

# WE ARE MONROE

The Monroe Public Schools Newsletter

• WINTER EDITION •



Celebrate  
and be  
joyful!



Monroe Public Schools is committed to being the premier education organization in the region. We are devoted to promoting high expectations for all in a state of the art 21st century curriculum. We recognize that all of the students and the communities that we serve are our customers, and we promise to make all decisions in their best interest.

## INSIDE...

- Trojans represent Monroe County in Lansing
- Monroe students get involved in city government
- Raisinville moves closer to full International Baccalaureate verification
- MMS and MHS Choirs spread holiday cheer
- Monroe High School band gives beloved director a proper sendoff

## February 2018 - Black History Month!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Read Across America Day!	13 Board of Education Meeting # 3	14	15	16 No School Winter Break	17
18	19 No School President's Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Board of Education Meeting # 4	28			

## March 2018 - National Reading Month!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Half Day, End of Second Trimester, HBA Show	3 HBA Home Improvement Show
4 HBA Home Improvement Show	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Board of Education Meeting #5	14 Half Day for Students	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Board Of Education Meeting #6	28	29 End of Third Quarter	30 No School Spring Break	31

## April 2018 - Autism Awareness Month!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 No School Spring Break	3 No School Spring Break	4 No School Spring Break	5 No School Spring Break	6 No School Spring Break	7
8	9 Classes Resume	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Half Day for Students	19	20	21
22	23	24 Board Of Education Meeting #7	25	26	27	28
29	20					

Take a break and take the **MONROE MINUTE!**

We want to know what you think about a wide range of topics. Every two weeks, your answers to these brief surveys go a long way to helping Monroe Public Schools become an even better place for our students to learn and grow!

**Your opinion matters!**



Follow Monroe Public Schools on Facebook!

Where you can find important updates about the district, fun articles and photos, and even a digital copy of the latest **Monroe Minute!**



## MHS band gives beloved director proper sendoff

James Nuechterlein's 30-year tenure as band director for Monroe High School has been filled with accolades and awards for his bands. As his career comes to a close with his retirement at the end of the school year, his group wanted to make sure he went out on top. The Monroe High School marching band took straight 1's, the highest marks possible, at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District Marching Festival held at Flat Rock High School earlier this year.

"The kids were really working for it," Nuechterlein said. "They wanted to make sure they sent me out the right way."

That was not the only retirement gift that his students had for him.

Every year for Monroe High School's homecoming celebrations, Nuechterlein sends out a call out to alumni to come and visit the band room to reminisce. On a normal year, anywhere from 20-30 former Trojan Marching Band members or Orchestra members would stroll back into H-wing and visit with their former mentor.



The Monroe High School Marching Band prepares to play for Custer Elementary students during its annual tour of schools.

This year, homecoming brought over 120 Trojans back to wish their beloved "Mr. Nick" well as he works toward his retirement at the end of the year.

"It was just wonderful," Nuechterlein said. "I made sure that I got ahold of as many as I could during the game to check in and talk to them, even just for a few

minutes. It was great finding out what everyone was up to."

Nuechterlein's successes as band leader and the countless student's lives he impacted will leave big shoes to fill.

"James Nuechterlein embodies Trojan Pride," said Monroe Public Schools Superintendent Julie Everly.



Generations of Sound sings to Arborwood Elementary students during its annual tour of the schools.

## MMS and MHS choirs spread holiday cheer

As the holidays come and go, the Monroe Middle School and Monroe High School choirs enter their busy seasons, spreading joy and song throughout the community. This year was no exception!

The Monroe High School choirs carried on the much anticipated tradition of the Madrigal Dinner to great success. Before the Generations of Sound had its big night, every school in the district, as well as the administration building, was treated to a performance by the group that has now become a staple in Monroe.

The Monroe High School choirs then gathered for their annual Christmas Concert to carol for a delighted crowd. The

MHS Choir also had the privilege of singing at Greenfield Village this holiday season as well!

The Monroe Middle School Jubilation Choir had a busy December! The co-ed choir of students who auditioned for a spot in the group practice after school. Between singing for the Thrift Shop Association of Monroe at Trinity Episcopal Church, the Parade of Lights at Christmas in Ida, the Kiwanis Club, and Matthes Christmas Tree Farm, Jubilation had a December full of spreading holiday cheer!

Once again, the vocal arts programs in Monroe Public Schools delighted the community over the holiday season!



International Baccalaureate consultant Diane Jensen (left) and Raisinville School Improvement Coach Cheryl Huffman discuss the plan for Jensen's walkthrough of the school.

