We are grateful to have her join our Mona Shores staff.

### MISS CARLIE MCNIFF

Miss Carlie McNiff is serving as our school social worker at Ross Park Elementary. Miss McNiff is a graduate of Hope College as well as the University of Michigan where she earned her Masters of Social Work. I am proud to say that she is also a graduate of Mona Shores High School and has great Sailor Pride! We welcome Carlie "home" to Sailor Nation.

### MR. THOMAS O'BRIEN

Mr. Thomas O'Brien joined our high school special education team in October. He came to Mona Shores from Holton Public Schools where he was serving as a Middle School Resource Room teacher. Mr. O'Brien is a graduate of Central Michigan University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Education degree as well as Michigan State University where he earned a Masters in Educational Leadership. Mr. O'Brien brings several years of prior experience teaching to our high school students. We welcome Mr. O'Brien to our school community.

### MRS. KELLY SLAGLE

Mrs. Kelly Slagle comes to Mona Shores after serving most recently at both Muskegon Public Schools as well as Grand Haven Area Schools. Mrs. Slagle earned both her Bachelor's of Science as well as her Master of Education degree from Grand Valley State University. She is serving Mona Shores as a Resource Room Teacher at Campbell Elementary. She too brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our students and we are most fortunate to have her join our Campbell team and our Mona Shores community. Welcome Mrs. Slagle.

### MR. MATTHEW SOROS

Mr. Matthew Soros is our new Third Grade Teacher at Campbell Elementary. Mr. Soros is a graduate of Grand Valley State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree. Matt brings great enthusiasm and passion for the teaching profession. He will be an incredible asset to an already stellar third grade team. We are excited to have Mr. Soros begin his teaching career as a Mona Shores Sailor. A warm welcome to Matt!

## Hiring School Bus Drivers & Attendants for Mona Shores Public Schools

### Accepting Applications for Regular and Substitute Drivers and School Bus Attendants

#### What we offer:

- Sign on Bonus of \$500 after 45 days
- Paid Training
- Pay \$19.31 to \$21.37 hr., - based on experience/drivers
- Pay \$15.45 hr. - attendants
- Holiday Pay
- Field Trips for extra earning potential



To Learn more on what we have to offer contact:

**Mona Shores Public Schools Transportation at: 231-332-8269 or  
Michigan Educational Transportation Services at: 1-517-647-7765**

SAVE THE DATE!

# Senior Citizen Luncheon

## Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

This is our only issue of the newsletter in homes prior to the event... Please save this information! Mona Shores Residents ages 62 and older are eligible to attend. Reservations begin April 1st. If you would like to receive a reminder, please send an email to [wilksd@monashores.net](mailto:wilksd@monashores.net) to receive a notice prior to registration.

Mona Shores Community Services is partnering with Seminole Shores Assisted Living Center, The Village at Park Terrace, Corewell Health At Home, and AgeWell Services of West Michigan, for our Annual Senior Citizen Event. The date of the event is **Friday, April 19, 2024 at 1:00 pm**. Join us for a delicious lunch served in the High School Cafeteria along with special entertainment from our talented students!

**RSVP beginning Monday, April 1, 2024.** There are two ways to register. You can call our 24-hour reservation line at (231) 332-8253 to leave a recorded reservation. We also offer the option of electronic RSVP. Visit our webpage at <https://www.monashores.net/page/senior-citizen-luncheon> and complete the form. To make a reservation, leave first and last name, address, and phone number for each person attending. **All attendees must be Mona Shores residents.** Reservations are taken on a first come, first serve basis and fill very quickly. Looking forward to another great event!

Come Home to Where the Care Begins...



*Thank you!*  
TO OUR SPONSORS



A Lifestyle you Deserve, an Apartment you can Afford



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

Bonded Construction Update

by Robert Jonker, Director of Finance



THANK YOU!

COX Accounting & Tax Service

1975 Holton Rd., Muskegon, MI 49445 Phone 231.744.3827 www.coxaccounting.biz

CALL US TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT

Serving Muskegon for over 70 years

- Frank Cox, Ila Cox, John Cox, Mark Hekkema, Jason Cox, Jon Johnson

Four down and one to go! Ross Park Elementary construction was completed prior to our October break. Our daycare wing and remaining interior classrooms and media center were finished over the summer and early fall and all students and staff are in their respective homes. The original construction cost was \$20,249,453. After contingencies and additional change orders, final construction cost is \$21,105,174.

I'd like to thank all of our elementary building's staff and students for their flexibility and patience over the last four years of construction.

The Middle School seventh grade wing was renovated over the past summer. The adjoining locker commons addition was completed at the October break and students are using the new space. Over the school year we will be renovating the remaining classrooms and bathrooms surrounding the media center. We hope to break ground on the sixth grade locker commons this December in order to have that area and the sixth grade wing completed prior to the start of school next September.



This will be the final summer of construction relating to the \$93 million bond passed in November 2018. I would again like to thank the community for its support of this project.

Advertisement for Driftwood Cafe featuring a photo of two men at a table and text: Driftwood CAFE, Driftwood Cafe Tanglewood Park, 580 Seminole Road Muskegon, MI 49444, Open to the Public Monday-Friday 7 am to 4 pm, Senior Discount Dining Tuesdays & Thursdays 4 pm to 6 pm, Visit agewellservices.org/driftwood-cafe for more info.



Z PAINT LLC PAINTING WITH PRECISION

JEFF ZERKLE 231-666-1686

Residential/Commercial Interior/Exterior Powerwashing

25 Years Experience zpaintllc@gmail.com

# Athletic Update

~ a message from Jack Nummerdor, Director of Athletics

## Happy New Year, Happy AD

Being a part of Mona Shores is something that my family and I are grateful for every day. Being a Sailor and living in Sailor Nation is something that would be hard to match. A school system so focused on our kids is not something you can just find anywhere. Every single decision is made based on what is right for kids. Our business is kids and we have some pretty darn good kids. By the time you read this the Winter athletics season will have begun. We would be remiss if we did not look back on why it has been such a great end to 2023 and why we look forward to entering 2024.

