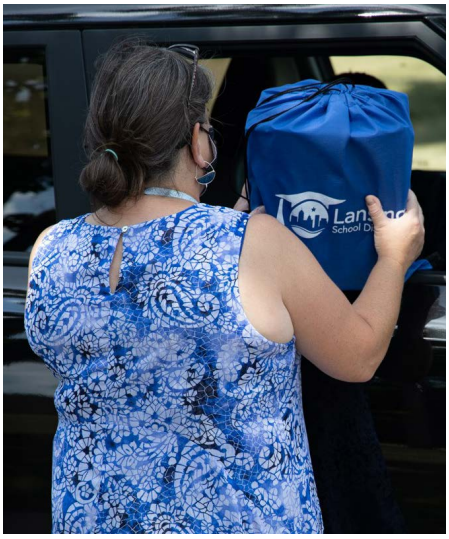
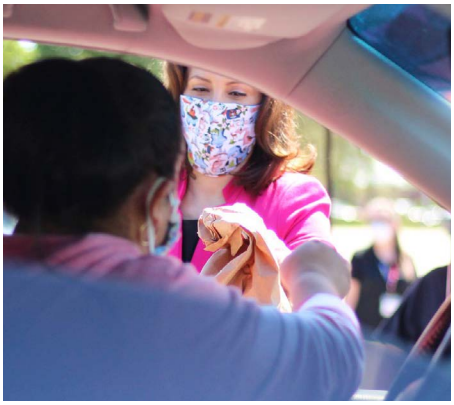
SEPTEMBER 2020

The BRIGHT SIDE





Lansing School District

Let's Talk!

And We're Off...

There were no first day jitters, no bus rides, no welcome back celebrations. There weren't any hugs from friends you haven't seen all summer either. The first day of school this year looked nothing like it has in years past. In fact, what we are experiencing is the greatest upheaval from standard operations in the 385 year history of public schools in the United States of America.

We know that this unprecedented school year will be challenging, but we also know that we will make it ours and come out stronger than we were before, because, we too, are anything but standard. We are the Lansing School District family and we're going to get through this together.

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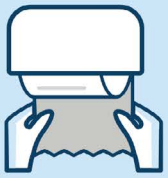
Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.

Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.

Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.

Rinse hands well under clean, running water.



Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of germs and stay healthy.

LIFE IS BETTER WITH CLEAN HANDS

www.cdc.gov/handwashing

This material was developed by CDC. The Life is Better with Clean Hands Campaign is made possible by a partnership between the CDC Foundation, GOJO, and Staples. HHS/CDC does not endorse commercial products, services, or companies.

Dear Lansing School District Family,

Welcome back!

As you know, this year has been unlike any other. When I became the Interim Superintendent on January 1, 2020, none of us could have known what was coming only a couple of months later. Starting March 16, we all had to adapt and re-imagine what education looked like.

On July 1, 2020, The Board of Education approved me to become the Superintendent, but what I am most proud of is my grandchildren also attend the Lansing School District. They are the fourth generation of my family to attend Lansing Schools, so it should come as no surprise that I take the health and well-being of all of our students and staff very personally.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we decided to start the 20-21 school year with screen-to-screen learning for at least the first marking period, which runs through November 6, 2020. Before this date, we will reevaluate all circumstances and decide the path forward.

This summer, we continued our meal distribution to ensure our families received the food they needed. We had technology distribution events that witnessed over eight thousand devices handed out to our students. We worked with community partners who are providing learning labs for working parents. We also started Parent University, which will run throughout the school year.

We have all had to adapt throughout the past year. Our entire Lansing School District family – teachers, staff, students, parents, and community partners – have all had to re-imagine what this school year will look like.

We know that we will not only get through this as a community, but we will continue to Dream Big!

Sincerely,

Sam Sinicropi

Sam Sinicropi
Superintendent

LE Class of 2020 LE

"My name is Claire Hipps. I'm the valedictorian from Lansing Eastern High School, and I would like to extend my congratulations - not only to my own classmates, but to everyone in the class of 2020.

