



DIALOG

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

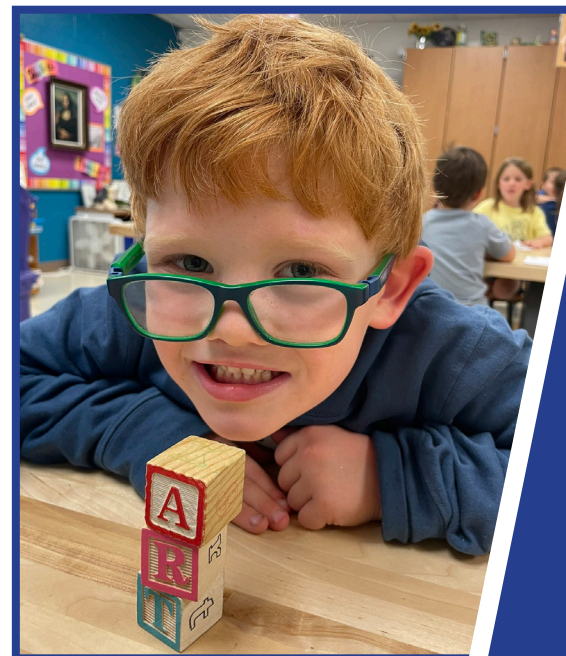
JAN
2024

FOUR PRIORITY AREAS GUIDE LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In Livonia Public Schools, we have established four core priority areas that guide our way, serve as a compass for all decisions, relationships and responsibilities we have as a school district and a home-away-from-home for our 13,200 students and nearly 2,000 staff members.

The four core priority areas are focused on Student Achievement, enhanced with Employee Capacity, supported through Fiscal Responsibility and enveloped in Climate & Culture.

These four priority areas are central in all that we do here in LPS. Take a look at how the priority areas are fortified with the building blocks of innovation, inspiration and collaboration!



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

To increase the achievement of our learners, we have the following in place:

- Daily Elementary Small Group/Intervention and dedicated Secondary Mascot time for student academic and social-emotional support, embedded within the school day and accessible to all students
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) focuses on growing our children's citizenship skills through PBIS, Caring Schools Curriculum, and our LPS Community With Character work
- Timely "Data Dives" at all levels focused on analyzing key performance indicators on student achievement data
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to serve the whole child
- Nearly \$4 million in new textbook adoptions and classroom resource material in past five years (covering nearly 40 grade and content areas)
- Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) for sharing best instructional practices and job-embedded collaboration time that support the LPS Professional Learning Community journey.
- Rigorous, guaranteed, and viable curriculum at all level
- Project Lead the Way STEM curriculum pilot taken to scale at all elementary schools, which now provides a full K-12 STEM pathway for students in LPS
- A variety of highly engaging elective classes at the secondary level and a full complement of special area classes at the elementary level that allow our students to shine in various ways
- Kindergarten placement pilot taken to scale this year to assure the best learning environment placement for kindergarten students

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EMPLOYEE CAPACITY

To enhance employee capacity & engagement:

- Job-embedded professional development
- Increased collaboration via Professional Learning Teams (district level and school level teams) to create cohesive, effective instructional practices and assessments
- Ongoing improvements and enhancements in learning and work environments via two voter-approved bond issues since 2013
- Employee appreciation and recognition programs (Educator & Support Staff of the Year; Staff Appreciation Week; STAR awards; Sub a Staffer; LPS wearable gear)
- Recent, comprehensive Safety & Security training for all employees ; impactful security upgrades district-wide
- Twenty-five years of participation in the Galileo Teacher Leadership consortium, providing exceptional training for teacher teams
- New Administrator Learning Series
- Aspiring Administrator Series (coming Fall 2024)



FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

To ensure the highest levels of fiscal stewardship:

- Exceptional fiscal management across all areas of the district budget
- Superior audits of financial statements and practices
- Standard & Poors bond rating upgraded to A+ status resulting in \$1 Million in taxpayer savings
- Consistent application for and award of local, state and federal grants
- The district's General Fund fund balance is consistently maintained in the 15-20% range as recommended by Michigan Association of School Business Officials
- Bond projects and Sinking Fund improvements on time and on budget
- Ongoing investment in facilities and operations (proudly employing all staff in-house for transportation, custodial, operations/maintenance and food service departments)

