SPRING EDITION 2026

LAKESHORE LIGHT



Lakeshore Band Wins Third Consecutive State Title!

We are grateful for the financial support of the LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION and for the efforts of the LEF all-volunteer board.

Grounded in Tradition – Committed to Excellence

Message from the Superintendent

"Finishing the School Year Strong!"



Superintendent Greg Eding

It is hard to believe that we are closing in on the end of the 2025-26 school year! In February, the State of Michigan passed a bill that addresses student cell phones in schools. The bill requires school boards to develop a policy that restricts the use of personal electronic devices in classrooms. The new law makes allowances for medically necessary devices, school-issued devices, and devices required for special needs. The changes will take effect in the fall of 2026 and the Lakeshore School Board will be updating their policy in accordance with this new law.

Earlier this year, the high school and middle school staff took part in a specialized safety training through the Berrien County Sheriff's Department. The training involved a presentation by trained officers, and then a live demonstration in classrooms on how to keep students safe in the event of a high level incident. This was an incredibly helpful day of training for our secondary staff. The elementary staff are slated to get the same training next school year.

And finally, this summer, Lakeshore Public Schools is offering a nature based program for students entering grades 1st through 6th in the 2026-27 school year. The program will run four, week-long sessions over the summer and is tuition based. If you would like more information, please contact Ms. Deloria (adeloria@LPSLANCER.net), the program director.

Lakeshore Public Schools is offering a nature based program for students entering grades 1st through 6th in the 2026-27 school year. If you would like more information, please contact Ms. Deloria (adeloria@LPSLANCER.net), the program director.

The success of our annual LEF Online Auction is truly a reflection of our community. We are deeply grateful to the many local businesses and individual supporters who donated items to this year's auction. Because of your generosity, we achieved amazing results and continue to expand opportunities for Lakeshore students.

221 Main - Restaurant & Cocktail House
Ann & Frank Burke
Anytime Fitness
Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar
Baroda Beez; Jim and Missy Jakubs
Beeches Golf Club
Biggby Coffee
Bit of Swiss
Black Rock Bar & Grill
bread+bar
Bridgman Family Dental Care
BSN Sports
Coho Bob's Sportfishing Charters
Cracker Barrel
Curious Kids' Museum
Drive and Shine
Etre Farms
Flour Shop Bakery
Forte Coffee
Friends of LEF
Grand Hotel
Grande Mere Inn
Greg and Erica Eding
Harbor Shores Golf Club
Indian Lake Hills
Jamie Murphy RN; LMT OM IV Hydration & Wellness Center
JC and Nancy Anderson; Tara Newman; Culinary Cottage
Joe Bigley
Kelly Bushu
Kilwins St. Joseph
Lake Michigan Chiropractic
Lake Michigan Hills Golf Club
Lake Michigan Vintners - LMC
Lakeshore High School
Lakeshore High School Band
Lakeshore High School Basketball
Lakeshore High School Football
Lakeshore Petroleum - John; Kathy & Mark Curtis
M Squared Modern Hair
M&W Auto Service and Tire
Mark III Grille & Bar Papa John's Pizza
Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen
Peat's Cider Social
PGA Golf
Red Coach Donuts
Reva Salon & Spa
Rick Waning
Ryan Arnt - REALTOR
Schu's Grill & Bar
Shelley Shell at Allure Salon (Stevensville)
Signature Toyota
Sill Laser Graphics
Silver Beach Pizza
Silver Harbor Brewing Company
Sophia's House of Pancakes
Subway Restaurants
T&L Nails Spa
Texas Corral
The Beckrow Family
The Bitzer Family
The Brick House
The Harrison Family
The Lux Salon & Spa
The Mason Jar Cafe
The Peters Family
The Well Collective
Tosi's Restaurant
Tyler Automotive
United Federal Credit Union
Watermark Brewing Company
Whirlpool Corporation

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SuRGe:

Preparing Our Littlest Lancers

SuRGe: Preparing Our Littlest Lancers
SuRGe (School Readiness Group) helps preschoolers get ready for the classroom, especially those with IEPs involving Occupational or Speech Therapy. It supports children who may qualify for special education in areas like ASD, SLI, ECDD, or OHI.

What Kids Gain:

- Language & Motor Skills: Articulation, fine motor development, and sensory regulation.
- Social Skills: Communication, turn-taking, peer play, and managing "big feelings."
- Physical Development: Craft-based fine motor activities and therapeutic gross motor exercises.

Led by an OT, Tammy Claes, and a Speech-Language Pathologist, Heidi Southard, sessions include greetings, circle time with songs and books, movement and sensory checks, crafts, and practicing routines like lining up and hanging coats. SuRGe gives our littlest Lancers the tools to self-regulate, communicate, and succeed in group learning—building a strong start for school life!





ELEMENTARY NEWS

Monday Mornings That Matter at Hollywood Elementary







Every Monday morning at Hollywood Elementary begins the same way: together. Our Monday Morning Assemblies are a cherished weekly tradition that brings our entire school community together as one Hollywood family. These gatherings set the tone for the week ahead by reinforcing our shared values, celebrating successes, and reminding students that school is about more than academics. It is about connection, belonging, and growth.

Each assembly provides an opportunity to recognize student and staff accomplishments both inside and outside of school. From academic achievements and leadership moments to community involvement and personal milestones, we take time to shine a light on the many ways our students and staff make us proud.

Assemblies are also full of joy and energy. Students sing songs, play interactive games, and participate in activities that build school spirit and strengthen relationships across grade levels. Laughter and smiles are common sights, helping students start the week feeling positive and motivated.

