



Superior Central Newsletter

Home of the Cougars

March 2026

Volume 30, Issue 3

www.superiorcentralschools.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF MR. BILL VALIMA, Superintendent/Principal 6-12

It's hard to believe that it is already February. Hopefully we'll have an early spring this year. I always enjoy writing this newsletter because I get to focus on the success of our students and school!

I would like to congratulate Kiera McDonnald and Rowan Allender on being named Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Class of 2026. Their hard work and dedication to their studies should be commended.

On February 7th, our middle and high school band students had the opportunity to participate in Solo/Ensemble. Our students earned 41 Division I honors (the highest) and 23 Division II honors.

As I write this article, we have 39 middle and high school students preparing for the Michigan Science Olympiad Regional competition on the campus of Northern Michigan University on Saturday, February 21st. We also have 12 high school students getting ready to head to the Capitol in Lansing for the Michigan Youth In Government state conference from Thursday, February 26th through Sunday, March 1st.

Our boys' varsity basketball team is currently sitting at a 10-10 record with 1 game left in the regular season. MHSAA District tournament for boys' basketball begin the week of February 23rd. Our boys are the number 2 seed in the district. On Wednesday, February 25th, we will host the winner of the Mid Peninsula vs. Munising game at 6:00 p.m. Our girls' varsity basketball team currently holds a record of 3-12 with 2 games left in the regular season. MHSAA District tournament for girls' basketball begin the week of March 2nd. At this time the schedule for girls' Districts has not been released. Please see our website and Facebook for more information once it is available.

This is the time of the year when we start planning our Sinking Fund projects for the summer. Last summer we renovated the high school science labs with new lab stations (gas/water/sinks), new cabinets, and new flooring. We also replaced the hallway flooring in the elementary as well as the hallway near the library. This year our plan is to replace the flooring in the remaining high school classrooms, the library, the business, and the elementary office. I hear from visitors all the time how nice our school looks. I want to thank you all again for supporting our Sinking Fund renewal a few years back.

Lastly, if you are not already, follow us on Facebook for more information about Superior Central. The Superior Central app is also available for Apple and Android devices. Through this app you can receive push notification from the school as well as having other valuable school information at your fingertips. The Superior Central Sports Boosters also has a very active Facebook page where you can find recaps on sporting events. I have also had the great pleasure of showcasing our alumni on our Facebook page. If you would like to be showcased in our Alumni Spotlight you can scan the QR code below.

Thanks again for giving me the opportunity to work with your children. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me @ 439-5532 x 244 or email me @ ivalima@superiorcentralschools.org.

Sincerely,
Bill Valima



School Closing Announcements

WLUC TV 6

Superior Central App

www.superiorcentralschools.org



FROM THE OFFICE OF MRS. SUSAN KORPI Principal K-5

Happy March,

While I write this the snow banks are still covering over half of our school building, but I know warmer days are coming! As we transition from snow to mud please continue to send snow clothes with your children every day. When the playground is wet we still require students to wear their snow pants to avoid soaking their school clothes.

We are excited to be bringing back One School, One book. This year we are sharing the classic Charlotte's Web by E. B. White. Throughout the month we will have daily trivia, guest speakers, and a variety of barnyard themed activities. We are so excited to invite all S.C. preschool - 5th grade families to share in our Family Literacy Night on Thursday, March 26 from 5-7pm. Join us for activities and dinner to celebrate our month of reading. We will also be collecting donations for family raffle baskets to raise money for the elementary playground fund.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Spring Sing, taking place at 1:00 on Thursday, May 14 in the high school gymnasium. We will celebrate our preschool students at their preschool graduation on Thursday, May 21 at 1:00 and our kindergarteners at their graduation on Thursday, May 28 at 1:00, both will take place in our library.

