



## WBHS SENIOR NAMED MR. FOOTBALL, HEADING TO U OF M TO FURTHER FOOTBALL CAREER

## WBHS VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM CROWNED STATE CHAMPS

In a season filled with unprecedented challenges, the West Bloomfield High School varsity football team capped off their 2020 season with a convincing 41-0 victory over Davison High School in the MHSAA Division 1 Football Finals at Ford Field on January 16. This marked the school's first MHSAA championship in football and the first team state championship for the school in over 30 years.

Coach Ron Bellamy led his Lakers into the championship game after another successful regular season and playoff run. Making the playoffs all the more challenging was a 42-day pause in the middle of the state playoffs, leaving the completion of the season in doubt.

Team activities and the playoffs resumed in the new year, with the Lakers advancing to face the Davison Cardinals in a matchup of the two top-ranked teams in the state in Division 1.

"This season tells a true tale of how a team can work together to achieve through adversity," said Eric Pierce, WBSD athletic director. "We are so unbelievably proud of the accomplishments of this team and how they have persevered through all the obstacles that were thrown their way. In true Laker Nation fashion, they grinded, prepared, worked relentlessly and played selflessly to achieve the goals for their team and their community."

After a season for the ages, WBHS senior Donovan Edwards was named Mr. Football for the state of Michigan by STATE CHAMPS! Sports Network.

Donovan finished his senior season with nearly 1,700 rushing yards and 27 touchdowns.

Donovan capped his high school career with an exceptional performance in the Division 1 MHSAA State Football Finals against the defending state champions, Davison High School. He dominated, rushing for 257 yards and three scores.

Donovan recently announced he would be attending the University of Michigan in the spring of 2021 to join the football program. Congratulations Donovan, and best of luck on the rest of your academic and athletic journey!



## KINDERGARTEN SIGN UP IS HAPPENING!

Get a jump start on the 2021-22 school year and enroll your kindergartener today! We are excited to have your future Laker begin their educational journey with the West

Bloomfield School District. Visit [www.wbsd.org/kindergarten](http://www.wbsd.org/kindergarten) for important resources and [www.wbsd.org/enrollment](http://www.wbsd.org/enrollment) to begin the enrollment process today!



# REFLECTIONS

## ON CLOUD LEARNING:

### What we've learned, what doesn't work, what works and how we can move forward

By Gerald Hill, Ph.D., Superintendent

Over the past year across the state and nation, educators have been grappling with teaching and learning within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we've been on this challenging journey, the one constant has been the need to adjust teaching and learning strategies and practices to best meet student needs in terms of academics, social emotional learning and health and safety.

A key group in the West Bloomfield School District doing this work has been our District Learning Design Team, which is comprised of teachers, principals, curriculum specialists, central office administrators and school board members. They are the thought leaders in implementing our Portrait of a Graduate, or the 4 Cs: Critical Thinker, Collaborator, Communicator and Contributor.

When we were faced with the shutdown of schools last March, the District Learning Design Team responded by creating our Cloud Learning initiative, which we've employed in both our remote learning and hybrid learning models of teaching and learning.

After nearly a year of using Cloud Learning, the District Learning Design Team recently participated in a reflection activity, where we assessed what we've learned, what's not working so well, what's working very well and what we'd like to keep doing even after we return to a new, better



normal, in-person model of education. I've also come to the realization that for deeper learning to occur for students there must be an alignment, or symmetry, between what we expect of and provide for our students and how we approach adult learning, teaching practices and leadership strategies. For example, if we expect students to achieve our Portrait of a Graduate profile and become effective critical thinkers, collaborators, communicators and contributors, then we, the adults in the system, need to use and model those same characteristics as we design and implement our teaching and learning model.

