

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021!

To the Class of 2021: you did it! Your strength, flexibility, dedication, endurance, perseverance, and grit has earned you a diploma from Bloomfield Hills Schools. The class has earned a combined \$3.5+ million in scholarships to pursue higher education.

Commencement was held on June 6 to honor the 430 graduates from Bloomfield Hills High School, which includes 7 graduates from Bowers Academy. The International Academy, Okma Campus celebrated their 145 graduates on June 3, which included 34 residents of BHS.

A replay of BHHS graduation is available at [bhstv.bloomfield.org](http://bhstv.bloomfield.org) and more photos are featured in the center of this newsletter.



## LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SCHOOL YEAR



### School Time Changes

The Board of Education voted to change school start times beginning in the 2021-22 school year. The daily schedule for schools will be as follows:

- Bloomfield Hills High School - 7:55 a.m. until 2:50 p.m.
- East Hills, Bloomfield Hills, and West Hills Middle Schools - 8:30 a.m. until 3:20 p.m.
- Conant, Eastover, Lone Pine, and Way Elementary Schools - 9:10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- P.R.E.P. - 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- Wing Lake Developmental Center - 8:45 a.m. until 2:35 p.m.
- International Academy, Okma Campus - 7:45 a.m. until 2:35 p.m. Note: there will no longer be a morning shuttle from BHHS to IA.

### Therapy Dogs

#### Making a PAW-sitive Difference

In the 2021-22 school year, Bloomfield Hills Schools will have two new staff members at Lone Pine Elementary and West Hills Middle Schools - therapy dogs!

Therapy dogs provide students with a friend, and a safe place to come to every day. They create a comfortable, happy, and judgment-free environment. Changes in attitudes toward reading, reading skill levels, schoolwork, homework, attendance, and changes in self-esteem and self-confidence can be seen by involving a therapy dog in a school. Therapy dogs have also been known to decrease levels of anxiety.

We are so excited for these canine buddies to help improve the emotional, social, and academic well-being of our school communities.

### Developmental Kindergarten

Developmental Kindergarten is intended to provide an additional year of academic and social growth for interested families. Bloomfield Hills Schools is excited to offer our new Developmental Kindergarten program starting this Fall! This program may be a good fit for your child if they turn five-years-old between September 1 and December 1.

Registration is now open for both Kindergarten and Developmental Kindergarten. Details for enrolling can be found at [www.bloomfield.org/kindergarten](http://www.bloomfield.org/kindergarten).

### Calendar

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 8, 2021 for kindergarten through grade 12. The first day is a morning half day for kindergarten through grade 8, a full day for grade 9, and a late start for grades 10 through 12.

Winter break is scheduled from December 20 through January 2, 2022. Spring break is scheduled as a half day on March 25 through April 3, 2022.

The last day of school is Friday, June 17, 2022.

For a complete calendar including all half days and no school days, visit [www.bloomfield.org/calendar](http://www.bloomfield.org/calendar).

# LEGENDS AND STORIES

## CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE CULTURES

Bloomfield Hills Schools held its third annual district-wide Multicultural Celebration, hosted at the Bloomfield Hills High School Legacy Courtyard. This outdoor event was a beautiful celebration of the diversity of students and their families across our schools. Coordinated by the a subcommittee of the Parent-Teacher Organization Council, a consortium of parent volunteers from across all of our schools, this year’s event theme was Legends and Stories. All of the student-led exhibits featured, in addition to other elements of culture, a story or legend on their board. This theme tied together all of the exhibits with a shared goal of educating our community about the diversity of stories from cultures around the globe. Attendees received travel logs to take notes as they learned new things. By visiting all seven continents, plus a bonus table, they could receive an extra raffle ticket for a chance to win a raffle prize.

Among the event highlights were five spectacular student performances. The BHHS Chamber Orchestra performed a Gershwin piece; the Chapman family performed a Haitian dance; the French Learning Community of BHMS, WHMS and 9th graders of BHHS performed an interactive story and dance, accompanied by professional musicians; the BHHS Chinese National Honor Society and Asian Student Alliance musicians and dancers performed the Korean Pop Band BTS’ famous song “Dynamite;” and the BHHS Jazz Band and Jazz Combo completed the evening’s performances, with multiple toe-tapping pieces.

Among the special guests at the event were the Bowers Farm baby goats and chicks, as part of the Culture of Bowers Academy exhibit; an exhibit created by Wing Lake School families featuring their personal stories; and a BHS alumni author Noor Abdelrahman, sharing the book “Everyone is Smart.”

These exhibits, along with the amazing exhibits presented by students and their families, highlighted cultures close to home here in Bloomfield Hills Schools,



as well as those around the world. Thank you to the student exhibit volunteers, performers, adult mentors, and the event planning committee, for sharing a great diversity of culture to learn from and celebrate within our school community. We are looking forward to next year’s event already.



# WHAT’S IN A NAME?

## BY LISA LOCKHART, COORDINATOR FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

Today I want to consider with you, “What’s in a name?” I propose that names are powerful reflections of how we understand our world.

The department I lead was recently known as ESL, which is an acronym for “English as a Second Language.” But, did you know that a significant portion of our students are actually speakers of English as their first, or native, language? Their participation in our program is because another language is used as the dominant form of communication in their home.