Mrs. Korpi



SAVE THE DATE
SPRING CARNIVAL

FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH 4:30-7 PM
SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
CONTACT
JMALLORY@SUPERIORCENTRALSCHOOLS.ORG
FOR MORE INFO

ELEMENTARY FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT
OPEN TO ALL PRESCHOOL - 5TH GRADE S.C. FAMILIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 26
5:00-7:00 PM

Join us for a night of free reading and literacy activities & dinner based on our One School, One Book

Charlotte's Web



BUCKET RAFFLE FUNDRAISER TO COMPLETE OUR PLAYGROUND REMODEL!

Please RSVP with your child's teacher

Superior Central 2025-2026 Yearbooks

Now on Sale

\$40

Full color hardcover yearbook with all grades.

Pictures for a lifetime of memories!

Order forms available in the offices.

Deadline March 26th



SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS HONOR ROLL

2025-2026 Second Quarter

Congratulations to the following students for being named to the Honor Roll for the second marking period of the 2025-2026 school year. An * denotes all "A" grades.

UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Besant's 3rd Grade: Faith Bugge, Arya Buggy, Eloise Crick, Theodore Giles, Jeffrey Kelly, Drake Lovell, Elenor Nayback, Amethyst Sims, Clara Szyszkoski

Mrs. Hill's 4th Grade: Hannah Beaupied*, Tanner Brown, Nash DeVooght, Landon DuVall, Saige Grossman, Elliot Hoel, Khalecy Howell, Jonah Kapp, Aubrie Livermore, Kaisley Quarfoot, Ryan Silta, Rose Sims, Branson Tanner, Quinton Trobridge

Ms. Kulik's 4th Grade: Aubrie Baker, Hailey Balkum, Finley Charlebois, Deegan Denman, Ruby Heyrman, Silas Korpi, Emmi-Lou Murdock, Ryker Tanner

Mrs. Silta's 5th Grade: Stella Johnson, Isaac Kapp*, Meryl Kelly, Maizee Murdock, Vince Pasanen, Dallas Porter*, Rolland Rondeau, Charlee Tyner, Stormy Tyner

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

6th Grade: Nora Beaupied, Clara Brown, Nyah Bugge, Theresa Butler, Parker Hughes, Lydia Mallory, Henry Miller, Kruz Saile, Laney Slifka, Kennedy Stuer, Eli Tanner, Nolan Trader, Kinlee Tyner*

7th Grade: Ezra Gates, Riley Gohl, Ailie Heinonen, Mason Heyrman, Elias Hughes, Clay Johnson, Grace King, Aundraya Kulik, Henry Mallory, Malyki Owens, Josyia Perron, Lane Porter, Ellie Slifka, Matthew Taskey

8th Grade: Adrienne Ashley, Emma Beaupied, Joy Brown, Edye Burdett*, Jacelyn Denman, Jaxon Klyk, William Kolpack, Larissa Lindgren, Harrison McDougall, Kate Rondeau, Oliver Rondeau, Matthias Shigwadja, Caleb Simon*

9th Grade: Kristy Brown, Harper Frusti, Gibson King, Jerry Kulik, Scott Losee, Violet Porter*, Gisela Schultz.

10th Grade: Marlene Johnson, Meredith Kempker, Lillian Lindgren, Conor McDonnald, Kendra Pederson, Natalia Salmi, Lilly Simon, Emma Stoliecki, Stevie Suhs, Aiyana Taskey

11th Grade: Peyton Adams, Jada Ashley, Connor Blomgren, Andrew Charlebois, Tristyn Davison, Rory Hancock*, Isaac Latvala, Zander Mullins, Kianna Perron, Peyton Sobieski, William Spranger*, Harley Taylor, Hannah Theodore*, Amelia Tissue, Lucy Tyner, Elijah Valima, Gavin Vining

12th Grade: Rowan Allender*, Joseph Augustyn, Taylor Comes, Addie Frusti, Isaac Gleason, Clay Horne, Jack Kasten, Carter Korpi, Christopher Kulik, Morgan Martin, Kiera McDonnald, Janessa Perron, Kylee Purdy, Grey Trader, Ella Viau

