THE WHY BEHIND

Constantine Public Schools



THE WHY

Constantine Public Schools

GET INVOLVED

One thing I see differently than other high schools is the connection we have with the community. Art Club works closely with the village office in joint activities. We work closely with the Brainstormer Committee to help plan and carry out activities to promote safe and enjoyable environment. We have been given the opportunity to become involved at the ground level of projects that have become annual events. Art Clubs in other high schools in Michigan are isolated, based on my work with the Michigan Art Education Association.



Ms. Brueck Constantine Public Schools Art Teacher

FALCON PRIDE



snapshot

Pupil/Teacher Ratio	21 to 1
Revenue per pupil	$9,879
Foundation Allowance per pupil	$8,111
1,483 Students	K-12
Instructional Expenditures	$5,572
Counselors in all buildings	4
Alternative Education Experience	Constantine Tech
College Prep Classes	Core Subjects
Expanded AP Classes	Core Subjects
STEM Curriculum	6 - 7 Grade
Bio-Medical STEM	8 - 12 Grade
Dual Enrollment	Glen Oaks Community College
CTE Host	Welding & Culinary
Host College Courses	Glen Oaks Community College
Intervention Classes	Core Subjects
Test Prep Courses	High School
1 to 1 District	Pre-Kindergarten - 12th grade
High School Graduation Rate	98%
Academic ALL State Teams	22
Honors Classes	Core Subjects
Percentage of teachers with 3 or more years experience	
97% - State avg: 92%	

The Center Of AWESOMENESS

2 hours to downtown Chicago
2.5 hours to Detroit
3 hours to Indianapolis
1.5 hours to Fort Wayne



30 minutes to Kalamazoo
40 minutes to South Bend
75 minutes to Grand Rapids

LESS than an hour to Lake Michigan

Yet you can live in a quiet, peaceful, small community that has people who care about others, a great school system, wonderful traditions and history and is the seed corn capital of the world!

Constantine Public Schools
Alumni Spotlight



Dr. Megan Rodewald, 2013 Constantine High School graduate, earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy in May 2020 from Ferris State University College of Pharmacy with High Distinction. Megan began her undergraduate studies in August of 2013 in the Honors Program, and her graduate studies in August of 2016 at Ferris State University. During her time at Ferris, Megan received both the Provost and Dean's Scholarships. In addition, she was also one of five recipients of the University's Rising Star Award and one of two recipients of the Above and Beyond Award. Megan was very active in her college career serving on the College of Pharmacy Class of 2020's Executive Board, a member of the College of Pharmacy's Dean's Advisory Board, was a research assistant in the University's research department, and enjoyed her time in the Student Alumni Gold Club.

Her professional memberships include the American Pharmacist Association, American Society of Health System Pharmacists, Michigan Pharmacists Association, and Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society.

Megan is currently completing her Post Graduate Year One residency at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo Michigan. She is pursuing a Post Graduate Year Two residency to specialize in emergency medicine.

THE WHY

Constantine Public Schools

Constantine Public Schools School Resource Officer



When I told my grandmother I was entering the police academy she only had one question, "Why?" I, unfortunately, really didn't have a good answer. I was going because my then boyfriend, Brian, was going. I had just graduated from Saginaw Valley State University with my bachelor's degree and really had nothing else going on.

My first law enforcement job was with the Portage Police Department where I worked for ten years. I left to take care of my infant daughter and returned to police work, two years later, at the Constantine Police Department. I took on the role of School Resource Officer in 2008 and worked road patrol. I left Constantine in 2016 and went back to the Portage Police Department. In 2018 I was asked to come back, full-time, as the resource officer for Constantine.

When I was first working in the schools in 2008 it was for only one day a week. When I was asked to come back it was going to be a full-time salaried position. I thought the contract sounded amazing. I would have the same days off as school staff and students and wouldn't have to work road patrol. I soon realized this position wasn't going to be the cake walk I thought it would be. I have never been busier in my career since taking on this role.

It is not uncommon to receive one to three new cases a day. I also have the honor of teaching five days a week and my day doesn't usually end at 1530 hours. After school is reserved for conducting interviews and follow-up on the cases I am handling. I then bring work home to read over casefiles, type reports or to prepare lessons.

I check on students who are remote that we haven't heard from in a while. All during our shutdowns my other roles have been to bring families hotspots, food, conduct welfare checks, bring books; whatever the families needed to be successful. I was out in the field, usually with then Riverside counselor, Crystal Lafler, checking on our students. It was not uncommon to put in ten hour days traveling to multiple homes. I never realized how large our district was until I had to drive to Cass, Jones, Marcellus, Three Rivers, Edwardsburg, White Pigeon…

I try and handle any reports that involve our students even if the venue is not in Constantine. I do this as I know our students and I know our families. A lot of these cases are major crimes with investigations of abuse (sexual and physical), neglect, drug use, and more. These investigations tug at my heart as I know these children and this creates sleepless nights. I want to make sure our students are safe and I work closely with child protective services and prosecutors in Cass and St. Joseph County.

I am grateful to work for a community that I hope trusts me and trusts the work I do. I often hear from other police officers, "I would never work as a School Resource Officer (SRO)." This job isn't for everyone and currently, I am the only SRO in St. Joseph County. When I think back to my grandmother's question of, "Why?" I would now be able to give her a better answer, "I am going to work as a police officer because through all the hard work, tears, hate, and pain I have witnessed, I know there is a light. That light is the hope that bit by bit I can make a difference." Officer Holly

SCHOOL COUNSELOR In EVERY School Building

Sara Russell, School Counselor
Constantine High School
srussell@constps.org
P: (269) 435-8920

Mary Reynolds, School Counselor
Eastside Elementary
mreynolds@constps.org
P: (269) 435-8960

Tara Marks, School Counselor
Riverside Elementary
tmarks@constps.org
P: (269) 435-8950

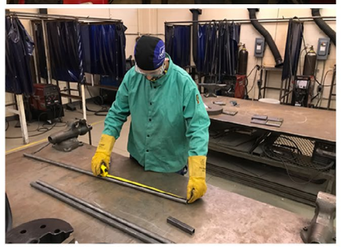
Megan Sorensen, School Counselor
Constantine Middle School
msorensen@constps.org
P: (269) 435-8940

THE WHY

Career Ready

We Host Welding







Constantine welding is part of the CTE program in St. Joe County that is partnered with SMC for the curriculum and instructor.

Students receive college credits from SMC for Welding Courses, Math Courses, and Metallurgy Courses. Students can also earn an AWS(American Welding Society) Sense certification.

We teach them welding and how to use most common weld/fabrication shop equipment.

Our student success has been extremely high with a large percentage of former students working in industry. Pipe Fitters, Burr Oak Tool, Armstrong, JCR off road, Fox racing, and American Axle to name a few.

CTE Offerings

All CTE classes in St. Joseph County can be used to meet or "in lieu of" certain Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) requirements as long as the student is a completer in the class. The MMC sets the "minimum" graduation requirements for students in Michigan. Note, however, each local district in the State sets its own graduation requirements, which may be higher than the MMC requirements.

