

lighthouse ●

*Congratulations Class of 2024!*

# view

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

MAY 2024 • ISSUE 68



*Better*  
TOGETHER



SUPERINTENDENT..... 2  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION ..... 3  
 TECHNOLOGY ..... 4  
 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE ..... 5  
 ATHLETICS..... 8-9

HIGH SCHOOL ..... 10-11  
 COUNSELOR'S CORNER ..... 12-13  
 MIDDLE SCHOOL ..... 16-17  
 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ..... 18  
 TEACHING AND LEARNING .... 19

SPECIAL EDUCATION..... 19-21  
 EARLY CHILDHOOD..... 22  
 FUTURE SAILORS ACTIVITY ..... 23  
 MONA SHORES CHOIR..... 24

# a letter from our Superintendent

*Better together!* Sometimes it sounds so cliché to say but when you step back and look at our Sailor community it rings so true.

## Community Support

The Norton Shores community has been a constant support for our schools. Whether volunteering, passing millages, or showing up at events, our Sailor community is there for our schools. We all know that strong schools equal strong communities and vice versa. We are thankful for our Sailor community's ongoing support.

## City Partnerships

Mona Shores Schools are fortunate to have incredible partnerships with our City of Norton Shores, City of Roosevelt Park, and our local Police, Fire, and DPW teams. These partnerships ensure our community and our kids have the best opportunity for success. Whether DPW working round the clock to clear our roads, police and fire supporting us in safety and construction planning, or our Mayor joining us to celebrate the ribbon cutting at each of our elementary buildings, the support from our City leaders and departments is essential. We are thankful for these partnerships and all that they bring to our schools.

## Family Engagement

After over a decade spent in Mona Shores it is clear that the involvement of our families is one of the pieces that makes Mona Shores amazing. Our families show up, they support, they volunteer, and work to partner with us to give kids the best experience possible. Our Mona Shores families will fill a building on a Tuesday night for an art show, a performance, a literacy night, or an athletic event. Across the district we will have hundreds, even thousands, of families in our schools on any given evening to support the amazing work our kids do. We are thankful for our families for always showing up and supporting our kids, schools, and staff.

Sailor school community, thank you all for what you do to support our schools. We are fortunate to have an amazing staff that work to give every kid the best opportunity to succeed. Couple that with the support from this incredible community and it is clear that this makes Mona Shores the amazing place it is. Thank you all for what you do, for being an essential part of our schools, and for helping this community be the best it can be. Without a doubt we are all better together!

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



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

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

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

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

It's everything Mona Shores, in your pocket.

- News
- Events
- Documents
- Staff
- Alerts
- Dining

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

### Board of Education 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule

May 6, 2024 .....7:00 pm..... Work Session RP-PLC  
May 13, 2024.....7:00 pm..... Regular Session RP-PLC  
June 10, 2024.....7:00 pm..... Work Session RP-PLC  
June 17, 2024.....7:00 pm..... Regular Session RP-PLC  
July 8, 2024 .....7:00 pm..... Combined Session RP-PLC

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



### Board of Education 2023-2024

Chris Burnaw, President  
(231) 557-4949

E-mail: burnawc@monashores.net

Jeanne Cooper-Kuiper, Vice President  
(231) 798-3815

E-mail: cooperj@monashores.net

Jay Keessen, Treasurer  
(231) 206-0889

E-mail: keessenj@monashores.net

Kandace Boysen, Secretary  
(231) 375-0459

E-mail: boysenk@monashores.net

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

E-mail: eckerta@monashores.net

Mary McClellan, Trustee  
(231) 486-5285

E-mail: mclellanm@monashores.net

Stan Miller, Trustee  
(231) 557-4039

E-mail: millers@monashores.net

This is my first “letter from the president” since I had the honor of being selected by my fellow board members in January to take on this role. I’d like to thank Stan Miller for over 6 years of service as Board President. Stan served through some challenging times with a steady hand on the gavel!

Another thank you goes to Superintendent Bill O’Brien and his awesome team. Every single one of our Mona Shores team members is dedicated to helping our kids learn and thrive, whether it’s through steady leadership, imaginative teaching, counseling with kindness, supporting students with extra needs, cooking fresh healthy food, or creating a clean and safe environment.

A bit of background on me - I’ve lived in Norton Shores for 24 years and love my adopted hometown. My husband Bill and I are the proud parents of two Mona Shores Alumni, class of 2015 and class of 2023.

If you ever have any questions or thoughts you’d like to share, please reach out. Mona Shores will continue to be an amazing district if we keep working together to support all of our kids.



Thanks  
for being part of our  
school community!

Chris Burnaw, President  
Mona Shores Board of Education



# Technology Update

by Chad Pranger, Director of Technology

During the pandemic, many Federal assistive programs emerged. One such program targeting technology is the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP is part of the November 15, 2021, 14.2 Billion Dollar Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The program extended the benefits of the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB). The ACP provides financial assistance with home broadband Internet connectivity.



