

MUSKEGON

# MIRROR

THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FOR MUSKEGON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISSUE 61 • JANUARY 2024

NEW YEAR    
NEW HORIZONS



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## HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



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

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

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## WELCOME NEW STAFF

Karen Abraham.....	Curriculum Coordinator.....	Marquette
James Alexander.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Nathan Bair.....	Teacher.....	High School
Rebecca Baker-Bush.....	Curriculum Coordinator.....	Bunker
Katie Bertels.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Patrice Blake.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Oakview
Marisa Brady-Doane.....	Interventionist.....	Oakview
Amanda Breen.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Laurie Brough.....	Teacher.....	High School
Mary Cook.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Marquette
Lindsey Crockford.....	Assistant Principal.....	High School
William Deback.....	Teacher.....	High School
Elizabeth Dennie.....	Private School Tutor.....	Westshore Christian Academy
Krista Downs.....	Instructional Coach.....	Middle School
Bridget Ehlich.....	PBIS Coach.....	Muskegon Christian School
Kimberly Fisher.....	Interventionist.....	Middle School
Debra Foster.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Marquette
Tige Gay.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Bunker
Amanda Hiler.....	Teacher.....	High School
Doris Hines.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Marquette
Jadin Isola.....	Paraprofessional.....	Bunker
Rena Johnson.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Marquette
Beth Knop.....	Teacher.....	High School
Audrey Meader.....	Paraprofessional.....	Marquette
Ciara Nash Mcgee.....	Secretary.....	High School
Cole Nyboer.....	Teacher.....	High School
Caitlin Ohst.....	Teacher.....	Bunker
Rebecca Osorio.....	Social Worker.....	High School
Karyn Pagkanlungan.....	Outdoor Education Coach.....	Muskegon Christian School
Van Parker.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Jefferson Parsons.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Kelli Postema.....	Assistant Principal.....	High School
Suzanne Price.....	Teacher.....	Marquette School
Elizabeth Priddy.....	Teacher.....	Bunker
Regina Richardson.....	Secretary.....	Bunker
Veda Rooks.....	Speech Language Pathologist.....	Marquette
John Smith.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Kayleigh Spaniola.....	Paraeducator.....	Bunker
Cassandra Stebelton.....	Teacher.....	Marquette
Ja-Miyah Thomas.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Marquette
Tiffany Tornes.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Oakview
Paul Torres.....	Paraeducator.....	Oakview

## EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS



**EDUStaff**  
www.edustaff.org

**Dean Transportation**  
www.deantransportation.com

**Enviro-Clean Services**  
www.enviro-clean.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](http://www.edustaff.org)

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

- \$125 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)

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MUSKEGON COUNTY



### WELCOME HOME SCHOLARSHIP

The Welcome Home Scholarship will award college graduates or returning professionals if they agree to move to and work within Muskegon County. Awards will be a maximum of \$15,000 and can be used for student loan repayment, down payment on a home, support continuing education, assist with moving expenses, or other expenses related to making Muskegon County home.

Educators, Ancillary Educational Staff, & Early Childhood Providers moving to Muskegon County can earn up to \$15,000.

Visit the Community Foundation for Muskegon County website for details!

Source: <https://muskegonfoundation.org/scholarships/welcome-home-scholarship/>

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

**Laurie Davis**  
Instructional Coach  
Middle School  
**30.5 years**



**Julie Hansen**  
Counselor  
Middle School  
**19.5 years**



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

## HAPPY NEW YEAR AND A BIG RED HELLO TO 2024!

It is at this time of the year that I love to reflect on the last year, 2023. The most recent and lasting impression for our district is our Big Reds winning the 2023 Division 2 State Championship in football. What a tremendous season and experience for our district and an enormous victory for our team and coaches! I was so thrilled to be on the field for every playoff game and personally witness the grit, determination, heart, and talent each of these young men bring to our proud district. This is a memory that will last forever. My first state championship of my entire life as a student or educator, plus as a proud father.

We also have seen tremendous work from our teachers, administrators, paraeducators, food service workers, volunteers, grandmas, auxiliary services, bus drivers, maintenance and custodial staff. We have made great strides forward in making our vision come true through the generosity of our community and the 2020 Bond. The Charles Hackley Middle School is quickly coming together, and the new exterior is nothing less than awe-inspiring to see. I cannot wait to open tours and special visits to our students, staff, and community after springtime. Other projects are also wrapping up while we hit a higher gear of accomplishment in the newer elementary projects and Poole Administration Building. Our students are loving the new facilities at MHS and Bunker, and I can see a new level of pride in our schools. Our community deserves to be proud because not every community is so supportive and generous to their schools as our Muskegon community is to us.

So, what does 2024 hold in store for all of us? Well, we will finish three school buildings including the new middle school. We will see our Two Way Immersion Program gain their own building to grow and thrive. Our early childhood programs will leave Glenside School and return to their local elementary schools, fulfilling yet another request of our community. Our MHS campus will see a larger parking lot and the removal of some structures. Our band, orchestra, and fine arts are predicting a growth spurt and reaching out to our alumni to join the various booster groups. We need all of your help by giving your time, not necessarily opening your bank accounts. Basketball, wrestling, and competitive cheer are in full swing and making us proud. Meanwhile, graduation is quickly coming for our tremendous senior class.

The support of our community, families, businesses, and everyone in between is a vital component for all of the great things happening in Muskegon Public Schools. Once again this May we will have a ballot question to renew our NON-homesteaded property taxes for the next ten years. This would continue our funding from non-homesteaded properties at the current rate of 18 mils, NO TAX INCREASE! These funds aid us in funding to continue to innovate our class offerings, support our clubs and extracurricular activities, continue to pay our staff at wages they need and that keeps bringing the brightest and best to our district. Without this funding, tough choices would need to be made that would cut deep into the heart of our educational experience for children. So please remember to get out there and vote in May!

**Wishing you the absolute best new year and  
working to make our schools better serve all of you.**



**Happy New Year, Big Red Nation!**

Educationally Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt T. Cortez".

Matthew T. Cortez

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Board of Education 2024 Meeting Schedule Tuesday's at 7pm

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



Meetings are held at  
Poole 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

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# BOARD PRESIDENT



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

Greetings Muskegon and  
Big Red Nation,

**HAPPY**  
**2024**  
**NEW YEAR!**

I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season. While the 23-24 school year is a time of transition with all the construction projects underway, the school year is off to a tremendous start. It is great to see students learning and thriving in their current buildings.

I am the product of, and long time proponent of public schools. What we as a community provide through public schools and put into our young people shapes both their future and ours. Teachers and school staff have helped, supported, taught, and guided every single one of us as we've grown and learned. I believe Muskegon Public Schools is truly the heart of our community. It has been amazing to see the support our students receive from the community. Alumni are leaning in to support students and staff. Volunteers are working with students at all of our buildings. Community is showing up for concerts, theater productions, activities, and sporting events. So many of us traveled to Detroit to support the football team during their state championship win at Ford Field. We also have many local business partners supporting programs and students.

**Thank YOU for all your support of  
our students and our schools.**

If you haven't recently, please take a drive by Laketon and Peck Street to see the new Charles Hackley Middle School campus. While it looks nearly complete from the outside, there is still a lot of construction, finish work, and equipment placement going on inside. The building will open to our middle school students with the start of school Fall 2024. We are planning an Open House this spring for the community to tour the building and celebrate with us. Look for details on the Open House on school website, social media, traditional media, and reader board at Charles Hackley Middle School on Laketon. I look forward to seeing you there.

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

## Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment - *Oh My!*

Student learning is our priority at MPS. Students learn when teachers have the tools, the training and the student data to instruct students effectively, every day. Therefore, the alignment of curriculum, instruction and assessment is an essential key to student success.

Consider these three essential elements as a three-legged stool. When all are working properly, they can hold almost any weight. When one or two of the legs fails, the entire stool will fail. It is critical to pay attention to all three aspects to ensure the weight of student success is possible for every student.

**Curriculum** is the written and understood set of outcomes for learning. This is typically a school subject or course within a semester or school year. The curriculum includes the knowledge and skills the student is expected to demonstrate and acquire.

**Instruction** is the activity that actually happens in the classroom (or at home, or the community or the college classroom or the workplace.) Instruction includes all of the stakeholders that work together with the student and help the student acquire the expected knowledge and skills.

**Assessment** is the formal process that the teacher takes to determine how the student is progressing toward the learning outcomes or the process the teacher takes to determine how the student met the outcomes at the end of the learning process. Assessment can be informal, which may or may not be graded, with the purpose of feedback for learning continuation. Assessment can also be formal with grades for the purposes of a report card or transcript.

The distinction between *Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment* is important to note for parents and community members because these are often the unseen or "unshiny" parts of learning. While the new windows, new computers or new football fields are beautiful, new curriculum, training for updated instructional techniques and assessment programming are also a top priority at MPS for student learning.

