

FEBRUARY 17, 2026



www.detroitedisonpsa.org

DETROIT EDISON PSA

PIONEER NEWS

8 Black Inventors Who Made Daily Life Easier

<https://www.history.com/articles/8-black-inventors-african-american>

Inventions like the light bulb, the cotton gin and the iPhone revolutionized the way we live and work. But there are countless other, often overlooked inventions that make our daily lives easier. Among the creative innovators behind these devices are some of the most famous Black inventors. From the traffic light to the ironing board, the following products have sprung from the minds of African American inventors.

- Improved Ironing Board, Invented by Sarah Boone in 1892
- Home Security System, Co-Invented by Marie Van Brittan Brown in 1966
- The Three-Light Traffic Signal, Invented by Garrett Morgan in 1923
- Refrigerated Trucks, Invented by Frederick McKinley Jones in 1940
- Automatic Elevator Doors, Invented by Alexander Miles in 1887
- Electret Microphone, Co-Invented by James E. West in 1964
- Carbon Light Bulb Filament, Invented by Lewis Latimer in 1881
- Color IBM PC Monitor and Gigahertz Chip, Co-Invented by Mark Dean c. 1980 and 1999



NPFE Schools is excited to announce our Summer School and Enrichment Program. Students will participate in thematic novel studies and in math reading and problem-solving projects. In addition, we will offer enriching sports camps, STEM activities, art, gardening, chess, and field experiences with attendance incentives.

Transportation is available. Please submit one form for each child you are enrolling in our summer program.

Program Dates:
 Start Date: June 22
 End Date: July 30
Daily Schedule:
 Before Care: 7:30 AM to 8:00 AM
 Program Hours: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Click [here](#) to register

March						
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				

- 2.17 - return to school
- 3.4 - parent/teacher conf. 4:30-7:30
- 3.27 - End of quarter 3
- 3.30-4.7 - Spring break

Re-enrollment tickets are due!
You may also complete by clicking [here](#).

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

IMPORTANT!

Re-enrollment for the upcoming school year is now open. Student enrollment plays an important role in supporting school programs, staffing, and daily operations.

Your child brought home a green re-enrollment slip last week. Please complete and return this form as soon as possible. To secure your child's spot for the upcoming school year, the re-enrollment form must be completed and returned immediately.

New Paradigm For Education


SAVE the DATE



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SPECIAL EVENT — MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR A DAY TO REMEMBER.

TIME: 9AM - 1 PM
LOCATION: DEPSA
1903 WILKINS STREET
DETROIT

JUNE 6, 2026



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20				

NPFE

Michigan Department of Education

Parent/Student: What students can expect when taking the M-STEP

Copy link



M-Step™
Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress



Online Accommodations

Watch on  YouTube

MATH BOWL!



District Wide Math Competition
One District. One Challenge. Infinite Solutions.





Message from Mrs. Garvin, PreK Director

Rhyming at Home: Building Early Reading Skills

Young children learn to rhyme at different times, and that's okay. Many children begin creating their own rhymes as they approach kindergarten. Rhyming is an important early literacy skill and one of the best predictors of how easily a child will learn to read. When children hear rhymes, they begin to notice how words sound alike. This helps them recognize patterns in language and builds a strong foundation for reading.

What is rhyming?

Rhyming happens when words have the same ending sound, like duck and truck or cat and hat. Most children enjoy listening to and playing with rhymes. With regular exposure, they begin to recognize and create rhymes naturally. If your child is not rhyming yet, don't worry, this skill develops over time with practice and fun experiences.

Try these simple rhyming activities at home:

- Read nursery rhymes or rhyming storybooks together.
- Sing songs and point out words that rhyme.
- Play a quick game: "What rhymes with cat?" (hat, bat, mat).
- Make up silly rhymes during daily routines (car/star, shoe/blue).
- Clap when you hear two words that rhyme.

Rhyming helps children hear and understand sounds in words, which is a key step toward reading success. Just a few minutes a day of playful rhyming can make a big difference in your child's learning.

