

WE ARE MONROE

The **Monroe Public Schools** Newsletter

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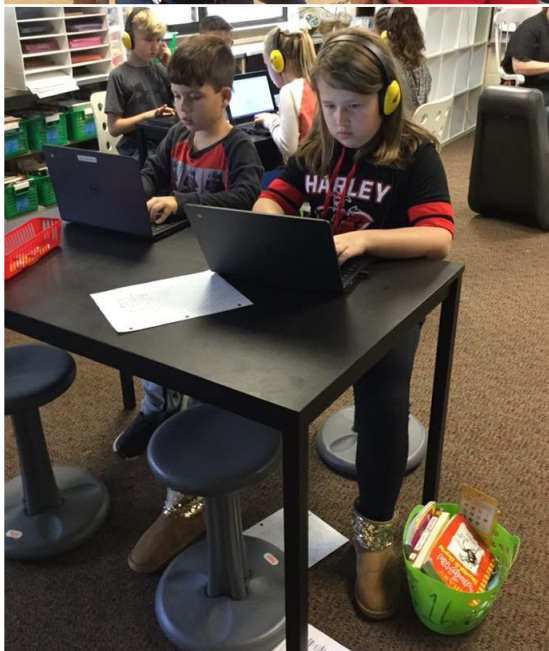
A New Year of LEARNING



Monroe Public Schools is committed to being the premier education organization in the region. We are devoted to promoting high expectations for all in a state of the art 21st century curriculum. We recognize that all of the students and the communities that we serve are our customers, and we promise to make all decisions in their best interest.

INSIDE...

- Restorative Practices help create positive and safe schools
- Construction Trades Trojan Build Underway
- Virtual Elementary Program Launched
- ProMedica partners with Monroe Public Schools and Community Foundation
- And more!



December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Half Day for Students	6	7	8
9	10	11 Board of Education Meeting #21	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Half Day	22
23	24 Christmas Break	25 Christmas Break	26 Christmas Break	27 Christmas Break	28 Christmas Break	29
30	31 Christmas Break					



Raisinville School Poised to Become Only International Baccalaureate School in Monroe County

An International Baccalaureate Visitation Team will be at Raisinville Elementary on December 6th and 7th for the purpose of authorization.

The teachers have worked hard to develop learning experiences that reflect globally minded, inquiry based and action oriented units of study that teach major concepts in an integrated fashion. Everyone at Raisinville is excited to see all of their hard work come to fruition.

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Christmas Break	2 Christmas Break	3 Classes Resume	4	5
6	7	8 Board of Education Meeting #1	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Half Day for Students	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Day – No School	22	23	24	25 End of First Semester/Second Quarter	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Thank you for voting!

**Monroe Public Schools
BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
2018**

We Are Monroe!

Restorative Practices Implemented at All Schools

While Monroe Public Schools students were on their summer break, many MPS staff were engaged in learning about Restorative Practices and how they can help build a more positive and safe school environment for our students. The overarching goals of Restorative Practices are to build positive relationships with students and, when conflict happens, to help students understand how to accept responsibility and make amends. The practice is about accountability, and repairing and building relationships.

To help initiate and manage the new practice, MPS has hired four teachers to now serve as Restorative Practice Support Coordinators.

Cathy Furnari most recently served as a 6th grade teacher at Raisinville Elementary and has been with MPS for 12 years. She will serve Custer and Manor Elementary Schools.

Darren Pocs was a 4th/5th grade teacher at Custer Elementary and has been with the district for 23 years. He will serve Monroe High School and Raisinville Elementary School.

Robert Wood was most recently a Social Studies teacher at Monroe High School and has been with MPS for 30 years. He will serve Monroe Middle School and Orchard Center High School.

Holly Weaver was a 1st grade teacher at Waterloo Elementary and has been with the district for 10 years. She will serve Arborwood and Waterloo Elementary Schools.

Summer informational sessions were also held for families and interested community members. According to the coordinators, a common misconception is that students are “off the hook.” In practice, the process helps them better understand why they are on the hook.



Restorative Practice Support Coordinator Darren Pocs co-leads training for the Transportation and Technology Departments.

