

Back-to-School Edition

Monroe Public Schools 2015-16



Dr. Martin addresses all members of the *Trojan* community

2015-16 Back-to-School edition

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! It is going to be a fantastic school year for all of our **TROJANS** here in Monroe Public Schools! Our **T**echnology is better than ever, our **R**eal-Life learning atmosphere has grown, **O**pportunities for learning have increased, there is renewed emphasis on **J**obs and careers, and **A**cademic achievement continues to be emphasized in a **N**urturing and **S**afe environment. (Go **TROJANS**!)

Here in Monroe Public Schools, we recognize the outstanding potential of each and every one of our 6,000

students and are committed to helping each one succeed. With collaboration among everyone in the school community, we can make this happen. We are proud of the diversity of our community and schools and want to do whatever it takes to prepare our students for an ever-changing world of work. The staff here is up to the challenge.

There are a number of individuals who are new to the Monroe Public Schools team this year. These folks have been selected to join Monroe Public Schools using a very thoughtful and deliberate hiring

process that enables the district to select those employees who will be most effective in continuing and growing the many great initiatives and programs offered at Monroe Public Schools. (Cont'd on page 2)



Dr. Barry Martin
Superintendent
Monroe Public Schools

Special points of interest:

- ✓ 18 new teachers hired
- ✓ Three schools have new principals
- ✓ MHS AIM program returns, new health science project launched
- ✓ Major security upgrades started over the summer
- ✓ Technology advantages continue at MPS

New message system in place for new school year; faster, more focused

On days with bad weather or when special announcements need to be made, you are still likely to hear, “Good morning Monroe Public Schools parents and staff,” crackling over your telephone in the pre-dawn hours but the

message will be sent on a new system called “School Messenger” which replaces the “Honeywell” system which had been in place for more than five years.

Although transparent to the people actually receiving the calls,

School Messenger is far quicker than the previous system, is easier to use and can pinpoint audiences far more specifically. It can deliver documents like this one, and can contact users via text, also.

Inside this issue:

Security Upgrades	2
New technology	2
AIM—Year two	3
New health-science program	3
Summer work	4
New teachers, administrators	5
MPS schedules	6

Security system upgrades being made

Security has taken a major step forward at Monroe Public Schools over the summer and the work is expected to be completed in the 2015-2016 school year.

The upgrades include 300 more security cameras, 100 mounts and three more servers to operate the system which will include every facility in which there are students.

The security system installation began 1 ½ years ago. When the upgrade is completed, every school building will have security cameras to monitor all

entrances, public areas such as parking lots, playgrounds and hallways.

“This will give us a consistent high level of security protection throughout our district,” said Dr. Barry Martin, superintendent, Monroe Public Schools. “Parents have told us all along that the safety of their children is critical and we have responded to that. This is a level of security unmatched in Monroe County schools.”

The new setup also will allow building conditions throughout the district to be

monitored from remote locations in the unlikely event of an emergency,



New technology benefits students, staff

Some 110 new Apple iPads will be available to students at Arborwood, Custer and Waterloo elementary schools for the 2015-2016 school year.

The iPad purchases, as well as 200 more Dell Chromebooks for use throughout the district, two new servers and eight ceiling-mounted classroom projectors for Arborwood, were among the nearly \$400,000 in

technology-related purchases approved over the summer.

The purchase of the additional iPads extends the number of one-to-one devices in each school. The additional hardware purchases were made to replace aging equipment and equipment which no longer worked as efficiently as needed. Those changes are expected to be implemented before school

starts in September.

“All of the equipment will be used to enhance the learning experience of our students as well as providing our staff with the supporting technology tools to accomplish this,” said David Payne, Technology Director, for Monroe Public Schools.

“Helping your child succeed” is the new mantra for the work at Monroe Public Schools. You will be hearing more about it this year.

Dr. Martin Trojan Message

Cont'd from page 1

During the upcoming school year, we hope that everyone will be more and more involved with the schools and become very familiar with the variety of great learning opportunities that are offered here. The district has upgraded its website and enhanced its abilities to communicate through better use of tech-

nology. We hope everyone will take advantage of these improved lines of communication as they become available both at the district and building levels. By doing so, everyone will come to know Monroe Public Schools better and join with many others in the school community who believe that Monroe Public Schools is a district

that cares about the success and future of its students and the community in which they live.

Have a great and rewarding school year!