It is hard to define the circumstances that we have found ourselves in, but it is undeniable that we have made our mark. Precedent has had no bearing on our outcome, and the members of this class are creative, talented, and passionate. We have had many victories, perhaps too many to even count, but more interesting might be to examine our resilience and innovation in the face of insurmountable challenges.

We have lost our last seasons, our musicals, and all of the traditions that we thought would make this all worth it, but we are perhaps coming away with a lesson that is far more valuable. Although we are not going to experience these last traditions, we have still accomplished something truly great. We have graduated high school.

They say that life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% of what you make of it, and I know that with our high school experience that this class is ready to face any of life's challenges. It is true that our last day of high school was Friday, March 13th. We are all on the brink of new beginnings, but I can't help but hope that we all remember where we came from, because we cannot ever truly gauge how our lives will proceed.

Our circumstances change, with our without our readiness. High school has taught us many lessons about the importance of challenging ourselves, about valuing those around you, and about working hard despite all the challenges you face.

Above all, we have learned that everything will work itself out, and that although where you end up might not be where you envisioned yourself, it is exactly where you are supposed to be. Congratulations, again!"

Claire Hipps graduated as the 2020 senior class valedictorian from Eastern High School. Hipps, a full International baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP) candidate, achieved the highest level of academic achievement out of all the students in her class with a 4.87 grade point average (GPA). In addition to her astounding GPA, Hipps was the student body president, secretary of the National Honor Society (NHS), and high wind section leader in marching band.

Hipps decided to continue her education by attending Alma College this fall. She plan to earn her undergraduate degree in economics to build the foundation of her career aspirations in corporate law. She chose this career so that she may "argue in the defense of those who cannot defend themselves in the face of large, often predatory corporations."

Hipps chose to attend Alma College because of the small class sizes and intangible, inviting atmosphere. She is also enthusiastic to participate in the college's Model UN program and numerous well-funded study-abroad opportunities.

To watch Eastern's virtual graduation click here.

Class of 2020

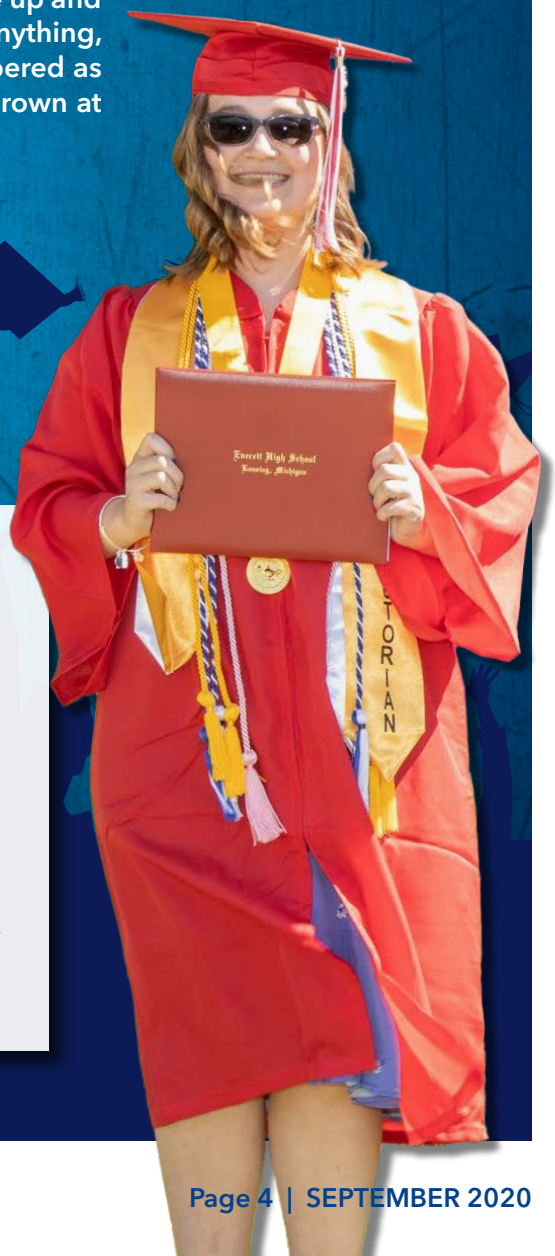
"Hello everyone, my name is Aubree Muethel, the Lansing Everett High School 2020 class valedictorian. I want to first recognize the hard work and efforts of all graduates and to everyone that supported us, whether it be family, friends, or teachers, thank you all for your support over these last four years.

