



WILDCAT CONNECTION

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MATTAWAN PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Working to Provide Unique Educational Opportunities

The Mattawan Public Education Foundation continued its work of using donated funds to strengthen the community by providing unique educational opportunities in two significant ways so far this spring – by accepting a generous grant from Charles River Laboratories, and by holding our annual “Cheers to Education” event.

Charles River gave a one-time grant to The Foundation in the amount of \$150,000 for the purchase of STEM related technology and supplies for the district. Charles River collaborated with Foundation president, Ryan Smith, and district superintendent, Randy Fleenor, to identify STEM related needs within the school system, and then presented The Foundation with this extremely generous grant, enough to cover the ENTIRE list of needs for the district. The Foundation is so excited to put the grant money to use and provide every building in our district with materials and supplies including microscopes, spectrosopes, computer equipment, engineering kits, robotics equipment, and much more. Students at every level of learning in Mattawan will have their education enhanced thanks to the generosity of Charles River Laboratories. The Foundation is so fortunate to have Charles River as a partner in supporting educational improvements, and we cannot wait to see the impact this grant will have on Mattawan students for years to come.

The Foundation held its annual “Cheers to Education” event at Consumers Credit Union Corporate Headquarters in Kalamazoo. Attendees enjoyed delicious food from Millennium Catering and musical entertainment by Later Elementary Music teacher Lindsey Mroczek, while having the chance to learn about the various ways in which The Foundation supports the district. Information on the May 7 bond proposal was also presented. Cheers to Education was also a chance to recognize our Corporate Sponsors - AVB, Consumers Credit Union, Lippert Components, Getman Corporation, and Bright Financial Advisors for their multi- year commitment to our mission. The Foundation looks forward to this event every year as a chance to connect with and thank our donors, without whom none of our efforts are possible.

Here are some upcoming ways to support Mattawan Schools and The Foundation:

May 7 – Vote on Mattawan Bond (click here for additional bond information)

June 20 - Foundation Charity Golf Classic

August 3 – Wildcat Road + Trail 5k

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SPECIAL EDITION BOND UPDATE

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The Foundation is looking for board members! If you are looking for a way to become involved in the community, consider becoming a Mattawan Public Education Board Member. Contact Ryan Smith for more information; ryan.smith@mpef.org

OUR MISSION

Partnering with our community and families, we provide the highest quality education for all students in a caring, safe, and inclusive learning environment.



Randy Fleenor, Superintendent

SPRINGING FORWARD

Blooming with Progress, Investing in Our Future

Dear Mattawan Families and Community Members,

As we enter the home stretch of the school year, it seems Mother Nature can't quite make up her mind on the weather, offering us a blend of sunshine and showers, or snow! Yet, amidst this atmospheric indecision, spring serves as a powerful reminder of new beginnings and growth. It heralds the promise of what's to come: the warmth of summer and the blossoming of exciting possibilities. Speaking of new beginnings, we're thrilled to announce that kindergarten enrollment for the upcoming school year is now open, inviting the youngest members of our community to embark on their educational journey with us. Learn more at www.mattawanschools.org/enrollment.

Looking ahead, there's even more to anticipate. On **Tuesday, May 7, 2024**, we have a significant opportunity before us—a bond proposal that will invest \$110 million in our students and community. The best part? There will be no increase to the current millage rate. This investment will empower us to enhance educational resources, improve facilities, and create an even more vibrant and supportive learning environment. Together, let's embrace the spirit of spring, celebrate new beginnings, and join hands in shaping a brighter future for our students and community.

Your unwavering commitment to our students and community is sincerely appreciated. Together, we have the power to create a lasting impact on the education and well-being of the upcoming generation.



Care for what we have

Prioritize safety + security

Provide future-focused academic experiences

Improve infrastructure

Be financially responsible

OUR VISION

Mattawan Consolidated School will be the leading collaborative learning community in which every individual will be valued, engaged, and empowered

As we approach **Tuesday, May 7, 2024**, our focus revolves around five key objectives for the bond:

- Preserve existing assets
- Prioritize safety and security
- Provide future-focused academic and extracurricular experiences for our students
- Enhance infrastructure
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility



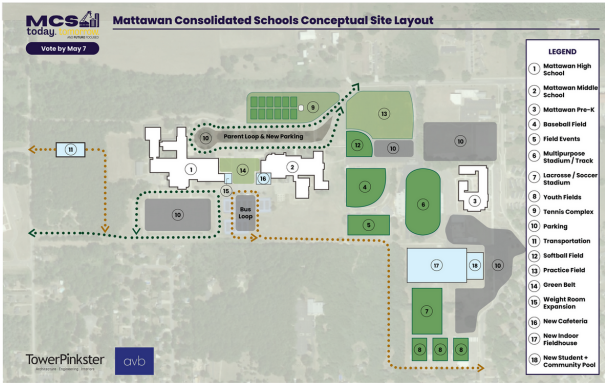
As we enjoy the beauty of spring, let's remember the seeds we're planting today for a brighter future for all our students. Thank you for your continued support

With gratitude, and, my best to you and your family,

Randy Fleenor
Superintendent of Schools

MCS UNVEILING THE FUTURE.

THE SCHOOL BOND EXPLAINED.



A Look at the Proposed Designs

safety & security

- Addressing traffic congestion, lack of parking spaces, and separation of traffic and busing through enhancements
- Replacement of outdated, unreliable security equipment at each building

transportation

- Continued replacement of an aging bus fleet

academic learning spaces + experience:

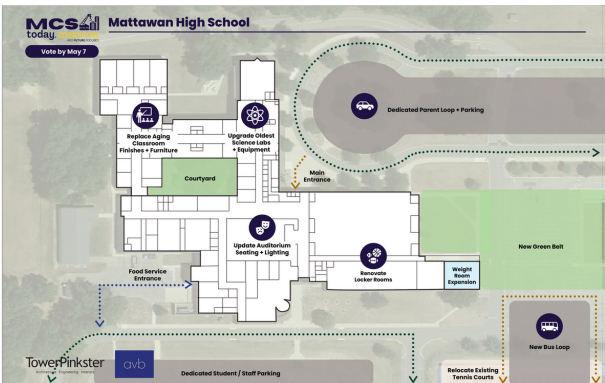
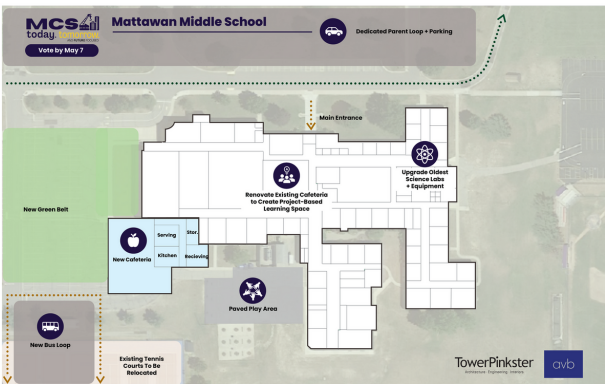
- Replacement of original, aged classroom equipment and furniture at middle and high schools
- Updates to original, outdated science areas at middle and high schools (excluding the newly renovated portions) to ensure students have state of the art experiences.

fine arts

- Upgrades to original seating, lighting, and media equipment at the high school auditorium

infrastructure

- Replacement of original, outdated lockers, bathrooms, various ceilings, and lighting at middle and high schools
- Renovations to high school weight room including expansion to address overcrowding and scheduling issues for student-athletes and physical education courses
- Upgrade of aged building controls at middle and high schools (water, fire, HVAC, etc.) to provide the most efficient and safe environmental controls
- Addition of cooling to main gymnasiums at middle and high school



new construction

- Addition of a new middle school cafeteria to address overcrowding in the current cafeteria
- Replacement of aged, quickly deteriorating tennis courts
- Replacement of aged transportation building and maintenance building
- Construction of a fieldhouse facility for indoor practice teams/band to address lack of 12-month practice space; available for community use
- Construction of a student/community pool

student athletic experience

- Renovation of aged high school locker rooms
- Renovation of the high school stadium, including artificial turf, new entryways, expanded concessions
- New high school track - the current track is backwards and nearly unusable in the current condition
- Upgrades to worn baseball and softball fields
- Relocation and construction of a new soccer field
- Maintenance of existing practice fields; addition of a new outdoor practice space

ZERO MILL INCREASE
maximum impact
MAY 7, 2024

MCS INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE.

THE SCHOOL BOND EXPLAINED.



MCS 

today.tomorrow.
AND FUTURE FOCUSED

Remember to Vote!

