



## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

**Dennis Furton**

As the 2025 school year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the growth we've seen across our district—and to express my deep gratitude to the students, staff, families, and community members who made it possible.

This year, we've continued to raise the bar for student learning. Whether it's our enhanced student support systems, focus on climate and culture, or use of student performance data, our educators have worked tirelessly to challenge every learner and support them with care. We've seen students grow not just academically, but as leaders, teammates, and citizens—living proof of our commitment to educating the whole child.

We've also made progress on district goals that will shape the future of Spring Lake. Whether it was advancing curriculum work, upgrading our facilities, or strengthening partnerships with families, we've stayed focused on what matters most: student success.

Our community continues to play a vital role in that success. Thank you to our families for your partnership, encouragement, and trust. A special thank you to our many parent support organizations, including the Spring Lake Schools Foundation, parent clubs, and our various booster organizations for your steadfast support.

And thank you to our teachers, support staff, and administrators whose dedication anchors our schools each and every day.

In Spring Lake, we are big enough to challenge and small enough to care. That mindset has carried us through another meaningful school year—and it will continue to guide us as we look ahead. Wishing you all an exciting, fun-filled summer.





# BOND UPDATE

As we move into the busy summer months, construction projects across Spring Lake Public Schools are progressing steadily, bringing exciting improvements to our facilities that will benefit students, staff, and the entire community.

At the high school, the new safe & secure entry addition is taking shape and will soon provide a welcoming and modern space for our main office and counseling teams. This expansion will not only enhance functionality but also improve building security and accessibility for families and visitors.

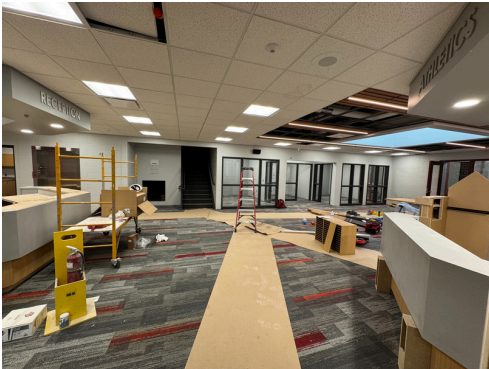
Out back, the much-anticipated fieldhouse has received a major milestone—installation of turf is complete. This versatile indoor space will serve as a year-round hub for athletics, physical education, and community events.

Meanwhile, two key projects are set to kick off during the summer: the media center and cafeteria renovations. The media center will be transformed into a more collaborative and flexible learning environment, while the updated cafeteria will offer improved flow, seating, and functionality to better serve students throughout the day, including after-school work spaces.

These upgrades are part of our district’s ongoing commitment to creating safe, modern, and student-centered spaces. We’re grateful for the community’s continued support and look forward to seeing the positive impact these improvements will have for years to come.

Stay tuned for more updates as construction continues—and thank you for providing such thrilling spaces for our future generations.

## OFFICE & LAC UPDATES



## MEDIA CENTER & CAFE RENDERINGS





## Research-Based Growth

### Kate Drake

School culture gurus Pete Hall and Alisa Simeral are known for the quote, “The more reflective you are, the more effective you are.” Reflection is vital to the world of education year-round, and especially as we conclude our school year.

A tool called the research-based Tiered Fidelity Inventory 3.0 provided the basis for reflection at each SLPS building this May. K-12 schools utilize a ‘TFI’ to drive continuous improvement through structured reflection and action planning. Teams assessed implementation fidelity across tiers of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) such as HEARTsmart and The Laker Way. Via the TFI, we celebrated efforts as well as identified growth edges. Each of our five buildings completed this process via a small representative team - which we hope to expand next year. Minimally, building principals, social workers and psychologists were present at each site to engage in the TFI.

Following the administration of this resource, buildings and school districts develop targeted action plans which address specific gaps and prioritize feasible, measurable steps. Our District Improvement Team also compared these responses with our student survey from this past Fall. Progress is monitored over time, fostering accountability and sustainability. This cyclical process empowers educators to pursue refinement of practices, promote equitable outcomes, and build a positive, proactive culture that supports both behavioral and academic success for all.



## Transitions to the Fall

At Spring Lake Public Schools, we believe that thoughtful transitions create confident students. Moving to a new building can be exciting—but also overwhelming. That’s why we’ve built intentional moments into our school year to help students feel supported, welcomed, and ready.

