

WE ARE MONROE

Volume IV, Issue I
Winter, 2021



MISSION

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 communities that we serve are our customers, and we promise to make all decisions in their best interest.

CORE VALUES

Cultivate Strong *RELATIONSHIPS*

RESPECT Differences and Act in *SERVICE* for All

Advocate for *EQUITY*

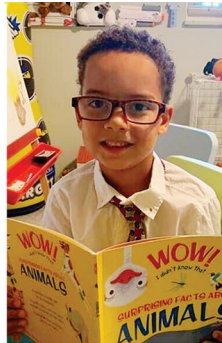
Enrich our *COMMUNITY*

Uphold *INTEGRITY*

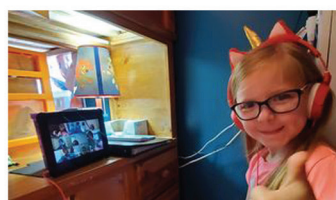
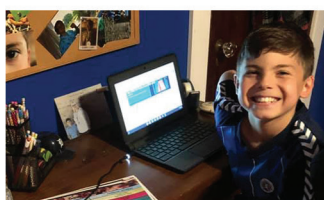
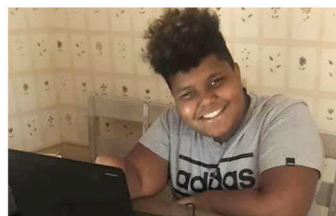
Crave *INNOVATION*

Strive to *ENGAGE* Every Learner

CELEBRATE and be *JOYFUL*

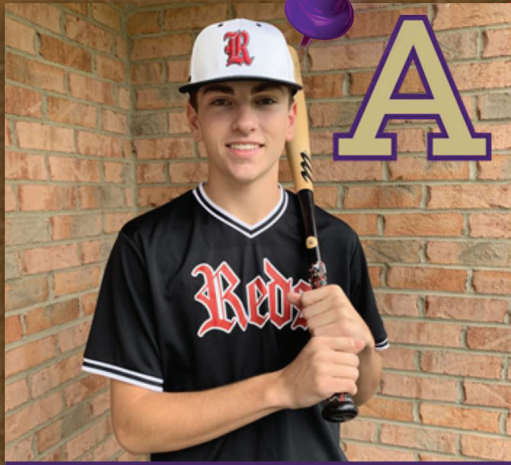


CELEBRATE
the joy of
LEARNING





Monroe Public Schools IN THE NEWS



A **Parker Welch**
ALBION BASEBALL
Baseball

Committed to Albion

Monroe High School senior **Parker Welch** has committed to play baseball at Albion College. Congratulations!



ASHLEY RATHBUN **WOMENS SOCCER**

Ashley signs with Tiffin

Congratulations to Monroe High School senior **Ashley Rathbun** who has signed to play soccer with Tiffin University!



Ellie Sieler Signs for Michigan Softball

A big Maize & Blue congratulations to Monroe High School senior **Ellie Sieler** for signing her National Letter of Intent to play softball for the University of Michigan!

MHS National Merit Students



Jackson Taft



Emma Scznsny

Two Monroe High School seniors have received National Merit honors through the 2021 NMSQT Scholarship Program.

Emma Scznsny and Jackson Taft are being recognized for their performance on the 2019 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The test was administered to over 1.5 million juniors around the nation. Emma scored in the top 2% and has been named a National Merit Commended Student. Jackson scored in the top 1% and has been named a National Merit Semi-Finalist.

National Merit students are honored for demonstrating exceptional academic promise. Emma will receive a Letter of Commendation, and Jackson has the opportunity to advance in the scholarship competition. Finalists will be announced in March.

Monroe Public Schools Early Middle College

Twenty-five students enrolled in the inaugural year of Monroe Public Schools Early Middle College program. Registration is now underway for the 2021-22 school year.

The free, five-year program enables students to graduate with both their high school diploma and an associate degree or industry certification.

EMC is a partnership with Monroe County Community College. EMC students will take college courses onsite at Monroe High School and on the MCCC campus.

