Welcome to another edition of MPS Week in Review! Please forward this to your family and friends. Anyone can sign up with the Subscribe button at the left.

CELEBRATING MPS STUDENTS IN ACTION

This has been an exciting week in Monroe Public Schools filled with incredible opportunities to see our students in action...

• On Sunday, I had the pleasure of seeing our drama students perform in the spring play, You Can’t Take It With You.

• At the Eighth Grade Open House on Monday, I witnessed middle school students eagerly learning about programs at Monroe High School, and high school students sharing what they love about the activities they participate in.

• I met with representatives from every school in the district at Tuesday’s Student Board of Delegates meeting and gathered their input and ideas for our website redesign.

• Elementary students demonstrated their passion for cooking at the Sodexo Future Chefs competition on Wednesday. As a judge, I sampled all of the tasty dishes!

• March is National Reading Month. I am enjoying time with our youngest readers and sharing my love of reading. See photos of other guest readers inside!

Take care, find time to read as a family, and have a fantastic week!
Monroe County Radio Interview

Join Superintendent Shaw in his first media interview since being named to his new position as he appears on Bobbing Around Monroe with host Bobb Vergiels, former MPS communications coordinator.

The 30-minute interview can be heard on www.MonroeCountyRadio.com and is scheduled to air twice – Sunday, March 19 (12:30 p.m.) and Tuesday, March 21 (7:30 p.m.).

In the News — Recent Articles
(Articles below appeared in the Monroe News.)

The MHS play – You Can’t Take it With You – was featured on opening day (3-10-23). Custer third grade students spent the day at Holiday Camp, participating in the MCISD Outdoor Adventure Program (3-16-23). Tuesday’s lead sports story highlighted the achievements of Brooklyn Figueroa, a 2021 MHS graduate and three-time state placer in wrestling. For the past two years, she has wrestled for Indiana Tech (3-14-23). MHS graduate Ellie Sieler ranks third in batting average for the University of Michigan through 21 games. MHS graduate Haley Frank leads the Northwood University softball team with 18 runs scored and 8 stolen bases. Coverage also included sports memories.

Calendar UPDATE
2022-2023 Calendar Change

At their February 21, 2023 Meeting, the MPS Board of Education approved a change to the district’s 2022-2023 Calendar:

Wednesday, April 12 will be a normal day.
Wednesday, April 19 will be a Half Day.

Monroe Public Schools will administer the PSAT with essay, PSAT 8/9, and PSAT 10 on April 12. The Half Day that was originally scheduled would not provide adequate time for optimal testing. The calendar adjustment moved the Half Day one week later to April 19, 2023.
We are excited to share that the Knabusch Math and Science Center has been awarded a $300,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation! This unique project is two-fold in nature. It will fund ecosystem restoration of the wetlands and forestry to improve the natural habitat, resulting in better plant diversity and increased bird and native populations. It will also provide funds for visitor-experience enhancement and educational resources, including interpretive signage.

Director Nicole Shaughnessy authored the grant in collaboration with James Gray (Natural Capital Forestry) and wetlands specialist John DeLisle. The planning process also involved the Knabusch Advisory Panel which is comprised of representatives from Monroe Public Schools, Monroe County Intermediate School District, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Knabusch family. There are plans to involve MPS career tech students in the construction of the visitor enhancements, using grant-funded supplies, and to have ecology classes be trained to do ecological monitoring.

The initial work will focus on the control of invasive species and clearing debris. Over a three-year span, a lot of visible improvements and visitor enhancements will occur, with monitoring in the final year. After Spring Break, Mrs. Shaughnessy will be meeting with someone from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which must approve all plans to ensure that everything that is implemented is done in the best way for the environment. The meeting will focus on environmental compliance issues and a timeline.

We look forward to all of the improvements which will benefit the habit and result in a more enjoyable experience for our community.
NATIONAL QUALIFIER

Business Professionals of America State Contest

MHS senior Tristan Mann took fourth place in the state in Fundamentals of Web Design and advances to the BPA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California, April 26-30.

Monroe High School was also represented at the state contest for Business Professionals of America by senior Logan Boudrie, Payroll Accounting; junior Logan Jewell, Fundamental Accounting; junior Viktoria Bloniarz, Fundamental Word Processing; junior Becca Pace, Voting Delegate; and Anne Knabusch, Advisor.

Congratulations to all of these outstanding ambassadors for our career technical education programs!
MONROE HIGH SCHOOL
Eighth Grade Open House

Michael Butler, a CTE Ambassador and member of Student Council, leads a tour group during Monroe High School’s Eighth Grade Open House.

MHS Principal Steve Pollizzie and Estelle Medina, Secretary of the Freshman House and Club Accounts, greeted guests at the Open House and provided families with information.

End-of-Year Dates for the Senior Class of 2023

Monroe High School Senior Dates:
May 2 – Career & College Decision Day, MHS Auditorium, 12 p.m.
May 4 – Jostens Cap & Gown Distribution, during lunches, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
May 6 – Class of 2023 Prom, Arnaldo’s Banquet Center (Riverview), 7 p.m.
May 11 – Work-Based Learning Co-Op Breakfast, Commons, 8-10 a.m.
May 17 – Senior Awards Night, MHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
May 25 – Last Day for MHS Seniors
May 30 – Class of 2023 Baccalaureate Service, MHS Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
May 31 – Senior Breakfast & Graduation Practice, MHS Commons/Gym, 8-11 a.m.
June 2 – Graduation Commencement, MHS - Bunkelman Field, 6:30 p.m.

