

MUSKEGON

MIRROR

THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FOR MUSKEGON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISSUE 61 • MAY 2024



DON'T FORGET TO **VOTE**
MAY 7TH ON THE NON-
HOMESTEADED TAX RENEWAL.
SEE MORE ON PAGE 17

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION & DEDICATION OF CHARLES HACKLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
THURSDAY MAY 2, 2024 • 5:15PM - 7:30PM

M IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE A BIG RED! **M**

INSIDE

HUMAN RESOURCES.....	2	MCEC/STUDENT SERVICES/ENROLLMENT	14	HIGH SCHOOL.....	20-21
SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE	3	COMMUNITY	15	MIDDLE SCHOOL	22-23
BOARD OF EDUCATION	4	BOND PROGRESS.....	16	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	24-28
COMMUNITY RESOURCES.....	5	VOTING INFORMATION	17	KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT INFO.....	29
CURRICULUM	6-12	ATHLETICS	18	FOOD SERVICE.....	31
OFFICE OF SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION	13	POPPEL PROGRAM	19		



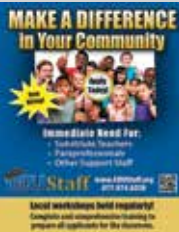
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS THRU JUNE 17: 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
MONDAY - FRIDAY

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS
JUNE 17 - JULY 26 • 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
MONDAY - THURSDAY (Closed on Friday)

Please call for an appointment outside of scheduled hours.

CATHERINE EMERY • Finance Supervisor • 231-720-2088 • cemery@mpsk12.net
SHEILA BROWN • Director of Human Resources • 231-720-2025 • sbrown@mpsk12.net
ALISE MCELHENY • Payroll Specialist • 231-720-2022 • amcelhen@mpsk12.net
DEBBIE FOX • HR Generalist • 231-720-2008 • dfox@mpsk12.net
TERRI HANSEN • HR Specialist • 231-720-2056 • thansen1@mpsk12.net



EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS

EDUStaff
www.edustaff.org

Enviro-Clean Services
www.enviro-clean.com

Dean Transportation
www.deantransportation.com

Chartwells
www.chartwellsk12.com

EDUSTAFF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS & SUPPORT STAFF

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

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

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

- \$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/>

WELCOME NEW STAFF

LaDonna Anderson.....Lunchroom AideOakview
 Ardis Austin.....Lunchroom AideBunker
 Silena Brown.....Interim Teacher.....Bunker
 Keyera Carpenter.....Lunchroom AideMarquette
 Justice Head.....Lunchroom AideOakview
 Portia Kidd.....Lunchroom AideMarquette
 Ruth Lamson.....Paraeducator.....Marquette
 Benika Longmire.....Facilitator of College & Career ReadinessHigh School
 Ja'Michael Moore.....Lunchroom AideBunker
 Davion Spirvy.....Technical Specialist.....High School
 Kristen Stimac.....Secretary.....Middle School



X B L U E S K Y B C A V P A
 F B R E E Z E B Z C J Z U S
 L S Q N H A K T K L Q V D R
 O B U T T E R F L Y N R D B
 W V F A B E S Y B M I S L U
 E T G P J T E Q G B Q I E N
 R H I F C K Z W G R W T S N
 S B Q E G A R D E N V T G Y
 J S S T I M O A S S D T R W
 Y N U M E A D O W M S V O P
 I N Q N G I N F A P M J W T
 B E P I C N I C O G B W T P
 Z O F Q D K R A I N H B H H
 M C O E S F F E M W F A G M

BLUE SKY
FLOWERS
PUDDLES
BUNNY

INSECTS
BUTTERFLY
GROWTH

MEADOW
SUN
BREEZE

BIRDS
GARDEN
RAIN
PICNIC



Matthew Cortez
Superintendent, Ed.S.
Muskegon Public Schools

WHAT A GREAT TIME TO BE A BIG RED!

Hello, everyone, I hope that we are finally bringing spring into our community. Through the past season, we have been working hard at MPS. We have been designing, building, and planning a project-based learning approach for all students PK-12 in partnership with Ford Next Generation Learning. We are the fifth district to join this world-renowned partnership in all of Michigan.

Our bond projects are continuing forward, and we are hosting a great celebration on May 2, 2024, from 5:15pm - 7:30pm at the NEW Charles Hackley Middle School. It will be a community open house, and our official dedication ceremony will be at 5:30pm. We are planning an experience for everyone to learn and see the newest features of our 21st century learning environment. We also will have Steven Charles Hackley and his wife Tammi join us for the grand celebration. All of this is only possible due to the generosity, support, and love from our Big Red Nation. It is the community that has dictated the pathway that we walk together.

Also, May 7th is voting day, and we hope all of you can make it to the polls. We have placed a ballot question that would renew the 18 mil Non-Homesteaded tax for funding our schools. This measure would not cause taxes on an owned primary residence to increase. This would be the tax that is levied on all Non-Homesteaded properties to support our school district's basic needs for educating our children. This measure would allow for our district to receive the full per student funding set by the State of Michigan, the primary source of funding for our district. So, please mark the day, make it to the polls, and vote!

Graduation is around the corner again and will take place at historic Hackley Stadium on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 7pm. Rain dates are Tuesday, May 21, and Thursday, May 23, if needed. Please join us in wishing the Class of 2024, our 149th graduating class, a huge welcome as alumni and wish them well in their future endeavors. Personally, I love graduation day because it illustrates and encapsulates the absolute essential reason for our district's existence. We are changing lives, families, and our community one student at a time.

In conclusion, why is it a great time to be a Big Red? We all have our own reasons and passions for it. However, I would pose a bigger question of why would anyone choose not to be a Big Red? I have been in a few places in my career and am completing my 5th year as superintendent. During this time I have learned what it is to be a Big Red and how once a Big Red always a Big Red. I will say, without hesitation, that these years have been the best in my 27 years as an educator. My son will graduate with the Class of 2025, and I am so excited for him to always be linked to a terrific community and school district. #GoBigReds!

Educationally Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt T. Cortez". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Matthew T. Cortez

CONGRATULATIONS
BIG REDS!! CLASS OF
M 2024

A large graphic logo for the Class of 2024. It features a large, bold, red letter 'M' with a white outline. To the right of the 'M' is the year '2024' in a similar bold, red font. A red graduation cap is positioned above the final '4'. Above the 'M' and '2024' are the words 'CONGRATULATIONS BIG REDS!!' and 'CLASS OF' in a smaller, red, sans-serif font.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

The Board's Organizational Meeting will be held in January 2025



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

Lynnette Marks (President)
lmarks@mpsk12.net
231-740-6249

Louis Churchwell (Vice President)
lchurchw@mpsk12.net
231-769-86389

Zachary Anderson (Treasurer)
zanderso@mpsk12.net
231-571-8978

Christine Hamel (Secretary)
chamel@mpsk12.net
231-286-2109

Kwame Kamau James (Sec. Pro Term)
kkamau@mpsk12.net
310-666-8375

Billie J. Bruce (Trustee)
bbuce@mpsk12.net
231-773-7179

Morgan Witmer (Trustee)
mwitmer@mpsk12.net
616-215-0611

BOARD PRESIDENT



Lynnette Marks
President
Muskegon Public Schools
Board of Education

Greetings Muskegon and Big Red Nation,

Happy Spring! By the time this Mirror edition hits your mailbox, spring should be in full bloom. Summer and summer vacation are coming soon. Please take time to read through this Mirror to learn about all the wonderful things happening in your neighborhood schools.

I want to take this space to THANK YOU all for your support and patience during these years of renovations. The bond projects have been HUGE undertakings. Muskegon Public Schools is blessed with a dedicated and committed community surrounding our students. I know it has been challenging to deal with the disruptions of moving classrooms, moving buildings, and dodging areas under renovation. In spite of this, our students have continued to learn and flourish. And through it all MPS educators and staff have remained committed to giving each student their best every day while developing engaging project based lessons as we move into the Ford Next Generation Learning model.

In the fall, students will be in their neighborhood buildings. Newly remodeled Marquette and Oakview will be open and ready for students. The TWI (Two-Way Immersion) elementary will finally have its very own building at Glenside. Preschool programs (Head Start, Great Start Readiness, Pre-K for all) will relocate from Glenside to neighborhood elementary schools: Bunker, Marquette, and Oakview. Construction at the High School should be wrapping up. Our 6-8th graders will be enjoying Muskegon's Charles Hackley Middle School.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Community Open House and dedication for Muskegon's Charles Hackley Middle School on Thursday, May 2nd from 5:15pm-7:30pm. The official dedication ceremony will be at 5:30pm. Please join us to see what you as a community have provided to our students.