For other students, English may be a third, or even a fourth language that they know. It’s not unusual for students coming from other countries to already be proficient in more than one language.

To reflect these realities and honor the strengths and skills our learners bring with them, Bloomfield Hills Schools is officially changing the name of the department to English Language Development, or ELD.

This term highlights students’ rich cultural and linguistic identities and focuses on our goal to support students’ linguistic growth in English. This name will be used for teaching and paraprofessional staff, as well as course titles. As an example, teachers are ELD teachers, and paraprofessionals are ELD paraprofessionals. This shift also aligns with our professional organization’s 2020 release of updated English Language Development Standards.

In order to emphasize Bloomfield Hills’ overall commitment to equity and inclusion, you will now see the students in this program referred to as multilingual learners in district communications. When speaking about a student, the terms language learner, English learner, or multilingual learner are all appropriate and are used interchangeably within the discipline.

Thank you for your interest and support in using language that accurately reflects our students and their skills!

# BHS AMONG THE BEST IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Association of School Business Officials International has given BHS top honors for financial reporting for the 21st year in a row. ASBO bestowed the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting upon Bloomfield Hills Schools for its Fiscal Year 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The CAFR discloses the district’s finances in full detail to anyone who wants to review them, from stakeholders to constituents.

“The CAFR is one of the many ways BHS remains transparent and accountable to our students, parents and community stakeholders,” Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Tina Kostiuk explained. “Our outstanding team in finance puts in a significant amount of work to compile the CAFR,” Kostiuk said. “I am very appreciative of the team’s incredible efforts that result in this prestigious award year after year.”

ASBO awards the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting to encourage and assist the districts to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual districts that succeed in achieving that goal.

To view the fiscal 2020 CAFR, go to [bloomfield.org](https://bloomfield.org), click on the transparency icon and select “Audited Financial Reports.”



# BOND 2020: CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BEGIN



Rendering of the new middle school that will be located on the property of the former Lahser High School, with more than 98,000 square feet of renovated space, and 88,000 square feet of new facility.



Pictured: Board President Paul Kolin, Board Trustee Michelle Southward, Board Vice President Jennifer Matlow, Superintendent Patrick Watson, Board Trustee Lisa Efros, Board Treasurer Howard Baron, Board Trustee Siva Kumar, Board Secretary John VanGemert.

Planning and construction surrounding the exciting bond work in Bloomfield Hills Schools is well underway! The strategic partners are French Associates, the architecture/engineering firm; Barton Malow, the construction manager; and Plante Moran Cresa, the owner's representative. These entities have been working diligently with Bloomfield Hills Schools since the bond passed in August 2020.

The guiding principles of the design around our new and renovated school buildings are to create a sense of belonging, team teaching, integration of support services, and access to common spaces. Instruction drives the construction of these new exciting spaces! A major milestone is the commencement of construction: the Groundbreaking Ceremonies. "North Hills Middle School" groundbreaking was held at the site of former Lahser High School on May 26, and the "South Hills Middle School" groundbreaking will be held on Thursday, July 29 at 5 p.m. at Bloomfield Hills Middle School. The schools have not yet been named.

In 2020, the district committed to adjusting the catchment boundaries for each school, to ensure that each of the four elementary schools, feeding into the two middle schools, are equitably sized. Some of our schools have a significantly larger number of students based on growth in those neighborhoods compared to others. Looking at catchment boundaries will create equity of programming and enrollment across all four elementary schools and the two middle schools.

Every family that currently resides within Bloomfield Hills Schools boundaries will remain in our schools; only catchment areas will change.

The district administration along with the bond partners will draw the catchment boundaries and present their findings and preliminary recommendations to the Board of Education. At a Board of Education meeting this Fall, the Board will then make the final decision on catchment boundaries.

Family legacy and intra-district transfers are also being discussed as part of this process. This will be included in the overall district recommendation that the Board of Education will vote on in Fall 2021.

Information on elementary current enrollment and enrollment projections has been presented at PTO meetings by Educational Consultant Rob Durecka and Plante Moran Cresa representative Paul Wills. Durecka is the former principal of West Hills Middle School and Andover High School. As the educational consultant, Durecka will guide the bond work from the lens of educational programming. Wills is a partner at PMC who leads the K-12 practice, and provides BHS with project parameters, budget and schedule guidance, and assistance with the selection of design and construction team members. Their collaboration has been and will continue to be key to the success of the bond's implementation.

A groundbreaking is scheduled for the south middle school on July 29 at 5 p.m. at 4200 Quarton Road.

