



Monroe Public Schools 2016-17

Dr. Martin sets the stage for exciting new school year for all at MPS

2016-17 Back-to-School edition

Volume 2, Issue 1

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2016-2017 school year at Monroe Public Schools. This school year promises to be a great one with a number of new initiatives, updates and improvements in curriculum, facilities, and other areas of the school organization.

The district science program will be new for grades K-9. This new curriculum is the district's first step into a digital curriculum delivery program where students will utilize technology to access the learning experiences and interact with each other and their teachers

to enhance their understanding of the science concepts that are important for their learning levels.

Students in grades 5 through 8 will have their own personal Chromebooks assigned to them for use in their classes. Special training for students, teachers and parents on the best use of this technology will be made available as the school year begins. Because of the increased use of Chromebooks at this level, technology resources can be shifted to other grade levels to enhance their availability and use for students.

Social and emotional supports for enhanced student learning will be continuing across the district again in the upcoming school year. A major focus will be regular attendance at school with the message **(Cont'd on page 2)**



**Dr. Barry Martin
Superintendent
Monroe Public Schools**

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Nearly 20 new teachers hired
- ✓ Two schools have new principals
- ✓ Safety, security improved on 58-bus MPS fleet
- ✓ 1,900 students to receive Chromebooks
- ✓ Major summer work schedule completed

New digital science curriculum for K-12

For the first time in Monroe Public Schools history, a new curriculum is to be introduced and taught without traditional text books. Content for the new science curriculum for all students, kindergarten through 9th grade,

will all be available online.

In making the major change, Monroe Public Schools is adopting the Michigan K-12 Science Standards, based on the Federal Next Generation Science Standards, which replace standards

which were adopted in 2006.

The next standards incorporate three main elements:

—Disciplinary Core Ideas (science-specific concepts in the life, earth and physical sciences.)

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Martin: 'Exciting' year coming

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that "every day matters" used as a theme all school year long. Students cannot learn if they are not in school, and we believe that improved attendance will make for improved learning and understanding, which in turn will have a positive effect on overall district instructional results.

Safety and security will continue to be a district priority. Expanded use of building access control, parent background checks, visitor management, and security cameras in and around buildings and on school buses will add to the safety of our students and improve the district's ability to manage who has access to our schools and facilities.


The financial picture of the district continues to be stable. Our facilities, though showing their age at times, continue to be in very good condition. Needed repairs and upgrades were made to a number of buildings this summer including roof repairs at some locations, new windows at Raisinville, a new boiler at the central administration building, new stadium lights at Bunkelman Field, demolitions of SMT and the pool at Arborwood, as well as a number of other smaller projects that were improvements that either upgraded the facility or allowed for more cost savings for the district.

The district will welcome over 30 new employees when school begins, including

teachers and other instructional staff, and a number of non-instructional folks who will be starting with us this fall. The first day for principals and secretaries was August 15.

Teachers return for their first in-service day on August 31. The first day for students is Sept. 7. Please note that this is the Wednesday after Labor Day, not Tuesday. To view the complete school calendar, log in to the Monroe Public Schools website at www.monroe.k12.mi.us.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. We hope to see most of you at the elementary open houses on August 31 from 5:30 to 7:00 or at the Monroe Middle School Open house on September 1, 5:30 to 7:00.



The Monroe Football Mother's Club invites all members of the military and the MHS football alumni to the MHS football game on Friday, Sept. 9. It starts with a tailgate party outside the field at 5 p.m. RSVP to aprilrochowiak@gmail.com if you are able to attend.

Let's go Trojans!!

How to contact your school, principal

Arborwood Elementary Campus, Steve Pollzzie, principal, call 265-3800, or email, pollzzie@monroe.k12.mi.us.

Custer Elementary Campus, Lisa McLaughlin, principal, call 265-4300, or email her at mclaughlin@monroe.k12.mi.us.

Manor Elementary School, Terry Joseph, principal, call 265-4700 or email her at jo-seph@monroe.k12.mi.us.