MAY 7, 2024

The School Bond Explained

"No increase expected in current millage rate, but an increase in opportunities for Mattawan students. This zero-mill increase bond offers exceptional value."

~Randy Fleenor, Superintendent

ELECTION 2024

Understanding the Bond: May 7, 2024

Residents within the Mattawan Consolidated School district will have the opportunity to vote in the May 7, 2024, election. Mattawan Consolidated School is asking its voters to consider a bond proposal. This "Investing in Our Future Report" is intended to provide you with more details about the proposal.

ZERO MILL INCREASE

Zero-mill increase, maximum impact

On Tuesday, May 7, 2024 residents that live within the Mattawan Consolidated School boundaries will have the opportunity to vote on a comprehensive School Bond. We trust that you share our enthusiasm for the future of Mattawan. This project presents a distinctive chance to invest in both our students and the broader community, all without imposing an additional millage increase burden on taxpayers.

Your unwavering commitment to our students and community is sincerely appreciated. Together, we have the power to create a lasting impact on the education and well-being of the upcoming generation.

PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

At-a-Glance

Our focus revolves around five key objectives for the bond:

- Preserve existing assets
- Prioritize safety and security
- Provide future-focused academic and extracurricular experiences for our students
- Enhance infrastructure
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility



Care for what we have



Prioritize safety + security



Provide future-focused academic experiences



Improve infrastructure



Be financially responsible

www.mattawanschools.org/bond

Contact your city/township office to find polling locations



Two Bond Proposals

Voters will see two proposals on the ballot on Tuesday, May 7, 2024:

PROPOSAL 1: SAFETY, ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS

Proposal 1 will be for a \$92,000,000 investment and will include a variety of enhancements: safety, technology, academic learning spaces, transportation, traffic flow, and parking, as well as athletic spaces.

PROPOSAL 2: CONSTRUCT, COMMUNITY, FACILITY

Proposal 2 will be for an \$18,000,000 investment in a student + community pool.

If approved, Proposal 1: Safety, Academics + Athletics. would allow the district to sell bonds and generate approximately \$92 million with a 0.00 mill increase over the current millage rate of 7.00 mills.

If approved, Proposal 2: Student + Community Pool Improvements, would allow the district to sell bonds and generate approximately \$18 million with a 0.00 mill increase over the current millage rate of 7.00 mills and the 0.00 mill increase proposed in Proposal 1. The current millage rate would stay the same.

If both Proposals 1 + 2 were approved, the district could sell bonds and generate approximately \$110 million in funds with a total of 0.00 mill increase over the current millage rate of 7.00 mills.

Why Two Bonds....

BOTH ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT

From the onset of the planning process, the District has been committed to fiscal responsibility by bringing bond proposals that do not increase the current millage rate of 7.0 for taxpayers. Presenting two distinct yet equally essential proposals allows the District to manage the phased release of bond sales during the construction project timelines. This strategic approach ensures that the mill rate remains unchanged and prevents any increase throughout the duration of the projects.

Proposal 1 addresses much-needed student experiences - academic spaces, infrastructure and environment improvements, and external campus enhancements. While Proposal 2 (Student + Community Pool) holds significant importance, its execution as a stand-alone initiative may pose challenges without the combined approval of Proposal 1. The proposals are interdependent, and their combined approval would create a more seamless and effective implementation of the envisioned improvements.

Both proposals are essential to address our District and Community needs while being fiscally responsible and preserving our existing assets for generations.

PROJECTS

The proposed improvements focus on enhancing safety, security, and overall infrastructure within the educational system. In terms of safety and security, measures include addressing traffic congestion, improving parking, and upgrading security equipment. Transportation improvements involve the ongoing replacement of an aging bus fleet. Academic learning spaces are set to be revamped by replacing outdated classroom equipment and furniture, particularly in science areas, ensuring state-of-the-art experiences for students. Fine arts upgrades include improvements to seating, lighting, and media equipment in the high school auditorium. Infrastructure enhancements cover the replacement of outdated facilities like lockers, bathrooms, ceilings, and lighting, as well as the renovation of the high school weight room. The student athletic experience will be improved through the renovation of locker rooms, stadium replacement, a new track, and enhancements to baseball and softball fields, and outdoor practice spaces. New construction projects involve the addition of a middle school cafeteria, replacement of tennis courts, transportation and maintenance buildings, soccer field, and the construction of a field-house facility and a student/community pool to address various needs in the community.

