

## SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH SURVEY RESULTS

**O**VER the December break, the Board of Education asked our stakeholders to fill out a brief survey to set the criteria for the next West Bloomfield School District superintendent. The Board received just under 400 responses. This feedback helped the Board of Education create the candidate profile. Prior to making a selection, the Board of Education will review these criteria to ensure that the best candidate is selected for the position.

"Thank you to our wonderful community for their input and feedback," said Board of Education President Stacy Brickman. "The Board of Education truly values your opinion. We look forward to finding a superintendent who will build upon our existing strengths and help us flourish in new ways."

If you are interested in learning more, visit [www.wbsd.org/about-us/superintendent-search](http://www.wbsd.org/about-us/superintendent-search)



### West Bloomfield School District Superintendent Search Timeline

- Monday, January 10 – Monday, February 14 – Superintendent Job Posting
- Wednesday, February 23 - 6:30 p.m. – Special Meeting – Selection of first-round candidates
- Monday, February 28 - 6:30 p.m. – First round interviews
- Tuesday, March 1 - 6:30 p.m. – First round interviews
- Wednesday, March 2 - 6:30 p.m. – Special Meeting – Select second-round candidates
- Tuesday, March 8 - 7 p.m. – Second round interviews
- Wednesday, March 9 - 7 p.m. – Second round interviews
- March 15 and 17 – Potential site visits of finalists
- March 24 - 6:30 p.m. – Special Meeting – Select Superintendent
- April – Take board action on new superintendent contract

*All dates and times are tentative. Dates in red have already passed.*

## WBSD IS CREATING GOOD CITIZENS



**T**HE Piety Hill Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) honored two West Bloomfield School District high school students in the Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest.

The Good Citizens Award and Scholarship contest rewards individuals who possess good citizenship qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. Students are nominated by their teachers and peers due to demonstrating these qualities to an outstanding degree.

To enter the contest, students submitted an essay on patriotism along with a record of personal accomplishments. First-place winner Adedoyin Adebayo, from Oakland Early College, and second-place winner Daniel Wisely, from West



Bloomfield High School, both received DAR scholarships. Adebayo's submission will move onto the state competition.

Congratulations, Adedoyin and Daniel!



# WBSD'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN – A Guide to Responding to Potential Crises

By Gerald Hill, Ph.D., Superintendent

**U**NFORTUNATELY, during these turbulent times, crises occur far too often in schools and school districts. To proactively address this issue, the West Bloomfield School District has, for several years, been involved in continuous planning regarding responding to potential crises.

Back in the summer of 2018, in cooperation with the West Bloomfield Police Department, we conducted staff training in the violent critical incident training protocols of A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate). More recently, we've been working with Secure Education Consultants (SEC) to assess potential risks and develop appropriate responses to a variety of emergency situations. The need for such planning and training, as shown by recent incidents in Oakland County, is evident.

Without getting into specific details, this is a summary of our Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the training involved in implementing the plan. I will also discuss our School Resource Officer (SRO) programs we have in place with the West Bloomfield Police Department and the City of Orchard Lake Village Police Department.

## Components of WBSD's EOP

While we did have training in how to respond appropriately during violent critical incidents, the ALICE training protocols didn't cover the variety of emergency situations. Consequently, about two years ago, we enlisted the services of SEC to both assess our schools and emergency response plans and then develop a more comprehensive approach. This resulted in each of our schools having a specific EOP tailored to its school setting. Some components of the emergency response plans include:

- Medical Emergency
- Shelter In Place
- Evacuation
- Lockout
- Lockdown
- Active Violence

Under various situations, the staff is trained on how to best respond and how to communicate with each other and with students during an emergency.

Additionally, in order to be more proactive, we have developed a Student Safety Assessment protocol, where a team of educators assess the necessity of providing additional supports, services, and interventions for students who may be exhibiting the need for such an assessment. Such an approach is preventive in nature and also involves communication with families.

## Staff Training

Successful implementation of our EOPs requires that each

of our staff members (teachers, administrators, support staff, etc.) receive training in the basics of the plan. This is being accomplished by dedicating time toward that training effort. For example, we had all staff training sessions on January 13 and 14. During this time, staff received training from SEC as well as District staff, on the various protocols found within the EOP. There are several follow-up sessions planned this spring, as well as plans for ongoing training in future years. As suggested by one of the trainers, an EOP is only as good as the training provided.