For Mona Shores Families the ACP can provide a credit to assist with their monthly home broadband Internet bill. Eligibility was normally gained with eligibility for the School's Free and Reduced Lunch Program.

Like many of the one time Federal programs, the ACP is limited. The ACP stopped accepting new applications on February 7th, 2024 and the last fully funded month of the program is April of 2024. If you are currently enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program, be aware it is coming to an end. Keep a lookout for notifications from your home Internet Service Provider regarding information about the ACP and how it will affect your future plans and billing moving forward.

**GREEK SHORE**  
PITAS  
SALADS  
Authentic Greek  
DESSERTS  
APPETIZERS  
Street Food  
Congrats Kayla Graham • Class of 2024

**McFARLAND & SONS**  
TREE SERVICE  
• TRIMMING  
• REMOVAL  
• PRUNING  
• LOT CLEARING  
231-750-3026 | mcfarlandandsons.com

**NEW EXPRESSIONS**  
Your One Stop Shop for  
**ALL PERSONALIZED GIFTS & CUSTOM FAVORS**  
Make Your Expressions  
Become Your Reality Today!  
www.loomaexpressions.com  
5 Star Etsy Seller

# Bonded Construction Update

*by* Robert Jonker, Director of Finance

**W**e're in the home stretch. All four elementary buildings are complete and the Middle School is heading into its final summer of construction.

The adjoining locker commons addition for the sixth grade wing is on schedule with the help of a mild winter. The remaining classrooms and bathrooms surrounding the media center were completed this winter. Remaining work for the summer is to include renovation of the sixth grade wing and gang bathrooms adjacent to the west gym.



**THANK YOU!**



**We fully expect to have all construction completed in time for the start of school this fall. I would again like to thank the community, staff and students for all the support of this project.**



Winter Sun is a Reggio-Inspired preschool that has been serving Muskegon county for 18 years. Our mission has remained steadfast; to provide infant to 6-year-old children with a literacy-rich environment, nurturing teachers, and place-based curriculum that encourages them to fully exercise their mental, emotional, physical, social, and creative potential.

**NOW OFFERING FREE GSRP PRESCHOOL!**



**231-414-8414**

**wintersunschool.com**

**ENROLL NOW!**

**“We are the music makers and we are the dreamers of dreams.”**

**-A. O'SHAUGHNESSY**





# IS GOING CASHLESS FOR TICKETS!

HERE ARE 3 WAYS TO PURCHASE  
TICKETS TO MONA SHORES ATHLETICS

1.

2.

3.



We look forward to this change and the ease it will provide  
you as the fans at our events!

# GO SAILORS!



# Athletic Update ..... (continued from page 8)

~ a message from Jack Nummerdor, Director of Athletics



## Big news from the Athletic Department.

With the onset of Spring Sports, the Athletic Department is making strides to help ease things for the spectators, staff, coaches, and players. The beginning of some of those changes have already taken place with the addition



of **FinalForms**. **Final Forms** is a documentation tracking software that the Athletic Department

started using for sports signups, collection of required documentation, tracking of equipment and uniforms, collection of important information, and to streamline communication for teams and programs. We introduced this during the Winter Season at the High School and during Winter 1 Season at the Middle School. The transition to **FinalForms** has been amazing and will continue to be a great asset to our department.

Another change is starting during the High School Spring Season. Ticketing! Not a speeding or parking ticket but admission into sporting events. Since COVID, when a High School team would start their MHSAA Tournament competitions, the ticketing would go completely digital. The MHSAA made the change and it has stuck and is not going away. Mona Shores Athletic Department has looked into ways to clean up our processes with ticketing and look for ways to make things easier on all involved. During this time the Athletic Department made the decision to go to digital ticketing beginning with the 2024 Spring Seasons at Mona Shores High School Athletic Events. The Middle School will not make the change just yet. This change will take a bit of an adjustment, but in the end it will become the norm. Many other area schools have already made the switch or will be in the near future.

We have utilized the services of **GoFan** for our ticketing for a few years now and will continue to use their electronic services for admission. We will become cashless for the purchase of tickets to all Athletic Events that charge admission.

### There are 3 ways to purchase tickets:

1. Use the website [gofan.co](https://gofan.co) and search for Mona Shores
2. Use the QR Codes that are posted at entrance gates and found here
3. Use of Credit/Debit Cards at the gate



*We look forward to this change and the ease it will provide you as the fans at our events!*

# High School

*a message* from High School Principal, Jennifer Bustard

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

Personal responsibility | Respect | Integrity | Disciplined | Engagement



**Spring is here and it is Celebration time!**  
 We look forward each spring to celebrating our seniors;  
 the Class of 2024. There will be many events to honor  
 and celebrate their accomplishments.

Once again this year, in partnership with our Norton Shores Police Department, Ramos and Sons, Nexes Realty, we will have a series of student and community events in place to provide awareness and prevention in the areas of health and safety concerns.