It is indeed a great time to be a Big Red! Education and our young people are our number one priority. They truly are our future.

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

Helping MPS families be in the know and stay connected to services in our community.



Counseling & Mental Health Resources

- 24 Hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.....988
- HealthWest, 376 E. Apple Ave (231) 724-1111 24-hour Crisis Line (231) 722-4357
- Mercy Life Counseling, 125 E. Southern Ave (231) 726-3582
- Michigan Rehab Services, 2700 Baker St..... (231) 722-2013
- Catholic Charities West Michigan (616) 356-6247
- Mercy Behavioral Health, Hackley Hospital (231) 728-4950
- Muskegon Family Care..... (231)739-9315
- Pine Rest, 17325 Van Wagoner Rd (616) 847-5145
- Services of Hope, 1061 S. Getty St..... (231) 722-7980

Domestic Violence Shelters & Resources

- National Domestic Violence Hotline 1 (800) 799-7233
- Every Woman’s Place, 1221 Laketon..... (231) 759-7909 or *24-hour Crisis Line (231) 722-3333

Food Pantries & Resources

- Salvation Army, 1221 Shonat (Mon Wed & Fri 1-4; Tues & Thurs 10-3).....(231) 773-3284
- Mission for Area People, 2500 Jefferson St (supper Hours Mon – Fri 4-5:20).....(231) 733-1792
- Love, Inc., 2735 E. Apple Ave (call for appointment for services).....(231) 777-3905
- Muskegon mobile food pantry <https://www.cooperatingchurches.com/>(231) 727-6000
- Double Up Bucks, DHHS(800) 678-8914



Pregnancy Services & Resources

- Public Health Department, 209 E. Apple Ave..... (231) 724-6246
- Muskegon Pregnancy Services, 1775 Wells Ave (231) 726-2677
- Best Options Women’s Care 1275 Peck St (231) 444-5744
- Hackley Community Care 80 Southern Ave..... (231) 737-1335
- MFC Maternal Infant Health Program, 1700 Oak Ave..... (231) 737-1760
- Positive Options West MI 700 Washington, Grand Haven..... (616) 842-7510



MUSKEGON MIRROR

The Muskegon Mirror is published three times per year by Muskegon Public Schools, 1458 5th Street, Muskegon, MI 49441. Muskegon Public Schools accepts advertising to defray the cost of production and distribution and appreciates the support of its advertisers. Muskegon Public Schools does not specifically endorse advertisers or their products or services.

To advertise in The Muskegon Mirror, please contact Mark Williamson at (231) 766-3038 or email: mark@orshaldproductions.com



Alecia Hoppa
MTSS Coordinator

Muskegon Public Schools Participates in MiPHY Survey: Assessing Student Needs and Promoting Health

Alecia Hoppa, MPS MTSS Coordinator

*Alex Bodenber, Health and Wellness Consultant at the Muskegon Area ISD
and Regional School Health Coordinator for Muskegon County*



This year, Muskegon Public Schools participated in the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) Survey, provided by the Michigan Department of Education. This survey helps local school districts assess student needs and develop education programs and strategies to reduce health risk behaviors. Many local agencies, including the Muskegon Area ISD, Muskegon County Public Health, and Drug Free Muskegon, have endorsed the survey. The MiPHY survey is administered to 7th, 9th, and 11th-grade students. It is voluntary, and responses are anonymous. Student responses help school and community organizations track information on health behaviors, and the results are crucial for program planning and securing grant funding to address student needs. The survey covers topics such as substance abuse, violence, physical activity, nutrition, sexual behaviors, and emotional health. Its design allows for comparison with the national Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

At MPS we use MiPHY data to inform program and curricular needs. Most recently the data was used when making updates to the district sex education curriculum. At the county level, Alex Bodenber, Health and Wellness Consultant from the Muskegon Area ISD, has shared that the data is used to guide the strategic planning and youth programming for Muskegon ALI, Knowsmoke, Muskegon Area Medication Disposal Program, Alliance for Marijuana Prevention Coalition (AMP), and Ride with Pride Coalition.

Alex has also highlighted a variety of ways MiPHY results help the students, and inform the schools and community:

For Students:

- **Tailored Support:** The survey data enables targeted support programs for mental health, substance abuse prevention, and physical wellness.
- **Resource Allocation:** Results inform resource allocation within the school, ensuring students have the support they need to thrive.

For Schools:

- **Informed Decision Making:** Valuable data informs health and wellness policies, curriculum development, and evidence-based interventions.
- **Program Evaluation:** Survey results evaluate the effectiveness of health programs, leading to continuous improvement and comprehensive wellness strategies.
- **Grant Funding:** Data supports securing funding for health-related programs, expanding the capacity to address student health needs effectively.

For Community:

- **Community Health Initiatives:** Survey data informs community-wide health initiatives, promoting healthy behaviors and preventing risk factors, like substance abuse.
- **Collaborative Interventions:** Results facilitate collaboration between schools, local health agencies, and government entities to support youth health.
- **Policy Development:** Survey insights contribute to evidence-based policies and programs at the community level, addressing specific health needs of youth.
- **Health Promotion:** The community works together to promote health and wellness, creating a supportive environment for young people.
- **Public Health Funding:** Survey data supports grant applications for community-based health initiatives, benefiting the broader population.

MiPHY reports, along with other school-based data, help us to make decisions to improve prevention and health programming for our students. It provides meaningful data to the community agencies we partner with, allowing them to identify needed programs or services that reduce risk factors and increase protective factors enabling students to be successful in school. The data also is necessary to successfully apply for grants and develop programming to effectively address student needs.

Empowering Tomorrow's Workforce: Ford NGL Principles in Action with Xello and Career Zones

In a bustling 4th-grade classroom at Oakview Elementary, the air was excited as students eagerly awaited a special guest. Today wasn't an ordinary day of learning; it was infused with Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) principles. As the partnership between MAISD Career Zones, Xello, and MPS unfolded, the stage was set for an immersive journey into the world of career exploration.



Ms. Gordon's classroom was abuzz with anticipation and for a good reason. Jennifer Kempa, the Director of Baker College's surgical technology program, was about to take the students on a captivating journey into her profession. Armed with real-world experiences and a passion for sharing knowledge, Kempa's visit epitomized the essence of Ford NGL principles.

The cornerstone of the session was Xello, a dynamic platform that serves as a gateway to career exploration for students.

xello

Through this innovative tool, Ms. Gordon's class has been navigating the intricate pathways of self-discovery, setting goals,

and understanding the diverse landscape of career options. The partnership between MAISD and Career Zone speakers, with the help of Career Specialist Michelle Kuck, has further enriched this experience, directly bringing tangible insights into various professions into the classroom.

As Kempa delved into the intricacies of her career, the students were not merely passive spectators; they were active participants, driven by curiosity and a thirst for knowledge. Through thought-provoking questions and hands-on activities, Kempa provided a glimpse into a surgical technologist's life, igniting inspiration among young minds.



But what truly sets this initiative is its unwavering connection to Ford NGL principles:

Access and Support for All: Every student deserves equal access to learning and career opportunities regardless of background or circumstance. This partnership ensures that all students can explore diverse career paths by bringing industry professionals into the classroom.

Choice, Ownership, and Agency: Ford NGL principles center on empowering students to take charge of their learning journey. Through Xello and interactive sessions with career speakers, students are encouraged to make informed choices about their future, instilling a sense of ownership and agency.

Shared Responsibility and Accountability: The success of this initiative hinges on the collaboration between schools, families, businesses, and community organizations. By pooling resources and expertise, stakeholders collectively work towards designing a transformative learning experience for students.

Relentless Pursuit of Excellence: Mediocrity has no place in pursuing educational and career excellence. By fostering a continuous improvement and innovation culture, stakeholders strive to provide students with the best possible opportunities for success and fulfillment.

Continuous Innovation: The world is ever-evolving, and so must our approach to education and career readiness. Through ongoing innovation and adaptation, stakeholders remain at the forefront of preparing students for tomorrow's challenges and opportunities.