To that end, the District Learning Design Team participated in a collaborative, critical thinking activity, where we reflected on Cloud Learning and how we can use the best aspects of it to improve experiences and results for students. Some of the results of that activity are highlighted below:

#### Cloud Learning: What We've Learned

- The importance of and how to be flexible
- How to collaborate and problem solve effectively
- Solving challenges create growth
- The person doing the most work is the person who is learning the most
- No one strategy works for all learners

#### Cloud Learning: What We'd Prefer Not to Continue

- Traditional testing practices (multiple choice) for student assessment
- Student projects with only one choice of design or presentation
- Parents not in our schools – we're looking forward to



## BOARD OF EDUCATION WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBER

The West Bloomfield Board of Education recently welcomed its newest member following the November 2020 election.

Deborah Evans began her tenure as a Board of Education Trustee starting in January 2021.

Ms. Evans brings a wide variety of experiences to her position on the Board, including expertise related to human resources, public relations and finance.

Ms. Evans is a former West Bloomfield School District



parent and has been a resident of our community for 15 years.

“As our community continues to be enriched through steady economic and ethnic growth, it is essential that our education system creates a culturally responsive environment for our students and teachers,” Evans said. “I will serve in trust for the community and respectfully value opposing opinions, speak honestly, and

listen carefully with the goal of preparing our students for an inclusive world beyond graduation.”

## FORMER TEACHER LARKIN APPOINTED AS NEW OAKLAND EARLY COLLEGE HEAD OF SCHOOL

After a comprehensive and rigorous search process, the West Bloomfield

School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Ashleigh Larkin as the new Oakland Early College Head of School.

Ms. Larkin was hired into the West Bloomfield School District in 2010 as a social studies teacher at West



Bloomfield High School. She served as a teacher until 2016, when she was appointed as Assistant Principal at West Bloomfield School.

“I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Head of School at Oakland Early College,” Larkin said. “I am excited by this new challenge and look forward to working with all members of the OEC family!”

## BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS

*As part of the January 25 regular meeting, the Board of Education took time to organize their positions for 2021 and held an election for new officers. The Board of Education's officers for 2021 are:*

- **Stacy Brickman,** President
- **Julie Beaty,** Vice President
- **Nick Hersh,** Secretary
- **Kenneth Ferguson,** Treasurer



Stacy Brickman



Julie Beaty



Nick Hersh



Kenneth Ferguson

*Deborah Evans, Carol Finkelstein, and Christy Forhan were appointed to the position of Trustee as part of the Board's organization for 2021.*

## UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES

- **March 22:** Board Meeting
- **April 12:** Board Study Session
- **April 26:** Board Meeting
- **May 3:** Board Study Session
- **May 17:** Board Meeting
- **June 7:** Board Study Session
- **June 21:** Board Meeting

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# DISTRICT PLANNING MAY 4 MILLAGE ELECTION



The West Bloomfield School District Board of Education has unanimously approved placing a 2.0 mill operating millage restoration proposal on the May 4 ballot.

While the proposal will not affect primary residences, all registered voters can vote on the proposal. Generally speaking, the proposal will only affect the tax rate on businesses, rental properties, vacant land, and second homes.

The ballot proposal seeks restoration of the non-homestead tax rate that was approved by voters in 2014. WBSD Superintendent Dr. Gerald Hill said that since the school district's non-homestead millage was approved by voters in 2014, it has been rolled back because of reductions required by the 1978 Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution.

"Rollbacks mean a reduction in revenue earmarked for student instruction," Dr. Hill said. "These rollbacks have shorted the school district's operating budget by more than \$1.3 million over the last six years."

Board of Education President Stacy Brickman explained that restoration of the non-homestead millage is the school district's obligation.

"Michigan law provides that schools are funded by a six-mill levy on primary residences and by an 18-mill non-

homestead levy on businesses, rental properties, vacant land, and second homes," she added.

"By restoring the non-homestead millage to its statutory limit of 18 mills, we are doing what state law requires us to do to fully finance our

schools," Brickman said. "For the school district to receive state aid to which it is entitled, the school district has to levy 18 mills on non-homestead property."

The ballot proposal calls for a 2.0-mill increase in the operating millage rate. This will raise the current non-homestead tax rate from its current rolled-back rate of 16.9544 to 18.9544 mills. While the school district can only levy 18 mills on non-homestead property, the millage above 18 mills will protect the school district from future rollbacks that may occur.