### Did you know...CURRICULUM MATTERS?

- **A Good Curriculum Plays an Important Role in Shaping and Reflecting Culture.** Children need to see themselves in books, articles, story problems, careers, etc. When they do not see others who look like them in the curriculum, they do not believe they can be ANYTHING they want to be.
- **A Good Curriculum Benefits Students by Establishing Internal Consistency.** Whether a student is in Mr. Smith's classroom or Mrs. Parker's classroom, the classrooms are held to the same standards and the same learning outcomes. This consistency is critical for students to be prepared for the next level of learning. Good curriculum and accountability enable this standard of learning.
- **A Good Curriculum Creates Measurable Benchmarks and Learning Outcomes.** Without measurable learning outcomes, the learning system cannot function properly.
- **A Good Curriculum Encourages Collaboration.** In today's world, one must learn to work with others. The ability to talk with others, problem solve together, respectfully disagree and create together is the way of the future.



Our top priority is student learning for every child. To accomplish this, **Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment** are the keys to our students' success. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jennifer Hammond, Executive Director of Instruction at [jhammond@mpsk12.net](mailto:jhammond@mpsk12.net).

References: Burch, Michael. (2012). *Aligning Curriculum Instruction, and Assessment* • Fitchburg State University. 6 Reasons Why Curriculum Matters.



### MUSKEGON MIRROR

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**Alecia Hoppa**  
MTSS Coordinator

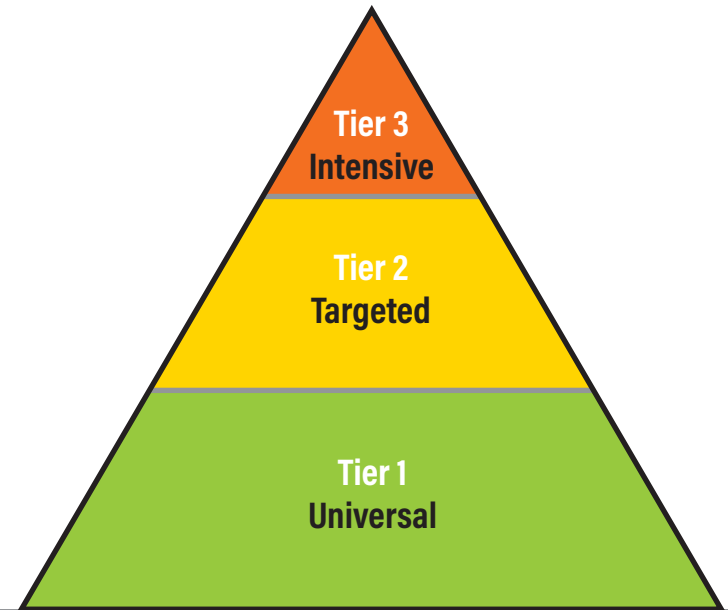
## Supporting ALL Students using a Multi-tiered System of Support

*By Alecia Hoppa, MTSS Coordinator*

A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is an educational framework that provides a comprehensive and systematic approach to addressing the diverse needs of students in schools. It is often used to support academic and non-academic (behavior, social emotional, attendance) success, and it can be applied at various levels, including for individual students, classrooms, and

entire schools. This comprehensive approach aims to provide timely and tailored interventions to ensure every student has the opportunity to be successful.

When addressing the diverse needs of students, supports are categorized into different tiers, forming the 'multi-tiered' aspect of the MTSS framework. Tier 1, known as Universal Support, ensures the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based instruction to all students. MPS utilizes an evidence-based curriculum and instructional strategies. Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) is used school-wide, and social/emotional learning is taught to all students. Tier 2 targets students who need additional assistance through small group interventions and targeted strategies, this often happens in the classroom. The most intensive level of support is found in Tier 3, reserved for students facing significant challenges. Support at this level is more individualized and based on specific skills needed by each student. Additionally, MPS students may receive tier 3 support from an interventionist or be invited to attend extended day services provided by the teaching staff.



**ACADEMICS    BEHAVIOR    ATTENDANCE    SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING**

A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is an educational framework that provides a comprehensive and systematic approach to addressing the diverse needs of students in schools. It is often used to support academic and non-academic (behavior, social emotional, attendance) success, and it can be applied at various levels, including for individual students, classrooms, and entire schools. This comprehensive approach aims to provide timely and tailored interventions to ensure every student has the opportunity to be successful.

This year MPS has hired a district MTSS coordinator to guide and support this work across the district. To guide this initiative, three key principles, integral to the success of MTSS are relied upon:

- 1) identify and implement strategies and interventions that are based on research and have proven effectiveness.
- 2) regularly collect and analyze data to identify students' needs in order to adjust instruction and interventions accordingly.
- 3) encourage collaboration among educators, administrators, and support staff to ensure a cohesive and coordinated approach to student support.

The goal of MPS, as it pertains to MTSS, is to ensure that all students receive the support they need to excel by employing a comprehensive and proactive approach to academics, behavior, social emotional learning and attendance.. This involves focusing on effective strategies and interventions, fostering collaboration, and utilizing data-driven decision-making to support improved educational outcomes for all students.

## Fun While Learning - Passion Professional Development (PD) for MPS Staff

We believe and invest in teacher professional development learning at Muskegon Public Schools. On our Early Release Wednesdays, teachers spend time in the afternoons collaborating with peers and training on various topics to enhance student learning.

There are three days during the 2023-2024 school year when teachers spend a full day together in professional development and the students do not have school. For this school year, those days are 8/23/23, 11/7/23 and 2/21/24.

We have dynamic teachers at MPS who have interests outside the classroom. At our 11/7/23 professional development, staff worked with their teams and subject areas for training for five hours of the day, and the last sixth hour of the day was open for teachers to lead a session where they shared their hobbies/passions with other staff and taught them something new. Nineteen teachers stepped up to lead these "Passion PD" sessions allowing for a great variety of topics for staff to choose from in their last hour of their full day of district learning.

Offerings in this "Passion PD" hour included fitness-related courses such as Cardio Drumming and Teacher Survivor Challenge (modeled after the Survivor reality TV show.) Staff could also choose to learn how to play Bridge, gain tips for competing in a jigsaw puzzle challenge, and work with textiles as teachers taught them how to crochet, knit and make yarn. Our newly outfitted E-Sports lab was at capacity with people experiencing this exciting option for students, and there were no empty seats in our Mac Lab with staff learning how to take great iPhone photos.

One of our high school teachers wrote a book and presented on that, another teacher led a session on how to polish Petoskey stones, and another teacher and her daughter demonstrated how

to use woven wraps to carry a small child. Other sessions were offered on service dog handling, how to forage in the forest for food, water color sampling, running, cupcake decorating, Zentangle meditative drawing and more.

Enjoy these photos of our teachers and staff having fun while learning something new, and sharing about their passions outside of the classroom.



# CURRICULUM

## Winter 2024 Literacy Update

Muskegon Public Schools has been busy piloting new language arts programs this fall and implementing systemic changes in the elementary buildings to close instructional gaps in literacy. Both of the pilot programs for first through fifth grades are “knowledge-building” curricula which build students’ background knowledge through reading high-interest text and vocabulary instruction. This knowledge-building enhances their skills across other content areas including math, science, and social studies.

Twenty teachers piloted either the Bookworms or EL Education program. Pilot teachers experienced four days of training in August and then follow-up training from OpenUp Resources with teachers experienced in using the programs. Our teachers also participated in professional development through a learning lab in local classrooms that have the program well-established. Both pilot programs have built in intervention time where teachers can target specific skills that students need either remediation in or extension. Comments from both teachers and students regarding the interest of the texts, the level of reading, and level of engagement are very positive for both programs. Decision making will begin after our January reading benchmark data is collected. A recommendation to the board will be made in early spring to ensure adequate time for training and materials purchasing so students can begin learning using the new resource in the fall of 2024.

In addition to the two reading pilot programs, changes have been made to interventions at the elementary level. Each elementary building now has two intervention blocks built into the daily schedule to provide remediation or extension for students in both reading and math. This provides consistent times for intervention or IEP services and minimizes student pull-outs during core instruction. The intervention that is currently being used by classroom teachers in first through fifth grade to meet student skill needs in phonics was designed by Sharon Walpole, a leading reading researcher. The intervention takes 15 minutes and involves direct instruction on specific phonics skills. Student progress is monitored frequently in order to close the gap in reading.

With the addition of a new knowledge-building curriculum, established daily interventions, and progress monitoring, we are expecting great gains in our elementary students in reading, writing, and background knowledge.



# TOP MYTHS SURROUNDING HOMELESSNESS

**Myth # 1:** Individuals experiencing homelessness are lazy and simply need employment

**Fact:** Everything is more difficult when homeless. Imagine struggling to be interview ready with wrinkled clothes out of a bag, no shower, creating a resume without a computer, constant worry and inconsistent sleep. Despite this many people experiencing homelessness are employed. Unfortunately, the jobs they hold are often low paying or part time which does not allow them to cover the rising cost of housing. Bad credit scores and rental history often disqualify people for housing as well.

**Myth #2:** Homelessness is primarily visible on the streets

**Fact:** Only 1 out of 10 people experiencing homelessness are unsheltered. Almost 80% of people choose to stay with a friend or relative to avoid shelters or sleeping on the street. Many shelters have limitations and requirements which can make shelter stays complicated or separate families. Those who stay with friends are often in overcrowded and strenuous situations. This is why McKinney Vento counts students who are doubled up due to economic hardships, evictions, etc.