## WORLD'S GREATEST TRANSPORTATION STAFF

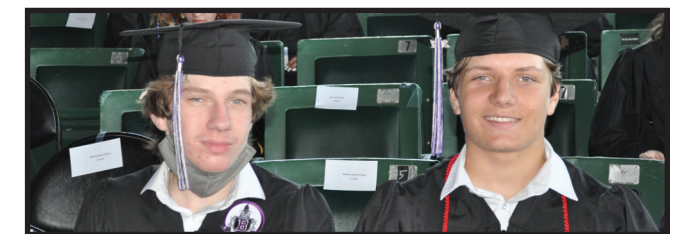
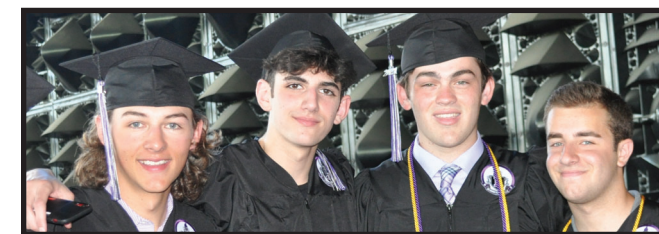
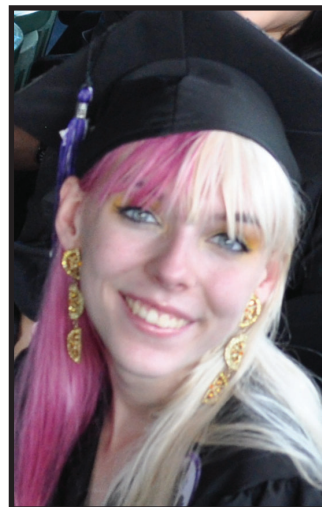
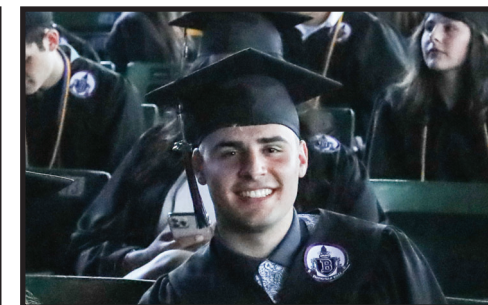
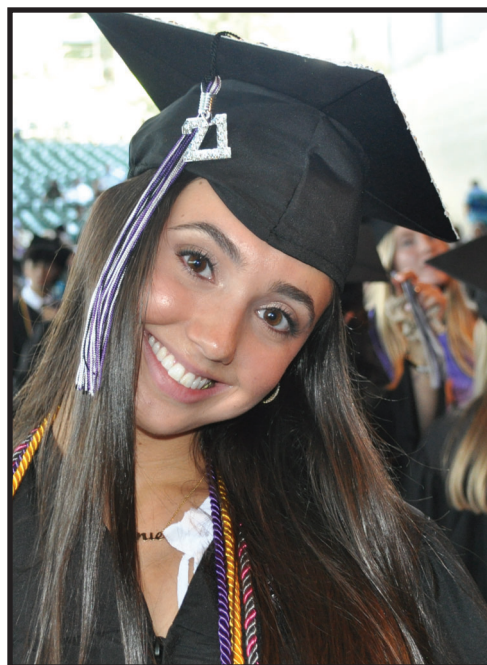
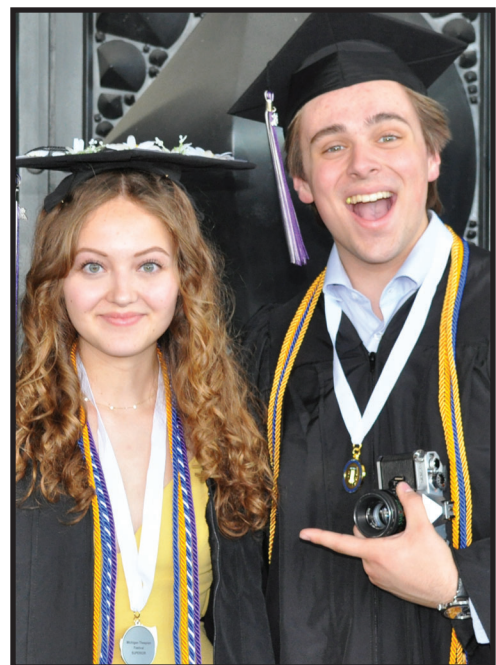
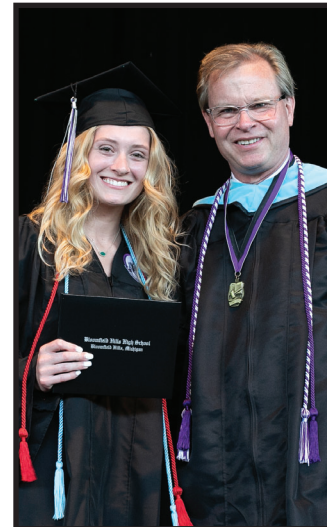
"It's been a tough year for everyone. But it is in these difficult times, our best can shine!" shared Greg Tarquinio, Bloomfield Hills Schools bus driver.

The laughter filled the air and the camaraderie evident as our Bloomfield Hills Schools bus drivers received specially made shirts to express appreciation on behalf of our BHS community. The t-shirts read, "ESSENTIAL [noun] world's greatest transportation staff." Jane Mack, transportation manager, adds, "I am so proud of our team. When school was in hybrid mode, our drivers drove double to accommodate the AM/PM cohorts. They've been flexible and have served our students and community in the best way possible."





WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT:  
**The Bloomfield Hills Schools Graduating Class of 2021**





# AWARDS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to all of our champions this school year! In a year that required inordinate flexibility and dedication, your accomplishments stand out. Your entire community is proud of the results you have achieved. If we have missed any accomplishments, please email [communications@bloomfield.org](mailto:communications@bloomfield.org) so we can feature them in a future story.

