WISHING YOU JOY AND PEACE

As your family celebrates the season and prepares to begin a new year, we want to extend our warmest holiday wishes!

Here in the Lansing School District, we are pleased to share our seasonal programs, concerts and classroom merriment with you—please join us for a little holiday cheer as you are able.

We hope your homes are filled with happiness and your new year offers the promise of great things to come in 2020!

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- Late Start Wednesday

December 12
- Sex Education Advisory Board 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

December 18
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December 19
- Regular Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

December 21
- Winter Break Begins

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friendship Feast: Third-grade students at Riddle Elementary School celebrated the holidays with a special event complete with popcorn and snacks. It was a great time for making lots of special memories!
Lansing Students Watch “Aladdin” at the Wharton Center

Young Lansing students recently received a very important lesson in the arts—you don’t need to be in New York City to experience Broadway firsthand.

Delivering on the Lansing Promise to provide all second graders with the opportunity to attend a visual performing arts performance to more fully explore the arts career pathway, on December 5, young students from throughout the district took a trip to Wharton Center to see a Matinee performance of Disney’s “Aladdin”—the hit Broadway musical currently gracing the nearby stage.

“This was such a great experience for these students,” said Teri Bernero, Director of Pathway Promise and HOPE/Promise Scholar Programs. “One of the great benefits of living here in Lansing is the relatively easy access we have to all the amazing art and entertainment that makes its way through Wharton Center—that’s something a lot of children just don’t have access to, and it is so nice to be able to expose our students to that world. I think ‘Aladdin’ was the perfect show for our students to experience the magic of live theater and it’s something that will stick with them for a long time to come.”

Over the course of the two hour and 20 minute performance, students had to the pleasure of watching many of their favorite Disney characters come to life while also gaining a greater appreciation and understanding of all the little things that go into a world-class Broadway production like choreography, costume and set design.

The trip was free of charge and made possible in part by the Lansing Pathway Promise and the district’s many other outstanding community partners, including Lansing Education Advancement Foundation, Dean Transportation and Wharton Center at Michigan State University.
An EMS simulation lab fully equipped with an ambulance was just one of the exploratory health care booths available to 150 Lansing School District students at the “Becoming Visible” annual event hosted at Lansing Community College on November 15, 2019.

“We are excited to host ‘Becoming Visible’ this year,” said Ronda Miller, Dean of Student Affairs at Lansing Community College. “The event is designed to engage and inspire young women of color to actively participate, explore and consider the various health care programs available at Lansing Community College and Michigan State University. Increasing the number of women of color into our local healthcare system not only provides sustainable employment opportunities but also positively impacts families and our community.”

Jill LaNew, Pathway Navigator at Eastern High School, coordinated this event for the students with the intention of promoting Eastern’s Health Sciences Pathway.

“This is the second annual event for the Becoming Visible team,” LaNew said. “Its goal is to advance diversity through exposing young women of color to the world of possibilities in health care professions. Our students were anxiously looking forward to the
event this year. It’s very reassuring to see and hear our Lansing School District students being mindful of our Pathway Promise initiatives. At times they remind us of our upcoming events. It’s very exciting!”

Mariah Brown, a sophomore at Eastern High School shared her motivation to become a phlebotomist with Lansing area local news. Mariah shared that due to a situation close to her she knew at a young age exactly what her career path would be. Mariah is passionate about spreading the feeling of “Dreaming Big.”

A first-ever partnership formed between Sparrow, McLaren Greater Lansing, MSU College of Human Medicine, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, MSU Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, MSU College of Nursing, Lansing Community College, and the Lansing School District, aims to help young students reach their aspirations of working in health care.

Through events, outreach, and mentorship programs, the Lansing School District is dedicated to making young women of color visible in the future.
Embracing the holiday spirit, students enrolled in Eastern Flex decided to decorate a tree for the 8th annual Lansing Festival of Trees at the Turner Dodge House. The community service effort will count towards students’ senior capstone project.

“If you’ve never come through the festival of trees, you really should check out,” said Dee Halstead, Flex Coordinator at Eastern High School. “You can tell hours of painstaking work goes into these trees, transforming them into the beautiful, unique works of art they become. I’m so happy our students decided to showcase their talents here this year.”