**Myth #3:** Assistance is readily available for those experiencing homelessness

**Fact:** Most local services for the unhoused focus on emergency services to meet immediate needs for a brief period. These services are not equipped to provide permanent housing solutions. It is difficult to find affordable housing in Muskegon. Even those with a housing choice voucher from HUD often wait several months to find housing. Housing First programs in Muskegon are not able to meet local demand.

**Myth #4:** “It can’t happen to me”

**Fact:** It is a common misconception that “poor choices” cause homelessness when in reality many factors result in homelessness. Fires, floods, long term illness, addiction, death, medical expenses, natural disasters, job loss, and domestic violence to name a few; even having only one wage earner in the household can put you at risk of experiencing homelessness. If any of the situations could potentially apply to you it is important to recognize it could happen to you too.





## K-12 MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT



### WHY PLAY GAMES?

Who doesn't love to play games? What better way to become fluent in math than through game playing. People of all ages love to play games that are fun and motivating. Muskegon Public school elementary students have the opportunity to play games to master foundational math skills such as counting sequences, making tens, comparing numbers, adding to 10, adding to 20, finding factors, patterns and other important mathematical concepts. Further, they afford opportunities for students to deepen their mathematical understanding and reasoning. These games can easily be played at home as very few materials are needed. Your student's teacher can help you create game supplies if needed. These games are also available to all students on their digital platform of the EveryDay math curriculum. Ask your student all about game playing in the classroom and on their devices. Have fun and support learning!



### Additional Recommended Games to purchase:

- Bananagrams Countaloupe: Slice and Dice STEM Game Age 7+
- Melon Rind Clumsy Thief Money Game - Adding to 100 Math Game Ages 8 +
- Melon Rind Clumsy Thief Money Game - Adding to 100 Math Game Ages 8+
- Melon Rind Clumsy Thief Junior Game - Adding to 10 Card Game Ages 5+
- Math for Love Tiny Polka Dot - 16 games for all ages
- Hammond toys Rat A Tat Cat Card Gam



### BUILDING THINKING CLASSROOMS

Muskegon Public Schools teachers K-12 are working intentionally to provide opportunities for students to think and make meaning of their understanding of mathematical concepts. Members of the District Mathematics Leadership team are studying the book Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics Grades K-12 written by Peter Liljedahl. The 20 members of the team gather monthly to study several of the 14 Teaching Practices For Enhancing Learning that are presented in Liljedahl's book. These practices are studied while the participants engage in rich mathematical tasks. These tasks allow teachers to analyze practices to take back to their classrooms to use with their students. The ultimate goal is for students to communicate their understanding of math so they can be successful in applying mathematical concepts and make connections as they move through the K-12 curriculum. One of the strategies that math staff are using to increase student engagement is to have students work in teams at white boards posted around the room to find and record solutions to assigned tasks. This strategy can be used in an elementary, middle or high school classroom. Students are engaged and excited to learn!

# CURRICULUM

## 2024 Winter Science Update

Welcome to 2024! Hard to believe our school year here at MPS is already halfway over. As we begin a new year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the first half of our school year.



W.G. Jackson

This fall, three 4th and 5th grade classrooms at Bunker Elementary were able to take a field trip aboard the W.G. Jackson research vessel and work with scientists from Grand Valley State University to study the water quality on Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan. They tested the water and studied the clearness (turbidity) of the water, the PH levels, plankton levels and the water's conductivity. They learned some Muskegon Lake history and about the lake's invasive species. The kids loved the experience. The rest of the 4th and 5th grade classes at Bunker will experience the same trip in the spring. Our long-term plan is to provide experiences like this to Oakview and Marquette students in the future. We are grateful to Grand Valley State University for hosting these learning experiences and also for funding our field trip transportation.

The Muskegon Middle School science department is wrapping up a pilot curriculum called Cereal City Science. If this sounds familiar, it's because that is the same company that provides our elementary science curriculum. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students were able to complete a physical science unit and experience many hands-on activities with this pilot curriculum.

On a non-science sidenote, MPS has been blessed with a District Service Dog named Scout. Scout was donated to MPS by Priority Health and trained by Canines for Change. He passed his certification test in October and has been in every building multiple times helping our students feel at peace and sharing love and joy. You may have heard Scout's name from your scholar so I wanted to introduce him here. He's done amazing work with our students!

With winter upon us, the time we spend indoors often increases. If there is a need to fill some of that time, please consider some of the available resources included below to help your MPS student stay educated on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

- <https://sciencebuddies.org>
- <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/science/>
- <https://mysteryscience.com/>



Scout

**You can create a mini volcano at home with your child by following the directions below:**

### Materials:

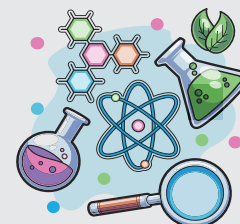
- An adult helper
- Water
- Plastic cup
- 3-4 tablespoons of baking soda (or more!)
- 1 teaspoon of dish soap
- Food coloring (or washable paint if you want to avoid staining)
- 1 cup (8 oz.) of vinegar

### Procedure:

1. Combine your base ingredients by putting the water inside of the plastic cup and filling it about 2/3 full.
2. Add the baking soda, dish soap, and a little bit of food coloring or washable paint. Using washable paint instead of food coloring will help you avoid staining.
3. Stir the ingredients together.
4. Pour in the vinegar until it starts foaming and pouring out of the cup.
5. Repeat as necessary with more colors. Your kids will definitely be asking for more.

### What's Happening in the Mini Volcano Activity:

The "lava" bubbles that erupt are filled with carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a gas that forms when an acid (the vinegar) reacts with a base (the baking soda.)



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

Joshua Presson • [jpresson@mpsk12.net](mailto:jpresson@mpsk12.net)

## MPS SECOND GRADERS EXPLORE THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY



Future Harley riders



Hackley Park

Michigan's state motto is, *"If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you."*

And second grade students and teachers have done just that within their local community. Through a combination of field trips built into the second grade social studies curriculum, MPS's second grade scholars secure a solid understanding of the historical, geographic, and economic foundations of Muskegon.

Students were able to engage in their community through visits to local businesses as they studied economic concepts of production and profit. A HUGE shout out goes to the folks at Dockside Donuts, Trophy House, and Hot Rod Harley Davidson for their time and hospitality.

As the perspective in social studies class shifted from economics to geography, the focus of the second field trip for the adventurous second graders was understanding both physical and human characteristics of Muskegon. What better way to build a solid understanding than by visiting Hackley Park, Heritage Landing, and Muskegon Lake Channel?

As our winter weather settles in, our second graders are excited to engage in hands-on historical investigations in their school buildings. As they learn about primary and secondary source documents, our MPS Second Grade Scholars will be thinking like historians in no time at all.



Heritage Landing



Time to make the donuts



Visiting TH brands



## New Middle School

This Project is 83% Complete

### WORK IN PROGRESS

#### This Month

- Continued sitework and paving
- Finished Turf Field
- Poured main entryway concrete and seat walls
- Painting/ceilings/finishes ongoing
- Continued overhead mechanical and electrical work



Site Concrete



South Elevation Exterior

#### Next Month

- Continue sitework and concrete
- Start wood gym floor and gym equipment install
- Continue finishes
- Elevator install
- Concrete final polishing

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

#### Safety

This month's Safety Goal focuses on Winter Jobsite Prep. With the cold months approaching quickly, these are a few things we do to stay safe:

- With gas fired temporary heaters it is important to keep a carbon monoxide and fire extinguisher close to the unit.
- We make sure the sites are cleaned up so materials don't go missing, get damaged, or become a hazard with snowfall.
- We keep main walkways salted and cleared to prevent ice buildup.



1st Floor Classroom Wing Ceiling

#### Schedule

- The project is scheduled to finish January of 2023.

#### Other Progress

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

## Marquette

This Project is 20% Complete

### WORK IN PROGRESS

#### This Month

- Framing Throughout
- Continuing Electrical and Plumbing Rough In
- Boilers Set and Pipe Prep
- Flooring Demo



Boiler Work



Classroom Polishing

#### Next Month

- Continued Electrical/ Mechanical Rough In
- Classroom Floor Polishing
- Demolition

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

#### Safety

This month's Safety Goal focuses on Winter Jobsite Prep. With the cold months approaching quickly, these are a few things we do to stay safe:

- With gas fired temporary heaters it is important to keep a carbon monoxide and fire extinguisher close to the unit.
- We make sure the sites are cleaned up so materials don't go missing, get damaged, or become a hazard with snowfall.
- We keep main walkways salted and cleared to prevent ice buildup.



Hallway Floor Demo

#### Schedule

- The project is scheduled to finish in August of 2024

#### Other Progress

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

## Oakview

This Project is 40% Complete

### WORK IN PROGRESS

#### This Month

- Interior Framing
- Concrete Polishing
- Roofing Work
- Boiler Piping



Boiler Piping



Polishing Classrooms

#### Next Month

- Painting Classrooms
- Ceiling Install
- Concrete Polishing

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

#### Safety

This month's Safety Goal focuses on Winter Jobsite Prep. With the cold months approaching quickly, these are a few things we do to stay safe:

- With gas fired temporary heaters it is important to keep a carbon monoxide and fire extinguisher close to the unit.
- We make sure the sites are cleaned up so materials don't go missing, get damaged, or become a hazard with snowfall.
- We keep main walkways salted and cleared to prevent ice buildup.