## ATHLETICS

### Fall

- Boys Tennis - District Champions; 4th place in State
- Girls Swimming - League Champions

### Winter

- Boys Ski Team - Team earned 3rd place in State; Hunter Halstead is State Champion in Slalom
- Boys Basketball - League Champions
- Boys Wrestling - Regional Semi-Final Champions
- Gymnastics - 5th Place in State; new school points record
- Poms - Regional Top 10 finalists

### Spring

- Girls Lacrosse - Regional Champions
- Middle School Equestrian - District Champions
- Girls Tennis - The team is State Co-Champions; Individual/Doubles State Champions are: Carly Bernard, Noa Goldstein, Natalie Raab, Eryn Stern, Hannah Tomina, and Raegan Tomina



## ATHLETIC SCHOOL RECORDS

- Girls Swimming: 100 Free, 200 Free, and 500 Free - Brooke Thompson
- Track & Field: Long Jump - Gabby Jeffries
- Track & Field: 4x400 - Julia Allen, Grace Jenkins, Kalyn Mullens, and Gabby Jeffries

## EXTRACURRICULARS

- DECA: World Finalists, 7th Place - Anna German and Lizzie Wilburn
- Forensics: Multiple Event State Champions - Cole Bewick, Andrew Zupancic, Kristina Gould, Alexis Forman, and Nicky Little
- Forensics: Broadcasting State Champion - Lenna Peterson
- Forensics: Sales State Champion - Eva Otremba

## BHHS TRAUB AWARD

- Art Winner: Carly Finerty; Art Alternate: Henry Earls
- Music Winner: Joey Rankin; Music Alternate: Jaidan Montgomery

# MUSICAL GUEST VISITS WITH BLOOMFIELD VIRTUAL STUDENTS

Bloomfield Virtual 5th grade students recently received a musical treat: guest speaker Kris Johnson, an award-winning trumpeter, composer, and educator who is also the parent of a Bloomfield Hills School student. Johnson, who is originally from this area, has a Masters in Music, has toured the world as a trumpeter and arranger with the Count Basie Orchestra from 2008-2019, and served as the Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Utah from 2015-2019. Currently, Johnson is a freelance composer, arranger, and educator in metro Detroit, and the creator and curator of the online educational series "Office Hours with Kris Johnson."

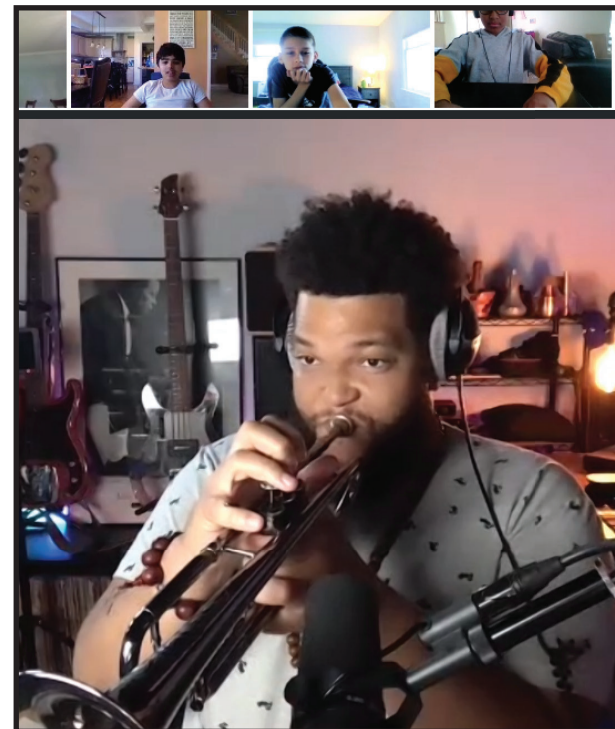
Johnson wowed students by performing improvised jazz, and taught students how the trumpet works, explaining the different instrument parts and what they do to impact the sound. Students were clearly impressed, and asked a variety of great questions, including "Why did you choose the trumpet?" "How do you memorize your songs?" and "How many songs have you composed?" The answers: "The trumpet chose me," "Repetition," and "Hundreds!"

Fifth grader Sydney Childs shares, "During the presentation, I learned a lot about how trumpets worked since I never really understood them or was ever interested. But when I listened to the presentation, they were very interesting! Like how they work and how you play them."

Johnson concluded the Zoom sessions with a powerful message about how music can convey emotion. Playing the same piece five different times, each sounded like a different song since they were emotionless, happy, sad, furious, and silly. "Music is about expressing yourself," says Johnson, as a final thought.

Reflecting on these visits to BHS classrooms, Johnson writes, "It's always important for me to use my gift to inspire and educate students. My sons are the most important thing in my life, and clearly I'm very passionate about music, so the opportunity to share this with their friends and classmates is so awesome. I always want kids to know that if they have a passion for ANYTHING they should pursue it. Whether as a career or as a hobby, having something you care about and invest your time into is such a wonderful way to express and share your emotions with the world."

Kate Philp, Bloomfield Virtual's 5th Grade Music Teacher, shares, "I love that our community of educators has created an environment that is welcoming and encouraging. Students were engaged and seemed to really enjoy this opportunity!" Bloomfield Hills Schools is proud and fortunate to have musical professionals as part of our parent population, and our students are lucky when they can learn from them!