## School Resource Officers

Another key component to our safety and security planning is cooperation between the school district and law enforcement agencies. We are in regular communication with law enforcement and work cooperatively to enhance student and staff safety. A big part of that effort involves school resource officers (SROs). Currently, we have three SROs – two from the West Bloomfield Police Department and one from the City of Orchard Lake Village Police Department. They are based out of West Bloomfield High School and West Bloomfield Middle School. Generally, the SROs focus on the following:

- Safety and security – SROs are a visible deterrent, and while we have a comprehensive safety plan, SROs do provide an additional layer of safety for our students



SRO Officers Detective Michael Kozemchak and Detective Rebecca Schuldinger meet with Dr. Hill to discuss how they are servicing our students.

- Supporting student wellbeing – developing positive relationships with students
- Work cooperatively with WBSD staff – including school administrators, social workers, Office of Educational Equity and Inclusion, and school behavior interventionists
- Student advocacy – keeping students out of the criminal justice system and giving them opportunities to succeed



Dr. Hill meets with the new SRO Officer Clevenger, who serves our students at WBMS.

Individuals employed as an SRO are specifically selected and trained to accomplish the goals of the SRO program. Our students, staff, and the communities we serve are the beneficiaries of this program.

In conclusion, the WBSD and our team of partners are continuously working to enhance the safety, security, and wellbeing of our students. Our students and staff deserve no less.

## DISTRICT RECOGNIZES BOARD MEMBERS, BOE ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

In honor of School Board Recognition Month, Superintendent Dr. Gerald Hill recognized the Board of Education members at the 2022 January Board of Education meeting.

"In observance of School Board Recognition Month, I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the West Bloomfield students, staff, and the larger community for your countless hours of service and commitment to this District," he said. "They dedicate hundreds of hours each year to analyzing information, contributing to committees, attending professional development, and participating in community and extracurricular events. Through a multitude of challenges, this group has shown steadfast leadership, clarity through discussion and debate, and a sustained vision of excellence for our District."

The Board of Education also held an election for new officers. The Board of Education's officers for the remainder of 2022 are:

- **Stacy Brickman**, President
- **Nelson Hersh**, Vice President
- **Julie Beaty**, Secretary
- **Ken Ferguson**, Treasurer

**Deborah Evans, Carol Finkelstein, and Christy Forhan** are appointed to the position of Trustee as part of the Board's organization for 2022.

## HELPING STUDENTS COPE



West Bloomfield School District second graders at Roosevelt, Doherty, and Gretchko elementary schools received coping skills bags courtesy of the Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition and sponsored by Vibe Credit Union.

Each bag included a Coping Skills Choice Board and a few items children can use to help calm themselves down and express their emotions in healthy ways. Coping items included fidgets, Play-Doh, a journal, crayons, and more. The coping items help ground children to the present moment and provide a sense of control that fosters positive and healthy thoughts.

During stressful situations, it is difficult – especially for children – to make healthy and positive choices to calm down. Utilizing the coping skills bag and the Coping Skills Choice Board can help children manage anxiety and develop self-regulation skills, resiliency, and confidence.



## SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS



WEST BLOOMFIELD  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Apply by July 26, 2022!**



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# Star Certificates Awarded to Deserving Individuals

At the West Bloomfield School District Board of Education meeting on January 24, the Board recognized and awarded Star Certificates to WBSD staff members Carrie Roth and Randi Fogel, and the following individuals who assisted with the Apple Island clean up: Brandon Jackson, Garry McCallum, Mike Thelan, Matt Shaerer, Brett Lentz, Mike Hodgins, Chris Frey, Joe Ketchum, Mike Lee, Rodger Gardner, Bruce Lilley, Peter Swick, Jason Swade, and Ted Stinson.



## Carrie Roth

Carrie currently serves as the information and technology specialist at Roosevelt Elementary. For years, Carrie has provided Roosevelt STEAM students with hands-on learning opportunities through annual participation in The Michigan Design Prize competition. She has fostered

partnerships with corporations such as Sundberg Ferar. Carrie provides students with opportunities for exploration, creativity, and growth. Her students are able to showcase and receive recognition for their accomplishments. Carrie goes above and beyond to highlight the Roosevelt STEAM program with wonderful opportunities like The Michigan Design Prize competition. She models leadership, involves the community, and showcases our students.