The MPS program allows students to earn college credit while participating in high school experiences including school dances and extracurricular activities.

Students receive support services from high school counselors and college advisors who help them to accomplish their individualized pathways and make sure the classes they select count for the degree they have chosen.



MPS Early Middle College is a Partnership With Monroe County Community College

- **FREE Associate Degree Program**

EMC students are able to earn college credit for free. There is no cost to students' families. Transportation from MHS to MCCC is also provided free.

- **Programs of Study**

Any two-year degree or certificate program offered at Monroe County Community College is available. For a list of programs, visit: <https://www.monroecc.edu/programs>.

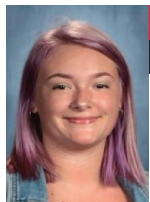
MHS Presents Lotus Leaf Live

Weekly Online Student News Broadcast



Every Friday morning, students and staff at Monroe High School are greeted by anchors Samantha Drougel and Chancey Boyce, bringing them news, wherever they are, on computers, tablets, and smart phones.

Lotus Leaf Live is broadcast weekly on Facebook and YouTube. The student news program provides a mix of school, community, state, and national news in 15 minutes or less, with sports highlights, editorials, features, and live interviews.



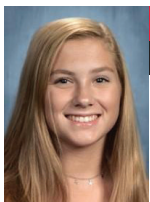
Haley Blackmon - Junior
Camera woman

"Lotus Leaf is going to benefit me after high school, because my plan is to pursue a film career, whether it's live broadcasts, tv, or movies."



Drake Carr - Junior
Switcher, Editor, Videographer

"Now I know how to use all these programs to make my videos look better and how to upload them. I can film more quality videos."



Megan Kane - Junior
Sports Anchor, Page Editor, Podcast

"I am learning to improve my anchoring skills, and I've learned a lot about what goes on behind the scenes with our live broadcasts."



Maya Kasprzak - Senior
Business Editor, Scripts, Video Producer

"Lotus Leaf has given me a platform to voice my opinions. Now I am considering having a minor in journalism in college."



Tristan Mann - Sophomore
Video and Broadcast Editor

"I've learned more about the Adobe Premiere video software and how to make informational videos that are also entertaining."

Last year, the MHS student newsletter evolved into *Lotus Leaf Media Outlet*. It now features an online flip format, social media channels, broadcasts, and podcasts, integrated into a single hub at lotusleaflive.com. At the start of the 2020-21 school year, the broadcast news program made the leap from a pre-recorded video format to a live production.

"I learned how to plan, set up equipment, and perform a live broadcast in one week," Drougel said. The MHS junior serves as chief editor, broadcast producer, anchor, and supervising editor of broadcasting and podcasting.

Her co-anchor Boyce is also a scriptwriter and the *Lotus Leaf* web editor. "I enjoy being able to express myself, write opinion articles about topics I care about, and have fun on the broadcast," the senior journalist said.

Lotus Leaf Live is not only viewed anywhere, it can also be created anywhere. During fully-remote learning transitions, green screens at the anchors' homes enable the side-by-side live broadcast to continue.

The students have learned how much work goes into creating live broadcasts. "Watching the broadcast, you only see the two anchors talking. Behind the cameras, there's around seven of us," senior Maya Kasprzak said.

Lotus Leaf Live airs Fridays at 9:05 a.m.

Visit the Lotus Leaf at:





Monroe Public School’s 21st Century Grant Leadership Team met with Richard Lower, Michigan Department of Education – Director of Preschool and Out-of-School, during a site visit in the first year of the grant. Pictured are Danielle Jozwiak, Arborwood Site Coordinator; Richard Lower; Navarre Gilbert, MPS 21st Century Grant Program Director; Vanya Steel, Waterloo Site Coordinator; Holly Wallace, MPS Curriculum Specialist.

Grant Funds Intervention & Enrichment Afterschool Programming at Arborwood & Waterloo

In spring, 2019, Monroe Public Schools was awarded a \$1.35 million 21st Century Community Learning Grant to provide extended day and summer learning programs at Arborwood and Waterloo. The highly competitive state grant from the Michigan Department of Education is funding specialized afterschool programming at the two elementary schools, including reading and math intervention supports, career interest exploration, enrichment opportunities, guest speakers, and community field trips.