Dr. Hill said that the ballot proposal will affect the educational program of every West Bloomfield student.

"In short, we can continue moving the West Bloomfield School District forward with no change in the current tax rate for primary homeowners," he said.

Brickman believes that voter approval of the non-homestead restoration will be a win-win for West Bloomfield's students and the West Bloomfield community.

"I also believe a successful election will have a favorable effect on the positive reputation of the West Bloomfield community," Brickman said.

Dr. Hill concluded, "We want to make sure members of our community understand that all registered voters can vote on the proposal even though the May 4 ballot proposal applies to non-homestead properties, primarily businesses and second homes. We invite any questions members of the community may have before the vote, which begins with absentee voting on March 20."

More information related to this upcoming ballot proposal is available at [www.wbsd.org/elections](http://www.wbsd.org/elections).



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# WBHS STUDENT ATHLETES COMMIT TO COLLEGE

**W**est Bloomfield High School recently celebrated the senior student athletes who have committed to participate in college athletics during two different College Signing Day celebrations. These 14 student athletes will be pursuing athletics as part of their educational experience at the collegiate level.



**GAVIN  
HARDEMAN**

Gavin Hardeman plans to attend the United States Air Force Academy to play football. While in college, he intends to pursue a degree in business.



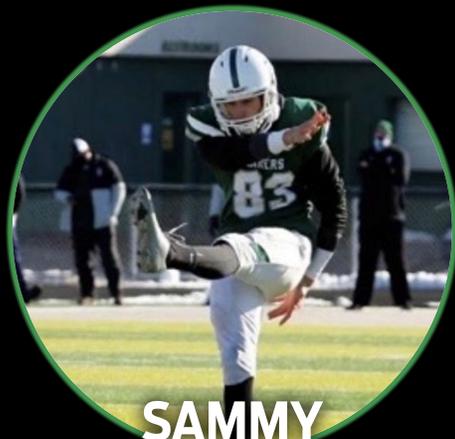
**MAXWELL  
HARRISTON**

Maxwell Harriston plans to attend Kentucky University to play football. While in college, he intends to major in finance and minor in sports management.



**JORDAN  
HOSKINS**

Jordan Hoskins plans to attend Missouri State University to play football. While in college, he intends to pursue a degree in business.



**SAMMY  
LAFATA**

Sammy Lafata plans to attend Adrian College to play football and baseball. While in college, he intends to pursue a degree in criminal justice.



**BRANDON  
ESCOBAR**

Brandon Escobar plans to attend Lansing Community College to play baseball. While in college, he intends to pursue a degree in journalism.



**GRIFFIN  
UTLEY**

Griffin Utley plans to attend Northwood University to play soccer. While in college, he intends to pursue a degree in sports management.



**MEKHI**  
ELAM

Mekhi Elam plans to attend Adrian College to play football. While in college, he intends to pursue a degree in human biology.



**NILES**  
KING

Niles King plans to attend Grand Valley State University to play football. While in college, he intends to pursue a degree in marketing.



**JADEN**  
GREEN

Jaden Green plans to attend Northwood University to play football. While in college, he intends to pursue a degree in business.



**GARRETT**  
KERR

Garrett Kerr plans to attend Mott Community College to play baseball.



**LOGAN**  
LEWIS

Logan Lewis plans to attend Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis to play basketball.



**GRACE**  
ALLREAD

Grace Allread plans to attend Liberty University to play volleyball.



**BRAYDEN**  
DAULTON

Brayden Daulton plans to attend Alma College to play baseball.



**DONOVAN**  
EDWARDS

Donovan Edwards plans to attend the University of Michigan to play football.



**WEST BLOOMFIELD  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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## THREE WBHS STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Three West Bloomfield High School students were recently recognized by the College Board National African American Recognition Program for their remarkable academic achievements and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT.

■ **Rave Andrews** is the daughter of Etsuko and Joseph Andrews. She hopes to take her love of programming and study computer science in college at either the University of Michigan or Northwestern University.

■ **Jada Lee** is the daughter of Daphane and Ricky Lee. She is interested in studying Public Health and Microbiology at either University of Michigan or Washington University in St. Louis.