“As a longtime teacher in Monroe Public Schools, I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the first restorative practice team. I have a daily opportunity to support students in supporting them through challenging times, building positive relationships, and helping them manage conflicts. I am already seeing many positive results with students through this initiative, and it is my hope that our work will have a long term impact on our school community.”

-Darren Pocs

TRADITIONAL	vs	RESTORATIVE
◆ Focuses on breaking of school rules.		◆ Focuses on people and relationships harmed.
◆ Focuses on establishing guilt.		◆ Identifies needs and responsibility.
◆ Accountability = punishment.		◆ Accountability = understanding impact, repairing harm, and accepting consequences.
◆ Justice is directed at the offender and the victim is ignored.		◆ Offender, victim and school have direct roles in the restorative process.
◆ Limited opportunity for expressing remorse and making amends.		◆ Opportunity given to make amends and express remorse.



MHS Construction Trades Trojan Build Underway

The Monroe Public Schools Career and Technical Education Department Advanced Construction Trades class at Monroe High School is building a house from the ground up at the former location of the South Monroe Townsite Elementary School. The 1200 sq. ft., 2-bed, 2 bath home, designed to match the homes in the neighborhood, is one of eight planned homes at the former school site.

Students will gain first-hand experience constructing a home under the direction of construction trades instructor Tom Bell. They will also be able to observe electrical, cooling/heating and plumbing installations.

The 34 students in the class spend about three hours during the school day working on the home. Once completed, the home will be placed on the market for sale.

Monroe Public Schools is thankful for the community partners that have generously donated their time, energy, and materials to making this opportunity a reality for the students who are eager for authentic experiences in construction trades.



Monroe Middle School Students Accepted to State Honors Choir

Eight students from Monroe Middle School were accepted to the Michigan School Vocal Music Association's State Honors Choir Program. Over 500 students from across the state auditioned for 300 spots. Over the next few months, they will participate in three rehearsals across the state, culminating in a performance at DeVos Performance Hall in Grand Rapids during the Michigan Music Conference in January. The honored students, lead by Elise Dinwoody include Alena Burns, Addison Chaffin, Mya Cunningham, Rodney Mayes, Annastasia Schulte, Hunter Sonak, Dakota Stokes, and Charlotte Yesnach.



Monroe Middle School members of the Michigan School Vocal Music Association State Honors Choir. Left to right: Rodney Mayes, Hunter Sonak, Alena Burns, Mya Cunningham, Annastasia Schulte, Charlotte Yesnach, Addison Chaffin, and Dakota Stokes.

Homecoming 2018



Seniors Mitchell Carter and Karah Bowman were elected 2018 Homecoming King and Queen by their classmates and crowned during halftime of the October 6 Monroe High School Varsity Football Homecoming Game.

MHS Varsity Volleyball Achieves All-State Academic Honors



MONROE VARSITY VOLLEYBALL 2018

The 2018 Monroe High School Varsity Volleyball team achieved All-State Academic Honors. Additionally, both seniors, Natalie Litra and Delaney Salenbien, will be honored as individuals.



Arborwood Eagles Connect via Mystery Skype

Do you border the Atlantic Ocean? Are you in the Rocky Mountains? Is your state land locked? Are you in Tornado Alley? Does the Mississippi River run through your state? Does your state border Lake Michigan? Does your state border Michigan? These are all questions that Mrs. Steinman's 3rd grade classroom asked the mystery class during their weekly Skype. With the help of Mrs. Oetjens, technology media specialist, students researched the answers given, while coming up with new questions. Students correctly guessed Illinois as the location of the mystery classroom.

Farm Science Lab Comes to Arborwood Campus



Monroe Public Schools was proud to host the Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom Food, Agriculture & Resources in Motion (FARM) Lab at the Arborwood Elementary Campus on November 5 and 6.

Due to the generous financial support of the Monroe County Farm Bureau, Arborwood 4th and 5th graders learned about how their food and fiber is derived in the fields, orchards and barns they see across Michigan. Lessons such as the role water plays in agriculture, how soy beans can be used to produce crayons with brighter color and covering power than petroleum based crayons, and even the concept of by-products while investigating Styrofoam packing peanuts (made from petroleum) and Eco Foam (made from corn).