PROPOSAL 1

SAFETY.
ACADEMICS.
ATHLETICS.



PROPOSAL 2

CONSTRUCT
COMMUNITY
FACILITY



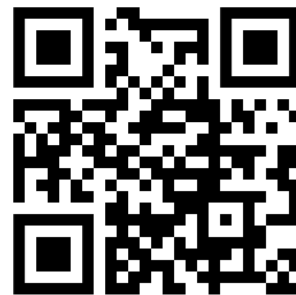
0 MILL INCREASE

OVER CURRENT 7.00 MILLS

This bond isn't just about bricks and mortar, it's about building a stronger community, one Wildcat at a time.



Scan QR FOR MORE



A WORLD OF DISCOVERY: PRESCHOOL CENTERS IGNITE POTENTIAL Mrs. Plume's Activity Centers Prepare Students for Success



A joyful vibe, busy hands, and bright smiles filled Mrs. Plume's preschool classroom as our youngest learners rotated between activity centers. On the rug, towers soared as little architects collaborated, celebrating each built creation. Over at the tables, colorful paper cupcake doilies transformed into underwater creatures as guided by the hands of a caring substitute parapro, Mrs. Petraitis. Meanwhile, Mrs. Plume worked with students, bringing vibrant stories to life through pictures and words, and others,

learning to count, identify, and color numbers up to ten. Driven by an innate curiosity and a thirst for exploration, Wildcat preschoolers blossom in the ECEC environment where our educators keep them actively engaged with lessons that spark their natural desire to discover and understand the world around them. With a gentle voice and a heart overflowing with patience, Mrs. Plume creates a peaceful, nurturing haven where kids thrive. Her unwavering support empowers each child to discover their unique potential, preparing them for nothing less than Wildcat success. Heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Plume, and to all of our early childhood educators who lay the cornerstone for a lifelong love of learning for our students as they embark on their educational journey.

Early Start, Big Impact

WHY EARLY EDUCATION MATTERS



Kindergarten may seem like a distant milestone, but the early years are crucial for setting the stage for a child's academic success. High-quality early childhood education programs bridge the gap between home and formal schooling, providing a nurturing environment where young learners can flourish. These programs go beyond basic skills – they focus on building a love of learning. Through play-based activities, children develop social-emotional skills like cooperation and communication, essential for navigating a classroom setting. They build a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy, learning to recognize letters, sounds, and basic math concepts. Perhaps most importantly, early childhood education instills a sense of confidence and curiosity in young minds. Mattawan's strong early childhood teachers are magicians disguised as educators, weaving a play, learning, and care that ignites discovery in our little Wildcats. When children enter kindergarten, they're not just prepared academically; they're eager to explore, collaborate, and embark on their educational journey with a positive attitude.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS RECEIVE WILDCAT PRIDE AWARD



A round of applause for our incredible early childhood educators! Our dedicated teachers and support staff were recently honored with the prestigious Mattawan Pride Award for Excellence. Early Childhood Education Center staff members Brandi Roberts, Nichole Plume, and Anne Bailey were nominated by their colleagues for creating the conditions to provide the highest quality education for all students in a caring, safe, and inclusive learning environment.



These educators go above and beyond to nurture young minds, fostering curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning in their students. Their commitment to serving families and students sets the foundation for a child's lifelong success. This well-deserved recognition highlights the exceptional work happening at Mattawan Early Childhood Education Center and the profound impact they have on the lives of our youngest learners. Mattawan Consolidated Schools are committed to celebrating the work of our students, teachers, and support staff who work every school day to ensure kids have a safe, healthy, and impactful learning experience.