Starting December 7 and running through January 1, 2020, the Festival of Trees is a fantastic way to showcase participating organization and groups, something Eastern’s Flex Program is more than happy to embrace.

“Through the month of December, a lot of people come through the Turner Dodge House to see these trees, and they’re all going to see that Eastern’s Flex Program has participated,” Halstead said. “It’s great visibility for our still very new program, and I think that’s important.”

The new program offers Lansing School District juniors and seniors the chance to take classes after the traditional school day ends. Students admitted to the program come for class at 3 p.m. and stay until about 8 p.m., giving them time to work jobs, take internships and support their families.

“I love the work we’re doing to provide these young students with the flexibility they need to complete their high school education, and I’m excited for our community to learn more about it.”
Everett High School Earns National Academic Honors

With its innovative programming, inspiring teachers and devoted administrative staff, Everett High School has been producing fantastic student outcomes for some time now. And now, having just been named a National ESEA Distinguished School, they are getting the recognition they so justly deserve.

“The Bilingual Education Department congratulates Everett High School and together we celebrate this achievement,” said Sergio Keck, director of special populations and programs at the Lansing School District. “We acknowledge the dedication and effort of all staff throughout the years. The services provided to English learners at the Lansing School District would not be possible without the collaboration and coordination of services and a big recognition to the Specialized Bilingual Instructional Assistants who are part of the heart of these services.”

It’s an accolade that isn’t bestowed lightly. With each state being able to name only two schools as National ESEA Distinguished Schools per year, the award is an especially prestigious honor for Everett’s staff, teachers and students.

“Speaking on behalf of the staff, I can’t tell you how excited we to have earned this distinction,” said Everett Principal Jaime Gundrum. “Our teachers and staff put in so much hard work, and our students deserve just as much of the credit for how they have responded and matched that same level of effort and engagement.”

And now to fully benefit from the honor, Everett will send representatives from the staff to the National ESEA Conference in February where they will be honored during a special keynote session in front of the 3,000-plus conference attendees from around the country.

More important than the formal recognition, the conference will provide Everett representatives the opportunity learn from other outstanding schools and compare winning strategies with colleagues from all around the country.

“We’re so happy to share with others our formula for success, but what I’m really excited for is the opportunity to learn more about what’s working for other schools,” Gundrum said. “I have no doubt that we’ll be learning a great deal from the success of others and integrating some of those strategies into the work we’re doing here. This is just the beginning for Everett.”
Dubbed a “dancing entrepreneur” by the New York Times, Glenn Douglas Packard has been one of the most sought-after artistic directors and choreographers in the dance industry for the past 25 years.

During his career, Packard has worked alongside some of the biggest names in music including Usher, Britney Spears, NSync and even Michael Jackson.

Next on his list of collaborators – Lansing seventh and eighth graders.

Starting in January 2020, Packard will be leading the new All-Star Dance Troupe at Dwight Rich School of the Arts.

“I can’t wait to get started with these students,” said Packard. “They’re obviously going to learn a lot about dance, but I think they’ll be learning just as much about themselves along the way.”

With a career that’s taken him around the world, it may seem strange that Packard has settled himself in mid-Michigan, but his roots are here.

“I grew up outside of Detroit and went to school at Michigan State University, so this has always been home. And eventually Packard’s career led him back to the area where he started The Institute of Dancers—an Okemos-based dance training program for children and young adults.

“I love the work that I do at the Institute of Dancers, but I also really felt the need to try reach more than just the kids that come and audition for me, and this new program through Dwight Rich School of the Arts is a fantastic way to do that,” Packard said.

The program is open to 7th and 8th graders who will participate in six training sessions a month. Packard is hoping to recruit 40 students to join the dance troupe, which shouldn’t be hard given the requirements.

“The requirements are pretty simple,” said Packard. “Previous dance experience is great, but it’s certainly not a prerequisite. The most important thing is that you’re passionate about being a dancer.”

Over the course of several months, students will learn some of today’s best dance moves, strengthen their entertainment skills, and most importantly, have fun enjoying their passion for dance.

