

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Week in Review

June 30, 2026

QUICK LINKS:

SUBSCRIBE to
Week in Review

BOARD MINUTES*
June 22, 2026 *Pending approval
Board Work Session



BOARD MINUTES*
June 23, 2026 *Pending approval
Budget Hearing



BOARD MINUTES*
June 23, 2026 *Pending approval
Board Meeting



2026-2027 School Supply Lists
are now **ONLINE**.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES



HIRING NOW:

* Contracted Custodian



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.

UPCLOSE LOOK AT TROJAN BUILD 6

This issue showcases the completion of the Trojan Build 6 house by our Monroe High School Construction Trades program. We are incredibly proud of the quality of the homes built by our students. This is real-world hands-on learning at its finest!



Due to the holiday, there will be no newsletter next weekend. *Week in Review* will resume on July 11th.

Take care, enjoy spending time with your families and friends, and have an amazing Fourth of July!



www.monroe.k12.mi.us



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Monroe Public Schools Offices will be CLOSED July 2 & 3.



ENJOY the Fourth of July holiday!



**Summer School classes and
7-Day Meal Bundle distribution
at Raisinville (10 a.m. - noon)
WILL continue as scheduled
on Thursday, July 2, 2026.**

Summer Schedules

Offices closed July 2

Monroe H.S., Monroe Middle School, and the Administration Building are following a four-day workweek, June 22-August 6, with offices closed on Fridays. **The Administration Building is open to the public during the summer, Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Offices will also be CLOSED on July 2, in observance of Independence Day.**

Classes & meals continue on July 2

Summer School classes **WILL be held** on Thursday, July 2, as scheduled.

7-Day Meal Bundle distribution **WILL continue** on Thursday, July 2, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Raisinville.



New Cantrick Teacher

Welcome, Kylie Swindeman!

At the June 23rd meeting of the Board of Education, Board and Cabinet members shook hands with newly-appointed teacher, **Kylie Swindeman**, pictured at left with Superintendent **Andrew Shaw**.

Kylie will teach fifth grade science and social studies at Cantrick. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome!

Field of Honor by Battlefield



Trojan Football Players Place Flags

Thanks are extended to Monroe Trojan Football Players, Head Coach **Kyle Reed**, and staff, for assisting the members of the Exchange Club of Monroe in placing flags for a historic flag display by the River Raisin National Battlefield Park. The Field of Honor, hosted by the Exchange Club, is in honor and celebration of our nation's 250th Anniversary and recognizes the dedication and sacrifice of those who serve or have served in the U.S. military. It also features an oversized Declaration of Independence, offering a moment to pause, read, and reflect on the enduring words that gave birth to our nation.



The Field of Honor is open throughout the display period, **June 27-July 8**, and is **FREE** to visit. For more information, or to sponsor or dedicate a flag in honor of a veteran or active-duty service member, visit: <https://www.healingfield.org/event/monroe-mi/>

SPOTLIGHT: VFW POST 1138 AWARDS

2026 County-wide Patriot Pen Essay Winners

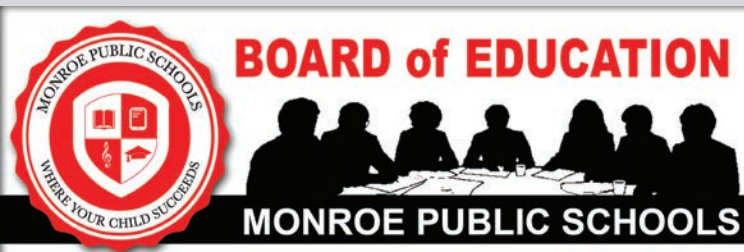
Congratulations are extended to Monroe Middle School students, **Elaina Warthen** and **Jaelynn Benes** — 2026 Patriot's Pen Essay Winners!



At their June 27th Awards Banquet, VFW Post 1138 honored two Monroe Middle School students as 2026 winners of their county-wide Patriot's Pen Essay Contest — **Elaina Warthen** and **Jaelynn Benes**! Both students were part of Team 8C.