Preschool (GSRP) Screening

Who: Child who will be 4 on September 1, 2026

What: Screening and registration for Preschool (GSRP) beginning Fall 2026

When: Friday, May 1, 2026

Where: Superior Central Elementary School

How: Go to maresa.org and click on “Enroll Your child in Preschool Here”

What to bring: Original birth certificate, proof of residence & immunization records

Kindergarten Round-up

Who: Child who will be 5 on September 1, 2026

What: Screening and registration for Kindergarten beginning Fall 2026

When: Friday, May 8, 2026

Where: Superior Central Elementary School

How: Call 906-439-5531 x 201 for an appointment time

What to bring: Original birth certificate, proof of residence & immunization records

Thank you!

Thank you for your generous donations to Superior Central's playground fund!



Gold Sponsors

Ray and Peg Hirvonen Charitable Foundation

Alger Regional Community Foundation

PotlatchDeltic

Silver Sponsors

Barhman Trucking

UPPCO

Holmquist Feedmill

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Rebecca Oberstar
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Mary Vaisanen
Kiwanis Club of Alger County
Keith & Brittany Maki Family
In loving memory of Eleanor Brisson
In loving memory of Carolyn Nelson
Alger County Communities that Care
Superior Central Student Council
Superior Health Foundation
In loving memory of John Maki
Ben Waring Scholarship Fund
Skandia Lions Club
Roam Community Foundation
Starrine & Szyszkoski Family
M Pack Protection LLC
AuTrain Northwoods Resort
Jim Murphy & Michelle Halley
Cross General Contracting
Longyear Realty Corporation
Munising Memorial Hospital
Functional Behavior Services
Kiwanis Club of Alger County
Trenary Outhouse Classic
Bell Roofing Company
JAX Improvement Company LLC

Additional Donations from: In memory of Nancy Anderson, Renee Silta, Dick, Allison & Rick Bowerman in honor of Bertha Nix, In memory of Sinikka Niemi, Donna Lampi & Kathy McDonough, Bill & Kathy Lammi, Northland Players Board, Judith Gerken, In honor of Deb Salo, Mary Vaisanen, Laurie Vashaw-Eagle, Barry & Rachel Johnson, Brian Menghini, Kevin Porter, Diane Corbett, Karen Bender, Nathan Caldwell, Clinton Crick Family, Richard Rose, Nikki Balkum, Meredith Goodwin, Maranda Charlebois, In Loving Memory of Evelyn Hendrickson, Swem Services, Sarah & Luke Kremhelmer, Dan & Katie Host Family, Erica Maki, Sallie Family, Lorna Miller, Trenary Toast, Ronda Aho, Patty Tyner Family, Cary Johnson, Range Bank, Sharilyn Knaus, Bradley Wuotila, Carol Contois, Kim Rolfe, Elizabeth Oswald, Ashley Poehls, Tristen Torson, Cindy Asher, Dallas Bahhash, Mark Brick, Jewell & Rodney Hoy, Roy Aho, Gregg & Cheryl Patrick, Beth & Cary Chartier, Bertha Nix, Barry & Rachel Johnson, Meadow Leary, Gretta & Patrick Donahue, Dave & Sandra Seppanen, Burdett Family, Marty Pakela, Lynn Deroche, Leota & Joseph Paquette, Havel Family, jamadots, Kelly Maki, Dan & Kathleen Rushford, Karen & David Roberts, Sue Mohrman, Gerald & Carol Patrick, Range Bank, Thruon Law Firm, American Legion of Little Lake, Swajanan Family, Jerry & Michelle Doucette, DuVall Family, Swick Plumbing & Heating, Val & Ollie Valima, Dennis Gilstorff, Mainstreet Pizza, Violet Maki, M.J. VanDamme Trucking, Munising Moose Lodge, Lydia Mallory & Nora Beaupied, Ikkala Brothers Post 9714, JP Electric, U.P. Whitetails of Alger County, Embers Credit Union, Peoples State Bank, TruNorth, Munising Rotary Club, Anderson Tackman & Company, Bowerman Funeral Home