■ **David Unogu** is the son of Frances and Okechukwu Unogu. He is interested in studying Neurology and Oncology at the collegiate level.

As a National African American Recognition Program winner, the College Board will help make it easier for students to connect directly to colleges around the country.



## WBHS STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR THE ARTS



The West Bloomfield School District is proud to recognize WBHS student Ife Martin as a recipient of a 2021 National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) award for her caliber of artistic achievement. Ife is among 659 of the most accomplished young visual, literary and performing artists from across the country and was selected through YoungArts' prestigious annual competition by esteemed discipline-specific panels of artists through a rigorous blind adjudication process.

Ife has been named a YoungArts honorable mention in Writing/Spoken Word. YoungArts award winners gain access to one of the most comprehensive programs for artists in the United States, in which they will have opportunities for financial, creative and professional development support throughout their entire careers.

## THREE MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICIANS EARN HIGH HONORS

Three West Bloomfield Middle School band students were recently selected to the 2020-21 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association All-State Middle School Honors Band. This is the highest music honor among middle school musicians throughout the state.

We are very proud of their hard work and outstanding accomplishments. Congratulations to:

■ **Natalie Weissman**, First Chair Trombone, grade 8

■ **Neel Kamath**, Second Chair Bassoon, grade 7

■ **Skyla Rojas**, Trombone Honorable Mention, grade 8

During this 2020-21 school year, 1,466 students in grades 7-12 were registered for an All-State audition, held via uploaded videos, for the

approximately 400 seats in the five ensembles.

A panel of 25 All-State adjudicators listened and adjudicated the blind auditions, selecting and ranking the top student auditions in the state of Michigan.



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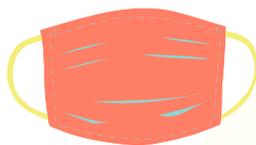
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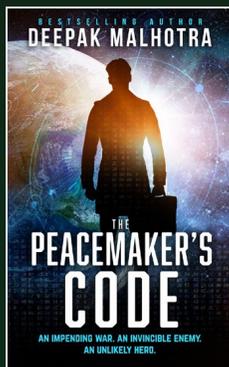
# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Do you know of any West Bloomfield High School alums you'd like to see in the spotlight? If so, please email [alycia.chase@wbsd.org](mailto:alycia.chase@wbsd.org) with their contact info and a brief background.



**DEEPAK MALHOTRA**  
WBHS Class of 1993

**D**eepak Malhotra has been a professor at Harvard Business School for the past 18 years. His research, teaching, and consulting work focuses on negotiation, deal-making, conflict resolution and diplomacy. He has authored three award-winning books, including *Negotiation Genius* and *Negotiating the Impossible*, and has just published his first novel – *The Peacemaker's Code*.



of the Year by Poets & Quants. He lives in Brookline, MA, with his wife (Shikha) and three children.

Deepak holds a B.A. degree in economics from the University of Michigan with High Honors and Highest Distinction and also earned his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from Northwestern University – Kellogg School of Management. He has also served as Visiting Faculty to the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford.

When reflecting on his time at West Bloomfield High School, Deepak said many of his happiest memories are tied to the school's theater department.

“As someone who now spends a lot of time speaking to large groups of people, I am forever indebted to those experiences, and to Mr. Leider, our drama teacher. Some of the other WBHS

teachers who made a big difference during my time at WBHS, and had a lasting impact, are Mr. Corcoran, Dr. Brandell, Mrs. Fortunate, Sr. Pilot, Sr. Venitilli, and Mr. Fornell. All of them were incredible teachers, and they each shaped my own approach to educating,” Deepak said.

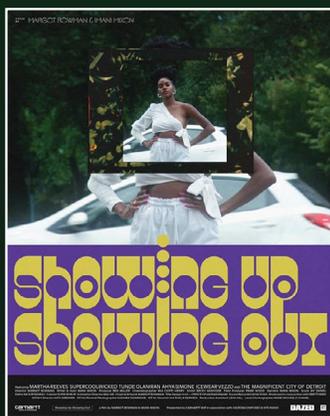
Deepak is an advisor to CEOs across the globe, and to governments that are trying to negotiate an end to intractable armed conflicts. In 2020, Deepak launched a new course at Harvard entitled *War & Peace: The Lessons of History for Strategy, Leadership, Negotiation, Policy and Humanity*.