Dr. Barry N. Martin
Superintendent
Monroe Public Schools

AIM program returns to MHS for 2nd year

The highly successful Allies in Monroe (AIM) mentoring program at Monroe High School will be back this school year and plans are to expand it to include even more “matches” of students and adult mentors, which are called “allies.”

In its first year, the AIM program – the only one of its kind in Monroe County – grew from 58 students and their “allies” in the first trimester to 131 “matches” by the time the third trimester rolled around in the spring.

The program will be led this

year by Monroe High School teacher David Henry, (pictured) who last year was a mentor to an MHS senior who achieved his AIM goals all three trimesters, one of only four students in the school to do so.

AIM is an academic incentive and mentoring program open to all MHS students. It is designed to enhance student achievement, increase the number of students furthering their education after high school and improve student-staff-community relationships. It also is designed to enhance the

overall MHS college-going culture. During the 2014-2015 school year, more than 100 MHS students achieved their AIM goals at least once, qualifying them to earn a \$200 scholarship.



MHS offering new health science program

A pilot program being offered to incoming freshmen at Monroe High School this fall will allow those students to explore health sciences while still having a comprehensive high school experience.

Called the Health Science Pilot, the program is being offered to 110 students who – while eighth graders last year – demonstrated an interest in stud-

ying health sciences when they attended Monroe High School. Those interests were determined through the students’ Career Cruising activities and conversations they had with their teachers.

“We have a core team of teachers – DJ Freese, Jenna Glab, Barbara Lafayette, Leah Morelli and Alka Pandya – who have been very passionate about

developing this pilot and providing an educational experience which is not available anywhere else in Monroe County,” said Monroe High School Principal Sandra Kreps.

“A major advantage to this program is it allows these students to study in an area in which they have significant interest yet still enjoy the advantages of the rich campus life we have at Monroe High School,” Mrs. Kreps said.

Band to visit elementary schools

The Monroe High School Band will take its annual tour of the Monroe Public Schools’ elementary schools on Thursday, September 17. As in the past, the 95-member band will travel from school-to-school and give a 10-minute concert at each school, playing in the school’s parking lot, play ground or front lawn. The

marching band will perform three of its fall songs, ending the concert with the MHS fight song. At each stop, teachers bring their students out to enjoy the “big kids” playing music in the band.



Major building, property upgrades made

Over the summer time, some \$2 million in property upgrades were performed on school buildings across the district. Some of the work was more obvious than other projects but all were greatly needed to maintain or improve the physical conditions of the properties and places in which our students learn.

Here are brief descriptions of those improvements:

- Complete re-design and paving of the north parking lot at Monroe High. Exterior lighting will be installed

soon to complete the project.

- Tuck pointing on outside walls of the B and C wings at Monroe High to fix a leak problem in the gym.
- Replacement of three stories of windows and replacement of the heating system in the science wing of Monroe Middle School. The new windows are far more energy efficient than what they replaced.
- Partial replacement of the roof in three places at Monroe Middle School.

- Replacement of the entire roof at Waterloo and installation of two new sets of steps and handrails.
- Partial replacement of the roof on Arborwood South.
- Replacing all windows at the Administration Building with energy-efficient ones that are the same as those at MMS. This work will begin when school is back in session.

Lunch prices adjusted for new school year

Lunch prices will be 10 cents more this school year but prices in MPS cafeterias still will be lower than most of the other Monroe County districts were last school year.

For the 2014-15 school year, hot lunch prices were \$1.95 per lunch for elementary and \$2.70 for secondary grades 7-12. However, those prices now will be \$2.05 and \$2.80, respectively.

The 10-cent per lunch adjustment equates to \$16.80 annually if a child were to purchase hot lunch at the school cafeteria every day of the nine-month school year.

Even with this adjustment, MPS lunch prices will still be lower than most other districts were last year.

Count Days Count!

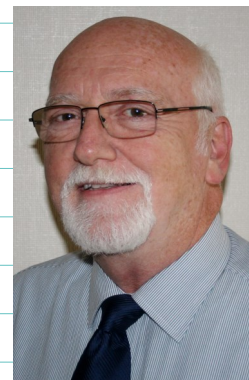
It is always important to be in school for learning purposes but it is very important to be in school on Oct. 7 and February 10 because those are Student Count Days. The money MPS receives from the state to support education is determined based on the number of students those days.

