



DIALOG DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JAN 2025



BOND UPDATE FOR THE COMMUNITY

With excitement and pride, we are happy to share the amazing progress that has been made on the 2021 voter-approved bond issue! The transformation of learning spaces throughout the district is nothing short of phenomenal!

With Phase 3 of the \$185 million bond wrapped up, the majority of the school renovations are now completed. The focus of the 2021 bond is to build from the facility improvements made possible by the 2013 bond issue, which brought our 1960s-era schools up to modern standards. Our remaining schools will be complete by fall 2026!

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KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Livonia Public Schools is eagerly anticipating the 2025-2026 school year. We can't wait to welcome our new class of kindergartners!

HOW TO REGISTER

Kindergarten registration opens March 3rd. (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, 2025, and we encourage families to adhere to state guidelines.

If you are uncertain which school your child will attend, please contact Registration at: registration@livoniapublicschools.org. Please include your home address when emailing or leaving a message.

PARENT MEETING

Livonia Public Schools will host an informational meeting for parents of incoming kindergartners on April 22, 2025. 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 ROUND UP

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 to step into the classroom before class begins. Times will vary based on schools.

Wednesday, May 21, 2025:

- Buchanan, Grant, Hayes, Kennedy, Randolph, Niji-Iro

Thursday, May 22, 2025:

- Cleveland, Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt, Rosedale

YOUNG FIVES

If your child has a summer birthday and may benefit from a strong foundation before entering Kindergarten, consider the Young Fives program! Young Fives Kindergarten is an educational program designed for children who turn five years old between July 1 and December 1. It bridges the gap between preschool and Kindergarten, providing an additional year of preparation for children who may benefit from more time before entering Kindergarten.

- Students attend five days a week, full day.
- No cost to families of eligible students.
- Location determined by enrollment projections and space at Elementary Schools.
- Before and after school care available at a cost (based on space availability).
- Days in-session and vacations follow the LPS school year calendar.
- School day includes specials - art, music, physical education, library, and STEM.

More information about the program is available at: www.livoniapublicschools.org/youngfives.

FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANDREA OQUIST

Happy New Year, LPS Community!

As we step into 2025, I am reminded that each new year brings with it opportunities for growth, challenges to overcome, and celebrations of all that we have achieved together. This moment, the beginning of a new year, allows us to pause, take stock, and look toward the future with great hope and focused determination.

As we reflect on the progress we've made, it is the continued success of our talented students and the dedication of our nearly 2,000 staff members that make me the most proud to lead our amazing school district.

Academic excellence remains at the core of our district's priorities, and it is clear that the hard work of our teachers, administrators, and support staff is paying off. Standardized test scores show a marked improvement in several content areas across grade levels. We are seeing the strongest academic achievement in our tri-county district rankings in over a decade and see the consistent, rigorous and relevant curriculum, instruction and assessment resulting in high levels of learning. We will not stop there, as every child learning at their highest potential is the goal! Key adjustments in curriculum alignment, learning intervention and assessment are in place, along with strong professional collaboration in order to better meet the needs of our students – and now, we are seeing the intended outcomes.

We are committed to ensuring that every student has the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

In addition to our academic achievements, we are also able to go into the new year celebrating the stabilization of our enrollment, which is holding steady at around 13,200 students. This is a positive sign of the long-term health and strength of Livonia Public Schools, as our community continues to choose us as the educational home for their children. We have seen only a minimal decrease in enrollment this year, compared to more than a decade of enrollment decline (mirroring statewide trends, due to declining birth rates). I believe this is a testament to the trust and confidence that families place in our schools, and a show of confidence by our community. We are grateful that you chose to entrust your child's education to Livonia Public Schools.

As we move forward into 2025, we will continue to focus on the things that matter most, our "core four" priority areas: student achievement, employee capacity, fiscal responsibility, and climate & culture. These core priorities guide us as we continue to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Our path forward is one of optimism and ambition. With the support of our incredible staff, families, and community partners, I have no doubt that we will continue to accomplish great things in 2025!

Here's to a new year full of possibility, progress, and continued success. Happy New Year, LPS!

With gratitude,



Superintendent Andrea Oquist



CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER OPEN HOUSE

The Livonia Career Technical Center will host 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 college credits and credentials that can be earned, as well as work-based learning opportunities that are available.