# P.R.E.P. STUDENTS CELEBRATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The P.R.E.P. staff held an outdoor celebration for students to honor their accomplishments this year. The partygoers also provided a heartfelt send-off for Stephen Eckert, who marked a successful completion of the program with special gifts from the staff and students. The Eckert family also was in attendance.

Following speeches, bundt cake, and ice cream, the staff and students played a guessing game for various creative paper plate awards for each staff member and student including Mr. Pizza, Mr. Bodyguard, and Miss Always On Time. Superintendent Pat Watson offered individual congratulations to the students as well.

Tables were decorated with wooden signs made by the P.R.E.P. students as part of their workshop program and various easels held photos commemorating the activities of the students over the past year.

P.R.E.P. is a post-secondary educational program operated by Bloomfield Hills Schools for district students. The program serves young adults ages 18 to 26 who have developmental and physical disabilities. The P.R.E.P. program is dedicated to helping each student become a Prepared, Responsible, Employable, and Productive member of the community through instruction in daily living, domestic, social, and functional academic skills along with employment training in community-based work settings.



# CONANT'S MARKET DAY BRINGS COMMERCE TO LIFE



Market Day is an exciting day for Conant's 4th grade students. A lot of learning happens before, during, and after Market Day. Student Lara Badreddine explains an important goal of Market Day: "When we can choose what we are going to make, we have to consider the cost of our materials and whether we can sell our product for a profit."

Alison Lirette, 4th grade teacher at Conant, explains how students prepare for Market Day. "Fourth graders have been deepening their understanding of economic principles and examining how different economies work in the U.S. and abroad. Market Day is a culminating activity that provides an opportunity for students to apply all that they have learned to create a good to sell to their peers."

Students were taught important concepts to take into account for Market Day. Topics such as scarcity of funds, target market, price point, competition, and estimating supply and demand were part of this hands-on learning experiment.

At the end of the day, students calculated their profit and reflected on what businesses were successful and why.



# STUDENTS AT EAST HILLS AND WAY COOK UP PEN PALS

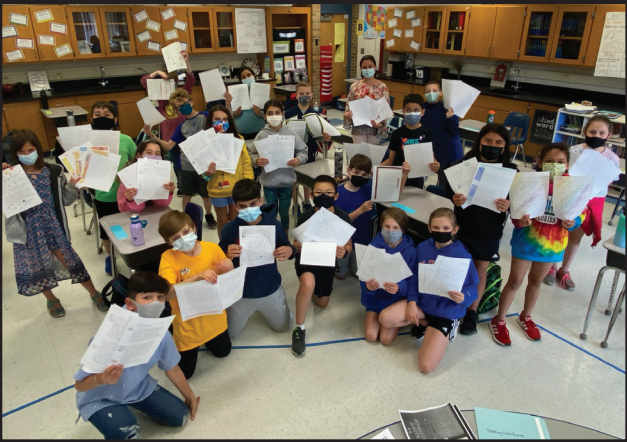


The expression, "letter writing is a lost art" is not the case for the 4th grade students at East Hills and Way Elementary. The students learned the elements of opinion writing, which included a very structured five-paragraph essay that was turned into a friendly letter to local restaurants.

East Hills student Charlie Kraft explains: "We brainstorm our favorite restaurants and eventually narrow it down to our favorite, which is Buffalo Wild Wings for me! I like the sports theme, food, and large TVs to watch all the games. I wrote a paragraph for each of my favorite things and included an introduction and conclusion paragraph."

"Students are already receiving letters back from the restaurants. The restaurants have sent gift cards, t-shirts, and letters of appreciation back which have been both surprising and very exciting for the class," shares teacher Michelle Parks. Ms. Parks added, "Our goal is to give compliments and make connections within our community. I explain to the children, we want to fill buckets, and support companies we appreciate."

Student Eva Kontos discovered a fun connection with their favorite restaurant, Kerby's Coney Island. "After I wrote the letter, my grandma and I were eating at Kerby's and we found out my grandma went to school with the owner. Kerby's gave me a t-shirt too!"





# EASTOVER ELEMENTARY COMMITTED TO BEING “GREEN”

At Eastover, students learn about how humans impact the environment, how to preserve and protect our natural resources, how to ensure adequate resources for a clean and healthy environment, and how to increase efficiency by reducing waste. Students are knowledgeable about and inspired to take responsibility for the sustainability of the world.

Eastover Elementary has been designated as a Michigan Green School and has earned Evergreen status, which is the highest designation possible. At Eastover, students participate in the following "green" practices:

- Extensive recycling program (paper, plastic, glass, aluminum, batteries, printer cartridges, etc.)
- Composting
- Waste Free/Reduced Lunch
- Use and study of alternative energy sources
- Partnership with Lawrence Tech University
- Local and national contests/grants for "green" ingenuity, creativity, and environmental problem solving
- Adopting endangered species
- Learn from guest speakers, LTU mentors, community members about being green and green careers
- Extensive gardens, courtyards, and outdoor classrooms

As part of our sustainability initiative, students and faculty from Lawrence Technological University visit Eastover on a regular basis to help students with special projects that pertain to sustainability, engineering, architecture, and design. Eastover students have worked with partners from LTU on creating solar ovens, designing birdhouses, creating future vehicles, and much more.

