



JANUARY 5, 2026



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DETROIT EDISON PSA

PIONEER NEWS

Welcome Back, Pioneers!

We are excited to welcome our students and families back as we begin the next chapter of our school year. As Pioneers, we know that every day counts—when students are present and on time, they are able to fully engage in learning, build strong habits, and grow academically.

This quarter, our focus is on strong attendance, consistent effort, and high-quality academic work. Students will continue to engage in small-group instruction, meaningful discussions, and learning that challenges them to think deeply and take ownership of their work. When students show up ready to learn, great things happen.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting daily attendance, punctuality, and academic excellence. Together, we will ensure every Pioneer has the opportunity to succeed.

Winter Break Packets and Exact Path due this week!

To support continued learning during the winter season, students received winter learning packets aligned to state standards. These packets are designed to help your child review key skills and prepare for upcoming standards and high-stakes assessments.

Students who have picked up their school-issued technology are encouraged to complete Exact Path for at least 30 minutes each day in both Math and Reading. This targeted practice will reinforce classroom learning and support individual skill growth.

Students who complete their winter packets with quality and accuracy and consistently complete at least 30 minutes per day on Exact Path in both Math and Reading will earn free dress day passes as a reward for their effort and commitment to learning.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting student success at home.

Triple Threat of Illness as Schools Reopen

Metro Detroit is seeing an increase in flu, COVID-19, and RSV cases as students return to school after winter break. Health experts encourage families to take extra steps to help keep students and staff healthy during this time.

Please keep students home if they are sick or have a fever. Encourage frequent handwashing with soap and water, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding close contact with others when feeling unwell. Make sure students get enough rest, eat nutritious meals, and stay well hydrated. Regularly cleaning high-touch items such as water bottles, lunch containers, and backpacks can also help reduce the spread of illness.

To learn more, read the full article here: <https://share.newsbreak.com/glv1m49b>

Source: WXYZ Detroit 7 Action News



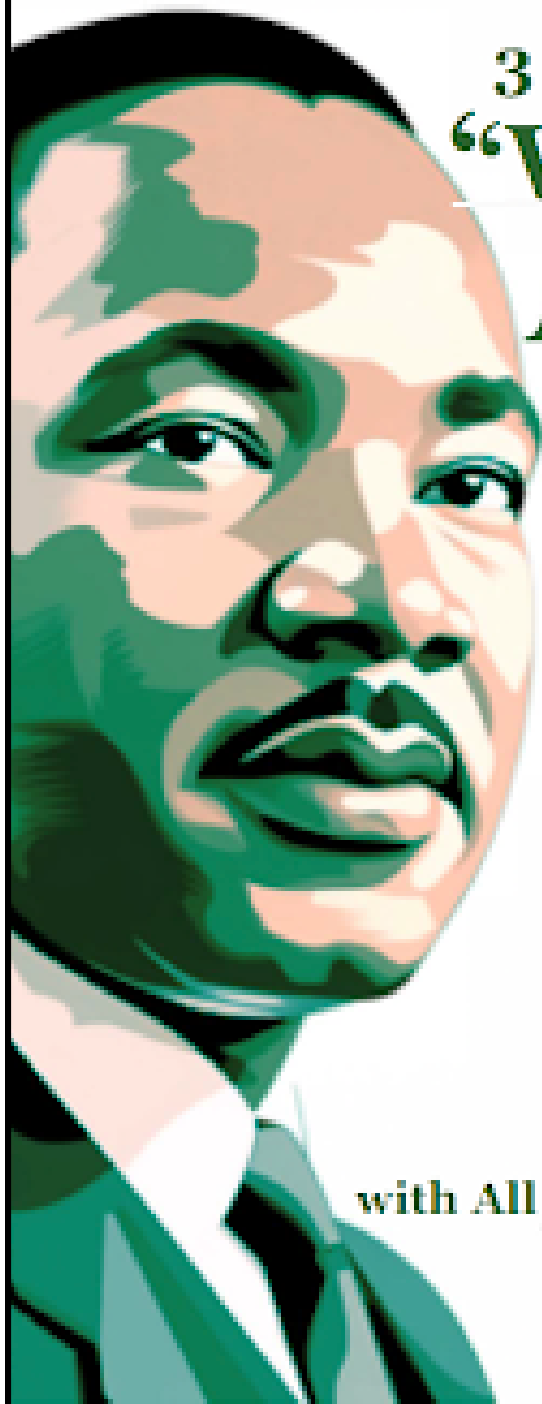
January						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 1.5 – Students return to school
- 1.19 - School Closed Dr. M.L. King Observances
- 1.30 - End of Quarter 2
- 2.12 - no school students - Data Day for staff
- 2.13-2.16 - Mid Winter Break
- 2.17 - return to school