Carrie is the proud recipient of the 2021 Governor's Award and The Michigan Design Prize 2021 Educator of the Year Award.

"Carrie does a great job creating opportunities for students to experience authentic STEAM education in the iCenter at Roosevelt," said Ryan West, Roosevelt principal. "Her innovative thinking and willingness to collaborate with other teachers and community partnerships truly provide a unique experience for all of the students at Roosevelt. In addition, she provides authentic experiences for students, and she's a great colleague at Roosevelt. She is always willing to help out and support the staff in any way possible."

## Randi Fogel

Randi currently serves as the K-5 literacy coach for Doherty and Gretchko elementary schools. She is always there to help people. Whether it is the summer, after school, or on the weekend, she is always willing to meet with people to help them with classroom issues, curriculum questions, or new initiatives. Randi is very positive and always a cheerleader for the school district. She is always looking to help make any



situation better or easier and is an ambassador for all schools, staff, and children. Randi is currently a building coach, reading consultant facilitator, and member of the teaching and learning team. She demonstrates desired behaviors for all on a daily basis. Positivity, a can-do attitude, and compassion are all part of the fabric of Randi Fogel.

"Randi always goes above and beyond and is very proactive in her thinking," said Sally Drummond, Gretchko principal. "Children's interests are always at the forefront of her mind."

"Randi makes herself available at all times to teachers who may need/want her support and even the ones who may not reach out to her directly," said co-worker Carol Wild. "She offers literacy support in many ways, such as late-night phone calls and Zooms, coaching/support before and after school, coaching cycles in the classroom, providing constructive feedback, and taking time to meet with teachers when it is convenient for them. Randi is able to work with teachers who are new to the profession as well as seasoned teachers in a non-threatening way. She understands the responsibilities a teacher has and is able to put herself in the shoes of anyone she is working with. Randi provides support in ways that are easy to understand, worthwhile, and based on research/best practices, all while being sensitive to each individual teacher. Randi is an exceptional literacy coach."

## Apple Island Team

A typical springtime finds members of the West Bloomfield maintenance department, along with volunteers from the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society, out on Apple Island doing routine trail clearing and site maintenance. It's usually a straightforward job.

But in June of 2019, three large trees fell over the main trail and the foundation of one of the historic home sites on the island. With the onset of COVID-19 in early 2020 and the cancellation of island tours, normal island maintenance was put off indefinitely. Even one year of inattention allows





the trails to become overgrown and unpassable.

We are grateful to Orchard Lake Country Club, specifically General Manager Peter Swick and Waterfront Director Bruce Lilley, who volunteered their landscaping staff to clear the trails and cut back some of the fallen trees. Just when it seemed we had a handle on Mother Nature, we entered 2021.

Last summer's severe storms brought down dozens more trees and limbs all over Apple Island. The result was far worse than a typical season. Most trails and historic sites were blocked with fallen timber and several spots were particularly dangerous. The damage underscored the District's need to call on experts to return the island to a safe learning environment.

WBSD is grateful for the community partners who responded to the call for help. On September 15, landscape crews from West Bloomfield Parks and The City of Orchard Lake Village came to Apple Island to tackle the situation. Orchard Lake Country Club graciously provided boat transportation. Several hours and many saws later, the trails and historic sites were returned to a safe state, more conducive to educational tours.

"This was definitely a team effort and could not have been completed in a timely manner without everyone's help," said Chris Frey, parks supervisor for WB Parks. "It was not an easy task to complete but good to see multiple agencies working side by side, for a great outcome."

The Apple Island clean-up team consisted of **West Bloomfield Parks:** Brandon Jackson, Garry McCallum, Mike Thelan, Matt Shaerer, Brett Lentz, Mike Hodgins, Chris Frey, and Parks Superintendent Joe Ketchum. **From the City of Orchard Lake Village:** Mike Lee and Rodger Gardner. **From the Orchard Lake Country Club:** Bruce Lilley and General Manager Peter Swick. **From the West Bloomfield School District:** Jason Swade and Director of Facility Operations, Ted Stinson.

## WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT MUSICIANS EARN HIGH HONORS

**All-State Orchestra:** Congratulations to violist, Daniel Lee, on his successful audition and performance with the MSBOA High School All-State Orchestra. This is Daniel's second time earning and performing with the All-State Orchestra at the Michigan Music Conference (MMC). This year, he earned third chair viola. Over 1,900 students from across Michigan auditioned for coveted spots in these ensembles. These selected members of the orchestra attended rehearsals for two days at the MMC, and then performed. Bravo for your outstanding performance and for representing WB Orchestras. Way to go!



**All-State Band:** Please join us in congratulating eighth-grade bassoonist, Neel Kamath, on his recent participation and performance with the MSBOA Middle School All-State Band. Neel earned second chair. He rehearsed and performed with the top middle school musicians from across the state at the Michigan Music Conference. Thank you for representing WB Bands! Congratulations, Neel.

**All-State Choir:** Congratulations to Alexis Goldapper, Shane Donovan, Samantha Witt, Selena Xie, Victoria Randolph, and Xavier Haber. These six WBHS students rehearsed and performed in the All-State Jazz Choir at the Michigan Music Conference. Sixteen students from across the state were chosen through audition and recommendation to sing under the direction of Christine Guter. Christine is an active international lecturer and clinician who has conducted numerous All-State Jazz and Honor Choirs. What an honor!



## ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR, ERIC PIERCE

West Bloomfield High School's athletic director, Eric Pierce, was named the 2020 Athletic Director of the Year by the Oakland County Athletic Directors Association.

The Athletic Director of the Year Award is voted on by all of the athletic directors in Oakland County. The recipient must have served as an athletic director for more than seven years.

"I am fortunate to have an amazing team in WB!" Pierce said. "This award is not just for me, it is a recognition of the joint efforts put forth by my whole department. I am honored to accept this on their behalf."

Due to COVID-19, the award presentation was delayed until the end of 2021.



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# WBHS STUDENT ATHLETES COMMIT TO COLLEGE



**EVAN  
BUNCH**

*Evan Bunch plans to attend Madonna University to play lacrosse and study criminal justice.*



**JOSEPH  
CLARK JR.**

*Joseph Clark Jr. plans to attend Wayne State University to play football and major in sports management.*



**MATTHEW  
FOUNTAIN**

*Matthew Fountain plans to attend Lansing Community College to play baseball, major in physical therapy, and minor in psychology.*



**PAIGE  
GEISER**

*Paige Geiser plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse to play volleyball and is undecided in her major. However, she is leaning toward environmental science.*



**LUKAS  
GRAFF**

*Lukas Graff plans to attend Kalamazoo College to play lacrosse and major in business.*



**KYLE  
JOHNSON**

*Kyle Johnson plans to attend Grand Valley State University to play football and major in sports management.*



**ZAEVION  
MARSHALL**

*Zaevion Marshall plans to attend Concordia University to play football, run track, major in physical therapy.*



**JOSH  
WEISS**

*Josh Weiss plans to attend Schoolcraft College to play baseball and major in business.*



**MAKAYLA  
WILLIAMS**

*Makayla Williams plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University to run track and major in health science.*



**MICHAEL  
WILLIAMS II**

*Michael Williams II plans to attend the University of South Florida to play football, major in sports science, and minor in communications.*



**SHYANNE  
TAYLOR**

*Shyanne Taylor plans to attend Spalding University in Louisville, KY, to play basketball and major in business management.*



**ZANEIYA  
BATISTE**

*Zaneiya Batiste plans to attend Spalding University in Louisville, KY, to play basketball and major in business management.*

**AD HOLDER**

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

By Alycia Chase, WBHS Social Studies Teacher



## ADAM COOPER WBHS Class of 2013

**A**dam Cooper is a 2013 graduate of West Bloomfield High School. Following graduation, he attended Columbia College in Chicago, where he received a bachelor's degree in Cinema Arts and Sciences with a minor in Creative Advertising. Following college, he gained experience in his field through a variety of work experiences, including video producer/editor for Cross Realms, Inc.; production assistant on *Batman v Superman* and James Cameron's *Avatar Sequels*; video editor for *Jungle Creations*, and more.

Adam is currently a successful writer, director, and producer living in Los Angeles, CA. He makes movie trailers for Marvel, Lucasfilm, Amazon Studios, and MGM. Additionally, he screen writes with his twin brother Daniel, who is also an alum of WBHS. Together, they have created films acclaimed at the Toronto International

Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival, and Hamptons International Film Festival.