Our focus on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is another highlight. Students are celebrated for demonstrating expected behaviors, earning rewards, prizes, and special experiences that reinforce positive choices. These celebrations help create a supportive school culture where kindness, responsibility, and respect are recognized and valued.

Monday mornings are also a time to look outward. Community members are regularly invited to join us to share local resources, programs, and opportunities that support our families. These partnerships help connect learning beyond the classroom and strengthen the bond between school and community.

Finally, assemblies keep everyone informed. Upcoming events, initiatives, and school-wide goals are shared so students and staff know what is ahead and how they can be involved.

At Hollywood Elementary, Monday Morning Assemblies are more than a weekly meeting. They are a reminder of who we are, what we value, and how we grow together. Starting the week as a united Hollywood family makes every Monday something to look forward to.

Hollywood Elementary's mission is to *Love, Laugh, Learn, and Lead for Life*. Mr. McIntyre's monthly classroom visits reflect that mission by combining the joy of reading, the importance of leadership, and the power of professional collaboration. Together, these efforts help build a strong foundation for both students and staff.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

A Little Ink for a Big Cause: Hollywood's Tattoo Fundraiser



First Grade Teacher Mrs. Butcher sporting her tattoos



Starting from left- Ben McIntyre (principal), Amanda Olson (counselor), Mandy Marquardt (Behavior Specialist)

Hollywood Elementary recently proved that when it comes to supporting students and the community, our staff is willing to go all in, temporary tattoos and all.

Our Tattoo Fundraiser was a huge success and a lot of fun for everyone involved. Students were invited to donate money and choose staff members to wear temporary tattoos. What started as a playful idea quickly turned into a school-wide event filled with laughter, excitement, and school spirit.

Staff members proudly showed off their growing collections of tattoos throughout the day, much to the delight of students. Leading the pack was Mr. McIntyre, who ended the fundraiser with an impressive total of over 140 temporary tattoos. From arms to legs and everywhere in between, staff embraced the experience to support an important cause.

All funds raised from the Tattoo Fundraiser go directly to our Student Leadership Team's Give Back Day. Give Back Day is a full-day experience dedicated to empowering students to serve others. During this day, students create items and projects designed to give back to the community, reinforcing the importance of leadership, empathy, and service.

This fundraiser was a perfect example of what makes Hollywood Elementary special. It brought students and staff together, created joyful memories, and supported meaningful work beyond our school walls. Most importantly, it showed our students that leadership is about creativity, generosity, and stepping up for others.

Thank you to our students, families, and staff for making the Tattoo Fundraiser such a memorable success. A few temporary tattoos may fade, but the impact of Give Back Day will last far longer.

Students Earn Their WIGs at Hollywood Elementary

Students in Mr. Castonguay's class at Hollywood Elementary are celebrating a big leadership milestone—they've earned their WIGs (Wildly Important Goals)!

Back in the fall, students took an initial two-minute multiplication fluency test and set a personal goal based on their results. From there, they got to work. Students regularly practiced, retested, and carefully graphed their scores to track their progress over time.

When a student meets their WIG, the celebration is both fun and meaningful. They get their picture taken and, using a special app, choose a "wig" to add to their photo. These creative WIG photos are proudly displayed, showing off both achievement and personality.



On left: Olivia Holmes and (on right) Hattie Riggins showing off their WIGS!

But the leadership work doesn't stop there. After reaching their original goal, students set a new stretch goal and continue pushing themselves to grow even more.

At Hollywood Elementary, being a leader means setting goals, making a plan, and being proactive every step of the way. These students are proving that with focus, effort, and a little fun, big goals really can be achieved.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AT STEWART



Fall Fun Run

One of our building-wide goals at Stewart Elementary is to provide family engagement activities each month of the year. Our Stewart PTO is an important partner in achieving this goal!

September:
Back-to-School Night: As do all Lakeshore schools, Stewart holds a Back-to-School Night in September so families can spend some time with their child's teacher and learn about the classroom expectations.

October:
PTO Fun Run / Color Run: Families meet on the Stewart Elementary playground and enjoy various outdoor activities, food trucks, and the culminating event – a fun run! This year the PTO sponsored a Color Run which was enjoyed by students and families!



Trunk-or-Treat: Teachers and families join in the fun decorating their vehicle for students to "Trick-or-Treat" in the parking lots at Stewart!

Classroom Halloween Celebrations: Our teachers and many family volunteers plan fun activities for our students and, of course, students enjoy showing off their Halloween costumes!

November:
Veteran's Day Luncheon: The Stewart PTO and The Stewart Student Council help organize this annual event. Student Council members serve our visiting veterans and students truly enjoy sharing lunch with these visitors! It is truly an honor to host area veterans for lunch each year.



December:
Classroom Holiday Celebrations: Our teachers and the many family volunteers organize and supervise fun activities for our students!

February:
BINGO! Each school year for the past three years, the Stewart gym transforms into a lively Bingo Hall. Families are invited to enjoy an evening of Bingo where the prizes are books! Between rounds, families learn simple, effective ways to support their child's reading development at home. The night is filled with snacks, laughter, enthusiastic calls of "Bingo!", and plenty of excitement for everyone.

Valentine's Day Activities: Our teachers and their family volunteer helpers engage our students in LOVELY activities for Valentine's Day!