February						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Tau Alpha Omega Chapter
Strengthen Our Sisterhood Committee in
collaboration with the Membership Committee



3^RD ANNUAL “WE ARE ONE”

AKA

Service DAY

Come join us for fun activities to celebrate MLK legacy! This is for K-3rd grade students and each will receive a goody bag with hats and gloves.

**Monday, January 19, 2026
10:00 am - noon**

**At University YES Academy
with All New Paradigm for Education Schools**

**14669 Curtis Detroit,
MI 48235**

Lynda Dandridge - President
Tammi Jennifer - Vice President & Program Chairman

Wenday Edwards - SoS Chairman

**Free Dress pass for K-3 students who attend this event.
Click [here](#) to sign up.**



Message from Mrs. Garvin, PreK Director

Pre-K Study: Exploring Light

Welcome back! We hope your Winter Break was restful and enjoyable. This week, our Pre-K classrooms are beginning an exciting new study focused on Light. Light is all around us and plays an important role in our everyday lives, it helps us see, stay safe, and learn about the world.

Throughout this study, children will explore natural light (such as sunlight and moonlight) and artificial light (such as lamps, flashlights, streetlights, and screens). They will observe how light is used in homes, schools, and communities and discover what happens when light is blocked, reflected, or shines through different materials.

What Children Will Explore

During the Light Study, children will investigate:

- What objects make light, and how we turn lights on and off
- How people use light at home, at school, and in the community
- What happens when light is blocked or shines through objects
- Which materials let light pass through and which do not

These hands-on investigations help children build vocabulary, problem-solving skills, and early science thinking.

How Families Can Support Learning at Home

You can support this learning by talking about light during everyday routines:

- Point out different lights in your home, outside, or in the car
- Turn lights on and off together and talk about why we use them
- Notice sunlight through windows or shadows on the ground
- Use a flashlight to explore what light shines through and what it does not

Simple conversations like these help strengthen your child's curiosity and understanding.



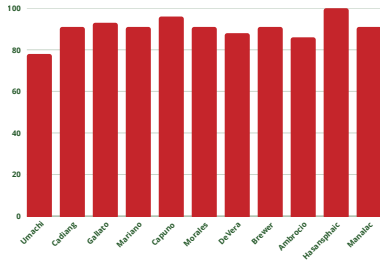
Pre-K Gallery





Message from Principal Withers

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed a joyful and restful winter break filled with warmth, laughter, and special moments with loved ones. As we begin the new year, we are excited to welcome our students back to school refreshed, recharged, and ready to learn. A new year brings new goals, new opportunities, and continued growth. Our teachers and staff are looking forward to supporting every child as we kick off the next chapter of the school year together.



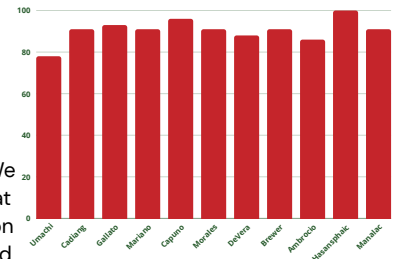
Goal: 95% Weekly Student Attendance

Kindergarten: 95% → 80%

1st Grade: 89% → 85%

2nd Grade: 88% → 91%

Last week, we've seen a drop in attendance for all grades. We understand it's the holiday weekend but it is imperative that students are in attendance. There is still valuable information that is needed for all students. Thank you for your continued support.