For our 4th graders, that journey begins with a special spring camp experience, this year at Camp Pandalouan. Before they officially merge into one class at the intermediate school, students from Holmes and Jeffers spend time together outdoors—building friendships, sharing in games, and learning that they’re part of a bigger community. It’s not just a fun memory; it’s a foundation.

In middle school, we prepare our 8th graders for the leap to high school with just as much care. Students are invited to a panel discussion where they can ask real questions of high schoolers and get honest, helpful answers. Then they eat lunch in the cafeteria—something simple, but often nerve-wracking—before doing it as a daily routine in the fall.

These experiences are more than events; they’re signals to our students that they are seen, supported, and not alone in the journey ahead. Transitions don’t have to be scary. At SLPS, they’re designed to be a bridge—built with care—toward the next step in the student journey.



THE CLASS OF 2033!



HS PANEL SPEAKS TO 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

# School Building Highlights Spring 2025

## High School

- Spring Lake High School proudly celebrated 216 graduates at Trinity Health Arena, surrounded by their proud families. The new venue proved to be a great success, and due to ongoing construction at the high school, the Class of 2026 will also graduate in Muskegon. You can mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

## Middle & Intermediate Schools

- The Detroit Pistons & Muskegon Lumberjacks sent representatives in to visit our students, increasing the excitement around the building. The Pistons focused on a simple message: gratitude! The Lumberjacks entered rooms at random to share stories with the students.

## Holmes Elementary

- Our work in the greenhouse--originally constructed in 2005 by generous donations--continues to bring smiles to everyone's faces. We teach about the plant life cycle and even added a compost pile this year, so students can understand more about the Earth and our relationship with it.

## Jeffers Elementary

- At Jeffers, the best thing that happened this Spring was the perseverance and commitment to finish the year strong by the students and staff! Jeffers focused on continuous growth, reviewed Spring data, set goals for the Fall and celebrated major accomplishments.

## From the Voice of a Teacher Mrs. Rebecca Kaufman

After 37 wonderful years of teaching and sharing my love for music with students, the time has come for me to step into a new chapter of life. My family and 3-month-old twin grandchildren are calling me.

Looking back on my career, I am filled with gratitude for the countless experiences that have enriched both my life and the lives of my students. Over the years, I have had the privilege of guiding thousands of young musicians, watching them grow in skill and confidence. From the early days of music exploration to watching my students perform on stage with passion and dedication, these moments have brought me immense joy and fulfillment.

The relationships I have built with my students, colleagues, and the school community have been one of the most rewarding aspects of my career. I have learned as much from my students as they have learned from me, and I am proud to have been a part of their journey.

As I move into retirement, I will carry with me the memories of countless community events, concerts, and the special moments when music brought us all together. While I am excited for what the future holds, I will always cherish the time I spent with Spring Lake Public Schools.

It has been a privilege to be a part of such a vibrant and dedicated community. I am confident that the music program in SLPS will continue to thrive and be the heartbeat of the community. I look forward to seeing the next generation of students flourish under the guidance of the next educator who will take on this important role.

MRS. KAUFMAN  
CONDUCTS HER  
STUDENTS IN A  
PERFORMANCE





## STUDENT SPORTS HIGHLIGHT

Chase Segaar has long been a name known to Spring Lake fans, thanks to his standout performances in both football and wrestling over the past four years. But this spring, the multi-sport senior added an unexpected and inspiring new chapter to his athletic story: track and field.

Encouraged by his football and wrestling coaches to give the sport a try, Chase joined the track and field team for the first time—and made an immediate impact. With just one season under his belt, he not only impressed with his raw talent and fierce work ethic but also earned a Division II scholarship to continue competing at Ferris State University.

Track and Field Head Coach Kelly Keefe called Chase's athleticism "total and complete," noting that he has the potential to become a decathlete at the next level. "There's no limit to what Chase can do," Keefe said. "His success is a testament to the kind of all-around athlete—and person—he is."

Chase's story is more than a sports achievement. It's a reminder of how trying something new can lead to unexpected rewards, and how encouragement from mentors can open doors that once seemed out of reach.

We congratulate Chase on this next step and look forward to seeing where his talents—and his drive—take him next.