“I want these kids to come away knowing that you can have an exciting, amazing career in dance—I’m proof of that—and I can’t wait to share that with these kids and let them know it’s possible for them too.”
Lansing School District

Presents

ALL-STAR DANCE TROUPE

REHEARSALS BEGIN JANUARY 7, 2020!
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS • 4 - 5:30 P.M. • DANCE CLASSROOM

DIRECTED BY EMMY AWARD NOMINEE GLENN DOUGLAS PACKARD WHO HAS WORKED WITH SOME OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN MUSIC

PINK | Usher | RICKY MARTIN | DADDY YANKEE | MICHAEL JACKSON
MISSY ELLIOT | LIZA MINNELLI | DESTINY’S CHILD | CNCO | MARC ANTHONY

In this exclusive dance training program, 7th - 8th grade students will learn from all-star celebrity choreographers from LA, NYC and Miami that work with today's top artists. We will help strengthen your entertainment skills and make you a confident leader in the professional dance industry. You will learn some of today's best dance moves, have fun and enjoy your passion. Through dance, you can learn a lot about yourself!

Lansing School District

DWIGHT RICH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
2600 HAMPDEN DRIVE • LANSING, MI 48911

NEW! NO COST!

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS • 4 - 5:30 P.M. • DANCE CLASSROOM

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Lansing School District

DWIGHT RICH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
2600 HAMPDEN DRIVE • LANSING, MI 48911

NEW! NO COST!
The Lansing Everett High Band has taken their show on the road.

And they didn’t stop until the bus hits Nashville, Tennessee. Making the trip south to participate in Nashville’s annual Christmas parade—a staple of Middle Tennessee holiday festivities since 1927—the Everett marching band used the trip to experience the many sights and sounds of country music’s capital.

“The parade was on Saturday but we arrived a few days early to provide our students with a chance to experience a lot of the amazing things Nashville has to offer,” said Penny Filonczuk, Director of Bands for Lansing Everett High School.

And that experience kicked off with one of Nashville’s most iconic landmarks—the Grand Ole Opry House.

Students received a backstage tour of the venue and got an exclusive look at what happens behind the scenes of the show that made country music famous.

“It was an awesome experience,” Filonczuk said. “We walked in the footsteps of country music’s biggest superstars, and heard some fantastic stories along the way.”

The next day, students had the opportunity make their own music history. After a stop at the historic RCA Studio B, Nashville’s oldest remaining recording studio, Everett Band members were invited to gather around the studio’s famous microphone—used by legendary artists going all the way back to Elvis—for a recording session with a professional sound engineer.

And no trip to Nashville would be complete without some line dancing. Students were given a formal lesson in the Nashville Saturday night staple at the famous Wildhorse Saloon.

Lastly, students rounded out their full Nashville experience by visiting the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

“Nashville occupies an important place in music’s history. For a long time, this city has been a songwriting and recording mecca, and I think the trip to the museum helped our students grasp the importance of this place,” Filonczuk said.

After all of that, student put their talents on display as participants in the Saturday morning parade.

“It was a very busy couple of days for us, but our students loved every minute of it,” Filonczuk said.
F.O.R.T. Program to Benefit from Pizza Hut Fundraiser

The Lansing School District - Families Overcoming Rough Times (F.O.R.T.) Program has been selected as a beneficiary of Pizza Hut’s 2019 fundraiser. As a result, one or more Pizza Hut restaurants in the local area will raise funds on behalf of the Lansing School District from December 3 through December 31, 2019! All funds raised will be distributed to back to the district in the early Spring of 2020.

The Families Overcoming Rough Times (F.O.R.T.) Program is a new program that assists Lansing School District students who are living in temporary or inadequate living situations. The F.O.R.T. Program assists qualified students with food, clothing, and transportation along with many other needs.

If you or someone you know has children who attend school with the Lansing School District and are having a really rough time maintaining a permanent and adequate residence due to foreclosure, eviction, or other problems, please contact Rose Taphouse, Lansing School District Homeless Coordinator, at 517-755-2813 or contact the child’s school to see if they qualify for the F.O.R.T. Program.
Fifty young men from Lansing Eastern High School recently made a trip to the western side of the state to participate in Kalamazoo Valley Community Men’s Leadership Conference presented by Brother2Brother—a not-for-profit organization dedicated to guidance, fellowship, empowerment and mentorship.