CLIMATE & CULTURE

To maintain a respectful, inclusive, & positive environment, we have:

- Ongoing emphasis on our district's Community with Character traits
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) staff professional development and collaboration with PTA/PTSA units with strong focus on fostering a sense of belonging for all
- Significant investment in school social work and psychologist staffing (nearly doubling supports in recent years)
- Elementary Support Teachers (ESTs) and Student Assistance Providers (SAPs) at every school
- Social-emotional learning and supports at all levels
- Vibrant new Library Media Centers and Idea Factories for student collaboration, innovation and creativity
- New state-of-the-art Early Childhood Center opening Fall 2024
- New robotics wing and expansion of student learning and collaboration spaces at Livonia Career Technical Center

OUR LPS PRIORITY AREAS ARE:

Focused on Student Achievement

Cultivated with Employee Capacity

Supported by Fiscal Responsibility

Wrapped in Climate and Culture

Rooted in our Shared Vision



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Demonstrating a strategic commitment to high levels of learning for all students as evidenced by measurable growth and achievement through equitable access to consistent, rigorous and engaging curriculum & instruction. Student learning is at our core.

EMPLOYEE CAPACITY

Investing in our students begins with an investment in our staff. Building capacity and engagement of each LPS staff member results in meaningful and impactful work.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Exhibiting thoughtful and consistent oversight of budget development in order to utilize our district's finances & resources to maximize opportunities for students, support our priority focus areas and promote responsible stewardship.

CLIMATE AND CULTURE

Upholding a culture in which we value one another and each contribute daily to a respectful, inclusive and positive environment for all. A sense of belonging is essential.

FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANDREA OQUIST

Greetings LPS Community,

Happy New Year!

This time of the year always reminds me of the verse, "to everything there is a season."

We have flipped the calendar to a brand new year. It's a time of reflection and a time for setting goals. We raise a toast to our loved ones and envelope ourselves with a sense of renewal.



In our school district, there are seasons, too. The "new year" for us actually happens at the end of August, when we excitedly welcome our more than 13,200 students and nearly 2,000 staff members back into our halls, classrooms, offices, cafeterias and athletics facilities. It's a fresh beginning, filled with new goals and endless possibilities, dreams and opportunities. It is our Happy New Year!

Leading up to a new school year, we spend the summer months planning for what is possible – preparing that engine of innovation and inspiration for travel toward growing our students' minds, hearts and bodies. Preparing them for their futures by pressing the accelerator when they're ready, or tapping on the brakes if that's what they need at that moment. We have the road map that contains many different routes to help them reach their destination. What a tremendous responsibility – but one that we, as an LPS family, embrace with both hands on the wheel.

Behind the scenes, our season of school year preparation is filled with closely and carefully analyzing the district's budget, determining appropriate staffing levels, assuring that the many bond renovation projects across the district are on time and on budget, preparing our school and district leaders for the new year and gearing up our ever-important non-instructional staff with the tools they need to be successful for our students and staff. It's a busy season, to be sure!

We are now approaching the half-way point in our school year, and this is the season of reflection – a time to evaluate how well our planned routines, goals and milestones are progressing. Are we reaching every single student and providing them with engaging opportunities? Are we seeing data points that reflect growth and new learning? Have we set a tone in every school and district department that makes every student and LPS colleague feel that is where they belong? Are we fostering inspiration and innovation daily?

These questions, and many more, mark the seasons of fall and winter in our school district. We are measuring our successes, evaluating areas where we can do better and ramping up for the second half of the school year. But, just as in nature, the seasons tend to gracefully intertwine, so it is also a time to simultaneously begin planning for next school year. This cycle provides opportunities to prepare, reflect, evaluate and improve. Learning and growing is for all seasons.

We look forward to the remaining seasons of the school year here in Livonia Public Schools! As we approach the second half of 2023-2024, my sense of pride in all that we do for our students continues to be nourished by the daily, valiant efforts of our talented and caring staff, the strength and determination of our awe-inspiring students and the support that we receive from our LPS families and community. We are truly fortunate. Not one day, week, or season is taken for granted!