Adam is known for his work on *Five Windows* (2015), *The Fourth Wall* (2014) and *Model No. Human* (2016). He is also an award-winning writer/director of sci-fi thriller features and shorts and is a 28-time Clio Entertainment Award winner and three-time Golden Trailer winner for his work as a trailer editor and producer.

Adam and his brother Daniel started Cooper Brothers Films, an award-winning production company that produces commercials, promos, documentaries, web material, and short films. Since their launch back in 2010, while still in high school, they have grown and have a client base that includes corporations, production companies, movie studios, and high-profile actors, directors, and producers. Adam is also the creative director at Tiny Hero, where he worked as the editor of Marvel Studio's *Avengers: Endgame* "announce" trailer, Amazon Studio's *Honey Boy* "theatrical TV" campaign, Wes Anderson's *French Dispatch*, and numerous other trailers and TV spots from Disney, Lionsgate and Amazon properties. Tiny Hero was recently recognized as a finalist for the 2021 Agency of the Year.

### How has WBHS helped you on your current path?

"The WBHS Video and Film Production program gave me the essential tools and resources to pursue film, not just as a hobby but as a profession," Adam said.

During his time at WBHS, Adam absorbed everything he could about the industry from other WBHS alumni who had made it to LA to live out their dreams.

"WBHS introduced me to my best friends today, as well as many colleagues in film, and my fiancé (alum Erin Ben-Moche)," he said. "I continue finding inspiration and opportunities to work with former WBHS alumnus in Los Angeles, including Jason Potash, Zach Levine, Harper Shecter, Danny Lipsky, Jordan Lederman, Chris McClellan, and Kale Davidoff, to name a few. If it weren't for the support from Mr. (Kevin) Walsh and (the late) Mr. (Micah) Greene, I wouldn't be the filmmaker I am today."

### What advice do you have for our current students?

"Soak up as much knowledge as you can from your peers and mentors, if you are lucky enough to have them – which, since you are at WBHS, you likely do, they're all around!" he said. "Seek criticism and let critique roll off of you and make your work better. If it feels harsh, it's supposed to. Getting knocked down and discouraged is a part of everyone's journey. Keep your chin up, stay positive, thick-skinned, and collaborative and you will get to where you want to be."





*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.*



## KARYN HOLIDAY

### WBHS Class of 1987

**K**aryn Holiday graduated from WBHS in 1987 and looks back at her high school years with fond memories and life-long lessons.

"One of the things I loved about being a student at WBHS was its strong sense of community," she said. "Whether it was being involved in the after-school clubs or hanging out with my circle of friends, I always knew that my community would support me, and I would support them."

This influence certainly carried through into adulthood. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Michigan State University and a Master of Arts in TESOL from Eastern Michigan University, Karyn became a tenured professor at Oakland Community College.

"I feel like I contribute to society by teaching academic English to students who speak a different native language," she said. "In turn, working with people from all over the world has given me a global perspective. The education I received and the sense of community I felt from

WBHS helped me become open to learning about the world from someone else's point of view."

Another important life lesson Karyn gained from WBHS is remembering to have fun in life. Karyn writes children's picture books. This started off as a fun, family project that turned into a writing career. Karyn enjoys reading her books to children and can be found sharing them via little free libraries all over the community.

"My daughters and I have fun creating stories together, and it is exciting to see them come to life on the page," she said.

Karyn's stories revolve around kindness, empathy, and finding one's voice.

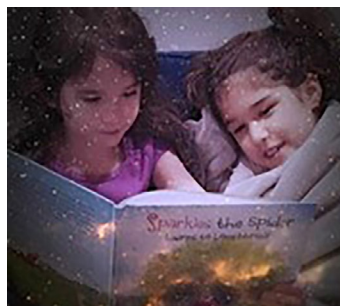
### What advice do you have for our current students?

"As you wander through life, notice the little things that catch your attention – explore those little things," she said. "You never know where such interests can lead you. This happened to me when I became a mother and started reading children's picture books to my twin daughters. I fell in love with the genre. Not only was it wonderful to read both classic and contemporary stories to my girls, but it also piqued my curiosity. Soon after, I started writing

children's picture books. By paying attention to something that I enjoyed, it led me to a rewarding career."

