



Western School District

1400 S. Dearing Rd. Parma, MI 49269 • 517.841.8171

August 18, 2026

Dear Western Parents & Community,

Welcome to another exciting school year!

There is something special about the beginning of a new school year- the energy in our buildings, the joy of seeing new and familiar faces, and the anticipation of new opportunities. ***Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year!***

I would like to take a moment to share several important updates that will impact our students, families, and staff. We have a lot happening across the district, and while some of these changes may require adjustment, each one is designed with the safety, success, and long-term future of our schools in mind.

- **New Student Device Policy (Michigan's Cell Phone Law)**

One of our priorities this year is creating learning environments where students can be fully focused, engaged, and connected. Michigan law now requires schools to restrict smart devices during instructional time. As a result our district worked closely with school leadership teams to develop age-appropriate expectations surrounding personal electronic devices.

More information, including the full policy can be found on our website at this [link](#). Please familiarize yourself with this new plan, and take time to discuss this policy with your student(s). We truly appreciate your support in creating and maintaining a positive learning environment at Western.

- **Western Career Prep High School**

We are pleased to announce that Western Career Prep High School is moving to the former Bean Elementary building, 3201 Noble St. Spring Arbor. This move will provide the program with the space and resources needed to continue the same excellent educational opportunities, while allowing us to make better use of our district facilities. Early Impressions will continue to use the Woodville Center location.

In addition to the location change, Western Career Prep is proudly welcoming a new Program Director- Mr. Doug Blume! Doug is a long time Spring Arbor resident and former Western staff member. Mr. Brandon Baum has accepted a position with Springport Schools, and we wish him well on his new journey.

- **Transportation Changes**

Transportation is another area where we are making some changes this year. We have been working carefully to make our transportation system as safe, efficient, and reliable as possible.

We are asking families to let us know student transportation needs for the upcoming school year using this [form](#). Please complete this as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. Failure to complete this form may cause delays in getting your child(ren) scheduled for transportation. Therefore, it is important that you complete this form as soon as possible.

- **Elementary Update: Our New Building and What Comes Next**

Finally, I want to provide an update on our elementary facilities and the exciting work that continues following the opening of our new elementary building.

As we continue settling into the new building, work will also continue on the landscape and exterior areas. Some of these projects are dependent on weather, growing seasons, and our construction managers are working diligently to get our lawn and playgrounds in order. We appreciate everyone's patience as the site continues to take shape.

We also know that many community members have questions about the future of our former elementary buildings. We are carefully considering the next steps for these properties and are working with local government municipalities to make decisions that benefit our community. More information on Parma and Warner will be coming in the near future.

Thank you, again, for your continued support and partnership. We are looking forward to the school year ahead and all that it holds for our students!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Smajda', written in a cursive style.

Michael Smajda
Superintendent