

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Week in Review

OCHS Graduation Issue

June 15, 2026

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BOARD MINUTES*

June 8, 2026 *Pending approval
Special Work Session



BOARD MINUTES*

June 9, 2026 *Pending approval
Special Board Meeting



BOARD MINUTES*

June 9, 2026 *Pending approval
Board Meeting



BOARD AGENDA

June 16, 2026, 5:30 pm
Special Board Meeting



**Board Meetings
Live Streaming**



[Livestream link for meetings/work sessions](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HIRING NOW

* Contracted Custodian

* Physical Education/Health
Teacher — Monroe High School



Superintendent's Corner

ANDREW SHAW

SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to another edition of *MPS Week in Review*! Please forward this to your family and friends. Anyone can sign up with the Subscribe button at the left.

OCHS GRADUATION CELEBRATION

We hope you will enjoy this special issue of Week in Review celebrating our Orchard Center High School graduates.



We are very proud of the Class of 2026 and look forward to hearing about your future successes. Please stay in touch!

Our Learning Bank graduates will be featured in our next issue. Take care, and enjoy the beautiful weather!



www.monroe.k12.mi.us



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Summer Office Hours

Monroe High School, Monroe Middle School, and the Administration Building will move to a four-day workweek, June 22-August 6, with office staff working extended hours. **The Administration Building will be open to the public, Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**



News Highlights

In the News — Recent Articles

(Articles below appeared in the Monroe News between May 28 and June 10.)

Monroe High School's 2026 Graduation ceremony included speeches by senior scholars **Joshua Bedner** and **Addison Bressler**, the commencement address by retiring Spanish teacher **Katelyn Martin**, and the farewell address by Class President **Angel Gallegos-Castellanos**. An honorary diploma was presented to the family of classmate **Elizabeth Jacobsen**, who passed in 2022 (6-3). Nine retiring MPS educators shared profiles – **Jodi Grenn**, **Suzanne Yorkey**, **David Henry**, **Cheryl Huffman**, **Julie Lassey**, **Laura Lavender**, **Elizabeth Turner**, **Lisa Warnke**, and **Melissa Watterson** (6-7). The Arthur Lesow Community Center opened on June 1, including the Learning Bank (6-10). The Exchange Club of Monroe recognized **Delani Willey**, a 2026 Monroe High School graduate, with their Youth of the Year Award (6-10). Captain **Calvin Schmitt**, an MHS alum, who offered fire prevention programs at local schools, is retiring as the Monroe Township fire inspector (6-7). A 4-page photo spread celebrating the MHS Class of 2026 ran on Sunday, May 31st. The Orchard Center High School graduate page ran in the June 7th issue. Directions Credit Union awarded a classroom grant to **Shellie Metz** at Monroe Middle School (5-28). Obituaries were published for **Ray Ooley**, MHS Class of 1954 (5-28), **Joan Dushane**, a 1953 MHS graduate and member of the Monroe High School Alumni Board (5-28), **Woodrow Waller**, a 1962 MHS graduate and varsity tennis player (5-31), **Lois Knegendorf**, who retired in 1993 after 20 years as an MPS paraprofessional (6-4), and **Charles Smelcer**, a 1960 MHS graduate and athlete (6-8).

Sports Highlights

Zamir Austin qualified for the Division 1 State Track meet in the high jump (5-28) and cleared a personal-best 6-5 to tie for eighth (6-2). Tournament coverage included softball preview (5-29) and district championship (6-2); baseball preview (5-28), district championship (6-2), regional previews (6-3, 6-7), and post-game (6-9). The Lady Trojans fell to Bedford 11-10. The Trojans won the Boys Division 1 District Championship defeating Bedford 10-5; their season ended at the regional semi-final vs. Dexter.

Summer Meals for Kids

Onsite Meals begin June 22.
7-Day Meal Bags begin June 25.

Monroe Public Schools and Sodexo Food Services are partnering with the Meet Up and Eat Up program to provide summer meals (breakfast and lunch) at Tots Lots sites hosted by MCOP and the City of Monroe Parks, and the Monroe County Community College Summer Camps. Meals must be eaten onsite for these programs.