The Preview Night will be hosted at the LCTC on February 5th from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. If parking fills up in the Career Center's lot, additional parking can be found across the street at Churchill High School.

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



Thank you to Bill Brown Ford for the donation of two Mustangs to our Auto Tech class at the Career Technical Center!

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 2024-2025 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 staff members.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: KELLIE STARK

Kellie Stark is a 14-year educator in Livonia Public Schools, where she teaches art to more than 525 students at Coolidge Elementary School.

She engages students in art projects, environmental projects, art displays, contests, and school-wide activities. She even maintains a summer community garden on school grounds and hosts an annual river exploration project that brings nature to life for her students.

Kellie is a leader at Coolidge and at the district level. She shares her knowledge and passion with her colleagues. She also mentors new teachers, helps in hiring new art teachers, and provides consistent support to her colleagues across the district.

She believes in all students, and that art education is a pathway to building creativity, compassion, confidence, and critical thinking in her students.

SECONDARY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: GARY MANN

Gary Mann is a Criminal Justice teacher at the Livonia Career Technical Center, where he has been instructing future law enforcement professionals for the past six school years.

Gary is known as a leader and an instructor who has a deeply knowledgeable and approachable style of teaching. He goes above and beyond to support his students' future career goals by taking time to conduct mock interviews, offering assistance with professional connections, and providing unwavering support for his students. His teaching philosophy centers around respect – treating his students and colleagues the way he would want himself and his loved ones to be treated. He does not waver from this core belief and his students feel this commitment daily.

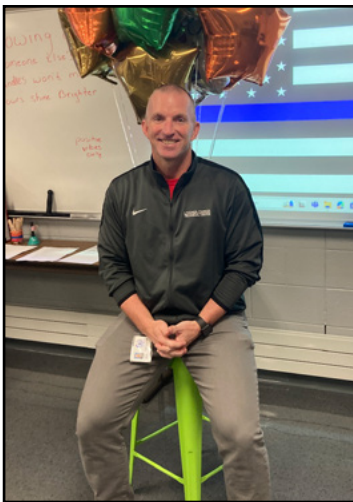
Gary is a retired police officer who has found his second career in teaching. He is working "his dream job" in the classroom, inspiring and supporting students who are on the path to becoming law enforcement professionals.

SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR: DAN ALESSANDRINI

Dan Alessandrini is a bus driver in the Livonia Public Schools Transportation Department, where he has skillfully transported students to and from school for the past five school years.

Affectionately known as "Mr. Dan," he was nominated for LPS Support Staff of the Year by several families. He drives bus routes for Kennedy Elementary, Johnson Upper Elementary, Frost Middle School and Churchill High School.

He is known as being kind, positive, professional, and someone who cares deeply about students in his care. He is quick with a smile, a small gift, or a friendly compliment to start students off on the right note each morning. Mr. Dan knows all students' names and intentionally builds relationships so they know they have a trusted adult who cares about them during their school day.





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Highlights of the 2021 bond include air conditioning in all schools, new kitchens, re-imagined Library Media Centers and Idea Factories in addition to safety/security enhancements and restroom renovations where needed. The expansion of the Livonia Career Technical Center with the addition of a state-of-the-art Robotics wing and the construction of the 70,000-square-foot Livonia Early Childhood Center on Newburgh Road near Six Mile round out the major 2021 bond projects.



“We could not be more pleased with the progress of our bond program,” said Phillip Francis, assistant superintendent for district services. “Working with Plante Moran Realpoint as our owner’s representative has been a great experience and has truly kept our projects on time and on budget over the past several years.”

Summer 2025 projects will include LMC and kitchen renovations at Buchanan Elementary, Grant Elementary, Johnson Upper Elementary and Churchill High School.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ **Air Conditioning**
- ✓ **School security enhancements**
- ✓ **Collaboration spaces**
- ✓ **Classroom furniture and equipment replacements**
- ✓ **STEM curriculum expansion**
- ✓ **Kitchen renovations**
- ✓ **Technology upgrades**
- ✓ **CTE program expansion**
- ✓ **Robotics program expansion**
- ✓ **Media center renovations**
- ✓ **Athletic facility and playground upgrades**
- ✓ **New Early Childhood Center**

PUBLIC NOTICES

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. Visit livoniapublicschools.org/publicnotices for the annual update and information.