Orchard Center High School Senior Dates:
June 1 – Last Day of Classes for OCHS Seniors
June 2 – Senior Breakfast / Graduation Rehearsal / Awards
June 2 – All Students Appreciation Day Picnic
June 9 – Graduation Commencement – Outdoors at Orchard – 6 p.m.
Congratulations are extended to Cassandra Shook for earning the Chief Financial Officer certification through the Michigan School Business Officials. The award is a mark of distinction reflecting a high degree of academic and professional preparation.

Mrs. Shook previously earned the MSBO Business Office Manager certification in 2019. A bachelor’s degree including accounting coursework is a prerequisite for entrance to each of these certification programs. Mrs. Shook attended Baker College where she received both her Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration in accounting.

Monroe Public Schools hired Mrs. Shook in December, 2016, as the Accounting Supervisor, and she was promoted to Executive Director of Business and Finance in August, 2022.

MPS Community Education partners annually with the City of Monroe on two special events for parents and their children.

Mom & Son Bowling will be Saturday, April 15th; the registration deadline is March 22.

Tickets for the April 22nd Daddy-Daughter Dance go on sale March 20 and usually sell out quickly.

Visit Community Ed online to download the forms.
The Student Board of Delegates is comprised of student leaders in grades 4-12 from every school in the district, providing student input on important issues. The group is currently focused on the redesign of the district website.
State Testing Webinar

An MPS Webinar on State Testing was held on March 16th, providing families with helpful resources and information on what to expect regarding standardized tests that students will be taking.

The slideshow and resources used in this webinar are available online at:

https://bit.ly/MPShuddle1

i-Ready Resource

This week many of our students in grades Y5-8 took the Spring i-Ready Diagnostic tests in reading and math. You will be receiving a copy of those results soon. The attached resource — Understanding Your Student’s Diagnostic Results — will help you understand how to interpret your student’s results.

Resource Videos

Reading at home not only helps children learn new words and build language skills, it also develops comprehension skills.

It is important to engage in meaningful conversations with your child about the books they are reading. The following videos will provide tips on how to have these conversations at home:

K-2:
Helping Your Child Think Before, During, and After Reading

3-9:
How to Have Natural Conversations with Your Kids about Books

Arborwood Guest Readers

Celebrating National Reading Month

Monroe Mayor Robert Clark was one of several special guest readers at Arborwood Elementary on March 17th.

Bobb Vergiels from Monroe County Radio shared “The Book With No Pictures.” He said reading is a very important part of his job; he researches and reads about his radio guests before he interviews them.

Pastor Heather Boone from Oaks of Righteousness Christian Ministries, exchanged jokes with her young listeners after reading to them.

Azia Hawthorne (Motor City Mamarazzi) used a unique voice for each crayon, reading “The Day the Crayons Quit.”
Sodexo hosted the district’s Future Chefs program at Custer 1 on Wednesday night, featuring six student chefs. **Jackson Sudak**, an Arborwood North 6th grade student, won with his chili recipe, which included chocolate as a special ingredient. As the district winner, he received cookware to hone his skills at home and will advance to the regional level of judging in the national competition.

The other MPS student chefs (pictured below with their mentors) included **Alexis Richardson**, 2nd Grade, Manor, Easy-Peasy Bagel Pizzas; **Mya Amireh**, 6th grade, Custer 1, Breakfast Croissant Sandwich; **Fallyn Setser**, 5th grade, Manor, Bacon and Cheese Omelet; **Lanier Griffin**, 5th grade, Arborwood South, Lanier’s Healthy Salad and Smoothie; and **Cecilia Stamper**, 2nd grade, Waterloo, Mixed Berry Parfait.
FALLYN SETSER
Manor, 5th Grade
Bacon and Cheese Omelet

LANIER GRIFFIN
Arborwood South, 5th Grade
Healthy Salad and Smoothie

MYA AMIREH
Custer 1, 6th Grade
Breakfast Croissant Sandwich

ALEXIS RICHARDSON
Manor, 2nd Grade
Easy-Peasy Bagel Pizzas

JACKSON SUDAK
Arborwood North, 6th Grade
Chili

CECILIA STAMPER
Waterloo, 2nd Grade
Mixed Berry Parfait
The judges for the MPS Future Chefs program included Nancy Schlosser, Administrative Assistant of MPS Community Education; Russ Palmer, Certified Corporate Executive Chef, Busch’s Local Growing Home; Scott Rossen, Director of Food Services, Ferris State University, and Certified Culinary Chef; Melissa Bell, Custer Principal; MPS Superintendent Andrew Shaw; and Tom Heck, MPS Board Treasurer.
Special thanks are extended to Peju Makinde, Sodexo Director of Food Services at Monroe Public Schools, and her team, pictured above -- Debbie Miller, Terri Stalbaum, Barb Pifer, Stacey Rossen, Kathy Flatt, Becky Coots, Amy Volpi, Peju Makinde, Angie Struth, Kerry Reaume, Amber Williams, Tina Buckner, Wendy Solomonson, Cathy Gregurich.

Winner Jackson Sudak with his mentor, Debbie Miller.

Alexis Richardson presents her Easy-Peasy Pizza Bagels, with assistance from her mentor, Becky Coots.