One of Karyn's recommendations is to learn how to be aware of other people's emotions.

"Try to look at the other person's perspective, maybe they are having a bad day, week, or even semester," she said. "Sometimes, we make assumptions about people without fully knowing their point of view. When we take the time to listen to the other person, we may see a different angle and learn something along the way."



Karyn's twin daughters (above) reading "Sparkles the Spider Learns to Love Herself". Karyn reading "Little Broken Cookie" (right) to a group of elementary students.



In my first published story, *Little Broken Cookie*, a young child does just this. She notices that another child broke her cookie and becomes sad. The little girl decides to share her own cookie with the sad child. Although it is a simple story, the larger idea is that we can make the world a better place by being aware of how others are feeling."



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# WBHS DECA Earns 42 Awards AT DISTRICT COMPETITION

**F**IFTY-FOUR West Bloomfield High School (WBHS) DECA students competed at the District 6 competition on Friday, December 17 at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. WBHS students earned 42 medallions, with 22 students qualifying to attend the Michigan State Career Development Conference held in Detroit on March 10-12.

WBHS DECA is a Career and Technical Student Organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in four fields of business: marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. DECA integrates into classroom instruction, applies learning, connects to business, and promotes competition to prepare the next generation to be academically prepared, community-oriented, professionally responsible, and experienced leaders. Students enrolled at WBHS in Marketing, Advanced Marketing, Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Accounting, AP Macro/Micro Economics, Personal Finance, or Growing Your Own Business may participate in the school's co-curricular DECA program.

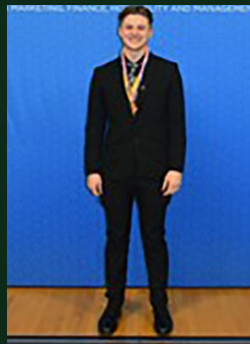
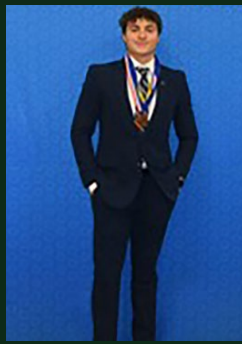


Students put their marketing and business knowledge to the test in each of their competitive events. They completed an online test prior to the conference and then performed an impromptu role-play situation in front of a local judge in their chosen area of focus.

The following individuals placed and will move on to the state competition:

- **Stellan Edvardsson**, Sports and Entertainment Marketing
- **Jay Fouchi**, Financial Consulting
- **Rebekah Goodman**, Apparel and Accessories Marketing
- **Joe Jakubiak**, Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making
- **Omar Januzi**, Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making
- **Janel Jarbo**, Automotive Services Marketing
- **Jake Kaslly**, Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making

- **Cameron Kenaya**, Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making
  - **Zachary Klepaski**, Restaurant and Food Service Management
  - **Julia Livedoti**, Entrepreneurship
  - **Lauren Mandel**, Apparel and Accessories Marketing
  - **Zachary Mathews**, Retail Merchandising
  - **Trevor Navarre**, Entrepreneurship
  - **Logan Pikur**, Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making
  - **Brady Scheidt**, Principles of Business Management and Administration
  - **Tage Seglund**, Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making
  - **Andrew Shore**, Professional Selling Event
  - **Morgan Shropshire**, Hospitality and Tourism Professional Selling
  - **Kevin Toledo**, Financial Consulting
  - **Anthony Valente**, Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making
  - **Joshua Watson**, Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making
  - **Alexander Wszolek**, Business Services Marketing
- Congratulations to all of our DECA students!



From left to right: Joe Jakubiak and Anthony Valente, Jay Fouchi and Zack Mathews.

**AD HOLDER**



# How Early Childhood Education is Essential Prior to Kindergarten

**W**HAT is the buzz around early childhood education? Research continues to find that early childhood education is essential in a child's formative years with a lasting impact into adulthood.

Early childhood focuses on the formative years of a child's development, from birth through age five. The neural connections in a child's brain are rapidly forming during this time.

During this time of brain development, children create a foundation for all learning and development. The domains of social/emotional learning, literacy, and mathematics are blooming and the brain is absorbing all the stimulation it receives. Children's social and emotional learning is crucial during these years as they are learning to interact with others, such as peers, teachers, and caregivers.