Thank you for your continued partnership and support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Andrea Oquist". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Superintendent Andrea Oquist

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1

Livonia Public Schools is eagerly anticipating the 2024-2025 school year. We can't wait to welcome our new class of kindergartners, the Class of 2037!

Kindergarten registration opens March 1. (Not including Niji-Iro Elementary) Here's how to register:

Visit www.livoniapublicschools.org/registration and complete the online registration packet associated with your child's assigned school. Gather the required documentation (listed on the packet and on the district website). The school secretary will contact you to schedule an appointment to complete the registration process.

Kindergartners must be five years old on or before September 1, 2024, and we encourage families to adhere to state guidelines. However, you may apply for early entry if your child will be five on or after September 1 but no later than December 1. Early entry request forms are available at your child's school.

If you are uncertain which school your child will attend, please visit the RESA Address Locator tool at <https://webapps.resa.net/sa/> to see your assigned school!

PARENT MEETING APRIL 9

Livonia Public Schools is hosting an informational meeting at all of our K-4 schools for parents of incoming kindergartners. This meeting will be held on April 9, 2024, from 6-7 p.m. Please note that this meeting is for parents only. Parents should attend the meeting at their child's assigned school. This meeting will be filled with useful information for parents, including:

- Program overview
- Information on busing and food services
- Question-and-answer session
- School tours

Registration will be available on-site for parents who have their required documentation with them.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Schools will be open for incoming kindergartners and their families to see their school and learn important information about the start of their learning journey. It's the perfect chance for your child to step into the classroom before class begins.

Wednesday, May 29, 2024:

Buchanan, Grant, Hayes,
Randolph

Thursday May 30, 2024:

Cleveland, Coolidge, Hoover,
Kennedy, Roosevelt, Rosedale



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Young Fives:

The Young Fives program is designed for students turning five between July 1 and September 1, 2024, but who require more time before entering kindergarten. It is a state-funded, tuition-free program. Look for more information on Young Fives to come soon.

Preschool:

Preschool Enrichment is offered for 3-4 year olds, focusing on developmentally appropriate activity-based programs including a variety of cognitive, art, free play, gross motor, fine motor, music, and social skill components.

Great Start Readiness Program:

The Great Start Readiness Program focuses on preparing 4-year-olds to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. It is a state-funded preschool program, available for families who qualify based on annual income guidelines.

Childcare:

Childcare is available for ages 6 weeks to 5 years, which includes a preschool component and enrichment programming. Childcare is available year-round to meet the needs of working parents.

Registration for the GSRP Program will begin in February. Registration for Preschool, and Childcare will begin in March. Be sure to check our website at <https://www.livoniapublicschools.org> for updates and further information.

CELEBRATING OUR OWN

In Livonia Public Schools, it is a more than 40-year tradition to recognize staff who go above and beyond for our students, staff, and community.

In keeping with tradition, we sought nominations in the spring for our 2023-2024 Educator and Support Staff of the Year. As is typical, we received dozens of wonderful nominations from our students, parents, and staff!

The following exceptional staff members were selected by a committee in November and will be celebrated throughout the remainder of the school year. Please enjoy the following snippets describing each of these very special people.



ELEMENTARY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: AMY CHAPMAN-PINTA

Amy Chapman-Pinta is a 24-year veteran educator in Livonia Public Schools, where she has served the past nine years as an Elementary Support Teacher at Grant Elementary School.

As an EST, she provides caring and personalized support to students who have a variety of needs, including medical issues that can have an impact on a child's school day. When she is not managing medical plans for students, she provides academic, social-emotional and behavioral support. For many students at Grant Elementary, she is their "go to" trusted adult at the school. She makes them feel safe, cared for, and is truly committed to their physical wellbeing as well as their emotional and academic growth.

Amy is known as a "floor sweeper," who stands at-the-ready to jump into any situation and offer her assistance. As an EST, Amy wears many "hats" at Grant Elementary, which is exactly how she prefers to contribute to her school community. In all that she does, Amy is nurturing and has a gift for pouring confidence and positivity into every student with whom she works. Her philosophy in working with children is to "listen, help, care, teach, respect, and love."

SECONDARY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: TERRI BENNETT

Terri Bennett is a 32-year veteran teacher in Livonia Public Schools, having taught Mathematics for 31 at Franklin High School.