The popular 7-day meal bundles will be distributed on Thursdays, June 25 - August 6, from 10 a.m. - noon. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Sodexo at 734-265-3120.



MPS graduates who received scholarships from the Education Foundation were honored at the June 9th Board of Education Meeting. Watch [video](#).

Malachi Beglau, Hannah Dobson, Bailey Baker, Salma Abdalla, Corinna Aulph, Carolyn LaVoy, Alaina Leicht, Delani Willey, Jennah Cadle, Nathan Atwood, Max Wright, Cole Smith, Illiana Salinas, Keegan Farris, Sam Eby, Molly McCracken, Samantha McCullough

2026 Education Foundation Scholarship Winners

Salma Abdalla: Custer \$500

Nathan Atwood: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Corinna Aulph: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000;
Sean Brady \$1,000; Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Bailey Baker: Custer \$500

Malachi Beglau: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000;
June Heck \$1,000; Cate Windelborn, \$500

Addison Bressler: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000;
Noseworthy \$500

Nolan Cacioppo: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000;
Cate Windelborn \$500

Jennah Cadle: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Jordyn Campbell: McIntyre \$2,000

Bianca Cedeno: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000;
Custer \$500

Christopher DiCarlo: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000

Hannah Dobson: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000

Samantha Eby: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000;
Matthew Gertz \$2,000;
Robert Worden (Raisinville) \$1,000

Keegan Farris: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000; Custer \$500;
Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000; Sean Brady \$1,000;

Lindsey Kleinow: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Carolyn LaVoy: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Alaina Leicht: Donald Packer \$1,000

Molly McCracken: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000;
Sean Brady \$1,000

Samantha McCullough: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Vinh Nguyen: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000
Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Peyton Novak: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Haley Overton: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Briella Pearce: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000;
Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Brielle-Nicole Pierce: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000

Juliana Ratliff: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Rayvon Reed: Cate Windelborn \$500

Illiana Salinas: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000; Horvath \$2,000

Brooklynn Schilling: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Cole Smith: Anthony "Tony" Pollzzie \$1,000;
Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Sayde Smith: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Cortney Thomas: Graceful Memories \$925

Emma Wigman: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Delani Willey: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000; Horvath \$2,000;
Sean Brady \$1000

Hannah Wilson: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000

Jacob Wisler: Earle & Elsie Little \$1,000;
Cate Windelborn \$500

Maxwell Wright: Mary Kay Kosa \$2,000; Noseworthy \$500

SENIOR WALK-THROUGHS



High school graduates who attended Arborwood Elementary walked through Hollywood and Cantrick on June 4th. High school graduates and current fourth grade students were clapped-out as they walked through the halls of Manor Elementary on June 5th. Congratulations to all!



CONGRATULATIONS

Orchard Center H.S. Class of 2026



2026

MONROE
Moments
Graduation



Orchard Center High School

Graduation Ceremony - June 5, 2026

OCHS Grads in *Monroe News*

A full-page color ad was published in the Sunday, June 7th edition of the *Monroe News*, celebrating the graduates of Orchard Center High School. The [page](#) includes a headshot of each of the 50 OCHS graduates and a group photo from the May 30th Graduate Breakfast.



Watch Graduation Online

Share a link to the recording of the OCHS Graduation or experience the magic again yourself by rewatching!

- Watch the [2026 OCHS Commencement](#)
- Read the [2026 Graduation Program](#)



ORCHARD CENTER HIGH SCHOOL



Board of Education

ORCHARD CENTER HIGH



Monroe Public Schools Board of Education

STANDING: *Mary Vincent*, Board Secretary; *Tom Heck*, Board President; *Kerri Williams*, Board Treasurer; *Brian Sabbadini*, Parliamentarian; *Stacey Terrasi*, Board Trustee *Gary Jenkins*, Board Trustee; *Darla Myers*, Board Vice President.





Watch them soar...