This year's theme was **"How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"** Each winner was awarded an official plaque and a \$500 scholarship check! (Jaelynn is not pictured and will receive her award in the fall.)

History teacher **Doug Knight** (Patriot's Pen coordinator at MMS) and ELA teacher **Kelly Smith**, both from Team 8C, also attended the banquet. They expressed gratitude to the Post for sponsoring this local contest each year, and to veterans for the contributions they have made and continue to make for our country. "What a great night for Celebrating 250 Years of Democracy! Thank you again, Post 1138, for gifting our students \$1000 in scholarship checks!"



The filing deadline for school board candidates for the **November 3, 2026 election** is **July 21 at 4 p.m.** The Michigan Association of School Boards will hold virtual forums to answer candidate questions on June 23, July 9, and July 15; all forums are 6:30-8 p.m. You can download the [MASB Candidates Guide](#), which includes extensive information about the election process and embedded Zoom links for the forums.

Are you interested in running for the MPS Board of Education or are you already a Board candidate? A **Candidate Info Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, July 9, at 5:30 p.m.**, at the Administration Building (1275 N. Macomb St.). This meeting, hosted by Superintendent Andrew Shaw and Board President Tom Heck, will answer your questions about what it entails. The meeting is open to all.

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



CANDIDATE INFO MEETING

Thursday, July 9, 2026 | 5:30 PM

MPS Administration Building

1275 N. Macomb Street, Monroe, MI 48162

Are interested in running for the Board of Education or are you already a Board candidate? This meeting, hosted by Superintendent Andrew Shaw and Board President Tom Heck, will answer your questions about what it entails. The meeting is open to all.




News Highlights

In the News — Recent Articles

(Articles below appeared in the Monroe News between June 18 and June 24.)

An attorney is asking the MPS Board of Education to reverse its Title IX determination or start a new investigation (6-19). Obituaries were published for **Geoffrey Wykes**, 43, who attended Raisinville (6-19); **Guy Lassey**, 91, who attended Custer and Monroe High School (6-21); **Dorothy Giebel**, a 1956 MHS graduate (6-21); and **Patsy Bates**, 90, who completed her diploma through Monroe Public Schools as an adult (6-21).

Sports Highlights

Two MHS rising seniors have been selected to join a team of boxers from the Detroit area, who will fight two shows in Ireland — **Ari Hunter** and **Brycen Lee**. The Monroe County All-Star Football Team included MHS players **Davian Davis**, **Tanner Collett**, **Keoni Snavelly**, **Brendan Bacon**, **Xzander McCoy**, **Nolan Cacioppo**, and **Tim Tisher** (6-18). Collett made 16 tackles (6-22). The Monroe County All-Star Baseball Team defeated Lenawee 5-4; Trojan **Cooper Robinson** was one of the pitchers who tossed scoreless innings (6-18). Monroe players **Asher Simmons** (first base) and **Carson Liedel** (infield) were named First Team All-State in Division 1 Baseball (6-19). Honor roll stats were shared for the region's Girls Track and Field (6-24).

Monroe H.S. Construction Trades Celebrates Completion of 6th Student-Built House

Trojan Build 6 Ribbon-Cutting Event

Trojan Build students, families, staff, and partners gathered for an Open House event on June 2.

The ribbon-cutting recognized the completion of the sixth Trojan Build house built by students in Monroe High School's Construction Trades program. The Trojan Builds are a unique opportunity, providing valuable hands-on experience for Monroe students and creating beautiful homes for community residents.

SCHOOL LEADERS & INSTRUCTORS:

Superintendent Andrew Shaw; Andrew Marchese and Tom Bell, Construction Trades Instructors; Leah Morelli, CTE Director.



Inset photo by Leah Morelli



Trojan Build 6 and each of the previous five homes have been built on the site of the former South Monroe Townsite Elementary School, which closed in 2009. There is space available for Trojan Builds 7 and 8.



MONROE

Career & Technical Education
HIGH SCHOOL



THANKS to our SPONSORS!