As Ms. Gordon's class immerses itself in career exploration, students envision future possibilities and lay the groundwork for their own success stories. With each interactive session and insightful conversation, these young learners take meaningful steps toward realizing their full potential.

As we reflect on these events and Ford NGLs principles, let us remember that the seeds of tomorrow's workforce are sown in today's classrooms. Through collaboration, innovation, and unwavering dedication, we can empower every student to chart a course toward a future filled with endless possibilities.

CURRICULUM

Spring 2024 Literacy Update

Muskegon Public Schools' Elementary buildings have been busy implementing changes since returning to school in January. With the addition of daily reading and math intervention blocks in first through fifth grade, we have also added four more interventionists.



Our six interventionists are all retired elementary teachers who are excited to work with students in need of additional instruction. During the reading intervention block, classroom teachers provide individualized phonics instruction in small groups and the interventionists use specialized programs to target small groups of students in need of support. With this new system in place, we are ensuring that students are receiving the individualized literacy instruction they need to close the achievement gap.



In addition to the intervention block schedule in January, grade level teachers began meeting every six weeks to review student progress. Teachers meet with the principal, MTSS Coordinator, Alecia Hoppa, the building instructional coach, and District Literacy Coordinator, Karen Abraham to monitor student progress in phonics and oral reading fluency. As a team, we reflect on the data, celebrate student growth, and make adjustments to the small groups as needed.

We are excited about the student growth in reading that we are seeing and also in our Muskegon MTSS system. To help communicate information to teachers, a MTSS News & Updates newsletter is published after each round of data meetings. Our newsletter motto is ***"We're not just building an MTSS system, we're building an achievement dream."***

Embracing AI in Education

Understanding the world we live in and the career pathways that students will have the opportunity to experience has been a focus in the Office of Instructional Services. One piece of the puzzle is using artificial intelligence to support our students' education.

Because our district has decided to embrace the use of AI, we felt that it was necessary to first expose our staff to what AI can do for them and how they can use it with their students in the classroom. On February 21st, the staff at Muskegon Public Schools participated in an all-day training that included five different artificial intelligence topics.



Staff chose from different topics including: Preparing Students for a Future with AI, What Can AI Do for You & Ethical Considerations for AI in the Classroom. These sessions were presented to staff by our partners at Michigan Virtual.

At the end of the day, staff seemed energized about trying some new AI tools that could help reduce workload. Teachers had a better understanding of how to introduce these tools to students in a way that made students use deeper-level thinking skills.

As Muskegon Public Schools educates students in a world where we are just seeing the beginning of artificial intelligence integration, this initial training session marks the beginning of an educational transformation.



K-12 MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Fact Fluency Development

Do you know that you can help your student learn math facts by playing games? Research shows that classroom math games in addition to a family math component had a significant effect on children's math learning. Children who played the games at home and at school, had higher math scores. The more math games children played, the higher their math scores. (*Young, Reed, et al., 2023*)

All you need is a deck of cards! One of the Essential Standards of Mathematics is about making learning fun! Playing games is fun for all! Read below for instructions on how to turn the classic game of Go Fish into a game that develops Fact Fluency. If you need more ideas for playing games at home or need a deck of cards, talk to your student's teacher. ***Have a blast while learning math!***



Go Fish - Make 10

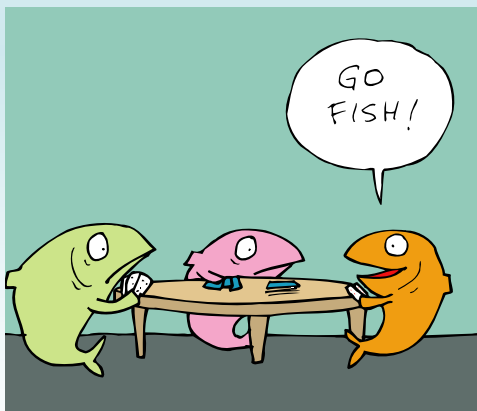
Set Up: Pass out 5 cards to each player. The remaining cards are placed in the "pond" in the center of the table.

How to Play: The goal of the game is to make matches of two cards that total 10. If players have pairs of cards that total 10, put them down in front of them and replace those cards with cards from the "pond". Players take turns asking another player for a card that will go with a card in their hand to make 10. If you get a card that makes 10, put the pair of cards down in front of you then take one card from the pond. Your turn is over. If you do not get a card that makes 10, take a card from the "pond" after your partner says "Go Fish". Your turn is over. If the card you take from the pond makes 10 with a card in your hand, put the pair down and take another card.

Sentence Helpers:

- _____, do you have any 4's?
- ____ and ____ make 10.

Scoring: The game is over when there are no cards left in the pond. The winner is the player with the most groups of 10's. Players can count by tens for the final score.



Variations:

- Instead of Make 10 for Go Fish, use "Doubles and/or Near Doubles +1/-1. Players then state the sum, or the doubles fact +1/-1, and the sum. The winner has the most doubles +1/-1 set of cards.
- Add up all of the sums of cards for the highest score.
- Create an agreed-upon rule of using more than 2 cards to make the quantity targeted. Ex. a player lays down a 2, 3, and a 5 to make a ten.
- Change the language to "Make 100". For example, 4 tens added to 6 tens equals 100. $40 + 60 = 100$. This is good for students who have played and are proficient with making 10 but can benefit from stringing the concept to a larger place value.



bit.ly/EMG-Go-Fish



CURRICULUM

2024 Spring Science Update

Spring has sprung! The days are getting longer and warmer and flowers are beginning to bloom. Life is reemerging from the winter slumber and it's a great time to be a Big Red! With summer right around the corner, our 2023/24 school year is just about to wrap up. Here's what's happening around the district as it relates to science.

Muskegon Middle School science has selected Cereal City Science as its new curriculum and if that sounds familiar it's because that is the same company that provides our elementary science curriculum. Now, there will be a seamless transition from elementary science to middle school science which should translate into even more academic success! 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students have enjoyed many hands-on activities during the year so far in both physical and earth science.

Four 4th & 5th grade classrooms at Bunker Elementary are going to take a field trip aboard the W.G. Jackson research vessel in May and work with scientists from Grand Valley State University to study the water quality on Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan. They will study the clearness (turbidity) of the water, the PH levels, plankton levels and conductivity to name a few tests. They will also learn a little history of Muskegon Lake as well as invasive species. Next year, this experience will be available to ALL 5th grade classrooms in the district!



Another exciting update from Muskegon Middle School is the first ever ESports team! The team meets for practice on Monday's after school and will have a total of five competition days or "Game Days" where they will compete to earn points for a Championship held some time in May 2024. In addition to the game playing, the team members also complete online lessons that are teaching them about different careers within the video gaming industry.

I always like to include resources for you to use with your scholars so 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/>

Water Cycle in a Bag

Here is a fun activity you can do at home with your child called Water Cycle in a Bag. You can create your own water cycle in a bag by following the directions below:

Materials:

- Zip lock bag
- permanent marker
- water
- blue food coloring
- clear tape

Procedure:

1. First, use a permanent marker to draw a sky on the upper half of your ziplock bag. Include clouds and the sun.
2. Next, fill a cup with water and add a few drops of blue food coloring. This will help the water be more visible to your kids. Mix it up until it's a striking blue color.
3. Then, pour the water into the bag and zip it tight so no water escapes.
4. Now, hang your bag up on a window that gets a lot of sunshine. Affix it with tape on the corner to ensure it doesn't fall.
5. In a couple of hours, you can check on your bag, and then check again in about a day. You will eventually start to see drops of water sticking to the side of the bag. Some will be in the "clouds" and other drops will be coming down like rain.

What's Happening:

The sun is heating up the water in the bag, which turns the water into a gaseous state in a process called evaporation. This happens in our atmosphere, too. Because the water is in a bag and has nowhere to go, it sticks to the sides of the bag, turning back into a liquid. This is called condensation. This experiment demonstrates the power of the sun to transform water into different states.



Enjoy the longer and warmer days! As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions about our science program.

Joshua Presson • jpresson@mpsk12.net



Social Studies: Learning Can Be Spectacular!

- by Beckie Bush

Even when it's cold outside, the students in Mrs. Lakos' and Mrs. Hekkema's classes are engaged in hands-on social studies learning inside. The BIG Lesson is a week filled with adventure at the Lakeshore Museum of Science and History. This 5-day study trip incorporates the museum's abundant resources, as well as the knowledgeable staff. Students learn key concepts through various experiences and activities as they work as "detectives of history," examining various artifacts from Michigan's past.

