THIS ISSUE: PELC 5 | Homecoming 11 | Library News 14 | Alumni Update 16

PANTHER PRESS

Parchment School District Newsletter

parchmentschools.org **November 2026**



PLUS:

More News

Stories

Online

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS! *Our mission is to ensure that all students are challenged to excel in their individual social and intellectual growth, while achieving those essential academic and interpersonal skills necessary to become a successful, contributing member of society.*

Superintendent's Letter

Dear Panther Family,

As we enter the holiday season, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your continued partnership, support, and commitment to Parchment School District. Our focus remains on what matters most: our students, our community, and the future of our schools. As we continue shaping the path forward, we are committed to listening, learning, and working together to create the strongest possible future for every student.

Under our guiding theme of **One Parchment**, we are focused on strengthening the connections that unite our schools, families, and community. A stronger district begins with a shared sense of pride, purpose, and belonging, along with a commitment to ensuring every student has access to the opportunities, resources, and support needed to succeed.

This work includes strengthening academic programming, creating greater alignment in instruction across grade levels, and expanding student supports. Our goal is to ensure every child is challenged, encouraged, and equipped to reach their full potential. By working together, we can build greater consistency across our schools, foster stronger relationships, and create a brighter future for Parchment—one student, one school, and one community at a time.

We are also excited to explore new opportunities to make our district operations more efficient and sustainable through electric school buses. Parchment's compact geographic footprint makes our district an ideal setting to evaluate the potential benefits of this technology, including operating costs, reliability, and environmental impact. Be sure to keep an eye out for our three new electric buses on the roads after Thanksgiving! We look forward to learning from this initiative and sharing our progress with the community.

There are also many opportunities to come together and celebrate our Panther community throughout the holiday season:

- **Veterans Dinner | November 10, 5:00–7:00 p.m.** Join the PHS Student Council as we honor and recognize those who have served our country.
- **Staff Basketball Game | November 19 at 6:00 p.m.** Come cheer on our district staff as they take the court at Parchment High School.
- **Wassailing Events | December 2, 6:00–8:00 p.m.** Join us at Parchment Middle School for an evening of caroling, performances, crafts, games, and holiday fun.

While this season brings opportunities for celebration, we also recognize that the holidays can be a challenging time for some individuals and families. A simple check-in, an offer of assistance, or an unexpected act of kindness can make a meaningful difference. I encourage you to take a moment to review the resources included in this newsletter, whether your family could benefit from additional support or you are looking for ways to lend a helping hand to others.

As the year draws to a close, I am especially grateful for the countless ways our students, staff, families, and community members continue to support one another. The strength of our district is not measured solely by our accomplishments, but also by the relationships we build, the opportunities we create, and the care we show one another. That is what makes Parchment special, and it is something we should all take pride in.

Thank you for being an important part of our Panther family and for the role you play in making our schools and community a wonderful place to learn, grow, and belong.

On behalf of everyone at Parchment School District, I wish you and your loved ones a holiday season filled with peace, connection, and joy.



contacts

Dr. Sarah Neumann, Superintendent
(269) 488-1050
sneumann@parchmentschools.org

Cathy Lawson, Finance Director
(269) 488-1065
cathy.lawson@parchmentschools.org

SCHOOLS

High School
(269) 488-1100
Beau Loncharte, Principal
beau.loncharte@parchmentschools.org

Middle School
(269) 488-1200
Jeremy Andrick, Principal
jeremy.andrick@parchmentschools.org

Central Elementary
(269) 488-1000
Amanda Edgell, Principal
aedgell@parchmentschools.org

North Elementary
(269) 488-1400
Emily Whittico, Principal
emily.whittico2@parchmentschools.org

Northwood Elementary
(269) 488-1300
Phyllis Mion, Principal
phyllis.mion@parchmentschools.org

Parchment Innovation Center
(269) 488-1100
Beau Loncharte
beau.loncharte@parchmentschools.org

Parchment Early Learning Center
(269) 488-1360
Ryanna Moore, Director
ryanna.moore@parchmentschools.org
Kelley Dendel, Assistant Director
kelley.dendel2@parchmentschools.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Transportation Coordinator
Sam Smith
(269) 488-1290
sam.smith@parchmentschools.org