Another special component of our sustainability initiative is our student garden. All classrooms spend time in the garden planting and harvesting while making real-world connections to math, science, and social studies concepts. Students also learn about the environmental and health benefits of eating locally grown fresh produce. Eastover has a mobile demonstration kitchen to provide opportunities for students to cook in the classroom using ingredients from their very own student garden!



# PETS ADD FUN TO LEARNING AT BLOOMIN’ PRESCHOOLS

Children at Bloomin’ Preschools learn all about pets and some classrooms even have live animals that pay extended visits. Assistant Supervisor Ann McGregor explains, “Pets is a topic that children can easily relate to. Pets teach the students the importance of taking care of others, showing affection, being sensitive to others' needs, and developing lasting friendships.”

“For the pets study, I put the animals on carts, and each classroom has one pet for a week,” says volunteer Marge Sabat, who gives a presentation on the pet and answers all the preschoolers’ questions. “The kids totally lead the study with their really good questions. I also rotate the animals each Friday so the kids get excited about which animal they will get next.”

The questions are a key component of the instructional methodology. “In the beginning of the pet study our teachers ask ‘What do we know about pets?’ and ‘What do we want to know about pets?,” says McGregor. “By asking these questions, teachers are able to intentionally lesson plan to answer the students’ questions and offer experiences through our interest areas. To delve deep into investigations, other questions the teacher may ask are ‘What kinds of animals are pets?, What are some characteristics of pets?, How do pets make us feel?, Where do pets live?, What do pets eat?, and How do we care for pets?’ The students develop thinking skills as they observe, investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions and test ideas.”

The pets have varied behaviors and habitats, which gives the preschoolers opportunities to explore this diversity. Besides the 40-year-old malaysian terrapin named Donatello, there also are Rosmarie and Violet who are mother-daughter chinchillas, Boo the rabbit, Ollie and Sunny the leopard geckos, Sebastian and Sunny the hermit crabs, Tippy the bearded dragon lizard, and many fish. Sabat has been working with the animals for more than a decade and knows everything about their unique features, habitats, typical activities, and defense mechanisms.



“For example,” Sabat said, “I’ll explain that the geckos need warm humidity like when people take a shower and the room steams up, and I’ll show the kids how the teacher will spray them with some water. I’ll also explain how they need the UV rays from special lights that are like our sun. It’s so easy to pull science concepts into all of this. And then the teachers will take what I talk about and go even farther.”

There are many hands-on experiences at Bloomin’ Preschools, called choice time, incorporated into each study as well. “During choice time, the students may set up a pet shop or a veterinarian clinic in dramatic play,” describes McGregor. “In toys and games, a child may be patterning small and large dog biscuits or playing dog/cat tic-tac-toe. In the art area, a child might create a cat collar from pipe cleaners and paper. In discovery, a child may be exploring x-rays of an animal. The children have numerous opportunities to pretend, explore, and investigate.”

“You have to be engaging with preschoolers,” emphasizes Sabat. “They really have a lot to say!”



# CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT AT WEST HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

"I'm a visual learner and an interactive learner, so this was the best!" reflects 8th grade West Hills Middle School student Sofia Triantafyllidis, about the hands-on demonstrations from Battery K, Michigan's First Light Artillery, a group of Civil War Reenactors. Battery K, an artillery unit that actually existed during the Civil War, visited West Hills to show students what life was like for Civil War militia. This is the 10th year that Laura VanGemert, 8th grade social studies teacher, has coordinated the reenactors' visit. "We try to make it as hands-on as possible," VanGemert explains. "The students learn history, the importance of teamwork and following directions, the chain of commands, and terminology." The visit aligns with the 8th grade Social Studies curriculum, centering on American history. VanGemert notes, "We do a broad study of the Civil War, but I also like to include local history as much as possible. The kids have been so engaged and enthusiastic, and that's what makes it so fun - their curiosity, and their willingness to take a risk and do something new and get into character. The students act as if they're soldiers on their first day of training."

The all-outdoors reenactment allows students to experience this part of Civil War history in an

engaging, hands-on way. Student Kendall Schulz shares, "Everyone is so energetic and it really makes it a fun experience. I like learning about infantry. It's great!" Student Brody Oleshansky adds, "I found this was very informative, and I really enjoyed it. I learned how a cannon works, how to work in a line with other people, and the holding of the flag. My favorite part was how to load a rifle: how you take out the powder, rip it with your teeth, clean it out, load it and fire it. We learned different ways to hold the rifle, like

on your shoulder, and on the ground, and how you switch to the other side when you're tired."

Principal Andy Gignac shares, "I am thankful and appreciative of Mrs. VanGemert for planning this unique opportunity for our students, and to Battery K for their enthusiasm and commitment in supporting our curriculum." Many thanks to this Civil War reenactment group for bringing history alive for our West Hills 8th grade students!



# BHMS STUDENTS LEARN A SAD TRUTH OF AMERICA'S HISTORY



As the entire 6th grade class at Bloomfield Hills Middle School intently focused on Mrs. Lakey, the question arose, "Why did you have to go?" Mrs. Lakey, a third generation American and nine-years-old at the time, simply said, "We were considered a threat to our country."

BHMS students had a unique learning opportunity to acquire a first hand perspective of the Japanese American internment camps during World War II. The students interviewed Amy Yoshida Lakey, great-grandmother of BHMS student Ty Gawley, via Zoom about Mrs. Lakey's three year stay at a Japanese American internment camp.

