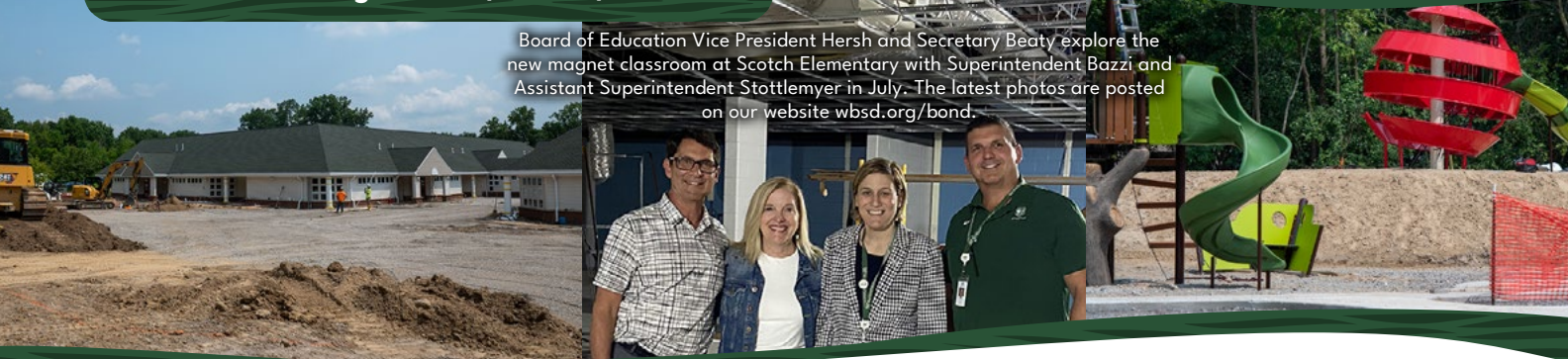


Board of Education Vice President Hersh and Secretary Beaty explore the new magnet classroom at Scotch Elementary with Superintendent Bazzi and Assistant Superintendent Stottlemeyer in July. The latest photos are posted on our website wbsd.org/bond.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I am incredibly excited for the start of this school year! Our elementary families are transitioning to the K-5 model and the familiar faces of our incredible instructional teams will be greeting students at all four schools this fall.

We are thrilled to offer expanded music selections, and families appreciate the new opportunities to access STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) programming at every elementary site.

The new Magnet classrooms at Scotch will be gorgeous (see progress photo above, taken in July) and we are excited to welcome students into these improved spaces. Our district-wide playground upgrades are well underway, with our first two schools scheduled to be completed this fall. We can't wait to see our students' faces when they experience these playgrounds for the first time.

If you have an elementary student not currently attending WBSD, now is an optimal time to explore what we have to offer and take advantage of our enhanced offerings and school connection activities.

This summer, we've seen incredible energy in our professional development activities as we continue to delve into data at our secondary levels. This year, we will

pilot a new secondary math curriculum and expect to see the same gains in student achievement that we have observed at the elementary level, as shared in the last edition of The Laker.

We are also excited that this summer, after careful planning, bond projects have begun. Among these are a new Sheiko Elementary (see the concepts inside), elementary playground upgrades at Gretchko and Scotch, a space for our Transition Students ages 18-26 at West Bloomfield High School that includes a kitchen and an environment for practicing life and job skills, and enhancements to our high school special education spaces. See the cover of this magazine and our photos inside, and visit wbsd.org/bond for the latest updates on your investment in our public schools.

I hope you will continue reading and join us in celebrating the amazing accomplishments of our students, staff and alumni. We will continue focusing on building community and fostering the 4Cs from our Portrait of a Graduate – helping students become collaborators, critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, communicators and contributors to our community and the world.