(Continued on page 7)

REACH HIGHER

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation

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Lakeshore High School Brings "The Addams Family" to Life on Stage



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the CTE programs By Mike Schmidt

Online Auction (Outstanding community support)

Scan for Website

Grounded in Tradition – Committed to Excellence

BRIAN SIEWERT ARIST IN MOTION WINNER



Scan for Website

In May of 2025, several creative Lakeshore High School graduating seniors competed for the annual $10,000 "Brian D. Siewert Artist In Motion" Scholarship. An aspiring singer/songwriter, fashion designer, visual artist, choreographer and Broadway director all contended for the yearly prize.

The ultimate winner was Amri Kuhn, a talented photographer who had not only spent years cultivating her love for the art of taking pictures but also established a successful portrait business in the Stevensville area. Capturing weddings, athletes, senior portraits, couples and friends became the foundation for not only refining Amri's photographic skills but also for understanding how to create and grow a successful business throughout her high school years. Amri is currently attending Western Michigan University majoring in digital marketing and photography.

Speaking of the 2025 competition Siewert said, "The pool of artistic talent at Lakeshore always continues to blow me away every year, and it's great to see so many young creatives understand the importance of a competitive opportunity like this! In the end, the judges were so taken by not only Amri's obvious talent as an artist, but also by her laser sharp focus on her future and her passion to evolve her creative business in the years to come. She's exactly the kind of talent this scholarship was created for."

For more information about the 2026 prize go to www.bdsaim.com
The deadline for this year's applications is Tuesday, April 28th.



LEF LEADERSHIP TRANSITION PLAN ESTABLISHED...

The plan to efficiently and effectively replace me as the Chairman of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation (LEF) has been established. This is a plan that I personally took the initiative to develop and review with the Executive Committee in order to get everyone aligned and targeting a seamless transition of my leadership responsibilities. To be clear, no one asked me to step aside but rather this is an action that I believe is necessary for the LEF to continue to grow. In October, I turned 80 years old and while that sounds old (and it is) I do believe that I am fortunate to be able to operate as if I'm in my 50's. However, I also believe that our critically important donor base, our businesses that support our events, our teachers, and our students certainly deserve a fresh face and fresh articulation of the LEF's mission after my 14 years of leading the organization.

I was asked in 2012 by Dave Brockway, one of the founders of the LEF, to become the Chair. Dave indicated that new leadership was necessary, and a more strategic approach needed to be taken. At the time, I had grandsons in the 2nd and 4th grades, so I felt that this could, perhaps, provide them a better education at Lakeshore than they might have otherwise received. My commitment to Dave was as long as my grandsons were in school at Lakeshore, I would be willing to serve on the LEF Board. Well, my grandsons have long graduated and I realized that this LEF work had become a labor of love for me. Raising money to help Lakeshore kids get a better education has become a neat way to pay back to this community that has become home to our family.

I feel strongly about several traits that the person who assumes the leadership role should possess. That person should be much younger and have some children in the Lakeshore school system. They should have a real passion and personality for raising funds for the betterment of the Lakeshore school system, the students, and the teaching/admin staff. This passion gets executed as being a willing "doer" and participating in various school activities. Finally, a connection with Whirlpool, which is our largest business donor.

I would like to introduce Himanshu Ganjoo who has accepted being part of this leadership transition plan. Himanshu is currently part of the LEF Board and serves on the Fund Development Committee. Himanshu is a Commercial Banker for 1st Source Bank. He is married to Sucheta, and they have two daughters (Aadhya) in the 6th grade and (Mishka) in Preschool and they attend the Lakeshore Middle School and Trinity Lutheran School respectively. Sucheta is a Project Manager at Whirlpool Corporation and has been a Whirlpool employee for 19 years. I hope that you agree, Himanshu checks all of the boxes that I indicated above!

The timing for this transition provides Himanshu the immediate opportunity to Chair the Fund Development Committee, to sit on the Executive Committee, and to be a continuous student of my mentoring. We have worked too hard to attain the improved performance of the LEF, so I will be working very closely with Himanshu regarding leadership. I will continue as the Chair through year end and Himanshu will then become Chair in January 2027. At that time, I will become the Chair of Fund Development for 2027 and go off the Board in 2028.

As you can see, this is meant to be a long-term transition plan for Himanshu - providing me with an opportunity to mentor him during this period. As stated before, our objective is a seamless leadership transition for the LEF.

I am very proud of the increased impact that the LEF has been able to attain with our donor base, the teachers/admin, and the students during my time as Chairman. I know that Himanshu shares my passion for continuing to grow the LEF and its impact.

Sincerely,

J.C. Anderson

JC Anderson

LEF Flash Grants Make a Splash at Stewart



This past fall, the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation (LEF) offered Flash Grants of up to $500 for staff members across the district. In total, 45 grants were awarded to Lakeshore staff who applied for a combined $20,152 in funding to support creative ideas that enhance student learning.

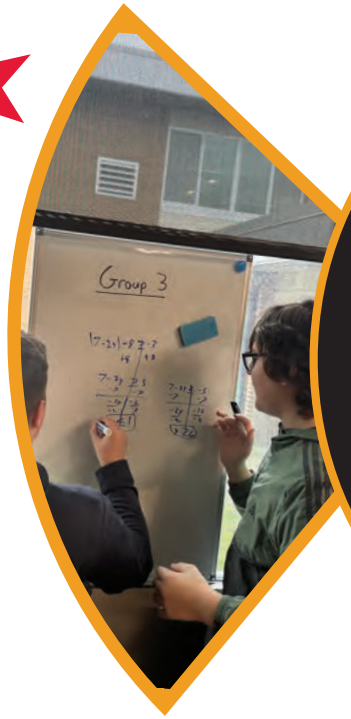
One of these grants went to Stewart Elementary third-grade teacher Janelle Ayers for her “Support Pets in the Classroom” project. The funds were used to purchase cages, bedding, food, and supplies for her three classroom rats—King Julien, Maurice, and Mort.

