LIVE LONG AND PROSPER

One of Michigan’s fastest-growing occupations is nursing. The health care profession offers many opportunities to provide quality care and support to others while earning a solid living for oneself.

Fortunately, the Lansing School District offers strong programming that’s already working to prepare the next generation of nurses in mid-Michigan. These and other technical education opportunities are making a difference for generations of Lansing graduates, ensuring our entire region remains strong and prosperous (and healthy!) for decades to come.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Forest View Fall Family Festival 2019: From marshmallow toasting to games and perfect, crisp weather—our family fun night had it all!

October 30
• Late Start Wednesday
• CLAC Informational Meeting 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

October 31
• Half Day (Elementary Only A.M.), Planning & Records

November 5
• Half Day of School

November 6
• Late Start Wednesday

November 7
• Regular Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
MSU, Lansing Partner to Boost Nursing Enrollment

A unique partnership between the Lansing School District and Michigan State University is working to encourage growth and diversity in the nursing profession.

Funded by MSU’s Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant and operated through the Lansing School District, the program offers a consistent pipeline to encourage nursing students from middle school through bachelor’s degree.

The program, which has operated since the 2013–14 school year, offers hands-on resources and support for students with an interest in health care.

“We hope to move kids along with an interest in the nursing profession,” said Cordelia Black, executive director for the Office of School Culture. “Many students believe nursing only happens in hospitals, but it’s far more than that.”

From weekly meetings during the school year to extended sessions on MSU’s campus during the summer months, there’s something to keep students on track toward a career in nursing over the long term, thanks to the MSU/Lansing partnership.

Currently, 49 students at Everett and Sexton are taking part in the program. Students at Eastern will be able to begin participating in the second semester of this school year.

Once students receive their Lansing diplomas, the support does not end. MSU continues to offer specific resources to Lansing students who need:

- Financial and educational support
- Participation in a summer “transition to college” program
- Biweekly networking and academic support enrichment sessions
- Tutoring for prerequisite and nursing courses
- Eligibility for stipends
- Enrollment in the nursing program
- Assessment and preparation for the NCLEX-RN exam

Students interested in learning more about the program should contact Cordelia Black at 755-2800.
Everett Band Students Prepare December Trip to Nashville, TN

Lansing Everett marching band students are planning a December trip to Nashville, Tennessee, where they will participate in the city’s annual Christmas parade.

“We’ll be taking advantage of the trip to visit the Grand Ole Opry, Music Row, and the Country Music Hall of Fame, and more,” said Penny Filonczuk, Everett band director. “We’ve got a lot of great opportunities lined up, and our students can’t wait to take part!”

The trip runs from Dec. 5–7 and has been funded through student fundraisers.

“The cost was around $500 per student, and I’m pleased to say our fundraising work is all done,” Filonczuk said. “Right now, we’re selling chocolate in order to fund some of the extras and to pay for band camp later on down the road.”

The Nashville Christmas Parade is a staple of the holiday season, and has run since 1927. This year, Lansing Everett is one of fourteen high school marching bands participating in the event.
Lansing Students to Benefit from Discovery STEM Programming

The skills students need for the careers of tomorrow has changed dramatically over the past several years, and thanks to a new grant-funded program, Lansing is able to keep pace.

In partnership with Discovery Education, Lansing Schools recently launched a new STEM-focused program providing a curriculum and training that integrates project-based learning into the classroom in 21 schools throughout the district.

“In today’s technology-intensive world, it’s more important than ever that our students develop strong critical thinking skills and proficiencies in science, math and technology, and this program is going to help us set that foundation in our students, said Mt. Hope principal Ray Freeze. “This really is a critical undertaking for us—the jobs of tomorrow are going to require that kind of skillset, so this is what we need to do to prepare our students for that reality.”

The program is being sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute (API).

“We’re really committed to this program, not just for the benefit of these students but also for the future of our industry as well,” said Mike Sommers, president and CEO of API. “As we move forward, our industry is going to increasingly need a workforce that possesses a STEM education and critical problem-solving skills. Our hope here is that we can play a role in educating the next generation of leaders that will be responsible for driving that innovation forward.”

Freeze, who is working to ensure timely, effective program implementation, sees opportunities for Lansing as well.

“It’s really just really exciting for us as a district,” said Freeze. “This program is going to make a real difference in our work to prepare our students for the kind of careers—not jobs, but careers—that are going to be important in the future. We can’t wait to dive in.”
As the only PreK-5th grade Montessori school in the Lansing School District, Wexford Montessori offers an experience that is quite different a traditional school setting.

“The Montessori approach places a tremendous amount of emphasis on students’ voice and choice,” said Wexford Principal Elizabeth Bishop. “At Wexford, we work very hard to create a classroom environment that encourages our students to explore their curiosities and interests. Learning should be active, fun and engaging, and we work hard to foster that here.”

Learning isn’t confined to the classroom either. Students at Wexford learn in a variety of settings, often taking visits to the Ebersole Center, Impression 5, Michigan State University and Harris Nature Center.

One of the other tenets of a Montessori education that makes Wexford stand out is the emphasis it places on grouping together students of multiple ages.

“All of our classrooms are multi-age within a three-year range, which is great because it allows our students to learn at their own pace but also challenges them as well. Our students are encouraged to help one another, which only serves to reinforce their own knowledge and skills,” Bishop said.