Yours in Education,
Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
Superintendent

SAVE THE DATE

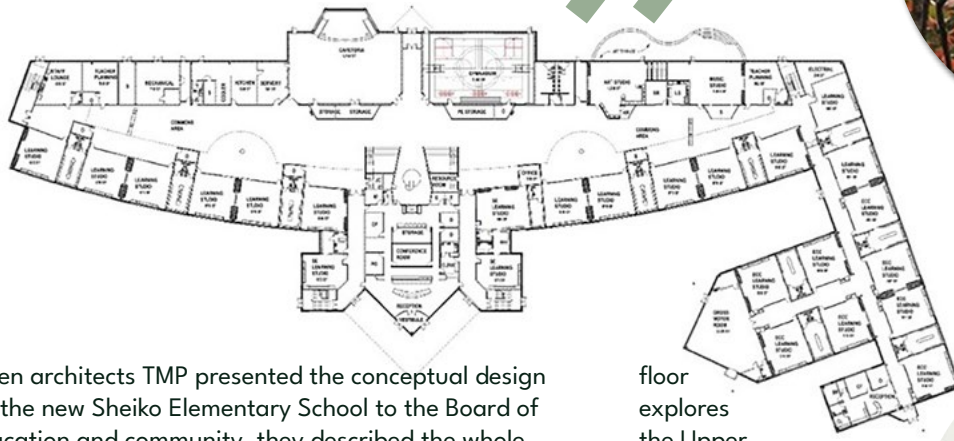
August 26 - First Full Day for Students
August 29 - Family Fun Night 5 p.m. WBHS
September 2 - Labor Day, No School
October 3 - No School
October 16 & 30 - Late Start
November 5 - No School for Students, Vote

FREE ADMISSION FOR RESIDENTS 65+

Laker Senior Gold Cards are available for our West Bloomfield School District residents age 65 and above so they may attend plays, athletic games and musical performance free of charge. Cards are available in the high school athletic office open daily 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. or the ACS Office at 5810 Commerce Road.



THE GREAT LAKER EXPERIENCE



When architects TMP presented the conceptual design for the new Sheiko Elementary School to the Board of Education and community, they described the whole process, from field trips for gathering inspiration, to in-depth discussions with teachers, to selecting colors and materials that tie into the Michigan theme for the building.

They summed it up by calling this project **The Great Laker Experience** and defined that as “a compelling and evocative name that beautifully encapsulates a school dedicated to exploring Michigan’s history and natural heritage. It suggests an immersive, comprehensive educational journey into the state’s unique culture, geography and historical significance.”

From the moment students step into the new Sheiko Elementary through its secure entrance, they will be immersed in Michigan. There will be cherry blossom pendants over the welcome desk, a Petoskey Stone map, sensory walls with gross motor activities built in, and furniture that ties to the theme.

Even the hallway designs tie in with a dune side, where the flooring looks like sand and water and the ceiling has an “under the boardwalk” feel; and a port side, where students will learn about the shipping industry. The second

floor explores the Upper Peninsula in color and material with graphics related to the shipping Locks, the Iron Ore Heritage Trail and Copper Harbor. Collaboration spaces include a “campfire” and a front porch.

The preschool has a darling portside cottage theme for the classrooms, with gross motor activities built into the walls and flooring, its own secure entrance, and age-appropriate play spaces.

Bids are out now and the project will take approximately two years to complete. During that time, Sheiko students will attend at the former Abbott Middle School site on Orchard Lake. WBSD thanks our community for its support of the bond that makes The Great Laker Experience possible.

WBSD Mission

Support each student’s needs by providing the opportunities, experiences and educational tools for their journey.

Vision

All students will be:

- Contributors
 - Critical thinkers
 - Communicators
 - Collaborators
- ... empowering each for life ahead.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information or any other legally protected category, (collectively, “Protected Classes”), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. For further information, you may contact Eric Whitney, Deputy Superintendent for Talent Development and Management at 248-865-6426 or Sonja James, Executive Director of Educational Equity and Inclusion at 248-865-6493.