ENROLL WITH US

M

ENROLL FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Mattawan Early Childhood Education Center
Young 5's and Preschool



In district registration opens on **MARCH 4, 2024.**
School of choice registration opens on **April 8, 2024.**

STUDENT PROGRAMMING OPTIONS ARE BASED ON BIRTHDAY

- Birthdays between **September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021** are eligible to register for the half days, 2 days a week program.
- Birthdays between **December 2nd, 2019 - August 31st, 2020** are eligible to register for the half days, 3 days a week program.
- Birthdays between **December 2, 2019 - August 31st, 2020** are eligible to register for full day preschool, 4 days a week.
- Birthdays between **June 1, 2019 - December 1, 2019** will register for Young 5's.
- Birthdays **on/before May 31, 2019** will register for Kindergarten at the EES.
- THE ECEC ALSO HAS **GSRP, ECSE,** and **HEAD START** PRESCHOOL OPTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE BUILDING. They are an outside agency and you must contact them directly to get into their program.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration information can be found at the Mattawan website www.mattawanschools.org/enroll. Mattawan district registration opens on March 4, 2024 for students living in the district. Non-Mattawan district residents (preschool) and School of Choice (Y5 and Kindergarten) registration will open **April 8, 2024**. Do not enroll before April 8th or you will be denied and have to reregister.

Y5 SCREENING DATE

- Young 5's screening date is **May 16, 2024**. All students within the birthday range between June 1, 2019 and December 1, 2019 will have to register for Young 5's. If you wish for your child to attend Kindergarten next year, please let the screener know during the appointment. A follow up conversation will then occur with administration at the ECEC and the EES to best determine placement for the following school year.
- All students are required to come to round up to turn in paperwork and help us best place your child for the upcoming school year.
- Screening date scheduling and information for Y5 will come in an email after you enroll on PowerSchool.

REGISTERING FOR MATTAWAN PRESCHOOL

2 DAY PROGRAM

- Birthdays between Sept. 1, 2020–Aug. 31, 2021
- Half Day options include:
Tuesday/Thursday 8:30-11:30
Tuesday/Thursday 12:20-3:20
- **Tuition is \$36 per week**
- Transportation provided by family
- 30-week program
- 9:2 student/adult ratio
- Snacks provided by family

3 DAY PROGRAM

- Birthdays between Dec. 2, 2019–Aug. 31, 2020
- Half Day options include:
Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30-11:30
Mon/Wed/Fri 12:20-3:20
- **Tuition is \$54 per week**
- Transportation provided by family
- 30 week program
- 9:2 student/adult ratio
- Snacks provided by family

4 Day Program

- Birthdays between Dec. 2, 2019–Aug. 31, 2020
- **Full Day** options include:
Monday-Thursday 8:30-3:20
- **Tuition is \$168 per week**
- Transportation provided by family
- 30-week program
- 9:2 student/adult ratio
- Lunch and snacks provided by family

GSRP Contact Information: www.greatstart-vanburen.org; 269-539-5214; email: gsrcp@vbsd.org
Head Start Contact Information: www.tricountyhs.org; 1-800-792-0366

EARLY ELEMENTARY

EARLY ELEMENTARY POWER HALF HOUR

All Hands on Deck Targeted Instruction



Kindness Counts

Early Elementary Students Plant a Kindness Tree with Love



For the month of February “sightings” of kindness were captured on hearts and planted on our Kindness Tree. Our goal this month is to affirm and celebrate the implementation of the Capturing Kids’ Hearts program. Capturing Kids’ Hearts makes kids feel valued, respected and connected. Join us in spreading kindness throughout the community!

Meeting the wide range of instructional needs within a grade level can be challenging but with the right assessments, instructional materials, organization, and passion for teaching and learning an instructional match for each child can be achieved! The teachers, organized into professional learning communities, meet weekly to review data and regroup for instruction. That targeted instruction occurs during each grade level’s Power Half Hour. It’s “all hands on deck,” for that learning period as teachers, grade level paraprofessionals and instructional specialists all work together to target the skills needed via small group instruction. The success of the Power Half Hour learning block is reflected in the assessment data and is celebrated throughout the building each and every day as students eagerly head to their small groups to grow and learn.

STORYBOOK CHARACTERS COME ALIVE!

Kindergarten Dress Up & Read On to Celebrates Read Across America



The spirit of reading at Mattawan Early Elementary sparked with an energy unlike any other day. Kindergarten classrooms celebrated “Read Across America” by dressing up each day in accordance to a book title. The goal of Read Across America is to promote literacy, a love of reading among children, and to encourage them to explore the world of reading. Dressed as their favorite storybook characters, students transformed into a display of color and imagination. Teachers too, adorned as their favorite book characters, welcomed students with a touch of magic. Their all-in approach set the stage and brought beloved stories to life. Outside the classrooms, our creative teachers and helpers decorated their doors to add to the reading festivities. Inside the classrooms, the magic continued with energetic readings of classics like “Oh the Places We Will Go”, and “The Very Hungry Caterpillar.” Fan favorites like “Pete the Cat” and “Click, Clack, Moo” had students huddled together, poring over brightly illustrated books. By the end of the week, the love for reading was obvious and contagious. Read Across America Day in these kindergarten classrooms was motivational and encourages kids to grab a book wherever they are celebrate reading! Special thanks to our teachers and paraprofessionals who embraced their inner child, donned wacky costumes, and proved that even grown-ups can have a blast celebrating Read Across America Day!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO STEAM IT UP AT EES