Bus route information always available, 24-7

Bus route information is available 24-7 on our new website at www.monroe.k12.mi.us by clicking on the bus route tab on the welcome page and following the prompts. The bus routes also were scheduled to be published in the Monroe News on September 3. Persons with transportation questions may contact the Transportation of-

ice at 734-265-3300 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Also this year, the MPS Transportation Department will be led by Frank Henry, (pictured) a veteran of the transportation business. This also marks a homecoming for Mr. Henry who is a Monroe High School graduate.



New teachers hired over the summer



It was one of the busiest summers on record when 18 new teachers were hired for every level of Monroe Public Schools. Here are the new teachers with Superintendent Dr. Barry Martin. They are:

Tara Adrian, Raisinville Elementary; Kaitlynn Arnholt, MHS Math; Samantha Barr, Arborwood/Manor Special Ed; Shannon Bourke, MHS Science; Resa Chambers, MHS English Sub; Linda Chmiel MHS Special Ed; Miranda DeBruyne, MHS Counselor; Rachel Dyer, MHS Math; Stuart Eastman, MHS Science; Keith Hanlon, Waterloo Elementary; Shawn Harmon, Waterloo/Raisinville Special Ed; Sarah Kay, Arborwood Elementary; Emily Kressbach, Speech Therapist; Carolyn Kruger, Elementary Music; Natalie Labeau, Elementary Teacher; Hollie Mazur, MHS English; Travis Trombley, MHS English, and Frances Valdez, Elementary Music.

New administrative team members



Filling a number of administrative vacancies was not easy this summer, either. As the new school year begins, here are new administrators or administrators with different titles for 2015-16. All are pictured here with Dr. Martin: Julie Everly – new title, Deputy Superintendent; Frank Henry, Transportation Supervisor; Lisa McLaughlin, Custer Principal; Meghan Gibson, Waterloo Principal; Sandra Kreps, MHS Principal; Cathy McDonald, MHS Asst. Principal; Nicole Shaughnessy, MMS Asst. Principal; Montyne Barbee, Curriculum Specialist; Holly Wallace, Curriculum Specialist; Delsie Sissoko, MHS Asst. Principal, and Ronda Meier, Custer Asst. Principal.



Monroe Public Schools

**1275 N. Macomb St.
Monroe, MI 48162**

Phone: 734-265-3000

Fax: 734-265-3001

See our new web page
www.monroe.k12.mi.us

or check out our Facebook page
Monroe Public Schools

MPS School Times 2015/16			
	Start	End	Half Day
Monroe High School	7:23 AM	2:11 PM	10:40 AM
Orchard Center	7:43 AM	1:55 PM	10:24 AM
Monroe Mid. School	7:53 AM	2:45 PM	11:19 AM
Arborwood North	8:23 AM	3:20 PM	11:53 AM
Arborwood South	8:28 AM	3:25 PM	11:58 AM
Custer 1	8:54 AM	3:51 PM	12:24 PM
Custer 2	8:51 AM	3:48 PM	12:21 PM
Manor	8:41 AM	3:38 PM	12:11 PM
Raisinville	8:41 AM	3:38 PM	12:11 PM
Waterloo	8:26 AM	3:23 PM	11:56 AM

***Monroe Public Schools --
Helping your child to succeed***

Knowing MPS schedule vitally important

Mark your calendars. Here are the important dates in the upcoming school year calendar.

- Sept. 8** – First day of school
- Oct. 7** – Student Count Day
- Oct. 14** – Half day for students
- Oct. 30** – No school. County-wide In-service
- Nov. 25** – Half day for students
- Nov. 26-27** – Thanksgiving break
- Dec. 9** – Half-day for students
- Dec. 23-Jan. 3** – Christmas Break
- Jan. 4** – Classes resume
- Jan. 18** – No School (MLK Holiday)
- Jan. 27** – Half day for students

- Feb. 10** – Student Count Day
- Feb. 12-15** – Presidents Day/ Winter Break
- Feb. 24** – Half day for students
- March 16** – Half day for students
- March 25-April 3** – Spring Break
- April 4** – Classes resume
- April 20** – Half day for students
- May 18** – Half day for students
- May 30** – No School (Memorial Day)
- June 9** – Half day for students; last day of school

days when students have a half day off. Nov. 25 and June 9 are teacher record days.

With the exception of Nov. 25 and June 9, teachers will have professional development in the afternoon on the