2024 - 2025

Calendar

August 26	First Full Day of School	January 16	Half Day - All Levels
August 30	No School	January 17	Half Day - All Levels
September 2	Labor Day - No School	January 20	MLK Jr. Day - No School
October 3	No School	January 22	Late Start
October 16	Late Start	February 5	Late Start
October 30	Late Start	February 17 - 18	Mid-Winter Break
November 5	No School for Students	February 26	Late Start
November 13	Late Start	March 12	Late Start
November 19	Evening Conferences - Grades K-5	March 24 - 28	Spring Break
November 20	Evening Conferences - MS Only	April 2	Late Start
November 21	Evening Conferences - HS Only	April 18	No School
November 22	Half Day/Afternoon Conferences All Levels	April 23	Late Start
November 27	No School	May 7	Late Start
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Break	May 21	Late Start
December 11	Late Start	May 26	Memorial Day - No School
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	Winter Break	June 4	Half Day - HS Only
January 8	Late Start	June 5	Half Day - All Levels
January 15	Half Day - HS Only	June 6	Half Day - Student's Last Day
		June 9	Teacher's Last Day - Records Day

School	Start Time	Dismissal Time	Late Start Time	Half Day Dismissal Time
WBHS	7:30 a.m.	2:23 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	10:40 a.m.
Oakland Early College	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	9 a.m.	11:14 a.m.
WBMS, Sheiko & Transition Center	8:20 a.m.	3:12 p.m.	9:20 a.m.	11:22 a.m.
Doherty, Gretchko & Scotch	9:10 a.m.	4:02 p.m.	10:10 a.m.	12:12 p.m.
AM Early Childhood SE	8 a.m.	11 a.m.	9 a.m.	NA
PM Early Childhood SE	12 p.m.	3 p.m.	12 p.m.	NA

Report absences between the hours of 6 p.m. and the start of the next school day by calling the Safeline below:

- Doherty Elementary - (248) 865-6002
- Gretchko Elementary - (248) 865-6572
- Scotch Elementary - (248) 865-3282
- Sheiko Elementary - (248) 865-6372
- WBMS - (248) 865-4482
- WBHS - (248) 865-6722
- Transition Center - (248) 539-0532

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

Students 18 and older from any district are eligible to register for our English Language Learner (ELL) program. Classes are held at 7071 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 100, West Bloomfield 48323. Come and learn English or improve your English language skills.

FALL 2024 ENGLISH CLASSES

Registration is open now for fall. Call (248)539-2390 or email melissa.mcdonald@wbsd.org to make a registration appointment.

September 3 - December 18, 2024

Level 1, 2 and 3 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 6:30 - 9 p.m.
 Level 1 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Registration fee is \$50. Picture identification is required.

September 9 - October 16 (6 weeks)

Level 2/3 Monday and Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon \$225

If you have any questions, please email melissa.mcdonald@wbsd.org.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Stacy Brickman, President
 Nelson Hersh, Vice President
 Julie Beaty, Secretary
 Carol Finkelstein, Treasurer
 Ashleigh Davis, Trustee
 Deborah Evans, Trustee
 Wm. Art Holdsworth, Trustee

WBSD Board Meetings are held in the iCenter at West Bloomfield High School at 7 p.m. Board Study Sessions are held at 6:30 p.m., in the ACS building, 5810 Commerce Road.

September 9 - Board Study Session
 September 23 - Board Meeting
 October 7 - Board Study Session
 October 21 - Board Meeting
 November 4 - Board Study Session
 November 18 - Board Meeting
 December 2 - Board Study Session
 December 16 - Board Meeting

West Bloomfield School District

Superintendent Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
 248-865-6485

Call for a Tour

West Bloomfield High School
 248-865-6720

Oakland Early College
 248-522-3540

Laker Opportunity Center
 248-522-3542

West Bloomfield Transition Center
 248-539-0532

West Bloomfield Middle School
 248-865-4480

Doherty Elementary School
 248-865-6020

Gretchko Elementary School
 248-865-6570

Scotch Elementary School
 248-865-3280

Sheiko Elementary School
 (at Abbott site temporarily)
 248-865-6370

Adult Ed. English Language Learner
 248-539-2390

WB Preschool Academy
 248-865-6457

WBSD Communications

Rebecca Fannon and Andrea Frank
 248-865-6454



» NEWS AND NOTES

THE Laker Opportunity CENTER

Ages 16-22 ← ENROLLING STATEWIDE

Our alternative academic program provides students with an opportunity for credit reduction and credit recovery.