Children begin to establish problem-solving strategies and conflict resolution skills that prepare them for Kindergarten and beyond. Pre-literacy skills, such as sound play, alphabetic knowledge, and language

acquisition are at the forefront and provide a solid transition into formal education.

Early childhood education provides children with the opportunity to expand and explore their interests and gain a positive sense of self. The variety of learning offered in preschool often provides a positive outlook for the future. Research has shown that children who have a high quality early childhood education or attend preschool tend to graduate with higher academic success, have higher wages, and even lower incarceration rates.

The West Bloomfield early childhood programs provide an essential first step in education for all students entering the West Bloomfield School District. The West Bloomfield Preschool Academy offers a variety of programs: Stepping Stones, Junior Kindergarten, multi-age, traditional, and GSRP, to enrich and support every child's development. For more information about the West Bloomfield Preschool Academy, visit <https://www.wbsd.org/west-bloomfield-preschool-academy-home>

## DID YOU MISS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OR VIRTUAL KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP?

**Don't worry, we've got you covered!**

**V**IRTUAL Kindergarten Round Up is a wonderful opportunity for families to learn more about the District's Kindergarten offerings. Principals from each of the schools that offer Kindergarten shared important information, such as Kindergarten readiness, what a day in Kindergarten looks like, Kindergarten Plus, District services, transportation, the enrollment process and timelines, next steps and meetings. Our staff also answered questions pertaining to Kindergarten. You can watch the recorded session on our website at [www.wbsd.org/parents/kindergarten](http://www.wbsd.org/parents/kindergarten).

### Register for Kindergarten

In-District Families – Parents will need a valid driver's license and proof of residency, such as a warranty deed,

current property tax statement or lease/rental agreement with occupancy date including a list of all occupants, and any two of the following items: current gas bill, electric bill, or water bill, auto insurance, auto registration, recent bank statement, or recent pay stub. Other required documentation required are the child's birth certificate, immunization record, vision screening, and a health physical form. Register here: [www.wbsd.org/parents/kindergarten](http://www.wbsd.org/parents/kindergarten).

If you wish to enroll your child in Kindergarten, your child must be at least five years of age by SEPTEMBER 1. The birth date cut-off for a child to begin Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year is September 1, 2017. However, if a parent or legal guardian wishes

to enroll a child with a late birth date between September 2, 2017, and December 1, 2017, the parent must complete the Kindergarten Age Notification form.

Educating Students to be their Best IN and FOR the World!

**Register for**

**KINDERGARTEN**

**Today!**

Turn anxiety into excitement!

**W**

WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

[www.wbsd.org/parents/kindergarten](http://www.wbsd.org/parents/kindergarten)

**AD HOLDER**

**West Bloomfield School District**

Office of Public Relations and Marketing

248-865-6454

[www.wbsd.org](http://www.wbsd.org)

Editors.....Kendra Montante  
Andrea Frank

**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."*

**West Bloomfield School District**

**Dr. Gerald D. Hill**

Superintendent

**West Bloomfield High School**

248-865-6720

**Oakland Early College**

248-522-3540

**Oakland Opportunity Academy**

248-209-2025

**West Bloomfield Transition Center**

248-865-6470

**West Bloomfield Middle School**

248-865-3670

**Doherty Elementary School**

248-865-6020

**Gretchko Elementary School**

248-865-6570

**Roosevelt Elementary School**

248-865-6620

**Scotch Elementary School**

248-865-3280

**Sheiko Elementary School**

248-865-6370

**Lakers Online**

248-865-6955

**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: Eric Whitney, Assistant Superintendent for Talent Development and Management. 5810 Commerce Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48324. (248) 865-6424*

# WBMS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**D**URING the winter months, our construction crews have been busy working on the interior of West Bloomfield Middle School (WBMS). The tile has been set throughout the building. The elevators, stage floor, and auditoria acoustical clouds have been installed. Mechanical work continues throughout the building and all five rooftop units are up and running.

Crews will continue working on building finishes, such as completing ceilings, flooring, paint, and much more. Specialty areas such as the auditoria are close to completion. The gymnasium floor is set to begin installation in early March and will continue throughout the month, with the bleachers following in April.



