



# W·A·Y MICHIGAN™

Widening Advancements for Youth

## Words from the Director - James Middleditch

Greetings Parents and Students!!

I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season. There are a few things I wanted to highlight for January. The first thing is the continued roll out of our Micro School Pod Cohorts. The next Micro School Schedules are being prepared to come out on Monday January 11th. The goal of these pods is to provide additional support in the core subjects of Math, Science, Social Studies, and English. Next, we have the Spring Count upcoming on Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>. Like in the fall all students will be required to submit at least 1 completed step per course on their learning plan. This should total a minimum of 6 submissions plus a conversation with their mentor about a project they are working on. Lastly, please keep spring testing on your minds. We hope to have a final determination on testing by the beginning of March. If you have any questions, please reach out to the office at 313-638-2716 or email us at [enroll@wayprogram.net](mailto:enroll@wayprogram.net).



## The New Year!

I hope you and your family had Happy Holidays! It is now time for the new year! I just wanted to remind you that we are all here to support your researcher and help them in their educational journey. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to an amazing year with you and your families!

- Jocelyn Jurado

## Way Inspiration

***“If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book.”***  
***- J.K. Rowling***

## Book Club!

Kim Iorillo, our WAY Michigan ELA Lab Expert, will be hosting a Book Club in February! The Club will be reading the 1997 Newberry Honor recipient *A Girl Named Disaster*. Written in 1996, the story follows the coming of age story of Nhamo, a girl living in a rural village in Mozambique as she goes on a quest to find her father in Zimbabwe. Excerpt from the back of the book:

“Nhamo’s mother is dead, and her father is gone. When she learns that she must marry a cruel man with three wives, before her 12th twelfth birthday, she runs away. Alone on a river, in a stolen boat, Nhamo is swept into the uncharted heart of a great lake. There, she battles drowning, starvation, and wild animals, and comes to know Africa’s mystical, luminous spirits. Nhamo’s journey will transport readers into her world, in a story that is poignant, humorous, dramatic, and extraordinary.”

Similar to other coming of age/personal journey novels like *Island of the Blue Dolphins* and *Julie of the Wolves*, *A Girl Named Disaster* will allow students to work on their reading and comprehension skills, communication skills, and will give them the chance to study African history and culture as well as gain a better understanding of the human experience that affects people of all cultures and locations. Kim Iorillo will be sending out a sign up sheet with all of the requirements and instructions. Students will be meeting via Zoom 1-2 times per week for about 1-2 months in order to read and discuss the book, again starting in February. A finalized schedule will be forthcoming. Students grades 9-12 will be able to earn ELA credit for whatever grade level they are currently working on. WAY Michigan staff are working on getting all students access to the Kindle apps in order to access the book. Please be looking for updates in your email.