During my high school experience, I have dealt with the idea of needing to be perfect and not make mistakes. It was hard to face many situations of difficulty and overcome them without stress, anxiousness, or tears. I am so fortunate for everyone that stood by me, even when I was too embarrassed to ask for help. Before I thought that I had to keep my struggles inside and put up a facade that everything was okay, but over the course of these four years, I have realized that it is okay to make mistakes because nobody is perfect, and one of the bravest things you can do is ask for help.

During these troubling times, it is easy to succumb to all the negatives surrounding our senior year. Band students can understand the pain of playing pomp and circumstance every year, waiting for their turn to finally hear that being played for them. We didn't get the traditional ending to our senior year and we have the right to be upset, but we shouldn't forget all the wonderful memories we have made throughout these four years.

Additionally, we gained an opportunity that no other class had, to rise up and use the strength and resilience we now possess to persevere through anything, no matter any struggle, or any pandemic. We will always be remembered as the Class of 2020; we have the ability to persist no matter what is thrown at us, not afraid of whatever is awaiting us in the future.

Good luck and congratulations Class of 2020!"



Aubree Muethel graduated as the 2020 senior class valedictorian from Everett High School. In addition to Muethel's impressive dedication to her course work, consisting of six AP classes, she was involved in the National Honor Society and band. She played clarinet and was the section leader her junior and senior year.

Muethel actively volunteered within her community, church, and local art studio. She is forever grateful for the friendships formed and lessons learned at Everett High School.

This fall, Muethel will attend the Lyman Briggs and Honors College at Michigan State University majoring in genomics and molecular genes. She plans to become a research geneticist to study genetic disorders and viruses. From her challenging course work - of AP biology specifically, and researching genes with her father, she was inspired to go down this scientific path.

To watch Everett's virtual graduation click here.

S² 2020 Class of S²

"Although it isn't easy to reconcile the fact that our senior year has been taken from us, or that we won't have a traditional prom or graduation, I look at this crisis with the optimism that we will emerge better equipped to take on the world than any other class before us.

One of the greatest lessons I have ever learned is that adversity is inevitable; and that although at times it may be challenging, in the end, when you persevere you will always be stronger than before.