The program runs Monday through Thursday, for 2.5 hours after school, serving students in grades 1-6. Navarre Gilbert, the district’s program director, said it has been well-received by students and families. “We are providing meaningful learning activities, as well as math and literacy intervention. Our students are experiencing something that is educational, but looks different in its format from the school day.”

Originally offered as a focused learning initiative for small groups of students at both schools, remote learning technology during the pandemic has expanded programming building-wide at each site.

The career exploration component is based on Michigan’s career pathways model. Recent guest speakers included a nurse, a respiratory therapist, a children’s author, a firefighter, and a playwright.

Michigan State University Extension Center, a program partner, provides family education and offered a Parent Workshop Series in January.



Manor Recognized As Lighthouse School



*On behalf of the Franklin Covey Education Team, it is with great pleasure that we announce **Manor Elementary School** has been recertified as a Lighthouse School.*

Lighthouse recertification is achieved only when a school shows sustainable evidence of growth and innovation within the Leader in Me Framework.

On December 7, 2020, the staff and students at Manor Elementary demonstrated such growth.

Best wishes to you and your team as you continue your Leader in Me Journey.



*The Franklin Covey
Lighthouse Team*

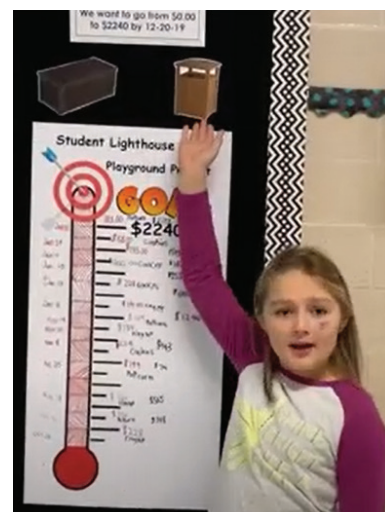
Manor Elementary has been recertified as a Lighthouse School, an honor it first achieved in 2016. The distinction is given to exemplary schools for teaching leadership, developing leadership culture, and providing a solid academic program strengthened by leadership principles.

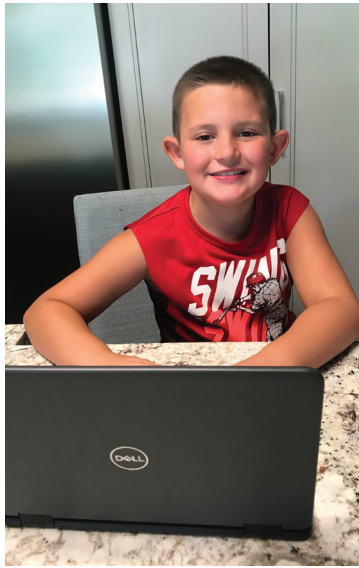
Lighthouse Schools serve as models of leadership and mentors to other schools participating in the Leader in Me program.



Members of the Student Lighthouse Team shared leadership initiatives in a video created for the recertification process.

Aiden Homer demonstrated the t-shirt press in the DICE Lab, and Jaelynn Benes explained the Playground Project fundraiser.





Ian Golding, 3rd Grade

Creating Online Resources

Digital Notebooks Engage Students

MPS teachers developed a digital library of online lessons and activities for their students and colleagues using Google Slides. The interactive notebooks are accessible anywhere and help guide students through project-based learning, units of study, and individualized work and goals.

Brittney Maczala and Heide Kucharski worked on third grade English Language Arts, replacing the traditional paper journals that are passed back and forth to teachers for feedback. They focused on making them engaging. The notebooks they created feature pre-recorded videos of them teaching lessons, links to online content needed for assignments, and a Table of Contents with hyperlinks.

“They are super-duper easy to use, and I can type and then go back over things,” third grader Ian Golding said. “I really like the way they are set up.”