## Raisinville moves closer to finalizing International Baccalaureate status

Raisinville Elementary welcomed its International Baccalaureate (IB) consultant earlier this year for guidance and support as the school moves closer and closer to the verification process. Diane Jensen, who has worked in schools from Malta to Estonia to Colorado supporting the IB program for elementary schools, spent her time meeting with administrators, teachers, and students, understanding the steps the school has already taken and still needs to take.

"As part of our IB candidacy, we are provided with a consultant who helps us prepare for verification and then helps support our IB status," Raisinville Principal Scott Hoppert said. "She will give us an assessment of our status and help us with what we need to do to move forward."

Jensen's work with Raisinville prepares them for the IB verification process which the school hopes to start at the beginning of 2018. She is pleased with the effort with which the Raisinville staff has tackled the sometimes daunting IB workload.

"Raisinville has put in so much hard work to this process," she said. "It's great."

Raisinville is the only IB candidate school in Monroe County. International Baccalaureate programs aim to prepare students intellectually, personally, emotionally, and socially and have a very globalized focus.

## MMS "change war" raises over \$1000 for Oaks of Righteousness



Jill Wilson's TFT class won Monroe Middle School's "change war" to benefit Oaks of Righteousness. The class was rewarded with a surprise pizza party.

Students at Monroe Middle School collected change to donate to Oaks of Righteousness in Monroe County. After having met with Pastor Heather Boone earlier in the school year when touring the Victory Campus with the Middle School staff, Student Service Provider Jennifer Kelley thought the change war between TFTs (Trojan Family Time classes) would be a good idea to energize the students to give.

Little did she know the students would end up collecting \$1045.86 to donate to Oaks of Righteousness.

Eighth grader Katelyn Hoffer donated over \$100 in quarters to the cause.

"My family raised me to give back," she said. "Donating felt like the right thing to do."

Seventh grader Brayden Richard also contributed in a big way. He gave \$150, much of it his birthday money he had saved up. His donation was then matched by an anonymous community member.

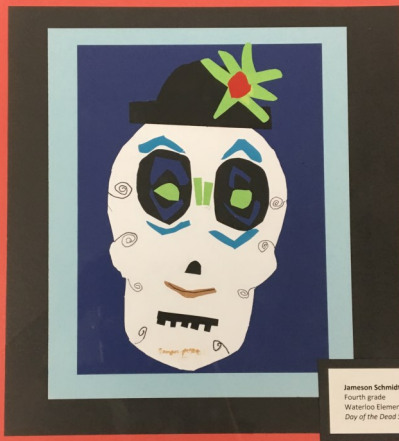


**Love your bus driver? We want to hear why!**

**Call (734) 265-3300 and Dial 3 for the Bus Driver Compliment Line!**



# Students brighten the MPS Board Room with art!

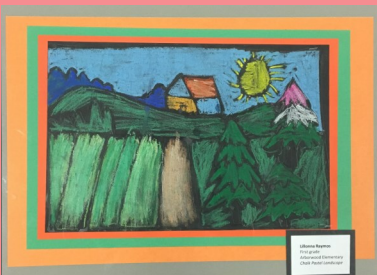


Jameson Schmidt  
Fourth grade  
Waterloo Elementary  
Day of the Dead Skull

*In an annual tradition, students from each of the elementary schools had artwork selected to grace the walls of the Board Room at the Monroe Public Schools Administration Building! They were presented with certificates of appreciation for their hard work, had a chance to meet the Board of Education members, and had a reception afterwards. Check out some of their great work!*



Lilly Abbott  
Kindergarten  
Custer Elementary  
Winter Birds



Alanna Reiter  
Third grade  
Custer Elementary  
Old fashioned landscape



Jameson Schmidt  
Fourth grade  
Waterloo Elementary  
Day of the Dead Skull



Jameson Schmidt  
Fourth grade  
Waterloo Elementary  
Day of the Dead Skull

Want to see more? Come visit the MPS Administration Building!

## Local business leaders speak to Custer sixth graders about entrepreneurship

Mike Gaynier of Spartan Insurance and his wife Wendy spoke to Custer sixth graders earlier this school year about the important role entrepreneurs play in our community and our economy.



Mike and Wendy Gaynier pose with Custer sixth graders after speaking to them about the importance of entrepreneurs and the possibilities for them to start thinking entrepreneurially in grade school .