Career & Technical Education

AgriScience
Automotive Technologies
Computer-Aided Design Coding & Gaming CyberSecurity & Networking
Construction Trades
Graphic Design
Manufacturing 4.0
Marketing
Medical Occupations
Welding Technologies

Expanding Education

1. Biomedical STEM
2. Host Dual Enrollment
3. Culinary CTE Program
4. Systems Strength Program
5. Portrait of a Graduate

SCHOOL OF CHOICE
Be Part of the Falcon Nation!
SCAN ME
CONSTANTINE
Alumni
Falcon Nation!
We want to connect with YOU!
Please fill out this contact form:
https://forms.gle/i6wSRSHUSSxQPXFT6

Middle School Courses

6th Grade Core - required
- English Language Arts 6
- Social Studies 6
- General Science 6
- Math 6
- Advanced Math 6th grade

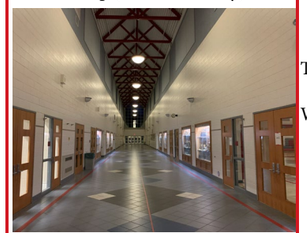
7th Grade Core - required
- English Language Arts 7
- Social Studies 7
- General Science 7
- Math 7
- Advanced Math 7th grade

8th Grade Core - required
- English Language Arts 8
- United States History 8
- General Science 8
- Math 8 or Algebra I (HS credit)

Middle School Electives

6th Grade Electives
- Reading Lab/Math Lab
- Physical Education
- Health
- Band
- Choir
- Art
- Digital Citizenship
- CS First Scratch Programming
- Bio-Medical STEM

7th/8th Grade Electives
- Reading Lab/Math Lab
- Physical Education
- Fit for Life
- Band
- Choir
- Art
- Computer Science Discovery
- Web Design and Development
- Computer Systems (Robotics)
- Speech and Drama
- Michigan History
- Bio-Medical STEM
- Science Exploration
- Creative Writing
- Alternative Literature
- Current Events
- Woodshop (8th Grade Only)



COLLEGE READY THROUGH CTE

Dual Enrollement Glen Oaks Community College

Agriscience 1 & 2
- Production Agriculture

Automotive Technologies 1 & 2
- Intro to Automotive
- Braking Systems
- Suspensions

Computer-Aided Design 1 & 2
- Computer-Aided Drafting
- Advanced CAD
- 3D Solid Modeling

Coding and Gaming 1 & 2
- Computer Science I
- Introduction to JAVA

CyberSecurity & Networking 1 & 2
- Computer Technician Essentials
- Computer Repair Essentials

Introduction to Networking
- Network Security

Graphic Design 1 & 2
- Intro to Graphic Design
- Image Manipulation
- Digital Illustration
- Color Theory
- Beginning Photography
- Advertising

Marketing 1 & 2
- Introduction to Business
- Concepts of Word Processing Level II
- Presentation Graphic & Publishing
- Principals of Marketing
- Concepts of Spreadsheet Level 1
- Advertising

Medical Occupations 1 & 2
- Medical Terminology
- Medical Ethics
- Disease Conditions
- Medical Assistant Clinicals

Welding 1 & 2
- Basics of Welding
- Oxyacetylene Welding
- Cutting Process
- Shielded Metal Arc Welding

Dual Enrollment Southwestern MI College

Construction Trades 1 & 2
- Intermediate Construction Practices
- Construction Math
- Print Reading for Construction Trades
- Possible Internships

Welding 1 & 2
- Beginning Welding
- Construction Math
- Thermal Cutting Processes
- Weld Fabrication & Maintenance

THE WHY

Career Ready

AP CollegeBoard Advanced Placement Program

The Advanced Placement Program® is a nationally recognized program that has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, while still in high school.

AP Biology A & B – 11th or 12th grade

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes — energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. This course requires that 25 percent of the instructional time will be spent in hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry based investigations that provide students with opportunities to apply the science practices.

AP Language & Composition A & B – 11th or 12th grade

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.

AP Literature and Composition A & B – 12th grade

The AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level literary analysis course. The course engages students in the close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

AP US History A & B 11th or 12th grade

In AP U.S. History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migrationand settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures.

AP Spanish Language and Culture A & B 11 or 12th grade

Develop your Spanish language skills and learn about the cultures in Spanish-speaking parts of the world. You'll practice communicating in Spanish and study real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books.

CLUBS

- National Honor Society
- Student Senate
- Equestrian Club
- CHS Art Club
- Quiz Bowl
- Science Olympiad Team
- Robotics
- Youth In Government
- Falcons for Christ
- Trap shooting Club
- SWORDS – board games
- Tennis
- Ski Club
- Interact
- Prom Committee
- Others pending student interest
- Drama
- Yearbook
- GSA

High School Electives

9th Grade
*ALL electives are yearlong
- Art
- Beginning Woods
- Computing Systems (Robotics can take every year)
- Band (can take every year)
- Choir (can take every year)
- Spanish I (teacher recommendation)
- PE/Health
- Strength Program

10th Grade
*Addition to the 9th grade electives:
- Advanced Art
- Broadcasting & Social Media
- Spanish II
- Machine Woods
- Lifetime Fitness
- Media/Content Creations
- Mythology
- Test Prep
- Current Events
- Forensic Science
- Strength Training
- AP US History

11th Grade
*In addition to the 9th and 10th grade:
- AP Biology
- Physics
- Advance PE
- Independent Woodshop
- Dual Enrollment (HS & college credi)
- Civil Rights
- Zoology
- Oceanography
- Astronomy
- Ecology
- Creative Writing
- AP Spanish

12th Grade Electives
- Elementary Mentoring
- Student Aide
- Independent Art
- Internship
- Senior Math choices
- Consumer Math
- Strength Training
- CTE
- PreCalculus
- Calculus or College Algebra
- Media and Creation



High School Courses

- English 9
  - College Prep English
- English 10
  - College Prep English
- English 11
- English 12
- AP Language & Composition
- AP Literature
- Focus Health
- Spanish I
- Spanish II
- AP Spanish
- Pre-Algebra
- Algebra I
  - Honors Alegbra I
- Algebra II
  - Honors Algebra II
- Geometry
  - Honors Geometry
- Consumers Math
- Pre-Calculus
- College Algebra
- Intro to Statistics
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
- Bio-medical Science
- AP Biology
- Earth Science
- Forensic Science
  - Anatomy
  - Physiology
- Civics
- U.S. History & Geography
- AP U.S. History
- World History & Geography
- Economics
- Course offerings could change

Dual-Enrollment at Constantine

Constantine High School is offering 2 dual-enrollment math classes: College Algebra 151 and Statistics 201 taught by our resident Math Instructor, Ms. Brezden. The classes have been so successful, that CHS and GOCC are looking to possibly expand their offerings next year to include Finite Math 117, Math Concepts for Elementary Teachers 105, or Intermediate Algebra 104. Current students who took College Algebra last semester and Statistics this semester had this to say "It is very beneficial to take it now than have to pay tuition at the college level," stated Kylie Roberts. Ty Dumm mentioned, "I think it's great that the teacher is at our HS so when we need help, she's at our disposal." Also, Hannah Outlaw and Kenzie Fenner both agreed that "It is convenient and we don't have to drive."

THE WHY THE WHY

Community

Constantine's Falcon Nation honors Doc Zimont



By: FOX 17 NewsPosted at 2:25 PM, Jan 09, 2021 and last updated 12:05 AM, Jan 10, 2021

CONSTANTINE, Mich. — The family at Constantine High School saluted one of its favorite people Saturday morning. Led by a busload of football players, the community, parents and alumni conducted a drive-by pep assembly for Doc Zimont, who has provided support for the school's student-athletes for more than 60 years.

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Photo by: Don Perry
Doc Zimont is surrounded by loved ones during Saturday's event in Constantine. FOX 17 WEST MICHIGAN

"Yes, 60 years," said Constantine Public Schools superintendent Jim Wiseley. "For 60 years Doc Zimont paced our sidelines, sat in our bleachers, worked on our diamonds and supported our students. Doc also gave 60 years' worth of free physicals to our student-athletes. He is the center of our Falcon Nation. Doc Zimont is still a resident of the City of Constantine and can still be seen at events.