Thank you to everyone who has donated! We have one remaining piece we hope to install this summer. Can you help us raise the remaining funds? Checks can be mailed to the school with “Playground Fund” in the memo line or donated to our GoFundMe page.

gofundme

Scan to donate to Susan's fundraiser
“Superior Central's Playground Update”





Congratulations to the 5th-8th graders who were the top spellers in their class at our Superior Central Spelling Bee!

Top row (left to right) Bronson Owens, Mercer Pasanen, Lydia Mallory, Kinlee Tyner, Joy Brown.

Front row (left to right) Abbie Morton, Kaden Morton, Matthew Taskey, Stormy Tyner, Maizee Murdock



Kindergarten Olympics!



SHOP NOTES



This winter has been the year of snow. We are slowly making progress on our shop/garage build. It seems like most of our class time of late has been spent shoveling snow.



A big thanks to Engine Power and Honda for donating (24) GXV340 engines. These engines retail at close to \$1,000 a piece and will be used as new teardown and reassembly engines. This has been a huge help for our small engines course this semester.



Students in the Advanced Construction class are learning how to groom the school ski trails. We are still working on the logistics, but every Monday and Thursday, a couple of students get the opportunity to drive the school Ski-Doo Tundra. Flowline Trails gave us a great price on the “new” Tundra. They also threw in a free Tundra that didn’t run. As a class we spent two days working in the shop and now have two sleds for students to ride/groom with at the school.



Our Freshman Construction Trades and Advanced Construction Class spent a day on a manufacturing tour of Envoy Air in Gwinn and Able Medical and Mount Manufacturing in Marquette. Students were able to see some amazing job opportunities that exist in our area, talk to recent graduates, and tour their facilities.

Searching for information ?

Try these sources for info:

- Website: www.superiorcentralschools.org
- Download the App for notifications (Google Play or the Apple App Store) for Superior Central Schools, MI
- PowerSchool– parent sign in to view student grades and attendance
- Quarterly newsletter– published after every quarter; mailed out and posted on the website
- Classroom newsletter– Elementary teachers send them home weekly
- Question or concern– Go to the source: office, teacher, principal are available by e-mail or appointment



Thank you to all our ski club volunteers who made it possible for over 60 students to enjoy cross country skiing on our trails this year! Special thanks to the Superiorland Ski Club for loaning us adaptive equipment to make our program accessible to anyone who wanted to participate. We appreciate all the time and effort put in to making our small club grow and grow each year!

Mrs. Beaupied

Youth Basketball

Saturday basketball wrapped up its last session of this school year in February. Over the 11 Saturdays, kids had a focus on learning, building, and improving their fundamental basketball skills, while having the opportunity to learn from different coaches, burn some Saturday morning energy, and learn new fun games or challenges. This year 79 kids and coaches earned their Saturday Squad shirts.

The kids showcased their skills by playing at 15 Varsity Boys and Girls games, and a Bay College Men's game. Our 4th and 5th grade players also had the opportunity to play against Rapid River and Mid Pen in a scrimmage.

THANK YOU to our multiple volunteer coaches and Varsity basketball players for coaching on Saturday mornings and at the Varsity games.

Go Cougars!



The NEW BUS

Greetings from all of us next door to the school over here at the bus garage! In this very real winter we're keeping the wheels turning with your kiddos as much as we can. We are, after all, carrying the most precious cargo in the world. That said, I'd like to address our newest bus's performance recently.