Also in 2020, Deepak was named Business School Professor



**IMANI MIXON**  
WBHS Class of 2010

**I**mani Mixon is a long-form storyteller who is inspired by everyday griots who bear witness to their surroundings and report it back out. Equal parts urgent and essential, her multimedia work centers the experiences of Black women and independent artists.



Now she is a freelance arts and culture writer, host and creative consultant. In 2019, she wrote, narrated and hosted a short film called *Showing Up, Showing Out*, in collaboration with Carhartt, Dazed, Motown Records, and NTS Radio. Her work has been published at Billboard, Complex, Curbed

Detroit, Dazed, Detour Detroit, Detroit Electronic Quarterly, Detroit Free Press, Detroit Metro Times, Hour Detroit, Huffington Post, Live in America, Michigan Radio, Model D, The Guardian, Three Fold Press, and Vogue.

“West Bloomfield High School prepared me to be able to engage, communicate and collaborate with folks from all different walks of life,” Imani said. “The high school was a great playground for me to explore my varied interests and Mrs. Rosenthal’s Student Leadership class, Miss Nadler’s Yearbook class, Mr. Green’s Theatre class, Mr. Palazzi’s and Mr. Corcoran’s English classes and the African American Awareness Club supported that

journey. Ms. Thompkins’ lifelong guidance didn’t hurt either (she’s my mom!).”

She graduated from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism in 2014 with a major in magazine journalism. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. After interning at Complex and Conde Nast Traveler in New York City and working in book publishing in Chicago, she returned home to Detroit in 2016.

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**Our Mission:**

*“The Laker strengthens the vital relationship between West Bloomfield School District and the community by clearly communicating in a timely and relevant manner the many successes of our students, schools and community.”*

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Superintendent

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**Notice of Nondiscrimination:**

It is the policy of the West Bloomfield School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, religion, marital status, disability, or sexual orientation, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in employment or any of its programs or activities.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Mr. Eric Whitney, Assistant Superintendent for Talent Development and Management. 5810 Commerce Road, West Bloomfield MI 48324. 248-865-6424

# UNITED WE WALK EVENT SHIFTS ONLINE FOR 2021

The 27th Annual United We Walk (UWW) celebration shifted online in 2021 for the group’s first ever, Virtual Showcase on Sunday, January 17. With the help of a dedicated group of student co-chairs, Jennifer Graham and the rest of the UWW committee put on a tremendous program featuring student presentations and a virtual visit from Governor



Gretchen Whitmer. This event would not have been possible without the help of Civic Center Television and Motown Digital. In lieu of being able to come together and participate in a transition service project, UWW asked those tuning in to the 2021 celebration to consider donating to Blessings in a Backpack – West Bloomfield/Keego Harbor to support their mission to feed hungry families in our area.

# WBHS DECA CHAPTER EARNS MULTIPLE AWARDS

The West Bloomfield High School DECA Chapter earned 49 awards in the Michigan DECA District 6 Awards ceremony, which was held virtually on January 13. WBHS earned eight test medallions and 13 in role play. Twenty-eight students were recognized as finalists in their categories, earning them the opportunity to represent the school district at the State Career Development Conference in March. Those that qualify at the state level will join the six students from the chapter who have already placed to represent the State of Michigan and the International level in April.

"While it was unfortunate that we couldn't compete in person, I believe it was still an enjoyable, worthwhile experience," said WBHS



senior **Mick Gordinier**. "It was just as good of a feeling to hear my partner's and my name called as a qualifier for states even though it was done through a YouTube live stream!"

**Julie Zalla**, WBHS teacher and DECA advisor, shared, "I am so incredibly proud of the hard work, dedication, and persistence displayed by our students. It took a great deal of motivation on each student's part to be consistent in meeting with their advisors independently as well as together as a chapter this semester as we navigated virtually."