"In the last week, we have learned that his health is failing fast," said Wiseley. "We are not sure how long he will be with us."



Constantine's varsity football team played in the regional championship game at Gull Lake later Saturday. Wiseley said it was "a game Doc would normally attend, but with failing health he is forced to stay at home."

Wiseley said that's why "the Falcon Nation will travel to him and show the respect and school pride he has given our district over the years." The vehicles met at Eastside Elementary School and passed by Zimont's house with signs and honking horns. "UPDATE: Doc passed away peacefully at home on January 11, 2021"

CONSTANTINE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Is a geographic affiliate of the Sturgis Area Community Foundation, is currently accepting grant proposals from qualifying entities (501c3 organizations; public schools and governmental units) for its 2021 Spring grant period. Areas of focus for the Constantine Area Community Foundation include: improvement of living and working conditions for the citizens of the Constantine area; youth and recreation; public, educational, charitable or benevolent purposes; and care of the elderly. The group welcomes applications from all community non-profit organizations. Interested applicants may apply for the Constantine Competitive Grant at:
https://www.sturgisfoundation.org/grants.

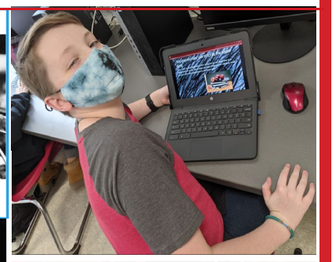
SACF's/CACF's 2021 Scholarship Application opens on January 15, 2021. The application deadline for Sturgis High School seniors is March 26, 2021. All other applications are due by April 2, 2021. If you have questions about scholarships, please contact us at:
scholarships@sturgisfoundation.org.
To apply please go to:
https://www.sturgisfoundation.org/scholarships.

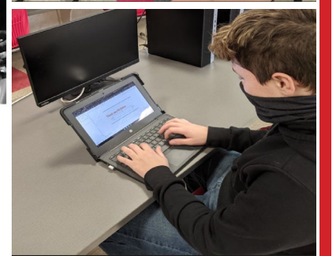


CMS Computers and Robotics Students Remember Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.



On the Friday before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, students taking computer and robotics classes at Constantine Middle School began looking at various websites dedicated to the life and the achievements of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. After having a class discussion about him and what he was able to achieve, students were asked to create a list of his characteristics. Over the weekend they thought about someone they knew (or knew of) who shared those same characteristics.





On Monday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, students create a thank you presentation for the person they thought of over the weekend, focusing the content of their thank-you on those traits that they first identified in Rev. King. It was emphasized to them that showing gratitude and appreciation for someone is an excellent way of showing them respect, one of our district's core values. Mr. Thelen

Learning is Fun!







RAISING MONEY FOR THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION! Grades K-5th. We have raised over $100,000 over the years!





Be part of the Falcon Nation School of Choice

KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS ARTS AND CRAFTS! AND YES SANTA!!!





Constantine Winter Olympics! Grades 3rd-5th















Eastside Elementary

Eastside Mission Statement
The mission of Eastside Elementary is to provide a safe, engaging environment with opportunities to grow, while having high expectations and building positive relationships for student success.



Eastside Vision Statement
The vision of Eastside Elementary is to empower students to become collaborative learners through discovery and exploration.

Eastside Belief Statement
Eastside Staff seeks to recognize individual differences among students, to stimulate achievement and progress, not only in basic skills, but in the ability to think independently as well as critically. There is a strong emphasis placed on an effective relationship between home, school and the community. The staff at Eastside Elementary is committed to the implementation of our curriculum which is based on high expectations and opportunities for ALL students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

School Climate:
Our school has a warm welcoming atmosphere. From outside to inside, this atmosphere is dedicated to our students, families, and community. We put families first and will support needs based on any circumstance. Our receptionist speaks Spanish and is very knowledgeable about any questions you may have.



FALCON NATION CORE VALUES

RISE UP!

Cleanliness and safety are our first priorities. We have a full time custodian during the day for all our immediate needs. She implements the CDC cleaning standards in our building. Eastsiders practice drills frequently. We work with our Constantine Fire and Constantine Police departments to make things safe for our students, staff, and any visitors. Our district has a resource officer---We implement CORE VALUES District wide. Students learn about our CORE VALUES: Respect, Integrity, Effort, Encourage, and Confidence. We recite a value pledge everyday on our announcements. As a PBIS school-students are given Falcon Feathers as they are caught demonstrating these values. Once a month, students get to spend their feathers at the Falcon Nest store for tangible and intangible rewards. We also strive for a school-wide reward at the end of each grading period. Students collect a large number of feathers to earn the reward activity. We honor students for academic, social, and behavioral goals during our monthly award assemblies.

Cohesive Staff:
Our highly qualified experienced staff is passionate about students and learning. They go above and beyond to determine what students need and how to differentiate instruction. They work together in teams to brainstorm ideas and strategies. Our staff is committed to continuous growth. We make reflections about our teaching, seek professional development based on best practices, implement creative out of the box strategies, we assess and continually collaborate to keep growing our learners.

Eastside's principal is an alumna of Constantine High School. Her love for this community is why she came home. Her hope is to give back as a way of thanking this community for all they provided for her to become who she is today.

Student Support

We have a full time counselor that is an alumna of Constantine. She is proactive with students by administering wellness and needs surveys. She uses the information to provide many different individual or group opportunities. The most popular is New Friends Friday. She helps provide services both inside and outside of our school and can make referrals to local agencies. She heads up our district backpack program and is currently our district homeless liaison.

START Statewide Autism Resources & Training www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter

Our full time Special Education teacher has participated in state-wide START training for students that experience Autism. She works closely with our ISD; holding case conferences, writing IEPs with measurable student goals, conducts push in and pull out instruction, progress monitors goals and writes behavioral plans. She holds a breakfast bunch group and organizes our Check In-Check Out program.

Our Title Teacher is an alumna from Constantine. She assists SAT (Student Assistance Team) to create small intervention groups for Title 1 services and for WIN (What I Need) groups. Research based programs are used to enhance growth of our low learners, English as a Second Language students, and our at-risk students. She helps build the foundational skills for learning to read and math concepts. She is our test coordinator for NWEA and KRA.

Special Programs:
The purpose of Eastside Clubs is to provide a way for student-student and student-teacher relationships to form over common interests, passions, talents, and activities while bringing the outside world into the four walls of our school building.
Clubs will allow our students to connect to things outside of the "typical" school experience and connect with YOU as you share your passions and hobbies with them!

Eastside Clubs will meet once a month, for about 40 minutes during school hours. This is typically the last Friday of the month. Clubs for students will be a semester-long commitment. Students can switch clubs at the end of the first semester, if they would like. Our librarian is an alumna from Constantine. She possesses a love for reading that she gives to our students. Look for her weekly stories on social media.

CLUBS

THE WHY

Eastside Elementary

Through a collaborative effort between Eastside and Riverside, staff have put together a program to recycle throughout our school district.

To help make the disposal company's job easier we will be separating in each room throughout one for one for trash. students can seeing their recyclables being placed into a recycling can/clear bag.



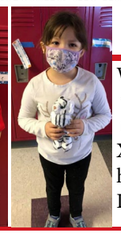
organizing wastebaskets and hallway our district; recycling and That way, the feel proud

Mrs. Muckel created these fantastic Falcons Recycle signs. They have been provided for each of the bins throughout our classrooms and hallways throughout our school district. We are excited to show how Falcons help the environment.









Foundations of Restorative Justice

I first became active in the world of Restorative Justice in my previous school district. It was something that caught our attention as suspensions, student/staff and peer/peer conflicts were on the rise.