The fall season brought many smiles, many heartaches, and many opportunities for learning. Our student-athletes and coaches have represented our community well and with that comes a great burden of feeling let down for not winning a state championship. Very few schools get to end their seasons with a win. It is something that cannot be taken for granted and something that we continue to strive for. We had great success with our Volleyball team and Girls Golf team winning the OK Green Championship, Football and Boys Tennis finished in 2nd, Girls Cross Country finished 3rd, and other programs gave their leagues a run for their money. Mona Shores also won Greater Muskegon Championships in Volleyball and Boys Tennis. The success did not stop there as we had Volleyball and Football bow out in the MHSAA District Finals to two teams still in the tournament runs at the due date of this article. This is nothing to be disappointed in but something that should be celebrated. Our teams compete at the highest levels and do not back down from anything put in front of them. Our student-athletes worked hard to represent their school and community with the highest Sailor Pride. The Ok Conference also recognized these efforts by awarding the following students as 1st Team All-Conference or as noted, Honorable Mention(HM) All-Conference.

### **Boys Soccer || 6th Place in OK Green**

Easton Lopez and Greyson Drexler(HM)

### **Volleyball || OK Green Champions**

Kyann Hellmann, Jersey Vanderwall, Mallory Hogston, Grace Allen, Izzy Sturtevant, Skyler McLachlan(HM), and Laynie Russell(HM)

### **Football || 2nd Place in OK Green**

Andrew Baker, JaMari Taylor, Micah Carefell, O'Mari Hall-Brown, Jeremiah Love, Jonathan Pittman, Luke Emmons, Trent Rosenthal(HM), Jaeger Johnson(HM), and Haden Terpstra(HM)

### **Boys Cross Country || 5th Place in OK Green**

Willem Parsekian and Hayden Fox(HM)

### **Girls Cross Country || 3rd Place in OK Green**

Ellery Horness, Diamond Madison(HM), Logan Clausen(HM), and Ella Grimm(HM)

### **Girls Golf || OK Green Co-Champions**

Mayson Southland, Maddie Etterman, Summer Darrow(HM), and Lainee Carmean(HM)

### **Boys Tennis || 2nd Place OK Green**

Drew Hackney, Victor Powell, and Liam Gossett

8 | JANUARY 2024 | [www.monashores.net](http://www.monashores.net)

### **Volleyball and Girls Golf win OK Green Championships**



Volleyball had an amazing run as a team. They went through conference play undefeated until they met Zeeland East. During regular season play Zeeland East beat the Sailors in 5 sets. However due to a 3 way tie in sets won against conference opponents, Mona Shores got the #1 seed for the conference tournament. The Sailors went undefeated throughout the conference tournament to take full grasp of the Conference Championship. They never dropped a set throughout the tournament and beat Zeeland West in the championship 3-0. The team continued their winning ways into the MHSAA Districts by defeating Muskegon 3-0 and a good Cadillac team 3-0. Mona Shores met up with Grand Haven in the finals and gave them a fight losing 3-1. It was exciting to watch the ladies play well and even when dropping the heartbreaker to Grand Haven in the Finals. No doubt that the program will use this as a springboard into next year. Great Job Ladies.



Girls Golf was to not be outdone by Volleyball. They actually wrapped up our first OK Green Championship a few weeks prior to Volleyball. Mona Shores and Reeths-Puffer ended up splitting the Conference Championship that is composed of results from jamborees throughout the season and also the Conference Invitational. Listed in the previous article are the results of the finish at the Conference Invitational with 4 Sailor golfers earning All OK Conference honors! Mayson Southland and Maddie Etterman finished high enough to be named 1st Team All-Conference with Summer Darrow and Lainee Carmean finishing in the next group to be named Honorable Mention All-Conference. MHSAA Regionals were quite the task for our ladies as the original date was canceled and they were forced to play on a Sunday. This is different from any other competition that any team had to perform in including some players coming straight from work and having to return to work. At the end of the day our ladies just missed the cut by two team spots to earn their way to the State Championships. Another great season by our Sailor golfers.



**KING OF THE COURT . . .** This is not about Homecoming, but a story about another king. Drew Hackney may not want the attention he deserves, or to be called a King. However, the title cannot be placed upon anyone else's head due to his success.



Drew wrapped up a spectacular career playing tennis for Mona Shores High School in only a way a king can. Drew was instantly a terror on the court for opponents. His Freshman year saw him winning the Greater Muskegon Athletic Association Tournament at 1 Singles and also making his way through the OK Conference by becoming the 1 singles champion. He wrapped up that season as a 1st Team All-State selection. Not satisfied with the results of his freshman year, Drew repeated as the GMAA Champion, OK Conference Champion, and also his All-State status as a State Quarterfinalist. Most of the state was beginning to notice the royal in the making. Drew then wanted to up the ante more by again repeating as GMAA Champion and OK Conference Champion. He became the MHSAA Regional Champion to continue his All-State and



Quarterfinalist streak. 3 years, 3 years of career accolades led to Drew becoming a senior. Drew has been playing tennis outside of the MHSAA season and debated following that path to get more notice from schools. However there was unfinished business and a community that he loves to represent pushing Drew back to the High School season. Drew wrapped up his senior year with all accolades he had earned over the previous 3 years and ended as the MHSAA Division 2, 1 singles Runner-Up! Drew had to fight through 3 matches in one day to become runner-up. The state took notice of such an accomplished young man to the point of making him a Mr. Tennis Candidate. Drew was a finalist for the award and unfortunately lost out to another competitor, but Mona Shores is so proud of all he has done. In the four years of High School tennis Drew accumulated an overall 105-11 career record as well as a 38-0 home record while finishing as an Academic All-State selection all 4 years. Drew has been recognized by the State Tennis Association, M-Live, and the Meijer Prep Student Athlete multiple times for his efforts. Drew is a great representation of what walks our halls. Someone who works hard for what he earns, and someone humble enough to blush when someone recognizes him for his accomplishments.



**Drew; Mona Shores High School, Mona Shores Public Schools, and the greater Mona Shores Community thanks you for all you have done for us and how you have represented the best of Shores!**

**Congratulations on wrapping up a High School career that has been a royal pain for your opponents!**



# High School

*a message* from High School Principal, Jennifer Bustard

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

Personal responsibility | Respect | Integrity | Disciplined | Engagement

### College and Career Course Exploration: Post Secondary preparation

Over 400 MSHS students participated at either the Career Tech Center or a Career Technical Experience here at MSHS. There are 16 programs that are offered at the CTC building. 122 students in the first trimester were enrolled in a variety of opportunities. Students can earn articulated credit and certifications in their programs along with acquiring skills preparing them for potential careers. Here at MSHS there are 17 CTE programs offered to students. 182 students in the first trimester were enrolled in these courses. In addition, MSHS offers foundry, metals, and woodshop courses. Students can also participate in work based learning opportunities to earn HS credit. Many of the marketing students manage and operate the MSHS Anchor Cafe coffee shop learning entrepreneurship skills.