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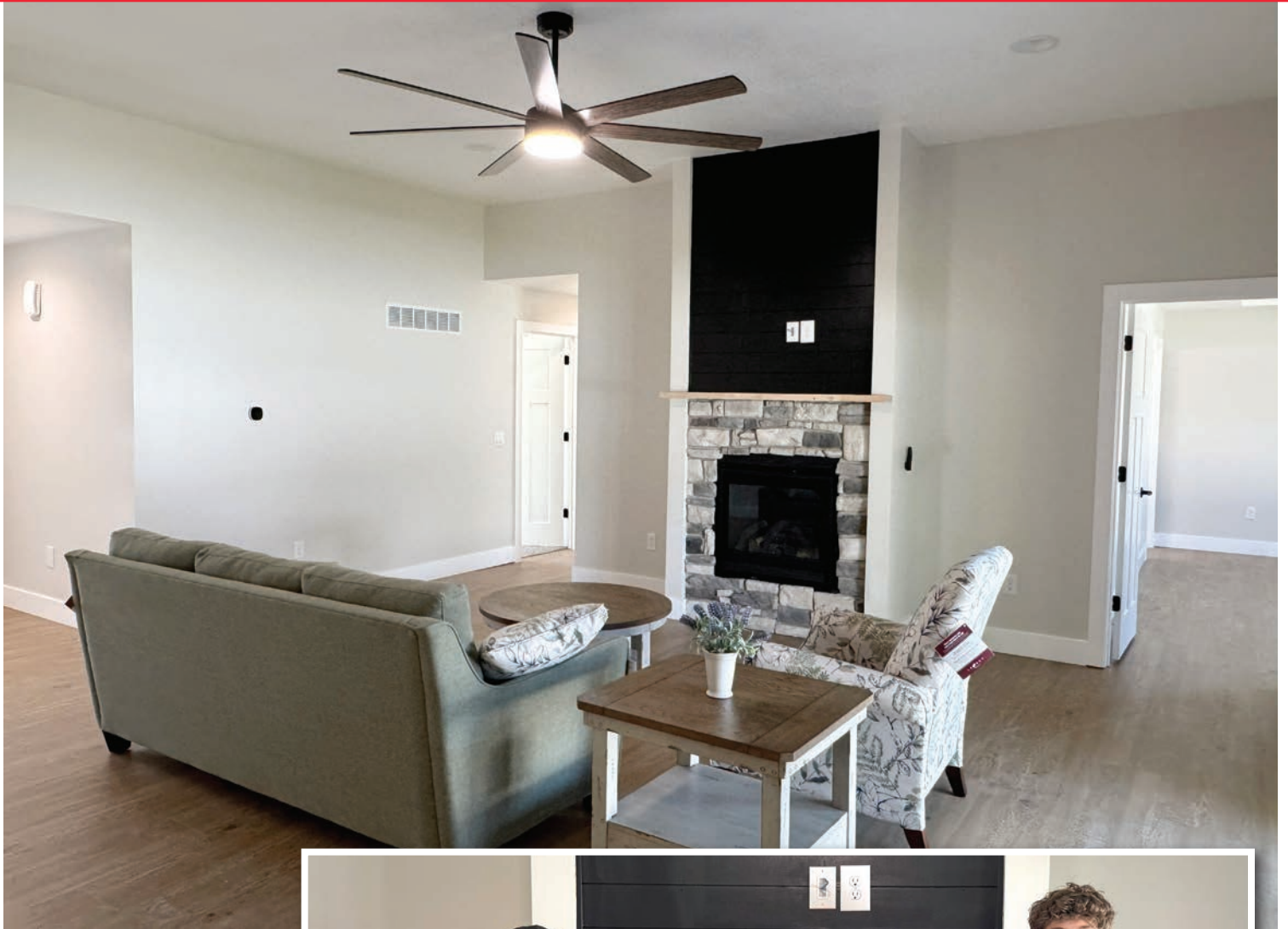
Durochers of Monroe

John Taft Appraisals

Nini Riggs with
Coldwell Banker Realty

BOARD of EDUCATION: The Trojan Build program appreciates the support of the Monroe Public Schools Board of Education. **Kerri Williams, Gary Jenkins, Darla Myers, Tom Heck, and Stacey Terrasi**, who attended the Ribbon Cutting, are pictured. The Board also includes **Mary Vincent and Brian Sabbadini**.





