

THE COMMUNICATOR

Issue 2 • March 2024

A Publication of Clintondale Community Schools



MOVING THE DISTRICT FORWARD, TOGETHER

Clintondale has accomplished much this school year, with more success and growth ahead. Everyone plays a role in fueling the future for our students. In the pages to follow, see what the district and our students have achieved and the opportunities ahead. Go Dragons!

Clintondale Community Schools Newsletter

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Clintondale Families,

The first six months of school have been a very rewarding experience as your superintendent for Clintondale Community Schools. I have spent countless hours getting to know students, staff, families, and community members. I have spent time listening and learning from the personal and professional experiences of all stakeholders. In each interaction, I have cherished the information shared and the commitment expressed by everyone to ensure a bright future for Clintondale Community Schools. As a district, we have gained exciting momentum in many areas, but please know this is only the beginning as we move Clintondale Community Schools forward.



Kenneth Janczarek

We have been successful in many areas since the start of the 2023-2024 school year. One area includes strengthening the overall safety and security of the buildings through staff and student behaviors as well as utilizing a security grant to upgrade our facilities and hire a resource officer. As a district we have shifted our focus on utilizing aligned curriculum taught with fidelity in all K-12 classrooms and we continue to support this work through our learning coaches and interventionists. As a district we have made a commitment to offer more early education opportunities for our students by expanding our Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) programming. With this expansion more students are receiving four-year-old preschool through Clintondale Community Schools. One final area we have been focused on during the first six months has been the support of our students' social emotional wellness. Through the use of our behavior coaches we have continued to push a focus on restorative practices and support each individual student in our classrooms, with our support staff, administrators, as well as the utilization of our behavior coaches. As a district, we realize that our job has just begun to move Clintondale Community Schools forward, and we appreciate all of your support.

Moving forward for the next six months we will continue not only to capitalize and work on the above initiatives but also expand on these to make strides to better support our students. Plans for the 2024-2025 school year will also be our focus during the next six months. We will be focusing on expanding our early childhood education opportunities through additional childcare for students that are not school age as well as school age programming. Our GSRP programming will continue to see expansions for four-year old preschool students, and we will also look to focus on a Young 5's option for our younger students that fall within the kindergarten age. Please also know that plans for the middle school and high school are also taking place as we look to offer more opportunities and options for our students while supporting them academically and socially. As we continue to move forward to support our amazing students please know I am always available. Thank you for all that you do to support Clintondale Community Schools students and staff. We greatly appreciate you and your support as we move the district forward together. - Kenneth Janczarek

CLINTONDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CELEBRATES REMARKABLE GROWTH

Throughout the past school year, our teachers and staff at Clintondale have made incredible strides in performance and impact in our students' lives. This can be seen firsthand with our recent Michigan School Index Report.

The Michigan School Index System measures how well public schools are doing in seven important areas. These areas include student progress, how well students are doing in their studies, the overall quality and success of the school, how many students graduate, the progress of students learning English, how many students take assessments, and how many English learners participate.



Chief Academic Officer- Heather Halpin



*Overall
Index*



*Growth
Index*



*Graduation
Rate Index*



*School Quality
and Student
Success Index*



*Support
Category*



*Proficiency
Index*



*English Learner
Progress Index*



*Assessment
Participation
Index*

Schools get points in each area based on how well they meet their goals. The total points add up to an overall score between 0 and 100. This system helps identify which schools might need extra support.

The overall score is based on the data available for each school. Some schools might not have enough students or data for certain areas. For example, elementary schools don't have a graduation rate. If a school is missing data for some areas, the points from those areas are spread out proportionally to the remaining areas.

Clintondale Community Schools is excited to share that each school's overall index score has gone up. Across the entire district, our scores have increased by 9.45% from 2021- 2022. The Growth Index, which measures improvement, went up by 38.45%. We're proud of the hard work from Clintondale students and staff, and we're looking forward to even more growth in the future!

-Heather Halpin

SECURING OUR SCHOOLS: STRIDES AND SAFETY

SUMMARY

The Board of Education has made significant strides in advancing the safety and security of our school district, focusing on four key areas with the support of recently secured grant funds—all of which have received approval.

01

Introducing the New SRO:

Officer Dittmer, our full-time School Resource Officer (SRO), prioritizes the safety and well-being of our school community. With his patrol car stationed at the front for swift response, he actively engages with students at events, fostering a positive and secure environment. His primary goal is to build quality relationships, creating a safe and supportive learning atmosphere.

02

Introducing the Nightlock System:

A Nightlock System is being implemented across all of our buildings, a significant step toward enhancing the safety of our students and staff. Furthermore, its adaptable nature allows for a seamless transfer when renovations are underway, ensuring a sustained focus on the safety and well-being of our school community.