### Preparing for post secondary opportunities the 2024-2025 Scheduling Season Begins

Please review the Counselors' Corner for more specific information regarding meeting dates and course selection form return dates. This is an exciting time for our students as they plan for their high school schedule and post-secondary aspirations. For more information, please visit the Counseling Department web page.

### The College Board announced that Mona Shores High School has been named to the Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) School Honor Roll, earning gold distinction in the majority of categories.



The AP® School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

Mona Shores had 44% of seniors who took at least one AP exam during high school, 37% of seniors scoring a three or higher on at least one AP exam, and 13% of seniors who took five or more AP exams!

Mona Shores High School has continued its decades-long commitment to helping its graduates have success in college by providing a litany of Advanced Placement opportunities:

- 23 AP COURSES OFFERED
- 82 AP SECTIONS TAUGHT
- 278 AP STUDENTS
- 460 AP EXAMS

Congratulations to Cienna Billingsly (Class of 2023) for earning a **perfect score** on the AP Research Exam. Cienna is one of only 357 students in the world to earn every point possible. Amounting to just 1.26% of 2023 AP Research Exam Takers. Thank you to AP Teacher Roxanne Schaner for her work to prepare Cienna for this opportunity.

"We are extremely proud of the commitment of students to pursue these opportunities," says MSHS Principal Jennifer Bustard. "Thank you to the teachers for their work to support their learning and to the parents for supporting this rigorous academic experience for our students. It takes a village."

"AP represents an opportunity for students to stand out to colleges, earn college credit and placement," said Trevor Packer, head of the AP program. "The schools have shown that they can expand access to these college-level courses and still drive high performance – they represent the best of our AP program."

College Board's Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) enables students to pursue college-level studies—with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both—while still in high school. Through AP courses in 38 subjects, each culminating in a challenging exam, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue—skills that prepare them for college and beyond.

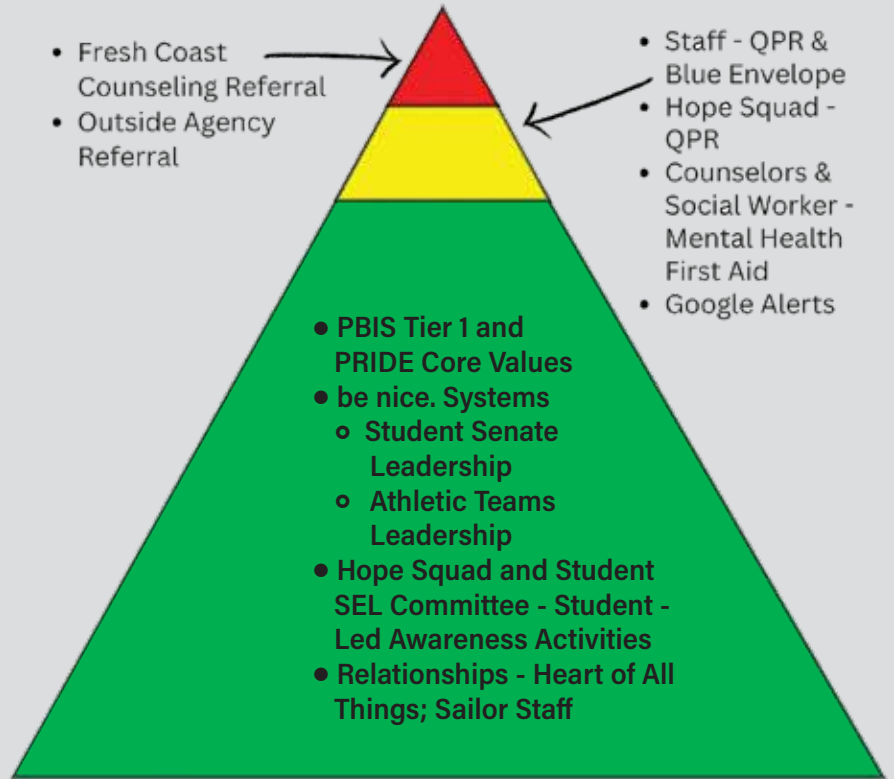
**Social Emotional Learning (SEL) supports for Mona Shores High School students, staff and parents.**



Mona Shores High School staff and students continue to build upon the social emotional support for students and staff. During the 1st trimester staff were trained in the Blue Envelope. This training was provided by Corewell Health professionals. Staff now have a School S.A.F.E. system on how to respond universally when a student exhibits suicidal ideations.

# Interconnecting Systems PBIS & SEL

AT MONA SHORES HIGH SCHOOL



Excited to share that new to our High School staff is Matt Van Linden LMSW Clinician. He joins Taylor Jones LMSW Clinician at the high school. Students and parents who wish to receive services during the school day from Taylor Jones or Matt Van Linden can reach out by email or phone Fresh Coast Counseling Phone Number 616-319-4389 FCC email: [support@freshcoastcounseling.com](mailto:support@freshcoastcounseling.com)



Thank you for your support, commitment, and dedication to Mona Shores. If you have any questions please contact me at 780-4711, extension 8499, or by email at [bustardj@monashores.net](mailto:bustardj@monashores.net). Looking forward to seeing you at the next event! Go Sailors! ~ Jennifer Bustard | Principal

# Counselor's Corner

by Danielle Smith-Walker, Director of Counseling

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

## COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE READY!

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

## STUDENT SCHEDULING FOR 2024-2025 BEGINS IN JANUARY

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

The following scheduling time frame will be followed:

CLASS	COUNSELOR MEETING/COURSE SELECTION RETURN DATES
2027	Monday, January 22- Friday, January 26
2026	Monday, January 29- Friday, February 2
2025	Monday, February 5- Friday, February 9

### \*\* 8TH GRADERS: CLASS OF 2028\*\*

**8th Grade Student HS Scheduling Presentation: February 26**

**8th Grade Parent Night: February 26 (7:00 pm HS Auditorium)**

**Course selection Return Date: Thursday, February 29**

**Friday- Any make-up schedules returned**

## EXTENDED DAY AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

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

## PSAT/SAT

Freshman and Sophomores: will take the PSAT on April 16. Stay tuned to your Friday emails for more information.