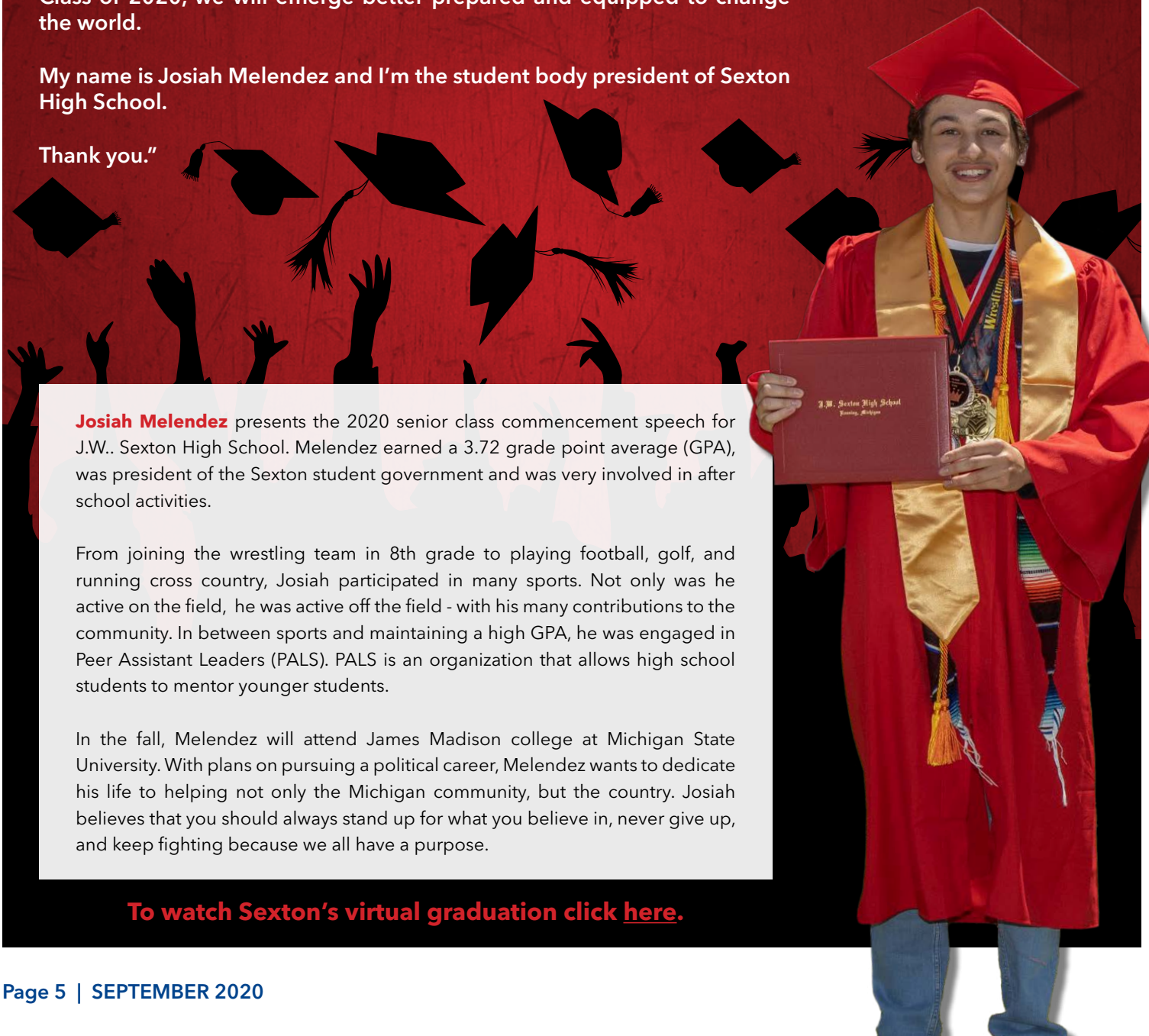
Class of 2020: this is our adversity. This is what makes us different from all the other classes, but also what will make us stronger.

This virus will end, and life will continue, and instead of thinking about all that we have lost, think of all that we have gained. Mental fortitude, resilience, and perseverance, certain indispensable qualities that we will be able to carry with us in all aspects of life when we encounter all different types of adversity.

Class of 2020, we will emerge better prepared and equipped to change the world.

My name is Josiah Melendez and I'm the student body president of Sexton High School.

Thank you."



Josiah Melendez presents the 2020 senior class commencement speech for J.W.. Sexton High School. Melendez earned a 3.72 grade point average (GPA), was president of the Sexton student government and was very involved in after school activities.

From joining the wrestling team in 8th grade to playing football, golf, and running cross country, Josiah participated in many sports. Not only was he active on the field, he was active off the field - with his many contributions to the community. In between sports and maintaining a high GPA, he was engaged in Peer Assistant Leaders (PALS). PALS is an organization that allows high school students to mentor younger students.

In the fall, Melendez will attend James Madison college at Michigan State University. With plans on pursuing a political career, Melendez wants to dedicate his life to helping not only the Michigan community, but the country. Josiah believes that you should always stand up for what you believe in, never give up, and keep fighting because we all have a purpose.