“The new classroom pets have quickly become a favorite among my students,” shared Ayers. “King Julien, Maurice, and Mort bring so much excitement and curiosity into the room each day.” Classroom pets help create a warm and welcoming learning environment while giving students opportunities to practice responsibility, empathy, and observation skills. Students especially enjoy watching the rats during quiet work times and learning more about how to properly care for animals.

As part of Stewart’s positive behavior system, students can also place their tickets into a raffle for a chance to spend special time with the rats, making them both a learning tool and a fun reward. Thanks to the support of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, King Julien, Maurice, and Mort are already making a positive impact and helping make learning even more engaging for students at Stewart Elementary.

We are grateful for the financial support of the LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION and for the efforts of the LEF all-volunteer board.

FLASH GRANT - CONNOR ROBERTS



Dear LEF,

Thank you so much for awarding me the flash grant opportunity to purchase vertical white boards for my classroom! Research has shown that when students are working on erasable vertical work spaces, it not only increases student engagement, but also increases peer to peer collaboration/communication, knowledge mobility, and reduced hesitation to make mistakes. This grant has provided my students the opportunity to learn in new ways breaking the traditional pencil and paper method. By adding the vertical white boards to my classroom it allows us the opportunity to do investigation based group work and collaborative opportunities. With these activities, my students will be able to learn not just from me, but also from one another to critically think through mathematical concepts.

Thank you again for providing this opportunity for our students!

--
Connor Roberts
Math Teacher
Lakeshore High School



Bots, Brains, and Big Wins: How Team Lance A Bot #9376 is Leveling Up





At Lakeshore, we aren't just sitting in classrooms—we're building the future, one gear at a time. From Lakeshore Elementary to the Middle School, our robotics program is giving students the chance to get hands-on with the tech that will run the world. It's about more than just building a robot; it's about finding your crew, solving impossible problems, and gaining the confidence to lead.

The Team Behind the Tech

Shoutout to Team Lance A Bot #9376! This year, the team has been guided by Coach Avantika Reddy (a real-life Whirlpool Engineer!) and a solid group of parent mentors who help with everything from hardcore programming and electronics to marketing and building. Whether you're a coding pro or have never touched a screwdriver, the team is all about DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)—making sure every student has a seat at the table and a part to play. On November 8, 2025, the team took their hard work to the competition floor. It wasn't just about the score; it was about "Gracious Professionalism." Our team didn't just focus on their own bot—they stepped up to help other teams, proving that being a good teammate matters just as much as a fast motor.

The Big Wins:

- Playoff Power: The team's skills earned them a spot in a playoff alliance!
- The Connect Award: This is a big one. It recognizes teams that connect with the local STEM community and show a massive hunger to keep learning. Lance A Bot took this home because of their curiosity and leadership.

Real Skills for the Real World

Why join robotics? Because it's where you learn the stuff that actually matters:

- Critical Thinking: How do we fix this before the next round?
- Collaboration: Working together when the pressure is on.
- Hands-on Engineering: Seeing your code and designs come to life.

A Huge Thank You!

We couldn't do this without the backup. A massive thanks to the school administration, Mrs. Vegter, and our awesome volunteers. We also want to give a huge shoutout to the LEF ($1,500) and AEP ($1,000) for the grants! That money went straight into the parts, registration fees, and those fresh team T-shirts we wore at the competition. Want to be part of the action? We're always looking for more parents and students to join the crew. Innovation starts with us—come be a part of the next build!

Congrats again to Team Lance-A-Bot #9376! Keep building, keep breaking things (and fixing them), and keep inspiring us!

THE ADDAMS FAMILY



Lakeshore High School Brings "The Addams Family" to Life on Stage

Lakeshore High School's theatre program delighted audiences the weekend of February 13 with its production of The Addams Family, a musical comedy based on the beloved characters created by Charles Addams. The performances showcased the talent, dedication, and teamwork of students from both the high school and middle school levels, creating a memorable experience for everyone involved.

Under the direction of Musical Director Mikaela McLaughlin, the cast and crew spent weeks preparing to bring the quirky and iconic Addams family to the stage. The production featured energetic musical numbers, elaborate costumes, and plenty of humor that captured the spirit of the eccentric family fans know and love.

Senior Keeli Frank, who portrayed Morticia Addams, described the show as a meaningful milestone in her theatre journey. Frank reflected on how performing in The Addams Family had come full circle for her and fellow cast members.

"Lillian, Camden, and I did The Addams Family in 8th grade," said Frank. "It was fun that I was able to tango with Camden again, and that I got to be the mother of my best friend. We really couldn't have ended our high school career with a better show."

The production also included younger performers from the middle school, who joined the ensemble. Violet Glisson and Amelia Plummer, two of the eighth graders in the ensemble, said participating in the high school musical was both challenging and rewarding.

"It is an amazing opportunity for us to have," said Plummer. "We are extremely grateful that they allow us to share this program with the high schoolers."

"I enjoyed working with everyone in the show and had an amazing time throughout rehearsals and the show," said Glisson. "I would recommend participating in the program to anyone who enjoys theater and is willing to put in the effort and time the show will require."

The annual musical is made possible through support from the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, whose grant funding helps provide resources needed for the program's productions. Support from the LEF ensures that students continue to have opportunities to explore the performing arts and share their talents with the community.