Junior Registration: The State of Michigan will pay for all juniors to take the SAT test on April 16 during the school day. Stay tuned to your Friday emails for more information. **Please Note:** Juniors will be able to send 4 free scores to colleges that they are considering attending. They should give this some thought ahead of time because they will be asked to give that information. On April 11 juniors will take the ACT Workkeys. Please note that these exams are required for graduation.

**SAT Test Prep:** Dr. Scott Carlin provides in-depth SAT preparation (both virtual and in person options) for college-bound students for a cost. Please contact him directly at: **(517) 803-5037** [drcarlin@drcarlinstestprep.com](mailto:drcarlin@drcarlinstestprep.com) for more information. Students may also take advantage of a FREE resource: Khan Academy. Please see your school counselor for more information on this.

## FAFSA

Students should submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, for each school year to qualify for grants, scholarships, and federal work-study. Please note that completion of the FAFSA is required for both the Muskegon Promise and Community Foundation For Muskegon County Scholarships. New for 2024-2025, The opening date for FAFSA was pushed back to December. Please Note: You can call the Financial Aid Office at Baker College or Muskegon Community College and get help for FREE on filling out the Financial Aid Form. Beware of people who want to charge you for this service, or of people who promise to get you Financial Aid if you pay them to complete your form. When in doubt, call first for advice. Go to <https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/> for an early estimate of federal aid eligibility. Additional information is available at <https://studentaid.gov/>.



## SCHOLARSHIP NOTICES

Please go to our scholarship page to see many more available scholarships at: <http://www.monashores.net/our-schools/monashores-high-school/hs-departments/counseling/financial-aid--scholarships/>. The following is a **sampling** of some of our local scholarships that offer multiple opportunities. Scholarship notices are posted throughout the building, on our website, and on the announcements.

**THE MUSKEGON AREA PROMISE:** The Muskegon Area Promise makes a unique commitment to the young people of our community - if they work hard they will be able to earn at least a two-year college degree tuition free. The Promise Scholarship is an award promised to resident graduates of high schools within the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District boundaries. It provides the financial assistance necessary to obtain a two-year degree or its equivalent at an eligible partnering institution when used in conjunction with federal, state and institutional grants. Students must graduate with a cumulative unweighted 3.25 GPA or higher from a high school located within the boundaries of the MAISD. Please go to: <http://www.muskegonisd.org/career-college/promise/> for more information.

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MUSKEGON COUNTY:** CFFMC offers a number of scholarships. Most are for seniors going away to a four-year school. Some are for students going to a vocational or technical program. They do offer a few merit-based scholarships worth more money. Financial need is often a consideration. Deadline: February 1. The application is now online at the Foundation website, [www.cffmc.org](http://www.cffmc.org). Please visit the website for more information.

**MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS:** Students will be eligible for more financial aid from the State:

- Up to \$2,750 if they attend a community college, per year
- Up to \$5,500 if they attend a public university, per year
- Up to \$4,000 if they attend a private college or university, per year

Students will be eligible if their family demonstrates financial need when they complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). High school seniors can get started by filing the FAFSA and by creating a MISSG Student Portal account three to five business days after filing your FAFSA.

**WOMEN'S DIVISION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** A minimum of six \$1000 scholarships are available to all students planning to attend Muskegon Community College or Baker College full time. Applicants must have at least a 2.5 GPA and reside in Muskegon County. PLEASE NOTE: Applicants may be MALE or FEMALE. Applications are available in the Counseling Office or online at [www.womensdivision.org](http://www.womensdivision.org) Deadline is March 11.

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



**S**chool safety and student interaction with law enforcement have always been a passion of mine. My first mentor was my D.A.R.E. officer (school resource officer). I learned from this personal experience that positive relationships between students and police officers form strong bonds and respect for one another, genuinely viewing police officers as a resource.

I was appointed Chief of Norton Shores Police Department on October 1, 2023. Before my appointment, I served the Norton Shores Police Department for nineteen years in various roles within the department (patrol officer, field training officer, corporal, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, and patrol lieutenant) and community (Michigan Irish Music Festival, Ginka Memorial, and Child Abuse Council). I hold a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and have three classes left in my Master's in Public Administration from

Grand Valley State University. (GO LAKERS!) In addition to my education, I attend many law enforcement trainings, specifically in the area of active assailant response and tactical officer operations.

As a parent of a Lincoln Park fifth grader, ensuring safety in our classrooms and events is one of my top priorities. While our Sailor community takes advantage of much needed time off, our team is afforded the opportunity to train on active assailant drills using the empty buildings whenever possible. This county-wide practice ensures we know precisely how to respond in each building uniquely, helping all of us sleep better at night knowing we have a plan.

The best offense in public safety is a good defense. The Norton Shores Police Department employs two full-time school resource officers who assist at the Mona Shores High and Middle Schools. These officers are assigned to various tasks but focus on mentorship. School resource officers work hand-in-hand with school administration to find creative solutions and promote positive behavior. The award-winning "RIDE with PRIDE" program is a key element in promoting positive behavior that all started right here in our district. It is an honor to have started this program at Mona Shores School District over a decade ago. Due to its effectiveness, the program has expanded to nine other school districts in Muskegon and Oceana counties.

Since Mona Shores School District has added cameras to the buses, we have seen an increase in bus violation reporting. The two added traffic officers in 2022 have helped enforce the bus safety violations and ensure the community is following the school bus laws.

The entire staff at Norton Shores Police Department is proud to provide an accredited police department to our community that is constantly working to improve our services to our citizens. I am honored to have a forward-thinking staff that is always up to the challenge.

I am excited to serve our great community and hope to see you at a school or community event in the near future. Please introduce yourself to me when you do! GO SAILORS!



Norton Shores Chief of Police  
**Marc VanderStelt**

# Teaching and Learning

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

It is always great to embark on challenging endeavors, but the preparation and hard work that is required is not for the faint of heart. Setting goals, establishing routines, and the willingness to show up every day in the face of adversity is often a little easier when you have the support of a team. A healthy team supplies copious amounts of motivation and encouragement, but also honesty and feedback to spark growth and improvement. The commitment to the team can be evident in the extra efforts of the individual. Working to improve yourself and hone skills for the betterment of the team, that requires selflessness.

