

Education Matters

Inspiring and Building Futures, One Student at a Time



Digital Newsletter

January 2026

Dear Huron Valley Schools Community,

A newly reimagined learning space is setting the stage for the future of education, designed to serve students not just today, but for generations to come. The vision behind the project was clear: create flexible, multi-purpose rooms that support academics, athletics and the arts. The space reflects a forward-thinking approach to education—one that recognizes students are being prepared for careers and opportunities that may not yet exist.

This is about educating students for a workforce and jobs that do not exist today. The impact of this work will benefit students for decades to come. More than a construction project, the new space represents a collective investment from the entire community.

I am proud to say this project would not have been possible without the collaboration of staff, partners and community members. We appreciate everyone who helped make this possible. This is a space for the future — a space for opportunities and innovations we can't even imagine yet.

Designed with longevity in mind, the building was created to remain relevant well beyond the next few years. It is focused on adaptability, ensuring the space will meet the needs of students 20, 30 and even 40 years from now.

As students begin to learn, create and grow within the new environment, the space stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared vision for the future.

Thank you to everyone who attended our ribbon cutting on the new space earlier this month.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Salah'.

Dr. Paul Salah Superintendent,
Huron Valley Schools



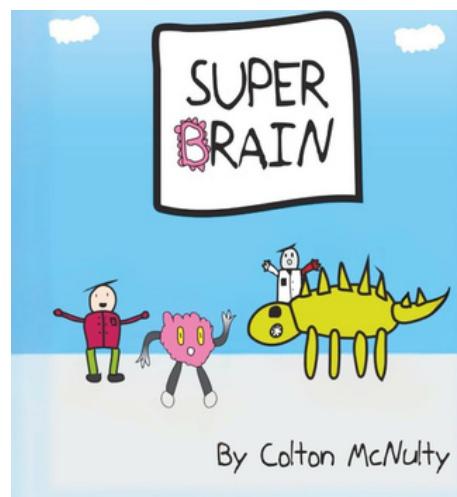
ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Fifth-Grade Owl Becomes Published Author

Oxbow Elementary fifth-grader, **Colton McNulty**, is being celebrated for an incredible achievement – becoming a published author and illustrator. Colton recently released his first book, **Super Brain**, a sci-fi adventure that showcases imagination well beyond his years. The hardcover book was published in December 2025, and highlights Colton's creativity, storytelling skills, and passion for writing.

Super Brain follows a brilliant but morally conflicted scientist who discovers a way to bring a human brain back to life. What begins as a groundbreaking scientific achievement quickly escalates into a high-stakes battle when the scientist creates a robot dinosaur to help him conquer the world. As chaos unfolds, the revived “super brain” becomes humanity’s last hope, leading to intense battles where innovation, power, and betrayal collide. The story builds toward an epic showdown between creation and creator, keeping readers on the edge of their seats as the fate of the world hangs in the balance.

Colton’s accomplishment is a powerful example of how creativity, perseverance, and curiosity can lead to extraordinary outcomes—even at a young age. We are incredibly proud of his hard work and imagination. Way to go, Colton! Watch his story here [Video](#)



By Colton McNulty



IA is Top Rated

Top 25 Nationally &
Ranked #1 in Oakland County



Tuition Free
College Credits
International Baccalaureate
Diploma Programme

(248) 676-2735

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

HVS Thespians Shine at Michigan Festival

Students from Huron Valley Schools delivered outstanding performances at the annual **Michigan Thespian Festival** held in Lansing. Thirteen students from Lakeland High School and IA-West, members of Thespian Troupe 7905, competed in 11 individual events, earning 3 Superior Ratings & 7 Excellent Ratings. Two seniors, **Jake Cole** and **June Spencer**, were given a combined total of more than \$750,000 in scholarships.

Milford High's Thespian Troupe 4291 also saw remarkable success. 22 students attended the festival, earning Superior ratings in eleven individual competitive events. Milford High's 10-minute play earned the top score of the competition & qualified for the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association (MIFA) event. In addition, two Milford seniors, **Ella Kusina** and **Theo Kress**, collectively earned \$231,000 in college scholarships. Junior **Maddy Donoghue-Lozon** made history as one of just 12 students statewide selected to serve on the Student Thespian Officer Board. Together, these achievements highlight the talent & dedication of theatre students in the Huron Valley Schools.



Music Students Shine at State Event

Muir students took center stage this weekend in Grand Rapids, showcasing their talent at the state level. Congratulations to **Kenny Jenkinson** for an outstanding performance with the All-State Middle School Band—an impressive achievement that reflects dedication and hard work.

Muir was also proudly represented at the Michigan Music Conference, where several students performed with the SSA State Honors Choir to help kick off the event. Their voices and professionalism highlighted the strength of Muir's music program. Way to go, Colts!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2/10: STUDENT EARLY RELEASE

2/16-2/18: NO SCHOOL FOR WINTER BREAK

3/3: NO SCHOOL FOR TEACHER INSERVICE

3/20: HALF DAY FOR ELEMENTARY + MIDDLE

3/30-4/6: SPRING BREAK / NO SCHOOL



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Huron Valley Honors King's Life & Legacy

Under a winter sky and the steady rhythm of footsteps, the Milford community gathered for the 21st Annual **March on Main Street**, honoring the life & legacy of **Martin Luther King Jr.** Each year, the march serves as both a remembrance and a recommitment. This year's theme, ***The Great Force of Non-violence***, called on people to reflect on Dr. King's belief that non-violence is not just a tactic, but a way to build lasting community – one rooted in dignity, justice and mutual care. Speakers reminded the crowd that the questions Dr. King and civil rights leaders like Bayard Rustin raised decades ago remain urgent today: how to disagree deeply without dehumanizing one another, and how to move forward together with purpose.



Huron Valley Schools Superintendent **Paul Salah** & members of the school board attended the march. HVS Board President **Laura Dodd** shared that this event is a family tradition dating back to when her daughter rode along in a stroller, "We do it every year because we think it is incredibly important to show kindness, love & support in our community."

As the march concluded, the message was clear: this event is more than a tradition. It is a promise to the community & future generations — to keep carrying forward the great force of non-violence and, together, continue bending the arc toward justice. Watch the [video](#)



WELCOME PARENTS!

2026

**JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN
& KINDERGARTEN PARENT ORIENTATION
MEETING**

**MARCH 12TH, 6-7 PM AT
ALL HVS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

HVS.ORG FOR MORE INFO

HURON VALLEY SCHOOLS

ACROSS THE DISTRICT



Country Oaks Partners with Huron Valley State Bank

Country Oaks Elementary is thrilled to partner with **Huron Valley State Bank** for the "Bank at School" program, starting January 30, 2026. This initiative aims to enhance financial literacy among our JK-5 students by providing hands-on banking experience, with banking days held on the last Friday of each month. Our 5th graders applied and interviewed for various positions and will work with bank representatives to ensure each transaction is handled correctly. By engaging in real-world banking activities, students will gain valuable insights into money management, saving, and financial responsibility. We are so excited to embark on this journey of financial literacy with our young learners. For more information, check out the COE Network News here [Link](#)



Lost for 53 Years: Milford High Class Ring Found, Returned



More than five decades after it was lost, a Milford High School class ring has made its way back to its rightful owner. **Boyce McClain**, a 1971 graduate of Milford High School, recently had his long-missing class ring returned—53 years after it disappeared. McClain lost the ring in 1971 while spending time in Central Park in downtown Milford. At the time, he never expected to see it again.



The ring was recently brought back to the Milford High School building by the individual who discovered it. Thanks to the initials engraved inside the ring, school staff were able to identify McClain as its owner and track him down.

Now living in Florida, McClain was thrilled to receive the unexpected piece of his high school past. The return of the ring serves as a reminder of the lasting connections to Milford High and the power of small details to reunite people with meaningful memories, even after more than half a century.

Free & Reduced Meal Benefits Help Entire District

If you have not already filled out the Education Benefits document, please do so. It was previously called the Free and Reduced Lunch application. However, because all students get free meals, the data from this form determines vital funding for schools that benefits **ALL** students.

The form unlocks benefits like reduced fees for families who need it (test fees, activity costs). It helps our schools qualify for additional federal funding for support programs rather than using general funds. All HVS parents should fill out the form here [Link](#)



ACROSS THE DISTRICT



Meredith Peterson



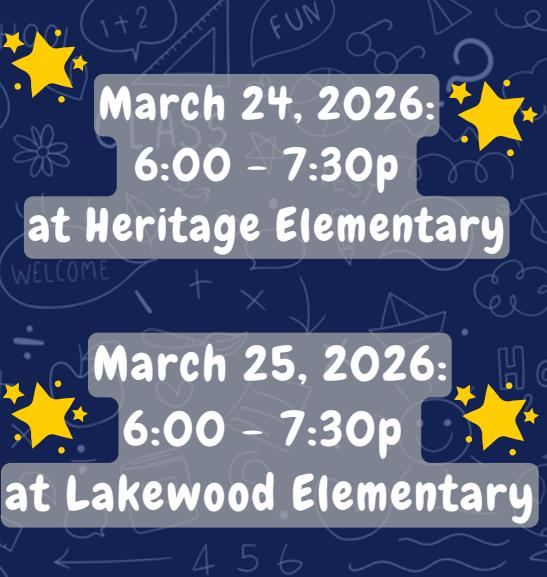
Anna Linen

HVS Students Named Scholar Athlete Finalists

For student athletes, excellence is often measured in points scored and races won. But for Lakeland High's **Meredith Peterson** & IA-West Senior **Anna Linen**, it is also found in late-night studying, early-morning practices and a commitment to doing things the right way. The two student-athletes were recently named MHSAA Scholar Athlete Finalists, earning statewide recognition for their achievements. Out of more than 1,400 applications submitted across Michigan, only 120 students were selected as finalists.

For Meredith and Anna, the recognition reflects years of balance and discipline. Both excelled academically while earning varsity letters that met the program's tough standards that include a minimum 3.50 GPA, recommendations and a reflective essay on sportsmanship. Their selections place Lakeland among a small group of schools with multiple finalists. As they continue their high school careers, Meredith and Anna represent the very spirit of the Scholar Athlete Award — showing that dedication, integrity and hard work can thrive both on the field and in the classroom.

SPRING COMMUNITY FORUMS



YOUTH • FAMILY • ADULTS



SCAN
ME



Visit us at huronvalleyrec.com

Harbor Welcomes New Career & Education Navigator

Harbor High has strengthened post-graduation planning with the addition of **Doc Williams**, the school's new Career & Education Navigator. Since joining Harbor, Williams has supported students in exploring career pathways & creating postsecondary plans, offering hands-on help with college & training applications, FAFSA and financial aid forms, class registration and Educational Development Plans. Principal Mr. Dowker calls Williams "a game changer" for helping students plan life after high school. **Leana Carlson** holds the same position at Milford & Lakeland.



HEALTH MATTERS

Supporting Your Teens with the New HVS Personal Communication Devices Policy



With the new personal communication device policy now in place, you may be hearing grumblings from your teens with the changes in cell phone and AirPod use. Our teens, and many of us, are glued to our devices. Teens are wired to connect with others and connecting through texts and social media has become the norm.

Many of our teens may feel uncomfortable with not being able to check their phones and receive notifications throughout a class period. Adjusting to this new policy will take time. Despite research repeatedly showing that remaining focused on a task is significantly impacted with every text and notification, our teens are often unaware of this impact in daily life.

Ways to support your teen with this transition:

- **Normalize the discomfort.** Listen when they complain. Their frustrations, anxiety and anger are real feelings and having a safe place to express them is important. Share with them that change is hard and feeling uneasy without a phone is common and usually fades away with time.
- **Help them practice at home.** Try short, device-free times, like meals & homework, so school doesn't feel like the only place limits exist.
- **Focus on why the policy changed.** Talk about how fewer distractions can reduce stress and improve learning.
- **Celebrate small wins.** Acknowledge when they make it through the class period or day without checking their phone — it reinforces progress.
- **Support alternative coping tools.** Brainstorm together specific strategies such as taking deep breaths, doodling, journaling or a short walk to manage the uncomfortable feelings.
- **Put your phone away too.** Teens notice when adults have their full attention during a conversation.
- **Support the HVS policy.** Knowing that you will abide by the policy is important for them to hear.

EUCHRE FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026
6:00 - 10:00 pm
American Legion Hall
510 W. Commerce St., Milford
\$35 entry fee/dinner
\$20 dinner only
Pizza & salad dinner
1ST PLACE \$200
2ND PLACE \$100
3RD PLACE \$50
SILENT AUCTION
Register by Feb. 1, 2026 (no walk-ins)
HVPEuchre.com
LEAD SPONSORS
2MOMS&AMOP
HVCC
Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce
Hungry Howie's
FLAVORED CRUST PIZZA
FOOD SPONSOR
PRIZE SPONSOR
HVEA
Huron Valley Education Association
ABC PRINTING
- EST. 1980 -
PRINT SPONSOR
All proceeds benefit the Huron Valley Promise

Board of Education: Laura Dodd, President
Lindsay Cotter, Vice President
Tom Wiseman, Treasurer
Denise Pistana, Secretary
Jacob Dimick, Trustee
Amy Grzymkowski, Trustee
Michelle Ryan, Trustee

Superintendent: Dr. Paul Salah

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

[@huronvalleyschools](#)

[@huronvalleyschooldistrict](#)

[@HuronValleyNews](#)

[@hvsvideo5458](#)