03

Introducing the PA System:

New PA systems in all buildings for enhanced communication. In emergencies, our office can effectively relay crucial information to the entire building, reinforcing our commitment to a safe and connected school community. This advancement empowers swift response measures, ensuring the well-being of our students and staff in critical situations.

04

Introducing Key Fob Access:

Staff will use their name badges at two entry points for streamlined building entry, replacing traditional keys. This system ensures quicker access, especially in emergencies, enhancing overall security. Additionally, this modernized approach promotes a more efficient and secure environment for our school community.

Football Spotlight

Football Players Honor Staff

In a heartwarming gesture, several staff members were nominated for their outstanding contributions, and each nominee received a touching personal note from the nominating student. To further express their appreciation, the Dragon Football players presented each nominated staff member with an exclusive Dragon Football VIP shirt.



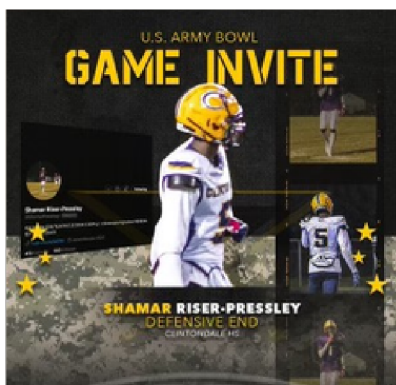
Dragon Football Accolades

The Clintondale High School Football Team and its star players were celebrated this year at the Macomb County All County Banquet. Riser-Pressley (DE), Pearson (DL), Thomas (DL), and Hardnett (DB), were all honored as first team all region members. Hardnett has committed to Siena Heights University and received a full tuition scholarship to continue his academic and athletic career.



Shamar Riser-Pressley Commits to Buffalo

Clintondale Community Schools would like to celebrate the success of Senior student athlete Shamar Riser-Pressley. With over 10 offers, Riser-Pressley has decided to commit to the University of Buffalo to further his academic and athletic career. He has received a full-ride athletic scholarship. He was also invited to play in the US Army Bowl game at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, where he scored the first touchdown of the game! He has earned a 3.5 cumulative GPA and has taken every AP course that Clintondale High School offers.



Community Updates



Gym Upgrades Unveiled

With the generous contribution from The C Club of \$50,000, the redesign and construction of the upper areas of our high school gym are underway. Above the girls' locker room will be our new, 4,500 square foot weight room. Complete with a new 8-station rig, our weight room will also include a large functional movement area. Above the boys' locker room will be a 4,500 square foot turf area that multiple sports will be able to utilize for skill development. A retractable batting cage is being installed so that cheer and wrestling will be able to make use of the area as well as baseball and softball.



Basketball Team on Stellar Start

Our varsity boys basketball team is off to a 5-1 start. Justin Gloster, Jr. had a 39 point effort against Sterling Heights. Under the leadership of first-year coach, Marquis Chavez, and his assistants, Scott Johnson, Ernie Freeman, and Jahmi Russell, our overall boys basketball program is a combined 18-6 to start the season. The team GPA of our varsity boys basketball team is currently 3.3. Additionally, Antonio Guzman has been named our new varsity baseball coach. His enthusiasm and willingness to connect with our youth will lead our program back to prominence in the near future.

Clintondale Christmas Extravaganza

The Clintondale High School Auditorium was ablaze with holiday spirit as the community gathered for the highly anticipated Clintondale Christmas Extravaganza on Nov. 27, 2023.

The auditorium echoed with the sounds of joyful holiday tunes as talented performers took the stage, setting the festive tone for the night. A special guest made an appearance as Santa Claus himself took time out of his busy schedule to pose for pictures and spread joy to the delight of the children in attendance. The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the tree lighting ceremony. The crowd gathered in anticipation as the twinkling lights illuminated the Christmas tree, officially marking the commencement of the holiday season in Clintondale.

Community Updates

College Exploration

Clintondale students have had the opportunity to visit a variety of schools this year including Oakland University, Wayne State University, Central Michigan University, and Siena Heights University. Mr. Zimmerman is still attempting to plan field trips at a few more schools before the end of this year. In October, Clintondale had over 20 college admission reps visit the school and talk with students about what each of their respective schools has to offer.



Xello

Clintondale High School students began Xello in February. Xello is a career exploration tool provided by the Macomb Intermediate School District. Xello is a requirement by the state of Michigan and helps students think and plan through their next adventure after high school. Xello data is also used and analyzed by the school to help plan for student schedules and shape our career and technical education classes around.



CareerQuest

Clintondale High School students had the opportunity to visit MI CareerQuest SE in November 2023. This huge career exploration event had students tour and speak with a magnitude of different career employers. This event was separated into four career clusters. These clusters were health and human services, technology or IT, trades, and construction.