Raisinville Elementary School, Scott Hoppert, principal, call 265-4800 or email him at hoppert@monroe.k12.mi.us

Waterloo Elementary School, Meghan Gibson, principal, call 265-5100 or email her at gibson@monroe.k12.mi.us.

Riverside Early Learning Center, Barb DiFiore, director, call 265-4900 or email her at difiore@monroe.k12.mi.us.

Monroe Middle School, Cindy Flynn, principal, call 265-4000 or email her at flynn@monroe.k12.mi.us

Orchard Center High School, Ryan Walentowski, principal, call 265-3700 or email him at walentowski@monroe.k12.mi.us

Monroe High School, Sandy Kreps, principal, call 265-3000 or email her at kreps@monroe.k12.mi.us

Monroe Virtual High School, Courtney Bogden, teacher, call 265-4915 or email her at bodgen@monroe.k12.mi.us

Learning Bank of Monroe County, Vuncia Council, director, call 265-4200 or email her at council@monroe.k12.mi.us

Hoppert, Walentowski two newest principals

Two new principals will greet students when school resumes September 7 in Monroe Public Schools.

Scott Hoppert is the new principal at Raisinville Elementary. **Ryan Walentowski** takes over as principal at Orchard Center High School after serving as interim principal there in the last half of the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Hoppert has been with Monroe Public Schools for 26 years, starting in 1990. For the first 22 years he was a social studies teacher at Monroe High

School, Cantrick Middle School and Monroe Middle School. Prior to joining Raisinville, he was the school improvement coach at Monroe Middle School for four years. He also has served as administrator for the Summer Learning Academy at Monroe High School. Mr. Hoppert was head of the National Junior Honor Society at MMS which under his leadership became one of the most active groups in the school district.

Mr. Walentowski, who has

been with Monroe Public Schools since 2009, has a bachelors degree in Kinesiology and Athletic Training from Michigan State University. He also has a masters degree in Secondary Teacher Education from the University of Phoenix. In his time with Monroe Public Schools, Mr. Walentowski has always been with Orchard Center, starting as a physical education teacher. He also has taught lifetime wellness, GED prep and on-line courses in health, mathematics, social studies, sciences and other elective courses to regular, at-risk and expelled students.



Mr. Ryan Walentowski



Mr. Scott Hoppert

MMS hosts cyber security forum with MSP, Sept. 19

Learn what every parent should know about cyber safety and security at a free one-hour program at 6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 19, at MMS. Trooper Tressa Duffin will present valuable information for parents.

New teachers hired

Throughout Monroe Public Schools, there will be some new faces in the class room this fall when school resumes September 7. Since last school year concluded in June, nearly 20 new teachers have been hired. Every school in the district has at least one new face this year. Here are the new teachers on staff this year (as of August 22):

Nichole Antolak, elementary	Bethany Martin, elementary
Allison Beard, elementary	Nicholas Notario, MMS physical education
Tom Bell, MHS construction technology	Carley Osgood, special education
Amy Bonam, MHS math	Bethany Paolino, MMS physical education
Vicki Echegoyen, MHS Spanish	Jennifer St. Louis, elementary physical education/robotics
Jennifer Fleck, Spanish	Lauren Servis, elementary
Jessie Hieber, MHS English	Melissa Smith, OCHS
Riley Kilroy, MHS science	Johnna Woods, elementary
Jeremy Kimberlin, MHS English	
Heide Kucharski, elementary	
Brittany Maczala, elementary	

Buses to have state-of-the-art security system

When school starts September 7, all 58 Monroe Public Schools buses will be equipped with the latest state-of-the-art on-board safety and security system as a significant upgrade to the camera system which has been in use on MPS buses for the last eight years.

“The camera system we have has been good but it is out of warranty and replacement parts are no longer available. Plus, in the years since we bought the original system, technology has evolved significantly and greater functionality and picture clar-

ity are now available,” said Jerry Oley, Director of Operations for MPS.