Prior to their interview with Lakey, the students read and discussed nonfiction writings such as Imprisoned and Betrayed by America, personal narratives describing life at a Japanese American internment camp. Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Executive Order 9066 was

signed by President Franklin Roosevelt. The order forced Americans of Japanese descent to leave their homes and their belongings. Approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated in internment camps. Given three days to pack whatever belongings they could carry, Japanese Americans evacuated their homes along the west coast without knowing how long they would be gone. Most never returned.

Susan Gallaway, BHMS English Language Arts teacher who coordinated the interview added, "What an opportunity for our students and staff to see our curriculum leap out of our book directly into our classrooms. Mrs. Lakey's vivid memories of waiting in endless lines, lacking privacy, and enduring boredom for three years of her childhood made such an impact. We were all impressed that she was never angry or resentful about her internment. She accepts it as part of history."



**MEALS FOR KIDS**

**All Summer Long**



The Bloomfield Hills Schools food service department continues FREE curbside service throughout the summer (through September 2, 2021). All children (up to 18 years, or under 26 for adults with disabilities) are eligible to receive meals from BHS at this time. A family does not need to participate with the free or reduced meal program to receive meals. Adults may collect food without children present.

Meals can be picked up every Monday and Thursday between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. at Bloomfield Hills High School (located at 4200 Andover Road in Bloomfield Hills). There will be no pickup available the week of July 5.

Meals will be provided for breakfast and lunch through our next service day. The meals served curbside are intended to be prepared at home, so although all items are pre-cooked, some simple cooking may be necessary to achieve the optimal taste and texture of the product.

If you feel that you may qualify for Free or Reduced priced lunches, please make sure to fill out an application or update your existing status. There are many other benefits available if your child does qualify, beyond receiving reduced price or free meals in our schools. Visit [www.bloomfield.org/lunch](http://www.bloomfield.org/lunch) or call 248.341.5671 for more information.



# PARTNERSHIP CREATES STORYWALKS AT NATURE CENTER

Throughout this past year, spending time in nature has never been more necessary to support overall health and well-being. Due to safety precautions, the Johnson Nature Center was not able to provide in-person programs, yet visitors continued to venture out to hike the trails in growing numbers. As a result, the JNC team explored ways to provide visitors with self-guided, educational experiences. One new addition to the site is a StoryWalk, thanks to grant-funding from the Friends of the Bloomfield Township Public Library, the Bloomfield Hills Branch of the Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association, and the Jerry Cohen Foundation. The JNC operations team installed permanent StoryWalk structures along Fox Ridge Trail in early May.

In Bloomfield, the StoryWalk idea was brought to fruition by Cass Arsenault, lead naturalist at JNC, and Marian Rafal, youth services department head at the Bloomfield Township Public Library. On a StoryWalk, children’s literature is brought to life in a large-scale format to encourage exploration and learning through literacy and movement, inspiring families to engage in new ways with the natural world. The June StoryWalk was “The Hike,” by Alison Farrell. It featured the adventures of three young adventurers who set out to explore their local forest.



BHS education specialist Brooke Larm shares, “Creating a StoryWalk that is a permanent part of the experience at the nature center will inspire our visitors to engage in literacy and self-guided exploration as they hike our trails, further instilling a sense of the joys and benefits of the time spent in nature. We are grateful for the support from our community and partners as it will provide us with the ability to build upon and expand our program offerings.” Marian Rafal, head of Bloomfield Township Public library youth services, is “pleased that the library is able to reach out into the wider community sharing the love of literature and nature.” Bloomfield Township Public Library will continue to support the StoryWalk by printing and laminating the stories in the future.

# FARM STORE GROWS THANKS TO BOWERS ACADEMY



Thanks to the creativity and ideas of Bowers Academy students, the Bowers Farm Store is a thriving place to get farm swag, local honey, goat milk products, and freshly grown food. Students who originated the project have been excited to see their idea not only transform the lobby space at the Bowers Farm Learning Center building where their classes are held, but also continue to grow and expand.

Dr. Aileen Myers, Bowers Academy teaching administrator, explained that the students created the whole project idea during the 2019-20 school year. “In English, the students wrote a business plan, in math they were calculating budget, costs, and ordering, and in economics they were talking about supply and demand,” explained Dr. Myers.

Students worked in teams on the different aspects of the Farm Store project. Quinn Rakowski served on two different teams last year: food and publicity. “I worked on the building and planning out everything for the posters, pictures, and how we were going to promote it,” said Rakowski. “It was me along with three or four other people. We talked a lot about what designs would look good.” The food team proposed snacks and drink items that could be served at the Farm Store, as well as at events like Winter Park.

Once the store opened, the students were very pleased. “It was so cool!” Rakowski confirmed. “I told my mom that I was so proud, and I wanted her to come and see it.”

For Rakowski, the whole experience was impactful even beyond the classroom. “It made me look more into doing something in business because I thought it was fun working with the staff and thinking about the business part of it.”

Bowers School Farm is located at 1219 E. Square Lake Road in Bloomfield Hills. For store hours, visit the website at [www.schoolfarm.org/farm-store](http://www.schoolfarm.org/farm-store).

# BOWERS ACADEMY EXPANDS



With a focus on social-emotional health and community involvement, Bowers Academy supports learners who seek a nontraditional environment as they earn their Bloomfield Hills High School diploma.