1-TO-1 TECHNOLOGY


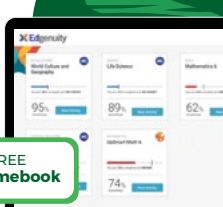
Every student is given a Google Chromebook to complete coursework.

CLASSES AVAILABLE 24/7

Using Imagine Edgenuity's online platform, assigned courses are available to students anytime, day or night.

Principal Morrison Borders
morrison.borders@wbsd.org
 (248) 522-3542

Opportunity ELEVATED

WBSD SCORES HIGHLY IN STATE RANKING

West Bloomfield High School was ranked among the top 3 percent of public high schools in the state. Stacker compiled a list of the 30 best public high schools in Michigan using 2023 rankings from Niche. Niche uses seven weighted factors for its rankings. A majority of the score is based on academics but other factors include culture and diversity, sports, clubs and activities, resources, and surveys of parents, teachers, and students.

Image on front cover and in the ranking blurb are courtesy of WBHS senior Ari Saperstein.




CHOOSING YOUR PATH

Our school leaders will help you select the right learning mode for you or your student.

IN-PERSON COHORT

Students may join an in-person cohort meeting 2-3 times weekly on either Monday & Thursday OR Tuesday & Friday, as well as every other Wednesday.

DROP-IN

Qualifying students completing coursework from home may qualify for opt-in meet-ups only.

ALL ONLINE

Qualifying students can learn entirely from home, communicating with school staff via email and video only.

CERTIFIED TEACHERS

All courses have a highly qualified TLOC teacher attached for support.


ALL STUDENTS MUST MAKE WEEKLY CONTACT WITH TLOC STAFF TO REMAIN IN THE PROGRAM. THIS CAN BE COMPLETED VIA EMAIL, PHONE, OR IN-PERSON.

COURSEWORK

- Students will progress through courses at their own pace and begin each semester with 5 courses. Once a student completes those courses, more will be added depending on individual student needs.
- Once a course is open, it is expected that daily progress will be made and the course will be completed on or before the end date.
- Students will have access to in-person, virtual and email support from TLOC staff.
- Students will learn letter grades for each Initial Credit course and will receive a C for Credit Recovery courses indicating credit was earned, or an H indicating no credit if a course is not completed successfully.
- Students will move through courses according to an individualized schedule created with TLOC staff and supported by WBHS counselors.

Request Info or Enroll Now at [WBSD.org/TLOC](https://wbsd.org/TLOC)

Principal Morrison Borders
morrison.borders@wbsd.org
 (248) 522-3542



BAND INFORMATION

West Bloomfield High School band program is looking forward to another active year of rehearsals, performances, field trips, music making, memories, and friendships. The program includes robust offerings, including concert bands, marching band and jazz band. Last year students participated in countless honor bands, marching band trips, jazz performances and field trips to world-class performances across the state.

Twenty WBHS band students qualified for the State Solo and Ensemble Festival, and 13 earned Superior ratings at State! The Wind Ensemble participated in the Band and Orchestra Festival, and they earned a Division 1 (Superior) rating!

Many WBHS band students continue their musical endeavors at the college level and beyond! Also, Neel Kamath and Layla Sharif performed with the Detroit Civic Youth Ensembles, an elite program associated with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Congratulations also go to junior Skyla Rojas on her performance with the Wayne State University Honor Band.



WEST BLOOMFIELD PRESCHOOL ACADEMY

West Bloomfield Preschool Academy utilizes the HighScope curriculum, promoting active play and participation through indoor and outdoor educational experiences. Our intentional preschool spaces encourage many types of play across various interest areas. Furniture is arranged to establish visual boundaries and promote independence in cleaning up. Educators also provide materials that are appropriate for their students' developmental levels, can be used in a variety of ways, and reflect the experiences and cultures of the children in our program.



WBSD

'I VOTED' STICKER AWARDS

Three WBHS students' designs were among the top 25 in the high school category you could vote for in the state's first-ever Michigan I Voted Sticker Contest. The Michigan Department of State received more than 480 submissions. Our three students - Daniella Aldabbagh, Lyric Conway and Michelle Lekhtman - were in Bridget Falenski's beginning drawing classes at WBHS last year.