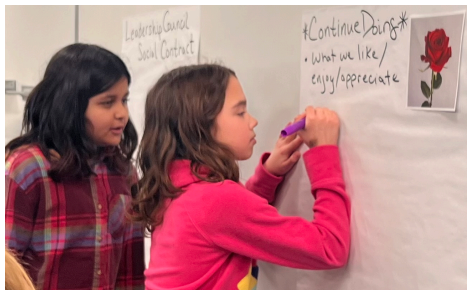
Mattawan Early Elementary Parent Association Invests in STEAM Materials

Katie Bohms of MEEPA has created STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities for each grade level at the Mattawan Early Elementary. Each teacher has a sign up for family members to volunteer to come in and teach the hands-on STEAM lesson once a month. MEEPA purchases the materials for the lessons, mostly using the funds raised from their Hungry Howies fundraiser held the first Wednesday of every month. Good pizza leads to great STEAM activities! February lessons included: What is camouflage? What makes a rainbow? Learning is STEAMing along at the EES thanks to our “village.” We encourage families to come in and learn cool things with us.



Leaders in the Making

Introducing Groundbreaking 5th Grade Leadership Council 2024



We are excited to have our very first 5th Grade Leadership Council in place and demonstrating their leadership skills in the school. The Council consists of two representatives from each 5th grade class, totaling 20 students. The leaders have been working hard to analyze their school experience, share their ideas for improvement, as well as what they think should be kept in place. They've developed excellent plans for how to serve their school community,

particularly younger students. They've even taken over morning announcement duties! Principal Pratley wanted this group of leaders in place to amplify student voice and participation in the everyday workings of the school, and to foster leadership skills in students who will one day lead our community as adults. Our students are smart, creative, and capable, and they have a lot to offer. They are already having a positive impact at LES!

LATER ELEMENTARY

3
-
5

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Audubon Society of Kalamazoo Funds 4th Grade



Thanks to a grant from the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo, the entire fourth grade was able to go to Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery for the Great Backyard Bird Count. The children toured the grounds and saw many different birds; the Blue Heron and Swans were favorites!

The indoor presentations were phenomenal. The children learned about the adaptations birds have that help them with survival. They also learned about how to identify birds based on their structure and function. The children also practiced bird calls and then met up with their bird-call match. After that they listened to the real bird calls. Next, the children rotated through stations where they used tools that represented bird beaks. The children had to identify which tool/beak is best for getting food. For example: tweezers/woodpeckers grabbed bugs from bark best; a cup/pelican to grab fish from the water; a mesh strainer/swan was able to grab plant life from the water. It was a wonderful learning experience for students!