Following the Generation E entrepreneurship curriculum adopted by Monroe Public Schools this school year, Mr. Ganyier spoke of his first ventures in running businesses and following his dreams and ideas growing up. He and his wife spoke about the ups and downs of making your dream into a career, but reminded the students of the rewards that come from hard work and perseverance.

With a snow shovel and rake in hand, Mr. and Mrs. Gaynier gave students ideas on how they can become entrepreneurs today and start down the road to their future possibilities!

Pick up the Monroe Public Schools Community Education & Recreation Brochure today or find the Brochure on the Community Education Facebook Page!



**ENROLL TODAY!**  
Call (734) 265-3170 or visit  
[www.monroe.k12.mi.us](http://www.monroe.k12.mi.us)

## Monroe Youth Advisory Council shares student view

An effective local government works best when it hears the voices of all its constituents. The Monroe Youth Advisory Council gives students of the City of Monroe a chance to be heard. Students from schools within the city (Manor, Arborwood, Waterloo, MMS, MHS, and OCHS) meet once a month with Mayor Robert Clark, City Clerk Michelle Lavoy, Economic Director Mark Cochran, and Superintendent Julie Everly to give city government a student's perspective on issues and topics that affect the community.

The sixth-twelfth grade students have back-and-forth conversations with the city officials about topics that they have chosen to discuss. After narrowing down a list of dozens of topics, the council has decided to focus its efforts on supporting the homeless community in Monroe, expanding access to community centers in the city, and giving students more volunteering and employment opportunities.

The students, while working to create new opportunities for the youth of Monroe, are also learning valuable lessons in the inner workings of local government and civic involvement in legislation of the city.



Students of the Monroe Youth Advisory Council work with the City of Monroe's Economic Director Mark Cochran during the group's November meeting.

"This enriching experience offers these students the opportunity to learn more about how local government functions while being able to express your invaluable opinions and ideas," Everly said. "As the next generation of Monroe's leaders, their voice matters and this partnership affords them an entirely new mindset when thinking about the future of our community and their role in it."

The students will continue to meet with government officials for the remainder of the year as they work to write proposals to bring before the City Council.

## Community Coffee Hour offers a look into CTE at Monroe Public Schools

In mid-November, members from throughout the Monroe Public Schools community came together for the inaugural Community Coffee Hour at Monroe High School. Staff, parents, government officials, Board of Education members and other community members came together to hear more about the amazing things that happen in the district every day.

The first Community Coffee Hour centered around Career and Technical Education in Monroe Public Schools. Superintendent



Monroe Public Schools Board of Education Parliamentarian Cheryl Sweeny and Director of Finance Kathy Eighmey watch a demonstration in the Machine Tool shop at MHS.

Julie Everly, Director of Student Services Terry Joseph, and CTE Director Bill Ferrara discussed the multitude of options for MPS students. The group then toured Mon-

roe High School's CTE facilities, which include offerings such as fashion design and Photoshop to welding, automotive technology, construction, and robotics.

Join us for our next  
Community Coffee  
Hour!

**January 31, 2018**  
**9:00-10:30 a.m.**

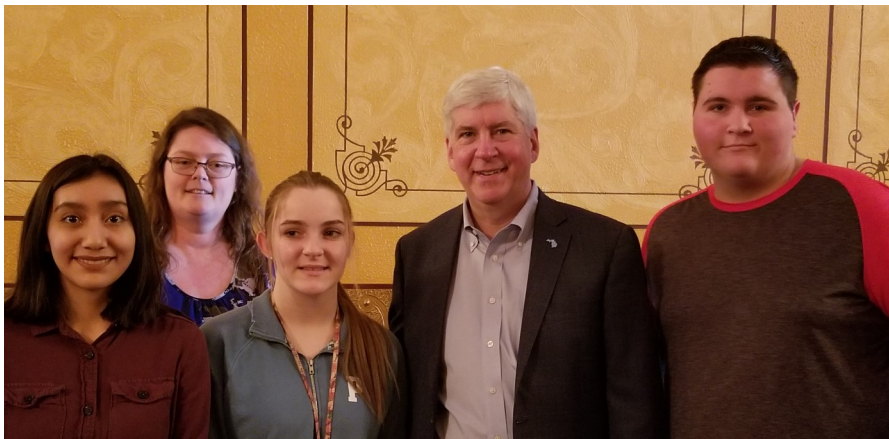
**Custer Elementary I**  
**5003 W. Albain**

All are welcome! Grab a cup of coffee and pull up a chair as we discuss:

**Elementary Initiatives  
and Programs**

Monroe Public Schools  
**Community  
Coffee Hour**





From left, MHS senior Maria Gallegos-Jimenez, AP biology teacher Amy Zellen, senior Megan Schneider, Governor Rick Snyder, and senior Shane Capser pose together at the 2017 Student Technology Showcase presented by the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning. These students comprised the first group from Monroe County to present in the 16 years of the STS.