Food Service
Holly Wait, Chartwells
(269) 488-1127
hwait@parchmentschools.org

Facilities Manager
Derek Menchinger
(269) 488-1093

parchmentschools.org

KALAMAZOO RESA
Career Connect

Kalamazoo RESA Career Connect Open House Set for February 9th

Families are invited to explore free career, college, and arts opportunities

KALAMAZOO — Kalamazoo County middle and high school students, their families, and the greater community are invited to explore the various career opportunities available through Kalamazoo RESA's Career Connect programs. The 2027 Open House is February 9, 2027, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the KRESA Career Connect Campus, 3500 Vanrick Drive, Kalamazoo.

During the Open House, guests can tour learning labs and studios, meet instructors, connect with current and former students, and speak with staff about courses, credentials and college credit options. There's a program to fit the interests and goals of every student.

"There truly is something for every learner in our Career Connect continuum; whether you're exploring careers, ready for hands-on technical training, pursuing the arts, or planning a jump-start on college," said Eric Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Career and Talent Development. "We're excited to welcome families to the campus and help students chart their next steps."

Programs represented:

- **Career & Technical Education (CTE):** Hands-on career preparation aligned with industry standards and credentials.
- **Education for the Arts (EFA):** Arts-intensive coursework in theater, dance, visual arts, and more.
- **Early/Middle College (EMC):** Dual enrollment to earn a certificate or an associate degree during high school.
- **Career Pathway Planning Programs:** A continuum of career development services, internships and programs.
- **Discovery Lab:** Mobile learning lab featuring hands-on technology in supply chain, welding and design,

Event details:

- **Date/Time:** Tuesday, February 9, 2027, 5:00–7:00 p.m.
- **Location:** KRESA Career Connect Campus, 3500 Vanrick Drive, Kalamazoo
- **Inclement-weather make-up:** Thursday, February 11, 5:00–7:00 p.m.
- For more information, visit kresa.org/careerconnect. To apply, visit kresa.org/apply.

Kalamazoo RESA Service Center
1819 E. Milham Avenue, Portage, MI 49002
P: 269.250.9200 | F: 269.250.9550
www.kresa.org

Middle School - Band



The Parchment Middle School Bands have also been working hard and making wonderful progress this fall! We are excited to celebrate several student accomplishments, including Tyler Boyle, Adebola Adeniji, and Hameedat Sarumi, who were selected for the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association's Middle School Honors Band, and Braxton Fourn, Leland Cole, and Olive Avery, who were selected for Western Michigan University's Middle School Honors Band. Congratulations to these students on this well-deserved recognition!

Our 8th graders also had the exciting opportunity to join the High School Marching Band in the stands, giving them firsthand experience of performing alongside our marching musicians. Meanwhile, our 7th and 8th grade bands had a wonderful time showcasing their hard work at their Fall Concert!

Our newest musicians in 6th grade are off to a fantastic start, too! They have been learning their instruments, building their skills, and are already playing songs together. We are so proud of the progress all our middle school musicians have made and look forward to seeing them continue to grow throughout the year!

Middle School – Nature Center

Mr. Rosenberger's Class explored nature and saw the animals at the Kalamazoo Nature Center in the beginning of October.







Parchment Schools Foundation

SERVING OUR STUDENTS THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY

Greetings!

At the Parchment Schools Foundation, our core mission is to facilitate educational opportunities by providing funding and support to staff and students for innovative and progressive learning ideas that will promote success in the Parchment School District.

We Need Your Support!

In order to continue these programs, we need your support. Every dollar donated supports mini grants and scholarships for students. Last school year, the Foundation provided funding for 9 district-wide staff projects through mini grants. Annually, one graduating senior is awarded an academic scholarship and one senior pursuing a vocational trade is additionally awarded.

Please help us show our staff and students that their community supports their educational environment and achievements!

Thank you

All donors will receive a Holiday Sharing Card. The artwork for the card will be created by a Parchment elementary school student. Your name, along with the name of other donors, will appear in the card and in the February edition of the Panther Press.

Sincerely,

The Parchment Schools Foundation Board
Colette Jasiak, President
Dave Newman, Vice President
Dr. Sarah Neumann, Ex. Secretary
Cathy Lawson, Treasurer
Mary Faupel, Trustee
Cassie Haspas, Trustee
Nanette Kokmeyer, Trustee
Karen Heasley, Trustee
Breanna Wood, Trustee
Chris Bergh, Board of Education Liaison

To make a donation scan the QR code below by December 1, 2026



Parchment Early Learning Center
AND SCHOOL AGE CHILDCARE

Getting to Know Our Parchment Family!

Our Discovery Kids have been busy learning about the many wonderful people who help make Parchment Early Learning Center and Northwood Elementary a special place!

As part of their learning, students are getting to know the different staff members who work throughout our building and learning about the important jobs they do each day. From keeping our school clean and safe to helping in the classroom and preparing delicious meals, every staff member plays an important role in our PELC family.

Pictured is Ms. Brenda from our cafeteria, who took some time to visit with our Discovery Kids and shared about her important job. We love helping our students see that it truly takes a team to make our school a wonderful place to learn and grow!

CENTRAL

Panther BINGO Family Engagement Night

Central Elementary recently welcomed families to our BINGO Family Engagement Night for an evening of fun, connection, and learning! Families enjoyed playing BINGO together, sharing snacks, and spending time with teachers and classmates outside the regular school day.

We were excited to partner with several local businesses and community organizations that generously supported our event and helped make the evening extra special. A big thank-you to the **Kiwanis Club, which donated books; Cherri's Chocol'art; Twisters; Central Pops, which provided snacks; and KP Cinemas** for their support and contributions to our BINGO prizes and festivities. We are grateful for the generosity of our community and the way these local partners help create meaningful experiences for our Panther families!

In addition to the BINGO fun, families received take-home math activity packets designed to support learning beyond the classroom. Separate packets were provided for kindergarten and first-grade families and second- and third-grade families, with activities to help students practice and reinforce important math skills and concepts at home.

It was wonderful to see families learning, laughing, and making memories together. Our students especially enjoyed the opportunity to see their teachers and friends in a different setting, strengthening the connections that make our school community so special.

Thank you to all the families who joined us, the local businesses who supported our event, and everyone who helped make our BINGO Family Engagement Night a success. We love bringing our Panther community together!







NORTH

Back to School

North students began the year building relationships and learning to work together during the "First 8 Days." They discovered that the Minions had been sent to Spy School and needed to help them learn the skills needed to be successful leaders. They were introduced to the 8 habits every morning with a short skit where the minions learned a lesson in leadership. Students participated in team building, hands-on activities and even roasted s'mores. The highlight was participating in the KRESA Career Connect Discovery Lab. They had 4 stations that helped them explore different careers, and the lessons were Minion themed as well! A big thank you for the time and effort from KRESA staff planning and running this special opportunity! Our new students were also sorted into their houses, as well as special guests, including SROs Barnes and Dahl.







House Mania Extravaganza

Families at North had an amazing time at the House Mania Event on September 30. Over 260 people came to participate! Our students were able to bring their families to this unique event to experience some of the fun of house and learn more about them. 24 students volunteered to help by participating in a Q & A panel and leading their families in Chant-offs. Volunteers built games for families and students to work together or compete against each other. In addition, families received a booklet about North's houses, free snacks and a book. Books were donated with a huge thanks to Kiwanis. This event was made possible thanks to the MiFamily Engagement Center Literacy Fund. It was great to see families connecting with each other and with staff during this special event.







Congratulations to **CAMERON WAGNER** who has broken the school record in boys' soccer for career goals with a total of 138 goals. The record was previously held by Mike Emig with 124 career goals set in 2012.



Athletic Leadership Council



The Parchment Athletic Leadership Council (ALC) is an inaugural group started by the Parchment Athletic Department. The council consists of fourteen high school student-athletes who have the opportunity to provide input and help shape the experience for our student-athletes. The goal is to promote sportsmanship, recognize the people who make Parchment Athletics special, and continue to build a strong athletic program by listening to our students.



The council has already developed ideas for new events that will become part of Parchment Athletics. One of those events is Educator Appreciation Night, where we will recognize three Parchment educators throughout the school year. We will hold one event each season to recognize educators who make a difference in the lives of our students.

The second event is *The Parchies*, Parchment's version of the ESPYs. Scheduled for May 2027 in the main gym at Parchment High School, The Parchies will recognize our student-athletes and teams for their accomplishments throughout the school year.

The Athletic Leadership Council gives our student-athletes a voice in the direction of our athletic program. We look forward to seeing the council continue to develop ideas, promote sportsmanship, and create opportunities that make Parchment Athletics a better experience for everyone.

High School - Band

The Parchment High School Marching Band had an incredible 2026 marching season! This year's show, Start Your Engines, took audiences through the excitement, suspense, and ups and downs of a NASCAR race. Students performed "Greased Lightnin'" from Grease, "Thunderstruck" by AC/DC, and "Don't Stop Me Now" by Queen.

With nearly half of the ensemble made up of freshmen, these students accomplished some amazing things! The band earned a season-high score of 82.4 at the Hastings Marching Invitational, earning 2nd place and Awards of Excellence in Music, Marching, Color Guard, and Percussion. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, dedication, and growth these students demonstrated throughout the season.

Beyond competitions, this ensemble works tirelessly to support our school and community. From parades, pep assemblies, and football games to competitions and performances for fellow students, the band continually finds ways to bring energy and school spirit to those around them.

Thank you to our families, school staff, and community members for your continued support of the Parchment Band Program. Your encouragement means so much to our students and helps make experiences like these possible. We are so proud of this ensemble and all they have accomplished this season!





High School – Biology Students

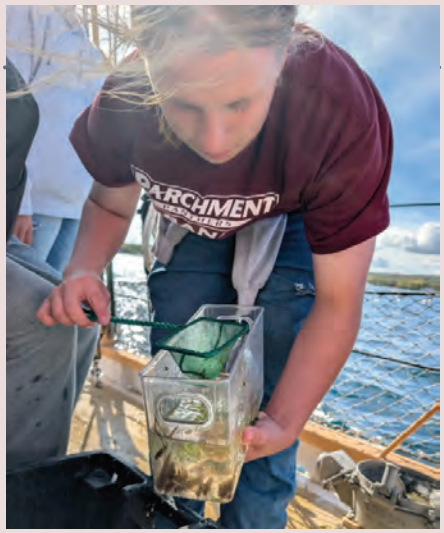
On October 8th twenty-seven Parchment HS students traveled to Traverse City and Suttons Bay to participate in the Inland Seas Schoolship and ROV program

Their quest was to answer the question: Is the Grand Traverse Bay healthy?

Students participated in numerous research groups: Collecting and analyzing plastics in the water, Invasive and Native Fish Identification, Water Quality testing,

Benthic Sampling and the identification of aquatic microorganisms in the water.

Students were also allowed to build a ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) and test their device in the water.









High School – College & Career Week

October 19-23 was College & Career Week at PHS! The goal of the week was to promote college and career awareness and exploration to all grades. Interested students traveled to Wayland Carpentry & Millwright Training Center to explore skilled trades programs, to the WMU School of Medicine to explore medical careers, and to WMU's main campus for an interactive campus tour. We also welcomed career speakers each day during PASS in the areas of animal/vet science, photography, business careers, skilled trades, and healthcare! Teachers spent time discussing their own career paths with students, as well as career opportunities within their subject areas. Top it off with daily fight song trivia, career spotlight videos, and college apparel drawings for prizes, and it was a fun and busy week!



Healthcare simulations at WMU Homer Stryker School of Medicine



Career Chat with Binder Park Zoo about animal science/vet careers.



Students exploring skilled trades at the Wayland Carpentry/ Millwright Training Center.



Campus tour at WMU

High School – Teacher Club

The PHS Teachers Club meets every Thursday after school to inspire students who are considering a future career in education. Recently, club members visited Ms. Monroe's classroom to assist students with reading. This experience gave students an opportunity to support younger learners while gaining valuable insight into the teaching profession.







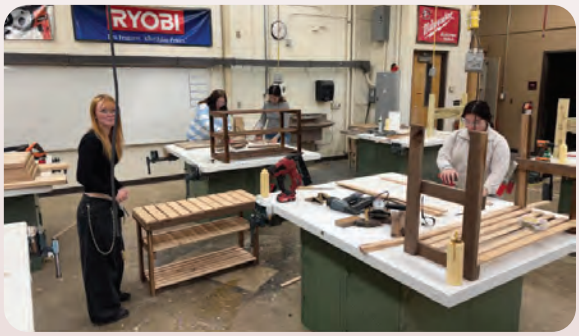
High School – Wood Shop



Our high school woodshop students are learning hands-on skills as they prepare beautiful black walnut and ash beams to work creating a variety of projects, from shoe racks to chairs!

Woodshop students also participated in the Reality Fair presented by KRESA.





Central Elementary – High School Band Performance



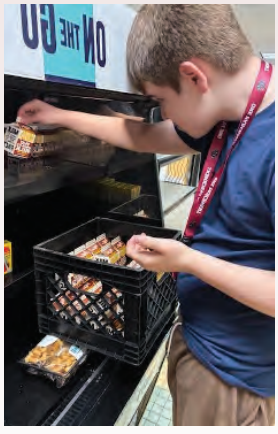


On October 23, the Parchment High School band wrapped up its marching season by bringing the excitement of Friday night football to Central Elementary students with a special performance on the school playground! The band often sees elementary students gathering along the fence to listen while they are outside, so it was the perfect opportunity to bring the show directly to them. Students enjoyed hearing the songs the band has been preparing for its final halftime show of the year, while the band's flag performers added color and movement to the performance. It was a wonderful way for some of our youngest Panthers to experience the energy, music, and school spirit of the high school band up close. The performance was a memorable way to bring our schools together, share our love of music, and build excitement for the band's final halftime performance of the season!

High School – ASD

The ASD classroom students at Parchment High School are doing a great job at supporting the cafeteria staff and custodial services. Every day after the second lunch our students help wipe down the lunch tables and put them away. They also stock the juices and milk for the next day. Lastly, the students break down the delivery boxes and put them in the recycling bin. This has been the practice for the past few years and is something the students enjoy doing. These are vocational skills that build responsibility and commitment while developing future job skills.









2026 HOMECOMING Parchment High School Homecoming Royalty

September 18, 2026

KING AND QUEEN
Kloey Harrington and **Cameron Wagner**



Kloey is the daughter of Sean Harrington and Lindsey Harrington. Kloey plays indoor and varsity soccer and is a member of the sideline and competitive cheerleading teams. After graduation, Kloey plans to attend college to pursue a career in Neonatal Nursing.

Camreon is the son of Tamerisk Post, DJ Post, Christopher Wagner, and Jen Wagner. Camreon plays varsity soccer and is undecided about his plans after graduation.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT
Jimena Sarah Pascual - Spain



Mena's host family is Chanel and Rob Kershbaum. While in America, she is excited to participate in Varsity Sideline Cheer.

CROWN BEARERS
Barrett Gudbrandson and **Elison Bergh**



Elison is the daughter of Chris and Marisa Bergh. Elison is in second grade at Central Elementary.

Barrett is the son of Ben and Taylor Gudbrandson. Barrett is in second grade at Central Elementary

PRINCE AND PRINCESS
Eliana Herrera and **Jaxon Goodrich**



Eliana is the daughter of Katy and Adam Herrera. Eliana is a member of the varsity sideline cheer and varsity competitive cheer teams.

Jaxon is the son of Tyler Goodrich and Brandy Fulbright. Jaxon is a member of the varsity football and track teams.

DUKE AND DUCHESS
Natalee Tindle and **Landon Rodriguez**



Natalee is the daughter of Lindsay and Chris Tindle. Natalee is a member of the Athletic Leadership Council and Student Council. She is a member of the varsity volleyball and varsity softball teams.

Landon is the son of Nathaniel Rodriguez and Jennifer Pelletier. Landon participates in basketball, powerlifting, and track and field.

COUNT AND COUNTESS
Kenzie Jones and **Jaxtin Hamlin**



Kenzie is the daughter of Teresa Jones and Ken Jones. Kenzie is a member of the Athletic Leadership Council and the volleyball team.

Jaxtin is the son of Justin Hamlin. Jaxtin is a member of the JV football team.

Exploring Nature Together

Some of our Parchment students enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Kalamazoo Nature Center! They explored the trails, observed animals, and discovered the beauty of the natural world together. This hands-on adventure provided opportunities for curiosity, exploration, and learning outside the classroom. We love creating meaningful experiences that allow all of our students to learn, grow, and make memories together!







STEM Class w/ Mr. Wight

Mr. Wight's STEM class is digging into the world of plants and seeds! Students are exploring how seeds grow, discovering the different parts of plants, and learning what plants need to thrive. Through hands-on activities and investigation, our young scientists are building curiosity, asking questions, and making connections to the world around them. We love seeing our Panthers grow their knowledge one seed at a time!







Learning About Safety with Our Community Partners!



Parchment is grateful for our continued partnership with Cooper Township, Kalamazoo Township and our School Resource Officers! Each year, they visit our students to share important lessons about fire prevention, personal safety, and how to make safe choices. This year, students also had the exciting opportunity to explore emergency vehicles up close! These hands-on experiences help our Panthers learn, ask questions, and better understand the important work our community helpers do to keep us safe. Thank you to our Cooper Township partners and School Resource Officers for helping our students learn and grow!



First Day Shoe Fund

October brought new shoes and big smiles to many of our Panthers! Thanks to our partnership with the First Day Shoe Fund, many students were able to go home with brand-new shoes this month. Having shoes that fit well helps students feel comfortable, confident, and ready to learn and play. We are so grateful for community partnerships like this that support our students and families in meaningful ways. Thank you to the First Day Shoe Fund and all of our volunteers who help our Panthers put their best foot forward!



Ms. Moore's Writers

In Ms. Moore's second-grade classroom, students are discovering that they are not just readers of stories—they are authors, too! As part of an exciting writing activity, students read multiple versions of Cinderella and explored how different authors can take the same familiar story and make it their own.



After reading and comparing the different versions, students put their imaginations to work and wrote their own Cinderella stories. They had the opportunity to make creative choices, develop their characters, and share their unique ideas.

The excitement continued with the Author's Chair! Students had the option to sit in the author's chair and read their stories aloud to their classmates. This special opportunity allowed students to celebrate their hard work, share their creativity, and take pride in what they had accomplished. Classmates practiced being respectful, active listeners as they heard the many different ideas and interpretations their peers had created.





Activities like the Author's Chair help students build confidence in both reading and writing. Sharing their work gives students a meaningful reason to practice reading fluently, express their ideas clearly, and recognize the value of their own voices. It also helps create a classroom community where students feel safe taking risks, celebrating one another's successes, and learning from different perspectives.

Northwood Elementary – Library

Northwood's therapy dog, Galinda, brought extra smiles to the library this month as she joined students for story time! After checking out their books, some students also had the special opportunity to snuggle up and read to Galinda. She was a wonderful listener, making reading even more special for our young readers. She also followed library guidelines and didn't "dog-ear" a single page!





Northwood Elementary – A Panther Morning Welcome!

Mornings at Northwood are a little brighter thanks to Officer Dahl! Our resource officer can often be found greeting students and walking them to class, helping start the day with smiles, friendly conversations, and a sense of security. We're thankful to have Officer Dahl as part of our Parchment family, making sure our Panthers feel welcome and ready to learn each day!

Parchment Community Library News

November 2026 thru January 2027

kidsCREATE (ages 4-10)
Make a fun craft to take home! Always available in the Children's Corner.

November Storytime (ages 0-5)
Wednesdays & Thursdays, 10:00 am through November 19
Designed for children ages 3 to 5, but all children age 5 and under are welcome to attend with a parent/guardian.

The Great Turkey Scavenger Hunt (ages 3+)
November 4-28

Friends of the Parchment Community Library Book Sale (everyone)
Saturday, November 7, 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Books make great holiday gifts for friends, family, and yourself! Early Bird admission available for $2, 8:00-9:00 am. Enjoy extra savings with the Fill-a-Library-Tote-Bag special 12:00-1:00 pm.

2nd Sundays Live: The Michigan Nightingales (everyone)
Sunday, November 8, 2:00 pm
An hour-long free concert! This program is suitable for adults, teens, and families.

Chip Champ Challenge (ages 10-16)
Monday, November 9, 6:00 pm
Guess what chip flavor you're chomping in a blindfolded taste test, make your own dip, and see how good your guesses are at Chip Trivia! Registration is requested.

Parchment Book Group (ages 18+)
Mondays, November 9, December 14, January 11, 6:00 pm
Check the Library website for featured books.

Vinyasa Yoga (ages 18+)
Wednesday, November 11, 5:15 pm
An hour of flowing yoga.

Taste Test Challenge: Potato Chip Edition (ages 18+)
Thursday, November 12, 6:30 pm
Team up to guess different flavors of potato chips, enjoy potato chip trivia, and more! Registration is requested.

Protecting Family Heirlooms and Cultural Objects: A Hands-On Workshop (ages 18+)
Monday, November 16, 6:30 pm
National Heritage Emergency Responder Jared Yax will guide you in how to assess risks to your prized possessions and how to protect them if a disaster should happen. Registration is requested.

Mystery Book Club (ages 18+)
Tuesdays, November 17 and December 15, 6:30 pm
Check the Library website for featured books.

Third Thursday (ages 10-16)
Thursday, November 19, 4:00 pm
Join our joke-laden librarian for a snack and a craft all about anime!

Chair Yoga (ages 18+)
Saturdays, November 21, December 19, January 16, 11:00 am
30 minutes of low-impact, supported yoga.

F.A.R.M. Tween Book Club (ages 10-14)
Monday, November 23, 4:00 pm
Enjoy a themed activity and discussion about this month's book, Golden Gate (City Spies Book 2) by James Ponti. Register and pick up your free book (to keep).

LEGO Club (open to all kids; children 5 and under must be accompanied by an adult)
Mondays, November 23 and December 28, 5:30 pm
We provide the LEGOS, you provide the imagination!

Closed for Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27
The Library will close at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 25, and re-open at 9:00 am on Saturday, November 28.

Holiday Scavenger Hunt (ages 3+)
December 2-23

December Storytime (ages 0-5)
Wednesdays & Thursdays, 10:00 am, December 2-10
Designed for children ages 3 to 5, but all children age 5 and under are welcome to attend with a parent/guardian.

Holiday Chocolate and Parchment Wassailing
Wednesday, December 2, 6:00-8:00 pm
Get in the holiday spirit with music inside the library and enjoy homemade cocoa and cookies as you exit through the back to see the holiday lights in Kindleberger Park! Sponsored by the Parchment Garden Club. Also visit local businesses participating in Parchment Wassailing for food and fun.

Gentle Yoga (ages 18+)
Wednesdays, December 9 and January 13, 11:30 am
An hour of gentle yoga.

It's-a Me, Mario! Cookie & Candy Wonderland (ages 10-16)
Friday, December 11, 6:00 pm
This year we're putting a spin on the gingerbread house idea and building a Mario and Friends winter wonderland using gumdrops, icing, candy, and cupcakes! And there will be pizza. Limited space; registration is required. (Age 10 may do this event or Make-It, Take-It Gingerbread Houses, not both. Please choose one).

2nd Sundays Live: Jazz on a String (everyone)
Sunday, December 13, 2:00 pm
An hour-long free concert! This program is suitable for adults, teens, and families.

Make-It, Take-It Gingerbread Houses (grades K-4)
Wednesday, December 16, 5:30 pm
Enjoy this holiday tradition with Mrs. B! Limited space; registration is required.

Third Thursday (ages 10-16)
Thursday, December 17, 4:00 pm
Join our joke-laden librarian for a snack and a craft in one: decorating cupcakes!

Noon Year's Eve Party (ages 3-10)
Thursday, December 31, 11:00 am
Celebrate the start of 2027 with a NOON Year's Eve party! Drop in and play bingo, make a craft, and dance like crazy, followed by a countdown to noon.

Closing Early
Thursday, December 31
The library will close at 1:00 pm for New Year's Eve.

Closed for New Year's Day
Friday, January 1
The library will be closed on New Year's Day and will re-open Saturday, January 2.

Midday: Tech Talk (ages 18+)
Thursday, January 7, 12:00 pm
Enjoy a light lunch and bring your questions about your tech devices. Registration is requested.

(The Winter Court Presents) A Panel of Maas Discussion
Friday, January 8, 7:00 pm
In preparation for A Court of Forgotten Melody, gather with other fae-minded folk to talk about your favorite characters, ships, and theories for the upcoming book. Refreshments and a referee will be provided. Registration is requested.

2nd Sundays Live: Mall City Voices (everyone)
Sunday, January 10, 2:00 pm
An hour-long free concert! This program is suitable for adults, teens, and families.

Beat the Winter Blues (everyone
Monday, January 11 – Saturday, February 27
Read, attend programs, and do activities to brighten your days and enjoy our Michigan Winter Wonderland!

Hot Chocolate Party (everyone)
Monday, January 11, 4:00-6:30 pm
Stop by our Beat the Winter Blues open house-style kickoff event to enjoy different varieties of hot chocolate (courtesy of Biggby Coffee Parchment) and to see the new look of our Community Room!

January Storytime (ages 0-5)
Wednesdays & Thursdays, 10:00 am, beginning January 13
Designed for children ages 3 to 5, but all children age 5 and under are welcome to attend with a parent/guardian.

The Great Parchment Slime-Off (ages 10-16)
Friday, January 15, 5:30 pm
Compete against other slime-makers to impress our panel of seriously sludgy judges. The Library will provide the basics: borax, water, and glue. Contestants, you're allowed up to two additional add-ins (bring your own or use ours) to make your slime a winner!

Mystery Book Club (ages 18+)
Wednesday, January 20, 2:00 pm
Featured book is The Widows of Malabar Hill by Sujata Massey.

Midday: The Joy of Crochet (ages 18+)
Thursday, January 21, 12:00 pm
Enjoy a light lunch and learn how to crochet (or work on your own project if you already know how). Registration is requested.

Third Thursday (Ages 10-16)
Thursday, January 21, 4:00 pm
Join our joke-laden librarian for some snacks, a craft, and a judgment free hangout.

F.A.R.M. Tween Book Club (ages 10-14)
Monday, January 25, 4:00 pm
Enjoy a themed activity and discussion about this month's book, The Last Dragon on Mars by Scott Reintgen. Register now and pick up your free book (to keep) after January 1.



3rd Annual Parchment Staff Basketball Game

Thursday, November 19th
Location: Parchment HS Gym
Time: 6-8 pm
Concessions Available
Cost: $5/person and $15/Family

Sponsored by the HS Student Council

Parchment School District
520 North Orient Street
Parchment, MI 49004

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE
PAID
Kalamazoo, MI
Permit No. 696

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Alumni Update by Dave Person

Austin Hicks, class of '06





Austin Hicks' future plans took a sharp turn during his undergraduate studies at Loyola University in Chicago.

The 2006 Parchment High School graduate thought he would begin the long journey through medical school after graduation, but his experiences at Loyola led him to a graduate program in science at the University of Alabama instead.

"I found myself liking the lab classes I was taking (at Loyola), and the lab work," he says.

So after earning a bachelor's degree in molecular biology from the Chicago university in 2010, Hicks started graduate school at UA with a goal of getting a master's degree and then pursuing a Ph.D..

He spent the bulk of his time in graduate school working in a lab, primarily on the HSV-1 herpes virus.

"Basically, I spent three years making mutant viruses," he says.

He also became a graduate instructor to earn money for his education.

"I really enjoyed the lab aspect and I liked the teaching aspect as well," he says.

That prompted a move away from research and into teaching, and upon earning his master's degree in 2013 Hicks was hired onto the UA faculty.

He currently has the title of principal senior science instructor, teaching anatomy to science students, including those entering UA's nursing program for which it is a requirement.

As the second most senior instructor in his department, Hicks teaches 400 students each semester while also supervising graduate students who teach the lab components of his classes.

"That's what I've been doing for the last decade or so," he says. "I get to do the lab work; I get the student interaction; I get to lecture. It's a lot of fun. I enjoy what I do."

Hicks, 38, also serves as an adviser for the state Science Olympiad competition, which brings some of Alabama's brightest middle and high school students to the Tuscaloosa campus each year. He runs the anatomy and physiology events for that competition.



"Some of these kids are very advanced and you can tell they are very passionate about it," he says.

Early on during his time at Alabama, Hicks fostered dogs and hosted trivia contests.

"When I was going to grad school, I would host trivia at bars around town as a side gig," he says.

At the same time, he served as a foster home for eight to ten dogs before they found their permanent

Read the full story at parchmentschools.org/alumni-update.