

WE ARE MONROE

Happy New Year!

Volume V, Issue 1
January, 2022



MISSION

Monroe Public Schools is committed to being the premier education organization in the region.

We are devoted to promoting high expectations for all in a state-of-the-art 21st century curriculum.

We recognize that all of the students and communities that we serve are our customers, and we promise to make all decisions in their best interest.

CORE VALUES

Cultivate Strong **RELATIONSHIPS**

RESPECT Differences and Act in **SERVICE** for All

Advocate for **EQUITY**

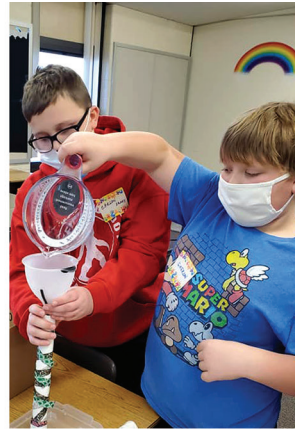
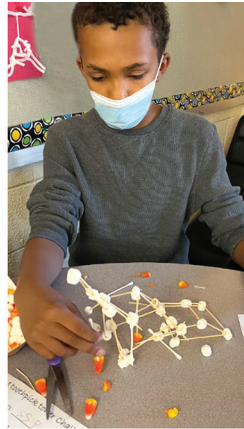
Enrich our **COMMUNITY**

Uphold **INTEGRITY**

Crave **INNOVATION**

Strive to **ENGAGE** Every Learner

CELEBRATE and be **JOYFUL**



If you can
DREAM IT,
you can
DO IT.



WALT DISNEY





Monroe Public Schools IN THE NEWS



J'VON MILLER

J'von signs with Ashland

Congratulations to Monroe High School senior **J'von Miller** for signing his National Letter of Intent with Ashland University to compete as an Eagle!

J'von's soccer accolades include:

- team captain as a senior
- two years All SEC 1st Team
- three years All District 1st Team
- three years All County
- one year All Region
- one year All State Honorable Mention

GARRETT LaBEAU



Garrett signs with Heidelberg

Congratulations to Monroe High School senior **Garrett LaBeau** for signing his National Letter of Intent to play baseball for Heidelberg University!

Garrett is a two-year varsity player and was named to the All SEC Honorable Mention Team. He is Class President, a member of the National Honor Society, and has a 3.50 GPA.





Athletic Hall of Fame Monroe High School - 2021



Inductees into the 12th Class of the Monroe High School Athletic Hall of Fame included **David Johnson**, Baseball—Basketball—Football, 1979-1982; **Corey Nowitzke**, Cross Country—Wrestling—Track, 1998-2002; **Bradley Ruman**, Football, 1995-1999; **Jamie (Turner) Mathena**, Softball, 1987-1990; **Sue (Sieler) Vitale**, Softball, 1984—1987; **Coach Thomas Malik**, Baseball, 1993-2002; **Molly (Spalding) Rusch**, Golf, 1999-2002; **Robert Showers**, Tennis, 1968-1971; **Tony Giarmo**, Football—Track, 1958-1961, represented by his sister, **Kay Sortor**.

INSET: **Paul Showers**, Tennis, 1977-1979, was unable to attend the ceremony. His award was accepted by his coach, **Ward F. Olson**, a former HOF inductee.

District Champs ★ Academic All-State ★ Coach of the Year



Boys Soccer

The Monroe High School 2021 Boys Varsity Soccer Team won the District Championship, a feat that hadn't been accomplished since 2003. The team also earned All-State Academic recognition, with a combined 3.45 GPA!

Coach **Ian Cooke** received both District and Region Coach of the Year honors.

MONROE

Career & Technical Education

Heavy Equipment Day

Monroe High School held its first-ever Heavy Equipment Day for students in Career and Technical Education programs. Industry professionals brought equipment onsite, offered hands-on learning experiences, and shared information about post-secondary career opportunities and training.

Partner organizations included Michigan CAT, the Monroe County Road Commission, Local 324 – Operating Engineers, Thoma Trucking and Bulldozing, and MISS DIG 811. Kwest Group brought a trailer outfitted with state-of-the-art CAT simulator equipment featuring excavator, loader, and dozer modules.

Classes rotated among stations, using the CAT simulators, maneuvering a real crane and mini-excavator, listening to guest speakers, and participating in Q&A sessions. The activities provided an introduction to the heavy equipment and an exciting first experience for many students.



ABOVE: **Joey Kidd** demonstrates a Kwest CAT Simulator module.
BELOW, RIGHT: **Cole Hoffner** moves a cone using a mini-excavator.