This year, third graders studied the growth of Michigan. At the Heritage Museum site, they made paper, log marks, and used a printing press. At the Lakeshore Museum, they were pioneers and immigrants, and in the STEM lab, they talked about foundries and made mold castings. The culminating project was beginning a business using Michigan's natural resources, finding the best location, and using push or pull factors to get workers.



WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR CHILD TO LEARN IN A SPANISH LANGUAGE ENVIRONMENT?



Now enrolling for Fall 2024

TWI SCHOOL:
TWO-WAY LANGUAGE IMMERSION

POSITIONED FOR GROWTH

IN THE FALL OF 2024:



THE TWI ELEMENTARY PROGRAM WILL BE IN ITS OWN BUILDING @ GLENSIDE SCHOOL.



TRANSPORTATION OFFERED DISTRICT-WIDE TO GLENSIDE.



ESTABLISHED TEAM OF K-5 TWI TEACHERS IN PLACE, ADDING AN EXPERIENCED PRINCIPAL.

Meet the New TWI Principal, Thomas DeVoogd



- Thom is a seasoned educator. He's been an instructional coach, reading consultant, K-8 teacher and college professor.
- Thom has worked with teachers and students in three states, three countries and in English and Spanish.
- Thom and his wife, Janet, taught at MPS in grades K-4 for many years and their Big Reds pride brings them back to the district.

CALL (231) 720-2013 WITH QUESTIONS OR TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN TWI SCHOOL



CURRICULUM

Muskegon Big Reds are on a New and Exciting Journey with Ford Next Generation of Learning

Our plan begins with strong community partnerships. We have partnered with many strong Muskegon-area businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, area colleges and non-profit organizations to create a vision, a strong team and set the stage for college and career opportunities for our students. We have also included our parents, students, and staff in the process. In late February, approximately 80 people gathered to learn more about the ***MPS/Ford NGL partnership and focus on supporting our graduates in preparing them for college and/or career readiness after high school graduation.***

As part of this event, we asked our MMS and MHS students to share what they needed to learn at their highest levels. Here is what our Big Reds told us:

Authenticity: They crave authenticity in their learning experiences. They want to engage with real-world problems and scenarios, where they can apply their knowledge and skills in meaningful ways.

Relationships: Building strong relationships within the learning environment is essential for students' social and emotional development. Positive relationships with peers and with teachers create a supportive atmosphere where students feel valued and motivated to learn.

Choice: Empowering students with choices in their learning allows them to take ownership of their education. When students have a say in what and how they learn, they are more likely to feel motivated and engaged.

Relevance: They are more likely to try harder when learning experiences are relevant to students' lives and interests. Educators can make learning more meaningful and engaging by connecting curriculum content to real-life experiences, cultural backgrounds, and current events.

Application: Students value opportunities to apply their learning in practical ways. Hands-on activities, projects, and real-world simulations allow them to see the relevance of their studies and develop valuable skills.

Additional Time: Recognizing that learning is a process that takes time, students appreciate opportunities for extended exploration and practice. Allowing for flexible schedules and allocating additional time promotes mastery and deeper learning experiences.

Learning Through Play: Play is not just for early childhood; it is a powerful tool for learning at all ages. Incorporating elements of play into the learning process promotes creativity, curiosity, and experimentation. Too often our students are afraid to take risks because of failure. They specifically asked to play more often to have fun and gain confidence.

Challenge: Students thrive when they are appropriately challenged in their learning. Challenges push students out of their comfort zones, encouraging growth and development. Educators can help students build resilience and perseverance by setting high expectations and providing support.

Patience: Learning is not always linear, and students understand the importance of patience in the learning process. Cultivating a culture of patience and understanding allows students to embrace mistakes as opportunities for growth. Encouraging a growth mindset fosters resilience and perseverance in the face of challenges.

Practice: Mastery comes through practice, and students recognize the value of repetition and refinement in their learning journey. Providing ample opportunities for practice and feedback allows students to consolidate their learning and build fluency in skills and concepts.

While this journey will likely take 3 to 5 years, some of these college and career experiences are already taking shape at Muskegon High School and Muskegon Middle School. The 9th and 10th grade Academies are operational or in progress. The Work-Based Learning program has been revamped and students are beginning to be placed in career-focused experiences. More students are taking college-bearing courses today than ever before at MHS! And this is only the beginning.

There are three ultimate outcomes of our MPS/Ford NGL partnership: (1) Improve Students' Outcomes (academic, economic and social) (2) Improve Workforce Outcomes (create a talent pipeline for Muskegon County) and (3) Improve Community Prosperity (citizens who can earn a living wage, purchase a home and support their families). For more information, visit our website at **Ford Next Generation Learning - Academics - Muskegon Public Schools**

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Hammond, Executive Director of Instruction at jhammond@mpsk12.net.



**"Big Red Brilliance:
Muskegon Public Schools'
Level 1 Resource Teachers Shine
at Michigan Council for
Exceptional Children"**



The Office of Specialized Instruction proudly celebrates its Level 1 elementary resource teachers: Lorrie Brown, Molly Plowe, Barb Renkema, and Bethanee Yeoman. These educators have not only raised the bar for instructional excellence but have also established a new standard for academic intervention among students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Their commitment and expertise shine as a beacon of dedication in the realm of special education.

At the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children's annual conference on March 1, 2024,, the quartet presented, "Using Explicit Instruction and Progress Monitoring to Improve Academic Outcomes for Students with IEPs." Their insightful presentation offered a deep dive into tailored teaching strategies and consistent progress monitoring of their students growth. These Big Reds have been enthusiastic in adopting a supplemental curriculum tailored to address the diverse needs of students with IEPs. Through their presentation, they not only highlighted best practices and showcased meaningful outcomes and results, it also affirmed their steadfast commitment to enhancing academic performance.

Ms. Yeoman stated that, "Our team had the privilege to present to our fellow educators in Michigan with the success we've had using this new curriculum with our students. I enjoyed working together as our district's team of Level 1 special educators to implement this program, gather the data, create a presentation, and most importantly, to celebrate our combined student successes."

The impact of their work cannot be overstated. By emphasizing explicit instruction, these educators have paved a roadmap for targeted interventions that yield significant improvements in student learning. The data they presented at the conference served as compelling evidence of the effectiveness of their methods, highlighting substantial academic gains among historically underserved students. Their dedication not only enriches the learning experiences of countless children but also advances the conversation on best practices in special education. As we reflect on the accomplishments of these educators, it is clear that this is indeed a great time to work in the field of specialized instruction and a great time to be a Big Red!



Paul Kurdziel
Muskegon Community
Education Center

Here at MCEC, as I write this, we are in the very last week of marking period three. Next week begins marking period four, and then students leave for Spring Break! For students who are preparing for graduation, the year is going by very quickly. Our seniors, though, have participated in a number of activities throughout the year to, hopefully, increase their options as they make decisions about their next steps and their futures. Some students have participated in career readiness activities. Others have learned about how to enter into the fields of cosmetology and barbering. Several

visited Ferris State University; while others have or will participate in opportunities to better understand the skilled trades.

Here at MCEC, we work really hard to create opportunities for students to imagine their purposes. Each year, we get a new group of students. For the MCEC Fam, we want to continue to add experiences for students every year—not relying only on what we have done. To this end, then, we intend to add more ways students can create employment memories for themselves, so they are able to imagine themselves in careers and have the knowledge to choose careers that best fit their goals.

Skilled Trades



Last year, a group of students went to Career Days in Howell, Michigan. This openhouse took place at the Operating Engineers training center. Many skilled trades were represented and all had

hands-on experiences for students. Students were able to operate jackhammers, lay brick, operate heavy machinery, assemble pipes, and meet real people who actually were in the skilled trades at various levels. These are the kinds of experiences students need to make informed decisions about their futures and to choose the training and/or schooling they need to enter their chosen careers.

We are committed to working with students to find their purposes, so every student graduates with a plan!

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 and select the enrollment link. All our buildings have computers available.

Make sure to answer all the questions and click SUBMIT. You must also do an application for each student you need to enroll by adding another student.

Once you have completed your enrollment and if you have not provided all required documents, you will receive an email stating you have not completed the enrollment. You can simply reply to this email and provide the documents, or bring them to one of our buildings nearest you.