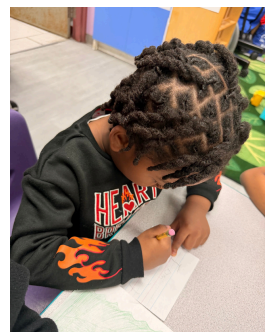
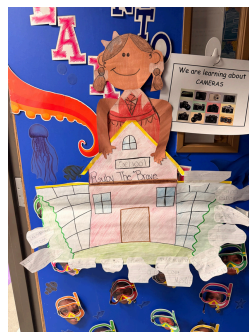
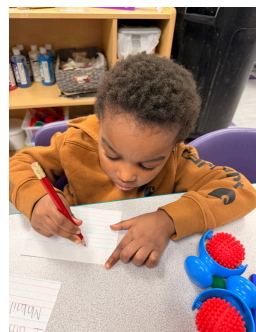


Black History

Ruby Bridges is a civil rights icon known as the first African American child to desegregate an all-white elementary school in the South, William Frantz Elementary in New Orleans, in 1960, facing hostile mobs while escorted by U.S. Marshals, and becoming a powerful symbol of courage and the fight against racism in American education. Her bravery as a six-year-old helped pave the way for school integration and she continues to advocate for racial equality today.



Pre-K Gallery



PreK students writing affirmations after learning about Ruby Bridges

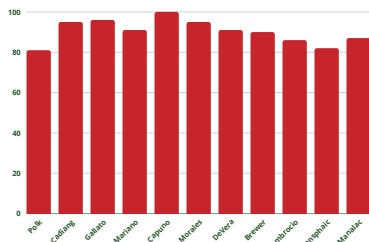


Message from Principal Withers

We are excited to welcome everyone back from break! We hope your time away was restful, joyful, and filled with special moments. We are looking forward to a strong and successful return as we move into an important and exciting month at school. This month please find ways to celebrate Black History Month, Through classroom activities, read-alouds, projects, and discussions. On Feb 27, 2026 we will celebrate the achievements, contributions, and impact of Black leaders who have shaped our history and continue to inspire our future and you are all invited.

Re-enrollment for the upcoming school year is now open. Student enrollment plays an important role in supporting school programs, staffing, and daily operations.

Your child brought home a purple re-enrollment slip last week. Please complete and return this form as soon as possible. To secure your child's spot for the upcoming school year, the re-enrollment form must be completed and returned immediately.



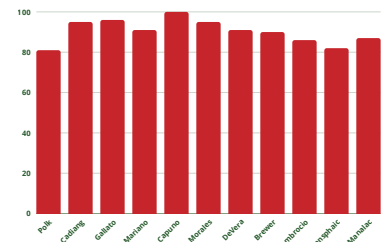
Reading Trends

Kindergarten: 88% → 91%
 1st Grade: 84% → 94%
 2nd Grade: 79% → 86%

Goal: 95% Weekly Student Attendance

Kindergarten: 94% - 90%
 1st Grade: 93%-91%
 2nd Grade: 93%-92%

ADA has dropped but don't worry we only counted 3 days this week. Please remember our goal is 95% We are almost there!!
 Lets keep it up



Math Trends

Kindergarten: 88% → 91%
 1st Grade: 84% → 94%
 2nd Grade: 79% → 86%

COOPERATIVE CHALLENGE

Monday: NO SCHOOL

Tuesday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to demonstrate a focus strategy. One way to focus is to sit in S.H.I.E.L.D when your teacher, other staff, and classmates are speaking. When your eyes and ears are on the speaker, you are able to focus on what is important at that moment.

Wednesday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to demonstrate a focus strategy. Putting on imaginary binoculars to only see the teacher and the assignment in front of you can promote focus. The binoculars help to zoom in on what's important at the very moment!

Thursday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to demonstrate a focus strategy. Try putting away anything on your desk that isn't required for the lesson being taught. Wait until a break or recess to tend to those things. Be sure to keep extra items under your desk, in your locker, or backpack.

Friday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to demonstrate a focus strategy. Try focusing on what your teacher and classmates are saying, as you would want to be done to you. Doing so, let's them know you are interested in what they are saying. Remember to use Active Listening!



REMEMBERING AN ICON

Jesse Jackson is a civil rights leader who worked with Martin Luther King Jr. to promote equality and justice for all people. He founded the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and ran for U.S. president, inspiring many with his message to "Keep hope alive." His lifelong work has helped expand opportunities and fairness for communities across America. He was a moral and political force who formed a "rainbow coalition" of poor and working-class people. Reverend Jesse Jackson died on February 17, 2026 at the age of 84 years old after battling a long term illness.

REST IN POWER



Message from Principal Dr. Peart

Hello DEPSA Families,

Re-Enrollment Reminder

Re-enrollment forms have been sent home. Please return completed forms by the end of this week to secure your child's enrollment for next school year. Contact the main office if you need another copy.

Attendance Matters

Daily, on-time attendance is essential to academic success. Every instructional minute counts. Please ensure your child is present and on time each day to prevent learning gaps.

Academic Expectations

Students must complete and submit all Read & Respond (RR) and C³ assignments upon returning from an absence. We remain focused on quality work – complete responses, use of evidence, and clear explanations.

