

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS *Newsletter*



EDUCATE • EMPOWER • EQUIP
Students for Life

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SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

7454 B Drive North
Battle Creek, MI 49014
Telephone: 269.441.6550
Website: www.harpercreek.net

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Message from Superintendent Rob Ridgeway



The Harper Creek Community Schools' bond proposal election is occurring next Tuesday, May 7, 2024. While we understand many in our community will vote via absentee ballot, a majority will more than likely be in person. We encourage you to vote and cast your ballot.

The primary reason for the bond proposal is for additional classroom space. The proposal would add four additional classrooms at each elementary school and remodel the vacant middle school pool area into four additional classrooms. The project would also upgrade playgrounds, parking, pick-up and drop-off, glass safety film on entrances, and a new bus garage parking lot. The high school would receive roof improvements, a secured vestibule at the student/athletic entrance, and weight room equipment.

The bond proposal would increase the school district's overall debt millage by an estimated 0.6 mills over the 2023 debt levy and would cost a homeowner of a \$200,000 house approximately \$5 a month or \$60 a year.

Harper Creek Community Schools' student population has grown. We have used all available space at the elementary and middle schools and even have some of our specials teachers teaching from carts. The Board of Education and I considered all options and felt a voted bond proposal would be the best solution moving forward. The last voted bond occurred sixteen years ago, and we understand the financial effect on our community. The current bond proposal addresses the needs of our students to ensure we have enough classrooms to have reasonable class sizes, recommended safety improvements, and more effective parking, including pick-up and drop-off.

At Harper Creek Community School we Educate, Empower, and Equip Students for Life. Please be part of the democratic process and cast your ballot on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Rob Ridgeway
Superintendent
Harper Creek Community Schools



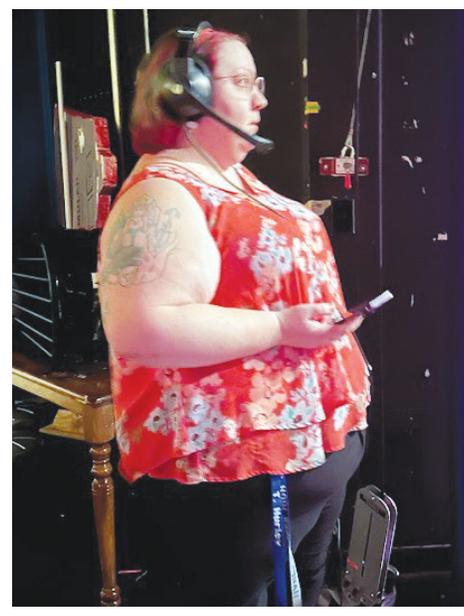
Harper Creek High School

Together We Can Create Musical Experiences
By Mr. Ed Greenman, Principal, Harper Creek High School

Recently, the musical 'Annie' was performed at Harper Creek High School. Our director was Ms. Tiffini Hurley, Mr. Bryan Borders was the music director, our vocal director was Mr. Alex Port, our choreographer was Mrs. Melissa Rau, and Ms. Deb Hall was the set designer. There were over 75 individuals involved in the musical and based on the reaction from the audience at all three performances, a lot of fun was had by all.

Together, we can accomplish a lot. This performance didn't happen overnight. It started with tryouts, and our director had to decide who would be the best fit for all of the characters. Sets had to be built, hours upon hours of practices occurred, wardrobes had to be selected, dance steps needed to be learned and reinforced, the music had to be tweaked from start to finish, revisions were made, lighting was tested every step of the way, coordination had to take place with the multitude of microphones, tickets, posters, advertising...the list goes on and on.

We had students from 5th through 12th grade that were involved along with adults from the area. It was definitely an event that brought the community together and showcased the talent of our kids. It truly is amazing when one person, Ms. Hurley, has a plan, articulates it to others and creates by in. Together we can...I saw it with my own eyes during the performance of Annie.





Wattles Park Elementary

We Are Better Together at Wattles Park Elementary

By Mr. Brent Swan, Principal, Wattles Park Elementary

At Wattles Park Elementary School, we believe in the power of unity and collaboration. As we navigate through the end of the 23-24 school year, our work remains steadfast: "We Are Better Together." This shows up in our commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every student, teacher, and staff member thrives.

Through Social Emotional Learning and inclusive classroom practices, we aim to instill the values of empathy, respect, and cooperation in our students. Whether it's working on group projects, implementing peer partnerships, or simply lending a helping hand to a classmate in need, our students exemplify the spirit of togetherness every day.

By embracing diversity and celebrating individual strengths, we create a vibrant tapestry of learners who understand that we are stronger when we stand united. Together, we can achieve anything, and together, we will continue to make Wattles Park a place where everyone belongs and succeeds.



Sonoma Elementary

Together One Step at a Time

By Shalen King, Principal, Sonoma Elementary



"Together We Can" encompasses who we are at Sonoma Elementary; it is the heartbeat of collaboration. Together we have a collective strength found in our shared experiences. In every classroom, playground, and community, "Together We Can" is shown in these pictures. We appreciate all of our teachers, staff, parents, and community members who are helping to build a brighter future for the students at Sonoma one step at a time.





Beadle Lake Elementary

Making Memories Together



Together We Can Create a Sense of Belonging

By Mrs. Kim Thayer, Principal, Harper Creek Community Schools

Harper Creek Middle School

Harper Creek Middle School administers an annual student perception survey to gauge how well staff are supporting students in 5th through 8th grades. While students report in a generally positive way, the two areas that show the largest areas for growth are students feeling like they have a choice in what they learn, and the respect students show for one another.

Together, staff, families, and our community can create change that will address student concerns and help create a safer, more enriching place for our children to learn.

Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, staff at Harper Creek Middle School are committed to ensuring time and space every school day to facilitate learning around self-awareness, respecting others, and fostering empathy. We hope that this learning experience will empower students to build and maintain healthy relationships, manage their own emotions, and make caring, responsible decisions.

Families of Harper Creek Middle School are involved in their children's education by advocating for their children in many positive ways. Attendance at conferences, parent meetings, and extracurricular activities continues to be strong. In addition, parents and guardians take advantage of apps and our school website to keep track of individual student information and general school information. Volunteer opportunities are always available in school and on school trips.

Harper Creek Middle School Staff appreciates our community connections. We are committed to developing and maintaining partnerships with many specialized community partners. These partners supplement our educational opportunities, financially support enrichment activities, and provide extension services to our students.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of Harper Creek Middle School students.





Growing Together . . .

with families and community partners to create a space where ALL feel like they belong and can THRIVE



By Laura Williams - Assistant Superintendent,
Harper Creek Community Schools

Harper Creek Community Schools, in a groundbreaking collaboration with Grace Health, Sexual Assault Services, What A Do Theater, KYD Network, Summit Pointe, and Girls on the Run, is spearheading an innovative approach to prioritize student mental health and well-being. Together, these organizations are committed to providing holistic support to students, recognizing the integral role mental health plays in their overall success.

Harper Creek Community Schools has embarked on a transformative journey by partnering with a diverse array of community organizations, aiming to address the complex needs of students beyond academic endeavors. This collaborative effort underscores the district's dedication to nurturing the whole child and fostering an environment where every student can flourish.

At the core of this initiative is Grace Health, renowned for its expertise in healthcare and commitment to community well-being. Through this partnership, Harper Creek Community Schools can offer comprehensive mental health services to students, ensuring accessibility and quality care for those in need.

In addition to Grace Health, the collaboration includes Sexual Assault Services, an organization dedicated to supporting survivors and preventing sexual violence. By joining forces with this agency, the school district demonstrates its unwavering commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for all students, addressing critical issues that impact their well-being.

What A Do Theater, acclaimed for its community engagement and impactful storytelling, is also a key partner in this endeavor. Through innovative programs and interactive workshops, the theater company will contribute to raising mental health awareness and resilience among students, harnessing the power of the arts to inspire and educate.

Furthermore, the partnership extends to Kyd Network and Summit Pointe, both renowned for their dedication to youth and mental health services. By collaborating with these organizations, Harper Creek Community Schools strengthens its ability to provide comprehensive support to students, leveraging the expertise and resources of trusted community partners.

Girls on the Run, an organization empowering young girls through physical activity and mentorship, joins this coalition to further promote mental well-being and self-confidence among students. Through their programs, girls are encouraged to develop healthy habits, build positive relationships, and embrace their unique strengths, contributing to a culture of resilience and empowerment within the school community.

Integral to the success of this collaborative effort is the involvement of families and caregivers. Harper Creek Community Schools recognizes the importance of engaging families in supporting students' mental health, creating a network of care that extends beyond the school walls and into the community.

With a steadfast focus on the whole child, Harper Creek Community Schools and its partners are committed to equipping students with the tools and support they need to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. This collaborative initiative sets a powerful example of the impact that community partnerships can have on promoting student well-being and creating a brighter future for all. We look forward to working with these partners and others to make Harper Creek Community a place where all students THRIVE!



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Harper Creek Community Schools Calendar of Events

May 2	American Legion Awards	7:00 PM	HCHS Auditorium
May 3	Beadle Lake Spring Concert	1:15 PM	BLE
May 3	Sonoma Glow Gallery	:30 -7:30 PM	SON
May 6	Sonoma PTA Meeting	6:00 – 7:00 PM	SON
May 8	Early Release		
May 8	High School Choir Concert	7:00 PM HS	Auditorium
May 9	High School Band Concert	7:00 PM HS	Auditorium
May 10	Senior Showcase	3:00 – 5:30 PM	HCHS
May 13	Board of Education Meeting	6:00 PM	Administration Board Room
May 14	Senior Showcase	3:00 – 5:30 PM	HCHS
May 15	Early Release		
May 15	6th, 7th, 8th Spring Choir Concert	7:00 PM	HS Auditorium
May 16	Senior Walk and Slideshow	10:45 AM	HCHS
May 17	Senior Awards Breakfast by invitation	7:30 AM	
May 18	Calhoun County Girls on the Run		HC Athletic Complex
May 21	Beadle Lake PTO	4:30 PM	
May 21	7th & 8th Grade Spring Band Concert	7:00 PM	HS Auditorium
May 22	Early Release		
May 27	No School		
May 30	Half Day of School		
May 31	Last Day of School; Half Day of School		
May 31	Class of 2024 Commencement	6:00 PM	Athletic Complex

The 2024 - 2025 School Calendar is available at www.HarperCreek.net.

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Schools of Choice Limited Enrollment

May 9, 2024 – June 7, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Limited enrollment opportunities are available for students residing in school districts within the Calhoun Intermediate School District. HCCS will accept school of choice students with the listed slots for the following grades:

1st grade	3 slots	2nd grade	8 slots	3rd grade	2 slots
4th grade	5 slots	5th grade	9 slots	6th grade	0 slots
7th grade	15 slots	8th grade	2 slots	9th grade	10 slots
10th grade	10 slots	11th grade	20 slots	12th grade	10 slots

KINDERGARTEN - Unlimited enrollment opportunities available for students entering kindergarten with an extended application window, **March 18, 2024 – July 26, 2024** at 4:00 PM, and a separate application.

Application materials for Schools of Choice are available at www.HarperCreek.net or you may call

269-441-6571

weekdays between 7:30 AM and 4:00 PM.