Make sure to check your emails for incomplete enrollment communications. You can log back in and check your enrollment and if it says, "finished"; you will be receiving a call from your student(s) building(s) for a start date.

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



MUSKEGON

A REWARDING CAREER IN PUBLIC SAFETY

The City of Muskegon is actively hiring for both Police Officers and Firefighters. A profession in Public Safety offers a rewarding career that makes a powerful impact on our community.

CAREER AS A POLICE OFFICER

Police officers are the first to respond to emergencies, they're problem-solvers, a helping-hand, and keep peace in our community. The Muskegon Police Department has open positions for Police Recruits multiple times throughout the year. Thanks to a grant from the State of Michigan, those accepted for a recruit position will have the Police Academy paid for as well as get paid to attend the Police Academy. Learn more about the benefits of a career at the Muskegon Police Department.



"I feel great purpose working as an officer for the City of Muskegon. Knowing I can make small differences in lives, influence and contribute to society while being supported by my peers in this career is fulfilling. The opportunities given

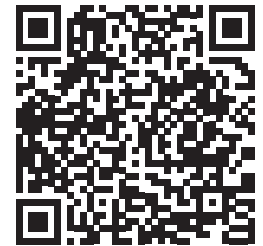
to me in my profession are tough and challenging solidifying my hard work and integrity."

- Kayla Foster, Muskegon High School Resource Officer



CAREER AS A FIREFIGHTER

Firefighters are responsible for so much more than just putting out fires. They are first responders to medical emergencies, teachers of fire safety and prevention, and rescuers for ice and water incidents. The Muskegon Fire Department is a career fire department which means all firefighters are full-time. Learn more about how you can start your journey to becoming a certified firefighter and join the Muskegon Fire Department.



"The MFD has been serving residents of Muskegon for 150 years, and being part of that rich history is an honor. Whether we're responding to a structure fire, a medical emergency, giving a kid a tour of an engine, or attending a community event, it's a great day when a community member gives us a wave or stops by to talk about the impact the MFD made on their family. Our community has pride in their Fire Department, and we have pride in serving them. We train daily, constantly pushing ourselves so residents know that they can rely on us in their time of need. One of my favorite parts of the job is the tradition of attending Big Red football games in the fall. **GO BIG REDS!**"

- Anthony Mojica, Muskegon Firefighter

Hackley Middle School



Hackley Middle School is in its final stages, undergoing many finishes these next few weeks. The interior of this building will be completed mid-April, with landscaping and site work wrapping up late spring.

Marquette Elementary



Marquette Elementary is experiencing many of the same changes that we are seeing in the other elementary schools throughout the district such as mechanical and architectural upgrades. This project will be completed and ready to be occupied by the start of school in the Fall of 2024.

Power Plant & J Building



J Building and The Power Plant building are being prepped for demolition. Selective demo has been completed in J Building and the Power Plant will follow. The demo contractor will be mobilizing to the J building site mid-March for mass demo and after completing that building they will move onto the Power Plant Building this spring.

Oakview Elementary



Oakview Elementary is undergoing numerous changes, including upgrades to the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. Oakview will also be fitted out with new architectural finishes such as new paint, floors, and ceilings. This project is moving at a good pace and expected to be completed late spring.



**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE
MAY 7TH ON THE
NON-HOMESTEADED
TAX RENEWAL.**

Ballot Language:

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per

pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2024 tax levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 19.3754 mills (\$19.3754 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in the Public Schools of the City of Muskegon, Muskegon County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 6 years 2025 to 2030, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2025 is approximately \$7,268,491.57 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2024 tax levy)?

What does “non-homestead” mean?

Non-homestead represents industrial, commercial, and some agricultural property and “second homes.” It does **NOT** include a family’s owned primary residence.

Is this a new tax?

No. This millage was last approved by the voters in 2017. If approved, the proposal would extend the existing 18 mills on non-homestead property through tax year 2030.

What if the millage is voted down?

The revenue generated from the 18 mills totals approximately \$6.6 million annually, approximately 10% of the school district’s budget. If this millage does not pass, the State will not replace the funding and Muskegon Public Schools will be forced to reduce or cut programs to offset the loss.

Can the district use bond money to cover the loss?

No. Bond funds are restricted by law to Capital improvement and Capital acquisitions (construction, technology and equipment) and cannot be used for general fund expenditures.

2023/24 WINTER SPORTS RECAP

The 2023-2024 Winter sports season was another successful one for the teams at MHS. The Competitive Cheer squad led by Coach Sidock finished 4th in the OK Green and had a total of 4 First Team or Honorable Mention All-Conference cheerleaders. Our Bowling team finished off another season under Coach Hichue with a First Team All-Conference bowler and a couple of bowlers who are deciding on which schools they would like to bowl at in college. Coach Loudermill led our Girl's Basketball team to an OK Green Championship and had three All-Conference performers on the squad.

Our Wrestling team led by Coach Ricks had 7 wrestlers place at the Conference meet, as well as, having three wrestlers qualify for Regionals. Finally, our Boy's Basketball team led by Coach Guy won an OK Green, District, and Regional Championships on the way to a Quarterfinal appearance with a total of six All-Conference performers. This Winter season was another step in the right direction and the MHS Athletic Department would like to thank all of our coaches, student-athletes, support staff, and the Big Red faithful for another successful sports season.

OK GREEN WINTER ALL-CONFERENCE

The Muskegon High School Athletic Department would like to recognize and congratulate the following student-athletes who have been selected to the OK Green All-Conference teams for the 2023/24 Winter sports season. This list shows the continued improvement and commitment of our coaches and student-athletes to make our Athletic program better each year.

BOWLING

FIRST TEAM

Earnest Harris



COMPETITIVE CHEER

FIRST TEAM

Ja'Nya Banks
Alexandria Hunter
Jordyn Walker

HONORABLE MENTION
Da'Saya Hartfield

BOY'S BASKETBALL

FIRST TEAM

Terrance Davis
M'Khi Guy
Montrel Oliver
Justin Watson

HONORABLE MENTION
Keashaun Johnson
James Martin



GIRL'S BASKETBALL

FIRST TEAM

Camiyah Bonner
Mariah Sain

HONORABLE MENTION
Jaila Martin

2023/24 MHS WINTER COLLEGE SIGNEES

The Muskegon Athletic Department is proud to recognize the following student-athletes who signed letters of intent to attend college on an athletic scholarship during the Winter sports season. These student-athletes will be attending colleges and universities all over Michigan and we are extremely proud of them. GO BIG REDS!!!

BOY'S BASKETBALL

Montrel Oliver - Davenport University

FOOTBALL

Miguel Botello - Michigan Tech
Brant Brooks - Davenport University
Karl Brooks - Wayne State University
Stanley Cunningham - Adrian College
M'Khi Guy - Wayne State University
Chris Jones - Adrian College
Destin Piggee - Saginaw Valley State University
Jakob Price - Ferris State University
Da'Carion Taylor - Wayne State University

GIRL'S SOCCER

Destiny Gates - Muskegon Community College





Welcome to Hunt Orthodontics, an orthodontic practice serving patients in Norton Shores, North Muskegon and Fremont!

J. Todd Hunt DDS, MSD
Jacob Falter DDS, MS



Complimentary exam and consultation,
no referral required.

NORTON SHORES / MUSKEGON
231-739-1050
3579 Henry St., Suite 160
Muskegon, MI 49441

NORTH MUSKEGON
231-739-1050
1887 Holton Rd.
N. Muskegon, MI 49445

FREMONT
231-739-1050
517 N Stone Rd.
Fremont, MI 49412

www.drtoodhunt.com

Provider of: invisalign®

First Congregational Church



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



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

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

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

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



THE NANCY POPPEN PROGRAM



**POPPEN
PROGRAMS, INC.**

Did you know Big Reds currently in 3rd-11th grade have a great opportunity to apply for arts studies outside of school? The Poppen Programs are accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year now through the first week of May!

Students in the Nancy K Poppen Program receive free private or semi-private lessons in the arts once weekly during the school year. We have students studying all kinds of visual arts and music lessons, creative writing, spoken word performance, dance and theatre! Call Ms. Claire in the Poppen office for more details at 231-720-2040, or email cbenson@mpsk12.net to request the link to apply.

Poppen students have also visited Olivet College and Western Michigan University this year, and have attended cultural events as a group. Several of our students attended the Vitamin String Quartet at the Frauenthal in March, and BLKBOK at West Michigan Symphony's The Block concert venue.