Tutoring (Mon/Tues/Thurs | 4:00-5:30 PM)

On-time pick-up is required for safety. After two late pick-ups, students may no longer participate.

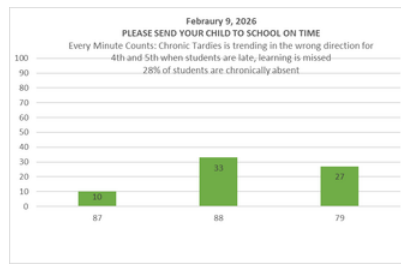
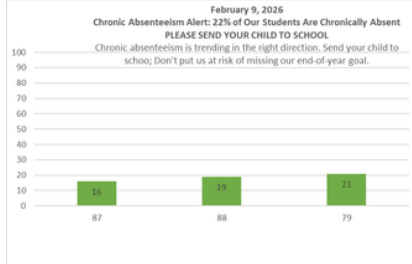
Support at Home

- Maintain consistent bedtime and morning routines
- Ask your child to explain their learning using evidence
- Ensure RR and C³ are completed thoughtfully
- Review assignments for accuracy and effort

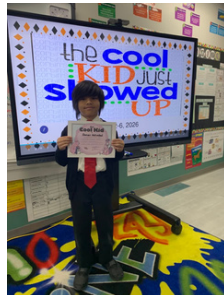
4th Grade Families Only

Our annual 4th Grade Camping Trip is April 27-28, 2026. The trip is free of charge. A parent meeting will be held in March with more details. Interested in volunteering? Email Dr. Peart at kpeart@npfeschools.org.

Congratulations LaFonte Thomas 4th grade math relay champion



Cool Kids



HOMEWORK

Monday 2/16

Read & Response, C3 Homework

Tuesday 2/17

Read & Response, C3 Homework

Wednesday 2/18

Read & Response, C3 Homework

Thursday 2/19

Read & Response, C3 Homework

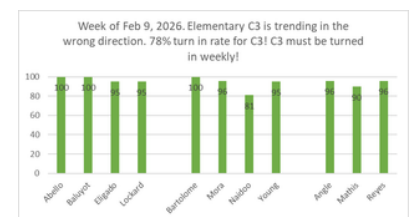
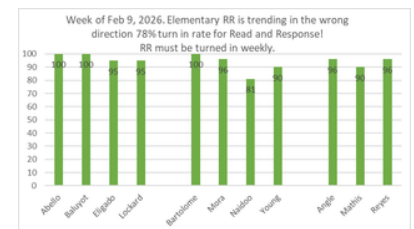
Friday 2/20

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

As we begin Semester II, we are implementing a structured math notebook expectation to support student learning and preparation for high school.

In middle school, taking notes in math is essential as students transition from being shown how to solve problems to explaining and applying their thinking independently. A math notebook helps students organize strategies, track examples, and build strong academic habits.

What this means for students:

- Each student will be provided with a school-issued math notebook.
- Students are required to bring their math notebook and math textbook to class every day.
- The notebook will be used daily for notes, worked examples, vocabulary, and problem-solving.
- If a student does not have their math notebook, they will receive a zero for participation for that day.

Students will receive their notebooks in class and will sign for them, acknowledging responsibility for bringing them daily.

We appreciate your partnership in helping students build responsibility, organization, and strong learning habits. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Thank you for your continued support!

Warmly,

DEPSA is an International Baccalaureate School



IB trait: Caring

Caring learners show empathy, compassion, and respect for others.

They take action to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around them—standing up for what's right and supporting those in need, every day.



Read & Respond

Q3 - novel due on February 9th

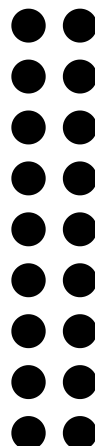
6th

7th

8th



PSAT



8th

Grade Activities [Click here](#)

DEPSA JUNIOR ACADEMY

Unsung Heroes

BLACK HISTORY Month

People who makes a meaningful, positive impact through their actions but do not receive public recognition, praise, or credit for what they do. They are lesser known in history.

FEBRUARY

27

DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23RD, STUDENTS WILL ENGAGE IN RESEARCH AND IN-CLASS DISCUSSIONS AS THEY PREPARE FOR OUR CULMINATING ACTIVITY.

OUR GALLERY WALK WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH.