The purpose of RJ in the educational realm is to help students heal from the harm they caused as well as to help those who were harmed heal. Through this process, the students also are able to feel like their voice is heard as well as gain an understanding of their feelings both good and bad.



To be fully trained in the process takes about 3 years. I was able to become certified and bring the process to the district and mainly focus on implementing the program here at Eastside. Mary Reynolds and I have begun conducting circles in many classrooms. We are amazed at the things the children share in the circle. We have heard things like "I forgive you for kicking me." "We love you and want to help you." "My teacher makes me feel safe." and so much more. Our goal in a K-2 setting is preventative. We want to get the kids talking about feelings and how they can make better choices. Should a conflict arise they will be able to fully participate in a circle and understand the harm and how to repair it. This is something Mary and I are very passionate about. If you are interested, please reach out to us and we are happy to help! Mrs. Marks



We would like to congratulate our February book of the month winners for the book "Love Monster" We had a boy and a girl from each grade win this time around. In Kindergarten we had Niklaus France and Ximena Jaime. In 1st grade we had Chance Barnes and Aubr Hufnagle. In 2nd grade we had Rex Schnepp and Kyra Featherstone. Congrats! Miss V Kaitlyn Vrydaghs Eastside Library

Constantine Public Schools
Alumni Spotlight



Why Constantine?

Falcon Pride. Excitement. Educational Excellence.

Growing up in Constantine, I quickly learned how fortunate I was to have such passionate teachers and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities. My teachers always had the same goal: provide the best possible education to ALL students. They were consistently welcoming, friendly, helpful, patient; I always felt like they were rooting for us to succeed. Looking back, however, it wasn't only the teachers - it was the principals, counselors, bus drivers, coaches, support staff, food service, custodians, parents/guardians and, truly, the entire community who created an environment where students felt encouraged to rise up and strive for more. I am the person I am today because of the dedication of these people, and the world is full of other Constantine alumni who continue to spread Falcon Pride because of the education and values they gained at Constantine Public Schools.

These great memories and those same strong values are what has brought me back to our warm, small town of Constantine as a devoted husband, father, and now proud second grade teacher at Eastside Elementary School. I am excited to share my experience and passion with my own children, and teach them how to show Falcon Pride in all we do, with our core values of respect, integrity, encouragement, effort, and confidence. Constantine is a school district that excels in educational excellence where every student is successful, which we are blessed to call home.

This is why Constantine Public Schools continue to be the county's premier district of choice. Mr. Sorensen Constantine Alumni Class of 2002

Constantine Public Schools

Young 5's Sign Up
Falcon & Nation
Kindergarten Round Up






April 12 - April 16
Pre-Registration Week Paper Pickup

Eastside Elementary Main Office

Principal Mrs. Balcom - jbalcom@constps.org

Administrative Assistant - Mrs. Munoz - ymunoz@constps.org

Questions: (269) 435-8960

April 21, 2021
Open House Activities

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Eastside Elementary

935 White Pigeon Rd, Constantine, MI 49042

THE WHY

Riverside Elementary

It is the mission of Riverside Elementary School to ensure a safe, caring, and positive environment where ALL students will be held to high expectations and learn the skills to be successful academically and socially in life.



Our staff is highly qualified, caring, compassionate, and they work hard to ensure that the needs of your child are both understood and met. They deliver instruction in a variety of ways including traditional and hands-on learning. We ensure every student's needs are met by providing small group interventions for academics and social-emotional support using programs such as D.A.R.E. and Second Step. We identify students who may need extra support through our Student Assistant Team meetings which are held bi-weekly.



At Riverside, we have a Student Leadership Team that helps to drive initiatives in our building and provides more ownership to our students in their learning. In normal years, we have Choristers which is an extracurricular group for our students to join where they learn songs to sing during a performance for families and they get the opportunity to sing the National Anthem during the opening of sports games.

Community Partners We are a "Building Healthy Communities Partner" where we have received new equipment for Physical Education classes and Recess. We are provided with lessons on healthy eating and we will be starting an activity club in the spring. This club will offer students the chance to be active and learn about and eat healthy snacks.



One School One Book is also another thing that is unique to Riverside. Each year, we purchase a book for every family. As a school community, we share the love of reading with our families through reading the book together, discussing the book, and doing activities related to the book.

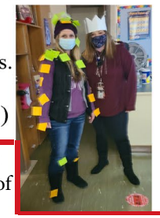
At Riverside, we also have clubs during the day once a month that allows our students and staff to learn about something they may be passionate about. Students get to sign up for an activity that a teacher may be teaching (woodworking, sports, kindness club, etc.) and engage in that activity. This allows them to experience something that otherwise, they may not have the opportunity.



Also at Riverside, we hold a Community Picnic at the end of the school year to celebrate the accomplishments of our students, families, and staff. We invite the whole Constantine Community to join us for a hotdog lunch and fun activities.

Riverside staff is a family that works together collaboratively to do what is best for our students.

5th grade teaching about character traits with these two characters ;)

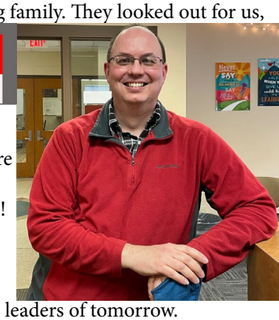


As a child, my dream was to become a teacher. Sure, I wanted to become an actor, mail carrier and meteorologist as well, but becoming a teacher was at the top of my list. Teaching was not my only desire, however. I wanted to teach in my hometown of Constantine. I am lucky to say that dreams do come true.

Fortunately, I attended Constantine schools from kindergarten through my senior year, graduating in 1992. I have countless memories of my time at CPS, but some of my most treasured are the ones that involved my teachers. I can honestly say that the mark they left on my life is undeniable.

I would not be the person I am today without the kindness, support and dedication of my teachers. We were like one big family. They looked out for us, encouraged us, celebrated our achievements and took the time to get to know us. They pushed us to do our best and to be proud of our accomplishments. I am certain that many of the current staff members who are also CHS grads, feel the same. You could not ask for better examples.

Constantine Public Schools Alumni Spotlight



As a teacher in this district, I aim to provide that same kind of educational experience and positivity for my students. When I look at the students in my classroom, I see myself. I want to be the type of teacher to them that my teachers were to me. Why? Because the students in this district deserve nothing less. I am overjoyed that my wife, a fellow CHS graduate, is also a teacher in this district and that our children are students in this school system. We have Falcon Pride!

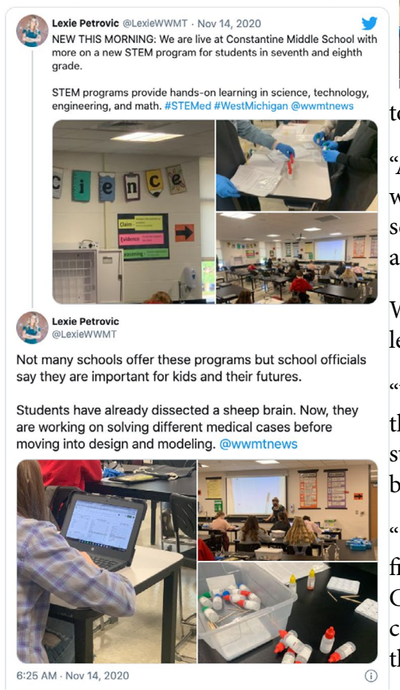
Behind every great school system is an equally wonderful community. The spirit of the community is a sight to behold and speaks volumes to the foundation for which this town was built. The support at sporting events,band and choir concerts and other events is amazing. This town loves to support their own. I cannot think of a better place to teach the leaders of tomorrow.