We have Poppen students participating in a Business for Creatives class this semester, and creating a mural and memorial space in the MHS library in memory of MHS English teacher, Mike Cloz, who sadly lost his battle with cancer last spring. Our creative writing students have had the opportunity to meet Angeline Bouleley, Michigan author of the Great Michigan Read selection for this year, The Firekeeper's Daughter, while she is in town in April!

We have a wonderful group of about 50 students in the Nancy Poppen Program at Muskegon Public Schools. If this sounds like the opportunity for your student, please contact us right away! The opportunity includes eligibility for the Sherman Poppen college scholarship if students remain in the program through senior year at Muskegon High School.

Call 231-720-2040 with questions, or visit poppenprograms.org for more information!

HIGH SCHOOL

It's Great To Be A Big Red In D.C.

Muskegon High School students and teachers visited Washington D.C. from March 2nd through the 8th as part of Close UP tours. Three very dedicated teachers Mr. Lohman, Mr. Horne, and Mr. Wierengo have spent a considerable part of the past year planning, fundraising, and working with students and their families to make this amazing experience possible.

Close Up Washington D.C. visits are immersive educational experiences that offer students a firsthand look at the American government and history. Typically, these visits include guided tours of iconic landmarks such as the Capitol, the White House, and the Supreme Court, as well as visits to museums like the Smithsonian and the National Archives. Students also have the opportunity to meet with government officials, participate in workshops, and engage in discussions on current events and public policy. These visits aim to deepen students' understanding of democracy, civic engagement, and the role of government in society.



The following comments are from students who were able to participate in this amazing experience.

I've never left Michigan until this trip. Going from Muskegon to a big city like DC was definitely a culture shock. It was a beautiful city in which I got to make the most beautiful memories in. It is an experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I got to spend this trip with the most wonderful group of people. People who I hope to keep in my life. It makes me so grateful that I went on this trip. Not only did I get to experience a big city, but I also got to make the best of friends. I will always love these moments, memories, and people. ~ Maddie

Coming to Washington DC was a really great experience for me. Although there was a lot of walking, I'm glad I was able to have an opportunity to travel to Washington DC, and see all the amazing architecture and the big collection of museums/memorials. ~ Icelyn

Washington D.C. was such an amazing place to visit, the architecture was absolutely beautiful. We also got to see the Cherry blossoms as they were just beginning to bloom which were so pretty. On Saturday we got to go to the Pentagon and see a play. Sunday we split up into two groups. Half of us went to the Smithsonians while the other half went to the eastern market. On Monday and Tuesday we went to some of the memorials such as The Lincoln, Vietnam, FDR, and MLK memorials. On Wednesday we went to the Capitol and met with some of the staff of our congresspeople, and we also got to go into the Senate and House galleries, and after the Capitol we went to see another play. On Thursday we went to Arlington National Cemetery. That night when we returned to the hotel we had a dance before our return home on Friday. ~ Tyler



The staff at Muskegon High School would like to thank all of our sponsors for this year's trip. The students were involved in 10 months of fundraising to raise money for the trip. They also received financial support from community members, the Big Red Ed Fund and the Muskegon County Community Foundation. Without their support, the trip wouldn't have been possible. We are grateful for all you have done to help make this experience happen for our students. The following are a few examples of how thankful the students are for your support.

Thank you so much for your contributions to our field trip! I gained so much understanding of the workings and arrangement of our government. I realized how much I love cities, especially Washington, DC. I made so many new friends, and got so much closer with my old ones through being their roommates and having new experiences together. My favorite part of the trip, though, were the stage shows we went to. One was really funny, one was really well-written as a portrayal of family and our society. I also really enjoyed the Smithsonian Museum of American History, because they had an entertainment exhibit that included two of my favorite figures in entertainment, Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy! Thank you sincerely for your contribution. We couldn't have had such a memorable and illuminating trip without your help! ~ Addie

I am so grateful that our sponsors helped us go on this unforgettable trip. Going through the Capitol was such an insane experience. Watching the Senate and House of Representatives was eye-opening. Having this in-depth (close up if you will) experience with the Government has shown me my role in it.

I am more confident in how I talk and my political views. I used to be nervous about sharing my ideas because I felt uneducated or not qualified to talk about them. Now, I realized that I know more than I thought.

Choosing a favorite memory is really hard. My favorite experiences were when I was with my friends from Muskegon and some others from New Orleans. I bonded to all of these people and I consider them some of my closest friends. Some of my favorite places were the Mexican Culture and Art Institute and visiting inside the Capitol.

Again, I cannot thank you enough for helping us have this experience. This is probably one of my favorite high school memories. I can't wait to see what the group next year does! ~ Cora

Muskegon High School looks forward to making this a yearly event for students and staff to participate in.

We can only imagine the number of students' lives that we can enrich with this amazing opportunity.

Best regards, Tim Hoffman • Muskegon High School Principal



MIDDLE SCHOOL

It is a great day to be a **BIG RED**, especially at **Muskegon Middle School!**

Mrs. LaKisha Loudermill
Muskegon Middle School Principal



Our students have stepped up to the plate of opportunities the staff offers and are demonstrating GREATNESS. It is so exciting to witness our students cultivating their skills of critical thinking, leadership, teamwork, academic performance, and student voice among many other valuable traits.

As our district transforms our programming of College and Career experiences for our students, our MMS Representatives on the Ford Next Generation Learning, have participated in two sessions to share their experiences, hopes, and desires that will contribute to the program design and opportunities that will be made available for our current and future Big RED students.



The **Urban Agriculture Club** is a great first step in creating leaders for our community who will have a foundation of nutritional knowledge and interest to drive them to make changes on a personal level and inspire others around them to do the same. Our Urban Agriculture is facilitated by Brittani Brown. She has given our students an after-school outlet to learn about nutrition, cooking, and sustainable gardening practices.

Muskegon Middle School Honor Roll Students

Congratulations to all of our students who are excelling in the classroom and are reaching their academic goals. We appreciate the support of every parent who supports our students to do their best. We are confident that our students will continue to make gains as we move towards the finish line of this academic school year.

Let us be reminded of a quote by Dr. Seuss, *"The more that you READ, the more things you'll KNOW, the more that you LEARN, the more places you'll GO."* I think you will agree with me, our Big REDS are going places!!!

8TH GRADE

4.00

Neve McGinn
Vivian Witmer

3.90 - 3.50

Belinda Ayala
Neola Canute
Rayna Chambers
Demetrio Dockery
Melina Lenz
Faith Matthews
Carly Parker
Onica Caviness
Khamylle Sharp
Quintan Henderson
Halo Tibbitts,
Vera Canute
Jaslynn Martin
Miranda Navarro
Anneka Canute
Ella Flaughter
De'Niyziah Olison,
Je'Narriah Kitchen
Leihlauni Hicks
Kimah L Williams

3.49 - 3.00

Connor Willea
l'Aura Anderson
Je'Carrious Brown-Riley
Emmalyn Mascarro
Aaliyah Alcorn
Alyana Magallanes-Garcia
Kelis Mcallister
Davaeh Fox
Chloe Newton
Cornelius O'Leary
Jonathan Delacruz
Rae'Quis Rowe
Kayla Cramblit
Ahrae'Shio Bridges
Kameron Gallegos
Keyani Bolden
La'Bria Harwell
Inez Gutierrez
Jyzel Todd
Carl Black

7TH GRADE

4.00

Spencer Richards

3.90 - 3.50

Nicholas Lee
Maria Isabel Esquivel
Jeremiah Coleman
Leiann Messenger
Leea Rowe
Angel Lara
Heriberto Zambrano
Cesar Pena
Da'Caya Cross
Beatrix Bozik
Marcus Sandifer
Gabrielle Gordon
Sitayra Moody

3.49 - 3.00

Alivia Guerra
Maddison Heater
Christanna Coulter
Eian Hainley
Suntario Houston
Erionna Martin
Kei'Asia Sims
Julius Nash
Bailey Burton
Leon Brown
Najai Petty
Avion Buchanan
Allissa Hall
Angelica Presendieu
Devin Hall
Daniel Canute
D'Zyrea Hewlett
Guy Joseph
Bradrick Mack
Isabelle Wiersma