Interior Framing & Wall Prep

#### Schedule

- The project is scheduled to finish in June of 2024

#### Other Progress

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

## Muskegon Public Schools Office of Specialized Instruction is proud to have a dedicated cohort of Speech and Language Pathologists to serve and support our students.

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Speech Pathologists work to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults. Muskegon Public Schools employs eight hard working professionals: Matthew Beld, Amy Donaldson, Leah Gantjos, Jordan Grinnell, Lindsay Jones, Cindy Kauffman, Veda Rooks, and Lisa VanderWeit.

As speech therapists, "it is our duty and our privilege to help give a voice to those without one. One of the most rewarding experiences of our job is seeing students becoming more clear and confident in their communication as they work with us." Their belief is that each and every student, regardless of abilities, should have equal access to communication - everyone has something to say and deserves to be heard! According to Jordan Grinnell, "to watch a student become confident in their own voice is absolutely priceless. Seeing that same student make progress with their communication throughout the years is, indubitably, one of the most fulfilling aspects of this job." From articulation to Augmentative and Alternative Communication, the scope of practice is incredibly broad for this profession...it sure keeps things interesting! There is never a dull day working as an SLP at MPS, which is what brings them coming back year after year. She notes that, "When your students come up and ask, "When can I come to speech again?," you know you're doing something right!"

Matt Beld notes that, "On any given day we may be helping students develop listening comprehension skills, refine their sounds, or expand their vocabulary, so our work always keeps us on our toes. One of the most bittersweet things about our job is watching our students grow in their skills to the point that they graduate from our services. They become a part of our lives, and while we are incredibly proud to see them move on, we miss them dearly once they have. We can't imagine going to work every day and doing anything other than this job!"



The Muskegon Public School Speech and Language professionals contribute to the inclusion of individuals with impairments in our educational spaces by supporting students with communication, language, and articulation skills for meaningful and equitable access!



**Paul Kurdziel**  
Muskegon Community  
Education Center

We are so grateful to be recognized  
by one of our partners!



Each year, West Michigan Works recognizes an organization for its partnership, collaboration, and contributions to workforce development. Talent solutions managers and frontline staff are invited to nominate outstanding partners in our community. The West Michigan Works select the awardees

by the Workforce Development Board and are recognized at the annual board meeting on December 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Frederik Meijer Gardens.

This year, Muskegon Community Education Center (MCEC), a part of Muskegon Public Schools, has been selected as the 2023 West Michigan Works! Partner of the Year! MCEC was nominated for its demonstrated commitment to advancing workforce development in the Greater Muskegon community through career exploration and work experience programming.

MCEC has worked with WMW for the last three years to build its (Jobs for Michigan Graduates) JMG programs through Ascend and Career Launch programs. JMG aims to focus on soft skills for all students upon high school graduation; students from MCEC will be eligible for Out of School Youth Resources and Training in Workforce Development after graduation.

The partnership with West Michigan Works has increased the skills, confidence, and abilities of the MCEC students to assist students after graduation to seek placement in local job high-demand occupations within the West Michigan region.

Career Coaches, Ms. Trina and Ms. Heather, work with the MCEC Fam to develop the skills and abilities to enter the workforce and find careers and live into their purposes! We are grateful for them!

"With the support of West Michigan Works,  
MCEC has become the place  
where the center of a child's  
education is a collaborating  
community."



**Happy New Year!**

Mr. Paul Kurdziel at 231-215-9534,  
on Facebook (search Paul Kurdziel), or  
pkurdzie@mpsk12.net.



**Brenda Kota**  
Central Registrar &  
Student Services Support

## MPS Enrollment

All MPS families enroll their student(s) online. Simply go to our website, [www.muskegonpublicschools.org](http://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:

- Proof 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](mailto:bkota@mpsk12.net)





## REZONING OF THE FORMER NELSON SCHOOL

### WHAT IS REZONING?

Zoning is an essential act of city planning. It helps determine the function of a property in specific locations to provide a coordinated, well-planned city. Property may be zoned for commercial or industrial use or residential use. Sometimes zoning allows for a mixture of land uses like an apartment building with a retail store on the ground floor. When a city government or a property owner wishes to change the types of land uses allowed at a property, they need to go through the process of rezoning.

The City of Muskegon rezoning process includes review by the Planning Commission and City Commission at public meetings. Both meetings offer opportunities for input from the general public during a public hearing. Based on the information provided in the request, the Planning Commission makes a recommendation to either approve or deny the rezoning request to the City Commission, and the City Commission makes the final approval or denial.

General Capital, an affordable housing developer, requested that the former Nelson School building and surrounding property be rezoned to allow for multiple housing units so that they can redevelop the school into an apartment building. The City of Muskegon Planning Commission and the City Commission have both approved the rezoning request. The rezoning approval allows for the proposed 52-unit affordable apartment project to move forward.

**Nelson School Previous Zoning:** Form-Based Code, Urban Residential (FBC-UR)

**Nelson School Updated Zoning:** Form-Based Code, Neighborhood Core (FBC-NC)

The developer is proposing a 52-unit workforce housing development that offers apartments to people earning between that will be a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) for workforce housing.

As of November, the City Planning Department is still awaiting their site plan to review. The Planning Department doesn't anticipate any issues with approving their building request as they are proposing to keep the exterior of the building the same. This development is helping to reach the goal outlined in the 2022 Housing Needs Assessment which outlines that the city needs an additional 3,000 housing units, at all price levels, over the next five years to keep up with demand.

According to Muskegon Public Schools (MPS) and the developer, the soccer fields will remain in use by MPS and the public.

Their Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement was approved by the City Commission on October 24, 2023. The final step is to submit to MSHDA for approval in December and it is a competitive process. It is one of six LIHTC developments the City is pursuing from MSHDA for this round of funding.

If everything goes to plan residents can expect to see construction beginning in 2024 and units ready to move in by 2025. Learn more about the project on General Capital's website: [www.generalcapitalgroup.com](http://www.generalcapitalgroup.com).

### GET CONNECTED, MUSKEGON!



The City of Muskegon is increasing our regular communications with residents. You can sign up to receive email newsletters and view an archive of past newsletters online at [mkgcity.com/communication](http://mkgcity.com/communication) or by scanning the QR code.

Here's a summary of new communication options:

- 1. Connect Muskegon Community Engagement Hub-** An online hub to share, discuss, and collaborate on creating sustainable solutions for the important issues facing our community. View active projects online at [mkgcity.com/connectmuskegon](http://mkgcity.com/connectmuskegon).
- 2. Monthly Email Newsletter-** Ensure you're signed up to receive monthly email newsletters from the City of Muskegon.
- 3. Mailed Print Newsletter-** In October 2023 the city sent out its first mailed newsletter in over a decade. This newsletter went to every address in the City of Muskegon. City residents can expect a print newsletter mailed to them twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring.



Questions about communications? Let us know by emailing [communications@shorelinecity.com](mailto:communications@shorelinecity.com)

CHECKING THAT  
**DOESN'T**  
**HURT**



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

Federally Insured by the NCUA



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](http://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](http://www.fccmuskegon.org)







**CAREER TECH CENTER**  
Future.Focused.



**TEENS, EXPLORE & ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER**  
at the CTC open house Thursday, January 25, 4-7 p.m.  
200 Harvey Street, Muskegon

# Open Daily! Breakfast & Lunch



1971 W. Sherman Blvd.  
cherokeerestaurant.com



211 Seminole Rd.  
toastnjams.com

**HOMETOWN  
HOSPITALITY**



*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**

## FALL OK GREEN ALL-CONFERENCE AND ALL-REGION

The Muskegon High School Athletic Dept. would like to recognize the following Student-Athletes that were named First Team OK Green All-Conference, as well as, the Football players that were named to the All-Region team this Fall. This is a great achievement and we are proud of what all of you have accomplished.

### OK GREEN ALL-CONFERENCE

#### SOCCER

FIRST TEAM ALL OK GREEN  
Michael Williams

HONORABLE MENTION ALL OK GREEN  
Sonny Vance

#### FOOTBALL

FIRST TEAM ALL OK GREEN  
Miguel Botello  
Stanley Cunningham  
M'Khi Guy  
Chris Jones  
Destin Piggee  
Jakob Price  
Adrian Ramos Velasquez  
Adrian Rankin  
Darekeo Speech  
N-Kye Wynn

HONORABLE MENTION ALL OK GREEN  
Brant Brooks II  
Terrance Davis  
Robert Mills  
Da'Carion Taylor

### MHSFCA DIVISION 2 ALL-REGION

#### FOOTBALL

Miguel Botello  
Stanley Cunningham  
M'Khi Guy  
Chris Jones  
Destin Piggee  
Jakob Price  
Adrian Ramos Velasquez  
Darekeo Speech  
Da'Carion Taylor  
N-Kye Wynn



## MHS FALL COLLEGE SIGNEES

The following Student-Athletes have signed letters of intent to attend college on an Athletic Scholarship next Fall. We are extremely proud of and excited for what is in store for these Big Reds as they venture off to various schools around the country.

### BOY'S BASKETBALL

Terrance Davis, Jr. - Lake Superior State University

Terrance has signed to play Basketball at Lake State this upcoming school year. He will be the next in a line of former Big Reds to call Sault Ste. Marie home for four years. TJ will be competing in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) which one of the best Division II conferences in college basketball. He will be entering his final season as a Big Red looking to build on a four year Varsity career that has seen him be a part of 2 District Championships, 1 Regional Championship, and finish as a State Runner Up in 2023.



**SHANE FAIRFIELD**

MUSKEGON HIGH SCHOOL  
MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL  
2023 DIV. 2 STATE CHAMPION

Congratulations to Shane Fairfield of Muskegon Public Schools and Muskegon Big Red Football--the 2023 Detroit Lions High School Football Coach of the Year! Fairfield becomes the Detroit Lions nominee for the prestigious Don Shula NFL HS Football Coach of the Year!

2023

# MUSKEGON BIG REDS!! STATE CHAMPIONS



*Photo courtesy of Tim Reilly (Local Sports Journal)*

**T**he 2023 Muskegon Big Red Football team had an exceptional season this Fall, having emerged as the State Champions. In the state final, they defeated Warren De La Salle 33-21, in a rematch from game two of this season. This season was replete with highlights and more history being made. The State Final win marked the 900th win in Muskegon Big Red Football history, further adding to our program's historic win total. Adrian Ramos-Velasquez, the kicker, broke the school record for most PATs in a career with 177. The Big Reds won their 30th Conference Championship in school history by winning the OK Green with a perfect 7-0 record. They also played, and won, the 500th game played inside the historic Hackley Stadium this year.

The Big Reds won a Division 2 District Championship by beating Mona Shores and a Regional Championship by defeating Saginaw Heritage the following week. This trip to Ford Field is the 10th in the last 12 seasons under Coach Fairfield and his staff. Coach Fairfield now has two state titles as Muskegon Head Coach, with his first coming in 2017. The MHS Athletic Dept. and the Big Red community are immensely proud of this coaching staff and its players for treating all of us to another fantastic season. There is much to be excited about when it comes to MHS Athletics this year and in the years to come. We encourage everyone to come out and support Big Red Athletics and our exceptional student-athletes for the rest of the 2023/2024 school year.

GO MUSKEGON **M** BIG REDS!

# HIGH SCHOOL

## Big Red Community,

I hope this message finds you well. We are thrilled to share some exciting news about Muskegon High School. A selected group of our students has been given a unique opportunity to participate in TE101- Social Foundations of Justice and Equity in Education via a Michigan State University Professor. TE101 provides an immersive learning experience, allowing our students to delve into higher education and learn valuable information about the field of education. We believe this experience will not only enhance their academic skills but also inspire them to explore their passions and potential career paths.



In addition to this academic collaboration, we are proud to announce a partnership with *Thinkist*, a global leader in peer tutoring frameworks. Our high school students, with their experiences in TE101, will have the chance to leverage their knowledge and skills by tutoring middle school students. This initiative aims to create a supportive learning community, fostering academic growth for students across different grade levels.

We are confident that this dual opportunity will not only benefit our high school students but also contribute to the educational development of our middle school students. The exchange of knowledge and mentorship within our school community reflects our commitment to creating a dynamic and collaborative learning environment.

Senior TA'Kaylah Aubrey says, " This is a class that all students need to take; it will show any student how to help others from all backgrounds. It will give the students the skills and tools to educate others from diverse populations and understand where they are coming from."

We are also thrilled to announce the return of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program to Muskegon High School! After an extensive search for instructors and a full year of planning, we are excited to reintroduce this valuable program that fosters leadership, discipline, and teamwork among our students.

The JROTC program provides a unique opportunity for students to develop essential life skills while gaining a deeper understanding of civic responsibility. We believe that this program will contribute significantly to the overall growth and development of our students.

As a parent, if you would like your student to participate, please discuss this exciting news with your child and consider the positive impact that participation in JROTC can have on their high school experience and future endeavors. For more details about



the program, including information on how students can join, contact our instructors.

*William P. De Back • COL(r), SI, JROTC • wdeback@mpsk12.net*

*Nathan Pledger • Sgt First class • npledger@mpsk12.net*

**A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Billie Bruce for her dedication to bringing this program back to MHS.**

If you have any questions or would like more information about these programs, please feel free to reach out to Tim Hoffman at [thoffman@mpsk12.net](mailto:thoffman@mpsk12.net). Thank you for your continued support in shaping the future of our students.

*Warm regards,, Tim Hoffman • Muskegon High School Principal*



**Tim Hoffman**

Muskegon High School  
Principal

## A Glance Into 2024.

As we launch into a new year, there are so many exciting opportunities for our students, staff members, and community stakeholders.

Recognizing students throughout the year is one of many strategies that is used to celebrate the effort and commitment demonstrated by our students on a monthly basis. We also know that our students often balance extra-curricular activities in addition to their committee as a scholar. Our team will showcase our students in the following ways:

- **Honor's Assembly** (January & June),
- **iReady Celebration** (January & May) after the winter and spring Diagnostics,
- **6th Grade Field Trip to the Winter Sports Complex**
- **District-Wide Black History Program** (February/March)
- **March Is Reading Month Celebration** (March)
- **Art Show** (May)
- **8th grade Moving Up Celebration** (June)



**Mrs. LaKisha Loudermill**

Muskegon Middle School Principal



Our **Student Leadership Council**, under the advisement of Mrs. Turner-Terry, offers our students to hold positions of leadership, represent their student body, and coordinate activities for the student body. This winter and spring, our SLC will.....

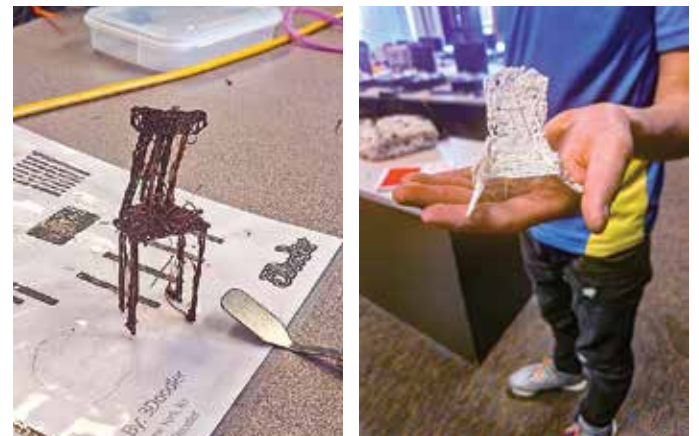
- **Coordinate school wide challenges**
- **Plan Spirit Week Celebrations**
- **Foster Community Service Projects**
- **Assist with the marketing of our annual MMS Relay for Life Walk A Thon**
- **Pennies for Patients**

**Lakeshore Leadership Partnership** with Grand Haven Middle School has taken place for more than 6 years. We have five 8th grade students who represent Muskegon Middle School by visiting GHMS and hosting students from Grand Haven when it is time for them to visit our building. Students are able to make a connection between the two counties and usually discover that they have more in common than not.

Parent Support is essential to the success of our students. We strive to have partnerships with our families as well as provide them with opportunities to have input regarding the programs that we offer. Our Family Engagement Coordinator, Mrs. Sherrona Williams, is working to offer our parents opportunities to be involved in the following ways: attend monthly meetings, take part in volunteering at different events, and providing on policies and protocols. Feel free to join the MMS Parent Squad by contacting Mrs. Williams at (231) 720 - 3033.

Our Muskegon Middle School **Electives Department** offers courses for our middle school students that allow them to show their creativity and talents. Students in these are offered to learn from guest speakers who are current practitioners in their perspective fields.

- Band.....Beginning and Advanced Art Classes
- Choir.....Design Thinking
- Health .....Genius Hour
- Google Apps .....Math Games
- Physical Educaton.....Reading & Math Strategies
- Spanish I, II, and III.....STEM
- The Foods We Eat.....Orchestra
- Physical Education.....Weight Lifting

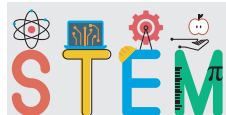


Students use 3D pens to create and design chair prototypes with the Design Thinking Process.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL cont...

The MMS **Music Department** is very intentional in providing our students with the chance to display their talents for a diverse group of audiences. The \*instructors in this department are commissioned with the goal to attract students to get involved in our school music program. There have been many studies conducted about the impact of participating in band, orchestra and choir and here are some key factors that have been identified:

March 12th	Mid-Winter Concert	All Bands
March/April TBD	Solo and Ensemble	
May 14th	Spring Concert	All Bands
May 27	Memorial Parade	Concert Band
May 31st	Michigan Adventure	Concert Band



In **STEM**, our students have been using block coding skills to create interactive folders as well as coding a bluetooth robotic ball to complete a maze that students created. They also have used 3D pens to create and design chair prototypes with the Design Thinking Process.

Our **Athletic Department** will offer our students an opportunity to participate in the following extracurricular activities: ▪ **Girl's Basketball** ▪ **Wrestling** ▪ **Girl's Soccer** ▪ **Track & Field**



**Two Bridges: The Elementary to Middle School and Middle School to High School** transition serves a support for our students and parents to serve as assistance when students are moving from one level to another.

The incoming 6th grade class will participate in transitional events designed to bridge their experiences as an elementary student to the secondary school setting. They will have many opportunities to meet staff members, review the Course Guide, tour our new state of the art Charles Hackley Middle School, and hear from current MMS students on how to navigate Middle School successfully. Events occur starting in the spring and continues in early fall with our Super Start Back to School Orientation.