FAFSA Information

The FAFSA is the free application for federal student aid and is the number one indicator of a student attending a college or trade school. The state of Michigan pushes for at least a state percentage of 60% FAFSA completion in the senior class at each respective school. There is a student part of FAFSA and a parent part that needs to be completed for the FAFSA to be finalized and sent to schools. By filing the FAFSA students are able to possibly earn grants and loans such as the federal Pell Grant. The federal Pell Grant maxes out at around \$7,000 per year. If a student is federal Pell Grant eligible, they are typically eligible for 100% tuition coverage at any in-state school throughout the state of Michigan.



This school year was the first time in over 30 years the FAFSA has been modified. The FAFSA typically opens October 1st and this year did not open until January 1st. This is the latest the FAFSA has been delayed. Students will not receive financial aid reports that are the cost breakdown for each school they have been accepted to until March at the earliest. It is imperative students and families attempt to finalize the FAFSA as soon as possible to receive these cost breakdowns by the end of March to make an informed decision on school.

Please see or contact our College and Career Readiness Coordinator Zach Zimmerman with any FAFSA questions at zimmermanz@clintondaleschools.net or 586-791-6301 EXT 2118.

Community Updates

GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM: EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FREE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Clintondale Community Schools has long been committed to providing quality education to its youngest learners through the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP). This initiative has been a cornerstone of early childhood education in the district, helping prepare four-year-olds for success in kindergarten and beyond. The recent expansion of the program in the Fall of 2023 marks a significant milestone in Clintondale's dedication to fostering early learning.

The Great Start Readiness Program was established by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) as part of the state's broader initiative to enhance early childhood education and ensure that all children enter kindergarten ready to learn. The program addresses disparities in school readiness among young children, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

In the Fall of 2023, the Great Start Readiness Program in Clintondale Community Schools underwent a significant expansion. The program, originally operating four days per week, transitioned to a full five-day schedule. This expansion not only increases the amount of time children spend in the program, but also enhances the overall learning experience by providing more opportunities for socialization, cognitive development, and school readiness skills.

Recognizing the increasing demand for high-quality early childhood education, Clintondale Community Schools took a proactive step by opening additional GSRP classrooms at strategic locations. Two new classrooms were introduced. One at the Clintondale Childcare Center, and a second room was added at McGlinnen Elementary. These additions ensure that more families in the community have convenient access to free preschool.

With the expansion of the program, Clintondale Community Schools is excited to announce open seats at McGlinnen Elementary for eligible four-year-olds. Families interested are encouraged to reach out to Heather Halpin, Chief Academic Officer of Clintondale Community Schools, via email at halpinh@clintondaleschools.net or phone at 586-791-6300 extension 3023.

INTRODUCING NEW ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS



We are excited to announce Rashida Shack as the proud principal of Robbie Hall Parker Elementary School. She has spent her whole career working for Clintondale Community Schools. Shack taught 3rd grade at Robbie Hall Parker for 22 years and was previously the principal at Charles C. McGlinnen Elementary School. During

this time, she was able to build great relationships with the students at McGlinnen, and she is thrilled to be able to do so at Parker as well. She is also a proud 1993 graduate of Clintondale Schools. Clintondale Community Schools is thrilled to see the lasting impact that Rashida Shack will have on the students and community at Parker Elementary School.



We are also thrilled to announce that Dr. Shauna Hemler is the new interim principal of Charles C. McGlinnen Elementary School. Hemler started in 2004 as a kindergarten teacher and has had extensive experience in the district. She has worked at every one of the schools within the district. From being a social

studies and English teacher at the Middle School to being the interim assistant principal at the High School, Hemler has left a lasting impact everywhere she has been. Additionally, she has led after-school clubs and helped council students. We are beyond excited to see how this remarkable individual will continue to impact the lives of others around her as interim principal of McGlinnen Elementary School.



Building Tomorrow **TOGETHER**

Special Election May 7, 2024

Making Districtwide Improvements Possible with a Sinking Fund

If approved, the Sinking Fund would allow Clintondale Community Schools to create a fund to be used strictly for renovations to facilities, sites, parking lots and school buildings.



2024-2025 Priority projects: Enhanced building security and fencing for all schools

What is a sinking fund?

A sinking fund allows a school district to make district improvements for specific purposes defined by the state.

How is it funded?

A sinking fund is created by a local tax millage levied on all property located in the district. The district proposal is for a levy on 3 mills which would result in \$1,161,000 per year for 10 years for district improvements.