Class of 2026



Madysen Elizabeth-Abigail Armstrong
Gage Rylan Barko*
Gabriella Rosalea Bomia
Anthony John Chapman*
Kendra Grace Coleman
Cassidy Collins
Josephine Margret-Marie Collins
Kiarra Michelle Couch*
Dalton Calvin Cox Jr.
Trinitee Brooklyn DeCosta
Brian Robert Deitz*
Ryan O'Neal Demerly
Blake Anthony Govan*
Taylor Mackenzie Grandberry*
Chloe Chartez Green*
Kamauri LaShounda Green*
Clayton Lee Gregory*
Keeairae Rose Haynes
Taekwon Jashawn Himes-Adams

Marques King Isaac
Ayonah Marie Love Jones
Trinity Shiann Jordan*
Jonavn Robert Kwiatkowski*
Cillian Patrick LaVoy
Isaac John Lentz
Chevi Rae Ann Loose*
Ayden Bradley Lowry
Kota Mason
Myanna Key'O May
Gavin Michael Keith McCarty
Knox McClellan
Rodrigo Roman McClellan*
Marieo Brandon McIntosh
Brandon Michael Milletti
Alexia Ida Lashae O'Neil
Brenden Mickeal Orosz
De'Shira A'mire Overstreet*
Dakota Ann Marie Palmer

Joseph William Powers*
McKenna Elizabeth Reifsnider*
Shane Michael Rhinehart
Jae'den Demar Richardson*
RaeLynn S. Rousseau
Hannah Cheyenne Smith*
Savannah Rea Soria*
Maria Dawn Tevepaugh
Joleen Victoria Valentine
Julius Edward Vanisacker
David Cruz Vasquez
Jacari Mykell Wilborn
Cody Jack Wilson*
Madison Suzanne Wertenberger

* These OCHS graduates were part of the Monroe Virtual High School program.



Orchard Center High School Graduation





Graduation Ceremony

PROCESSIONAL





Pledge of Allegiance



Maria Tevepaugh, Orchard Center High School Class of 2026, led the Pledge of Allegiance, following opening words by Principal **James Drew**.

Opening Remarks



*Principal
James Drew*



Remarks from Principal James Drew

During his Opening Remarks, Principal **James Drew** recognized members of the Board of Education, Central Office administrators, and special guests. He also asked Orchard graduates and families to thank the teachers and staff for all of the hard work they put in to ensure students would graduate.

"They worked tirelessly every day," he affirmed, "to provide every opportunity for students to have a pathway to graduation and to life." His words were answered with a warm round of applause.



***Stacy Bitz**, OCHS
Administrative
Assistant, and teacher
Ashley Julius, passed
out diploma cases and
blue-tipped carnations
after graduates exited
the stage.*





Special Recognition

Emma Treadway Resilient Knight

"In January of 2023, the Orchard family grieved as we learned of the tragic passing of **Mary Emma Treadway**," Principal **James Drew** shared. "Emma was a student at Orchard for three years and overcame many obstacles to complete all of her graduation requirements. Our Orchard family designed an award that would acknowledge her perseverance in the face of adversity."

Meghan Gibson, School Improvement Coach, presented the Emma Treadway Resilient Knight Award to **Dakota Palmer**.

"Mr. Drew has just described the Emma Treadway Resilient Knight Award as a recognition of that space known as resilience, where we find patience, extend kindness, and summon the determination to pursue our goals despite the challenges we face," Mrs. Gibson said. "I first met this year's recipient when she was a fifth grader. Over the years, I have watched her navigate a path that required more courage and fortitude than most people will ever know. She has faced obstacles that could have easily stopped her, but instead she kept showing up. Despite everything life has thrown at her, she has never let her hardship harden her. She has remained solid in who she is — present and unwavering... Dakota, your perseverance is inspiring!"



Meghan Gibson



Dakota Palmer



***Taekwon
Himes-Adams***

Dennis Rottenbucher Positive Mental Attitude Award

Orchard Center teacher **Ashley Julius** presented the Dennis Rottenbucher Positive Mental Attitude Award, named for one of the co-founders and the first director at Orchard Center High School.