Mona Shores has a number of projects and endeavors that we are embarking on in 2024. From exploring curriculum resources to planning for professional learning, we have a great deal of curriculum teamwork happening. It is always good to be surrounded by a creative and innovative team of high performing people that are willing to listen, to learn, and to question. We are a team, family, and community. We appreciate one another, support one another, and look for the best in one another. Wishing all of **Sailor Nation** the best year yet - **2024!**

## SPRING ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

This table will help lay out our assessment plan for the 2024 testing season:

GRADE	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT WINDOW	ESTIMATED TOTAL TESTING TIME
3rd & 4th grade	ELA & Math	April 8 - May 17, 2024	3.5 hours
5th grade	ELA, Math, Science, & SS	April 8 - May 17, 2024	6 hours
6th & 7th grade	ELA and Math	April 8 - May 17, 2024	4 hours
8th grade	PSAT	April 8 - April 26, 2024	2.5 hours
8th Grade	Science, and SS	April 8 - May 17, 2024	3 hours
9th & 10th grade	PSAT	April 8 - April 26, 2024	2.5 hours
11th grade 11th grade 11th grade	M-STEP Science & SS SAT ACT Work Keys	April 8 - May 17, 2024 April 8 - April 26, 2024 April 11, 2024	2 hours 4 hours 3 hours

**"Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."  
- Vince Lombardi**



**CAREER TECH CENTER**  
Future.Focused.



## EXPLORE & ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER

Teens, attend the CTC Open House—  
Thursday, January 25, 4-7 p.m.



Beltone has been the most trusted name in hearing healthcare for 82+ years. Locally owned and operated in West Michigan since 1980, with over 1,500 locations nation-wide to serve your hearing health needs.

- \$1,000 off a set of Beltone Serene rechargeable hearing instruments
- FREE hearing evaluations
- FREE no-obligation trials of our industry-leading technology
- Clean and checks of all makes and models of hearing aids
- Local in-home service as needed

Most insurances accepted: TruHearing, Priority Health Medicare, BCBS, MPSERS, Humana, UAW, UHC, and more! Many discount programs available.



**Call 231-755-3920  
to schedule your  
appointment today!**

Jordan P. Smith, BC-HIS, President  
Larry D. Williams, BC-HIS, Vice President

**Beltone Hearing Centers  
843 W. Summit Ave.  
Muskegon, MI 49441**

**GO SAILORS!**

## GRATEFUL for and PROUD OF OUR FOCUS and COMMITMENT

**W**ith Thanksgiving and Christmas in our rear window, we cannot help but reflect on the start of the school year and on the outstanding students and staff that we have at Mona Shores Middle School. We continue to be inspired, grateful, and appreciative for who they are as individuals, as educators, and as sailors.

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

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

- **CREW** || Last year, MSMS started an advisory period at the beginning of the day, called CREW. CREW stands for **C**onnect, **R**espectful, **E**mpathy, and **W**ork. The spirit of Crew encourages all members of our School Community to work together to build meaningful relationships, enhance connections to peers and school, strengthen self-value, reflect on and monitor academic progress, and to focus on character development. This year, Crew continues to thrive and evolve. It is a place where students can feel loved, valued, and appreciated; a place where they can feel that they belong and can be successful. We are excited about the start of the new year, the connections that are being made, the activities/competitions that our students are participating in, and the continued focus on character, careers, and connections. MSMS will continue to develop CREW, build relational capacity, and strengthen connections to our building and each other.



- **TRADES ACADEMY** || Our Trades Academy continues to evolve, grow, and create experiences for our students. Through partnership and support from the CTC, they have been able to learn about basic plumbing, electrical, and framing. They have constructed walls, participated in welding, and explored career opportunities. They have also been able to listen to guest speakers, go on field trips, and explore the CTC building. We are grateful for Mr. Butkevich and to the opportunities we are able to provide to our students.



- **STUDENTS** || Students are why we do what we do...and we have some **REMARKABLE** students. We have students who are respectful, students that model positive behavior, students that demonstrate **PRIDE**, students that challenge and push themselves, students that impact our community, students that learn from their mistakes, and students who represent Mona Shores in amazing ways. We are grateful to serve these outstanding students, supportive parents, and a community that values education, positive behavior, and high character.



# Middle School ..... (continued from page 16)

• **TEACHERS** || We have some amazing teachers that work hard to plan, prepare, and deliver quality instruction to your students. Teachers who provide quality learning experiences to their students. Teachers who are constantly learning and growing in their craft. Teachers that show grace and hold high expectations for all of the different learning styles, diverse backgrounds, and unique challenges that our students face. We are grateful for each and every teacher and for what they bring to MSMS!

• **OFFICE STAFF** || Our office staff makes our building tick! Not only do they greet visitors, answer phones, complete paperwork, tend to sick students, enter attendance, support teachers, and so much more. They do so with a smile, a compassionate heart, and a high expectation. We are grateful for Mrs. Kimball, Mrs. Steward, Mrs. McRoberts, Mrs. Madden, and Ms. Netzler. They make MSMS better.



• **SUPPORT STAFF** || Throughout our building, we have some of the BEST educators supporting our students. - paraprofessionals, lunch monitors, a success coach, clerks, food service, bus drivers, etc. Without these individuals, who are committed to the success of your child, we would not be able to offer the best support possible. We are grateful for each of them and for their dedication to our students and to MSMS.

• **MR. MIKE** || While we have custodians that clean at night, we have Mr. Mike that is in our building every single day. He is dedicated to our students and to providing a space that is conducive to teaching and learning! Things that our students and parents do not always see -- clearing snow at 4:00 in the morning, blowing the leaves away from the building, balancing the construction, sweeping the halls every day during 5th hour, cleaning up vomit, discarding trash at lunches, fixing clogged toilets, and cleaning windows, to just name a few. Mr. Mike is committed to helping MSMS be the best middle school we can possibly be. We are grateful for him and for the rest of our custodial team.



• **MSMS FAMILIES** || MSMS is blessed with tremendous students who have tremendous families supporting them. Thank you parents, grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, and siblings that support your students with academics, behaviors, character traits, drop off and pick up, coaching through middle school challenges, and for doing all you can to support our students. MSMS would not be the place it is without your dedication and commitment to supporting our students, no matter what.

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

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

With **SAILOR PRIDE**, Doug Ammeraal, Principal

## Connecting with us! Join our Village!!

We are so excited that another school year is off to a great start! The elementary administrative team recently read a great article about why it takes a village to raise a child (by Breanna Olaveson). Here are the Top Ten Reasons (in no particular order):

1. Other people love your kids.
2. Your kids get a bigger support system.
3. Parenting is hard.
4. Life is short.
5. A strong sense of family creates strong kids.
6. Sometimes others have the best ideas.
7. Other people have different talents and skills.
8. A village creates a sense of community.
9. Kids can help their "village" as much as the village helps them.
10. Children develop different, strong relationships.