Trojan Build 6 was constructed over a span of two school years.

Students who graduated at the end of the first year of the build enjoyed returning to attend the Open House and walk through the completed house.

***Cole Steckmeyer
and
Jaxson Jones,
Class of 2025***





Brody Venzke, rising junior, and Ryan Walters, Class of 2026



2025-2026 Students

Kameron Alamo
 Adam Amireh
 Collin Assenmacher
 Max Bodi
 Ryan Bomia
 Hudson Boyd
 Jennah Cadle
 Melody Cloum
 Flynn Cooper
 Blake Cordrey
 Logan Duarard
 Jakson Durell
 Kaiden Ford
 Christopher Goodin
 Colin Gray
 Jakoby Haefler
 Caden Hill
 Wyatt Hood
 Noah Ivey
 Joshua Kittle
 Alex Kleinow
 Richard Leroux III
 Devin Mayes
 Xzander McCoy
 Dartanian Mendoza
 Aaron Mulvey
 Myles Myers
 Tavin Parkhurst
 Caden Pfeiffer
 Kaleb Russeau
 Edwin Sanchez-Mexicano
 Nathan Scicluna
 Diondre Scott
 Brody Smith
 Cooper Stewart
 Timothy Tisher II
 Brandon Turner Jr.
 Landin Turner-Pomeroy
 Brody Venzke
 Ryan Walters
 Jonathan Weber Jr.
 Gary Whitehouse III
 Cole Wilson
 Jayson Wilson



Caden Hill, rising senior, and Timothy Tisher, Class of 2026



The full, unfinished basement offers plenty of room for storage or the potential to finish and customize for the buyer's needs.

2024-2025 Students

Collin Assenmacher
 Thomas Atkinson
 Caedan Blackwell
 Jennah Cadle
 Joseph Craanen Jr.
 Jakson Durell
 Gabriel Frankel
 Weston Fraser
 Joseph Gallagher
 Jovanny Gallegos-Jimenez
 Christopher Goodin
 Kayleigh Grignon
 Bryce Hanlon
 Jacob Harvell
 Cayman Herrera
 Jacob Holzschuh
 Ayden Johnson
 Jaxson Jones
 Cole Knabusch
 Caden Knox
 Gavin Kurtz
 Bryson Lane
 Trevor Lion
 Izaiah Machuca
 Nicholas Martell
 Madeline McBride
 Xzander McCoy
 Dartanian Mendoza
 Hayven Neddo
 Myles Nestor
 Brian Palmer Jr.
 ZiMeire Pippens
 Brandon Charles Russeau
 Eric Sanchez Gutierrez
 Nathan Scicluna
 Willett Sprouse
 Cole Steckmeyer
 Tyler Sweat
 Shyanne Tisher
 Brandon Turner Jr.
 Ryan Walters
 Jonathan Weber Jr.
 Gary Whitehouse III
 Jacari Wilborn
 Cole Wilson

Trojan Build 6



Convenient area for coats and shoes





*Trojan Build 6 featured front and back porches. Standing on the back porch are **Adam Amireh**, rising senior; **Alex Kleinow**, Class of 2026; and **Max Bodi**, rising senior.*

***Cole Knabusch** and **Gavin Kurtz**, Class of 2025, who worked on the house during their senior year, returned to see the completed house. Cole attends Ferris State for welding and engineering, and is earning money this summer doing roofing. Gavin works at FEDCO as a materials technician.*



The Trojan Build projects are a great source of pride for Monroe Public Schools and our community. First launched in 2018, the Trojan Builds involve Monroe High School Construction Trades' students building entire homes from the ground up.