**DRESS EXPECTATIONS FOR FEBRUARY 27TH:
STUDENTS MAY WEAR ALL BLACK ON THIS DAY.**

NO LEGGINGS

NO MIDRIFTS SHOWING

ALL ATTIRE MUST FOLLOW SCHOOL DRESS CODE EXPECTATIONS





DEPSA HIGH SCHOOL MISSION BRIEFING

PARENT AND FAMILY NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM MR. BLACKBURN

HELLO, **DEPSA** FAMILIES AND HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

WE ARE OFFICIALLY IN THE "SEASON OF EXCELLENCE." WITH ONLY 35 DAYS REMAINING UNTIL HIGH-STAKES TESTING BEGINS, OUR THEME FOR SEMESTER TWO IS **URGENCY**. THIS ISN'T JUST A WORD FOR OUR TEACHERS, IT'S A CALL TO ACTION FOR OUR ENTIRE DEPSA COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY PARENTS AND FAMILY.

TO ENSURE OUR SCHOLARS ARE PREPARED TO SHINE, WE ARE FOCUSING ON THREE PILLARS: **ATTENDANCE**, **ENGAGEMENT**, AND **ACADEMIC RIGOR**.

THE DATA: WHY EVERY DAY COUNTS

OUR RECENT DATA REVIEW SHOWS THAT WHEN STUDENTS ARE IN CLASS, THEY SUCCEED. HOWEVER, WE ARE SEEING INCONSISTENCIES THAT WE MUST ADDRESS TOGETHER:

- **ATTENDANCE GOAL: 95%**. CURRENTLY, WE ARE SEEING A DIP IN DAILY ATTENDANCE. MISSING JUST TWO DAYS A MONTH CAN PUT A STUDENT AT ACADEMIC RISK.
- **BEHAVIOR**: WE ARE PUSHING FOR A "DISTRACTION-FREE" ENVIRONMENT. TO MAKE THE MOST OF THESE FINAL 35 DAYS, REDUCE DISTRACTIONS AND USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES. THIS IS NOT A TIME FOR PLAYING OR DISRUPTING CLASS; SUCH BEHAVIOR WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.
- **FOCUS**: Q3 IS ALL ABOUT ACADEMICS. WE NEED STUDENTS TO ARRIVE PREPARED TO ENGAGE WITH RIGOROUS COURSEWORK FOCUSED ON FILLING ACADEMIC GAPS.

HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP

1. COMMIT TO THE 95%: ENSURE YOUR SCHOLAR IS IN THE BUILDING EVERY SINGLE DAY.
2. MORNING ROUTINE: ARRIVING JUST 10 MINUTES LATE MEANS MISSING THE CRITICAL "FIRST 10" OF INSTRUCTION, WHERE DAILY GOALS ARE SET.
3. ENCOURAGE THE "PUSH": TALK TO YOUR STUDENT ABOUT THE 35-DAY COUNTDOWN. REMIND THEM THAT THE HARD WORK THEY DO TODAY LEADS TO THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES WE CELEBRATE AT GRADUATION.

I'M CONFIDENT WE CAN RALLY TOGETHER TO MEET OUR GOALS. WHEN EVERYONE DOES THEIR PART, WE WILL SEE TREMENDOUS GROWTH THIS TESTING SEASON.

ONE TEAM. ONE MISSION

UPDATES

- REPORT CARDS: FEB 21
- PARENT CONF. MARCH 4, 4:30 - 7
- SPRING BREAK: MAR 30 - APR 7

EVENTS/ GAMES

2/17-Tuesday

- HS-5:30 pm BBall Varsity vs. (home) Warren Fitzgerald
- HS-7 pm GBB Black vs. (home) Clarkston

2/20-Friday

- HS-5:30 pm BBall varsity vs. (home) Fitzgerald
- HS-7 pm GBB Black vs (home) Belleville

2/21-Saturday

- HS-12 pm GBB vs. @Frankenmuth

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

WE ARE PROUD TO CELEBRATE OUR SENIORS, WHO HAVE EARNED OVER **\$10 MILLION** IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS, REFLECTING THEIR HARD WORK, PERSEVERANCE, AND COMMITMENT TO POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS.

ADDITIONALLY, THE CLASS OF 2026 HAS REACHED **94% FAFSA COMPLETION**, AN INCREDIBLE MILESTONE THAT KEEPS STUDENTS ON TRACK FOR COLLEGE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY.

AS WE LOOK AHEAD, IT'S ALSO TIME FOR FAMILIES TO BEGIN PLANNING AND SAVING FOR THE SENIOR TRIP TO ORLANDO. MORE DETAILS REGARDING DATES, COSTS, AND PAYMENT OPTIONS WILL BE SHARED SOON.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL NEWSLETTER](#)