We welcome everyone connected to our elementaries to join our village. We do a lot of connecting through email (weekly newsletters etc.), so please make sure you have an active email on file. We also utilize text reminders, ClassTag and the Mona Shores App. for additional communication options. If you haven't already, download the App. today by searching Mona Shores in the App Store or in the Google Play Store. If you need help signing up for text alerts, contact your school's main office. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity (field trips, classroom helpers, cafeteria helpers etc.) **please make sure you complete the mandatory lchat paperwork** also available in the main office. lchat documents take several days to process, so please DO NOT wait until the day before an event to complete one. We love to have parents join us on campus, but it's important that our school is safe and free of unnecessary disruptions. All non-staff members are required to have approved lchat documents on file, enter through the main office, sign in with a photo ID, and obtain a visitor's pass.

Looking to get more involved? Join the PTO. Here is the PTO meeting information for each school:

- Campbell- first Monday of each month at 6:00 (unless otherwise noted). You can also connect with them on their Facebook page under Campbell Elementary PTO or visit their website at [www.monashores.net/our-schools/campbell-elementary/campbell-pto/](http://www.monashores.net/our-schools/campbell-elementary/campbell-pto/).
- Churchill- Second Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm. You can also connect with them through email at [mschurchillpto@gmail.com](mailto:mschurchillpto@gmail.com) or their Facebook page under Churchill PTO.
- Lincoln Park- Second Tuesday of each month at 6:30. If you are unable to attend a meeting, but are interested in giving input or helping out, please contact our PTO at [lincolnparkptocrew@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnparkptocrew@gmail.com). Be sure to like and follow them on Facebook under Lincoln Park Elementary PTO.
- Ross Park- Second Wednesday of each month at 3:45. Visited the Ross Park website at <https://www.monashores.net/o/msrpe> or find them on Facebook to join the Ross Park PTO!

# Special Education & Student Services

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

## Tips for Improving Handwriting

In this issue of the Lighthouse View, our Occupational and Physical Therapists share tips to help students develop good handwriting habits. Before children can be expected to print letters and words, they must build foundational skills like core strength, fine motor control, and eye-hand coordination. For young, preschool age children, it is best to focus on activities that will develop foundational skills, such as gross motor play, playing with playdough, stringing beads, and creative coloring and painting. Skills that contribute to successful handwriting are learned over time, beginning at preschool age through the upper elementary grades. Learning prewriting shapes like circles, squares, horizontal and vertical lines, is a great place to start. School age children continue their handwriting development by moving on to use prewriting shapes to draw-a-person skills, then uppercase letters, and finally lowercase letters. Other handwriting skills such as proper size and placement of letters on lines continue to develop over time, and some children need more time and practice than others.

## Two Mona Shores Professionals Honored by Grand Valley State University in 2023

Our staff are highly regarded in their fields, which brings many graduate students to Mona Shores for their practicums and or internships. One of our School Psychologists, Laurelin Barkel, NCSP, MS, CAGS, was awarded the School Psychologist of the Year from Grand Valley's Student Affiliates of School Psychology Club in Spring of 2023. The award goes to the nominee who best represents the leadership and support provided to GVSU School Psychology students. Mrs. Barkel has consistently supervised and educated school psychology interns and practicum students while at Mona Shores. During the current, 2023-2024 school year, Mrs. Barkel is supporting four graduate students from GVSU and MSU.

This fall, one of our Occupational Therapists, Jessica Kever, MS, OTR-L, received the 2023 Outstanding Preceptor Award for her efforts in supporting Grand Valley State University students in the field of Occupational Therapy. Mrs. Kever was nominated for this award by GVSU faculty and students. Mrs. Kever has been a field supervisor for many graduate students in the field of Occupational Therapy and has been an instructor at GVSU.

Over the years, our district has welcomed students in the fields of psychology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language pathology, in addition to student teachers. This school year alone, we have five graduate students placed at Mona Shores who are completing their studies in school psychology and physical therapy.

*Thank you to all of our staff who support new professionals in the field of education! . . . . . (Special Education continues on page 20-21)*

**CHECKING THAT  
DOESN'T  
HURT**

**FFCU**  
FAMILY FINANCIAL  
Credit Union

**#GOJACKS**

**MUSKEGON  
LUMBERJACKS**

**Get your  
JACKS DEBIT CARD  
at any FFCU Branch  
and qualify for  
RINK REWARDS!  
Sign up at [ff-cu.org](http://ff-cu.org)!**



# Sailing Tips from the Therapy Crew

## Tips for Improving Handwriting



Jessica Kever, MS OTRL   Lisa Luttrull, DPT   Nina Mulder, MS OTRL   Melissa Stark, MS OTRL

## Handwriting without Tears

- Handwriting without Tears (HWT) is a proven program for teaching handwriting to children.
- It was developed by Occupational Therapists and uses a multisensory approach to make handwriting fun.
- Our preschool through first grade teachers use this curriculum at Mona Shores.
- These learning concepts can be easily carried over at home.
- Visit the Learning without Tears website for free resources and materials:  
<https://www.lwtears.com/>



## Mat Man

- Mat Man teaches draw-a-person skills while also supporting:
  - body awareness
  - prewriting shapes / lines
  - handwriting readiness
- Mat Man is a great place to start for young learners who have no handwriting experience.
- Take a look at these Mat Man videos:
  - <https://bit.ly/4728wVg>
  - <https://bit.ly/3FP5CaA>



## Capital Letters

- In this program, capital or uppercase letters are taught first.
- Capital letters are formed using a combination of big and little straight and curved lines.
- ALL capitals start at the top and move down.
- Letters are taught in a specific sequence and grouped together based on where the letter starts.