The new system provides four cameras per bus – one camera aimed forward to view the front of the bus and oncoming traffic, and cameras at the front, middle and back inside the bus for a complete view of the passenger compartment. The system also comes with a global positioning system so as the recorded video is viewed, it is possible to determine the bus location at any time. The system also has a feature re-

ording the vehicle speed to coincide with the image on the screen. The system records audio, too.



Lunch prices adjusted for new school year

Despite a slight increase over last year, cafeteria prices at Monroe Public Schools will continue to be lower than most other Monroe County districts, and elementary lunch prices are the lowest in the county.

For the 2016-17 school year, lunch prices will be \$2.15 per lunch for elementary and \$2.90 for secondary grades 7-12. 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.



The MHS Marching Band will be styling starting this fall when they perform their half-time show in new uniforms.

Registration documents now available on-line

Still need to register your child for school? It is now easier at Monroe Public Schools for people registering their children for the first time.

Parents can print and complete the signup documents in advance since the forms are available on-line. Having the forms on-line provides a great opportunity for parents to have

already completed their paperwork – which can be very time-consuming – before they come in to register their child. By completing the registration form at home, parents also are much more likely to have quicker access to various important documents that they can refer to for pertinent information.

The form can be accessed on

the welcome page of the Monroe Public Schools website – www.monroe.k12.mi.us.



Many changes over the summer months

If you were to ask Monroe Public Schools to write an essay, “What I did on my summer vacation,” it may be the length of a text book. Here’s a list of things – in no particular order -- that were accomplished over the summer and some things you will notice are different this school year.

—New lights and light poles have been installed at Bill Bunkelman Field where MHS plays football. They were erected in August, tested a short time later and found to be better focused and significantly brighter than the lights they replaced. The Trojans have a new coach, former assistant and former Trojan player Nick Notario.

—Two schools have new principals. Orchard Center High School, where Ryan Walentowski takes over after serving a half-year as interim principal; and Raisinville Elementary School, where Scott Hoppert assumes the principal’s position after being a school improvement coach at Monroe Middle School. *See more detailed story on page 3*

—All 1,900 fifth through eighth-graders will be assigned a Dell Chromebook which is theirs to use during the day and take home at night. *See more detailed story on page 6.*

—The award-winning Monroe High School Band will step out in new uniforms. They replace uniforms which have been worn for more than 25 years. And if you still want to buy an old uniform, they are on sale for only \$25 each by contacting band director Mr. Jim Nuechterlein. It’s the perfect gift for that Trojan on your gift list “who has everything.”

—The gym floors have been refurbished at MHS and MMS. But that is not all. That is just part of a very energetic work schedule over the summer months. *See more detailed story on page 7.*

—The Monroe County Intermediate School District Head Start program now will be housed at Arborwood North and some elementary school classrooms which had been at Arborwood North are moving to Arborwood South.

—Monroe Virtual High School has moved to new quarters in the Riverside Early Learning Center.

—The Learning Bank of Monroe County, a Monroe Public Schools facility, now is offering a Monroe Adult Diploma for adult students who left high school a few credits shy of graduation but who want to return to earn their diploma. The Learning Bank will continue to offer classes for those seeking their GED (General Education Degree.)

—Monroe Public Schools has adopted the new Michigan K-12 Science Standards, based on the Next Generation Science Standards, which will create substantial curriculum changes. *See more detailed story on page 1.*

—The former Dick Waters community swimming pool has been demolished at Arborwood South and the area will be used as a traffic loop so parents can more safely drop off and pick up their children from school.

—Due to retirements, resignations and promotions,

teachers have been hired this school years. *See more detailed story on page 3*

--All 58 Monroe Public Schools buses have been installed with new state-of-the-art camera systems to increase the level of safety and security on the fleet of school buses. *See more detailed story on page 4.*

A new state-of-the art visitor management security system has been installed in all Monroe Public Schools buildings. *See more detailed story on page 6.*

Because it has not been used by Monroe Public Schools for elementary education since 2009 and would cost too much to bring up to required code were it ever reopened, the former South Monroe Townsite School is being demolished in work that should be completed by fall.