# WEST BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY EDUCATION SPRING 2021



[www.wbsd.org](http://www.wbsd.org)  
Click on DEPARTMENTS, then click on  
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## COMMUNITY EDUCATION INFORMATION

West Bloomfield School District Community Education is thrilled to provide **online enrichment and fun educational opportunities** this spring. We will announce when we can open our doors for face-to-face enrichment classes, community offerings and rentals.

Stay tuned for updates regarding West Bloomfield School District **2021 Summer Camp**. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we make decisions on what is best for our students, families, and staff.

### Spring & Summer Learning

Art, movement, and music, oh my! Visit [www.wbcommed.org](http://www.wbcommed.org) to view online class offerings. Questions about registration? Please email: [andrea.frank@wbsd.org](mailto:andrea.frank@wbsd.org)

### GRASP 2021

Greater Retention & Achievement through Summer Practice. GRASP is a home-based program consisting of nine (9) weekly modules to help students K-8 maintain or improve their **Math** and **Reading** skills over the summer. Visit [www.wbcommed.org](http://www.wbcommed.org) and use search code 7150.

### Preschool Programs

We offer full- and half-day, three-year-old and four-year-old tuition-based preschool, as well as Little Lakers, the multi-age virtual preschool program that is offered during this unique time.

Face to Face programs are available at ACS, Gretchko, and Sheiko. All Early Childhood programs use the Highscope Curriculum, which teaches toward each child's developmental level based on interest.

Contact Collette Goestenkers for registration and tuition information. (248) 865-6466 [collette.goestenkers@wbsd.org](mailto:collette.goestenkers@wbsd.org)



### FREE Preschool

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is a tuition-free, state-funded program for qualifying families. Participants must meet

income guidelines. Programs

are located at Scotch and Sheiko. For more information or to see if

your child qualifies, please call (248) 865-6466.



Early Childhood, Kids Klub and Tween Time

Coordinator: Laura Poxon

Registration and Information: (248) 865-6466

## ADULT EDUCATION/ESL

Dawn Hanford, Coordinator  
 J&S Office Center 7071 Orchard Lake Rd., Ste. 100  
 West Bloomfield, MI 48322 (248)539-2390

### Spring 2021 English as a Second Language

Register now for English as a Second Language  
 Please wear mask as you enter the building.

Students 18 and older are welcome from any district.

### Call to schedule an appointment to register.

MUST REGISTER AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE CLASS BEGINS!

(Registration is ongoing IF a class is already running – tuition will be prorated.)

### Spring Session 5:

**April 19 – May 28**

(6 weeks/2 days/week \$225 and 4 days/week /\$425)

Level I	Beginner English	Tuesday /Thursday	9:30 a.m. -12 p.m.
Level II	Intermediate English	Monday/Wednesday	9:30 a.m. -12 p.m.
Level III	Advanced English	Monday/Wednesday	9:30 a.m. -12 p.m.
Literature and Discussion		Tuesday/Thursday	9:30 a.m. -12 p.m.
Pronunciation and Speaking Practice		Tuesday/Thursday	9:30 a.m. -12 p.m.

### Spring Book Club

**April 5 – June 28 (12 weeks/\$225)**

**The Joy Luck Club** by Amy Tan  
 Mondays 12:30-3 p.m.

### New! FREE! Online Sample Class

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**Spring Session: April 5, 12, 19**

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Reading, vocabulary and discussion of American life. Intermediate to Advanced.

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**Laura Poxon**  
 Coordinator,  
 Early Childhood

**Kathi Luthe**  
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 Early Childhood

**Collette Goestenkors**  
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**Beth Helka**  
 Kids Klub and Tween  
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**Dawn Hanford**  
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**Melissa McDonald**  
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**Adrienne Jewett**  
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**Andrea Frank**  
 Coordinator, Enrichment  
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 Phone: (248) 865-6462

### Registration— Easy ways to register

1. Online at [wbcommmed.org](http://wbcommmed.org)
2. In-person at the Community Education Office (please call first)
3. By phone at (248) 865-6462