Young Entrepreneurs Pitch Products

At Monroe Middle School, the 18-week entrepreneurship class – Generation E – is taught by Holly VanKlingeren. “I tell our students entrepreneurship is for everyone,” VanKlingeren said. “Whether this becomes a lifetime career choice or a hobby that turns into a side hustle, or they just grow as a smart shopper, they’re building life skills.”

After learning concepts including risk and rewards, business ethics, profit margins, innovation, and invention, students create a product. The young entrepreneurs research cost factors, conduct market research, and pitch their products (*pictured here*). The second half of the course focuses on business development and marketing.



I'llenh Carson-Wright
Stone Quartz



Halle Windless
Candles



Madrigal Singers

Monroe High School's vocal performance group, Generations of Sound, under the direction of **Cate Windelborn**, toured all of the schools within the Monroe Public Schools district.

Dressed as Madrigal Singers, the group caroled through the hallways sharing Renaissance-style vocal music compositions and spreading holiday joy.

State Honors Choir



Hannah Esford

Hannah Esford, a freshman at Monroe High School, performed with the MSVMA Region C Honors Choir and was selected for the State SSAA Honors Choir that will perform in Grand Rapids.

Band Festival Accolades



The Trojan Marching Band earned straight "1" ratings in every category at the MSBOA District 12 Marching Band Festival, sweeping the ratings sheet with perfect scores!



Alice in Wonderland



Monroe High School's fall play, *Alice in Wonderland*, was directed by language arts teacher **Jeremy Kimberlin**. Junior **Gabby Forrester** starred as Alice. Senior **Kylie Jacobs** portrayed the Cheshire Cat.

The Learning Bank

Programs, Services Expand To Meet Community Needs

The Monroe County Learning Bank Network is providing more services than ever. Best known for helping adults earn their High School Equivalency Diploma (G.E.D.), the Learning Bank assists with college readiness, employability skills, and counseling for academic and career plans to support a seamless transition to post-secondary education or the workforce.

English as a Second Language was introduced last spring and currently has 20 students enrolled. "Our ESL program is the only one in the county," Director Vuncia Council stated. "We saw a critical need and applied for a grant. Improved fluency enhances job opportunities and helps these students in many aspects of their lives."

An exciting, new program will enable adult learners to earn an industrial maintenance credential, Council said. "Maintenance Technology" will meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m., January 19 - May 18, at Monroe High School. The course will prepare students for a "General Maintenance" entry-level position focused on the needs of manufacturing employers.

"We understand that life disrupts educational plans," Council said. "We help adults to move forward and achieve their dreams. It is a joy to help adults in our community reach their goals and transform their lives."



Vuncia Council is the Learning Bank Director.

Call the Learning Bank at 734-265-4200 for more information about any of these programs.



Barbara Martell is a registered nurse onsite at the 1-1-1 Clinic. Dr. Nicholas Schenk (on screen) is available via telemedicine technology.

1-1-1 Clinic at MHS

Monroe Public Schools and ProMedica are partnering to improve student health and serve the needs of school families with an onsite clinic at Monroe High School.

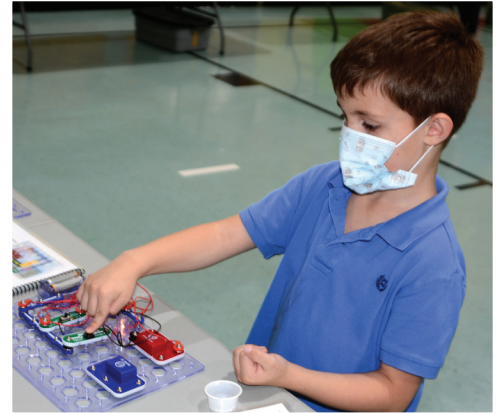
The new 1-1-1 ProMedica Monroe School Clinic, in MHS Room D-111, allows students to see a licensed healthcare provider without leaving school. Two registered nurses and a therapist are onsite to provide medical and mental healthcare services, including acute illnesses, minor injuries, immunizations, and counseling. Telemedicine services are also available through the ProMedica Monroe Family Medicine Residency Center.

With verified parental consent, students can be seen without parents having to leave home or work.



Aaliyah Johnson tested the strength of her rocket under the guidance of Allison Lawrence, Program Manager at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.

Waterloo first grader Jim Guy tested a circuit that he had assembled.



21st Century Community Learning Grant Funds Hands-On Science Museum Visits

Students at Waterloo and Arborwood elementary schools enjoyed interactive science and engineering challenges facilitated by the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum, which brought ten design and discovery activities to their schools. Students rotated among stations, engaging in experiments that led them through the Design-Build-Test process. From building rockets and boomerangs to connecting circuits, young engineers explored essential concepts of science. The onsite visits are part of a grant-funded extended day learning program. Monroe Public Schools was awarded a \$1.35 million 21st Century Community Learning Grant in 2019 that funds afterschool academic and enrichment programming at both schools.