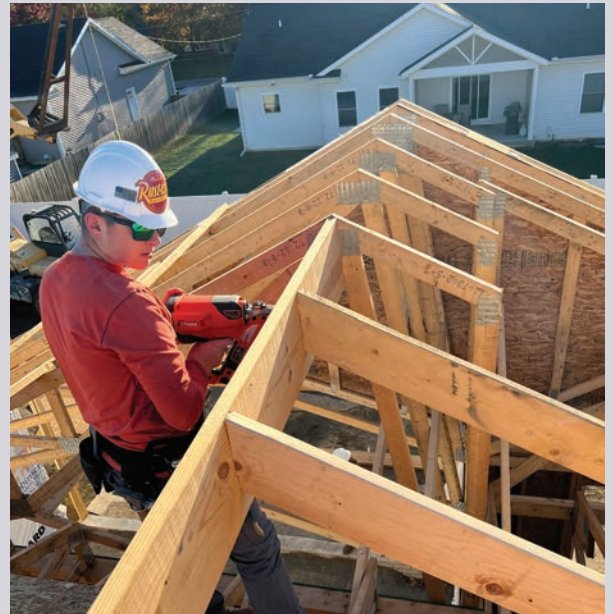
Construction Students Putting Skills to Work

The sixth Trojan Build home was planned as a two-year build, to be completed over the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years. During this time period, students also constructed a storage barn on the Monroe High School campus for use by Career Technical Education programs.

The storage facility was funded by profits from previous Trojan Build sales. Advanced Construction and Advanced Welding students worked together to cut and set all of the rebar to pass the footer inspection, so Machaek Concrete could come in and pour the footer.

Work on Trojan Build 6 began at the end of September, 2024; the photos above were taken on October 9, 2024.







Trojan Build photos on this page provided by Tom Bell

Trojan Build 6: A Closer Look

Under the leadership of instructor **Tom Bell**, Trojan Build 6 was constructed over a two-year span by approximately 90 Monroe High School students in the advanced sections of the Construction Trades program (45 per year). The 1850-square foot ranch house features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, an unfinished full basement, and a 2-car garage.

Bell said they talk with their realtor, **Nini Riggs**, and **John Taft**, who handles their appraisals, to catch what the trends are. "Instead of running the vinyl plank flooring in just the main part of the house, we ran it into the master bedroom, as well."

Trojan Build 6 incorporated smart features like an Ecobee thermostat, which can be controlled from a phone. The Ring doorbell and garage door opener also have the capability of being able to be operated from a phone. You can look on your phone to see if the door is shut and down, Bell said.

Trojan Build 6 was designed by **Sydney Stewart**, a 2021 MHS graduate, while she was a student. The plans were redrawn and adapted for this build by **Thomas Atkinson**, Class of 2025, who was enrolled in MHS courses in both Construction Trades and Drafting and Design. **Gary Whitehouse III**, a 2026 graduate, worked on the design for the next house. "He was in the class with Mrs. Pillarelli, where he has the tools with her computers and software to take our ideas and put the ink to the paper," Bell said. "He's done a phenomenal job."

Interest in the Trojan Build program continues to build, **Leah Morelli**, Career and Technical Education Director, shared at a spring Board of Education meeting. **Andrew Marchese**, who has been teaching the fundamentals classes, will also lead a section of advanced students next year, enabling 60 students to be part of Trojan Build 7 in 2026-2027, she said.



Trojan Build photos on this page provided by Tom Bell





MITES COMPETITION

MHS Students Represent Construction Trades In State Contest

In addition to constructing Trojan Build homes and community service projects such as the Santa House, students also have the opportunity to take part in career technical education competitions.

Last year, MHS Construction Trades participated in the MITES live competition for carpenters for the first time and became the State Champions! The event is hosted by the Michigan Industrial & Technology Education Society and requires student teams to build a project within 8 hours, according to blueprints they review the evening prior. The winning team of **Thomas Atkinson**, **Hayven Neddo**, and **Joe Gallagher** built a hunting blind in 2025.



Photos provided by Tom Bell

Carpenters Union Professionals Visit Site

At the end of April, members of Local 687, the Detroit Carpenters Union, visited the Trojan Build site and spoke with Monroe High School graduating senior **Gary Whitehouse**, about his goals and possible future with them. Gary led the guests on a tour of the project, sharing some of the things he had worked on, and also explained what the class was currently working on.