What we **CAN** spend a sinking fund on

- Enhanced building security
- Chain link fencing
- Parking lot, sidewalks and asphalt replacement
- School elevators
- New vehicles (trucks, vans)
- New track and athletic fields
- New windows and carpet
- Bleachers, concession stands and locker rooms
- New marquees for all schools
- Water main replacement
- Heating program (Honeywell heating controllers)
- Air handling units
- Landscaping

Benefits of the sinking fund

- **Additional funding for building security improvements will create enhanced secure entrances.**
- **Improved learning environments make Clintondale more attractive and potentially boost property values.**
- **Transparency and accountability show taxpayers exactly where and how the money will be spent.**
- **More money remains in the general fund where it can be spent on education.**

What we **CANNOT** spend a sinking fund on

- Salaries and benefits
- Equipment and supplies (refrigerators, sound and lighting systems)
- Maintenance (painting of buildings)
- Furnishing (curtains, cabinets, desks and chairs)

How will my taxes be affected?

Market Value of Home	Estimated Monthly Cost
\$80,000	\$10
\$125,000	\$16
\$200,000	\$25

HAVE QUESTIONS? LET US KNOW. SCAN THE QR CODE TO BEGIN.





CLINTONDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

**CLINTONDALE HS CONFERENCE CENTER
APRIL 3-4TH / 9AM-12PM, 1-4PM, 5-7PM**

OUR WEBSITE



ABOUT

Take your first steps towards graduation with Clintondale Community Schools at the Kindergarten Roundup! This event is perfect for families with children entering kindergarten in the upcoming school year.

- ✓ Info on Curriculum and School Activities
- ✓ Early Childhood Screening Info & Signup
- ✓ New Friends and Fun Activities

MORE INFO:

586-791-6300 ext. 3001 

clintondaleschools.net 



CLINTONDALE CALENDAR 2023-2024

MARCH

- 1 End of Progress 3
- 4 Board of Education Meeting
- 6 Late Arrival Day
- 7 1/2 Day All Schools Parent/Teacher Conferences-Afternoon/Evening
- 8 1/2 Day All Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences-Afternoon Only
- 9 or 11 Special Board of Education Meeting
- 18 Board of Education Meeting
- 20 Late Arrival Day
- 25-29 **Spring Break - All Schools Closed**

APRIL

- 8 Board of Education Meeting
- 12 End of Third Quarter
- 22 Board of Education Meeting
- 24 Late Arrival Day
- 26 All Schools Closed - Staff - District Provided Professional Development Day

MAY

- 7 **Special Election - All Schools Closed**
- 8 Late Arrival Day
- 13 Board of Education Meeting
- 17 End of Progress 4
- 22 Late Arrival Day
- 24 Seniors' Last Day
- 27 **Memorial Day - No School**
- 28 Board of Education Meeting

JUNE

- 4 Prom
- 7 **Graduation**
- 10 Board of Education Meeting
- 11-13 **District Wide - 1/2 Day All Schools**
- 13 Last Student Day
- 14 Last Teacher Day
- 20 iCampus Graduation
- 21 Secretaries' Last Day
- 24 Board of Education Meeting

Visit Our Website!



Find More Information On:

- *Sinking Fund • Childcare Center*
- *Kindergarten Round-Up*

**Clintondale Community
Schools**
www.clintondaleschools.net

Clintondale Admin Center
35100 Little Mack
Phone: 586-791-6300
Fax: 586-791-6786

Clintondale High School
35200 Little Mack
Phone: 586-791-6300 ext. 2002
Fax: 586-790-7645

Clintondale Middle School
35300 Little Mack
Phone: 586-791-6300 ext. 1001
Fax: 586-790-7642

Clintondale iCampus
35200 Little Mack
Phone: 586-790-2756
Fax: 586-790-4647

McGlennen Elementary School
21415 Sunnyview
Phone: 586-791-3400
Fax: 586-790-7639

Parker Elementary School
22055 Quinn Road
Phone: 586-791-6900
Fax: 586-790-7640

Rainbow Elementary School
33749 Wurfel
Phone: 586-791-3500
Fax: 586-790-7640

Clintondale Child Care Center
35200 Little Mack
Phone: 586-791-6300 ext. 2116
Fax: 586-790-7620



Competitive Cheer

Our cheerleading squad is gearing up for their inaugural appearance in competitive cheer, showcasing their dedication and hard work. We eagerly anticipate witnessing their performance as they go head-to-head with other schools in the area.

Return of Wrestling

We are excited to announce the return of Clintondale Wrestling! Starting in January of 2024, after a 20-year absence, we are competing in middle school wrestling. Head coach Justin Pawlowski, will develop and lead our wrestling program into the future. Construction is underway of designated wrestling rooms in both the middle school and high school. With the new infrastructure of the program and rooms, Clintondale looks forward to long-term success.



Open Enrollment

Residents of Macomb County, as well as students (K-11) in other contiguous school districts, are welcome to apply to Clintondale Community Schools for the Fall of 2024. Please call 586-791-6300 for enrollment information or go to our website to fill out an application. A separate application for school of choice students can be found online or can be picked up in person at the Clintondale Administration Center. Please check out our website at www.clintondaleschools.net/enroll-today to learn more about enrollment.

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