THE LION'S ROAR

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026 •

TOGETHER WE RISE!

EVERY CHILD. EVERY CLASSROOM. EVERY DAY.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear MMLA Families,

As we enter November, I want to thank our families for their continued support and commitment to Mid Michigan Leadership Academy.

We have completed our first quarter of the school year, and there is much to celebrate! Our students are growing, our teachers are working hard, and we continue to strengthen the learning environment throughout our school.

As Principal, I remain committed to ensuring that MMLA is a place where every child feels safe, supported, challenged, and encouraged to reach their full potential. We have made progress, and while there is still work to do, I am excited about the direction we are moving.

A NEW QUARTER. NEW MOMENTUM.

We have completed our first quarter, and there is so much to celebrate across MMLA!

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT MMLA!

A Successful First Quarter

We have officially completed our first quarter of the school year! This is an important milestone as we reflect on student learning, celebrate accomplishments, and identify areas where additional support may be needed. Our teachers are using classroom assessments and student performance information to make instructional decisions that will help students continue growing academically.

Thank You for Supporting Parent–Teacher Conferences!

Thank you to the families who participated in our recent Parent–Teacher Conferences. Communication between home and school is one of the most important ingredients in student success. If you were unable to attend, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher.

Fall NWEA Assessments Completed

Our students have completed the fall NWEA assessment window. These assessments provide

valuable information about students' academic strengths and areas for growth. Our next step is to use this information to plan targeted instruction and identify additional academic supports.

Thank You for Supporting Our Title I Math Night!

We appreciate our families who joined us for our Title I Math Night on October 29. Events like these provide wonderful opportunities for students, families, and teachers to connect while making learning enjoyable.

LIONS ON THE MOVE!

There are exciting things happening beyond the classroom at MMLA! We are proud to offer a growing number of extracurricular activities that allow students to explore interests, develop skills, build friendships, and demonstrate leadership.

- **Dance**
- **Chess Club**
- **Boys Basketball**
- **Student Council**
- **Mini Cub Dancers — Grades 1–3, Coming Soon!**
- **Cheerleading**
- **Girls Basketball**
- **Ukulele Instruments**
- **School Ambassadors — Coming Soon!**

We encourage families to support their children in exploring these opportunities.

WELCOME TO OUR PRIDE

Our MMLA family continues to grow! We are excited to welcome new staff members who bring their talents, experiences, and commitment to supporting our students. We look forward to introducing these individuals to our families.

MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Jenny Orsher
Multi-Tiered Support



Denise Simon
Kindergarten Teacher's Assistant



Wesonga Dynasius

Middle School Math



AMBER WILLIAMS
Kindergarten Teacher's Assistant



Abdul Mutashobya

English Language Learners



Gwendolyn Truman

Administrative Assistant

GIVING BACK

Giving Back: MMLA Canned Food Drive

As we enter the season of giving, MMLA will be hosting a canned food drive. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach students about kindness, generosity, and helping others in our community. Please watch for the flyer with additional information about participating.

IMPORTANT PARENT REMINDERS

Attendance Matters — Even on Half Days!

Parents, every school day matters, including half days! We have noticed that student attendance tends to decline on scheduled half days. Teachers continue teaching, students continue learning, and valuable instructional time is lost when students are absent. Please do not view half days as optional school days. We need our students in attendance every day.

Important: Please Review the School Calendar!

In previous years, MMLA had early dismissal every Friday at 1:00 p.m. That schedule is no longer in place. Fridays are now full instructional days. When a half day is scheduled, students are dismissed at 12:00 noon, NOT 1:00 p.m. Please review the school calendar regularly and make arrangements to pick up your child on time.

School Uniform and Hoodie Expectations

Hoodies are considered outerwear and may not be worn in classrooms. Students must remove them and place them in their lockers upon entering the building. Parents may purchase an MMLA hoodie for $10 at any time in the front office. Thank you for reinforcing our uniform expectations.

Cell Phone Expectations — Parents, We Need Your Support!

At MMLA, student cell phones are collected at the beginning of the school day and secured in a locked box. Students are expected to turn in their phones each morning under school procedures. Please speak with your child about following this expectation. Refusal to turn in a phone will result in appropriate consequences. Our goal is to minimize distractions and protect learning time.

STRONG SCHOOL. STRONG COMMUNITY.

Building a Positive School Culture

At MMLA, we continue to emphasize respect, responsibility, kindness, and positive behavior. We ask families to partner with us by discussing the importance of following school rules, treating others respectfully, and making good decisions throughout the school day.

Staying Connected with Your Child's Teacher

Please continue to monitor your child's academic progress and communicate with teachers whenever questions or concerns arise. Working together allows us to address challenges early and celebrate successes.

TOGETHER WE RISE!

As we move into the second quarter, I want our families to know that we are committed to continued improvement. Our expectations are high because we believe in the potential of every child who walks through our doors. Thank you for trusting us with your children and for being an important part of the MMLA family.

Together We Rise!

Mrs. S. Merriweather
Principal
Mid Michigan Leadership Academy