She is known for not only her teaching expertise, but also for her ability to weave life lessons and build strong relationships with students in her classroom.

Terri is an advocate for all types of learners, from Advanced Placement Calculus students to Algebra 1 students who need extra support. Although she has been teaching various mathematics courses for more than three decades, she is constantly revamping her instructional practices by utilizing technology to engage her students in their learning. She is known to go out of her way to ensure her students are learning. She builds relationships with students, so they know that they are cared for and that she has great confidence in them as learners and as human beings. Many students have called her their "best teacher, ever!"

Terri's teaching philosophy centers around the connections she makes with her students. She instills the confidence they need to be successful in mathematics, while always searching for that "light bulb moment" in her students. She knows that those moments only come after her students feel supported and heard.

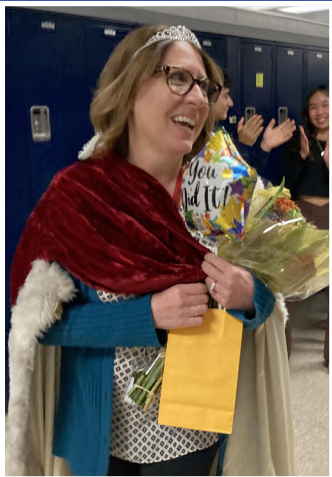
SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR: KRYSTAL REID

Krystal Reid is in her sixth year serving as a paraprofessional in the Western Wayne Skill Center program at Garfield Community School. Working in the Skill Center program allows Krystal to daily utilize her natural empathetic, respectful and caring qualities with her students, all of whom have special needs and are in the age range of 18-26.

She is known as a paraprofessional who can always be counted on to give her best effort in a way that bolsters her students' confidence, sense of security and their dignity as they work to achieve greater independence each day.

Krystal approaches her work with the simple philosophy, "Every student, every day, no matter what." She goes above and beyond to support the needs of her students by building skills in them with a gentle hand of support and encouragement. She is known for being dedicated, empathetic, respectful and creative.

Even after six years in her role, Krystal continues to "learn on the job" and seeks new ways to connect, support and inspire the students with whom she works each day. Her colleagues call it a privilege to work with her and many say that they have become better teachers by working alongside Krystal.



LPS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The mission of the LPS Education Foundation is to enlarge the resources available to the school district, which will foster and expand educational opportunities for programs impacting students by building effective collaborations.



WXYZ ANCHOR SHARES INSPIRING MESSAGE AT LUNCHEON

"Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

This Martin Luther King Jr. quote rounded out the painfully courageous story relayed by WXYZ Channel 7 News Anchor Carolyn Clifford as she talked about growing up affected by domestic violence in her northwest side Detroit home.

The 20-time Emmy Award winning journalist was the guest speaker at the 13th Annual LPS Education Foundation Luncheon fundraiser on Nov. 1 at the St. Mary's Cultural & Banquet Center in Livonia.

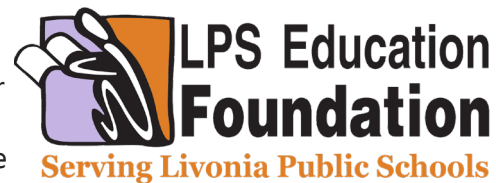
Clifford, who grew up one of nine children, shared the tragic yet inspiring story of her mother, who not only survived domestic violence at the hands of Carolyn's father, but found a way to make it out and provide for her children by starting her own business and making a new life. Clifford said she need not look any further for a hero than her mother, who is now 94 years young. She shares her childhood story with every group that she can in order to bring awareness to domestic violence. She works with non-profit agencies that provide assistance to battered women. It's her life's work, when she's not behind the anchor desk at Channel 7.

FOUNDATION CORPORATE DONORS

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"Hearing her story really made me realize that no matter your background or life experiences, there is always something

you can harvest from deep within your soul to help others," said Stacy Jenkins, Livonia Public Schools Administrator of District Communications. "In Carolyn's mother's case, it was her children, then eventually, her community. For Carolyn, it is taking those experiences and laying them out for others who may be in that situation to feel heard and supported. It was truly inspiring."



The annual luncheon holds inspiration as well – with a room filled with supporters of the school district and the LPS Education Foundation, many say that it's one of the best days of the year.