MPS Teacher Leads National Webinars

Tech Training for American Educators

MPS teacher Ellen Brooks has been providing educational technology training to thousands of U.S. teachers as a facilitator and coordinator for a National Education Association (NEA) webinar series focused on strategies to help teachers with remote learning.

Brooks is a sixth grade teacher at Custer Elementary and an alumnus of Raisinville Elementary and Monroe High School. Before getting hired at Monroe Public Schools two years ago, she taught five years in Ann Arbor Public Schools. Chris Thomas, an AAPS colleague, reached out to her when he began developing the technology webinar series to support NEA and Michigan Education Association efforts. Brooks and Thomas had served together as technology facilitators, training educators in Ann Arbor and presenting at state conferences.



Ellen Brooks

“Effective Teaching with Ed Tech: A Member-to-Member MEA Webinar series” has reached educators from all 50 states. At the end of September, the series had already helped 20,000 teachers.

Brooks has been thrilled to share her technology expertise with other educators. “It’s an honor to be part of it,” she said.

Now, as a coordinator, she is also helping to screen and support other presenters.



Building Homes, Building Community



Trojan Build III

COVID-19 has complicated the building process, but adapting to CDC guidelines is just another real-world experience for the Monroe High School construction program. Small crews are scheduled on alternate days for social distancing, and teachers Tom Bell and Andrew Marchese wear GoPro hands-free video cameras to live stream to students at home.

The innovative Trojan Build projects involve MHS students building entire homes from the ground up. Students frame, add roofing and siding, set windows and doors, trim, do drywall, lay flooring, and build cabinets.

Trojan Build III will incorporate Alexa – virtual assistant artificial intelligence technology – and smart home features. Smart kitchen appliances will be donated by Whirlpool, the program’s newest partner. Stoneco at Denniston Quarry, a three-year partner, donated 300 tons of stone for the foundation, driveway base, and backfill.

“We value the partnerships with Whirlpool and Stoneco as well as the support of the Home Builders Association and local businesses who have contributed to the program’s success,” Superintendent Dr. Julie Everly said. “Monroe residents share our pride in what our students are creating. We are building more than homes; we are building community.”

The innovative Trojan Builds provide students with hands-on experience constructing houses from the ground up, while creating beautiful homes for community residents.



Building Their Futures

Monroe High School's Construction Program is building strong futures for students and alumni.

The recent graduates highlighted here are on the road to success. Although their post-high school paths are different, they share serious work ethics, a commitment to their career goals, and strong roots in MHS construction classes.



Ironworkers
Local 25
Apprentice

Jace Clark, '19

Jazlyn Clark took automotive, welding, and machining classes in addition to construction. "Don't limit yourself to one class," Jazlyn advises. "You never know what you might like, and those skills will always stay with you."

Apprenticeships require serious commitment — 800 hours of class time and 8,000 hours on the job. Jace Clark suggests students explore their options in high school. Like Jazlyn, he graduated from MHS with knowledge and experience in multiple trades areas. "My CTE instructors helped me find out who I want to be," Jace said.



Carson Clark, '17

Ferris State University
Construction Management
Year 4 of Bachelor Program

Professional Experience:

- Monroe County Drain Commission
- Cunningham-Limp, *intern*
- Colansti, *future internship*



Jazlyn Clark, '18

Monroe County Community College
Construction Management
Year 3, Transfer agreement with Eastern Michigan

Monroe County Road Commission



Alex locoangeli, '18

Ferris State University
Construction Management
Finishing Associate Degree

UA Local 671 of Monroe — Plumbers and Pipefitters
Pre-apprentice

Core Mechanical

MPS Celebrates Alumni Success

Community Encouraged to Nominate Outstanding Alumni

Monroe Public Schools is proud of our graduates, and we want to share their success stories.

We will be featuring alumni on our website and in social media. Some may also be shared with the media or printed in a future issue of *We Are Monroe*.

Please nominate outstanding MPS graduates by submitting information via the online Question button on the front page of the district website. Include the **name** of the alumnus (first, last, and maiden), **graduation year**, **current job** and **employer**, **contact information** for both you and the nominee (phone, email address), and a brief **description** of what they are doing.