PROJECT SEARCH INTERNS ACHIEVE 100 PERCENT EMPLOYMENT

The entire cohort of interns at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital – West Bloomfield achieved competitive, integrated employment, meeting all the Project SEARCH criteria and for that our program was honored at the 17th Annual Project SEARCH Conference in Albuquerque, NM.

Project SEARCH is a school-to-work transition program that provides employment and educational opportunities to individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities. We are so grateful for all Leah Matisse and her team do to help Project SEARCH interns achieve success!



Project | SEARCH®

WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

13th Annual FAMILY FUN NIGHT



Saluting our U.S. Military, Police, & Fire Heroes



5 p.m. - FREE Fun Activities: Touch a Truck, Bounce Houses, Dunk Tank, Games, Fun, & More
6:45 p.m. - Opening Tribute Ceremony
7 p.m. - WBHS vs Chippewa Valley

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

Wear School Spirit Gear = Kids Enter Game Free



WEST BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

www.wbsd.org

BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES NEW DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

After a rigorous and comprehensive search process involving several rounds of interviews, on-demand performance tasks and an onsite visit in the West Bloomfield School District, **Dr. Jessica Cohen** rose to the top as an exceptionally qualified candidate for the role of director of student support services.

Jessica served as the director of student support services for the Brandon School District for the past two years. Prior to her work in Brandon, Jessica was the assistant director of student support services for Huron Valley Schools and a teacher consultant for the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools. Jessica has also been a self-contained teacher for students with emotional impairments and a resource room teacher during her 20-plus-year career in special education.

Jessica holds a Ph.D. in Special Education from Wayne State University, as well as her MA in Educational Leadership, and BS in Special Education and Psychology from Eastern Michigan University. Her extensive special education experience in Oakland County is a wonderful addition to our Student Support Services Department.

We look forward to her leadership as a member of the West Bloomfield School District team! She started July 1.



SUMMER CAMP AT DOHERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

For five weeks over the summer campers enjoyed outdoor play and indoor crafts and assemblies. Outdoor inflatables and activities were provided by Oakland County Recreation and onsite performances were provided by our friends at the West Bloomfield Public Library. Specialty camps included National Inventors Hall of Fame Camp Invention and Sunset Theatre's Alice in Wonderland.



SHINING STARS

Oakland County Community and Adult Educators hosted an award luncheon at Edgewood Country Club. Congratulations to the shining stars of WBSD Community Education & Adult Education, Bethany Helka and Dawn Hanford!

WBHS ALUM SPOTLIGHT ON Prashant Padmanabhan, Class of 2002

By Alicia Chase



Prashant Padmanabhan graduated from West Bloomfield High School in 2002 and went on to complete a bachelor's degree in engineering physics, a master's degree in electrical engineering, and a Ph.D. in Applied Physics from the University of Michigan. He then pursued postdoctoral research at the University of Cologne in Germany and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico, before becoming a staff scientist and principal investigator at LANL's Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies, a U.S. Department of Energy Office of Nanoscale Science Research Center.

Together with his team of graduate students and postdoctoral scientists, he works to explore the fundamental nature of how light and matter interact on timescales of less than a trillionth of a second. Prashant and his team focus on "quantum materials," where strong interactions between

charge, spin, orbital, and lattice degrees of freedom give rise to a multitude of "emergent" properties not found in other systems. Using ultrafast, femtosecond lasers spanning the terahertz to extreme ultraviolet regime, they work to uncover and control these properties with light, opening a route to faster and more energy efficient microelectronics to meet the world's growing technological needs.

HOW HAS WBHS HELPED PRASHANT ON HIS CURRENT PATH?

Prashant credits his success to the wonderful teachers who gave him the freedom to explore new concepts and ideas, conduct experiments and cultivate a love of science and mathematics. This, along with access to a wide array of AP courses, gave him a firm foundation that he was able to build upon as he pursued higher studies. WBHS is also where he learned how to work with others toward a common goal, a key element in managing a scientific research group. He fondly recalls long afternoons and evenings prepping arguments with the debate team, orchestrating political intrigue with the "Conflux" folks, and solving challenging coding bugs with the "Highest Wire" crew.

PRASHANT'S ADVICE FOR CURRENT WBHS STUDENTS:

"When I was in high school, I remember feeling like I needed to have everything figured out and understand everything perfectly on my own. That was my barometer for success. But as you grow, you'll realize that it's okay to not have all the answers. Part of maturing both professionally and personally is learning how to tackle the things you don't know and, most importantly, admit when you need help. Also, as cliché as it sounds, the key to success is finding the thing you are passionate about and working at it because it brings you joy. I think it's important to realize that it can take time to find that thing, and it's okay that you are still searching for it.

Do you know any West Bloomfield High School alumni you'd like to see in the spotlight? If so, please email alycia.chase@wbsd.org.

THE CUTTING EDGE OF ORTHODONTICS

New technologies are transforming the way orthodontists treat their patients

DRS. Nakisher, Herman and Rizk share the latest innovations in orthodontics and how they are revolutionizing their practice.

iTero Scanner: Say goodbye to the Goop!

The iTero Scanner is a state-of-the-art tool that takes 3D digital impressions of patients' teeth. Unlike traditional methods, the iTero scanner employs a handheld wand to take precise 3D scans, providing a detailed digital map of the mouth within minutes. At Nakisher Orthodontics, we are proud to use this technology to enhance our patients' experience by offering a comfortable and fast procedure that increases the accuracy of our diagnosis and treatment planning.

Invisalign: Custom, Discreet and Effective Treatment

Invisalign has revolutionized orthodontic treatment by providing a custom, discreet, removable alternative to braces. Invisalign uses a series of custom-made, clear aligners to gradually move teeth into their desired positions. Drs. Nakisher, Herman and Rizk use Invisalign to create a precise treatment plan to suit each patient's needs. Invisalign aligners are removed for eating, brushing and flossing,



promoting better oral hygiene compared to fixed braces. By combining advanced technology with patient-centric design, Drs. Nakisher, Herman and Rizk are able to provide excellent treatment outcomes, making effective tooth alignment more accessible and appealing to a wider range of individuals.

Precision and Personalization with LightForce 3D Custom Printed Braces

LightForce braces represent a significant innovation in orthodontics! Utilizing advanced 3D printing technology, Drs. Nakisher, Herman and Rizk can create fully customized orthodontic brackets tailored to each patient's unique dental anatomy. Unlike traditional braces, LightForce braces are custom designed based on a digital scan of the patient's teeth, ensuring a precise fit and optimal tooth movement. Using this personalized approach allows Drs. Nakisher, Herman and Rizk to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of their treatments, leading to improved patient comfort and shorter treatment time. LightForce braces are less noticeable, offering a more aesthetically pleasing option for patients seeking discreet orthodontic solutions. This combination of customization, precision and aesthetic appeal marks a transformative step forward in orthodontic care.



Dental Monitoring: Remote Treatment Management

Dental Monitoring (DM) systems represent a leap forward in patient care, allowing Drs. Nakisher, Herman and Rizk to track treatment progress remotely. Patients use a smartphone app to take regular images of their teeth. These images are used to monitor the patient's treatment progress, allowing our team to monitor our patients more closely and track issues like broken brackets and oral hygiene on a weekly basis. The Dental Monitoring platform facilitates better communication between patients and the Nakisher Orthodontics team, ensuring that any issues or concerns are addressed promptly.

Whether you have braces or Invisalign, Dental Monitoring is available for you! At Nakisher Orthodontics, the integration of Invisalign, 3D custom printed braces (LightForce Braces), and Dental Monitoring creates a comprehensive custom approach to orthodontic treatment that maximizes efficiency and patient satisfaction.

At Nakisher Orthodontics we offer complimentary consultations to address your individual needs. If you're considering orthodontic treatment or have questions about how these advanced options can help you achieve the smile you deserve, please call our office to set up your appointment with Drs. Nakisher, Herman and Rizk to start your smile journey today. Visit us at www.nakisherorthodontics.com or call our office at (248) 855-4142 Farmington Hills or (248) 363-2011 Commerce Township.