"Ocho", or our new Bus 8, is struggling with fuel supply related issues it seems. It still has five years of the manufacturer's warranty left and since our buses come from a dealer in Gaylord it's quite a long trip to run there, only to have the bus run perfectly, as most vehicles will, when they are near their mechanic. Please understand that the warranty prevents us from diving too deeply into disassembly here at our garage in Eben. Either a critter nest, or it's stash of food—or both—mostly made of small seeds, tiny leaves, and silty mud INSIDE THE FUEL TANK has been reducing the engine power. Picture a shredded mouse nest packed into your garden hose sprayer nozzle at home. This has left a few kids on the bus idling—in a SAFE LOCATION I'd like to mention—on the shoulder of or near a trafficless road, on several occasions now. The bus engine ran enough to maintain the heat while awaiting a rescue bus. An unpredictable and frustrating situation, among other things.

I tell my own kids not to apologize for things that are not their fault (*please keep reading*), so the nest, or seeds or "debris" was before delivery of the bus and out of my hands. However, **I do sincerely apologize on behalf of the District, myself, and Bus driver Tania Koski for any inconvenience and worry this bus has caused parents, as well as the stress on any riders.** We have been working with a local shop in Escanaba. They have disassembled the fuel system, including removing the tank, flushing things out and replacing filters. And then—surprise—the bus began running out of fuel going uphill only. We (they) are replacing a pump between the fuel tank and engine. It didn't do well pumping seeds and dirt. This certainly should be the last go round with this issue.

Please know that your kids are always in exceptional hands on our buses. I've taken the time to share this new bus nightmare to let everybody know exactly what's going on, and that we are working to remedy it, and all other bumps in the road that we encounter, completely. We always have at least one extra bus on hand during routes, and it's typically warm and ready to go during cold weather. The hope is of course not to need it. Thank you for riding.

Very sincerely yours and dedicated to your kid,
Chris Ely



School Volunteers: *Who are they? What do they do? How do I become one?*

A school volunteer is an important part of the school environment.

They pick up the gaps not covered by other staff, spark new ideas, do fundraising, chaperone, tutor, coach, etc.

The government defines a school volunteer as: a parent, community member or other adult who assist at a school site or program on a regular or semi-regular basis. Also included in this definition are those who help on a one-time basis transporting or working with children without the direct oversight of District Staff. Parents who observe or visit their child at school on a regular basis and stay more than 15 minutes each time are considered volunteers.

A Volunteer Criminal Record Check and History Affidavit are required for all volunteers.

All volunteers must complete a background check and provide a copy of their drivers license. It is required by the state, does not take very long, is of no cost to the volunteer, confidential, and is a precautionary measure for the safety of our students. Forms and information may be picked up at the High School or Elementary office.

Questions or concerns may be addressed to Bill Valima 906-439-5532 ext. 244



Boys Junior Varsity Basketball

Back Row: Coach Jason Kanerva, Ben Ledesma, Elyja Perron, Scott Losee, and Aidan Korpi.
 Front Row: Gavin Stebelton, Jerry Kulik, and Trenton Luoma. Not Pictured: Isaac Ferree.



Boys Varsity Basketball



Back Row: Assistant Coach Jason Kanerva, Will Spranger, Eli Valima, Carter Korpi, Gavin Vining, Coach Mike Lovell.
 Front Row: Andrew Charlebois, Ryder Kroupa, Blake Tanner, Sam Charlebois, and Manager Jaxon Klyk.

Girls Varsity Basketball



Back Row: Harper Frusti, Peyton Adams, Aubri Kroupa, Coach Skip Rutter, Marlene Johnson, and Kianna Perron.
 Front Row: Addie Frusti, and Marissa Strohm.



Carter Korpi



Marissa Strohm



Addie Frusti



Blake Tanner

Seniors

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Fan of the Year

In 2012, in memory of Superior Central Coach Paul Juntunen, the Alger Correctional Facility along with Superior Central Schools created the Paul Juntunen Fan of the Year Award. This annual award honors the Superior Central fan who possesses an undeniable dedication to Superior Central Athletics. This year's award winner has been at nearly every sporting event – whether he is running, playing, cheering, line judging, taking book or announcing. This individual is reliable, dedicated and is always everyone's biggest fan and hype man.