Why Constantine? Home is where the heart is, and my heart is in Constantine. Mr. McGlothlen Respect. Confidence. Effort. Integrity. Encourage.

Constantine brings STEM program to middle school students



CONSTANTINE, Mich. — After two years of discussing whether to bring a science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, program to Constantine Middle School, school leaders made it happen. In fall 2020, school officials said seventh and eighth grade students would have the opportunity to join classes with a STEM focus, as a way to explore potential career options.



“A lot of times they don’t know what careers there could be because they don’t interact with those people in their everyday lives,” Susan Smydra, a science teacher at the school, said. “This opens up the possibility about what might be beyond high school and college.”

While many schools do not provide STEM programs, Constantine Middle School leaders said they would provide great educational value.

“We looked at different programs because we knew STEM is an up and coming area that seems to be a career focus for people,” Smydra said. Each class enrolled 20-25 students. During the fall semester, Smydra said students had already dissected a sheep brain.

“They seem to really like it because it’s real case scenarios,” Smydra said. “It’s not some fictitious thing, and they like the hands-on.” Two Constantine eighth graders, Dayne Cuvo and Olivia Ransbottom, said the dissection was helpful for understanding the concepts taught in the classroom. “We dissected the brain and had to label the parts of the brain, what they do and how they control the body,” Ransbottom said.

Cuvo welcomed the break from the usual classroom work. “It was a little bit disgusting but it was really fun because you got to see how it was similar to the human brain,” he said. Ransbottom felt STEM courses provided better education in science lessons.

“It’s really fun, it’s not like regular science classes,” Ransbottom said. “In regular science classes you might know stuff in advance but this class you’re always learning something new continuously.” Smydra hoped the new program would help students get an idea for what they enjoy doing and what their future career could be. Cuvo said he joined the program because he already knew he wanted to have a career in medicine.



“The reason why I chose to take it is because I feel like it would help me with my future career because I want to be a heart surgeon,” Cuvo said. The pandemic made some of the classwork more challenging, but students said they were up to the task. “The first week of transferring back into at-home learning in this class was kind of hard but I got the hang of it really quick,” Ransbottom said. Smydra said the enthusiastic response from her students showed her the program was worth the extra challenge.

“I was planning on working through it no matter what but because of the overwhelming support from the kids,” Smydra said. “Seeing how excited they are about it, it makes me want to work a little harder to make it possible for them even under the circumstances.”

THE WHY
Middle School

Constantine Public Schools
Alumni Spotlight



Why Constantine?

Many years ago, my parents were looking for the best opportunity for my education continuing on from 6th grade. The district in which we lived did not seem like the best choice. At that time, there was no “school of choice” so my parents enrolled me in a nearby district with a good reputation, paying the necessary annual tuition….Constantine. To this very day, I am in their debt for that sacrifice.

Why Constantine? As I said, it had a good reputation. Word of mouth, opinions from friends, word on the street, can all make or break a reputation. The people my parents consulted all had good things to say about Constantine. This town has always been rich with tradition, a noble trait that I sincerely hope will be fanned into an even larger flame.

Another reason this school was attractive is that it was a smaller town (than where we lived) and had smaller enrollment. A new girl like me wouldn’t get lost in the sea of students there. Opportunities would be greater for me in a school like Constantine. As it turns out, I was able to participate in so many activities, plays, organizations, sports, band/choir, etc. that would never have been possible in a much larger district. So, so much did I learn from all my extracurricular activities!

In addition, I knew virtually all of my classmates and my teachers and administrators knew me much more personally. In my senior year, I was blessed to be awarded an academic scholarship to a nearby college, but it covered only half of the tuition. My HS counselor knew of my interests in band, choir, and performing arts so he was able to find a scholarship in those areas that would cover the rest of my tuition! Another thing for which I will be forever grateful.

Bigger isn’t always better! When it came time for my husband (another CHS grad) and I to send our children to school we moved to town. There was no doubt, we wanted our children to be afforded the same opportunities as we both enjoyed at Constantine. The personal touch of each staff member, the striving for excellence, the pride in our traditions, the spurring each student and each staff member on to reach one’s full potential in all areas, are the things that Constantine has valued in the past and, with intentionality, will continue to allow this district to reach and catapult more and more students into their best destinies! Mrs. Zimont Constantine Public Schools class of 1977

Here are this week’s RISE UP AWARD WINNERS. These students were caught representing the core values of our school district (Respect, Integrity, Effort, Encourage, Confidence). These students were rewarded with brand new Falcon Nation: Core Value T-shirts. Each week students have a chance to win these t-shirts and other prizes for doing the right thing. Keep it up and stay Falcon Strong!



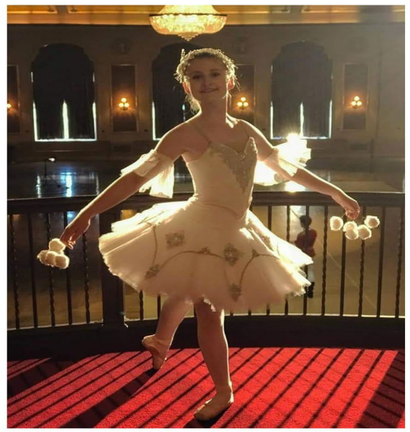
Congratulations Middle School Cast!
Shawn Meade, Quinn Hurley, PJ Fraczek, Annabelle VandenBerg, Amaya Jones, Sumayah Sandy, Brooklyn Beachy, Braden Graber, Daybria DeLucenay, Emily Meade, Jaylynn Seager, Parker Sharp and Logen Marvin.
Save the Dates of March 26, 27 & 28th for a Virtual performance of EMMA A POP MUSICAL!

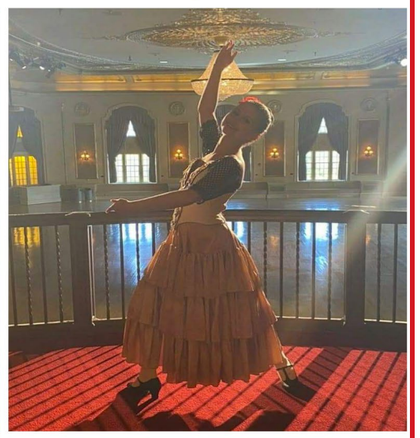




Constantine's Fionna Barber

is in a pre-professional ballet company at Southold Dance Theater. She was filmed in the Nutcracker Ballet this fall which will air on WNIT this year.





Fionna is 15 years old and has been dancing at Southold Dance Theater 11 years. She loves dancing in the Nutcracker every year and has now danced nearly every role. (It's usually performed at the Morris Performing Arts Center. This is the first year it's been on tv instead) As a member of the pre-professional ballet company she has classes and rehearsals 5 days a week, it's a huge time commitment. Fionna has enjoyed additional enrichment opportunities through participation in Youth America Grand Prix competitions and classes, Bella Moxie convention, and Ruth Page Center of the Arts summer intensive program. Her next planned performance after Nutcracker will be Cinderella at Notre Dame's Debartolo theater in May 2021. (Hopefully it won't be canceled.)

Fionna is a current sophomore and an EMC student at Glen Oaks. Fionna started school at Constantine in 8th grade she was previously homeschooled. (So Constantine experience is going great for her, she loves it.) She's currently undecided on future education goals. She's on the all A's honor roll. She's on the Color guard team. Fionna enjoys arts and crafts and during the quarentine launched her first buisness, Sew Fionna, on Etsy.

Constantine Public Schools Trap Shooting Team

The trap shooting team started in the spring of 2018. We are part of the USA High School Clay Target League. The USA High School Clay Target League is the independent provider of shooting sports as an extracurricular co-ed activity to high schools for students in grades six through twelve who have their firearms safety certification. It is America's fastest-growing high school sport!