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CTE PROGRAMS

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the CTE programs By Mike Schmidt

It is important to understand that Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) comes in many forms. One of those forms is the pursuit of skilled trades jobs that are important for the economic health and wellbeing of southwest Michigan's economy. The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation (LEF) has provided opportunities for Lakeshore High School (LHS) students to learn skilled trades jobs that help support our local economy. These students participate in Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs.

One example of an impactful CTE program is the CTE Welding Program. Over the past nine years the LEF has helped purchase multiple pieces of equipment. In 2018, the LEF provided the funds necessary to purchase a Tungsten grinding machine. This purchase allowed the school to retire the traditional method for a more environmentally friendly option which brings our students' exposure to Tungsten and other chemicals to practically zero. Between 2021 and 2022, the LEF provided funds to purchase 12 Miller Multimatic 255 welding machines. These machines perform different welding processes students learn in our program. These processes include Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW), Flux-Core Arc Welding (FCAW), Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW), and Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW). These machines replaced equipment that was outdated and nearly 20 years old in some cases. An engine driven welder was also purchased at the same time, introducing students to welding outdoors. Students learn to weld structural pipes with the Local 357 Plumber and Pipe Fitters. Lastly, a Scotchman Ironworker was also purchased with the same funds allowing students to cut material and form materials easily and quickly. The Scotchman Ironworker is generally used by students on their own projects or projects being done by the class for community members.

How does this impact our students? Will Hack is one example of the benefits of the program. He began welding at a local company as part of our Work-Based Learning program. After graduation, he stayed at the company and continued to weld. He applied for and was accepted into the UA Local 357 as a welder/pipefitter apprentice. He is currently completing the apprenticeship and becoming a journeyman welder.
Another student, Taylor Gooding, also benefited from the program. After graduating from LHS, she continued her education by attending Lincoln Tech in Indianapolis IN. After graduating from there, she remained in Indianapolis and is working for a local welding company.

When students move into a welding career, many take their skills and move into the machining industry that is prevalent in our surrounding communities. We have had great support from local companies who hire our students as they complete their training here at LHS. Currently, we have students working at least three different companies performing welding, machining, and other shop tasks. Each year we hold two Advisory Board meetings for manufacturing companies in southwest Michigan, one in the fall and then again in the spring. Our fall meeting brought together 13 different manufacturing companies from around the county.

The LEF has helped diversify the educational opportunities for LHS students and helped students realize they have opportunities to pursue a variety of career opportunities outside of attending college.





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PAST ARTIST IN MOTION WINNER

The Exceptional Act of Choosing Art: A Profile of 2022 AIM Winner Madalyn Rockwell

When Madalyn Rockwell applied for the Artist in Motion (AIM) Scholarship in 2022, she wasn't sure she was "special" enough to win. She remembers the failed attempt at a video introduction, sitting on a living room floor, struggling to put her passion into words. Today, that same student is a graduate of Western Michigan University's Lee Honors College and is headed to law school on a full-ride scholarship. Her story is a testament to what happens when a student's "creative flame" is fueled by community support.

Art Beyond the Vacuum

For this 2022 recipient, art and career are not separate entities. Having graduated in December 2025 with a dual major in English and Political Science, she has spent the last few years proving that "writing is everywhere."

From drafting legal briefs to crafting prose, she has sought out the "overlap" through diverse experiences:

- **International Perspective:** Studying Central European Politics at Charles University in Prague.
- **Professional Growth:** Internships with the Michigan Senate, law firms, and judges.
- **Creative Thesis:** Currently pursuing publishing opportunities for their creative writing.

The Power of Mentorship

A unique cornerstone of the AIM Scholarship is the ongoing connection with its founder, Brian Siewert. "Staying in contact with Brian has been instrumental in maintaining my confidence," Madalyn noted. "It was of immeasurable consequence to have Brian in my corner—living proof of all that a life of art can achieve."

Advice for the "Non-Exceptional"

When asked what she would say to students hesitant to apply, Madalyn offered a powerful perspective:

> "The truth of the matter is... it's nothing exceptional to love art. The exceptional act is choosing art. In choosing your art, you have already proven yourself to the only judge that matters: yourself."

What's Next?

As she prepares for law school in the Fall of 2026, Madalyn Rockwell credits the AIM Scholarship for making her education accessible and bolstering the confidence needed to bridge the gap between poetry and the bar exam. The "Artist in Motion" is truly in full stride.

2026 LEF Board of Trustees

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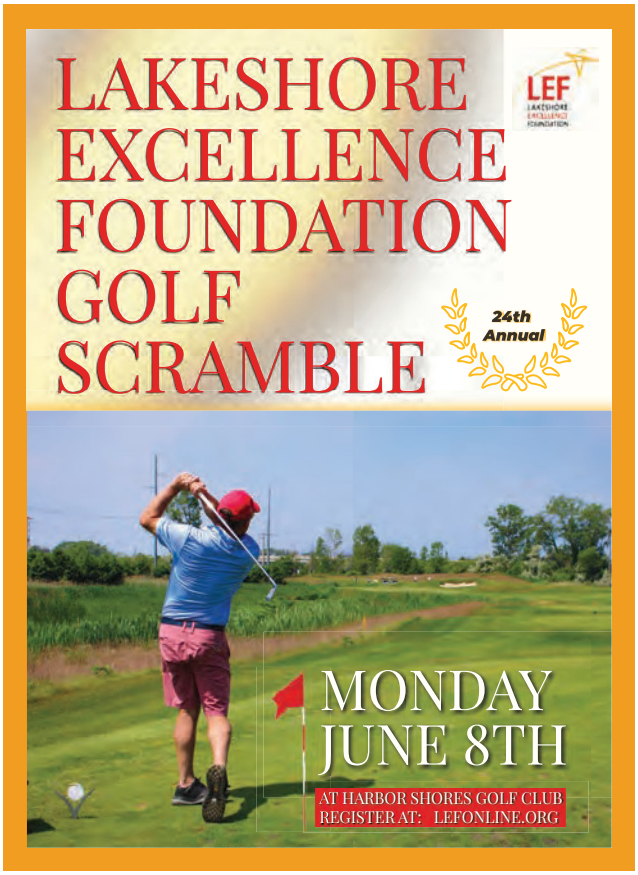
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GOLF SCRAMBLE