"This year's award goes to a student who shows up every day with optimism and strength," Ms. Julius said. "What makes Taekwon special is the way he carries himself through every challenge. No matter the circumstances, he is resilient, and no matter the situation, he is kind. He takes care of the people around him, he encourages younger students in our school, and he leads by setting a genuinely positive example for his peers. Taekwon inspires us all by refusing to give up on himself, and he is only getting started. He has transformed his academic journey through hard work and determination, and he is graduating as an honor roll student. Now he plans to attend college in the fall, which is the first step toward a future that he is working hard to build for himself. Taekwon reminds us all that strength is not measured in the challenges that we face but in the attitude that we choose to carry through them."



***Ashley
Julius***

***Ashley
Julius,
Taekwon
Himes-
Adams;
Principal
James
Drew.***





Special Recognition

Monroe Virtual Excellence in Engagement



Courtney Bogden, who has been the director of Monroe Public Schools' virtual program for 15 years, presented the Monroe Virtual Excellence in Engagement Award to **Hannah Smith**.

"Hannah has been a dedicated virtual student for all four years of her high school career. Throughout that time, she completed every single course online, while consistently participating and engaging with her teachers," Mrs. Bogden stated. "Her commitment to learning and positive attitude helped her maintain excellent grades throughout high school. Hannah's hard work and perseverance truly represent the spirit of Monroe Virtual, and we are honored to celebrate her accomplishments today."



Courtney Bogden



Hannah Smith



Bill LaVoy invited Board President **Tom Heck** to join him in honoring award recipient **Trinitree DeCosta**.



Trinitree DeCosta

Carolyn LaVoy Student Achievement Award

Carolyn LaVoy was the co-founder and principal of Orchard Center High School. A special award is given annually in her memory and honor. Carolyn's son **Bill LaVoy**, a former member of the Michigan House of Representatives and an active member of the community, presented the Carolyn LaVoy Student Achievement Award. "This award is high recognition for student effort, academic performance, and overall character," he stated. "This year the staff has selected a student who has worked extremely hard from her first day here until her last day. She has been a positive example to students around her while maintaining an attitude and spirit that is to be admired. This student has also participated in direct college courses and graduated early. Having successfully completed her graduation requirements with great effort and dedication, we are so proud of **Trinitree DeCosta**." The recognition included a \$1,000 award.



Bill LaVoy's daughter, named after his mother, graduated from Monroe H.S. on May 29. "Support is needed for all types of education," he said.





Commencement Speech Six Pillars of Character

"The world has always been changing," social studies teacher **Christopher Kunder** shared. "Each era has brought uncertainty but also great opportunity... If certainty isn't guaranteed, what is? Your character is. When the path ahead is unclear, who you are matters more than what you know," he stated. "Skills will change, opportunities will come and go, but your character will determine how you respond when things don't go according to your plan."

Mr. Kunder shared six pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

"There will still be uncertainty; there will still be failure. But these principles will provide you with a solid foundation on which to build your future and your success...Years from now, people will not remember your G.P.A. or how much money you made, or even what your first job was. But they will remember whether they could trust you, whether you treated them with respect, whether you took responsibility, whether you were fair, whether you cared, and whether you showed up when your neighbors and your community needed you most. That is the legacy you begin building today."