## Trojans represent MPS in Lansing at Student Technology Showcase

Students from Monroe High School headed to the Capitol December 6 to participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> annual AT&T/MACUL/MVU Student Technology Showcase (STS). This event gave students opportunities to demonstrate and display technology projects they have created for state lawmakers. Parents, students and other attendees had time to discuss technology and innovation in schools with state education leaders.

Three members of the AP biology class were chosen to present at the Student Technology Showcase for MACUL. Thousands of schools apply and only a few are selected. Monroe High School was the first school in Monroe County to present in the 16 years of the STS. Seniors Shane Capser, Megan Schneider, and Maria Gallegos-Jimenez presented to Governor Rick Snyder, Lt Governor Brian Calley, and Senator Dale Zorn as well as members of MACUL about how the class uses Google Classroom and participates in Citizen Science projects. The AP biology class will be working in partnership with Cornell University and Audubon for Project Feeder Watch and Great Backyard Bird Count this February.

Students will be participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count February 16-19 and in Project Feeder Watch to help track winter bird populations and migratory patterns. These projects will also allow the students access to multiple year databases to make comparisons and monitor trends in local populations. They also talked about how they use Google Classroom and several G Suite apps for classroom collaboration, student reflection, monitoring of student progress, formative assessment and even scheduling of study groups.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO**

**Kids Club**

2017 Monroe News Best of the Best - Day Care



**Riverside Early Learning Center**

2017 Monroe News Best of the Best - Preschool

## Eagles meet State Rep. Joe Bellino

*Representative Bellino answered all the tough questions, from, "Is bullying illegal?" to, "Do you like your job?" to, "What's your favorite food?"*

Earlier this year, fourth graders throughout Monroe Public Schools made their annual trek to the Capitol to learn more about how state government works. Representative Joe Bellino then decided to bring state government back to the school as he took an afternoon to answer Arborwood fourth graders' burning questions. Students asked Rep. Bellino questions from what a representative does, to what school was like for him, to what his family is like.



State Representative Joe Bellino of Monroe listens to an Arborwood fourth grader's question.



Monroe Public Schools  
 1275 N. Macomb St.  
 Monroe, MI 48162

District Resident  
 or  
 Postal Patron

## Superintendent's Remarks

Happy New Year, Monroe Public Schools Family! I hope that this edition of *We Are Monroe* finds you, like me, eagerly anticipating 2018.



As I finish my first full year in this position, I have been honored to witness our community come together in relentless pursuit to provide the best possible experiences for our Monroe students. In 2017, we made great strides with student achievement, K-12 career technical education, 1-to-1 technologies, and community partnerships. In 2018, we will continue to collaborate and focus on our strategic plan to make your school district the best it can be every day.

At the center of our efforts to make Monroe Public Schools the best educational opportunity possible for students is our Board of Education. In January, we

celebrate School Board Recognition Month. Our School Board is a remarkably dedicated group of people whose leadership is integral to the growth of our district. We can be grateful for their devotion to our children and community.

It is a privilege to be part of such a fine community and part of the team at Monroe Public Schools that provides both care and high quality education to our Monroe students. We are proud to be your school district and are eager to embrace questions, address issues, and engage in conversations to make Monroe the best it can be every single day!

Here's to a prosperous 2018!

Believe. Engage. Excel.

As always,

Julie M. Everly,  
 Superintendent

## Monroe Public Schools

### Board Of Education

Lawrence VanWashenova	President
Floreine Mentel	Vice President
Cynthia Taylor	Secretary
Cheryl Sweeney	Parliamentarian
Matthew Bunkelman	Trustee
Robert Nichols	Trustee
Rosalie Pasko	Trustee

### Central Administration

Julie Everly	Superintendent
Katherine Eighmey	Executive Director of Business and Finance
Cindy Flynn	Executive Director of Human Resources
Terry Joseph	Executive Director of Student Services
Jerry Oley	Executive Director of Operations
David Payne	Executive Director of Technology

Monroe Public Schools thanks our

## Board of Education

during School Board  
 Appreciation Month!

Thank you for everything you  
 do for our learning  
 community every day!