### Frog Jump Capitals

- These letters start at the top-left "starting corner".
- They begin with a big line down, and then frog jump back to the top.
- See these letters formed properly in this YouTube video:  
<https://bit.ly/3QuZSYN>

Frog Jump Capitals

F E D P B R N M

### Corner Starting Capitals

- These letters start at the top-left "starting corner".
- They use a left-to-right formation habit.
- See these letters formed properly in this YouTube video:  
<https://bit.ly/461nPfU>

Starting Corner Capitals

H K L U V W X Y Z

### Center Starting Capitals

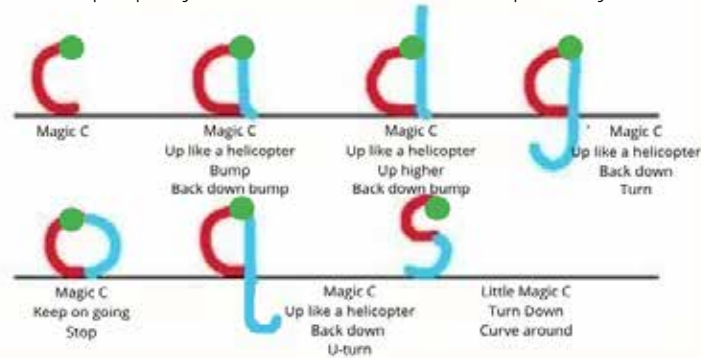
- C, O, Q, G start with a magic C.
- All of these letters start in the center.
- See these letters formed properly in this YouTube video:  
<https://bit.ly/3QOXnIrl>

Center Starters

C O Q G S A I T J

## Magic C Letters

- Magic C letters are the letters in the alphabet that begin with forming the letter c.
- Start with the letter c and just like magic the letter c can become 6 other lowercase letters and 3 uppercase letters!
- Letter c can become o, a, d, g, and q or O, G, Q, and S.
- See these letters formed properly in this YouTube video: <http://bit.ly/3MvztZF>



## Sitting Position for Handwriting

Sit up straight

Elbows bent at 90 degrees

Knees & hips bent at 90 degrees

Feet flat on the floor



- The above picture captures a student in the desired position for handwriting tasks.
- The student is:
  - sitting up straight
  - feet supported flat on the floor (or feet could be on a stool)
  - has elbows, hips and knees bent at 90 degrees
- This position helps students to engage their core muscles and provides a stable base of support for fine and visual-motor tasks such as handwriting.

# Early Childhood



**Mona Shores Early Childhood is proud to announce the completion of our early childhood center!**

Our center is home to over 7 preschool classrooms and 5 child care classrooms and conveniently located at Ross Park Elementary. In addition to our early childhood programs, we also offer Sailor Care for children who may need before and after school care. Sailor care is available at all elementary buildings.

We offer a variety of programs that meet the needs of children of all ages. We are proud to offer exceptional high quality and hands-on learning opportunities. Our experienced, caring, certified staff are ready to learn and grow and help prepare them for their next level of education.

For more information about our Preschool, Child Care and Sailor Care programs, please contact us at 231-780-6720.



## FREE PRESCHOOL!



### Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana

FREE preschool for 3 & 4 year old children at Ross Park Elementary. Classes are held full days Monday through Thursday and include nutritious meals and snacks, art, music and story time to increase school readiness in low-income families.



### Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

FREE preschool to children who turn 4 by December 1st. Classes are full day and are held Monday through Thursday at Ross Park Elementary. This program is FREE to those who qualify, or may include a fee for those over income.



**1 Sign Up**  
Register for FREE preschool by calling (231) 865-2497

**2 Get Ready**  
The following documents are needed to complete your child's application:

- ★ Birth Certificate
- ★ Proof of Income
- ★ Shot Record
- ★ Proof of Residency
- ★ Medical Insurance Card

# Happy New Year!

from



## LAKESHORE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

**JOIN LFCU TODAY!**

Credit Union membership is available to anyone that lives, works, worships or attends school in Muskegon County. Family members may join as well! Once you join LFCU, your membership remains eligible for life. Our policy is, "Once a Member, Always a Member!"

We are proud to serve our local community but also provide our members with Shared Branch and Xtend Shared Branching. This allows our members to make transactions across the nation!

**Good Financial Habits Start Young!**  
LFCU offers free accounts for all Muskegon County Kids.

### Safari Kids Program (up to 12 years old)

As a young member of Lakeshore Federal Credit Union, you can look forward to the following activities and benefits:

- LFCU will match your \$5 account opening deposit
- Earn a Safari Buck for future deposits of \$5.00 or more into your account
  - \*Collect 5 Safari Bucks to pick a prize from our treasure chest
- For your Birthday you will receive a letter with instructions to stop in for a Birthday Surprise and see your name on our Birthday Board
- Bring in an award or report card and we will deposit \$5.00 in your account
  - \*Allowed one time per year.
- You will be eligible to enter contests, drawings, etc. for fun prizes throughout the year

### Tek Teen Program (13-17 years old):

As a teen member of Lakeshore Federal Credit Union, you can look forward to the following activities and benefits:

- LFCU will match your \$5 account opening deposit
- Earn punches on your LFCU punch card for every deposit of \$10 or more. Earn a Free Movie pass after 10 punches
  - \* Limit 2 movie passes per calendar year
- Bring in an award from school (scholastic or athletic) and LFCU will deposit \$5.00\* into your account.
  - \*Limited to one award/deposit per year
- For your Birthday you will receive a letter with instructions to stop in to choose a \$10 Gift Card
- We celebrate our graduates! Bring in your diploma and we will deposit \$10.00 in your account
- You will be eligible to enter contests, drawings etc. for chance to win fun prizes throughout the year

CONTACT INFO:

## LAKESHORE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

2182 Lakeshore Dr. | Muskegon, MI 49441

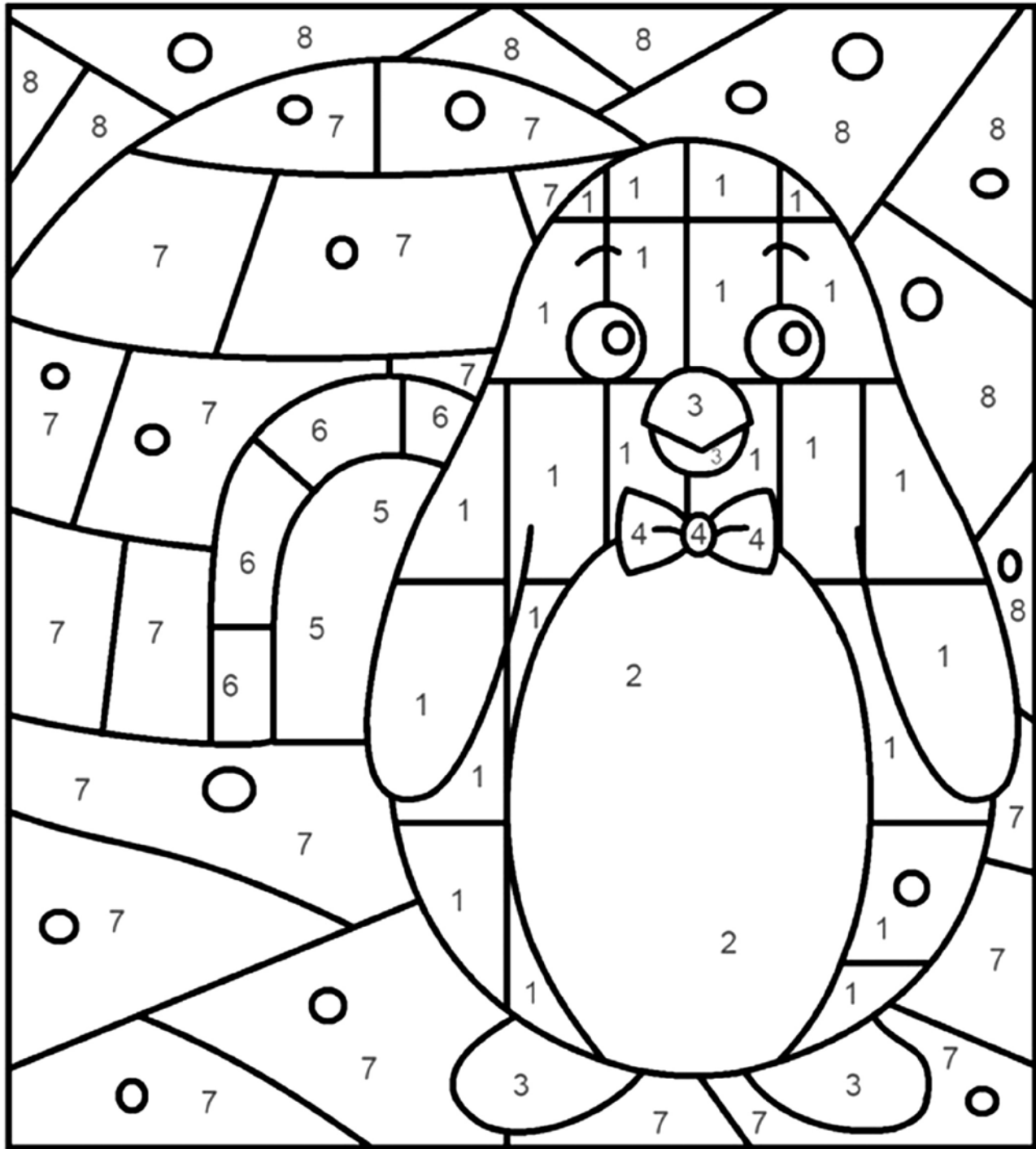
Ph: 231-755-1202

[www.lakeshorefcu.com](http://www.lakeshorefcu.com)

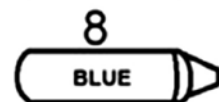
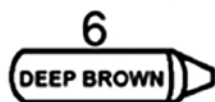
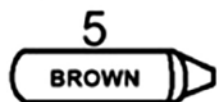
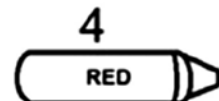
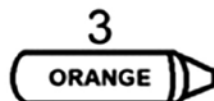
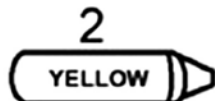
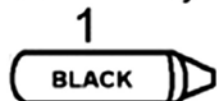


# Future Sailors Activity

## COLOR BY NUMBER PENGUIN



### Color Key



**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Inspiring excellence, building character, and impacting the future through academics, arts, and athletics....Mona Shores!*

**\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

**IS SCHOOL CLOSED TODAY? --- WINTER WEATHER ALERTS!**

During this time of year we're more likely to experience school closings/delays.



• **DELAYS** postpone start time by two (2) hours and therefore, cancel **morning** ECSE, Tuition Preschool, and Head Start classes. With delayed start, childcare latchkey sites open at regular times in their regular locations.

• **CLOSINGS** typically cancel all school activities for the day; including Tuition Preschool, Head Start, GSRP and latchkey program sites. With a school closing, the Childcare Center at Ross Park Elementary is open during regular hours for students currently enrolled in childcare/latchkey from **any** building. Contact your school building for information regarding evening activities.

To quickly notify families, Mona Shores utilizes the District Notification System. Parents and staff will be contacted via telephone/email/opt-in text with a message for school closings or delays. The information is also available on our Facebook page, radio, TV, or our district website at [www.monashores.net](http://www.monashores.net).

**BUILDING PHONE NUMBERS**

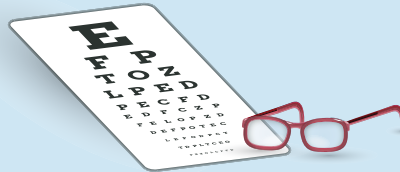
CENTRAL OFFICE .....	(231) 780-4751
CAMPBELL ELEMENTARY .....	(231) 755-2550
CHILD CARE OFFICE .....	(231) 780-6720
CHURCHILL ELEMENTARY .....	(231) 798-1276
COMMUNITY SERVICES.....	(231) 780-4748
LINCOLN PARK ELEMENTARY.....	(231) 755-1257
PRESCHOOL.....	(231) 780-4748
ROSS PARK ELEMENTARY.....	(231)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

**Have a child entering Kindergarten fall of 2024?**

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



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



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

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



**If you have a child who will turn 5 on or before September 1, 2024, please attend a Kindergarten Roundup!**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024 • 6:00 PM AT EACH ELEMENTARY BUILDING**

<p><b>Campbell Elementary</b> 1355 Greenwich Rd. Muskegon, MI 49441 <b>231-755-2550</b> Secretary: Monica Vorgias vorgiasm@monashores.net</p>	<p><b>Churchill Elementary</b> 961 Porter Rd. Norton Shores, MI 49441 <b>231-798-1276</b> Secretary: Sheryl Vanderlinde vanderls@monashores.net</p>	<p><b>Lincoln Park Elementary</b> 2951 Leon St. Norton Shores, MI 49441 <b>231-755-1257</b> Secretary: Belinda Schouten schouteb@monashores.net</p>	<p><b>Ross Park Elementary</b> 121 Randall Rd. Norton Shores, MI 49441 <b>231-798-1773</b> Secretary: Pam Matthews matthewp@monashores.net</p>
---	---	---	--