**The Ride with PRIDE  
 Sailor Pride Assembly  
 will be May 10th!**



## 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| April 27  | Prom - 7:00 pm-10:00 pm Barclay Event Center   |
| May 10    | Sailor PRIDE Assembly  |
| May 20    | Honors Convocation - 7:00 pm (High School Auditorium)  |
| May 20-23 | Senior Exam Week   |
| May 24    | Senior Day!<br>Senior Breakfast - 7:45-8:30 am (High School Cafeteria)<br>Senior Tour Elementary's<br>Senior Checkout - 10:19-12:00 pm (Aux Gym)<br>Senior Lunch - 12:30 pm (Fricano's on the Lake Pizza)<br>Senior Community Parade 5:30 pm (Lake Harbor to Seminole) |
| May 28    | Commencement Rehearsal - 12:45 pm (Trinity Health Arena)<br>Commencement - 7:00 pm (Trinity Health Arena)  |

## 2024 HIGH SCHOOL EXAM SCHEDULE GRADES 9TH - 11TH

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| June 11 | 1st Hour Exam - 7:45-9:10 am  |
| June 12 | 2nd Hour Exam - 7:45-9:10 am<br>3rd Hour Exam - 9:20-10:45 am                       |
| June 13 | 4th Hour Exam - 7:45-9:10 am<br>5th Hour Exam - 9:20-10:45 am<br>Last day of school |

*Spring  
 is here*

## Assessment for Learning

### Opportunities for All Students! Pursuit of College, Career and Life Readiness

Our high school is proud to share that in our pursuit of College, Career and life readiness for all of our students, we have recently assessed our 9th grade, 10th grade and 11th grade students. Since the State of Michigan implemented the mandate for all juniors to take the SAT college entrance exam, we have created the opportunity to test all students on that day. The 9th and 10th grade took the PSAT, and the 11th grade took the SAT. The PSAT test is a predictor assessment on how students will fare on the SAT College Readiness Assessment. By having students take these assessments, teachers have a data resource to use in evaluating curriculum, monitor how students are learning, make the necessary adjustments to assist in student achievement and provide students and their parents with college readiness predictors. For more information on SAT readiness check out the counseling department webpage or visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

### Advanced Placement Program Capstone Diploma:

MSSH is pleased to offer the AP Capstone program to the course offerings students can elect to participate in. The Capstone program allows students who have taken 6 AP courses over their HS career an opportunity to be given a distinction of earning a AP Capstone Diploma. The distinction provides opportunities for further college scholarships and potential entrance into select universities. Students who complete the Capstone program will have completed the AP Seminar and Research courses which provided enriching opportunities to further explore research skills in their selected area of interest.



### Celebrating the Arts: Comic Con 2024 | 4th Annual

On March 2nd the MSSH Sailor Center was host to the 4th annual Comic Con. Art teacher Danielle Benson-Fennell and her art club students coordinated with over 40 vendors to bring music, art, literature, games and costumes. The event is free each year and families and students of all ages came to participate and join the fun, which provided enriching opportunities to explore areas of their interest.

## Summer School Information

We are pleased to announce that Mona Shores High School will be once again offering Summer School for students.

Having summer school will give students a local opportunity for credit recovery and credit enhancement.

We are excited about this opportunity to be able to offer a variety of classes to our students. Specific Summer School information is available in the counseling office at the high school or can be found on our high school webpage.

**Any questions, please contact Aaron Santa Maria, summer school coordinator. He can be reached at 231-780-4711.**



### MSSH Band traveled to Hawaii to perform in Pearl Harbor

The MSSH Band traveled during the winter break to Hawaii to perform in Pearl Harbor. In addition, the band had an incredible clinic with Dr. Jeff Boeckman at the University of Hawaii.



Please visit our high school webpage for dates, locations, current events and general school information at [www.monashores.net](http://www.monashores.net).

To catch all of the Sailor Action follow us on the New **MSPS App**, twitter and facebook. [@mshspride](https://twitter.com/mshspride) and [@MonashoresAthletics](https://twitter.com/MonashoresAthletics).

Download the Mona Shores App today! Just search Mona Shores in the App store or Google Play store to stay up to date with all things Mona Shores.

Hope to see you at our next event! *Go Sailors!* ~ Jennifer Bustard | Principal

# Counselor's Corner

by Danielle Smith-Walker, Director of Counseling

## SCHEDULING 2024-2025

Scheduling for the 2024-2025 school year has wrapped up here at the high school. Students had the opportunity to meet with counselors, update their EDP's and explore Xello (career interest inventory). If your son/daughter did not turn in their scheduling forms, please have them bring them to the counseling office as soon as possible.

## MUSKEGON AREA PROMISE

All graduates who reside in and graduate from a Muskegon County School are eligible for TUITION-FREE PROMISE Scholarships. The PROMISE covers tuition (valued at the current Muskegon Community College rate), and mandatory fees. For more information please visit: <https://www.muskegonisd.org/ctc-home/career-development/promise/>



## Beginning this April, our PROMISE eligibility is expanding... again!

On Tuesday 2/13/24 the Muskegon Area Promise Zone Authority Board approved lowering our GPA eligibility requirement to a **3.00 GPA+, or a ranking in the top 30%** of their graduating class. A minimum college-ready GPA of 2.50 will apply.