MRS. EICHOLTZ 5TH GRADE BLACK HISTORY QUIZBOWL CLASSROOM

Knowledge is Power: It was a Kahoot! Face Off



In the spirit of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a group of dedicated Later Elementary teachers crafted a lively Black History Quiz Bowl for 5th grade students. This dynamic competition was designed to ignite young minds, immersing them in the rich tapestry of African American experiences, triumphs, and contributions to our nation. Inspired by Dr. Woodson's lifelong commitment to African American history education, this event aims to cultivate both knowledge and the soul of America. To add another layer of excitement and prestige, former Kalamazoo City Commissioner Eric Cunningham moderated the quiz bowl. A true pillar of the community, Mr. Cunningham's distinguished career is filled with accomplishments and tireless dedication to giving back to the community he loves. Even more special, Eric Cunningham is a former student of Mrs. Glasser during her tenure in Kalamazoo. His presence underscores the community-wide importance of honoring Black history and celebrating the leaders and change-makers who have shaped our world. To fire up the competition, Mr. Cunningham shared his personal story and in call and response fashion, motivated students with Hard Work! Dedication! mantra. Fifth grade competitors, armed with months of research and practice, buzzed with nerves and anticipation. The competition was set to be lightning-fast and fierce, powered by the Kahoot learning platform, a promising test of knowledge and reflexes! Mrs. Glasser kicked off the competition, reminding students that "we are ALL winners because we've had the opportunity to grow and study." Class pride was on the line, and so was the coveted class trophy. As the quiz kicked off, students leaned forward, fingers poised over Chromebooks, ready to showcase their expertise and claim victory for their team. Each 5th grade classroom team battled through questions about historical figures, pivotal moments, and cultural contributions. Their teachers looked on, cheering, loudly, and with nods of approval. The first annual Black History Quiz-Bowl was legit fun, and it made way for a celebration of student knowledge. We are incredibly proud of this event, our students, and teachers. The trophy now belongs to Mrs. Eicholtz's class! Mrs. Pratley, Later Elementary Principal, presented a proclamation on behalf of Mattawan Consolidated School to Mr. Cunningham for moderating this beautiful event. Deep appreciation to our supportive parents, your decorative skills made for a festive vibe. Very special thanks to Mrs. Glasser, the Black History Quiz Bowl was a triumph – your leadership in making it happen and providing our students with such a powerful learning experience in appreciated.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSFLASH

MATH COUNTS TEAM 2024

NUMBER CRUNCHERS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT WMU



Mattawan Middle School is proud to congratulate the 2024 MathCounts team on a great season! The 12 students on the team spanned grades 6-8, and many were returning members from last year. Ms. Furland and Mrs. Swetich hosted weekly practices, challenging the students with rigorous math problems and strategies. These strategies prepared the team for the Regional Competition at Western Michigan University where they competed against 13 other schools in the area. Although they did not advance to the State level, we're extremely proud of the team's hard work and dedication.

We sincerely thank the MPEF for providing personalized t-shirts designed by the students, and T-Shirt Printing Plus for producing them so quickly. Please join us in applauding these students not only for their outstanding math skills, but also their commitment to the MathCounts team. Special thanks to our coaches, Addisyn Furland and Amanda Swetich. Great work, Wildcats!

Team Members: Havyn Kim, Mason Sines, Natalie Toman, Tabitha Treadwell, Asher Ndenga, Elliot Walters, Alexis Galla, Jayden Horvath, Charlee Bohms, Elijah Gerrits, Khloe Terburg, Kade Messamore



GAME ON!

MATTAWAN MIDDLE SCHOOL LAUNCHES AFTER-SCHOOL GAME CLUB



Game Club started this year as a program for kids to join an after school program. Some of our students have never joined an after school activity before until Game Club. Game Club averages 20 - 25 kids per week. Kids learn how to play board games and video games also. Some of the board games are Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, and Planet. Thanks to grants, The District was able to purchase two Nintendo Switches and two Playstation 5s. The Playstations have Virtual Reality headsets also.

Kids love trying the new virtual reality. They also love playing active games like Switch Sports. Students learn how to take turns and work together on sharing. Lots of laughs are had at Game Club. Students even want Game Club on days that we have snow days. Mr. Carl Shannon has done an excellent job of setting up the video game systems and taking care of them so we will be able to use them for years to come. Game Club was organized by Mrs. Jenny Neisen and Mr. Phu Trieu.

MMS CHOIRS SNAG DIVISION 1 RATNG AT MICHIGAN VOCAL MUSIC ASSOCIATION CHORAL FESTIVAL

Wildcat Sounds of Success



Mattawan Middle School's Vocal Music program sent two choirs to the Michigan School Vocal Music Association's District 11 Choral Festival. The festival is an adjudicated event that gives choirs the opportunity to sing for well trained and highly experienced choir teachers from across the state of Michigan! Moreover, each participating choir is provided the opportunity to work with one of these very skilled teachers! At the festival, the students are scored on how well they perform two prepared songs and on their sight reading skills.

Our 7th and 8th grade choirs began their preparation in August, practicing sight reading and learning our music. Mattawan continued its tradition of excellence at this festival. Both 7th and 8th grade choirs earned a Division 1 rating and a perfect score in sight reading. They received great comments from the teachers that they worked with and learned valuable new ways to approach singing. We are so proud of our students' hard work to represent the community of Mattawan and the Middle School!