Reading Trends

Kindergarten: 95% → 83%

1st Grade: 95% → 94%

2nd Grade: 95% → 94%

Math Trends

Kindergarten: 95% → 83%

1st Grade: 95% → 94%

2nd Grade: 95% → 94%

COOPERATIVE CHALLENGE

Monday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to use a win-win solution. Before you work with a peer to find a win-win solution try to see things from the other person's point-of-view by stepping into their shoes. Envision what the experience is like for the other person and what may be driving their actions

Tuesday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to use a win-win solution. The next step to finding a win-win solution is to listen actively by looking at the person and removing distractions. To better understand where the other person is coming from, you need to listen effectively. When the other person is speaking, really listen to them. If you can, make eye contact with the other person.

Wednesday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to use a win-win solution. The third step of finding win-win solution is to ask open-ended questions. Get a sense of what the other person wants out of the compromise. You can figure out their goals and make them feel heard by asking open-ended questions. Such questions allow the other person to expand on their ideas.

Thursday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to use a win-win solution. The next step in finding a win-win solution is to state your feelings. The other person can't read your mind, so you have to be willing to state your needs. Asserting your needs includes speaking clearly and succinctly.

Friday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to use a win-win solution. Finally when finding a win-win solution, find common ground. Figure out the points on which you both agree. Doing so helps maintain a sense of cooperation on the issue. It also helps you come to some sort of agreement.

LET'S CELEBRATE





Message from Principal Dr. Peart

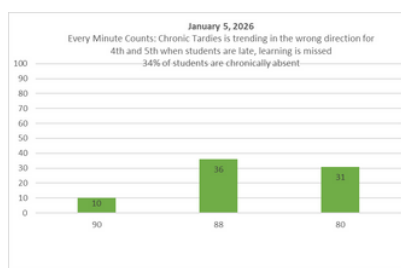
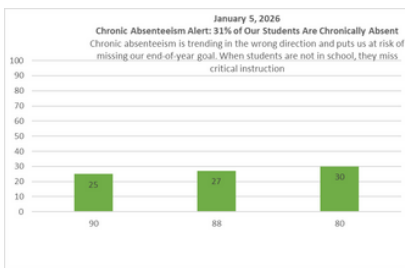
Welcome Back, Pioneer Families! SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL DAILY!

Welcome back! We are excited to begin this next part of the school year with you and your children. One of the most important ways families can support student success is by ensuring students attend school every day and arrive on time. Every day in school matters—when students are absent or late, valuable learning time is missed.

We also appreciate your continued support with our Read & Respond routine. When students read daily and thoughtfully complete their responses, they strengthen comprehension, build confidence, and grow as learners. This quarter, our focus is not just on completion, but on quality work—taking time to give thoughtful answers, show effort, and do their best work.

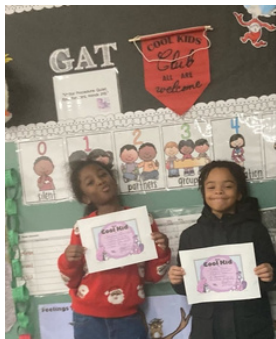
Our data shows that students who attend school consistently, complete Read & Respond, and focus on quality work make stronger academic progress. Thank you for your partnership in reinforcing these habits at home.

Together, we will continue to support every Pioneer's growth and success. With joy, we learn, lead, and succeed!



Teacher of the Month Class with the highest # of students who answered 50% of questions correctly on ANET

Cool Kids



Dr. Balyout



Ms. Bartolome



Ms. Mathis



HOMEWORK

Monday 1/5

Read & Response, C3 Homework

Tuesday 1/6

Read & Response, C3 Homework

Wednesday 1/7

Read & Response, C3 Homework

Thursday 1/8

Read & Response, C3 Homework

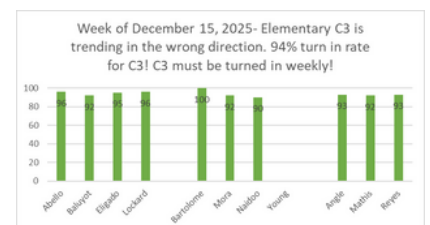
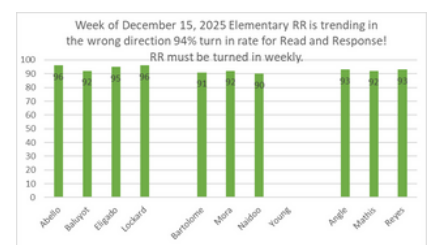
Friday 1/9

C3 & RR Due

Students are expected to complete homework by their classroom teacher along with their Reading (Read and Response and C3). Homework is due daily.