Our 8th grade students will be afforded similar experiences, but their transition plan will center around their move to our 9th Grade Academy at Muskegon High School. Introductions to staff, academic requirements, and the campus is designed for students to excel academically and socially as a Freshman.

This years 8th Grade Class/future Graduating Class of 2028 will be the last class to complete all three years at Muskegon Middle School. Although it is bittersweet, the move to **Charles Hackley Middle School** will be a historical moment in our district filled with excitement. Our students will have the opportunity to thrive in an brand state of the art learning facility because our community communicated that this was a need. Our Charles Hackly Middle School expands over 133,000 square feet to accommodate over 30 classrooms, 6 science rooms, gymnasium with a walk around indoor track, weight room, Cardio Room, Media Center designed by our middle school students in our Design Thinking class, and more.



## A New Year of Growth and Achievement

As we embark on a new year filled with hope, possibilities, and opportunities for growth, I want to take a moment to reflect on our collective achievements and outline some of the exciting goals we have set for our school.

First, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Your dedication plays a crucial role in creating a positive and nurturing environment for our students to thrive.

As we step into the New Year, we are committed to build upon our successes and reaching new heights together. Here are some of the key goals and initiatives that we will be focusing on:

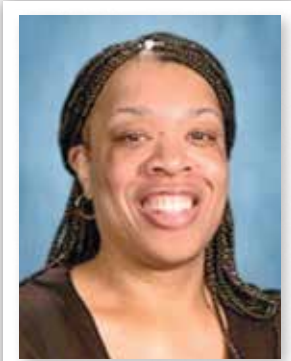
- **Academic Excellence:** Our primary goal is to continue fostering a learning environment that encourages critical thinking and a love for knowledge. We will continue to implement and enhance our curriculum to provide differentiated instruction to meet the diverse needs of our students.
- **Social and Emotional Well-being:** The well-being of our students is of utmost importance. We will be placing a renewed emphasis on social and emotional learning in an effort to support the development of essential life skills, resilience, and positive relationships. Feel free to stop in and see our "Restorative Room" located on the first floor next to the main office.
- **Parental Involvement:** At Bunker, we recognize the important role parents play in a child's education. In the coming months, we will be actively working to strengthen communication and collaboration between home and school. Be on the lookout for parent meetings, events, and initiatives that aim to involve parents more deeply into your child's educational journey.
- **Community Outreach:** Bunker Elementary is not just a place of learning but a community that extends beyond the school walls. We will be working on strengthening our ties with the broader community through service projects and collaborative initiatives that benefit both our students and the community at large.

I am confident that with your continued support, dedication, and the hard work of our exceptional staff, we will achieve these goals and make the upcoming year a memorable and successful one for our students.

I look forward to working collaboratively with all of you to create an enriching and fulfilling experience for our students. Thank you for being an integral part of the Bunker Elementary School family.

*Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and prosperous New Year!*

Warm Regards, Miss Okeelah McBride, Principal | Bunker Elementary School



**Okeelah McBride**  
Bunker and Moon  
Elementary Schools  
Principal



## Student Leadership Service Squad

Bunker Elementary is piloting a special program to promote leadership and service within our school. The Student Leadership Service Squad (SLSS) was created to provide fourth and fifth grade students opportunities to further develop leadership and service skills. Each student received recommendations by staff, participated in a panel interview to share their educational goals and dreams, and displayed their willingness to lead, serve and inspire others.

Since this is a pilot program, we currently have 10 students to represent Bunker. SLSS students will also participate in leadership training featuring a community leader who will share the importance of leadership and the positive impact it will have on themselves, as well as on others.

Communication is essential to great leaders. The SLSS students will have opportunities to practice and develop presentation skills during events at Bunker by greeting and sharing needed information with parents and community guests. The students will have hands-on experiences in problem solving real situations within the school and co-manage the distribution of one of the food programs at Bunker. This will help them better understand what food security is and why it's important to give back.

Last but not least, SLSS students naturally display Big Red Pride while influencing other students to be positive and their best selves. Our goal is to grow this program so more students can benefit from it.

I'm pleased to announce the 2023-2024 Student Leadership Service Squad Students. We are really excited and believe this opportunity will encourage our students to continue displaying their leadership and service abilities to fellow students, staff, and the community.

*Student Leadership continues on next page . . .*

**The 2023-2024 SLSS Students are:**

Devion Jones - Ms. Brewer  
 Bri'Anna Langston - Ms. Brewer  
 Ci'ona Robinson - Ms. Moye

Kalvyn McMann - Ms. Moye  
 Jeremiah Levelson - Ms. Yarbrough  
 A'Nyla Williams - Ms. Yarbrough  
 Liberty Hendricks - Ms. Moore

Gavin McLaughlin - Ms. Moore  
 Anthony Zuniga - Ms. Moore  
 Amara Blackman - Mr. Poll

To celebrate this great honor, there was a small reception for the students and their parents on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 from 5:30pm - 6:30pm. The reception gave us an opportunity to explain the SLSS program to the parents and the chance to talk to them regarding what is expected of the students. Students were given their official uniform (T-Shirt) and name badge, along with a schedule of upcoming events that they will be expected to serve. Students' were also given a congratulatory letter (for parents) on Tuesday, Nov. 14th. The goal is to meet with the students after school each month.

**Student Recognition**

Bunker Elementary has found pleasure in recognizing and honoring students for positive behavior and encouraging students in Perfect Attendance. Each month, students, staff, and parents come together to honor and acknowledge students who are able to come to school and show Respectful, Excellent, Dependable, and Safe behaviors along with putting their best foot forward in the classroom all month long. Staff get the privilege of selecting one class each month based on their behavioral and academic efforts in our encore (Music, Art, STEM, Gym) to help promote team building and working together. Our hope is to encourage students to take pride in being a Bunker Big Red. At the end of each awards' assembly, there is a portion where students are able to compete in a friendly manner. We call it our Minute-To-Win-It Challenge. Our monthly awards assembly is always a great opportunity for students to be uplifted for their hard work. There are great things happening at Bunker and we (staff, students, and parents) look forward to this time each month.

**Let the Music Speak** 🎵

Here at Bunker elementary the halls are alive with the sound of music, choir music to be exact. The Bunker Elementary Chorus, under the direction of Cindy Moore, music teacher, is back at it for the second year. Last year Mrs. Moore wanted to create an elementary choir after realizing there were so many wonderful voices and great enthusiasm for singing. There is a rich choral tradition in the Muskegon Public school district that began with Dave Wickman, Brad Taylor, Deb Krispin and so on. This choir will be a small part in rebuilding that legacy and love for great music.

Students from 3rd, 4th and 5th grade meet every Monday and Tuesday after school, rehearsing songs to perform for the public. Last year the choir performed a winter concert; sang for the district wide Black History program and a spring Pops Concert. Their goal this year is to carol in the building, and local community, and sing the "Star Spangled Banner" for a Lumberjacks game.

Performing music, whether instrumental or vocal, creates new brain connections and helps build better language and math skills. An article from The Royal Conservatory 2014 states, "Musical activity involves nearly every region of the brain that we

know about, and every neural system." Brains of musically trained individuals have stronger neural connections, better information processing, better memory and attention, and better motor coordination. Specifically, singing releases endorphins, promotes a sense of community, improves one's sense of happiness and well-being, improves breathing, posture and muscle tension, and so much more. With the world we live in, our children need to be and feel happy. They need a place and time to express who they are and their feelings, which they can do through song.

Currently the choir is preparing for their winter concert, with songs like Holiday Tango, Carol of the Bells and Square Root of Possible from the movie Jingle Jangle. Mrs. Moore likes to make sure most of the choir songs have a positive message, something meaningful for the kids to remember, but room for fun as well.

If you were fortunate enough to have enjoyed our Christmas concert on December 20, 2023, you will not want to miss any of our future events. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to hear the wonderful sounds of the season from a wonderful group of singers here at Bunker Elementary!

**Bunker PTO**

The staff and students of Bunker Elementary are so grateful for the support of our amazing parent organization. These parents are so helpful in making sure that our weekly sucker sales go off without a hitch, which helps us raise money for activities around the building. But their talents and support of our Bunker Big Reds doesn't end there. Our PTO is planning events like Santa's Shop, the Bunker Ball, and more. They are also looking to make connections with local businesses as a way to get donations for the school.

The Bunker PTO is looking for more parents to volunteer. Please consider joining them at the next meeting on Monday, January 22nd at 3:30.



### Glenside... The Buses...

The school year is rolling along with the help of the Bus Associates at Glenside (and of course the bus drivers). This team wakes up early to arrive at Glenside at 6:30 a.m. to pick up the children at 6:45 a.m. The all-day program begins at 7:45 a.m.



The Bus Associates in the Preschool program (ages 3-5) play a BIG role. They are the first staff member the children see if they ride the bus. Each bus has two staff members to assist in the safety of the 28 children on board. The staff will greet the children and then assist them on the bus as the steps are big for some of the children. At this point of the year, the children hop into the car seat and buckle themselves. The Bus Associates check to make sure the seat is secure and the children are safe. The bus rolls on... While riding on the bus some of the children are talking to friends, singing a song, or catching up on sleep before arriving at school.