#TellUsAboutATrojan #WeAreMonroe

Calendar

February 12-15

No School
(Winter Break / Presidents Day)

March 12

Half Day for Students
(Teacher Records in afternoon)
End of Second Trimester

March 25

Elementary Conferences, 5-7 p.m.

April 1

End of Third Quarter

April 2-11

Spring Break

April 12

Classes Resume

April 15

Middle School Conferences, 5-7 p.m.

April 22

High School Conferences, 5-7 p.m.

May 31

No School (Memorial Day)

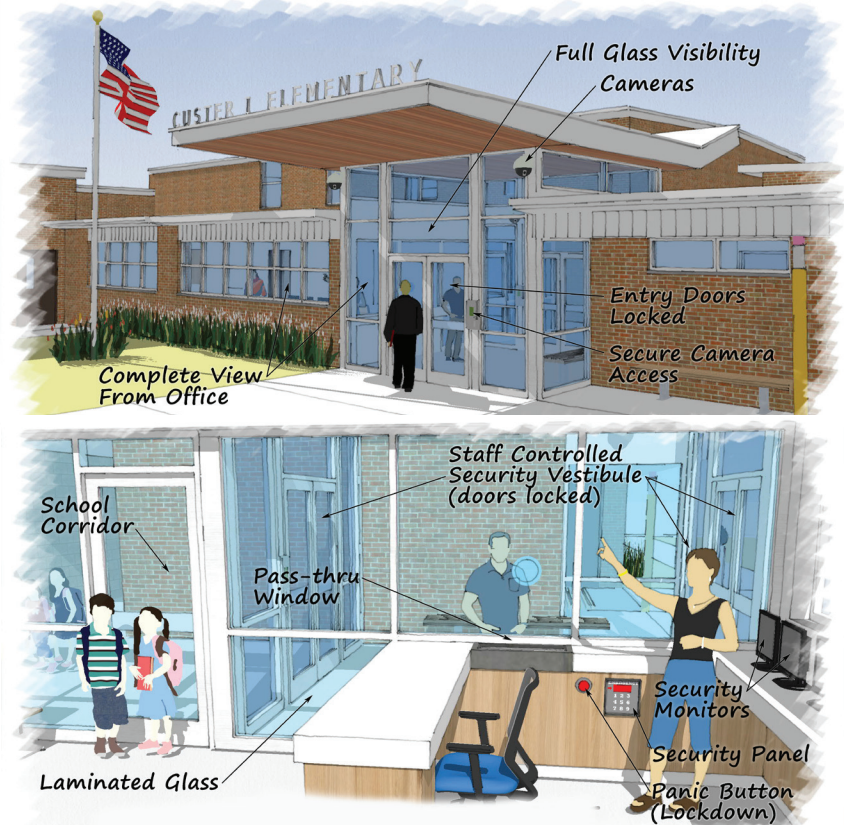
June 9

Half Day for Students /
Last Day of School
(Teachers do NOT work in afternoon)



Custer Elementary held a virtual Paint and Canvas Party via Zoom with 650 participants. Pictured art was created by the Reed family.

Summer Bond Projects



In May, 2020, the MPS community approved a bond proposal focused on keeping our schools safe, warm, and functional.

Funds from the bond will enable MPS to upgrade aging facilities and extend the function of the district's school buildings for many years. The bond will also provide funds for security enhancements.