The goal is for each class to attain a 95% return rate on homework at the end of the week.

Homework will be checked EVERY DAY- thank you for helping your child build their work ethic by completing their homework every night.





Message from Principal Collins

Happy New Year!

Welcome back, families! We hope you enjoyed a restful holiday break filled with time to recharge and reconnect. As we return to school, we are refocusing on high expectations, daily preparation, and a strong dedication to learning so every scholar continues to grow academically and personally.

At DEPSA-Junior Academy, excellence is the standard. This means students are expected to:

- Arrive on time and prepared each day with required materials
- Engage fully in instruction, participate respectfully, and stay focused
- Complete assignments with effort and care
- Take ownership of their learning and academic progress

Consistent preparation and effort lead to measurable growth. When students are organized, focused, and committed to their studies, we see stronger outcomes in reading, math, and overall classroom performance. Families play a critical role in this success. We ask for your continued partnership by:

- Checking backpacks, planners, and devices daily
- Encouraging students to complete homework and independent reading
- Reinforcing the importance of effort, responsibility, and perseverance

Together, we will ensure that every student returns ready to learn, grow, and finish the school year strong. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our scholars' success!

DEPSA is an International Baccalaureate School



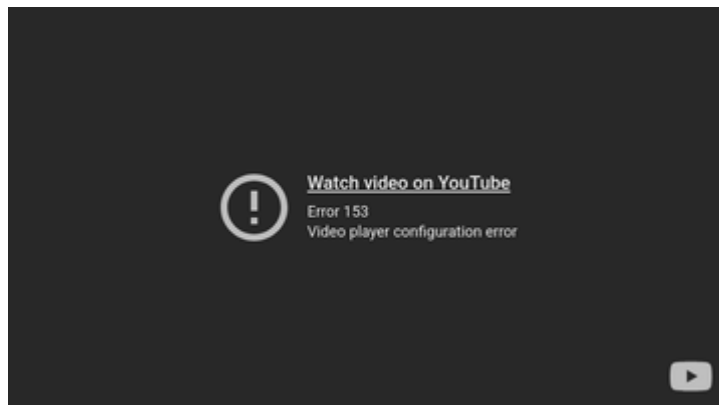
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IB trait: Reflective

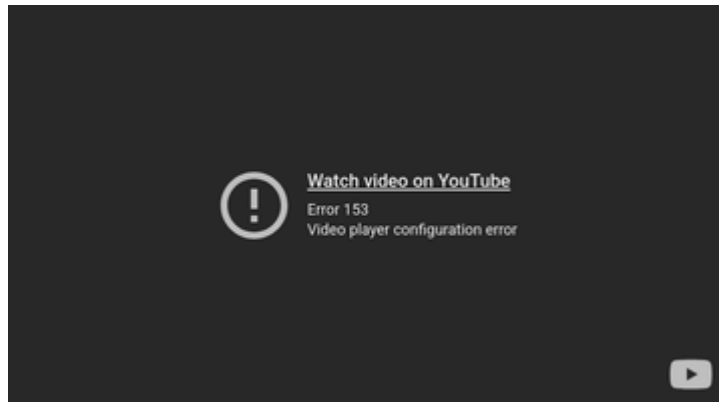
Reflective means I think about my learning, my choices, and my behavior.

I notice what I did well, what I need to improve, and I use that thinking to do better next time.