We have both a fall and spring league. We average 20-25 students in the spring and 10-15 in the fall.

We compete against different schools within our state based on the number of athletes we have each season. We compete as a team and individually. Males and females compete separately in the individual competition. We do compete at the state competition in June each year. Our last state competition we had one female shooter, Kailey Orton, receive 2nd place in her classification.

We shoot on Wednesday nights at the St. Joseph County Conservation Club in Sturgis.
Each student will shoot 2 rounds (50 targets total) in five different stations each competition night.

We have many local sponsors and have received grants from the NRA for the last two years.

Constantine offers middle school AND high school woodshop

Falcon Woodshop

Woodshop in Constantine is offered to students in grades 8-12. While every year we focus on safety, proper tool usage, and technique, this year's guiding philosophy is a little bit different. While we still instruct in those three pillars, our guiding light has become woodworking for enjoyment. I believe that the role electives play in times like these has to be one of stress relief. Now, more than ever, electives give our students a reason to "show up" at school when there are so many other factors that pull us back into seclusion. So, what does this mean for our students?

The woodshop is a place to create. It is a place to follow your passions. It is a place to take risks and grow. Most importantly, I see it as a place to remind our students that there are many things in life that must simply be done "hands-on." It is a place to remind us that not every task can be accomplished virtually, and that's ok. It is a place to remind us that there is pride in getting dirty, and there is pride in working hard to achieve something that you didn't know you could do. It is a place to remind us that some things take time to build, but are worth the wait. Most importantly, it is a place to remind us that we are truly better together than apart. Mr. Rouse



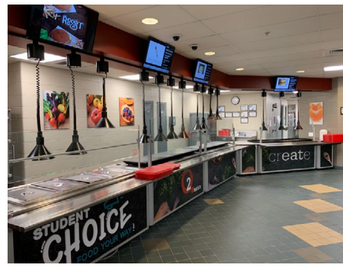
THE WHY High School

Falcon CAFETERIA Not Your Normal Cafeteria









Why Constantine? This is a difficult question to answer succinctly, as it is not just one thing that makes Constantine and Constantine High School special. It isn't one fact, one statistic, one course offering, one athletic team, or one teacher. It's all of the little things that cause a person to bleed red and white, the little things that have brought this alumna back to Constantine after a decade of living elsewhere.

Constantine Public Schools Alumni Spotlight



Constantine has tradition. It has the decorations of the light poles by various organizations around the holidays and the sound of honking car horns when a Falcon team comes home with a victory. It has the pep rallies and spirit days, or the downtown curbs that serve as seats for elementary students during the Homecoming parade. It has Monday night band practices, student sections in the bleachers, and grade-level competitions. These traditions are what allows generations current and past to reminisceon being a Falcon. It's what makes me being a **third-generation** Falcon so special.

Constantine has pride. It has the displayed student work in the halls. It has the trophy cases of District, Regional, and State championships. It has trophy cases of academic excellence. It has science classrooms that feel like laboratories, and pictures hung of student success. It's students being told they are a representation of Constantine every time they exit the building. It's the honor given to graduates who serve our country, and the reverence shown during the annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony.

Constantine has heart. It's the teachers who remembered not only my name, but who I am as a person upon my return after a decade away. It's the former volleyball coach showing me a picture from our 8th grade team she still has in her desk. It's the basketball coach who is willing to help with math homework before practice begins. It's the way upper-classmen are able to befriend and guide lower-classmen. It's the administration who strives to have a connection and be present in the buildings. It's the teachers who learn students' names and bond with personalities all while wearing masks. It's the students who grow up together not just as a graduating class, but as a family.

Why Constantine? It's because it is a memorable place to grow up, it's an impactful place to go to school, and if you're anything like me, it also makes an incredible place to return home to invest in that impact. Ms. Marks Constantine Alumni Class of 2010.



Mr. Mulvey, Senora Kelly, Mr. Easterday, and Mr. Swanwick showing off their "tacky" tourist outfits!!



Constantine High School would like to recognize and congratulate Emilee Miller (1st Year, Right) and Will Clewell (2nd Year, Left) on becoming Health Science Student of the Semester! Congrats you two and keep up the awesome work!

THE WHY

Athletics

In the first 15 years of MHSAA:

Basketball championships, Constantine recorded 10 District Championships. Constantine has been in the final four of football, wrestling and track a total of 17 times over the years. The Falcons celebrated a Division 6 State Championship in football in 2004 and runner-up finishes in 1994, 2002, 2011 and 2012. The wrestling program celebrated a State Championship in 1993 and runner-up in 2002 and the Men's track program earned a runner-up finish in 1989 and a 3rd in 1996.

There have been 22 Academic All-State teams throughout the years. In 2012 Constantine Athletics was awarded the Exemplary Athletic Program Award, at the time one of 25 schools in the entire state.

Accomplishments during the time span of 1992-2016:

Baseball 3 League Championships, 4 District Championships, Boys Basketball 1 League Championship, 7 District Championships, Girls Basketball 4 District Championships, 1 Regional Championship, Boys Cross Country 6 League Championships, 3 Regional Championships, Girls Cross Country 1 League Championship, Football 11 League Championships, 9 District Championships, 7 Regional Championships, 4 State Finalist, 1 Championship, Softball 5 League Championships, 5 District Championships, 2 Regional Championships, 1994 CHSAF Softball Hall of Fame, 2 Quarterfinalist Boys Track 14 League Championships, 4 Regional Championships, Girls Track 4 League Championships, 3 Regional Championships, Wrestling 16 League Championships, 18 District Championships, 12 Regional Championships, 1 State Finalist, 1 State Championship, Volleyball 3 District Championships

Accomplishments during the time span of 2017-2021 (past five years)

Softball 2017 - Present, 1 League championship, 1 District championship, Football 2017 - Present, 1 League championship 2020, 2 District Championship 2020 and 2021, 1 Regional championship 2021, Ladies Track & Field 2017 - Present

2 SAC Valley Division Championships (2018 and 2017)

High School Sports Offered:

- Competitive Cheerleading
- Baseball
- Boys & Girls Bowling
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys & Girls Cross Country
- Football
- Boys & Girls Soccer
- Softball
- Boys & Girls Track
- Wrestling
- Volleyball

High School Clubs:

- Trap Team
- Equestrian
- Powerlifting Team

Middle School Sports offered:

- Football
- Girls basketball
- Boys basketball
- Girls volleyball
- Track
- Cross country
- Wrestling
- Cheerleading

Middle School Clubs:

- Trap Team
- Soccer

SCHOOL OF CHOICE
Be Part of the Falcon Nation!
SCAN ME

All -Time Facts for Varsity Spring Sports

Baseball	Softball	Softball	Softball
3 League Championships	5 League Championships	2 Quarterfinalists	1994 Team Hall of Fame
4 District Championships	4 District Championships	2 Regional Championships	

Boys Track

100M: Rob Beachey 1989 & Adam Fletter 1986 - 10.9
200M: Adam Fletter 1987 - 22.5
400M: Adam Fletter 1987 - 50.2
800M: Anthony Evilsizor 2016 1:53.89
1600M: David Jones 2014 4:30.15
3200M: Ron David 1997 - 9:54.91
110M High Hurdle: Wade Wolf 1972 - 14.5
300M Intermediate Hurdle: Pete Moe 1996 - 38.97
High Jump: Shawn Kaylor 1996 - 6'4"
Long Jump: Jeff Platz 1995 - 21' 3 ¾"
Discus: Doug Polasek 1986 - 156'6"
Shot Put: John Kampars 1967 - 54' 8 ¼"
Pole Vault: Wyatt Alwine 2019 14'3"
State Team Runner Up in 1989

