



NOVEMBER 2021



The BRIGHT SIDE



Let's Talk!   

As We Approach the Holiday Season: *Remember to Practice COVID-19 Mitigation*

The Lansing School District family has done a great job practicing COVID-19 Mitigation strategies as evidenced by a relatively stable case load as the school year has progressed. With holiday breaks looming it is especially important not to get complacent with mitigation strategies. While you enjoy your much needed time off with friends and family, please remember the importance of the following:

- 1. Vaccination** All eligible students and staff should be fully vaccinated. The vaccine is widely available in our community and through several vaccination events in our schools. The Lansing School District requires all non-exempt staff to be vaccinated.
- 2. Masks** Everyone over the age of two should wear face masks that cover the nose and mouth. This is a simple, effective tool to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and protect those unable to be vaccinated due to age or other factors. The AAP found that the vast majority of children, even with medical conditions, are able to safely wear a mask with practice, support, and role modeling from adults. The Lansing School District has adopted a mask requirement for anyone in a district school or administrative building.
- 3. Social Distance** Maintain three to six feet of physical distance between students whenever possible especially with unvaccinated students. The LSD encourages physical distancing and has developed tools, visual aids, and district wide reminders for students and staff.
- 4. Hand Washing** Encourage students to wash or sanitize hands frequently. The LSD has provided hand sanitizer for every classroom and common area and encourages teachers to make hand washing an important part of every day.
- 5. Environmental Tools** Provide adequate ventilation and consider the use of air purifiers in rooms that do not have access to fresh air. The Lansing School District has both new and upgraded air filtration systems in many schools and has added air purifiers to classrooms and common areas.

The Lansing School District maintains an unwavering commitment to the health and safety of our school community. We are determined to provide academic excellence while best ensuring that our students and staff remain healthy through the pandemic by implementing these strict mitigation strategies. We must all do our part to ensure the health and safety of our school community!

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Professional Development and Leadership Center Named in Honor of Past Superintendent Dr. Richard J. Halik

The Lansing School District has formally dedicated the old Wainwright Elementary School in honor of former superintendent Dr. Richard J. Halik. The building will now be known as the Dr. Richard J. Halik Development and Leadership Center, and the facility will be used as a center for staff training.

"While I am humbled and incredibly honored to have my name on this beautiful facility, I am only one small part of this accomplishment," said Dr. Halik at the event that gathered more than 100 friends and family to celebrate the dedication with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and sign unveiling event.

"No matter your role, you have an important part of this sign and place, and I thank you and recognize your contributions," Dr. Halik said.

Dr. Halik was born and raised in Lansing and attended Lansing schools - graduating from Eastern High School. He went on to earn an undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University and then a master's and subsequently a Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

Dr. Halik also attended Lansing Community College and was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award in 1991. Dr. Halik taught at the district before moving on to the superintendent position where he served from 1985 until 2000.

To watch the ceremony in its entirety click [here](#).



Gier Park Principal Cadogan Loves School and Students

Gier Park principal Dr. Christopher Cadogan (Ed. D.) can be found nearly every school morning positioning the orange traffic cones near his school's drop-off zone. It's a welcoming ritual that allows the smiling Cadogan a chance to directly see and interact with students and parents at the K-3rd grade elementary school.

"I have always loved the Lansing School District," principal Cadogan said. He laughs and adds, "I think placing the cones may be the most important thing I do every day!"

Cadogan is a homegrown star in the school district. Christopher attended Lansing schools and graduated from Everett High School, and went on to earn his undergraduate and graduate degrees in education, and eventually taught at Eastern High School.

Cadogan has always had a passion for education and helping others learn. "There were some challenges in my career," Cadogan said. "I graduated at a tough time for teachers, who were being laid-off in school districts around the country. But I had such a passion

for education, I pushed forward and taught in several places, always with an eye on returning to Lansing."

Principal Cadogan eventually landed a spot in the Lansing School District "Aspiring Leaders" program that coaches future administrators.

"Mr. Cadogan is a young upcoming star in the administrative ranks of the Lansing School District," said Deputy Superintendent of Special Populations Sergio Keck. "He is passionate about education and helping children, and he puts a great amount of effort into leading Gier Park School."

"My life is better when I serve others," principal Cadogan said. "We all are made with unique gifts and talents. We all have a community to serve. I look at my young students and know the world is wide open to them, they can be and do anything with a great education."

"My staff always tells me I can do better," Cadogan chuckles. "And the truth is - I CAN do better. We all can do better."



District Moves Forward With Sale of the Old Otto Middle School

The Lansing School District has taken an important step forward in completing the sale of the old building that served as C.W. Otto Middle School located at 500 East Thomas Street in Lansing. A document-closing event with the non-profit group known as the Advancement Corporation (Metro Lansing Poor People's Campaign) took place at the end of October.

The Lansing School District has agreed to sell the former middle school building for \$1 to allow the Poor People's Campaign to repurpose the building for community use. The signing event continues a sale process accepted by the Lansing School District Board of Education in June 2021. A final title transfer to the Poor People's Campaign is conditioned on the City of Lansing approving a land division of the current Otto parcel after closing.