CHASE SIGNS HIS  
LETTER OF INTENT TO  
RUN AT FERRIS



## Top 5 Athletic Highlights Spring 2025

1. Boys Volleyball wins first regional title in Spring Lake Public Schools history.
2. Track & Field earns all-state recognition in four events: Girls 4 x 200 relay, Girls 4 x 400 relay, Girls 300 M Hurdles, Boys Pole Vault.
3. Girls Tennis advances to states in back-to-back seasons which is the first time since the 2013 and 2014 seasons.
4. Boys Baseball wins their first conference championship in 11 years.
5. Girls Soccer captures their 9th consecutive district title.

Record Breaker! Tessa Britt sets a new school record for career home runs.

This year, 68% of the high school students participated in at least one sport—an impressive jump from 51% last year and 54% the year before. As the athletic department continues to evaluate the interests and desires of its students, it's encouraging to see such strong enthusiasm for competing. It is known that educationally-based athletics provide students with opportunities to grow in leadership, teamwork, dedication, integrity, perseverance, and so many other qualities that serve them well beyond high school.







ISLA ENGELHARD SINGS AS MISS HANIGAN



MARK GREVENGOED PREPARES THE BAND

## HONORING A LAKER LEGEND: SANDY CLARK

Spring Lake Public Schools mourns the passing of a true Laker Legend, Mrs. Sandy Clark. Over her remarkable 50-year teaching career, Sandy shaped thousands of lives with her warmth, wisdom, and wit.

Whether leading NHS, guiding yearbook students, or championing her colleagues, she gave everything to the Laker community.

Her steady voice, open door, and "Clarkbear" spirit will be deeply missed—but her legacy lives on in generations of grateful students and peers.



## FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT

### High School

- As the curtain closed on *Annie*, Spring Lake theatre students headed to Muskegon Community College's West Michigan High School Theater Festival, where they performed, exchanged feedback with peers, played improv games, and shared a meal.
- Mark Grevenkoed is this year's MSBOA District 7 Teacher of the Year.
- Bella Voce received a perfect score at this year's choral festival.

### Middle School

- The Middle School Choir participated in spring festivals and received top ratings at every entry.

### Intermediate School

- At the intermediate school, all 5th and 6th graders presented their musical education in a live ENCORE performance after a seven-week Vocal Music course.

### Jeffers Elementary

- From our second graders showcasing their art and research at John Ball Zoo to our fourth graders' successful Market Day—and everything in between—it's been an exciting and memorable spring at Jeffers!
- Since 2003, Mrs. Kaufman's 4th graders have performed with the West Michigan Symphony through Carnegie Hall's LinkUP! program.

### Holmes Elementary

- Holmes Elementary 3rd graders performed "Michigan, Our Michigan," demonstrating knowledge of Michigan history through joyous singing, acting, and public speaking. What an unforgettable team learning experience!



# CLASS NOTES

## GO LAKERS!

- **BRENDA BRITTON '80** is semi-retired from teaching; lives in Maryville, TN
- **ANNE BURNSIDE '04** has moved to Hesperia to start her dream farm business/homestead
- **JACOB LEE '06** along with **KYLE REYNOLDS '06** rebranded an old campground in northern Michigan in 2023. It is now called Winding River Campground, a rustic and family friendly campground with 1900 feet of Betsie River frontage. They are adding four yurts, three glamping pods and renovating their three cabins in 2025 to bring additional unique stay options to WRC
- **LEYSA RADER '06** is a Chef at Trinity Senior Living Communities; moved back to Spring Lake in 2023; Married Joe Montgomery in July 2024; two children, Arizona (2011) will be starting SLHS next year & Charlotte (2024)
- **CHELSEA BOOMGAARD '11** is a realtor in West Michigan with Five Star Real Estate; now lives in Grand Haven; one child, Aubree (2018)
- **AMY NISLEY (BERGY) '12** is a new parent of Miles Thomas (March 2025)
- **PADLEY GALLAGHER '13** is a Teacher & Varsity Volleyball Coach at Forest Hills Eastern; now lives in Rockford
- **MADISON ELDRED (NOVAKOSKI) '15** reports that Devon is a medical student at MSU and graduates in 2025 to begin residency; one child, Brewer (February 2025)
- **GRANT KIEFT '20** is an assistant golf course superintendent at Meadowbrook Country Club; now lives in Royal Oak

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