Other growth includes additional CTC eligibility, coverage of full cost of attendance and more!

Some growth strategies approved also require state Treasury approval. As we work to secure all the details, and update our student eligibility lists, we will communicate again soon!

Students must:

- **Live in the MAISD boundaries**
- **Apply for FAFSA**
- **Enroll at Muskegon Community College or Baker College**

**NO Application is needed for this award. Students will be sent a letter of eligibility that details instructions to accept the award.**

MUSKEGON AREA  
**PROMISE**

## SCHOLARSHIP FORMS

Any senior who has received a scholarship should fill out the "Award Form" in order to be recognized at the Honors Convocation. This form will be available in early May. Please list all scholarship earnings and awards that you have been granted to date. This includes scholarships/grants that you may or may not accept. Do **not** include loans or Pell Grants. It is important that you include the full name of the scholarship/award including the college name if applicable.

## FINAL TRANSCRIPTS

Seniors will be meeting with their counselors individually for an Exit Interview. During this time seniors must notify their counselor which college (and NCAA if applicable) must receive a **final** transcript AND place an order for a Final Transcript in Parchment. If your student has trouble doing this, please have them stop in the office.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

There are scholarships listed on our Counseling Department website with applications available in our office or online. Please remember that you should allow 5-7 days prior to the deadline for processing. There are monthly listings posted on our high school webpage. Please view at the following link: <https://www.monashores.net/o/mshs/page/financial-aid-and-scholarships>

## DECISION DAY

Decision Day is May 1st. Typically, Decision Day coincides with the date that most seniors are to inform a college of their plan to enroll and make a deposit. This is a state initiative to recognize seniors on their post-secondary plans. We would love for all seniors to add their name to our Sailor college/career map located outside of the Counseling Office. Please encourage your son/daughter to stop by the Counseling Office to fill out a flag indicating their post secondary plans (college attending, military service, or career) to add to our map.



### Seniors planning to attend Muskegon Community College:

Our office has planned a special day for our seniors to visit Muskegon Community College on **May 6**. Students will go through orientation, take placement tests, and meet with advisors to register for classes. Students must sign up to attend. Please stop in the counseling office for further details.

## FINANCIAL AID

Many students/families still have not completed the FAFSA. It is not too late! The financial aid process begins with submitting the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** online after October 1. For assistance in completing your FAFSA, please contact either Baker College or attend one of MCC's FAFSA Friday sessions. These services are available to the community (students need not be planning to attend either college for assistance). For more information, please contact the Financial Aid office at MCC: Phone: (231) 773-9131.

## SAT

Students planning to take the **May 4** SAT must submit their registration online by April 7. Please visit the **CollegeBoard website** for more information. <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines> for more information. Mona Shores High School's code is 232704. The basic fee for the SAT (no writing) is \$60. Please note that there is also a **June 1** and **August 24** test date for those wanting to take it before school starts.

## SUMMER SCHOOL

Information regarding summer school at Mona Shores High School will be available in the Counseling Office and on our website in May. This is an outstanding opportunity for students to either do credit recovery for one or two classes or do credit enhancement to fit in AP or Fine Arts classes. Check the website for more information.

## CREDIT RECOVERY CLASSES

Students who have failed classes or are behind in credits may elect to take an online course after school through the High School's credit recovery program. The student needs to see his/her counselor to complete an application and determine which course needs to be taken. Students may work Monday through Thursday from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. All work needs to be completed at school and should be finished within a trimester's time. Please contact the counseling office for more information.

## TESTING OUT OF CLASSES

Testing out of classes provides students with an opportunity to earn credit in a course by passing an examination. Testing out is only available once per year. Test out dates will take place before the end of the year. Look for more information soon. Students must complete a request form (available in the Athletic/Counseling Office later this month) and then return it along with a refundable \$25 check. Study materials will be available for pickup in the Athletic/Counseling Office. Students must earn an 80% or better on the exam in order to receive credit for the course. An email was sent March 22 to high school & eighth grade parents.

## COUNSELING OFFICE WEBSITE

Please refer to our website: <https://www.monashores.net/o/mshs/page/counseling-office> to find the latest scholarship application information, financial aid, E-transcripts, NCAA and testing information.

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

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



**\$25**

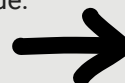
**SPORTS PHYSICALS**

The Muskegon Teen Health Center & Oakridge Teen Health Center offer medical, mental health, & dental services for ages 5 to 21 years old.



**Muskegon Teen Health Center**

Conveniently Located Inside:  
Muskegon High School  
80 W. Southern Avenue  
231.733.6868



Scan To Make an Appointment



**Oakridge Teen Health Center**

Conveniently Located Inside:  
Oakridge Middle School  
251 S. Wolf Lake Road  
231.733.6868



Scan To Make an Appointment



HACKLEY COMMUNITY CARE  
SCHOOL BASED HEALTH

**First Congregational Church**



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

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.