LEF ONLINE AUCTION

The success of our annual LEF Online Auction is truly a reflection of our community. We are deeply grateful to the many local businesses and individual supporters who donated items to this year's auction. Because of your generosity, we achieved outstanding results and continue to expand opportunities for Lakeshore students and staff.

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Grand Hotel
Grande Mere Inn
Greg and Erica Eding
Harbor Shores Golf Club
Indian Lake Hills
Jamie Murphy RN; LMT OM IV Hydration & Wellness Center
JC and Nancy Anderson; Tara Newman; Culinary Cottage
Joe Bigley
Kelly Bushu
Kilwins St. Joseph
Lake Michigan Chiropractic
Lake Michigan Hills Golf Club
Lake Michigan Vintners - LMC
Lakeshore High School
Lakeshore High School Band
Lakeshore High School Basketball
Lakeshore High School Football
Lakeshore Petroleum - John, Kathy & Mark Curtis
M Squared Modern Hair
M&W Auto Service and Tire
Mark III Grille & Bar
Papa John's Pizza
Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen
Peat's Cider Social
PGA Golf
Red Coach Donuts
Reva Salon & Spa
Rick Waning
Ryan Arnt - REALTOR
Schu's Grill & Bar
Shelley Shell at Allure Salon (Stevensville)
Signature Toyota
Sill Laser Graphics
Silver Beach Pizza
Silver Harbor Brewing Company
Sophia's House of Pancakes
Subway Restaurants
T&L Nails Spa
Texas Corral
The Beckrow Family
The Bitzer Family
The Brick House
The Harrison Family
The Lux Salon & Spa
The Mason Jar Cafe
The Peters Family
The Well Collective
Tosi's Restaurant
Tyler Automotive
United Federal Credit Union
Watermark Brewing Company
Whirlpool Corporation

 (Continued from page 6)

ELEMENTARY NEWS

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AT STEWART



Mrs. Lane reading a chapter for "One Book, One School"

March:
One Book, One School: this will be our second year engaging our entire school community in reading the same book at the same time! Families can connect with videos of staff members reading a chapter and by reading the book with their child.

PTO Scholastic Book Fair: Families can come to school and shop with their child and / or volunteer their time to work in our Book Fair.

Stewart Elementary Variety Show: We have VERY talented students at Stewart! The Variety Show is a great opportunity for families to sit back and enjoy the wonderful student acts!

April:
Concerts: Our concerts are so well attended we have to separate the grades on different nights so we have enough room for everyone in the auditorium! Stewart Elementary concerts are a delightful way for families to experience what their child is learning in our Music Education program!

May:
Stewart Family Breakfast: Our Stewart PTO serves breakfast to our families on our playground. It is a great opportunity for families to connect with each other as our school year winds down! Our students enjoy sharing the playground with their grown ups!

June:
Stewart Fun Day: Our Stewart PTO and so many parent volunteers come together to provide our students with the most fun day on our playground! This event features lots of inflatables that our students (and the adults) enjoy!

STEWART NATURE ALLIANCE

A group of 4th and 5th graders at Stewart have been turning curiosity about nature into real and relatable concepts. The Stewart Nature Alliance, an after-school club, is working on understanding the Great Lakes and Southwest Michigan's natural systems through hands-on learning and place-based experiences. The group has built watershed models to explore how rainwater interacts with Lake Michigan, even simulating storm drains to understand where runoff travels. Together, the members of this group have been working together to observe, ask questions and discuss how our community, and especially how Stewart Elementary is interacting with the environment.



Members of the Stewart Nature Alliance have even gathered and assessed data in order to better meet the needs of potential attendees of their spring time Repurpose Sale. Students are exploring the ideas of reuse and how items can have a second life instead of being thrown away. This project has also allowed the group a chance to grow their learning and plan something meaningful together.

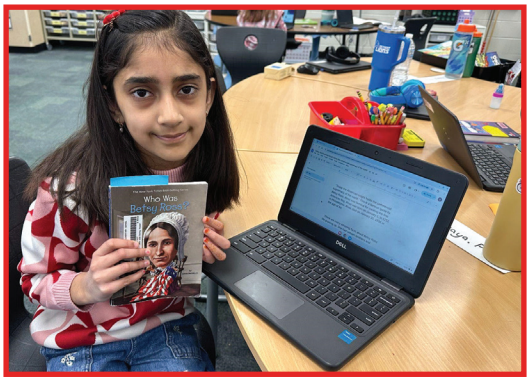


Adding to the excitement is a former Stewart student. A now 6th grader not only is an asset to this club by sharing her own love for the sciences, but by guiding activities and encouraging younger students. As a mentor, she connects with the 4th and 5th grade members who are now where she once was at Stewart, showcasing how curiosity and learning can grow over time. Her presence highlights for the other members the idea that learning and stewardship can continue beyond elementary school.