To watch Sexton's virtual graduation click here.

East Lansing Mayor Leaves Politics to Teach in Lansing Schools

The Lansing School District faculty family is excited to gain a new, yet familiar face this fall. Ruth Beier, former Mayor of East Lansing, decided not to seek reelection this year and retire from her job after 30 years as an economist with the statewide teacher union, the Michigan Education Association so she could teach second-grade at Lyons Elementary, a PreK-3 Lansing school.

Ms. Beier's career includes serving as the Deputy Treasurer for the State of Michigan for taxation and economic policy during the Governor James J. Blanchard administration when she was just 26 years old. Now at age 59 when many teachers start thinking about retirement, Beier will begin a new career and pursue her lifelong passion of being an elementary school teacher.

"I've always wanted to be a teacher," said Beier. "As a child, most of my nurturing came from teachers in public schools. I truly felt cared for by loving and skilled teachers."

Ms. Beier earned an undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and a Master's degree in economics from Duke University. To prepare for her teaching career, Ruth returned to college to earn another bachelor's degree in June 2020, this time in elementary education from Ferris State University, and she completed her student teaching in Haslett.

Beier made the decision to pursue teaching as a profession not only because of her enthusiastic passion to work with young people, but also because of the extreme need for educators. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to take a physical and mental toll on the education profession.

"This year is going to be extremely difficult for schools due to the fact many experienced teachers may retire as a result of the pandemic," said Beier. "I want to be there for the children during this challenging time. My purpose and passion is to help these young students succeed."

"If we don't do something to better education in this country we are going to fall further behind the rest of the world, and the students are the ones who are going to suffer," said Beier. "I am willing to teach because I want to. It may be unusual to have someone at my age with a lot of skill, time, and passion who is willing to work for what schools are able to pay, but I'm all in - even as we start the school year in a screen-to-screen online education environment."

Lansing Legend Leaves an Imprint

Dr. Eva Evans passed away on July 20, 2020 at the age of 85. Dr. Evans served as the first female deputy superintendent in the Lansing School District and worked for the district for many years. The Lansing School District Welcome Center is named in her honor. She also chaired the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. Below is a fond tribute to Dr. Evans written by former superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul.

When a delegation from Lansing's Delta Tau Omega Chapter of AKA (Alpha Kappa Alpha) Sorority called me in 2018 to explore ways in which to honor their sister and colleague, Eva L. Evans, I was thrilled. No one had been more of a positive influence on as many lives in our district as Dr. Evans. As professional women, we wanted to be like her – strong, committed, passionate, clear-thinking, practical, and above all, a class act.

In 1996, Dr. Evans was elected as the 24th International President of AKA, representing over 300,000 members throughout the United States and the world. This was at a time when she was also serving as Deputy Superintendent for the school district! Her commitment to helping young women self-actualize and become leaders in their community was without parallel. Think about all the women she mentored or with whom she shared her charm and wit in sisterhood – Dr. Olivia Letts, Margaret Groves, Barbara Roberts Mason, Pat Fitzpatrick, Dr. Liz Turpin, Mary Jane McGuire, Vivian Riddle, Alda Henderson, Diana Rouse, Dr. Delsa Chapman, to mention just a few of our community's legendary leaders in their own right.

I remember so clearly the support and wisdom Dr. Evans gave me as we launched the Center for Language, Culture, and Communications Arts in 1994. During every step of my career, Eva Evans was like a guardian angel watching over me. Whenever we met, she would give me that bright smile and say, "you did it, girl!" There were two phone calls I would take no matter what I was doing – my mom's call and a call from Dr. Evans.