Bloomfield Hills Schools now offers limited opportunities for students in 11th grade who are interested in experiential-based high school learning. Enrollment under Section 105 in a participating Specialty Academic program allows Oakland county residents outside of Bloomfield Hills district’s boundaries to attend Bowers Academy located at Bowers School Farm.

Applicants must be residents of Oakland County and meet specific criteria, including entering their junior year of high school and willingness to engage in an on-site experiential learning community. If more than 15 qualified applications are received, students will be selected on a lottery basis. The acceptance of applications will begin Monday, July 19, 2021 at 8 a.m. and end Friday, August 6, 2021 at 4 p.m.

For more details regarding this exciting opportunity and information about the interview and orientation process, please visit the Bowers Academy website at [www.bloomfield.org/schools/bowers-academy](http://www.bloomfield.org/schools/bowers-academy).





# LONE PINE STUDENT ACTION TEAM MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As an International Baccalaureate School, Lone Pine Elementary has had a Student Action Team since 2013. Action is one of the essential elements of the IB Primary Years Programme. It promotes a connection to learning, helps students think about the community in which they live, and develops leadership skills. IB instructional coach Stephanie Olson, English language development teacher Sheri Shannon, and parent volunteer Jessica Jacobs oversee the kindergarten through 3rd grade Action Team. Students meet virtually twice a month to brainstorm and develop action plans to make a difference in their community. The activities are student-driven, allowing students to naturally find ways to connect to their community and give back.

One 3rd grade Action Team student explains, “As a part of the action team committee we brainstorm to think of ways that we can reach our community and make the most impact for people that need the most support, at that specific time. During the pandemic, it was especially important to focus on those that were on the front lines, and those that were lost or struggling the most.” During this unique and challenging year, the Lone Pine Student Action Team has already coordinated four projects: Meals for health care workers, delivering 75 healthy meals to Beaumont employees; The Gratitude Project, in which students identified what they’re grateful for, and chose acts of gratitude to perform over winter break; Pennies for Power, in which they raised \$600 for The Heat and Warmth Fund; and Acts of Kindness, in which students created paper flowers and hearts with positive messages, to help those in their lives and community who might need words of encouragement. Students on the Action Team learn about and discuss both “small” and “big” actions, and how all of it can help make a positive impact for our community.



Students as young as kindergarteners are welcome on the team, and learn at a young age how they can make a difference. One Lone Pine kindergarten student shares, “For the healthcare workers, we gave cards and food for them and I made a video talking about how to take action. I was interested in joining because I wanted to help people. My favorite part of the Student Action Team is helping people!”

The Lone Pine community has traditionally donated to The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW), through an annual fundraiser called Pennies for Power. Parent volunteer Jessica Jacobs explains, “This year when we did Pennies for Power, we were unable to do some of the same fundraising activities that we usually do. We did have a representative from THAW make a short video that was shown to the students about THAW. The children then made posters that we featured on our Facebook page with a link to donate. There was also information and a link to donate on our newsfeed. Lastly, a few of our older children, as well as Ms. Olson and Ms. Shannon were interviewed by radio station WWJ because they host a big fundraiser for THAW each year. Even though we were done collecting money by that point, we did end up receiving more donations after the initial interview was aired.”



## STEM LEARNING IN ACTION AT WAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Learning by doing! This is the philosophy Cindy Zervos, the media specialist at Way Elementary, employs while structuring the maker stations for a month-long lesson. Mrs. Zervos adds, “Throughout this process, the students have been getting comfortable with the unknown and figuring things out on their own. In the end, students are asked to write a brief reflection about the activities and their creations. They share what they’ve learned and how they can use their newfound knowledge in the future.”

A class full of excited 3rd graders quickly choose the desired station for their twenty-minute session. Connor Kyriakopolous explains how the bot maze operates, “I really enjoy creating different mazes for the bot to travel through. A bot is a motorized bug. I change up the maze and improve upon it. There is no wrong way to do it.” Student Sofia Doshi describes how they assemble the paper circuit, “The paper circuit is made up of a LED light, copper tape, and a battery. It is cool to see how electricity travels through the copper tape to the LED light.”

The students selected from the following maker stations, rotating each week.

- Paper Circuits
- Decoupage Letters
- Paper Folding/Origami
- Puppet Creation
- Publish a Book
- Bot Maze

Maker May aligns with several standards:

### National School Library Standards:

- Learners engage with new knowledge by following a process that includes generating products that illustrate learning.

### ISTE Standards:

- Students build knowledge by actively exploring real-world issues and problems, developing ideas and theories, and pursuing answers and solutions.
- Students exhibit a tolerance for ambiguity, perseverance, and the capacity to work with open-ended problems.







7273 Wing Lake Road  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48301

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 27  
Bloomfield Hills,  
Michigan

ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

Connect with us!



facebook.com/BHSchools



@bhschools



bhschools and bhblackhawks



**SAVE THE  
DATE!  
AUGUST 27  
FROM 4 TO  
7 P.M.**

BHHS Football Field  
4200 Andover Road

**WELCOME BACK  
CELEBRATION!**

**FUN  
ACTIVITIES**

**FUN  
GAMES**



For more information: [www.bloomfield.org/welcomeback](http://www.bloomfield.org/welcomeback)