These 4th and 5th grade students are not just having an opportunity for exploration, but they are building knowledge, curiosity and great teamwork skills. By learning how environmental systems connect to their everyday lives, these students have been gaining a deeper appreciation of this amazing Great Lakes region they get to call home and fully feel like they are a part of something much bigger.

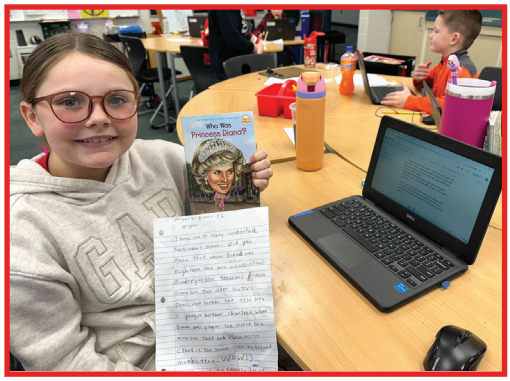
STEWART WAX MUSEUM

Third graders at Stewart were busy researching famous individuals they portrayed in their Wax Museum in the spring. Students began by selecting a person they were interested in learning more about. They then read biographies and completed an outline to organize the important information they discovered. After gathering their research, students used their notes to write an informative report, which was displayed during the Wax Museum.



For the event, students dressed as the person they researched and brought props and display boards they created to represent their individual. Students stood along a timeline arranged by their person's birthdate. This year, Mrs. Harrison's class timeline began in 1452 with Leonardo da Vinci and ended in 1995 with Patrick Mahomes!

The Wax Museum is an annual tradition at Stewart and has been taking place for over 20 years. It is always a highlight of the school year and is sure to be a memorable event that students will long remember. For the event, students will dress as the person they researched and bring props and display boards they create to represent their individual. During the Wax Museum, students will stand along a timeline arranged by their person's birthdate. This year, Mrs. Harrison's class timeline will begin in 1452 with Leonardo da Vinci and end in 1995 with Patrick Mahomes!



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LAKESHORE LANCERS

Roosevelt

Roosevelt Elementary's GRANDFRIENDS FROM STEVENSVILLE CROWNPOINTE SENIOR LIVING FACILITY

Each month students at Roosevelt will make something for our Grandfriends to foster community relationships!

December: holiday crafts & cards delivered to each resident

January: winter murals made in art class hung in C.P. hallways



February: Valentine's cards and candy assemble in bags and delivered to each resident by our Roosevelt Student Leadership Team!

March/April: spring murals made in art class for C.P. hallways

May: DVDs of our music concerts for residents to watch in the C.P. activity room





LAKESHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL

LMS Spelling Bee



Eleven students competed in this year's LMS spelling bee, which went 15 rounds. This group of spellers was well-prepared, and they exhibited excellent sportsmanship by being encouraging, supportive, and respectful of each other.

Seventh grader, Vinaya, took third place, seventh grader, Sarah finished in second place, and eighth grader, Vivaan, was our spelling bee champion. He had to spell 15 words correctly (including galleon, Nehru, archipelago, and prestigious) before winning our school bee.

The top three students represented LMS at the Cloverleaf Spelling Bee at Lake Michigan College in February.

Future Focused



LMS Career Day on February 6 was a fantastic event filled with energy, curiosity, and inspiration. We're incredibly grateful to the many local businesses and organizations that took time out of their schedules to share their career journeys with our students. Their willingness to talk honestly about their paths, experiences, and advice made a lasting impact.

We're also proud of our high school CTE students who stepped up to present and demonstrate their skills. They did a wonderful job showing younger students what's possible and helping them start thinking about their own futures. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a meaningful experience for our students!

BAND



Congratulations to the Lakeshore 8th Grade Band students, Tolly and Owen who were accepted to perform in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's All-State Middle School Band on January 24th as part of the Michigan Music Conference. They played at the DeVos Performance Hall in Grand Rapids, packed with an audience of 2,400+ educators and conference attendees.



To earn a spot, they had to complete a very competitive audition against 2,765 other students from across the state of Michigan. Tolly and Owen were two of the 106 middle school students chosen to be in the prestigious All-State Middle School Band. We are very proud of them because this event requires students to independently prepare a challenging and impressive selection of etudes and scales, as well as perform a piece of music they had never seen. We are extremely proud of your exemplary work ethic and attitude, Tolly and Owen!

GO BAND!

LAKESHORE LIGHT

LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL

On the Field, On the Stage, In the Spotlight



Few schools provide the opportunities that Lakeshore High School does for students to find a place to thrive. From clubs to athletics to the fine arts, there is truly something for everyone. Our music and dance classes, specifically, not only provide a chance for students to shine, they also give students time during the school day to explore their creative side and hone a very different kind of skill.

Hundreds of students participate in one of our music classes each day, including band, choir, and dance. Each of these classes provides a special community and a chance for both team and individual success.

This season and the two previous seasons, our marching band and color guard earned 1st place in the state at Ford Field, along with awards for Best Visual, Best Music, Best General Effect, and Best Auxiliary. They performed on one of the biggest stages and proved they are simply the best. The work began in the summer, continued with overnight camp and fall performances, and ended at the top. Tanner Hall, a four year band member, believes, "The arts at Lakeshore foster a strong sense of community by bringing students together to collaborate, create, and support one another. Whether through rehearsals or performances, our success depends on teamwork and shared dedication. At the same time, the arts allow me to showcase my individual talent and grow in confidence, allowing my abilities to shine within a collective effort." From showcasing their talents to having a community to belong to, our band is a strong community.