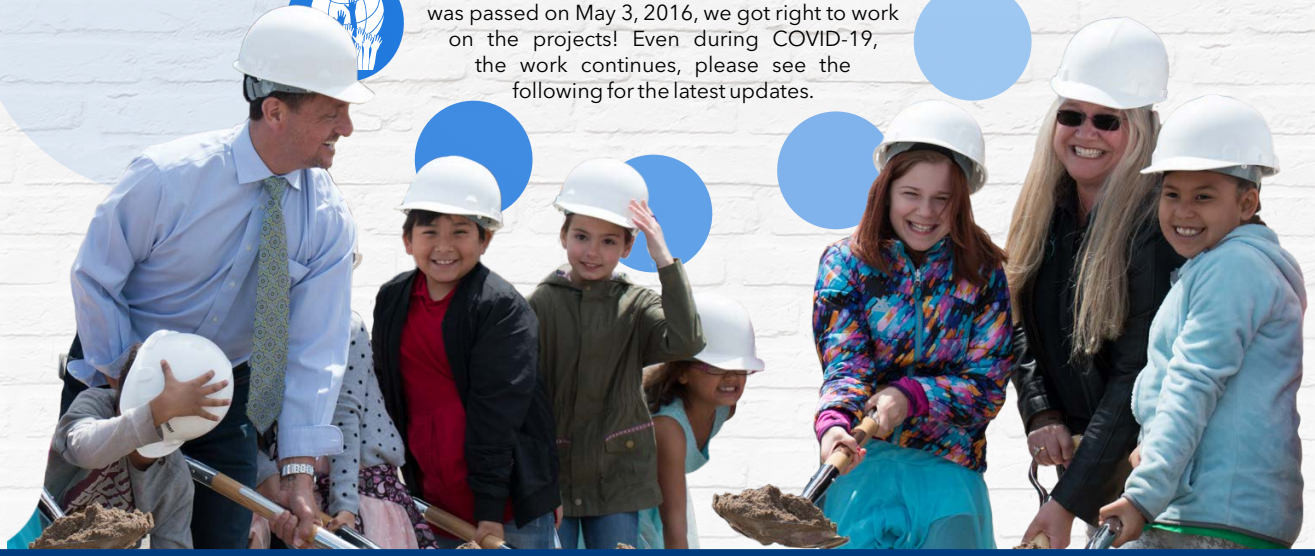
Nothing I did as superintendent gave me as much personal pleasure as that spring day in April when we dedicated the Lansing School District Welcome Center in her name. It was the full circle of a career – my being able to spearhead this honor to a woman who paved the way for so many of us. I think Bryan Beverly said it best in a text to me the day Dr. Evans passed when he told me that whenever Dr. Evans said she was proud of him, he would smile for days. So true.

We always wanted to make her proud.

Lansing©
Pathway Promise

Bond Progress Loading...

Since the Lansing Pathway Promise Bond Proposal was passed on May 3, 2016, we got right to work on the projects! Even during COVID-19, the work continues, please see the following for the latest updates.



Everett High School Bond Construction Updates

Everett HS renovations are underway and this school is receiving approximately $20,000,000 worth of work from the $120,000,000 2016 Pathway Promise Bond Fund. Demolition and asbestos abatement in the performing arts wing is mostly done, curtain-wall replacement on the North side of the classroom tower is 50% done, and delivery of the new classroom tower unit ventilators has occurred. This equipment will be providing more fresh air than was provided by the obsolete equipment.

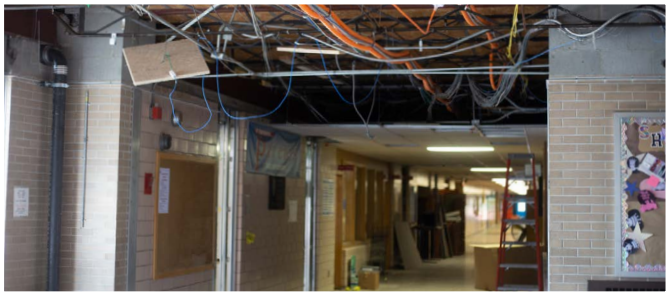
Earthwork and foundations are finishing up at the band and secure entry additions and is beginning at the dance and art room additions. The classroom tower is receiving new furniture in most of the classrooms just before the start of school. The performing arts renovation areas are to be completed for the start of school, and the additions are to be occupied over winter break so that renovations to the auditorium space can begin.