The 2025-2026 Paul Juntunen Fan of the Year is: **Carter Korpi**
(award presented by 2024-2025 recipient)



Softball Varsity

(All games are doubleheaders unless noted.)



March	21-22	Spring Swing Tournament at NMU Superior Dome	
April	24	@ Marquette	4:00 pm
	28	@ Norway	4:00 pm
	30	@ Rapid River	4:00 pm
May	4	vs North Dickinson	4:00 pm
	6	@ Munising	4:00 pm
	8	vs Forest Park	4:00 pm
	11	@ Carney-Nadeau	4:00 pm
	12	vs Bark River-Harris	4:00 pm
	14	@ Stephenson	4:00 pm
	19	@ Bark River-Harris	TBD

Coach: Richard Swajanen

Boys Baseball Varsity

(All games are doubleheaders unless noted.)



April	16	@ Bark River-Harris	4:00 pm
	20	@ Marquette	4:00 pm
	22	@ Norway	4:00 pm
	24	@ Iron Mountain	4:00 pm
	29	@ North Central	4:00 pm
May	4	vs North Dickinson	4:00 pm
	7	@ Stephenson	4:00 pm
	11	vs Bark River-Harris	4:00 pm
	13	@ North Dickinson	4:00 pm
	14	vs Westwood	4:00 pm
	18	vs Marquette	4:00 pm
	21	vs North Central	4:00 pm

Coach: Greg Mannisto

All game times listed are Eastern time. Schedule is subject to change. Check the website for updates.

Superior Central Campus Tobacco Policy

The Superior Central School Board policy “prohibits the use of tobacco on school grounds at any school sponsored event”, including sporting events. This policy was updated in response to Public Act 188 – 2009 which expanded prohibitions regarding the use of tobacco products in public places. This includes any and all products containing tobacco.





SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOL CALENDAR of EVENTS 2025-2026



March	10	Middle School and High School Festival Concert
	13	11:48 dismissal – no lunch served
	20	End of 3 rd Marking Period
	27	11:48 dismissal - no lunch served
	30	No School - Spring Break Begins
April	7	School Resumes
	17	PTO Spring Carnival
	24	11:48 dismissal - no lunch served
May	1	GSRP (Preschool) Screening
	8	Kindergarten Screening
	14	1:00 pm Elementary Spring Sing
	19	7:00 pm 5th, Middle School & High School Band Concert
	21	1:00 pm GSRP (Preschool) Graduation in Library
	22	11:48 dismissal – no lunch served
	22	7:00 pm Graduation
	25	No School – Memorial Day
28	1:00 pm Kindergarten Graduation in Library	
June	3	1:30 dismissal – MS/HS Exams
	4	1:30 dismissal – MS/HS Exams
	4	Last day of School (provided we do not exceed 6 snow days)

Doors open at 7:55 AM.

First Bell Rings at 8:10 AM. Second Bell Rings at 8:15 AM. Classes begin at 8:15 AM.

School Day ends at 3:11 PM.

Are you interested in joining the Superior Central Staff? Check out our job opportunities at:

<https://www.superiorcentralschools.org/page/employment-opportunities>

Current open positions include: Varsity Track Coach and Middle School Track Coach
and Substitutes for Teachers, Para Pros and Bus Drivers.



Board of Education

Please take notice that upcoming meetings of the Board of Education of the Superior Central School District in Eben Junction, Michigan are scheduled as follows:

<u>Regular Meeting</u>	Monday, March 16, 2026	Monday, April 20, 2026	Monday, May 18, 2026
	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM

Regular meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month. Work sessions as needed. All meetings are at 7:00 PM.

Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodations for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in these meetings.

Request must be received at least five days in advance of the meeting.



SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 148
EBEN JUNCTION, MI 49825