"This is a big step forward for the Lansing School District," said superintendent Ben Shuldiner. "The district has marketed the Otto building and property for many years, and we are glad to see a local group step forward with plans to use the building for a common community purpose in the future."

"The school district has property that we own, but if we are not using it, we want to put it in the hands of

people who will use it for the good of the community," superintendent Shuldiner said.

Pastor DJ Knox, a alumni of the Lansing School District and one of the Poor People's Campaign co-chairs celebrated the sale of Otto.

"We plan to use the building for many things including a medical clinic which was there at one time, and we'll have space to house a mental health clinic too," pastor Knox said. "We are going to broaden our construction trades services, and include learning for cosmetology, masseuse training, and we will create a full-serve community center. We want people to come to Otto in the future and find a lot of community serves, and to find love and others who will embrace them."





Lansing Welcomes Afghan Refugee Students and Families

The Lansing School District is in the process of potentially welcoming hundreds of new students who are arriving in the city as refugees from Afghanistan.

"The job of a school district is to welcome all children," said Lansing School District Superintendent Ben Shuldiner. "But more importantly than that, our job is to welcome families and create a community for all of us, and that's what we do here every day."

"I am honored to be the superintendent of a school district that is so welcoming to people from all over the world and from many cultures," superintendent Shuldiner added. "So let the world know the work the Lansing School District is doing here is terrific."

"Refugees and immigrants bring a tremendous wealth of culture and economic impact to our communities, and we stand ready to support them and help them survive and thrive here in Lansing," said City of Lansing Mayor Andy Schor. "We look forward to continuing our efforts and partnerships to create a vibrant ecosystem that supports refugee and community wellness. In Lansing, we are solving problems daily to make sure these refugees feel welcome."

Michigan is working closely with the federal government to coordinate the arrivals of Afghan allies and nationals as they come to Michigan. The Michigan resettlement agencies with consultation with the Office of Global Michigan, are currently approved for approximately 1,600 Afghan arrivals by December. Lansing has welcomed the most refugees of any community in the state so far, with more than 100 refugees calling Lansing their new home.

The resettlement agencies help identify permanent housing, employment opportunities, provide cultural orientation, assist in signing them up for public benefits, enroll children in school, and assist in securing a state ID/driver's license.

The White House named former Delaware Governor Jack Markell as the coordinator of Operation Allies Welcome, and the former Governor visited Lansing and recently met with many community leaders and some Afghan families at the school district Dr. Eva L. Evans Welcome Center.

"President Biden wants to make sure we provide a safe and dignified welcome to our Afghan allies, who have fought by our side and worked by our side for many years," said Governor Markell. "In Michigan, you have a Governor who has been so supportive, and where we have seen a lot of bipartisan support of this effort, and so much comes down to leadership. People throughout this country recognize the responsibility the United States has to support our allies from Afghanistan. I came to Michigan because of the innovation and support your state has extended to our Afghan friends and families."

To learn more about how you can volunteer and donate to ease the transition and welcome individuals and families to Michigan, visit the recently launched Michigan.gov/AfghanArrivals website.



Lansing Common FC Donates Soccer Goals, Balls to Pattengill Elementary

On November 9, Lansing Common FC (Football Club) coaches, players, and board members hosted a press event at Pattengill Biotechnical Elementary where they had donated over \$3,000 worth of goals and soccer balls to support the school in its goal of building a soccer field.

Lansing Common has been an active partner of the district since it was founded and their commitment to our students and the game shows. "We want to make soccer as accessible as we can to all kids in Lansing," said Lansing Common President Eric Walcot.

"When we met Missy and she asked for help building a soccer field for the students at Pattengill, we saw that as an opportunity to meet a need in our community and make sure kids in Lansing have a chance to play soccer with as few barriers as possible," Walcot said of the recent donation.

"The Pattengill Biotech family is beyond grateful to receive this generous gift of soccer goals and balls," Missy Arocha, Pattengill Principal said. Students in her school are now able to rotate daily based on grade levels to use the field. "With soccer now being the main use of this space, we look forward to the constructive and organized activity where students will play and have fun." Thank you Lansing Common!

For more information about Lansing Common FC, visit their [website](#).





HAPPY Halloween



District schools participated in a variety of Halloween events last month. From a drive through event with staff, parents, and families, to school parades, Halloween was celebrated in style.

Lots of decorations and costumes could be found throughout the district, and everyone enjoyed the fun and spooky atmosphere. Gier Park featured fun reading activities and educational games like letter sound bingo, word hunts, and practice writing and Chinese could be heard throughout the air at Post Oak, continuing the school's immersion theme.

And of course, what Halloween would be complete without some candy and goodies?!



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- Our state-of-the-art Language Learning Lab helps students develop Spanish language fluency
- Partnerships with Michigan State University and a rich and diverse array of community organizations teach students about diversity and human interaction.

HOLA
BONJOUR
HELLO
GUTEN TAG



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FOR INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL!



EV Marching Band Wows

Everett Viking Marching Band recently participated in the Grand Ledge Marching Band Exhibition. There were 22 bands involved as well as a performance by the Spartan Marching Band. The students performed great and had a wonderful time.

LET'S GET SOCIAL!



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.