Everett High School Sinking Fund Construction

The old boilers have been removed from the school, new rooftop equipment has been set, pump skids in the tunnels are being replaced and re-roofing of portions of the school started in June.

Lansing School District

This is such an exciting time for the district and community!
Stay tuned for more updates as they evolve.



Lansing School District

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Stay tuned for more updates as they evolve.

Attwood Bond Construction Updates

Attwood is undergoing a major renovation that replaces furniture, flooring, ceilings, lighting, and some HVAC upgrades, throughout the school. For the 2020-2021 school year, students will see an updated school with a new fire alarm system for enhanced safety, better lighting, new windows, and new classroom ventilators for a healthier classroom than the more obsolete equipment for when screen to screen instruction ends, and students return to classrooms. At the end of June, demolition and asbestos abatement are substantially complete. Both ceiling and flooring replacement is underway in areas of the school where the containment for asbestos abatement has been removed and COVID-19 related delays will mean that work will continue into the fall while students are learning screen to screen.

Beekman Sinking Fund Construction

Roof replacement took place at Beekman this summer to fix failed areas of roofing and to increase the roof insulation thickness at this school.

Sexton Bond Construction

New classroom furniture has been installed in many of the Sexton HS classrooms this summer as part of a two phase re-furnishing plan.

Lansing School District

This is such an exciting time for the district and community!
Stay tuned for more updates as they evolve.

Sexton Sinking Fund Construction

The installation of a new, fluid applied, roof membrane is underway at Sexton HS. This relatively new method of re-roofing the school is both environmentally friendly and faster than a tear-off and roof replacement. This method of re-roofing saves on the cost of replacing good insulation already on the roof, and also saves significant cost by eliminating the need to remove and re-install mechanical equipment that would have been removed and re-set in a traditional re-roofing approach.

Gardner Bond Construction

Three rooms for Kindergarten and one 1st grade classroom were remodeled this summer to improve spaces that were not well suited for the students in those classrooms. Gardner has also just received new furniture for most of the school's classrooms.

Lansing School District

This is such an exciting time for the district and community!
Stay tuned for more updates as they evolve.

Board of Education Takes Historic Action Against Racism

The Lansing School District will take multiple direct actions to fight racism and support Black students in the future through an historic resolution unanimously approved by the Board of Education. The resolution against racism will: engage an outside facilitator to complete a comprehensive equity audit, develop a plan to support Black students regarding general well-being and post trauma in light of racial tensions in our community and across the country, create a steering committee with a focus on Black History curriculum, and continue to invest in a diverse workforce and professional development focused on Culturally Responsive Leadership and Instruction.

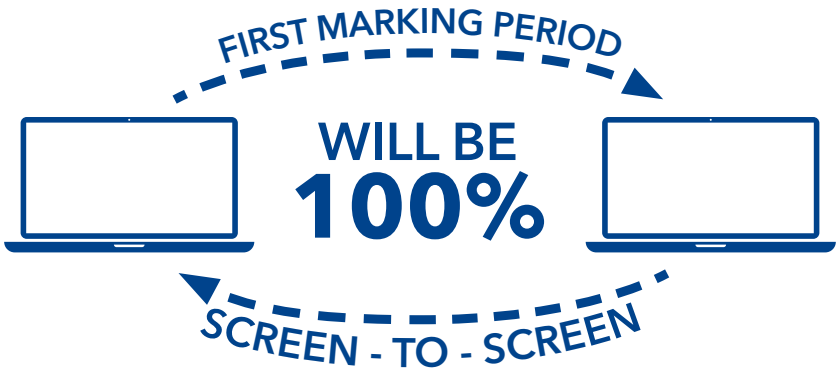
"The Lansing School District has always been proud of its diversity," said Board of Education president Gabrielle Lawrence. "In response to the overtly racist actions being taken across the nation and the resulting protests, we are taking proactive steps to recommit ourselves to mindfully constructing a public school system that is committed to equality and equality at every level. We have a responsibility to educate our students on the history of systemic racism in the United States, because that's how we are going to break the cycle."