6TH GRADE

4.00

Tevaeh Cross
Jay'lia Hunt

3.90 - 3.50

Chyna Beal
Jesus Saavedra
Kyrahn Sandford
A'Liyah Brow
Teagan Potter
Ramiere Brown
Desmond Flaughter
Colton Chaffee
Kelo Gonzalez
Dawson Kane
Letzy Rodriguez-Hernandez
Zivah Ruelas
Joanna Todd
Shayna Devries
Brayden Mullins
Bianca Wheeler
Maurice Wilson

3.49 - 3.00

James Towers
Mah'Kenzie Robinson
Sahvid Ruelas
Lord James
Skylar James
Brendon Dockery
Ma'Kayla Jackson
Kamani Moore-Walker
Jarita Sharp
Julian Wilson-Olivares
Bode Hogeboom
Devin Hall
Enrique Crawford
Amare Hancock
Geonnia Kelly
Aracely Zuniga
Za'Miyah Batts
Anthony Orsie
Arey Cervantes-Velazquez
Caviya Davis
Cavon Davis
Ariana Fulgham
DeMario Hairston
Trentin Harris
A'Yanna Howland
Carlisle Knowlton
Lukas Mascorro
Michael Piggue
Kanyla Porchia
Aubree Warner
Lola Willea



M **MIDDLE SCHOOL**
Honor Roll



Peer Mediators: Our MMS Students are in their 2nd year serving as **Peer Mediators**. This selected group of students has been trained to assist students who are experiencing a conflict by listening to both parties, identifying the root cause, and providing feedback and strategies to resolve the issue. This year we have had the opportunity to partner with the students from MHS who also serve as peer mediators. Our MHS students come over as partners in this process. These problem-solving skills are life skills that can be used now and in the future.



Look Who's Nationally Ranked!!

Congratulations to **Kamani Moore-Walker** who has been nationally recognized and is ranked #25 in the nation by the Top 25 Scouts for the Class of 2030 for his skills on the basketball court! Kamani is an MMS 6th grade Honor Student. His favorite subject is Math. He currently plays basketball for Sports House UA 2030. His goal is to play basketball for the Golden State Warriors in the NBA.



Student Leadership Council

Big Red Alumni is a Guest Speaker for our MMS Career Academy

Anthony Turner, SMSgt at United States Air Force, was the guest speaker for our MMS 7th Grade Students Career Day Academy. Dr. Turner spoke about his job with the Air Force and how STEAM and Science relate to the work that he does. Students could ask him questions at the end of his presentation.



Mr. Anthony M. Turner currently serves as a Studies and Analysis Technical Consultant for the Aeromedical Research Support Branch within the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine. In this role, he supports the Branch Chief with research and support requests on aerospace medicine, physiology, and epidemiology across the USAF enterprise. He also is the team lead

for the Operations Consult Service within USAFSAM. Mr. Turner earned a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology with a minor in Physiology from Michigan State University in 2009, and a Master of Public Health from Michigan State University in 2013. He accepted a role as an Epidemiologist within the Operations Consult Service with USAFSAM in 2014 at Wright Patterson AFB, OH. In May 2019, Mr. Turner was appointed to his current role as a Studies and Analysis Technical Consultant within the Aeromedical Research Support Branch of USAFSAM. He is involved in support of the Studies and Analysis Portfolio as well as the development of several programs which include OHWS (Optimizing the Human Weapons System) and CRAFT (Comprehensive Readiness for Aircrew Flying Training). OHWS and CRAFT focus on improving the physiologic and mental responses to the impact of flight. His research and academic interests focus on epidemiology, aerospace physiology, research design, physical and mental training, decision-making, and the physiologic and mental responses to the flight environment. He is a member of the Aerospace Medical Association, Society of Aerospace Physiology, as well as a contributing member to several NATO Human Factors Working Groups. He currently has numerous publications associated with research conducted on human performance optimization within the operational community.

On a personal note, Mr. Turner is an avid baseball fan and player. He currently is the hitting coach for the Northmont High School Varsity Team in Ohio and is continuing his playing career in several leagues both locally and at the national level. He loves music, working out, and visiting his family. He is the son of the great Mrs. Turner-Terry, a teacher at Muskegon Middle School, and is a product of Muskegon Public Schools.

Marquette Highlights:

The staff and students of Bunker Elementary are so grateful for the support of our amazing parent organization. These parents are so helpful in I hope this Mirror issue finds you well and filled with the same excitement and anticipation that I feel as we approach the last quarter of the school year. As the proud interim principal of Marquette Elementary School, I am thrilled to share with you why it's a great time to be a BIG RED at Marquette.

Parent Reading Night: Building Bonds Through Literacy

Reading is not just a fundamental skill; it's a gateway to exploration, empathy, and understanding. On Tuesday, March 12, we hosted a Super Family Literacy Night. This event wasn't just about honing literacy skills; it's about fostering a love for reading within our families and strengthening the bonds between home and school. Families and staff members were able to read together in cozy reading corners, listen to an interactive read aloud, practice literacy skills, and then have an excellent meal together! Moreover, this event served as a reminder that learning doesn't stop at the school gates; it's a journey we embark on together, hand in hand.



Student Celebrations

Marquette loves celebrating our students' super powers! From monthly Superheroes of the Month to a basketball tournament in physical education class to Fun Fridays, Marquette BIG REDs are celebrated for their accomplishments. Spirit Week festivities were a blast! Our students displayed an extraordinary level of enthusiasm, creativity, and unity, truly exemplifying the spirit of our school community. From wacky dress-up day to hat day and wearing PJs to school day -- every moment was filled with joy and camaraderie. The energy and passion demonstrated by our students everyday serve as a testament to the vibrant and inclusive culture that we have cultivated together. Together, we have once showcased the strength and spirit of Marquette, and I cannot wait to see what amazing things we will accomplish together in the future!





Parent Information Groups: Empowering Through Knowledge

In today's rapidly changing world, staying informed is more crucial than ever. That's why we are proud to continue our Parent Information Groups, designed to empower our community with the knowledge and resources needed to navigate the complexities of modern education. Parent Cafe has been meeting Thursdays and will start up again after spring break. Reach out to Shawntay Borden for more information at sborden@mpsk12.net.

Whether it's understanding academic standards, exploring college and career readiness opportunities, or delving into social-emotional learning strategies, our Parent Information Groups will provide a platform for meaningful discussions and invaluable insights. By fostering open communication and collaboration between parents, educators, and administrators, we can ensure that every child receives the support they need to thrive.

The grade-level coaches will also be presenting "Pastries for Parents" on Friday, May 24 from 8:45 - 10:00 to share the importance of preventing summer slide for students' academic growth.



Intervention Groups: Every Child Matters

At Marquette, we believe that every child has the potential to succeed, regardless of their starting point. Our Intervention Groups embody this belief by providing targeted support and personalized interventions to students who may need additional assistance.

These groups are not just about addressing academic challenges; they're about instilling a sense of confidence, resilience, and determination in every child. By embracing a culture of inclusivity and individualized support, we are empowering our students to overcome obstacles and reach their full potential.

In conclusion, I want to express my gratitude to each and every member of our community for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, we are not just shaping the future of education; we are building a community where every voice is heard, every child is valued, and every achievement is celebrated.

It's great to be a BIG RED at Marquette!

Jennifer M. Halverson, M.Ed. • Marquette Interim Principal

It's a GREAT time to be in Preschool...



It's a great time being in Preschool at Glenside...The children are building lifetime skills, making friends in school, and working with our neighbors across the street.

Social-emotional skills are one of the many skills taught in Conscious Discipline, including composure to be the person the child wants to be. Our preschoolers work hard to develop skills: sharing, communication, composure, and choices. We have a Team of Behavior Consultants to support our classrooms to work with our future Big Reds.

In the pictures, the children work with our neighbors at The Village Park Terrace while making a crown. A win-win for all parties. The children develop language skills, build on social-emotional skills, and composure while making the crowns. The field trip to visit our neighbor is something everyone looks forward to. To watch the children interact with the seniors and the seniors back with the children brings a smile to your face.

Being a Big Red comes with expectations that you will grow, learn, be respectful, and give to the community. One of the other tools used in the classroom to build on these skills is a safe place. Providing the children an opportunity to remove themselves from others to become calm, regain composure, and maintain control when upset, angry, or frustrated. Children come to the Safe Place to be helpful and not hurtful to themselves and others. It is the key to learning anger management and giving them skills to learn how to behave. This commitment is a lifetime skill.

As the Preschoolers prepare to move into their BIG RED School a few basic skills provide them with the key to success.