Girls Track

Discus: Brandi Granger 2002 121' 4"
Shot Put: Pauline Connelly 1983 37'
Long Jump: Tomi Stieglitz 1996 16' 9 3/4"
High Jump: Debbie Thompson 1982 5' 5"
Pole Vault: Bridget Holtz 2004 9' 6"
100 M Hurdles: Jamie Sorn 1995 15.4
300 M Hurdles: Jamie Sorn 1995 48.2
100 M Dash: Carrie Leister 1979 12.65
200 M Dash: Nicole Spears 2000 26.49 (FAT)
400 M Dash: Nicole Spears 2000 60.4
800 M Run: Crystal Whetzell 1985 2:27.7
1600 M Run: Chris Tulley 1990 5:44.3
3200 M Run: Angie Lusk 1986 12:34.9
4 X 100 Relay A. Alexander, L. Vanderheyden, J. King, T. Montague 1994 51.8
4 X 200 Relay T. Stieglitz, S. Lobsinger, A. Kisandi, E. Grile 1997 1:48.12 FAT
4 X 400 Relay A. Hamilton, J. Sorn, K. Williams, T. Montague 1995 4:12.03 FAT
4 X 800 Relay K. Williams, A. Hamilton, K. Arnold, K. Day 1994 10:27.4

All-Time Facts Varsity Fall Sports Football

Ranked 33rd of 505 MHSF
Overall winning percentage of 68%
MHSAA playoffs 30 of the first 36 years
22 out of the past 23 seasons
Division 6 State Championship in 2004
State Runner Up finishes
1994
2002
2011
2012

Boys Cross Country
6 League Championships
3 Regionals Championships

Girls Cross Country
1 League Championship

All-Time Facts for Varsity Winter Sports

Boys Basketball
9 League Championships
9 District Championships

Girls Basketball
4 District Championships
1 Regional Championships

Wrestling
State Championship in 1993
State Runner Up in 2002
16 League Championships
18 District Championships
12 Regional Championships

SCHOOL OF CHOICE
Be Part of the Falcon Nation!
SCAN ME

THE WHY

Performing Arts

Band Serving our School and Community!



Perform at home football games
Playoff game (home and away!)
Homecoming Parades
Pep assemblies at each of our four school buildings
High School Graduation
Community Memorial Day Parade and Service

Constantine High School Falcon Marching Band performs & competes!

Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA)
Scholastic Marching Band (SMB)
Receive individual awards for Drumline, Color Guard, and Drum Majors

Building a Program!

Annually combine all levels of our bands with 300 performers

High School Concert Band and 7/8th Middle School Band!

Perform for the MSBOA concert band festivals at the district level
Earning Superior and Excellent scores for over 40 years
Perform at the state MSBOA festivals
Amazing support filling concert halls out of the district
7 - 12 bands students attend Solo/Ensembles with MSBOA
Earning Superior and Excellent scores for over 40 years
Middle School Students audition for District Honors Band

Winter Concerts!

6 - 12 grade band students. Celebrate the winter holiday season
Standing room only
Giant Music Raffle



Spring Concerts!

2 concerts
Celebrating seniors
MS musical growth

Marching Band!

Performing for world at Walt Disney World April 2021
Performed at Disney for two decades
MS bands have performed
At our State Capitol
At Kalamazoo Growlers Games
At Cedar Point
At Michigan Adventure 2021



DRAMA DRAMA DRAMA DRAMA DRAMA

Encompasses 4th-12th grade students

After school club
40-60 students per year
Yearly Auditions

Coming 2021 the musical Emma:

A Pop Musical in March.

Student Leadership

Acting
Singing
Dancing
Running lights
Sound
Backstage
Set Production
Costume design
Makeup

Recent shows

We Will Rock You
Madagascar
Mary Poppins
Once Upon a Mattress
My Son Pinocchio
Music Man
Fiddler on the Roof

Constantine Choir

Where it all gets started!
Vocal music program starts in 3rd grade!
After School Choir Program 3rd - 5th grade

Performances

Choristers perform for two large community concerts.

Special Invites

Perform the Star Spangled Banner for over a decade
At Kalamazoo KWings Hockey games
At South Bend Cubs baseball games (2 decades)
At Cass County Commission on Aging
At Local school buildings.



MS/HS Winter & Spring Concerts

Over 200 members
Collage style concert
Features all choral ensembles
Solos
Combined performances
Sold out performances

School & Community

Choirs, and bands
Float singing along to our school fight song.
Performs at other school buildings
Visit shut-ins and the elderly to spread cheer.
Perform at our citywide Tree Lighting ceremony
Senior choir members select song for high school graduation.

Middle and High School Choirs

Compete in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association
Each year earning Superior and Excellent ratings.
Qualified for state competition.
Individuals compete in the Solo/Ensemble competition
Superior and Excellent scores and qualify for state competition!

Let's Travel



Constantine accepted to perform on the stages
Cedar Point
Six Flags
Michigan Adventure
Disney World performers this coming April!



Alternative Education

Your Missing Piece of the Puzzle

Program Coordinator: Shawn Griffith

Administrative Assistant: Kari Gonder

Contact:

sgriffith@constps.org
kgonder@constps.org
(269) 435-9030



Constantine Tech Alternative Education

Constantine Tech provides an education that is beneficial to students in credit recovery in numerous ways.

As a Constantine Tech teacher, I will highlight three benefits. First of all, for the student who did not pass a class, he or she has core subject teachers to assist. Many times, I have sat shoulder to shoulder with students explaining something in history or language arts that I have had experience teaching. The students get direct, immediate, and personal instruction from the Constantine Tech teachers. Secondly, the student cannot simply disappear in a class of 30 as in a typical classroom setting. The class size in Tech is normally small enough that the student will get the help or redirection needed with no distractions. This also helps in forming good relationships that students can get encouragement and guidance from the teachers.

Finally, the student will benefit from an online course that is not too easy yet not too difficult. The student can work at his or her own pace and keep on pace to graduating. For these reasons, students can reap the rewards of a Constantine Tech education.
Mrs. Clark
Language Arts Teacher
Constantine Tech

Several students don't do well in a traditional classroom setting. Constantine Tech gives these students a chance to still succeed in school without the traditional setting. It also allows students with special circumstances in their lives to continue their education. Any time we can provide any student an opportunity to get a degree, WHY wouldn't we?

Mr. Bradford Contantine Tech Alternative Education

THE WHY

Be Part of the Falcon Nation

Alumni Spotlight



My journey from Constantine - Josh Topolski Constantine Graduating Class of 1990

While attending Constantine I played in many sports including basketball, football, baseball, & track. My favorite sport was basketball and I was on the varsity all 4 years of high school. In my freshman year I picked up cycling and at 14 years old I went on a cycling trip from Yellowstone National Park, thru Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, then into upper Michigan and finally into lower Michigan. The trip covered 2100 miles and we averaged 150 miles a day. I would continue cycling all over Michigan and the Midwest for the remainder of high school, often following the school track team all over to see Constantine compete. I was an average 3.0 student at Constantine and graduated in 1990.

After graduating from Constantine in 1990, I moved to Kalamazoo to attend KVCC for the 1st 1.5 of my college career. While at KVCC, I lived off campus in Kalamazoo and started taking business classes and the normal required classes in the 1st 2 years of college. I also was part of the KVCC basketball team while attending the school and got to travel to and play against several schools in the JVCC conference. At the time, KVCC was a very good team in the league. I did not see a lot of playing time, KVCC was one of the top junior college schools in the country at that time, but I did enjoy my time on the team.