School delays, cancellations

When weather forces school delays or cancellations, Monroe Public Schools will use its state-of-the-art call-out system to alert parents and families.

Typically, on a bad-weather day, every effort will be made to alert families and school personnel by 5:30 a.m. via either a phone call, a text message or an email, depending on what the family had signed up to receive. The notification also will be posted on the Monroe Public Schools website and on the Monroe Public Schools Facebook site after the phone call has been made.

In addition, calls also are made to the Monroe News, NashIcon 98.3 FM, Monroe County Radio.com, to the Detroit and Toledo television stations and radio stations WJR and WWJ so information is available via the news media.

MPS buildings to employ new visitor security system

When school resumes Sept. 7, all schools in the Monroe Public Schools district will have a state-of-the-art visitors management system in place.

Here is how it works: A visitor scans his/her driver’s license or state identification card in a card reader and the system can tell immediately if it is okay to allow that person to enter the school. If it shows the person is safe to enter, it automatically prints out a valid

visitor identification card in the office. The ID is then worn by the visitor. If it is not okay for the person to enter, he or she is detained at the door.

The visitor management system will significantly change how people enter Monroe Public Schools buildings during the day but feedback from many parents has shown that they are willing to deal with the additional steps because it adds a layer of security and safety for

their children when they are in school

The new security system is only the latest step in Monroe Public Schools’ efforts to improve safety and security at all of its campuses. For instance, such elements as inside and outside security cameras which can be monitored from off-campus have been added in recent months. Outdoor lighting also has been improved in many district parking lots too.

New digital science curriculum for K-12

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-Science and Engineering Practices (the practices of engaging in scientific investigation to answer questions, and engineering design to solve problems)

—Cross-Cutting Concepts (conceptual ideas common to all areas of science.)

The change for Monroe Public Schools has come after considerable study. For the last year, the district’s K-12 science committee has studied the standards, as well as curriculum materials, using research in best practices

alongside the new Next Generation Standards. In addition, the new curriculum is interwoven across various disciplines, including connections to language arts and mathematics.

The new science curriculum features a digital on-line presentation which is enhanced by print materials and brought to life in hand’s on kits for the students. This new curriculum approach uses problem-based learning, engineering challenges, scientific investigations, math and literacy connections so students better understand their science lessons.

1,900 students to receive 24-7 Chromebooks



Fifth-grade through eighth-grade students in Monroe Public Schools will find something new in their book bags each night when they go home from school this year – a Dell Chromebook which is theirs to use at school during the day and take home at night.

This “24-7 one-to-one initiative” will supply Chromebooks to some 1,900 students and staff in all five of Monroe’s elementary schools and Monroe Middle School. Importantly there will be no cost to the students’ families for the devices or for insurance.

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Bus route information is available 24-7 on our 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 are scheduled to be in the Monroe News Sept. 1. Persons with questions should contact the transportation office at 734-265-3300 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Crews make school/facilities improvements

A significant amount of work was done to various school buildings over the summer, some more noticeable than others, but all very important in maintaining the physical conditions of buildings used for education

Some of the biggest projects involved replacing roofs – the complete replacement of the nearly 50,000 square foot roof above Arborwood South Elementary, the installation of a new roof above the Monroe Middle School gym, and replacement of the roofs over the D-Wing and F-Wing at Monroe High School. Some of that roofing over MHS was almost 30 years old.

Likely the easiest project to see is at Raisinville Elementary where all of the original aluminum, non-thermal broken, single-glazed windows were replaced on all sides of the building. The new windows are a combination of fixed and double-hung windows, insulated glass and insulated panels, similar to what was installed at Monroe Middle School and the district administration building in 2015.

Masonry repairs at Monroe High School also received considerable attention with repairs on outside walls of the D-, F- and G-wings. This is part of an annual work project until repairs are completed on all of the outside walls at MHS.