**Enroll your child in Preschool today,
call the Enrollment Office at 231 720-2540.**



It's a Great Time to be an Oakview Big Red



It's a great time to be an Oakview Big Red! Of course, if your child attends Oakview, then you already know all the great things happening at our school. In fact, the future's so bright for our students, we actually bought sunglasses as part of our upcoming Kindergarten "Moving Up" ceremony! The main reason we are all so excited has everything to do with the renovations being completed at "New Oakview" (1420 Madison Ave.)

In case you have forgotten, we are at Moon (1826 Hoyt St.) for the 2023-24 school year due to the remodeling being done at Oakview. Oakview's staff recently took a field trip to 1420 Madison to see how the remodeling has been going. Needless to say, we left the building rejuvenated to teach the rest of the year and excited for the future generation of learners who will walk through these beautiful new hallways! The best news of the day was that Oakview's Project Manager, Casey, assured us that **everything is on track for Oakview to be open in time for the first day of school for 24-25!** Now that's a great contractor!

Oakview at Moon is working hard to continue the family engagement activities that our community has come to expect. Monthly family engagement activities such as "Muffins in the Morning" and "Oakview's All-Star Luncheon" will continue all the way through June of 2024, and then come with us as we transition back to "New Oakview" for Fall of next year. I am also excited to say that Oakview is planning on hosting our volunteer "Reading Buddies" for the upcoming school year. Oakview will also continue with our monthly School Home Partnership Team (S.H.P.T.) meetings to plan activities that will be even more fantastic than what we are doing now!

If you are interested in learning more about Oakview, joining our School-Home-Partnership-Team, or possibly volunteering your time to work with one of our amazing students or teachers, please contact Oakview's Family Engagement Coordinator, Shawntay Borden, at 231-720-2477.

Sincerely, Brian Gamm, PhD • Oakview Principal

FFCU
FAMILY FINANCIAL
Credit Union

Financial Independence with a focus on
Your Community

Nice to CU

Become a member today!

ff-cu.org



Okeelah McBride
Bunker Elementary
School Principal

Dear Bunker Big Red Community,

As the vibrant heartbeat of our school community, we wanted to take a moment to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. The energy, enthusiasm, and unwavering support you bring to our school family truly makes it a special place to grow and learn.

At Bunker Elementary School, we believe in fostering an environment where every child feels valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential. It's thanks to your dedication and involvement that we are able to create such a nurturing and inclusive atmosphere.

From volunteering in the classroom to cheering on our students at extracurricular events, your active participation plays a crucial role in shaping the educational journey of our young learners. Whether you're organizing fundraisers, chaperoning field trips, or simply lending a listening ear, your contributions do not go unnoticed.

Beyond the classroom, our school community thrives on the bonds of friendship and camaraderie that are forged between families. It's our connections through parent-teacher associations, sports teams, and cultural

celebrations that enrich the lives of both students and parents alike.

We are also incredibly fortunate to have a team of dedicated educators who are committed to providing an enriching and supportive learning environment for your children. Their passion for teaching, coupled with your ongoing support, ensures that each child receives the individualized attention and guidance they need to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

As we celebrate the magic of our school community, we invite you to continue your active involvement and support. We encourage you to attend school events, participate in parent-teacher conferences, or join us for community service projects. Your presence makes a difference.

Together, we can continue to create a school community where every child feels valued, inspired, and empowered to achieve their dreams. Thank you for being an integral part of the Bunker Elementary School Community!

With warmest regards,

Miss Okeelah McBride, Principal
Bunker Elementary School



The Bunker Ball



Christmas Choir Concert



**Student of the Month
Breakfast**



The STEAM Lab



**Exploring at the Lakeshore
Museum**



Family STEAM Night



**Buddy Reading in the
Library**



Family Literacy Night



3rd Grade Pool School



Will your child be five by
December 1, 2024?



Sign them up for school @

KINDERFEST



THURS, MAY 9, 3-6PM

Charles Poole Admin Building @
Muskegon High School Campus
1458 Fifth Street, Muskegon



Bring your child's birth certificate, printed immunization records, proof of residence and parent ID to enroll



GAMES - KINDERGARTEN READINESS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS - MEET YOUR
TEACHERS - TWO-WAY LANGUAGE IMMERSION (TWI) PROGRAM & FAMILY FUN!

CALL (231) 720-2013 TO LEARN MORE



explore & discover



HACKLEY
Public Library

Everything Imaginable.



hackleylibrary.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

\$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**



Your One Stop Shop for

**ALL PERSONALIZED
GIFTS & CUSTOM
FAVORS**

Make Your Expressions
Become Your Reality Today!



For Local Pick Up Enter:
COUPON CODE: **LOCALPICKUP**
*Muskegon area only



www.loomaexpressions.com



FOOD THAT'S IN, WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT

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

The Meet Up and Eat Up Summer Food Service Program provides children and teens with healthy, nutritious meals that contain essential nutrients that promote healthier bodies and lifestyles. The sites that provide the summer meals are always safe and local. Look for flyers, social media posts and other outreach materials around your community to learn more about a summer site near you!

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

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

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

MEET OUR FOOD SERVICE PROFESSIONALS



JOANNA TROMBLEY

Hello, friends! Today, I would like to introduce you to Joanna Trombly. Joanna is the Kitchen Lead for Marquette School and Muskegon Community Education Center; both schools are temporarily located in the same building this year!

Joanna has been a part of the Muskegon Public Schools Dining team for 26 years. When she is not serving delicious food to our amazing students you will most likely find her gardening, playing at the beach, or spending time with her family. Joanna has been married to her husband, Steve for an incredible 42 years! They have two daughters and two grandchildren - a 14-year-old granddaughter and 1-month-old grandson!

Joanna's favorite thing about her job at MPS is the kids! She loves interacting with the students, and making sure, they get good food to eat every day!

Thank you for all you do for us, Joanna!



BRENDA NELSON

Hello, friends! I would like to introduce you to Brenda Nelson. Brenda is the Kitchen Lead at Muskegon High School; she has been a part of the Muskegon Public Schools Dining team for 27 years and has the highest seniority of the entire MPS Dining Department!

Brenda has been married to her husband, Gayle for 33 years and they have three grown sons. Her favorite colors are blue and pink, and she enjoys playing cards and bowling in her free time.

Brenda's favorite thing about her job at MPS is the people she works with and the kids she serves. She plans to continue her work with the MPS Dining Team until whenever she decides she is ready to retire, and then she wants to travel and just enjoy life.

Thank you for all you do for us, Brenda!



BRENT ECKERMAN

Hello, friends! Allow me to introduce you to one of our team's favorite associates, Brent Eckerman. Brent has been a Dishwasher at Muskegon High School for 25 years and he has the third highest seniority of the entire MPS Dining Team!

Brent's favorite color is blue (though recently he has been favoring purple as well) and he very much enjoys drinking coke and eating extra slices of cake on everyone's birthday. His all-time favorite things in the world though, are clocks and he has collected more than 100 of them!

We all look forward to seeing Brent's goofy smile and hearing his snappy hello when he arrives each day.

Thank you for being you, Brent, and for all you do!



Strong Schools, Stronger Communities

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

1458 5th Street, Muskegon, MI 49441
231.720.2000 phone • 231.720.2066 fax
www.muskegonpublicschools.org

Muskegon Board of Education

- Lynnette Marks
- Billie J. Bruce
- Christine Hamel
- Kwame Kamau James
- Morgan Witmer
- Louis Churchwell
- Zachary Anderson
- Matthew Cortez

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MUSKEGON, MI
PERMIT NO. 554

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

The "Muskegon Mirror" is published three times each year by Muskegon Public Schools, 1458 5th Street, Muskegon, MI 49441.
Muskegon Public Schools accepts advertising to defray the cost of production and distribution and appreciates the support of its advertisers.
Muskegon Public Schools does not specifically endorse advertisers or their products or services.
Please contact Mark Williamson with inquiries at (231) 766-3038 or email to: mark@orshalrdproductions.com

Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

8-555-OK2SAY
 855-565-2729
 ok2say.com

652729 (OK2SAY)
 ok2say@mi.gov

Search "OK2SAY"

GET IT ON Google Play
 Download on the App Store

BUILDING PHONE NUMBERS

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

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE
MAY 7TH ON THE NON-
HOMESTEADED TAX RENEWAL**

IT'S A
GREAT TIME
TO BE A
BIG RED!