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

1201 Jefferson St.,  
Muskegon, MI 49441  
231-726-3254  
[www.fccmuskegon.org](http://www.fccmuskegon.org)



**ERIC WAHLBERG**

NeXes Realtor • Licensed Builder



[ericwilderness@yahoo.com](mailto:ericwilderness@yahoo.com)  
**231-740-1698**



**SERENITY WELLNESS  
CHIROPRACTIC CENTER**

Dr. Lynnmarie S. Leyder  
Doctor of Chiropractic

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

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

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

[info@SerenityWellnessChiro.com](mailto:info@SerenityWellnessChiro.com)

**FFCU**

FAMILY FINANCIAL  
Credit Union

Financial  
Independence  
with a  
focus on

*Your  
Community*

**Nice to  
CU**

Become a member today!  
[ff-cu.org](http://ff-cu.org)



## CAREER CAMP >>

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



**June 17–June 20, 2024**

Seats are limited so enroll today at

**SUMMERCAREERCAMP.ORG**



**CAREER TECH CENTER**

200 Harvey Street | 231.767.3613

 **Beltone**™

*Helping the world hear better*

Beltone has been the most trusted name in hearing healthcare for 84+ years. Locally owned and operated in West Michigan since 1980, with over 1,500 locations nation-wide to serve your hearing health needs.

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

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



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

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

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

**GO SAILORS!**

## MSMS: AMAZING EXPERIENCES

**W**hat an absolutely amazing year we are having thus far at Mona Shores Middle School! The first two-thirds of the school year have gone unbelievably fast and have been filled with some amazing experiences. We have had a snow day after Halloween, embraced CREW competitions, and had classroom opportunities for students to engage, collaborate, and learn! What a year! It seems like only a couple of weeks ago that we were gearing up for September, welcoming our 6th graders, and attending Friday night football games. Now, we are looking at the push into Spring, the rebirth of color, and all of the 'buzz' that comes this time of year; we are moving into the final third of an already outstanding year!

This time of year allows us to reflect on some of the meaningful, memorable, and rewarding experiences and moments here at Mona Shores Middle School.

**Here are just a few things I am PROUD of from the first part of the school year.**



▪ **WZZM TEACHER OF THE WEEK** || In February, Mrs. Gretchen Mineni (8th Grade English, Peer to Peer, Unified Basketball, Boys Volleyball, JV Softball) was recognized by WZZM13 as their Teacher of the Week. Mrs. Mineni, with her passion to impact lives, authentic love for kids, and a desire to pour into our students and building, is a strong example of the educators that fill MSMS classrooms. She goes above and beyond and gives of her time and talents to support our students, our building, and our community. Mrs. Mineni joins a long list of MSMS educators that have been recognized and appreciated as Teacher of the Week.



▪ **NEW STUDENT FEEDBACK** || This year, MSMS has over 900 students in our building, the highest number since COVID! There are over 60 new students at MSMS, coming from places like Fruitport, Muskegon area, Grand Rapids, Texas, and California. As I work through all of the meetings with them, I ask them to give me ONE word that describes the students, staff, and culture at MSMS. Here are some of the words they have used: best, awesome, positive, fun, disciplined, amazing, real, perfection, engaging, and learners, just to share a few. Our new students are obviously excited and proud of their new school. They have engaged in classrooms, connected with peers, and added to the high standards of MSMS.



▪ **CREW** || The spirit, impact, and structure of CREW continues to evolve positively within the building. CREWs are finding ways to build and enhance relationships, connect more with their peers and school, strengthen self-value, monitor academic progress, and focus on character development. This might include class circles/discussions, competitions with other CREWs, outside activities, making breakfast, minute-to-win-it games, dance competitions, and more! We will continue to move forward and strengthen our goal of creating a place where all students feel loved, valued, and appreciated.



▪ **NEWSIES JR.** || What an amazing production by Mr. Closz, his team, and all of our amazingly talented students! The set was well designed, the singing was outstanding, choreography was on point, and the attention to detail was second-to-none. It was easy to see the hard work, time, and effort that were put into this production. It is what made it so special! We are grateful that our students can have this experience, learn about dedication and hard work, and excel in delivering a quality product.



- **MONTH OF CARING** || This year, our Month of Caring has moved to March. The goal for MSMS was to once again raise money for three local charities (No More Sidelines, Kids Food Basket, and the Red Glasses Movement). Our students and staff participated in Spirit Week, lunch competitions, sweet treats sale, student vs. staff basketball game, fitness week, and so much more! Throughout the month, our students focused on **LIVING BOLDLY, LOVING BIG,** and **PASSING IT ON.** Our students continue to impress with their commitment to compassion, empathy, impact and service outside of themselves.
- **SAILOR EXPERIENCES** || Our students have once again engaged in a variety of after school experiences! This included Manga & Anime Club, Dungeons and Dragons, Cooking Club, Signing Club, Sewing, and Clock Work. With these, students had the opportunity to engage in a different capacity, make new friends, and participate in something that was meaningful and relevant to them. Thank you to all of our educators that gave of their time and talents to offer these experiences to our students.



**Here are just a few things I am looking forward to as we close out the school year.**

- **TRANSITIONS** || While our 8th grade students are visiting the High School, selecting classes, and getting excited for that transition, our 5th grade students are doing the same! In the weeks ahead, the MSMS team will be visiting all of our elementary schools, creating that excitement to join the MSMS team, and then bringing them to visit MSMS for a tour, lunch, and learning. This is such an exciting and meaningful time of the year for our students and for our building!
- **CAREER DAYS @ 7TH AND 8TH GRADES** || Through our partnership with the Career Line Tech Center, our 7th and 8th grade students will be visiting in May to explore and learn about different careers, tour the CTE, and even listen to our MSHS students share the projects they have been working on and the experience that they have had. We hope to continue to expose our students to a wide range of careers, pathways, and opportunities.
- **SCIENCE CAMP** || Per tradition, our 6th grade students will be heading to Grace Adventure Camp for 3 days. Not only will they engage in all of those exciting camp experiences (dune walk, swimming, boating, fishing, laser tag, games, and of course, the BLOB, they will be participating in a plethora of science and STEM activities throughout. This event is one that students will remember for a lifetime!

Our families and community should be proud of the meaningful and memorable experiences taking place at MSMS, of the character and connections being developed within our students, and the authentic commitment by our staff to support our students!

With the final legs right around the corner, please know that this team of high-quality, passionate educators at Mona Shores Middle School will continue to strive for excellence, our best, in all that we do! We will stay focused on our students, their success, their failures, and their experience at Mona Shores Middle School!

With SAILOR PRIDE,  
Doug Ammeraal | Principal

## The "Ride with Pride" program at the elementary schools is an excellent initiative that emphasizes student safety and positive behavior.

By partnering with the Norton Shores Police Department, the school is effectively engaging with the community to promote important values and practices among students. The program focuses on five key areas:

1. **Kindness Pledge:** Encouraging students to be kind fosters a positive and supportive school environment.
2. **Personal Improvement Pledge:** Encouraging students to strive for personal growth and development reinforces the importance of self-improvement.
3. **Behavior Pledge:** By committing to follow the school's behavior rules, students are encouraged to adhere to established guidelines for positive conduct.
4. **Bicycle Helmet Pledge:** Emphasizing the importance of wearing helmets while riding bikes promotes safety awareness and reduces the risk of injuries.
5. **Seat Belt Pledge:** Encouraging students to wear seatbelts reinforces safe practices both in and out of school, whether they're in a vehicle or walking.



Recognizing and rewarding students for their commitment to these pledges with prizes such as bowling and ice cream coupons, as well as bicycles for two outstanding participants in each building, provides positive reinforcement and motivation for continued adherence to these important safety and behavioral standards.

Officers from the Norton Shores Police Department attend assemblies, after school events and other school functions to promote Ride with Pride and positive behaviors.

Overall, the "Ride with Pride" program is a comprehensive approach to promoting safety, kindness, and responsible behavior among elementary school students, while also fostering positive relationships with local law enforcement.

# Teaching and Learning

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

**"Every great dream begins with a dreamer."**

~ Harriet Tubman

experience you find hope that inspires dreams and establishes the goals to reach those aspirations. You see these processes unfold in academics, arts, and athletics. Through hard work the process will lead to adjustments, changes, and an evolving concept of what defines success. Learning, growing understanding, and developing skills. It is natural and normal to reevaluate in order to keep making gains and progress. This is especially important in the face of adversity. These can be minor tweaks or major course corrections. Reflection and thoughtful consideration helps us refine, improve, and focus. There will be setbacks and successes. These pursuits provide direction. Motivation, enthusiasm, and energy become embedded in the routines and habits that are established over time. Dreams and goals often become interconnected in ways that we could not have predicted. We are each unique and impacted by the sum of our experiences. Independent, but yet seemingly connected to an important community. There is something that is particularly satisfying about the culmination of efforts, the sense of relief, and the ability to enjoy the moment of attainment. Completion of big or small tasks may provide a gauge of the progress we are making toward a goal. Sometimes the scale of the work entails months, years, and decades. Perseverance and a sense of humor are necessary in traversing large, audacious goals. It all begins with a dream. Breaking things down into more manageable pieces helps build momentum and efficacy. Dreams and goals are the constructs of our lives. Congratulations to the Class of 2024 and the pursuit of great dreams! **GO SAILORS!**

**D**reams, goals, and hope provide us with purpose and are a catalyst for pursuing great things. The journey is challenging and difficult. This is true in school, work, and life. Within the student



# Special Education & Student Services

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

**Springtime brings many transitions to schools. As we look ahead to next year, we begin planning ways to support our students as they transition to a new grade or building.**

**There are a lot of celebrations to look forward to as we finish up the 2023-2024 school year.**

**We hope to see you at one of them!**

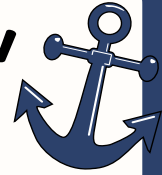
... (Special Education continues on page 20-21)





# Sailing Tips from the Therapy Crew

## All About Vision



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



### Did You Know?

"Up to 80% of everything a child learns is derived through their visual pathways. If there is any interference in those pathways, a child may not develop to their maximum potential."

- optometrists.org

### Vision Screening

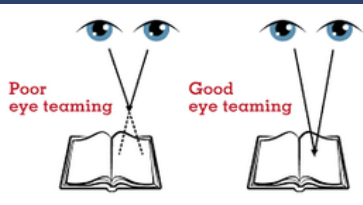
- Vision screenings assess distance vision but do not typically assess 'close-up' skills such as focusing, tracking, and binocular vision.
- Vision screenings may not capture all vision problems. It is estimated that 1 in 4 students have a vision disorder.
- A comprehensive eye exam should be considered if a child has ever indicated difficulty seeing, or if they struggle to read and write.

~~A child that sees like this can pass a vision screening.~~

### Visual Skills

#### Visual Acuity

- The clarity or sharpness of vision at a distance.
- Can be corrected with glasses or contacts.
- Typically referred to as a fraction (i.e. 20/20, 20/40).
- 20/20 vision means a person sees clearly at 20 feet what should normally be seen at a distance.
- A person with 20/40 vision sees clearly at 20 feet what someone with normal vision would see clearly at 40 feet.

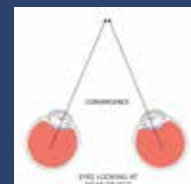


#### Eye Tracking and Teaming

- The ability to coordinate the two eyes together.
- Good eye teaming allows for appropriate depth perception.
- Sometimes one eye will deviate outward or inward.
- Eye teaming deficits may lead to double vision, headaches, blurred vision, and / or eyestrain.

#### Convergence

- The inward movement of the eyes when looking at nearby objects.
- Your eyes and brain must coordinate for this movement to happen.
- Convergence insufficiency refers to a decreased ability to bring the eyes inward when reading or performing close work and difficulty maintaining this position over long periods of time.



## Visual Perceptual Skills

Visual perception is our brain's ability to make sense of what is seen. A person may have 20/20 vision but poor perceptual skills. Visual perceptual skills play an important role in reading, writing, cutting, copying, manipulating items, etc. Here are some examples:

### Visual Spatial -Directionality

Look at Figure 2. Do you see a duck or a rabbit?



Figure 2

If the visual reflex is from left to right, a duck will be seen. However, if the visual reflex is from right to left, a rabbit will be seen. This is just one test out of a series to determine the directionality of the visual reflex.

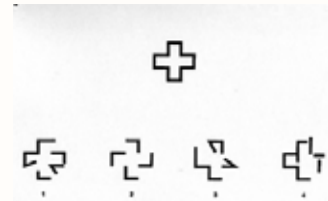
### Form Constancy

Which shape was cut out of the box? The shape can be turned.



Answer: 1

### Visual Closure



Answer: 2



## Signs of Vision Problems

- Frequent blinking, eye rubbing, or tearing
- Short attention span
- Complaint of being tired or eyes hurting
- Avoiding reading or activities that require close-up vision
- Frequent headaches
- Covering one eye
- Tilting the head to one side to read or write
- Holding reading materials close to face
- Leaning over the desk to get closer to the writing surface
- One eye turning in or out
- Seeing double
- Losing place when reading
- Difficulty remembering information after reading
- Difficulty with forming letters
- Difficulty keeping written letters or words in designated spaces or placed on the lines
- Using too little or too much space when writing
- Having difficulty using the left margin of the paper
- Difficulty copying from the board

## Behavioral Signs of Vision Problems

- Difficulty organizing and prioritizing work and time
- Relying heavily on pictures to "read" or auditory memorization
- Not performing up to potential
- Difficulty working alone and following directions
- Inattentive or disruptive in class
- Lack of interest in reading
- Excuses and refusal to do homework
- Difficulty completing tasks quietly and getting easily frustrated



### Sources:

- <https://www.optometrists.org/childrens-vision/vision-for-school/vision-therapy-and-reading/>
- <https://www.theottoolbox.com/visual-perceptual-skills/>
- <https://www.healthcare.utah.edu>



If you have questions or concerns about your child's vision, speak with your pediatrician or optometrist.

# Early Childhood

## Mona Shores Child Care



Mona Shores Community Child Care offers a nurturing and caring environment filled with many experiences to allow your child to play, learn and grow.

We provide care for children ages 6 weeks through fifth grade. We also offer Sailor Care for before and after school care needs at all Mona Shores elementary schools.

If you are interested in enrolling your child for child care or before/after school care, please contact us today at 231-780-6720.

## Preschool Programs

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



We offer both three and four-year old preschool classes on several different days and times to best help your child learn and grow.

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

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year has started. Call Mona Shores Early Childhood Center at (231) 780-6720 for more information.