Fourth grader Leah Pennington coded messages in ASCII Binary Language, using tiny pegs to represent the ones and zeros.

International Baccalaureate Studies Include Spanish

Flags from countries around the world hang in the halls at Raisinville Elementary, where students of all ages – from kindergarten to sixth grade – study Spanish.

“The foreign language opportunity for our kids is a key aspect of being Monroe County’s only International Baccalaureate School,” Principal Scott Hoppert explains. “It not only emphasizes the international nature of our focus but provides a unique opportunity for our students to connect with people from other cultures and get a glimpse into other traditions and ways of life and how they intersect with our own as global citizens. It helps build compassion, understanding, and cultural awareness.”

All students at Raisinville Elementary learn Spanish.



Spanish is a favorite class for Preston Jackson, kindergarten, and Blayne Lynch, 6th grade.

Alexis Schade, Kyle Kecskes, and Christian Koszka-Lombardo

MONROE

Career & Technical Education

Electro-Mechanical Students Certified to Fly Drones

The first four students from Monroe High School's electro-mechanical program to become certified to commercially fly drones are Enzo Mignano, class of 2021, senior Kyle Kecskes, junior Christian Koszka-Lombardo, and junior Alexis Schade.



The MHS program taught by Kyle Reed is the only high school drone program offered in Monroe County.

Passing the Federal Aviation Administration's aeronautical knowledge exam and obtaining their Part 107 FAA Remote Pilot License creates opportunities in diverse fields. "It is a very unique skill, especially at age 16," Alexis noted. "I am the first girl in the program to get my license, and I am excited to be a role model for younger female students." Alexis plans to study civil engineering.



Enzo Mignano

"Flying has been a passion of mine from a very young age," Christian said. He would like to enter the Air Force and become a jet pilot. Kyle wants to enter electrical engineering and work in the construction end. "Drones will allow you to inspect areas you normally can't get to," he stated.

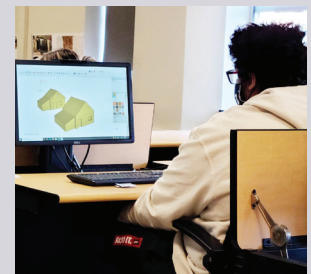
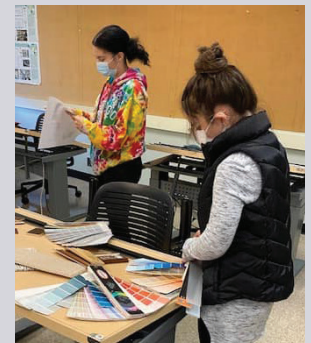
Enzo is beginning the University of Michigan's Urban Design program and said there are many applications in his field. "We can collect data using sensors on the drones to map out targeted areas or record visuals, and use that data to develop solutions."

Housing & Interior Design Class Visits Eastern Michigan Program



Eastern Michigan University's GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology hosted Monroe High School's Housing and Interior Design students, providing a hands-on tour of their Bachelor of Science in Interior Design program. The MHS students participated in design activities including floor plan layouts, color schemes, and selection of paint and fabrics. They experienced a 3D model through Virtual Reality and received a crash course for the 3D software used to create the VR models and stunning storyboards.

Housing and Interior Design is a new one-semester course taught by Natalie Mills, who is the instructor for the MHS Drafting and Design program.





Monroe Public Schools Alumni

SPOTLIGHT



Shooting for the Stars

Veronica McGowan, a 2012 Monroe High School graduate, is a Structural Operations Engineer at Virgin Galactic and was the livestream Mission Host for their first fully-crewed space flight.

Millions watched the test flight launch of Unity 22 featuring Virgin Galactic founder Sir Richard Branson. Veronica provided commentary for the historic flight. She has held multiple Structures-based roles and said her team is responsible for the design, build, and maintenance of the spaceship and mothership airframes — “essentially the bones of the vehicles that hold the systems, electronics, and propulsion components.”

Veronica earned her degree in Aerospace Engineering-Astronautics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where she also met her future husband. Virgin Galactic hired them at the same time. Brandon Parrish is a Flight Test Engineer and was part of mission control for the historic July 11th flight. In 2018, he sent a ring onboard Spaceship Unity’s maiden flight and proposed to Veronica after its return landing. The aerospace professionals were married inside Unity, by the astronaut who carried her ring, at 5 p.m. on 4-3-21.