The Lansing School District has more than double the statewide average of Black students. The resolution states that every social institution has a responsibility to play a role in bringing an end to racism and the current social climate in our community, nation, and the world underlines the need to support black men, women, and children in the school district.

The Lansing School District is the largest public school district in the Mid-Michigan region and is committed to offering a high quality education to students in a caring, collaborative and excellent learning environment.

To read the complete resolution approved by the Board of Education visit www.lansingschools.net.

MEAL PICK UP SITES



Dear Lansing School District Families,

We want to share our curbside meal pick up schedule slated to continue through November 6, 2020, the duration of our screen to screen learning plan. Our goal is to ensure all Lansing School District students have continued access to free meals. In order to achieve our goal we have made the following plans in conjunction with our district administration, local health authorities and federal guidelines effective September 8, 2020.

- Meals can be picked up by **any adult or student**.
- Meals can be picked up **at any site**. You do not need to be enrolled at the school where you choose to pick up meals.
- If you have students in several schools you may pick up all meals at one location.
- Meals will continue to be provided **free** under the USDA Federal program.
- Menus will continue to be posted here.

We are dedicated to serving your students the safest, tastiest and most nutritious meals possible. This school year is a new situation for all of us. Changes to our meal service may happen with little warning, but we will do our best to keep families informed about changes in a timely manner.

Have questions or need more information?

Please contact us at Food@LansingSchools.net

Thank YOU for supporting our School Nutrition Program.

Curbside Food Location	Address	Days	Pick Up Time
Attwood	915 Attwood Dr.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Averill	3201 Averill Dr.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Beekman	2901 Wabash	M-F	Bus Route Delivery
Capital Commons	600 S. Sycamore	M-F	12:50 p.m.- 1:10 p.m.
Cavanaugh	300 W Cavanaugh Rd.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Center for Success at PV	4501 Pleasant Grove Rd.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Cumberland	2801 Cumberland Rd.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Dwight Rich	2600 Hampden Dr.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Eastern	626 Marshall St.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Forest View	3119 Stoneleigh Dr.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Gardner	333 Dahlia Drive	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Gier Park	401 E. Gier St.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Hildebrandt	3122 N. Turner Street	M-F	11:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.
Hill Center	5815 Wise Rd.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
Kendon	827 Kendon Dr.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
King Arthur's Court	2201 E. State Rd.	M-F	11:10 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Lewton	2000 Lewton Place	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Lyons	2901 Lyons Ave.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Mt. Hope	1215 E. Mt. Hope Ave.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Mount Vernon Housing Community	3338 N. Waverly	M-F	12:15 p.m. - 12:35 p.m.
North	333 E. Miller Rd.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Pattengill	815 N. Fairview Ave.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Pinebrook Manor	3618 W Miller Rd.	M-F	1:25 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Post Oak	2320 Post Oak	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Reo	1221 Reo Court	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Riddle	221 Huron St.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Sexton High	102 S. McPherson Ave.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Sheridan Road	16900 Cedar St.	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Summer Place	4901 S. Waverly Road	M-F	1:55 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.
Wexford	5217 Wexford	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Willow	1012 Willow	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.
Woodcreek	4000 Woodcreek	M-F	10:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.

= Mobile Feeding

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

Woodcreek Montessori would like to give a "BIG THANK YOU!!!" to State Representative Angela Witwer and her team from Michigan's 71st House District. Woodcreek was very fortunate to receive a donation of 50 backpacks and additional supplies for students in need. We appreciate their support and consideration in providing our students with the extra supplies they need to be successful as they embark on a new remote learning journey. Their generosity speaks volumes for our staff, students, and families.

If you have a story submission for *The Bright Side*, click here!

For questions or concerns, please contact your child's school or get in touch with us on Let's Talk.

Let's Talk!