HAZEL ARUGASLAN SCORES DREAM PERFORMANCE



Mattawan High School musician, Hazel Arugaslan, was selected for the High School Honors Performance Series at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in New York City held on February 10. Hazel performed voice - alto with the Honors Concert Choir. In addition to Carnegie Hall, Hazel was also selected to perform with the Honors Choir at the Royal Festival Hall in London, England in July.

Hazel was nominated by her Mattawan High School choir teacher Mr. David Hook. Music has been Hazel's passion throughout her school career, she is a member of the Mattawan High School Masters Choir and Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra. "I am honored to be selected and truly appreciate this amazing opportunity to learn from experts that know so much more about the world of music. I would like to come back from these experiences as a changed musician who could help the people back home also understand the gravity of music," said Arugaslan. The Honors Performance Series was created to showcase accomplished individual student performers on an international level by allowing them to study under master conductors and perform in world renowned venues.

HIGH SCHOOLERS GET A TASTE OF WMU ENGINEERING LIFE

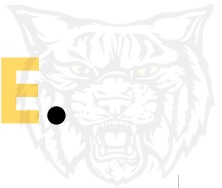
A group of Wildcat engineers stepped onto the Western Michigan University campus with Mr. DeGroff, Project Lead the Way Engineering Teacher, and Nancy Garman, Class Advisor and Teacher. Students were given a tour of the school and met with mentors from the Engineering college. In honor of engineering week, the Wildcat students enjoyed a special dinner on behalf of the university.



One special highlight of the visit was a compelling motivational speech from Louise Noeth, author and pioneer in land speed racing and the hot rodding community. Ms. Noeth has an extensive list of accomplishments, and she is well known for engaging and interactive educational opportunities for students.

Mattawan students saw themselves reflected in the passionate discussions and the professors who treated them not as future engineers, but as present problem-solvers, ready to tackle the world's next challenges. Special thanks to Mr. DeGroff and Mrs. Garman for going the extra mile to see that our engineering entrepreneurs could explore the possibilities.

WILDCAT PRIDE.



PALS Soar at State Leadership Conference
 WILDCAT LEADERSHIP IN ACTION



The Mattawan High School Peer Assistance Leadership and Service Program (PALS) attended the MASC/MAHS Student State Leadership Conference. This is the first time in Mattawan history that Mrs. Flachier has brought 30 student leaders to this event. Senior Paige Stiles, Junior Vivian Owlsey, and Sophomores Taylor Bernardi and Zane Roberts presented the PALS program during the student showcase presentations to expand our peer-helping program to other schools. Among the Mattawan students, two veteran PALS, Paige Stiles (Mattawan Senior) and Olivia Csom (Senior at West Michigan Aviation Academy) represented Mattawan High School on the Michigan Student Board of Delegates. As board members for the past two years, Paige and Olivia have not only organized the state conference event but made it their goal to involve more Mattawan students to amplify our Mattawan High School leadership.

MHS SPORTS REPORT



WINTER SPORTS WRAPPED UP WITH SOME EXCITING HAPPENINGS!

- The boys and girls ski teams went to the state finals including finalists Anna Roethlisberger, Addison Bell, Eve Lavergne, Anna Hoogeheide, Delaney Riddle, Marley Messamare, and Addison Sylvester.
- The swim team sent a relay team consisting of Josh Martin, Logan Lippert, and Donnie Cassada to the state finals. Josh Martin also qualified for state in an individual event.
- The wrestling team sent two individual qualifiers to the state meet with Elyse Morales and Dylan Putnam.
- Competitive cheer went on to Regionals for the first time since 2018.
- Records broken in Boys and Girls Basketball! Delany Elsmore and Noah Vanlaningham were both names conference team Captains and both made over 1000 points in their school career.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR STUDENT ATHLETES ON A STRONG SEASON!



WILDCAT CONNECTION

WILDCATS

2023-2024

DISTRICT CALENDAR

MARCH 2024

- 7-8 ½ Day
- 11 No School - Staff PD
- 29 No School - Spring Break Begins

APRIL 2024

- 8 Classes Resume
- 24 ½ Day - Staff PD

MAY 2024

- 16 ½ Day - Staff PD
- 27 No School - Memorial Day

JUNE 2024

- 3-4 Final exams - ½ days for **6-12 students only**
- 5 ½ Day Students - Last Day of School Staff Records

BOARD OF EDUCATION

2023.2024

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