Monroe High School prepared her for college and helped to solidify her career choice, Veronica shared. “The opportunity to learn CAD software in high school was critical for both my interest and achievement in engineering,” she stated. “The offering of AP classes and dual enrollment also accelerated my education path which lessened the financial impact of college and allowed me to enter the industry sooner.”

Monroe Trojan Band Invited To March in Disney Parade



The Public House partnered with the Monroe Instrumental Music Boosters for “Jazzy Holidays at the House” to raise funds for the band’s Florida trip. The Trojan Marching Band has been invited to march in the parade at Walt Disney World in April.





MPS Bond Projects

Safe. Warm. Functional.

During the first year, \$11 million in district capital improvements were completed at schools and facilities.

The building projects were funded by a \$59 million bond that Monroe voters supported in 2020.

Air conditioning was installed in Monroe High School B- and D-wing classrooms, as well as every elementary school cafeteria. Physical upgrades at several buildings improved aesthetics as well as functionality.

In the first year of bond-funded projects, the biggest improvements were completed at Custer and Riverside elementary schools and at Monroe High School. The extensive MHS project list included a mechanical system/chiller, generator, electrical service, ductwork, restrooms, ceilings, lighting, flooring, carpet, and paint. Sections of the school were completely transformed.

New canopy entrances greet guests at Custer II and Riverside, where buildings were reconfigured to provide secure vestibule entries. Similar improvements will occur at schools throughout MPS over the next few years. Both schools have new fire alarms and renovated restrooms, and Riverside features a new boiler room. New PA systems with security tie-ins were added at each of the district's elementary schools.



Over the next 4 years, the bond will upgrade the safety and security of every school in the district and will fund critically-needed capital projects.

Dr. Everly thanked the team from Monroe Public Schools, Kohler Architects, DECA Engineers, and Clark Construction who worked together on the bond, and the contractors who provided quality work under tight deadlines. Approximately \$6 million of work was completed by local vendor Monroe Plumbing and Heating.

“We are celebrating building improvements that will benefit thousands of students by providing safer and more comfortable learning environments. We are celebrating providing work for local residents following difficult economic challenges created by the pandemic. Most of all, we are celebrating this community that came together to support the bond,” Dr. Everly said.

The bond team is currently collaborating with district administrators on project plans for Summer 2022.

Monroe Public Schools Leadership

CABINET



Dr. Julie M. Everly
Superintendent



Katherine Eighmey
Executive Director of
Business & Finance



Cindy Flynn
Executive Director of
Human Resources



Terry Joseph
Executive Director of
Student Services



Jerry Oley
Executive Director of
Operations



David Payne
Executive Director of
Technology

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Lawrence VanWasshenova
Trustee

The MPS Board creates policies, establishes spending priorities, and sets and supports district goals. Work in two major areas will continue to be a focus in 2022 — addressing district needs related to the pandemic and making decisions on bond project priorities.



2022 District Calendar

January 17

Martin Luther King Day
No School

January 21

Half Day for Students
End of First Semester

February 2

Teacher Inservice
No Students

February 18-21

Winter Break/Presidents Day
No School

March 10

Elementary Conferences
5-7 pm

March 11

Half Day for Students
Teacher Records - Afternoon
End of Second Trimester

March 24

High School Conferences
4-6 pm
Middle School Conferences
5-7 pm

March 30

Half Day for Students
Teacher PD - Afternoon



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Superintendent's Remarks

As you read this issue of *We Are Monroe*, I hope you are as inspired as I am by the educational success stories inside...



- ★ Hands-on discovery activities are igniting excitement about science among some of our youngest learners.
- ★ Career technical education programs are providing special experiences and training to help students pursue their passions and achieve their career goals.
- ★ The Learning Bank is offering new programs and expanded services for adult learners.
- ★ Raisinville's International Baccalaureate program teaches Spanish to prepare students for a global society.
- ★ Student-athletes are committing to colleges to compete at the next level while earning their degrees.
- ★ A Monroe High School alumna is literally shooting for the stars as she follows her dreams.

Monroe Public Schools proudly offers AP, honors, and college prep classes; dual enrollment options including the MPS Early Middle College program; career training programs; and an array of opportunities in the arts.

Where can dreams take MPS students? Anywhere you want to go. DREAM BIG, Monroe!

Believe. Engage. Excel.

As always,

Dr. Julie M. Everly
Superintendent

Connect to Monroe Public Schools!

District Website
<https://www.monroe.k12.mi.us>

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<https://www.facebook.com/MonroePublicSchools>

District Twitter
<https://www.twitter.com/MonroeSchoolsMI>

Manor Elementary sixth graders enjoy an ecology lesson at the Knabusch Math and Science Center.



**"You're off to great places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
so get on your way!"**

~ DR. SEUSS