”



Organization for Middle Schoolers





DEPSA HIGH SCHOOL MISSION BRIEFING PARENT AND FAMILY NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM MR. BLACKBURN

HELLO DEPSA FAMILIES,

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME BACK! AS WE BEGIN 2026, OUR FOCUS IS CLEAR: STARTING THE YEAR STRONG BY PRIORITIZING DAILY ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS. BEING PRESENT, ON TIME, AND PREPARED EACH DAY IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEPING STUDENTS ON TRACK TOWARD THEIR GOALS.

WE ASK FAMILIES TO CONTINUE REINFORCING OUR CORE EXPECTATIONS WITH STUDENTS: ARRIVE ON TIME WITH REQUIRED MATERIALS, ENGAGE FULLY IN INSTRUCTION, PARTICIPATE RESPECTFULLY, STAY FOCUSED, COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS WITH EFFORT AND CARE, AND TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THEIR LEARNING AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS. THESE HABITS ARE CRITICAL TO STUDENT GROWTH AND LONG-TERM SUCCESS.

ALSO, WE ARE ADDING AN ADDITIONAL PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE DAY. TEACHERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 3:45 TO 5:00. PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW TO SIGN UP TO MEET WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER.

IF THIS TIME DOES NOT WORK FOR YOU, PLEASE CONTACT THE TEACHER DIRECTLY TO SCHEDULE A TIME BETWEEN 7:30 AND 8:10 A.M. OR 3:20 AND 4:00 P.M. THIS WEEK.

SPECIAL DEPSA SHOUTOUT: WE ALSO WANT TO GIVE A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO DEPSA ALUM RICKEA JACKSON OF THE WNBA'S LA SPARKS FOR BEING HONORED AT DEPSA WITH HER JERSEY RETIREMENT. RICKEA CONTINUES TO REPRESENT OUR SCHOOL AND OUR CITY WITH EXCELLENCE, AND THE IMPACT SHE IS MAKING ON THE GAME OF BASKETBALL IN DETROIT AND BEYOND IS TRULY INSPIRING. WE ARE PROUD OF YOU! KEEP UP THE AMAZING WORK!

ONE TEAM. ONE MISSION.

UPDATES

- PARENT CONFERENCES: 1/7/2026

EVENTS/ GAMES

1/6-Tuesday

- 5:30 pm vs @Hamtramck BBasketball (JV),
- 7:00 pm vs @Hamtramck BBasketball (Varsity),
- (HOME) 5 pm vs. Hamtramck GBasketball (Red),

1/7-Wednesday

- 3:30 pm Bowling vs. Summit @Skore

1/8-Thursday

- 3:30 pm Bowling vs. Melvindale @Bonanza

1/9-Friday

- (HOME) 5:30 (JV) /7 pm (Varsity) Chandler Park Basketball
- 5:30 pm @Chandler Park (Red) GBasketball

HEALTH UPDATE

TRIPLE THREAT OF ILLNESS AS SCHOOLS REOPEN

- METRO DETROIT IS SEEING AN INCREASE IN FLU, COVID-19, AND RSV CASES AS STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER WINTER BREAK. HEALTH EXPERTS ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO TAKE EXTRA STEPS TO HELP KEEP STUDENTS AND STAFF HEALTHY DURING THIS TIME.

HELPFUL REMINDERS FOR FAMILIES:

- PLEASE KEEP STUDENTS HOME IF THEY ARE SICK OR HAVE A FEVER. ENCOURAGE FREQUENT HANDWASHING WITH SOAP AND WATER, COVERING COUGHS AND SNEEZES, AND AVOIDING CLOSE CONTACT WITH OTHERS WHEN FEELING UNWELL. MAKE SURE STUDENTS GET ENOUGH REST, EAT NUTRITIOUS MEALS, AND STAY WELL HYDRATED. REGULARLY CLEANING HIGH-TOUCH ITEMS SUCH AS WATER BOTTLES, LUNCH CONTAINERS, AND BACKPACKS CAN ALSO HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS.
- TO LEARN MORE, READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE: [HTTPS://SHARE.NEWSBREAK.COM/GLV1M49B](https://share.newsbreak.com/glv1m49b)

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE FULL HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER](#)