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 lives within LPS boundaries in grades pre-K to 12th grade and you suspect a special need or disability, or you are an adult who may need accommodations or services as an individual with a disability, please contact the administrator at your child's school or the Student Services Department at 734-744-2524.

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. They include 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); 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 full policy at livoniapublicschools.org/publicnotices.

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.

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.

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 call 734-744-2535.

Nondiscrimination Policy

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. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and grievances for: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, and marital status - Director of Human Resources, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154 at (734) 744-2566. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and grievances for: handicap or disability - Director of Student Services, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154 at (734) 744-2524.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

School closure information is communicated through:

Our website:

www.livoniapublicschools.org

Social Media:

Facebook.com/LivoniaPublicSchools
and X @LivoniaDistrict

Phone/Email:

Be sure you have an updated email address and phone number on file so you will receive district notices

Local Media:

All local radio and TV news stations



Do you have a social media post you would like us to see?

Use #LIVONIAPRIDE or tag us on Facebook, X, and Instagram @livoniadistrict.



We update our District News regularly for our community! Check our website front page to see the monthly District Update, E-Backpack Mail, and more!

2024-2025 FOUNDATION CORPORATE DONORS

- AlphaUSA
- Bartos Distributing
- Bill Brown Ford, Inc.
- Blue Line Investigations
- The Celebration Station
- Chase Fidelity Holdings/John Rogin Buick—Livonia, Inc.
- Chick-fil-A
- Clark Construction
- Clark Hill PLC
- Community Financial Credit Union
- Community Choice Credit Union
- The Dance Academy
- Debbie Felton's Academy of Dance
- De-cal, Inc.
- DFCU Financial
- Feldman Chevrolet of Livonia
- Financial & Portfolio Advisors
- Flagstar Bank
- Foresite Designs, Inc.
- French Associates
- Great Lakes Power & Lighting Inc.
- Henry Ford Health Systems
- Himm Family Dentistry
- Interior Environments
- Lake Michigan Credit Union
- Larry's Foodland
- Livonia-Westland Chamber of Commerce
- Livonia Rotary Charitable Foundation
- LJAL
- LPS Employees and Retirees
- LPS PTAs/PTSAs
- Lutz Roofing Co. Inc.
- MacFarland and Co. Home Sales
- MacFarland Painting
- McGlinch & Sons
- Michigan Educational Credit Union
- Miller Johnson
- Nagle Paving Company
- NTH Consultants
- Omega Floors
- Perfection Vending
- Plante Moran Realpoint
- Roofing Technology Associates
- Rotary Club of Livonia – AM
- Roush Industries
- Scherz Insurance Group
- Schoolcraft College
- Sellinger Associates
- Simone Companies
- Sylvan Learning Centers
- TMP Architecture
- TRUE Community Credit Union
- Unified Building Systems Engineering, LLC
- UPS Store #3011

GRANTS PROGRAM DELIVERS, BIG TIME!

It was an epic year for the longstanding LPS Education Foundation Grants Program!

Through generous donations and fundraisers throughout the year, the Foundation was able to distribute a whopping \$50,000 in classroom grants to staff at 15 schools this year!

LPS employees are invited each year to apply for the grants to cover special projects, initiatives, classroom "extras" or supplemental learning materials. The grants will fund items such as a "sensory garden" at Cooper Upper Elementary, ukuleles for elementary music classes, books for classroom libraries, music literacy materials, STEM materials and so much more!

A huge thank you to the many LPS staff members and community members who generously contribute to this special effort! To learn more, visit www.lpsfoundation.org.



Livonia Public Schools
15125 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154

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Kindergarten registration opens March 3!

**BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY AT
WWW.LIVONIAPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG/REGISTRATION**

**Niji-Iro application window
will be open March 1-31**

Kindergarten Roundup

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**MAY 21-22, 2025
DETAILS WILL BE
PROVIDED BY SCHOOLS TO
REGISTERED FAMILIES**



Don't know your assigned school?

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



Young Fives

**For children age 5 between July 1 and
December 1, 2025
Registration begins March 3
For information, visit [www.
livoniapublicschools.org/youngfives](http://www.livoniapublicschools.org/youngfives)**

WWW.LIVONIAPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG