

Education Matters

Inspiring and Building Futures, One Student at a Time



Digital Newsletter

June 2026

Dear Huron Valley School Families,

Another year has come to a close and I want to take a moment to reflect on all we have accomplished together and thank our students, staff, families and community for making this year such a success.

The end of the school year is always a special time—a chance to celebrate achievements, recognize growth and look ahead to new opportunities. Throughout the year, our students have demonstrated resilience, creativity and determination in the classroom, on the stage, on the field and in service to others. Their accomplishments continue to make us proud and reinforce the bright future ahead for the Huron Valley Schools.

This year brought significant change for many students as they walked through the doors of different schools and adapted to new environments. Change is never easy, but our students embraced it with grace and confidence. Throughout the year, we have heard countless success stories of students finding new friends, connecting with inspiring teachers and creating a sense of belonging in their new schools.

This season is especially meaningful as we celebrate the graduates of the Class of 2026 from all four of our high schools, Milford, Lakeland, Harbor and International Academy-West. Graduation represents far more than the completion of coursework. It is the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance and support from teachers, staff, family members and friends. Our graduates leave Huron Valley Schools equipped with the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to succeed in whatever path they choose.

To the members of the Class of 2026, congratulations! We are proud of all you have accomplished and excited to see the impact you will make in your communities, careers and beyond. No matter where life takes you, you will always be part of the Huron Valley Schools family.

I would also like to thank our dedicated staff members whose commitment to student success makes a difference every day. Their passion, expertise and care create learning environments where students can thrive. Thank you as well to our families and community partners for your continued support and partnership throughout the year.

As summer begins, I hope everyone has an opportunity to relax, recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming our students back in the fall for another year of learning, growth and opportunity.

Thank you for another outstanding year in Huron Valley Schools. Have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Paul Salah Superintendent,
Huron Valley Schools



ACROSS THE DISTRICT

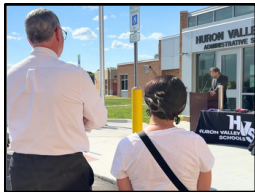
A Foundation for the Future

Huron Valley Schools officially celebrated its new Administrative Services Center on June 1st with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication honoring former Superintendent Dr. Nancy Coratti, who has spent more than four decades serving the HVS community.

Approximately 100 community members, staff, retirees, board members and district leaders gathered at the new facility, located on the south side of Milford High School, to mark the occasion. The center represents a significant milestone for the district, which recently relocated its administrative offices from their longtime home of nearly 60 years.

The celebration served as both a tribute to the district's past and a look toward its future, recognizing the leadership and community support that made the project possible. District officials noted that the Administrative Services Center aligns with Huron Valley Schools' Strategic Plan 2.0 and was made possible through the continued support of voters through the district's bond programs.

“This new Administrative Services Center reflects the continued investment our community has made in Huron Valley Schools with their generous approval of the 2019 and 2024 Bond,” said Superintendent Dr. Paul Salah. “It provides a welcoming space for families and staff while supporting greater collaboration among district departments, all with the goal of better serving our students.” Following the ribbon cutting, guests toured the renovated facility and learned about a future time capsule that will commemorate this important chapter in district history. **To take a look at the event, click [here](#).**



New Middle School Project Takes First Step

Huron Valley Schools officially broke ground on June 15th on a new middle school marking another major milestone in the district's Strategic Plan and ongoing construction projects.

District leaders, staff, students and community representatives gathered to celebrate the start of construction and recognize the community support of the recent bonds that made the project possible.

The new school will feature modern learning spaces, enhanced safety features and opportunities for collaboration as part of a shared campus with Heritage Elementary and Milford High School. Construction is now underway, and the district looks forward to sharing updates as the project takes shape. **To see the groundbreaking video, click [here](#).**



ACROSS THE DISTRICT



Middle Schools Hold Honor Awards

Huron Valley Schools middle school students were recently honored at their annual awards ceremonies held at Muir Middle School and White Lake Middle School. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students were recognized for outstanding achievement in academics, leadership, character and school involvement.

Family members, staff, and administrators gathered to applaud the hard work and dedication of the students, making the night a memorable celebration of their achievements throughout the school year. Well done, Colts and Falcons!



The School Year Hits the Final Bell

Huron Valley Schools has officially reached the end of another school year, marking a time of celebration, reflection and anticipation for summer break.

Across the district, students finished the year with final projects, end-of-year activities like Field Days, and celebrations like the fifth and eighth grade clap outs. Classrooms were filled with a mix of excitement and reflection as students wrapped up instruction, said goodbye to friends and teachers, and looked ahead to summer.

As summer officially begins, please enjoy the well deserved break. We'll see you again in the fall—refreshed and recharged! **To check out the last day of school, click [here](#).**



Congratulations Class of 2026!



New Principal of Milford High School Announced

Huron Valley Schools has announced that Steve Digsby, current principal of Muir Middle School, has been selected as the next principal of Milford High School following a rigorous interview process.

Digsby will succeed Kevin McKenna, who is retiring after 26 years of dedicated service to Huron Valley Schools, including 15 years as principal of Milford High School.

"Mr. Digsby is an exceptional leader who consistently puts students, staff, and families at the center of his work," Superintendent Dr. Paul Salah said. "I am confident Milford High School will continue to thrive under his leadership."

Digsby, who graduated from Lakeland High School, began his career at HVS back in 2008 as social studies teacher. He brings extensive leadership experience and a strong commitment to student success as he prepares to lead Milford High School into the future.



Kevin McKenna



Steve Digsby

New Associate Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Huron Valley Schools has named Connie Gilbert as its new Associate Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. A longtime educator and leader within the district, Gilbert brings extensive experience in curriculum development, instructional leadership and teacher support.

"Connie is no stranger to Huron Valley Schools," said Superintendent Dr. Paul Salah. "She has been a teacher leader and curriculum expert for a number of years, and I know she will help lead our Teaching and Learning Team with passion and competence."



A Milford native and Milford High School graduate, Gilbert began her teaching career at Lakeland High School before joining Milford High School in 2013, where she taught Algebra and Geometry.

International Academy-West Celebrates Seniors

On June 7, International Academy-West seniors walked across the stage and accepted their diplomas at Pine Knob Music Theatre in Clarkston. Under sunny skies and in front of proud family members, friends and staff, graduates from all three International Academy campuses came together to celebrate the culmination of years of hard work, dedication and achievement.

As graduates turned their tassels and celebrated with classmates, the day marked not only the end of their high school journey but also the beginning of exciting new opportunities. Congratulations to the Class of 2026!



SUMMER SAFETY



Safe and Secure Gun Storage During the Summer

Unintentional shootings are far more likely to occur when children and teens are home from school. As summer approaches, it's more important than ever to remember to secure all firearms in homes and vehicles and to ask about the presence of unsecured guns in homes, cabins, and vehicles where your children will be present.

In Michigan, state law requires firearms to be securely stored when minors are present or could be present. Firearms must be unloaded and locked in a secure container or equipped with a gun lock, with ammunition stored separately.



For more information, please see this [link](#).

Huron Valley Schools Expands Special Olympics Opportunities

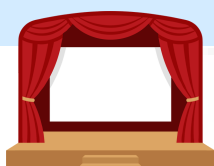


Huron Valley Schools is growing its Special Olympics program, nearly doubling student participation this year.

Lakewood Elementary and Kurtz Elementary recently partnered for a Special Olympics track meet at Lakeland High School. Last year, about 20 Lakewood students participated. This year, around 45 students participated in the event.



The program provides students with opportunities to showcase their athletic abilities while fostering teamwork, inclusion and a strong sense of belonging. **To see video of the event, click [here](#).**



Milford Senior Named Top Finalist at Theatre Awards

Milford High School seniors Ella Kusina and Theo Kress, along with Lakeland High School students Malu Trice and Molly Phillips, represented Huron Valley Schools at the prestigious Sutton Foster Awards at Michigan State University. Kusina and Kress missed graduation to compete in the statewide musical theater event.

Among 85 competitors, Kusina was named a Top 4 Outstanding Actress Finalist, continuing Milford's strong tradition at the Sutton Foster Awards. Over the past eight years, Milford students have earned five finalist selections and two overall winners.

The Sutton Foster Awards recognize excellence in high school musical theater across Michigan.



ACROSS THE DISTRICT



Student Wins International Science Award

IA-West junior, Dean Jordan, earned international recognition for his biomedical engineering research. After receiving one of just eight Grand Awards and the Regeneron Biomedical Science Award at the Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit, Jordan advanced to the International Science and Engineering Fair, where he won a second-place Grand Award in Biomedical Engineering and more than \$2,500 in prize money. His project uses machine learning to help scientists better map and analyze the brain's network of neurons and connections. Congratulations to Dean on this outstanding achievement!



Future Educator Earns Prestigious YDA Certification

Congratulations to Milford High senior MaKenna Williams on earning her Michigan Youth Development Associate Certification.

MaKenna completed extensive training and hands-on experience working with youth, earned nine college credits, and received a guaranteed interview opportunity with HVS after college graduation. She is headed to Saginaw Valley State University to study education.



REGISTRATION OPEN!

APOLLO EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Registration for the '26-'27 School Year is **OPEN !!!**

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SPRING SPORTS ROUNDUP



- **Baseball** shared the LVC Championship and won the District Championship but fell short in the Regional Championship losing 6-5 to Oxford. First time they won conference and district title since 2001.
- **Softball** finished in 5th place in the LVC, lost in the District Semifinal game against Walled Lake Northern.
- **Girls Soccer** was LVC Champs for the 2nd time in 3 years. Milford lost in the District Semifinal against Bloomfield Hills.
- **Boys Track & Field** won the LVC and were Conference Meet Champions. Kyle O'Rourke finished 4th at the State Finals in the 3200 meter run. In his track and cross country career, he finished top 10 at states 7 out of 8 times.
- **Girls Track and Field** finished in 2nd place in the LVC.
- **Boys Golf** finished 4th place in the LVC, 11th place in Regionals.
- **Girls Tennis** finished 6th place in the LVC.
- **Boys Volleyball** made tremendous improvements throughout the season. This was the first year boys volleyball was an MHSAA-sponsored sport.
- **Boys Huron Valley United Lacrosse** placed 3rd in LVC.
- **Girls Huron Valley United Lacrosse** placed 2nd in LVC. They lost in the Regional Semifinals. Chloe Caldwell received Jackie Pitts Award, named USA Lacrosse All-American and All Academic.
- **Baseball** took home the LVC Crown as co-champions but lost in the first round of Districts 5-3 against Walled Lake Central.
- **Softball** finished in 3rd place in the LVC but fell to Walled Lake Northern in the District Final.
- **Girls Soccer** finished 2nd place in the LVC but lost in the District Semifinal against Hartland. Lakeland had the top four goal leaders in the conference; Breslin Scott, Hadley Vacca, Ashley Lacsamana and Cailyn Milewski.
- **Boys Track and Field** finished in 3rd place in the LVC. Senior Andre Neumann competed in the shot put and discus in the MHSAA State Finals where he placed 4th in shot put and 3rd place in discus. He was named Oakland County Champion.
- **Girls Track and Field** finished in 4th place in the LVC. Kelsea Williams competed in the discus in the MHSAA State Finals finishing in 8th place.
- **Boys Golf** finished 5th place in the LVC and 12th place at Regionals.
- **Girls Tennis** finished 4th place in the LVC. Madeline Akarakcian was LVC Champion for singles.
- **Boys Volleyball** won the inaugural LVC Conference Regular Season and Tournament Championship. The team lost to Farmington in the Regional Final. The Eagles ranked 6th in the State.
- LHS won the LVC Male All-Sports Champions.



OAKLAND COUNTY ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE

The Oakland County Enhancement Millage is a proposed countywide property tax on the August 4, 2026 ballot that would provide additional funding for public schools and eligible academies. If approved, the 1.5-mill tax would last six years and generate about \$781 per student each year, distributed equally across districts. All revenue would go directly to local schools, allowing each district to decide how to best support students, staff and programs. Click [HERE](#) for more.

OAKLAND COUNTY ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE

VOTING DATE: AUGUST 4, 2026

<h3 style="margin: 0;">KEY FACTS</h3>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">THE IMPACT</h3>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div> <p>1.5 Mills over 6 years</p> </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div> <p>Provides \$781 per pupil annually for 6 years</p> </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div> <p>\$5.5 million total directed to our students</p> </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div> <p>\$300.00 estimated tax per year on \$200,000 (taxable value)</p> </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Collection is scheduled for Dec. 2026</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <p>Continue Focus on Student Safety</p> </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <p>Attract & Retain Talented Staff</p> </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <p>Continue Focus on Class Size Reduction</p> </div> </div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <p>Maintain Programs & Transportation</p> </div> </div>

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2026-2027

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