The summer months also were good times to refurbish the gym floors at Monroe Middle School and Monroe High School, and the upper gym floor at MHS. Crews deep-cleaned the entire gym floor for all three facilities,

cleaned up after the work and applied two coats of gym finish over the entire floor.

The district’s administration building will be more efficiently heated in the winter as two new natural-gas fired, 97-percent high efficiency hot water boilers were installed to replace two 40-year-old boilers in the building.

Chromebooks

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The program has been piloted for several years in Monroe Public Schools. Experience showed that the students in the classrooms where the one-to-one program was tested thrived on it.

This is the first year of doing the program on this grand a scale and plans are to include the incoming fifth graders every year after this to expand the number of students with Chromebooks.

Students will be able to use the Chromebooks individually for research and study in their classrooms and at home. Inside the classroom, teachers will have the ability to change all of the screens to the same lesson so all can follow along, much as they would if they were watching something on a single screen or projector.

Comcast Essentials expanded

Comcast recently announced that Internet Essentials, the nation’s largest high-speed internet program for low-income families, is expanding eligibility to include public housing and HUD-assisted residents. It is the single largest expansion of Internet Essentials. Now, an estimated total of up to two million HUD-assisted homes, including Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, and Multifamily programs, will have access to low-cost internet service.

This program already was available to families with children eligible to receive free lunches and reduced-price school lunches and now, with the expansion, it is available to homes whose children do not qualify for the free and reduced lunch program.

This program aims to ensure that students can access the same level of high-speed internet at home that they have in their classrooms.

Persons who think they may qualify are urged to contact the agency from whom they rent.

Mobile Food Pantry Coming!

The Mobile Food Pantry will make a stop at the Monroe County ISD, 1101 S. Raisinville Rd., from 10 a.m. until noon, on Saturday, Sept. 10. Free food packages will be available to the first 200 families. For more information, please see the flyer on our website at www.monroe.k12.mi.us



Monroe Public Schools

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Phone: 734-265-3000

Fax: 734-265-3001

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

or check out our Facebook page
Monroe Public Schools

MPS School Times 2016/17			
	Start	End	Half Day
Monroe High School	7:23 AM	2:11 PM	10:30 AM
Orchard Center	7:43 AM	1:55 PM	10:14 AM
Monroe Mid. School	7:53 AM	2:45 PM	11:09 AM
Arborwood North	8:23 AM	3:20 PM	11:43 AM
Arborwood South	8:28 AM	3:25 PM	11:48 AM
Custer 1	8:54 AM	3:51 PM	12:14 PM
Custer 2	8:51 AM	3:48 PM	12:11 PM
Manor	8:41 AM	3:38 PM	12:01 PM
Raisinville	8:41 AM	3:38 PM	12:01 PM
Waterloo	8:26 AM	3:23 PM	11:46 AM

***Monroe Public Schools --
Where your child succeeds***

Knowing MPS schedule vitally important

- Sept. 7** – First day of school
- Oct. 12** – Half-day for students
- Oct. 12** – District conferences in afternoon and evening
- Oct. 26** – Half-day for students
- Nov. 1** – No school – county-wide in-service
- Nov. 23** – Half-day for students
- Nov. 24-25** – Thanksgiving vacation
- Dec. 7** – Half-day for students
- Dec. 21** – Half-day for students
- Dec. 22** – Jan. 2, 2017 – Christmas break
- Jan. 3** – Classes resume
- Jan. 16** – No school, Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 25** – Half-day for students
- Feb. 17-20** – No school, winter break and Presidents Day
- Feb. 22** – Half-day for students
- March 22** – Half day for students
- April 14-21** – Spring Break
- April 24** – Classes resume
- April 27** – Half-day for students
- May 17** – Half-day for students
- May 26** – Half-day for students
- May 29** – Memorial Day – No School
- June 14** – Last day of school (half day for students)



Don't forget!!

On days when school is cancelled, all school-related events during the day and after-hours also will be cancelled or postponed.