Each child has a picture ID with their name, and teacher name/room number to assist in the lineup at the start and the end of the day. When the bus arrives at school the Bus Associates have the children line up along the fence with a safety friendship rope and walk to the gym. In the gym, the classroom staff greets the children as they line up for the day at Glenside. The staff supports each other to ensure the safety of the children. Attendance is taken using a Face-to-Name photo sheet. This helps staff confirm who is in attendance. It is also a nice check with their peers to see who is in school that day. They are learning the names of

their friends, and are working on counting skills as they count off how many friends are in the line.

The children and staff walk down the hall to their lockers, greeted again by classroom staff to start the day.

Meanwhile, the Bus Associates return to the bus to pick up more children for the half-day program. The half-day program has a morning and afternoon group. Needless to say, the buses are rolling. At the end of the day, the Bus Associates are the last staff members the children see until the next scheduled day of school. They play a big role in our program.

Sunshine, rain, sleet, snow...the Bus Associates are in the elements to assist our friends for a day of learning and fun at Glenside. THANK YOU to the Bus Crew.

**For enrollment information about the Head Start and GSRP please call 231 720-2540.**

### What's New at the View?

Oakview Elementary is rolling into the New Year with some old friends, but some new ideas! Starting as soon as we get back from Winter Break, Oakview will be implementing a revised schedule that will allow each classroom 45 minutes of targeted, small group instruction. The change in Oakview's daily schedule will not impact our families' schedule because the changes will not impact Oakview's start or dismissal times. Why is this such a big deal for our students? Currently, each classroom teacher has time in their daily schedule for working with students in small groups. However, starting January 8, Oakview's small group time will be organized in a way that allows teachers and support staff to push-in and/or pull-out students based on their academic needs. With almost a semester of student data available for our teachers to analyze and identify patterns, Oakview teachers will now be able to work with small groups of students and target their specific needs as an organized team of academic experts! Oakview's revised, small group time is in addition to Oakview's 'Extended Day,' which runs after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Another new addition for Oakview in the New Year is Michigan Reading Corps. The Michigan Reading Corps is a state-funded program designed to support students in grades Kindergarten through Third Grade specifically in the area of early literacy. We are excited to add Reading Corps to Oakview's menu of academic interventions.

Oakview also knows how to celebrate all the hard work that our staff and students are doing in the classroom! On the first Wednesday of every month, Oakview hosts our "Big Red All Star Luncheon" held to recognize each classroom's 'Students of the Month.' Every month, teachers identify a student in the area of 'Citizenship' as well as in 'Academics.' Oakview teachers and support staff are always looking for students who exemplify being a Big Red! Students who are recognized as their classroom's "Student of the Month" receive a certificate as well as an invitation to attend a special luncheon held in their honor that includes invited family members. The luncheon is held during the student's normal lunch time, so there is no loss in instructional time.

For 2024, Oakview will be continuing to host our 'Muffins in the Morning' held on the second Wednesday of every month. Every month, Oakview's 'School-Home Partnership Team' organizes a themed, muffin-filled morning for families from 8:00-8:40 am. We have seen the number of family members increase each month and we are excited to be continuing with this fun, family event through our second semester.

Finally, if you are interested in learning more about Oakview or even becoming a 'Reading Buddy' for one of our students, please contact Shawntay Borden, Oakview's Family Engagement Coordinator, at 231-720-2477.

Sincerely, Brian Gamm, PhD • Oakview Principal

### Meet our new Marquette Elementary Staff!

I am Mrs. Smith the new Assistant Principal! I am so honored and happy to be here for our adventures this year. We have some pretty outstanding students and families, and I'm feeling so excited to see what we might achieve together! I got to visit some classrooms this past week, and I was SO impressed with the teaching and learning that is happening. These teachers are working so hard, and our students are excited to be here!

Hello Big Red Family & Parents! I am Billie Shanks, still at Marquette, but the new Elementary Behavioral Specialist. I am working hard with the students on how to rid bullying in our school environment. I am addressing what bullying is and how to distinguish bullying from other behaviors in the school.

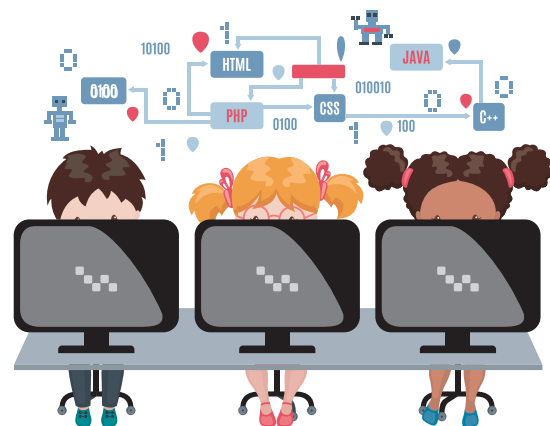
Scout is a service dog that MPS was able to obtain in conjunction with Canines for Change and Priority Health. Scout's presence at Marquette provides an ear to listen to student's reading and writing and learning as well as to be a calming presence for the entire school. Scout works at Marquette on Fridays. Teachers have the opportunity to schedule time where he can be in their classrooms to support the learning! Scout goes out at dismissal to say goodbye to the students and would GREATLY appreciate drivers not revving their engines!



### September & October Students of the Month!



On Thursday, November 16, Marquette recognized our September and October students of the month. Students are recognized by staff for being Respectful, Excellent, Dependable and Safe. All teachers have the opportunity to recognize up to 2 students a month. We also recognize those with perfect attendance as well as classroom milestones. Students who received SOM had a hot breakfast with Mrs. Halverson on Tuesday, November 21.



### Look at what Encore Classes Study at Marquette!

Greetings from Mr. Darga's technology class. The next 9 weeks we will be introducing coding to our students in the K-5th grade. Students will work on sites like *Scratch*, *Scratch Jr*, *Code.org* and Google's own *Santa Tracker* to get the basics of what coding is all about. Towards the end of their units, students will be using *Code* and *Go Mice* along with *Sphero Mini robots* to showcase what they have learned about coding.

In art over the past few weeks, K-2nd grades have been learning about Henri Matisse and studied organic shapes, as well as scissor safety while creating a collage. In grades 3rd-5th students created a seascape using lines, shapes, texture and patterns. Included in the seascape we are learning foreground, middleground and background space to create depth while using excellent craftsmanship.

In Physical Education the students are learning the importance of movement and how it helps our heart health. We are also learning the importance of choosing the right food to

eat to have "Good energy". 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are learning how to find and calculate their own heart rate.

In Miss Elder's music class, the students are learning how to read music. Some classes learned songs for the Christmas Concert.

Oh! What fun it is to be part of our MPS 21stCCLC Impact Afterschool Programs!



Our Muskegon Public Schools 21stCCLC Impact Afterschool Programs take place Monday-Thursday in all of our MPS Schools.

One of the high points of our Impact Program is our Vendors. Our Impact Big Reds have the opportunity to learn and explore with activities featured from our Vendors.

We have been fortunate to have the following Impact Vendors help give our Impact Big Red Scholars a variety of opportunities!

Impact Vendor Class	Impact Vendor Instructor(s)	What do our scholars learn?
Tune-Up West Michigan Symphony	Lauren Garza Kristina Zeinstra	Violin and viola group instruction. Scholars receive their own violin or viola.
All Scouts	Michelle Tyson	Social Skills and Boy and Girl Scout objectives
MSU/4H Extension	Julie Hultzsch Frank Cox	Nutrition tips, Agriculture, Budgeting facts
Kickboxing	Boualem Aggoune	Formation and techniques of boxing
Charm School 101	Tiffany Jackson	Fundamentals of hygiene, etiquette and hair care
Let's Get Fit	Camille Franklin	Zumba and exercise
Kiddie Canvas	Jackie Anderson	A variety of art skills
Empowering Youth Catholic Charities West Michigan	Tim Smith Elizabeth Knight	Skills on having a healthy body
Extreme Hip Hop	Falencia Minton	Groovy dances moves
Book Club	Teyondra Burch	Fun through books
Sewing Club	Ozetta Aaron	Ways of creating items with sewing
Jiu Jitsu	Jim Carey	Martial Arts-Self Defense

Thank you for joining the MPS 21stCCLC Impact Afterschool Program Team!

**MPS 21stCCLC Impact Afterschool Program Team:** Angela Johnson-Program Coordinator • April Musgrove-Administrative Assistant

**Impact Site Coordinators:** Montinique Rone-Bunker Elementary, Shanay Clark-Marquette Elementary, Kim Lewis-Oakview Elementary, Coralynn Douglas- Muskegon Middle School, Kay Foster-Shabazz-Muskegon High School **Impact Youth Development Specialist:** Lesia Jefferson, Myricla Lang, Tamara Evans, Deaja Owens, Quintusa Capers, Carolyn Bates, Latoya Wright, Amiyah Cunningham, Shakira Hill, Barbara Bell, Linda Longmire Mitchell, Decarria James, Crystal Coleman, Sheteta Sandifer, Keith Melton, Brandon Jones, Maya Barnett

MPS 21st Century Community Learning Center Book Clubs

Our MPS 21st CCLC Muskegon Middle School Impact Afterschool Program have been participating in a 6-week book study of New Kid by Jerry Craft with Mrs. Borgman, MPS District Librarian. Hackley Public Library provided each student with their own



copy of the graphic novel to use during and keep after the book study. Lydia Schmidt, Youth Services Librarian from Hackley Public Library, came to MMS and did a Jerry Craft craft using graphic novels. And, on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, the book study group attended Jerry Craft's in-person visit at Reeths Puffer High School presented by MADL and MAISD. Two of our book club students received a signed copy of New Kid and had a special photo taken with the author.