Christopher Kunder

Orchard Center Graduation Celebration 2026



**MADYSON
ARMSTRONG**



**GAGE
BARKO**



**GABRIELLA
BOMIA**



**ANTHONY
CHAPMAN**



**KENDRA
COLEMAN**



**CASSIDY
COLLINS**



**JOSEPHINE
COLLINS**



**KIARRA
COUCH**



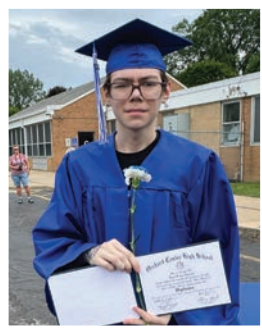
**DALTON
COX**



**TRINITEE
DECOSTA**



**BRIAN
DEITZ**



**RYAN
DEMERLY**



**CHLOE
GREEN**



**KAMAURI
GREEN**

Orchard Center Graduation Celebration 2026



**CLAYTON
GREGORY**



**KEEAIRAE
HAYNES**



**TAEKWON
HIMES-ADAMS**



**MARQUES
ISAAC**



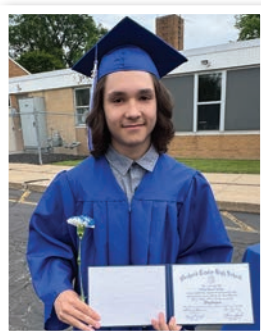
**AYONAH
JONES**



**TRINITY
JORDAN**



**JONAVN
KWIATKOWSKI**



**CILLIAN
LAVOY**



**CHEVI
LOOSE**



**AYDEN
LOWRY**



**DAKOTA
MASON**



**MYANNA
MAY**



**GAVIN
MCCARTY**



**RODRIGO
MCCLELLAN**



**MARIEO
MCINTOSH**



**BRANDON
MILLETTI**



**ALEXIA
O'NEIL**

Orchard Center Graduation Celebration 2026



**DE'SHIRA
OVERSTREET**



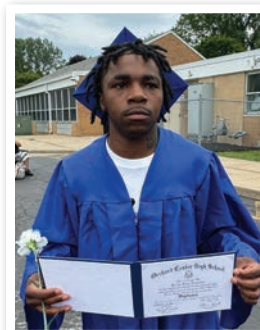
**DAKOTA
PALMER**



**JOSEPH
POWERS**



**SHANE
RHINEHART**



**JAE'DEN
RICHARDSON**



**RAELYNN
RUSSEAU**



**HANNAH
SMITH**



**SAVANNAH
SORIA**



**MARIA
TEVEPAUGH**



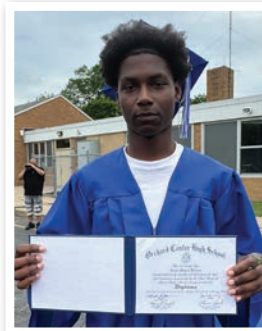
**JULIUS
VANISACKER**



**DAVID
VASQUEZ**



**MADISON
WERTENBERGER**



**JACARI
WILBORN**



**CODY
WILSON**



**Graduation
Celebration**
CLASS OF 2026

Congratulations!



Tassel Turn





Graduation Celebration CLASS OF 2026

Josephine Collins, Dakota Palmer, and Vada Collins proudly hold the graduate yard signs they received after the May 29th breakfast.



Monroe Virtual students celebrated after the Orchard Center High School graduate breakfast on May 29.



***David Malolepszy**, Executive Director of Student Services, and Principal **James Drew** celebrate at graduation with a selfie.*

Monroe Virtual Program 2026 MHS Graduates



Gage Barko
Anthony Chapman
Kiarra Couch
Brian Deitz
Blake Govan
Taylor Grandberry
Chloe Green
Kamauri Green
Clayton Gregory
Trinity Jordan
Jonavyn Kwiatkowski
Chevi Loose
Knox McClellan

De'Shira Overstreet
Joseph Powers
McKenna Reifsnider
Jae'den Richardson
Hannah Smith
Savannah Soria
Cody Wilson

Superintendent's Message

Superintendent **Andrew Shaw** shared four ideas that have the power to change our lives — HOPE, CURIOSITY, BELIEF, and ATTITUDE.

"Hope gives us the courage to take the next step even when we can't see the entire journey."

He shared wisdom from TV character Ted Lasso: "Be curious, not judgmental... Curiosity invites us to ask questions instead. It encourages us to listen before we speak, and to understand before we decide."

"Belief is the foundation of achievement. Before any goal can be accomplished, we must first believe it is possible."

"Our attitude influences how we see opportunities, how we treat others, and how we handle setbacks."



Congratulations Class of 2026!