Multi-age grouping is a hallmark of a Montessori education and for good reason. The arrangement creates a family-like environment where older students enjoy stature as mentors and role models, providing younger students with help and support they need to face the challenges ahead.

Creating that sense of responsibility in its students is something Wexford take very seriously. In addition to serving as mentors in the classroom, older students in the 4/5th grade classrooms are regularly assigned jobs within the school, helping with things like school announcements and the Kindergarten lunch program. The new jobs are announced at the bi-weekly student assembly.

“Every few weeks we come together as a community of learners to announce the new 4/5th grade jobs, review our student agreements and raffle off prizes for positive lunchtime behavior,” said Bishop. “And at the end we all get up and dance to some music together.

“It really is an amazing place.”
Dwight Rich Students Benefit from Sewing Machine Donations

It all began with a student performance.

During costume construction for a Dwight Rich production last year, educator Cathleen Weaver noticed that many students were curious about how she was stitching together their costumes.

To help teach them a valuable life skill—and a timeless art—Weaver began collecting materials for a sewing class. Today, she and her students are working after school to share the mechanics of costume design and construction, with the goal of doing their own wardrobes for future school productions.

Because the project began without funding, Weaver donated her own sewing supplies to the effort. But soon, demand far outstripped supply and Weaver began asking for local donations. And those donations have been pouring in. From local families to a state senator, machines, irons, and other sewing notions are pouring in from a wide variety of sources.

If you are interested in contributing to this unique effort, please contact Cathleen Weaver at cathleen.weaver@lansingschools.net.
Students from Sheridan Road STEM Magnet School visited Potter Park Zoo as part of the Big Zoo Lesson.

The Big Zoo Lesson is an extended learning class that allows students to spend a fun-filled day learning about wildlife.

Students are able to be outdoors, engaging with the animals and with nature in ways they cannot do during an ordinary zoo visit. In particular students can:

- Observe a particular animal for an hour a day, recording observations in their journals,
- Engage with each other and their volunteer parents in new ways, and build stronger relationships with their teachers, and
- Get a stronger respect for the natural environment and the need to conserve and protect vital resources.

Congratulations to Sheridan Road students on an exciting zoo experience!
Adult Education Programs Expand in Lansing

You’re never too old to stop learning.

It’s an age-old adage that’s been fully embraced at the Lansing School District. With established adult education offerings including a GED program, English as a Second Language courses, and the Career Pathways program, the Lansing School District has made it a point to provide a variety of opportunities for adult learners.

Those opportunities have expanded even further this fall with the advent of the adult High School Diploma program.

“As a school district, we’ve always tried to cater our offerings to the needs of the students we serve, and that effort has never been limited to those enrolled in the traditional K-12 system but extends to our adult education program as well,” said Sergio Keck, director of special populations and programs at Lansing School District. “The new high school diploma program is a testament to that.”

Intended for those who have aged out of the K-12 system and are only a few credits shy of graduating, the high school diploma program establishes a pathway for adult students to return and obtain their diploma. Students enrolled in the program are provided with one-on-one support and can study and advance at their own pace.

“The students in this program are all already so close to that huge educational milestone that is a high school diploma,” said Keck. “We want to do everything we can to help them with that last little sprint to the finish line.”

As with all other adult education offerings, the Lansing School District attempts to simplify the learning process for those enrolled in the high school diploma program by providing students with child care service and two different scheduling options.

“It’s an exciting time for us here”, said Keck. “At the Lansing School District there are now more opportunities than ever before for our adult learners to advance their education and position in life. That’s monumental, and it’s great to be here and be a part of it.”
In October, Gardner ESL 7-8 grade art students began a study of the world water crisis, reflecting on its causes and effects around the globe.

Students shared anecdotal studies about the water shortages they faced in their native countries, then wrote reflective statements about the impact it had on their families as many had to walk miles to secure suitable drinking water.

The students explored data showing that, while the earth is 75 percent water, only one and a half percent of that water is fresh and available for human consumption.

The unit culminated in a huge wall mural that displayed highly decorated water droplets on a background of blue-green waves.

The border was decorated with their anonymous statements about personal water shortage impacts, with beautiful illustrations of food items with the number of liters of water required to grow each.
Please Attend the Chicano Latino Advisory Committee’s

Informational Meeting

AT GARDNER INTERNATIONAL MAGNET ACADEMY | 333 DAHLIA DR.

OCTOBER 30
6:00-7:30 P.M.

DINNER PROVIDED

Lansing School District
Let’s Talk! Facebook Instagram Twitter
DREAM BIG WE’LL GET YOU THERE
Students at Pattengill Biotechnical Magnet School have begun organizing and assembling their LEGO EV3 robots and putting together parts of their competition kits as they prepare for their upcoming robotics competition!

Lansing staff members are depicted with their colleagues in the national Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP). The Michigan EPFP is affiliated with The Office of K-12 Outreach (led by our very own Dr. Bryan Beverly) at Michigan State University. EPFP is a leadership development program providing training activities in policy-making in education and human services. Participants gain knowledge and information on policy design and implementation at the local, state and national levels. EPFP meets regularly throughout the year. The EPFP members are sponsored by our REAP grant.