Just after the Christmas holidays in December of 1992, I decided to transfer to Michigan State University to study business. While at Michigan State, I joined a fraternity called Delta Sigma Phi, and continued to enjoy fraternity events and participated in recreational sports while in college. After my 1st year at Michigan State in 1993 a fraternity brother and I decided to ride our bikes from Michigan to Phoenix, Arizona on a cycling across the country that took 19 days and we averaged 110 miles per day through the Midwest thru Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico and finally into Arizona. Our bikes weighed 80 pounds apiece on the trip and we climbed 14 peaks over 10,000 feet. After the trip, I continued to get my bachelor's degree at Michigan State and worked in the cornfields as a supervisor during the summers to earn spending money for school.

I graduated from Michigan State in 1996 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business & Marketing. After graduation and prior to entering the job market, I went on hiking trip thru Colorado, Utah, & Arizona with some fraternity brothers from MSU. I then split off on a solo hiking trip and spent time in Yosemite National Park where I hiked and ran trails to train for my last cycling trip from San Francisco to Seattle riding north along the Pacific Highway 1 up the coast. This was an amazing trip and some of the most beautiful scenery in the US.

After returning from my trip out West, it was time to start working in the real world. At the time, I was not sure what I wanted to do with my career and the 1st year I worked in a few different jobs and lived off campus at Michigan State. Then in 1996, I decided to move to Chicago, Illinois. At first in Chicago, I worked for a temporary agency until I decided on my career. While working at a temporary agency I started working for IBM Global Services, which had a contract with Common Wealth Edison (ComED), and ComEd provided energy services to Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. I excelled quickly from the help desk in my 1st year to being employed by IBM full-time and promoted to the Windows NT technical team & Messaging teams. I ended up managing the Lotus CCMail and eventually Microsoft Exchange environment for IBM Global Services and ComED, with about 20, 000 users at the time. I worked in Chicago from 1996 thru 1998.

In 1998, I decided to move to San Francisco, which I had fallen in love with years earlier. The San Francisco Bay area is also home to Silicon Valley, which was perfect for me to continue growing in the computer industry. I ended getting multiple job offers thru IBM and landed at an IBM testing facility in San Mateo, CA. This facility was also part of the marketing arm of IBM where independent software vendors (ISV's) would test and certify their applications on IBM server technology. I ended up running the Intel based testing & certification for the facility from 1998 to 2000. I worked with a couple hundred different companies setting of testing configurations & new technology for ISVs at the testing center and was exposed to all different types of environments and this helped me to continue to develop my computer & networking skills. During this time, I also started consulting for small businesses on the side to setup and run networks. I also learned how to set up and maintain my own small business.

In 2000, which was during the industry startup craze, I left IBM and went to work for a database company called ANTs Software. The opportunity offered more lucrative pay and stock options than at IBM. While at ANTs software, I managed and maintained a 700 server-testing lab for ANTs Software development environment. This was a testing harness for their database technology. As they developed code updates, the new version of the database would be run & tested in the 700 server-testing environment before being deployed to outside customers. I worked at ANTs software from 2000 thru 2007.

ANTs Software never ended up going big but I did continue to learn while at ANTs. Also while at ANTs I continued to grow my outside consulting business and in 2007 I left to go out on my own to run my own IT Consulting company full-time. This outside work allowed me to also not be impacted by the startup downfall in the earlier 2000's and during the economic troubles from 2007 to 2009, since it gave me multiple streams of income I wasn't impacted much during this time. From 1998 until 2011, I was a sole proprietor working with small companies and running their IT. In 2011, I formed Josh Topolski Consulting LLC and continued to consult for small business as an S Corp in the San Francisco/Bay area. From 2011 until 2013, I started working with bigger IT consulting companies (MSP's) to do project work on their behalf for municipalities, universities, local government, and businesses.

Starting in 2011, I built a small datacenter environment in a datacenter in south San Francisco and started hosting customers' virtual environments. This included virtual servers, domain environments, Microsoft Exchange, and remote access services using Microsoft Remote Desktop, Citrix, and VMWare Horizon View services out of the datacenter. I eventually expanded to a second datacenter location in Las Vegas, Nevada. In Las Vegas, I started replicating client data and virtual environments to my datacenter environment for disaster recovery services. This allowed me to bring online client environments in the event of a natural disaster.

In 2013, I formed a new company called TRIIO LLC and as of today I continue to run both TRIIO LLC and Josh Topolski Consulting LLC. My company has transformed into a smaller Managed Service Provider in which we provide traditional IT consulting services and act as an IT director for small to medium size companies. TRIIO also provides hosted IT services out of both data centers including hosted virtual infrastructure hosting, VMWare Horizon View virtual technology, disaster recovery services, and acts as a reseller for hardware & software. TRIIO is a Cisco partner, HP Partner, Dell Partner, Microsoft Partner & service provider, VMWare Partner & service provider, Citrix Partner & service provider, along with several other technologies. We are also working with & leveraging several cloud based technologies including Amazon AWS & Micro Azure.

On the personal side of things, I married Alicia Topolski in 2015; Alicia was born in the Philippines and moved to CA when she was 17. Alicia owns and manages a hair salon in Alamo, CA. We have three dogs – Albert, Lili, and Goose and spend a lot of time with them. I work 90% of the time remotely and so we travel between Walnut Creek, CA, which has been our primary residence, and to Reno, Nevada, on the east side of Lake Tahoe. We will be making Reno, Nevada our primary residence in 2021 for tax purposes, as Nevada has no state income tax. I will continue to support California clients and I'm planning to expand my business in the Reno/Tahoe as well.

My wife and I enjoy hiking, road & mountain biking, and spending time outside with family & friends. Walnut Creek is also 30 miles from Napa & Sonoma counties, which is world famous for wine and food. We also enjoy traveling domestically and around the world and have traveled extensively with friends and family.

My parents, Dan and Diane Topolski, still reside in Constantine, as well as my younger brother Aaron Topolski & his wife Lana, and my nephew Dean Topolski still goes to Constantine, so we visit Constantine on a regular basis as well prior to the pandemic. I hope that in 2021 we will be able to continue to travel again soon.

Constantine Sponsorship BANNERS

Banners are 2' x 4' * Banners are 2' x 4' * Banners are 2' x 4'

Dear Falcon Supporters,

We are excited with the opportunity to start a banner sponsorship program. While this is NOT a fundraiser, it is a great way for alumni, parents, coaches, family, and friends to show off their Falcon pride through the purchase of a Constantine Falcon Banner. Customize the banner with your name and graduation year, or celebrate the achievements of a specific team or group. The cost covers the hardware needed to hang the banners, and the banner. Banners are 2'x4' and double sided.

- **Cost: $110 dollars each (Includes hardware)**
- **Size: 2' X 4' Double Sided**
- **Replacement banners: $60. (Once hardware has been purchased)**

Where will the banners be placed:

Banners will be displayed on light and telephone poles within the Constantine School District

CONSTANTINE

FALCONS

John Smith
Class of 65

Limited Time

Customized

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Name: _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Signature _____
Date _____

Checks Payable: Constantine Public Schools
Amount: $110 (This is not a fundraiser)

Mail form to: Constantine Middle School
260 W 6th St, Constantine, MI 49042
(269) 435-8940
What you would like on the banner. Please write clearly.

_____

You will receive a verification email once the order has been processed. Banners will be displayed in rotating color combinations.

While the banners are made from high quality vinyl, purchaser fully understands the banner will be subject to the elements. Purchaser does not hold the Constantine School District and/or its employees responsible for the wear and tear of the banner. Replacement banners can be purchased for $60. This is NOT a fundraiser!

Questions contact the Constantine Middle School
jwiseley@constps.og or **(269) 435-8940**

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