"We appreciate the support of our community and especially appreciate and value your support by being here today," said Foundation President Liz Jarvis. "We are very thankful for the generous financial support of our corporate donors and community members. You are the key to our success. We thank you."

For more information on the work of the LPS Education Foundation, and how you can support this organization, please visit www.lpsfoundation.org.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

School closure information is communicated through:

Our website:

www.livoniapublicschools.org

Social Media:

Facebook.com/LivoniaPublicSchools
and
Twitter @LivoniaDistrict

Phone/Email:

Be sure you have an updated email address and phone number on file so you will receive district notices. Check with your child's school secretary to ensure your information is accurate.

CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER OPEN HOUSE

The Livonia Career Technical Center will be holding a Preview Night for current 8th-11th grade students. It will provide an opportunity for prospective students to check out the programs offered at the Career Center.

The night will be split into 3 sessions, to allow parents and students to visit multiple programs and watch presentations given by the teachers, then allow them to ask questions. Teachers will also speak about what college credits and credentials can be earned, as well as work-based learning opportunities that are available.

The Preview Night will be hosted at the LCTC on January 31st, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. If parking fills up in the Career Center's lot, additional parking can be found at Churchill High School.

Contact the LCTC at 734-744-2816 with any questions or for more information.



PUBLIC NOTICES

It is the policy of the Board of Education that Livonia Public Schools School District will not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, handicap, disability, sexual orientation, sexual identity, or transgender status.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA is a federal law that affords parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. This includes the right to: inspect and review records; request an amendment to records; consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information in student's records (except in instances where disclosure without consent is allowed); and file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students." See the full policy at www.livoniapublicschools.org/publicnotices.

McKinney Vento Act

Livonia Public Schools follows federal mandates for the McKinney Vento Act by enrolling any homeless children who lack a regular and adequate night-time residence. Homeless children are placed according to their best interests, and have the same rights as resident students. If you are aware of children in this circumstance, please refer them to our homeless liaison at 734-744-2535.

Child Find (Student evaluations)

If your child is between birth and age five and you suspect that they may have a special need or developmental delay, please call 1-800-EARLYON (for birth to age three) or 734-744-2765. If your child is enrolled in LPS in grades K-12 and you suspect a special need or disability, please contact the administrator at your child's school or the Student Services Department at 734-744-2524.

Lost or Stolen Property

Livonia Public Schools and its staff members are not liable for damage to or loss of personal property of students. It is suggested that items brought to school by your child and deemed by you to have substantial value be insured separately on your homeowner's policy.

AHERA Update

LPS, as required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) conducts ongoing surveillance and re-inspection programs for asbestos. LPS has an ongoing operations and maintenance program to address the asbestos in the buildings owned and operated by the district. Contact Harry Lau at hlau@livoniapublicschools.org, or 734-744-2511 if you wish to view the report.

Integrated Pest Management

Occasionally, Livonia Public Schools may apply pesticides to our schools, school grounds, and athletic areas. As parents and guardians, you have the right to be notified prior to such applications. If you wish to be notified via first class mail or e-mail, please contact Harry Lau at hlau@livoniapublicschools.org or 734-744-2511.

A posting of pesticides used inside or outside of any LPS building will be placed in advance at the entrance of the building, and on the Livonia Public Schools website. In an emergency situation, LPS may make an application without prior notification to parents or guardians; however, parents/guardians will be notified of the application after it occurs.

Further information regarding pesticides can be obtained by contacting The National Pesticide Information Center at 800-858-7378.

Livonia Public Schools
15125 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154

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Kindergarten registration opens March 1

**BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY AT
[WWW.LIVONIAPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG/
REGISTRATION](http://WWW.LIVONIAPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG/REGISTRATION)**

**Kindergarten
Roundup**

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MAY 29-30, 2024
DETAILS WILL BE
PROVIDED BY SCHOOLS
TO REGISTERED
FAMILIES

Niji-Iro application window
currently closed, and will
re-open in the spring.



Young Fives

For children age 5 between
July 1 and September 1, 2024
Program information coming soon
livoniapublicschools.org/YoungFives



Don't know your assigned school?

Use the RESA Address Locator tool to see your assigned school!
<https://webapps.resa.net/sa/>

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