Once the weather breaks, the signage will be installed and the remaining asphalt will be laid. The school's new furniture is set to arrive in May. The WBMS project continues to be on time and on budget with the grand opening slotted for June.

If you would like to see more updates on the new middle school, visit our website <https://www.wbsd.org/about-us/bond-information>.



*Atl Aboard!*



**ADVENTURE BEGINS!**

**Get on board on Thursday, April 21 at 7 P.M.** as the **West Bloomfield Educational Foundation** takes you on a virtual tour of the new **West Bloomfield Middle School**.

The adventure takes us to a number of whistle stops along the way that will highlight the various areas of the new school, while at the same time featuring students and teachers using and implementing materials and resources awarded through the WBEF Educators Grant Program.

Join us at **WBEF.org** as we **live stream** this event to view our new school and to appreciate the contributions of the West Bloomfield Educational Foundation to the students and staff of the West Bloomfield schools.

**50/50 Raffle! \$10 per ticket**

The winning ticket for the **WBEF 50/50 Raffle** will be drawn at 8pm at the end of the tour. To purchase tickets, call 248-521-0074.

License # R63490 (Must be 18 years old to purchase tickets. Prize subject to Federal Withholding Taxes)



**For more information  
call 248.521.0074.**



**AD HOLDER**

# WEST BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY EDUCATION WINTER 2022



[wbsdec.ce.eleyo.com](http://wbsdec.ce.eleyo.com)

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION RECREATION AND ENRICHMENT

### What sets WBSD apart?

On Saturday mornings, our parents, teachers, and volunteers rise and shine! WBSD Community Education offered

a Saturday youth basketball clinic and hosted Math Pentathlon practices for elementary and middle school students. More than 100 children spent their Saturday mornings with WBSD teacher and coach, Jeremy Denha, and staff learning basketball skills, drills, and game play.



### Math Pentathlon uses

problem-solving games to make math enjoyable for all students, parents, and teachers. Students challenge themselves and use strategy while having fun! WBSD has a strong parent volunteer group that helps organize materials and practices.



Congratulations to our third-

and fourth-grade **FIRST Lego League Robotics team!**

They shined bright and rose to the occasion, earning first-place recognition for an innovation project.

A special thank you to all of the parents for your support, and to WBSD teacher and coach, Cindy Carson.



**Summer Camp 2022:** Your one-stop shop for all Summer Camp information is at: [www.wbsdec.ce.eleyo.com](http://www.wbsdec.ce.eleyo.com)

### Community Education Office

Administration and Communication Services (ACS)  
5810 Commerce Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48324  
Phone: (248) 865-6462

## ADULT EDUCATION/ESL

Dawn Hanford, Coordinator

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

Students 18 and older are welcome from any district.

**Call to schedule an appointment.**

### Tuition Schedule for ELL

#### Winter Session 4: February 28-April 14

(6 weeks, omit 3/28-4/1 for Spring Break)

Advanced/Intermediate English

Mon./Wed. 9:30-12:00 \$225

Conversation/Pronunciation

Tues./Thurs. 9:30-12:00 \$225

#### Spring Session 5: May 2-May 26 (4 weeks)

Advanced/Intermediate English

Mon./Wed. 9:30-11:30 \$125

Conversation/Pronunciation

Tues./Thurs. 9:30-12:30 \$125

American Customs and Culture (online)

Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 (FREE)

#### Spring Session 6: June 6-June 30 (4 weeks)

Advanced/Intermediate English

Mon./Wed. 9:30-11:30 \$125

Conversation/Pronunciation

Tues./Thurs. 9:30-11:30 \$125

American Customs and Culture (online)

Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 (FREE)

**Fall class registration starts August 1!** Call to schedule

an appointment. Only \$50 for four months of classes! Bring a picture ID and Social Security card (if you have one).

**Laura Poxon**  
Coordinator,  
Early Childhood

**Beth Helka**  
Kids Klub and Tween  
Time Secretary

**Adrienne Jewett**  
Adult Education/ESL  
Secretary

**Kathi Luthe**  
Assistant Supervisor,  
Early Childhood

**Dawn Hanford**  
Adult Education/ESL  
Coordinator

**Andrea Frank**  
Coordinator,  
Community  
Enrichment

**Collette Goestenors**  
Early Childhood  
Preschool Secretary

**Melissa McDonald**  
Adult Education  
Administrative  
Assistant