Trojan Marching Band Shines at Festival



The Trojan Marching Band gave a stellar performance and earned a "Straight Ones" division rating at MSBOA Marching Band Festival on October 8 at Flat Rock High School.

MPS Adds Robust Virtual Elementary Program

This fall, Monroe Public Schools added a new learning experience to their offerings - the Monroe Virtual Elementary School, housed at Riverside Learning Center.

Through a partnership with FuelEducation, students have access to a blended learning environment consisting of face-to-face instruction of academic progress by a highly qualified teacher, in addition to the at-home completion of virtual learning models.

Students may take any combination of math, English/ Language Arts, science and social studies virtual models. The individualized courses meet the needs, strengths, and learning levels as determined by an entrance screener with their instructor.

For more information call (734) 265-3000.

MPS, ProMedica team up to keep students healthy

In an effort to promote quality of life through greater access to healthcare and mental health supports, Monroe Public Schools received a \$100,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Monroe last spring to establish a school-based tele-health program in partnership with ProMedica. The initial intent was to create a tele-health clinic at Arborwood Elementary Campus, which would pilot the program that the partnership hoped to grow throughout the district and the community. However, because the cost of the equipment came in significantly lower than estimated, units have been purchase



for all five elementary school campuses. "This is an incredible

opportunity to revolutionize school health care and expand access to supports to our students," Monroe Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Julie Everly said. "Our families will be able to engage with health services in a way they never could before and it can happen right at school! The benefits for our students' academic and behavioral wellbeing will be truly remarkable thanks to our partnership with ProMedica."


"Through our \$100,000 grant, the largest in our history, the Monroe Public Schools Tele-health Clinic with ProMedica means those students



get additional access to health services," said Community Foundation of Monroe County Executive Director Kathleen Russeau. "We at The Community

Foundation of Monroe are excited to be able to help create this opportunity for students in our community."

The clinic created through this partnership that also includes the Monroe County Intermediate School District and the Monroe Health Department will provide early identification and treatment of acute and chronic physical and mental health conditions. The program hopes to target chronic absenteeism by assisting students who may not come to school due to physical health conditions such as colds, flu, asthma, obesity, and diabetes, as well as mental health concerns.



Follow Monroe Public Schools on Facebook!
Where you can find important updates about the district, fun articles and photos!

Homeless Awareness Week Observed



Members of the Monroe High School Interact Club participate in Homeless Awareness Week.

Kindness Rocks Celebrate Kindness Day



In celebration of World Kindness Day, observed on November 13, Monroe Public Schools along with the MHS Interact Club, encouraged students, school staff, community partners and the community at large to perform random acts of kindness by distributing Kindness Rocks. The rocks had suggested acts painted on them by students and were placed throughout the community. Recipients were asked to perform the kindness act, post a kind comment and photo on social media and then hide the rock for someone else to find and pass on a random act of kindness.



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Superintendent's Remarks

It's hard to believe that we are deep into fall and preparing for the end of our first trimester. We are proud to share the achievements of our students and staff with you in this first edition of *We Are Monroe*. I am confident you will be impressed! This issue captures the impact our school community is making in Monroe and beyond.



about how students in our Advanced Construction Trades class are changing the landscape of the neighborhood and learning employable skills along the way! Also featured, is the launch of our telehealth partnership with ProMedica Monroe, making healthcare accessible in school.

Throughout our District we have amazing examples of learning in scholastics and character education. Together, we are developing responsible, college and career ready citizens of our community.

Thank you for your partnership! Together, we are proud, and **We Are Monroe!**

Believe. Engage. Excel.

As always

Dr. Julie M. Everly,
 Superintendent

Inside this edition you will see how a team of dedicated educators, our Restorative Practice Coordinators, have made it their mission to create positive and safe schools as they work with students and staff to grow active citizenship and problem solving skills.

We invite you to drive past the former South Monroe Townsite School property to witness the Trojan Build in action! Please enjoy reading

Monroe Public Schools

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