Also, our Muskegon High School Impact Afterschool Program along with MPS History Teacher, Mrs. Fatima Roberson's African American History students participated in a book club discussion on the book called Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March. These students had the opportunity to meet and discuss the book, with the author, Lynda Blackmon Lowery on Mon., Nov. 20, 2023 at

Muskegon High School. She signed each students' book which was purchased by the NAACP Muskegon County Branch members.

# TWO WAY LANGUAGE IMMERSION

## Immersive Dual Language Program @ MPS - Two-Way Immersion (TWI) for Grades K-5

By Emily Staley, Instructional Support Specialist @ MPS



Angelica Herrera-Estrada's 5th Grade Class Watches Currents Events Video



Herrera-Estrada Answers a Question During the Social Studies Lesson

Muskegon Public Schools offers a Two-Way Immersion (TWI) program at Bunker Elementary for grades K-5. Over 180 students are enrolled in these elementary classrooms where Spanish is the primary language spoken particularly in the lower grades. Currently, we have two TWI classrooms per grade for grades K-2 and one TWI classroom per grade for upper elementary.

Research shows that dual-language programs are beneficial for both English-language learners and native English speakers. One study offers strong evidence that dual language programs improve student literacy achievement for all learners involved.

To learn more about the TWI program, I observed a lower elementary classroom and an upper elementary classroom. Both classrooms were very welcoming and the students all engaged and learning. Here is a peek into my experience:

### **Ms. Angelica Herrera-Estrada's 5th Grade Classroom:**

The bookcase-lined hallway led me to an open classroom, with students sitting in pods of four at modular table-desks, ready to learn. The social studies lesson started with a fast-paced, engaging CNN10 video that covered everything from US-China relations to nationwide milk shortages in cafeterias due to cardboard packaging scarcity to how tourism is negatively affecting the coastline of Mozambique to a gentleman in Iowa who has the largest collection of pencils in the world. A quick trivia question followed that evoked cheering from students who answered it correctly, and some anticipation to see if CNN 10 would give a shoutout to "Bunker Elementary" as one of the schools who tunes into the program.

Then "Dime - lo que está pasando en el mundo hoy? What is happening in the world today?" said Mrs. Herrera-Estrada. Instructions and next steps for the students were given in Español and English. The students answered aloud as they and their teacher recounted the current events they just learned about, weaving back and forth from Spanish to English. Next, "Dictado Time!" The teacher dictated a sentence in English while students wrote it, all having to do with the social studies lesson, and then they corrected grammar together in the sentence. Great engagement in the classroom, the subject moved quickly, and after three minutes of quiet work again, it was "Ok Chicos, dime!" time to answer aloud in class as the students focused on the Learning Target and engaged in the day's topic of European exploration.

*Two Way Language Immersion continues on next page . . .*

**Ms. Stephany Yack-Saavera's 1st Grade Classroom:** The classroom's colorful alphabet carpet along with the foster grandparent who helps with reading literacy welcomed me into the classroom. Students were in "small group time," either reading with the foster grandparent, playing learning spelling games on their chromebooks, or working in groups with their teacher, who spoke solely in Spanish. "¿Listos?" she asked after she explained the rules to the Spanish sight word flashcard game in Spanish with her small group of six first graders. Nothing like a little friendly flashcard competition to get students excited to learn.

I spoke to one student, Oliver, and asked him what he liked best about his experience in the TWI classroom. "It's fun" he said. He speaks English at home, and I asked him if his parents could still help him understand his homework, to which he answered "Yes."

Next, Gabrielle waved at me so I sat next to her and asked her what it's like in this classroom.



First Grader Gabrielle Shares about Learning in a Dual-Language Classroom

She said "I like my teacher and I like learning. I like to learn how to read and have fun." About learning in a Spanish-speaking classroom, she said, "I think it's great because I'm kind of an expert at Spanish now. I don't speak it at home, but I do speak Spanish with the new girl who only speaks Spanish, so now we can be friends." She continued to tell me that "pizza" must be the same in English and Spanish because when the new girl talks about "pizza," that's the word she uses.

I asked Gabrielle if there was anything else I should know, and she said "I have very great friends and I learn a lot."

What impressed me the most from observing these two classrooms was the confidence at which the students weaved in and out of speaking and understanding Spanish and their engagement in learning.

"It has been an amazing and challenging journey working with the TWI program," said fifth grade MPS TWI classroom teacher Angelica Herrera. "I am very proud to be a 5th grade teacher and seeing the growth that my students make in English and Spanish."

In the Muskegon Public Schools TWI Program, all instruction in grades K-2 is presented in Spanish. Past grade 2, instruction given in the English language gradually increases and by Grade 5, the ratio of instruction increases to 50% English/Spanish.

According to a recent US News and World Report article, four primary reasons to consider dual-language immersion learning are:

- **Biliteracy is good for your brain.**
- **Learning a language is easier for young children.**
- **English learners succeed while maintaining their native**
- **Students build strong social connections and cultural awareness.**

"Providing students and families with a variety of programming opportunities is our goal at MPS," said Dr. Jennifer Hammond, Executive Director of Instruction, at Muskegon Public Schools. "The TWI program is a unique opportunity for Muskegon elementary students that many other students in our county, state or country do not have the ability to participate in. Learning another language is a lifelong gift. I love visiting the TWI classrooms because the students are engaged, laughing, collaborating and genuinely enjoy learning."

Parents of incoming Kindergarteners for the 2024-2025 school year who would like their new kindergartener to participate in the TWI program are encouraged to enroll their child in the Two-Way Immersion program at kindergarten enrollment. If your child is already enrolled in school and is interested in the TWI program, they must be in kindergarten or first grade and demonstrating appropriate grade-level achievement in their first language.



Herrera-Estrada Answers a Question During the Social Studies Lesson



A First Grade Student Works with a Foster Grandparent During Small Group Time



Yack-Saavedra's First Graders Learn During Small Group Time

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

## We Love Our MPS Foster Grandparents!

Our Foster Grandparents are very important to our Muskegon Public Schools Family. These volunteers provide support and nurturing to our Big Red Scholars by assisting them with academics, social and emotional development.

Each month, our Family Engagement Coordinators-Sharrona Williams (MMS,MHS), Trynette Lottie-Harps(Bunker) and Shawntay Borden (Oakview,Marquette), will facilitate the FGP Morning Talk Café and the Bunker Keep In Touch (K.I.T.) Gathering. This time is allotted for our Foster Grandparents to chat with each other in a fun and safe environment. They can kick back, drink coffee, eat snacks and relax before they help serve our Big Red Scholars.

Each Foster Grandparent site has been gifted their own coffee pot with everything needed to start their day with a delicious cup of coffee and smile.



**WE APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU DO!**

## Our Muskegon Public Schools Foster Grandparents

Jeryl Ervin  
Carolyn Stith  
Doris Cox  
Mary Ann Day  
Delores Hussey  
Yevonne Jones  
Barb Stevenson  
Shirley Simpkins  
Linda Rowell  
Thomas Scott

Gloria Boganey  
Mary McLauren  
Ethel Liggins  
Kimberly Stevenson  
Janel Oliver  
Doris Ross  
Linda Nino  
Audrey Harris  
Ollie Dunbar  
Linda Robinson

Alice Doxey  
Katherine Herman  
Cherry Riley  
Todd Dowell  
Marslene Honore  
Jackie McGlothlin  
Sandra Gause  
Shirley Credit  
Emma Williams  
Sheila Phillips



A breakfast meal is available and free to all students. Please see location and time schedule below.

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	TIME	SERVING LOCATION
Muskegon High School	80 W. Southern Ave	7:35-8:15 AM	Cafeteria
Muskegon Middle School	1150 Amity Ave	7:50-8:15 AM	Cafeteria
MCEC	550 W Grand Ave	7:40-8:00 AM	Multipurpose Room
Bunker Elementary	2312 Denmark St	8:40 AM	Classrooms
Marquette Elementary	550 W Grand Ave	8:40 AM	Classrooms
Oakview Elementary	1826 Hoyt St	8:40 AM	Classrooms



**Global Eats - Elementary Pop-Ups:**

**October - Mexico:** Mango Con Chile (mango pieces sprinkled w/lime juice, chili powder, salt & sugar)

**November - Italy:** Caprese Salad (fresh mozzarella, tomatoes & basil w/ balsamic vinegar & olive oil)

**December - India:** Mango Lassi (vanilla yogurt & milk blended with mango & cardamom)

**January - China:** Liang Mian (chilled sweet & spicy noodle salad w/honey, thai chili, garlic, scallion, and lo mein noodles)

**February - Caribbean:** TBD

**March - Korea:** TBD



**Soup Station opening at Muskegon High School in January!**

**Made-from-scratch soups on rotation:**

- Broccoli & Cheese
- Chicken Noodle
- Chili
- Chicken Gumbo





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CELEBRATING

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

FEBRUARY