Building	Summer 2021 Projects
Arborwood North Elementary	Cafeteria A/C, PA System
Arborwood South Elementary	Cafeteria A/C, PA System
Custer I Elementary	Playground
Custer II Elementary	Secure Entry, Restrooms, Fire Alarm, Cafeteria A/C, PA System, Playground
Manor	Cafeteria A/C, PA System
Monroe High School	Work in D-wing/D-wing Core/B-wing Mechanical System/Chiller, Lay-in Ceilings, Lighting, Flooring, Paint, B-wing Restrooms, Operable Partitions, Generator
Orchard Center High School	PA System
Raisinville Elementary	Cafeteria A/C, PA System
Riverside Elementary	Mechanical System, Secure Entry, Common Restrooms, Fire Alarm, Cafeteria A/C, PA System
Waterloo Elementary	Cafeteria A/C, PA System

Monroe Public Schools Leadership

CABINET



Dr. Julie M. Everly
Superintendent

734.265.3072
everly@monroe.k12.mi.us



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Executive Director of
Business & Finance

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Cindy Flynn
Executive Director of
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Jerry Oley
Executive Director of
Operations

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David Payne
Executive Director of
Technology

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The MPS Board creates policies, establishes spending priorities, and sets and supports district goals. Work in two major areas that occurred in 2020 – learning plans during the pandemic and decisions on bond project priorities – will continue to be a focus in 2021.

2021 BOARD of EDUCATION



Robert Nichols
President

term ends: 2024
nicholsr@monroe.k12.mi.us



Larry Zimmerman
Vice President

term ends: 2022
zimmerman@monroe.k12.mi.us



Rosalie Pasko
Secretary

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pasko@monroe.k12.mi.us



Matthew Bunkelman
Parliamentarian

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Heather Boone
Trustee

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Lawrence VanWasshenova
Trustee

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Susan Marlin-Zeisler
Trustee

term ends: 2022
marlinzeisler@monroe.k12.mi.us

2021

Board Calendar*

March 9

Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting #5, 7 p.m.

March 23

Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting #6, 7 p.m.

April 20

Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting #7, 7 p.m.

May 11

Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting #8, 7 p.m.

May 25

Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting #9, 7 p.m.

June 15

Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting #10, 7 p.m.

June 29

Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting #11, 7 p.m.

July 13

Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting #12, 7 p.m.

August 3

Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting #13, 7 p.m.



Approved meeting dates for the MPS Board of Education are posted on the website (www.monroe.k12.mi.us) and the exterior wall of the Administration Building, 1275 N. Macomb Street.



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

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Superintendent's Remarks

From cover to cover, this issue of *We Are Monroe* celebrates the joy of learning and the importance of being life-long learners.

Highlighted in these pages are student-athletes who have earned scholarships to fund their college studies and National Merit students recognized for outstanding academic performance.



We celebrate with Manor who is again honored as a Lighthouse School for excelling in leadership and learning. Our 21st Century Community Learning Grant funds amazing afterschool intervention and enrichment opportunities at Arborwood and Waterloo. The new MPS Early Middle College enables students to earn a free two-year degree.

The pandemic has required all of us to learn new ways to do things. From green screens in journalism to GoPro cameras live streaming the Trojan Build site, we are using innovative technology. MPS teachers developed digital notebooks to adapt curriculum, and one special teacher is leading national webinars to help educators with remote learning.

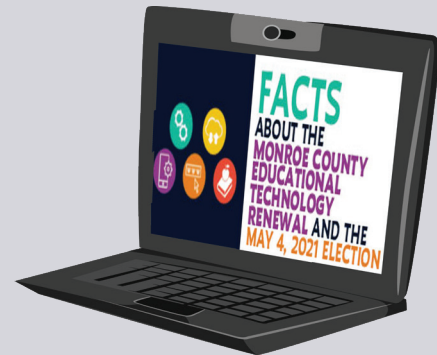
We are so thankful for our Board of Education members who support the best learning opportunities for MPS students. Last but not least, we celebrate this community for passing the bond to provide safe, warm, and functional learning environments. The first projects begin this summer.

Never stop learning, never stop growing.
Believe. Engage. Excel.

As always,

Dr. Julie M. Everly
Superintendent

Technology Millage Renewal Tuesday, May 4, 2021



The countywide millage renewal is for educational technology initiatives that support curriculum goals in the schools, across all grades K-12. More information is online [here](#).

Please remember to vote on May 4.

Connect to Monroe Public Schools!

District Website
<https://www.monroe.k12.mi.us>

District Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/MonroePublicSchools>

District Twitter
<https://www.twitter.com/MonroeSchoolsMI>