The focus of the day—strengthening young men to become leaders.

In pursuit of that aim, the day was spent engaged with faculty from Kalamazoo Valley College and Western Michigan University and entrepreneurs and other high school students from across the state. Throughout the day, students participated in lectures, workshops and guided conversations, focused around the themes of leadership, responsibility, and the importance of becoming civically engaged in your communities.

“I think it was a great experience for these students,” said Jill LaNew, Pathway navigator at Eastern High School. “These students are all just on the cusp of adulthood, and it’s important they’re ready for the responsibilities that come along with it. What better way to prepare than to learn and take from the experience of people who have already successfully walked that path?” Additionally, the students were also provided with ample time to tour the campus of Kalamazoo Valley Community College and interact and make connections with other young men from across the state.
Reading, writing and arithmetic are all important—there’s no denying it. Those three subjects are part of the foundation of a quality education.

But along with those traditional areas of study, it is important students are also provided with the opportunity to learn and develop the critical life skills they’ll need to be successful in life.

And possibly at the top of that list is becoming financially literate—something Lansing Schools takes seriously. Providing students with the skills and knowledge they need in order to make smart and effective choices with their finances is an essential component of a complete education.

And to help in that effort, Lansing Schools recently invited Ryan Carter, a Lansing-area financial planner to give a presentation on financial literacy and planning to some of its students.

In addition to providing a substantial primer on investment strategy and vehicles such as stocks, dividends, and mutual funds, Mr. Carter also communicated the important of investing in companies that produce essentials like food, water, electricity and other safe investments that will always have a steady foothold in the market.

“It was really eye-opening for me,” said Jacob Stevenson, a senior student on the receiving end of Mr. Carter’s presentation. “I think the biggest take-away for me may have been that you don’t need to invest in the next Bitcoin or Facebook to be successful. All you really need is a set of reasonable and attainable financial goals and discipline and determination to stay on the path you’ve outlined in order to be successful. Thanks to Mr. Carter, I’m feeling much more comfortable and prepared for my future, and I’m thankful for that.”

Lansing Students Receive Investment and Financial Planning Advice from an Expert
Continuing with tradition, the Sexton marching band, under the direction of Mr. Joshua Hicks, recently participated in the 35th Annual Silver Bells in the City parade in downtown Lansing.

Annually attracting more than 65,000 people into the heart of downtown every year, the Silver Bells parade always provides a huge stage for several mid-Michigan school marching bands, and this year Sexton certainly took full advantage of the opportunity.

“If you’ve ever come downtown to watch the parade, you know how packed the streets are,” said Hicks. “Year in and year out, it’s easily one of the best opportunities we have to showcase our tremendously talented marching band, and I’m proud to say our students did just that this year.”

In fact, you could say Sexton did it better than anyone, winning the “Best Illuminated” award for small marching bands.

“We looked great, and we were all excited that the judges recognized that. It was definitely a team effort though. I don’t think we would have won that award without all the help we got from our tremendous Sexton Band booster parents, teachers and staff,” Hicks said.

Now the focus turns to defending the title in 2020.
November was a special month for Mr. Ken Ashton, SodexoMagic custodian at the Wainwright Professional Learning Center. Not only was it his birthday November 5, but he was awarded the first ever SodexoMagic Employee of the Month for his dedication and hard work.

The executive director for the Office of School Culture, Cordelia Black, said, “Ken is dynamic! He arrives everyday with his ‘A’ game and ready to work. Ken goes above and beyond every day. Wainwright is clean and polished and we appreciate having him on our team.” Congratulations Ken!
DREAM BIG! IT’S YOUR JOURNEY.
THE LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT WE’LL GET YOU THERE.

EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL
Health Services
Human Services

EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL
Arts, Communications & Information Technologies

SEXTON HIGH SCHOOL
Engineering, Adv. Manufacturing
Insurance & Finance

DISTRICT SHOWCASE
FEB 9
12 - 4:00 P.M.
DON JOHNSON FIELD HOUSE