Pictured below are Construction Trades instructors **Andy Marchese** and **Tom Bell**; Traci Longenbarger, Detroit Carpenters business agent; **Damien Nelson**, business agent; **Gary Whitehouse III**; **Kenneth Dollins**, owner/operator in the Detroit Carpenters union; and **Andy Showers**, state-wide director.

"The visit was not only a success for Gary (who will be joining the union), but also for the Monroe High School Construction Trades program, as it enabled us to showcase what we do, and speak with union leaders about the opportunities we have for students," Bell shared. "We are super proud of Gary and all of his hard work and dedication in pursuing his career as a Union carpenter."





DISTRICT CALENDAR / UPCOMING EVENTS

June 24 – September 8, 2026

1275 N. Macomb St., Monroe, MI 48162 · (734) 265.3000

SUMMER MEALS for 18 and under

THURSDAYS	FREE Summer Meals: 7-Day Meal Bundles, Raisinville, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Every THURSDAY, June 25-August 6, first come, first serve Contact Sodexo (734-265-3120) to volunteer
6/22 – 7/23	FREE onsite Summer Meals for Kids begin at Tot Lots/City of Monroe Parks, June 22 – July 23, Monday-Thursday, Breakfast 10-11 am, Lunch 12-1 pm;
6/22 – 8/14	FREE onsite Summer Meals for Kids begin at MCCC Bldgs C,F,H,T,Z June 22 – Aug. 14, Mon. - Fri., Breakfast 8:45-9:45 a.m., Lunch 11 – 12 No meals August 3-7

Coming Up...

Wed., July 8	City of Monroe's America 250 Celebration, beginning at 3 p.m. Reading of Declaration of Independence with youth readers, 6 p.m. https://www.monroemi.gov/news/what_s_new/america_250_celebration
Thurs., July 9	School Board Candidate Info Meeting, Admin. Building, 5:30 p.m.
Fri., July 17	Walk-In Sports Physicals, Family Medicine Residency Center, \$20, 1-5 p.m.
July 20 – 25	Marching Band – Away Camp, Bowling Green State University
July 27 – 31	Marching Band – Home Camp, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monroe High School
Sat., July 28	Spaghetti Dinner in support of Teresa Knox, at Waterloo, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Adults \$10 / Children \$5 / Beverages \$1
Sat., Aug. 1	Monroe County Health Dept. Back to School Health Fair, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. 2353 S. Custer Rd., schedule appointments: 734-240-7800
Sun., Aug. 2	Trojan Marching Band in Monroe County Fair Parade
Aug. 2 – Aug. 8	Monroe County Fair; Visit MPS Booth in Expo Center
Sat., Aug. 8	40 th Annual Monroe Soccer Alumni Games, MHS Bunkelman Field Legends Game (35+), 6-7 p.m. Graduates (34 & under), 7:15-8:30 p.m.
Thurs., Aug. 13	Waterloo - Playdates with Principals, 1-2 p.m.

August 18-19	Class of 2027 Senior Parking Spots, Aug. 18, 8 am-3 pm Aug. 19, 9 -3 Designs must be pre-approved and paid for (\$35 spots & \$30 parking pass) Approval form: https://forms.gle/qnXYSk7ZzKjdfp9E8
Tues., Aug. 19	Raisinville – Playdates with Principals, 1-2 p.m.
Wed., Aug. 19	Custer – Playdates with Principals, 1-2 p.m.
Aug. 25-27	Professional Development Days for Staff – No School
Thurs., Aug. 27	Open Houses – Fall 2026 Monroe High School, Orchard Center H.S., Monroe Virtual – 4-6 p.m Monroe Middle School, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Cantrick, 5-7 p.m. All MPS Elementary Schools, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Mon., Aug. 31	First Day of Classes (grades Y5-12)
Sept. 4-7	Labor Day Weekend – No School Friday, Sept. 4 and Mon., Sept. 7
Tues., Sept. 8	Classes Resume