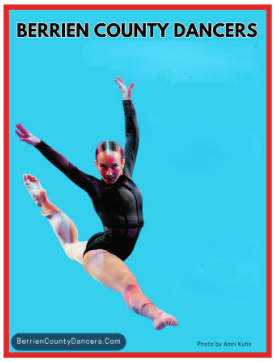
The Berrien County Dancers put on two performances each year, and the quality is nothing short of professional. Students not only perform every piece, they choreograph many of them as well. In addition, professional dance groups visit throughout the year to work directly with students, providing expert instruction and exposing them to a variety of styles and techniques. The lights, the movement, and the costumes always make for a special evening. Junior Jada Fulghum finds great value in the dance program and how it supports her and the other dancers. "Because it's part of our school, it helps us grow not just as dancers, but as students and people. Dance transforms the building from just a place we attend into a place where we discover who we are and who we're capable of becoming." Students learn self-confidence and the power in teamwork in the close-knit group.

Our choirs provide opportunities for students' voices to be heard in meaningful ways. In addition to concerts throughout the year, students participate in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association District Solo and Ensemble, as well as other competitions. Just this month, more than nine students earned individual and duet honors, and all of our choirs received an Excellent rating. Few classes bring people together like the choirs as the students work collectively to make something beautiful.

Nearly three hundred students take part in these unique electives, and we are grateful for Mr. Pagel, Mr. Gailey, and Mrs. Graziano, who lead our students to both individual and group success.These programs are an important part of who we are as a school and reflect our values that our students, and showcasing them, is what's important.

BCD Spring Concert

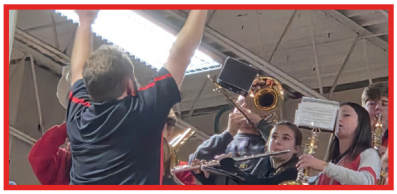
The Berrien County Dancers held their Spring Dance Concert on Thursday, May 8 and Friday, May 9th.



The concert featured works by Theresa Graziano, BCD Artistic Director, and guest choreographer, Heather Mitchell, as well as members of the Advanced Dance class. Heather Mitchell is a prominent Kalamazoo-based African Diasporic dance performing artist, choreographer, and educator with over 10 years of experience in the community. As the Youth Enrichment Director and co-founder of Rootead Enrichment Center, she specializes in West African and AfroBeat dance, focusing on community healing, birth justice, and youth empowerment. Heather worked with the Berrien County Dancers for a week in March setting choreography on the advanced dancers and teaching West African Dance classes to beginning and intermediate dancers.

Audiences immersed themselves in an evening of captivating performances, where talented dancers showcase their skills and artistry. From graceful contemporary to energetic hip-hop and west african dance, this concert promises to be a celebration of movement, expression, and culture.

The Sound of School Spirit:



The LHS Pep Band has been around for so long that its exact beginning is hard to pin down. What we do know is that it was already an important part of Lakeshore events back in the 1970s. Mrs. VK remembers those early years well. At the time, recorded music wasn't available for halftime shows, so the Pep Band actually played live while the Poms performed. The band wasn't just background noise-it was essential to the game-day experience.

Over the years, the Pep Band continued to grow. From the late 1980s through the early 2000s, participation often reached over 100 students. Mr. Grapis remembers those days from the student perspective, first as part of the student section during the early version of Red Rage around 2002, and then as a member of the Pep Band himself shortly after. "It's a great time," he says, and that sense of excitement clearly stuck with him.

After a break in recent years, many in the Lakeshore community hoped the Pep Band would return. When Mr. Grapis was hired, Sean Schroeder frequently mentioned that people were eager to see it come back. Because of his own positive experience as a Lakeshore student, Mr. Grapis was excited to help bring the tradition back to life. Since its return, the response has been very positive, with strong community support and students who are genuinely enjoying being part of it.

The Pep Band plays a big role in building school spirit and making game nights more exciting. Live music has a way of bringing people together, and the band adds energy and hype that recorded music just can't match. Their goal is simple: support the team and get the crowd involved.

For students, Pep Band offers something different from the traditional band experience. They get to play music from a wide range of decades, much of it familiar to fans in the stands. There's also the fun of being loud and enthusiastic in support of the team. As one student put it, "It's just fun to be really loud." Another Pep Band alum shared that they enjoy giving back to the community that has always supported the band.

From its early days to its recent revival, the LHS Pep Band continues to be an important part of Lakeshore's school spirit-bringing music, energy, and tradition to every game it plays.

Computer Science:



Lakeshore High School introduced a new course this year: Computer Science Discoveries, a one-semester class open to students in grades 9–12 and taught by Sarah Blazic.

The course was added to give students a head start in learning real-world technology skills that are in high demand across Michigan and beyond. From healthcare to manufacturing to business, nearly every field relies on technology, and this class helps students build a strong foundation for whatever path they choose after graduation.

Designed for students with little or no experience, the class teaches the basics of how computers work and how to write code. Students explore concepts like variables, loops, and functions, and even create simple games and apps. They also talk about online safety, privacy, and how technology impacts their daily lives.

Students are already loving it. One shared, "I want to be a programmer when I graduate, so my favorite part about this class is using Code.org." Another said, "There is SO much I like about this class, I just can't choose one part!"
It's exciting to see students dive in, build confidence, and discover new interests in computer

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