## FREE PRESCHOOL!

### Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana

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



### Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

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



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

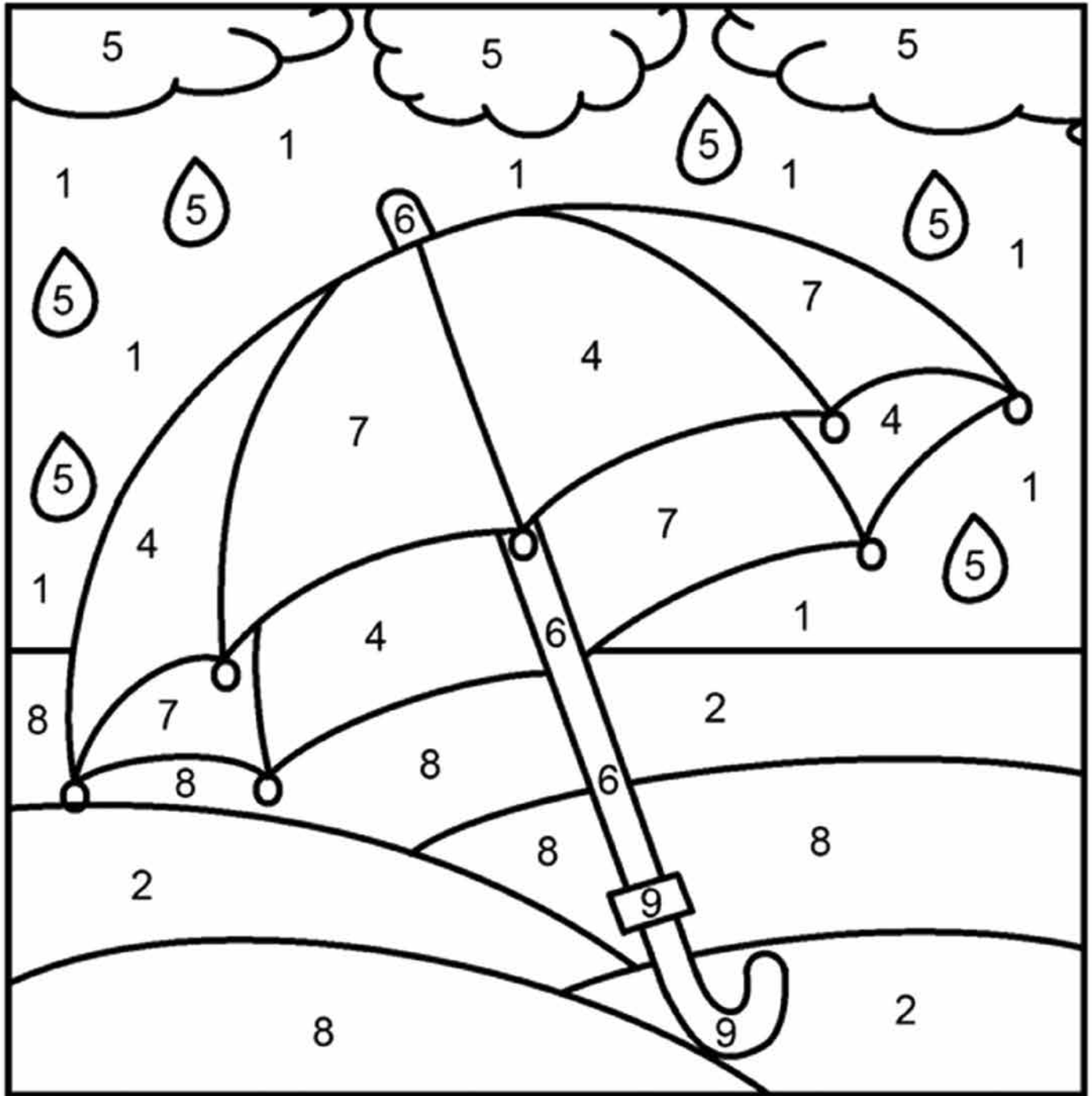
**2 Get Ready**  
The following documents are needed to complete your child's application:  
★ Birth Certificate      ★ Proof of Residency  
★ Proof of Income      ★ Medical Insurance Card  
★ Shot Record



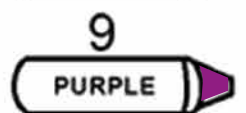
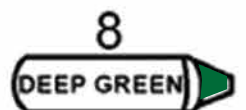
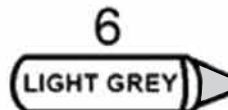


# Future Sailors Activity

Color by Number UMBRELLA



## Color Key



**MISSION STATEMENT**

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

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

The Mona Shores Choir Presents:

# POP GO THE SAILORS



## 'TIS THE SEASONS!

**FRIDAY, MAY 17 AND 18**

**AT 7PM IN THE**

**MSHS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

Tickets go on sale  
to the General Public on  
May 8th at 5PM  
online at: [showtix4u.com](http://showtix4u.com)



For more information, go to:  
[monashoreschoir.com](http://monashoreschoir.com)  
(231) 332-8319

Thank You for your support  
Sailor Nation!



*Better*  
**TOGETHER**

### BUILDING PHONE NUMBERS

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