

# DIALOG



[www.livoniapublicschools.org](http://www.livoniapublicschools.org)

JANUARY 2022

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## FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANDREA OQUIST



Visiting classrooms, where students are learning and engaging with one another and their teacher. Enjoying a beautiful holiday choir or band performance at our schools throughout the month of December. Cheering for our athletes as they give their all on the court, ice, pool, or mat as winter sports kick off in

our district, and our various robotics teams who are well into their competition season. Appreciating all of the “extras” that our parents are doing this school year and the incredible resilience shown by every member of our LPS staff family.

These are the “everyday” snapshots of normalcy that remind me of our collective resolve. As unique challenges have come our way this past year, our team of staff, students and parents – and the grit they have shown each and every day – continue to humble and amaze me.

We continue to have so much to be thankful for in our district. Our Bond 2021 work is kicking into gear and we will begin our first round of media center renovations this summer at five schools, along with enhancements to our Livonia Career Technical Center. Elementary playground systems are being installed. Mobile devices are being deployed. The new Livonia Robotics center will go into construction beginning this spring at the site of LCTC and we are in the beginning stages of planning for the

district’s new Early Childhood Center. And of course, one of the main elements of the bond issue, to install air conditioning in all of our classrooms and learning areas in the first two years of construction.

Further in this issue, you will see important information about our safety and security protocols in LPS, as we continue to hold our friends in the Oxford Schools community close to our hearts.

As we head into 2022, my hope and wish is that we continue to show one another support, compassion and care as we move forward in educating and growing our more than 13,300 students in Livonia Public Schools. Our valued partnership in this effort is essential to the children and community we serve. We will continue to give them our very best.

So let’s get ready and stay engaged, the best is yet to come! I know that we will move forward into the new year with a determination to be even better, together.

My very best to you and yours in the new year,

Andrea Oquist  
Superintendent



# KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1!

## HOW TO REGISTER

Livonia Public Schools is eagerly anticipating the 2022-2023 school year. We can't wait to welcome our new class of kindergartners!

Kindergarten registration begins February 1, 2022. (Please see below for Young Fives registration dates and information.) Here's how to register:

Visit [www.livoniapublicschools.org/registration](http://www.livoniapublicschools.org/registration) and complete the online registration packet associated with your child's assigned school. Gather the required documentation (listed on the packet and on the district website). The school secretary will contact you to schedule an appointment to complete the registration process.

Kindergartners must be five years old on or before September 1, 2022, and we encourage families to adhere to state guidelines. However, you may apply for early entry if your child will be five on or after September 1 but no later than December 1. Early entry request forms are available at your child's school.

If you are uncertain which school your child will attend, please call 734-744-2541, or email [registration@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:registration@livoniapublicschools.org). Please include your home address when emailing or leaving a message.

## Kindergarten Parent Information Meeting

APRIL 6, 2022 | 6-7 P.M.

Parents of incoming kindergartners are invited to attend an informational meeting at their child's assigned school.

**Topics to be covered:**  
Program Overview  
Busing & food service  
Building tour  
Q & A

Registration available onsite for parents who bring their required documents. This meeting is for parents only.

### Kindergarten Orientation

- For registered incoming kindergartners
- Attend at assigned school
- Times to be announced

JUNE 7, 2022

Buchanan  
Coolidge  
Grant  
Hayes  
Randolph

JUNE 8, 2022

Cleveland  
Hoover  
Kennedy  
Roosevelt  
Rosedale

## YOUNG FIVES PROGRAM

If your child has a summer birthday but is not quite ready for kindergarten, consider the Young Fives program!

- Designed for students turning five between July 1 and September 1, 2022, but who require more time before entering kindergarten.
- State-funded, tuition-free program.
- Housed at Jackson Early Childhood Center.
- Students attend five days a week, in either the AM or PM session. Enrollment for Young Fives childcare will be accepted on the day of Young Fives registration.



A virtual FAQ meeting will be held for parents on March 8 at 6:00 p.m. The link for the meeting will be available at [www.livoniapublicschools.org/youngfives](http://www.livoniapublicschools.org/youngfives). Registration for Young Fives begins online on March 15. (See "How to Register" above.)

Please note: Only parents or legal guardians (with proper paperwork) are able to register Young Fives students.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

### Specialized Early Childhood Programs 734-744-2813

- Early On developmental screenings for infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months
- Preschool programs for children ages 2.5 to 5 years with special needs
- Early childhood programs for students with speech concerns
- Kids First Great Start Readiness Program



### **Jackson Early Childhood Center** 32025 Lyndon, Livonia 734-744-2813

- Preschool enrichment for children ages 3 and 4 years
- Childcare with a preschool component: five days per week, year-round
- School-Age Childcare (SACC)





# SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

With the tragedy in Oxford still fresh in our hearts and minds, we are reminded of the importance of reviewing and refining our protocols for emergency preparedness, crisis communications/response and supports for our students, staff and families on an ongoing basis.

We know that building strong and positive relationships with each student is also a key component. We strive to know and lift every child as an individual.

Our district has made a significant investment in the area of mental health and social/emotional support for students. In 2016-2017, the district employed 8 school psychologists and now employs 16; our social worker staff went from 9 to 14; we added 2 behavior interventionists; there is now a student assistance provider, school psychologist and social worker dedicated to each high school and middle school; and each elementary school has 2 support teachers. In addition, our Student Services Department continues to respond 24/7 to our Social Emotional Hotline, which has been in place since the first day of closure during the COVID pandemic and remains in place today. Support is here for our students, staff and families.

We also know that school safety includes important physical and procedural safeguards that are established, fine-tuned and practiced throughout our district.

While not all-inclusive, the following highlights some of those safety and security measures in place in Livonia Public Schools. Most of these items have been in place for the past several years.

- Frequently reviewed and updated district emergency response plan.
- School and district crisis response teams and training.
- Drills for emergencies at all schools.
- Full-time district public safety administrator.
- Strong partnership with local law enforcement and municipalities.
- School resource officers at our high schools. These are local police officers who are assigned full time to our schools (costs covered by district funds).
- Blue Line security team at our middle and high schools, due to the size of the campuses and student populations.
- Secured vestibule entrances with buzzer entry system and key card access.
- Security cameras at all schools and on all buses.
- Thumb locks on all interior doors.
- Easy-egress windows in all classrooms.

These are just some of the key measures in place to keep our students and staff as safe as possible.

## LUCY TROTTER: CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY'S PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY



Check in at the office, first thing in the morning. Stop by a few classrooms to say "hello." Read a holiday story to students in Mrs. Magoulick's class. Don't forget to carry the Walkie-Talkie with you at all times.

And, be sure to be on time for your 10 a.m. meeting with the LPS Communications Department staff who have come to interview you. Confirm that all of the

playground equipment has been properly and neatly returned after recess. Pop outside to make sure the other recess is going well. Stop to chat with staff members for a minute. See what's going on in the Music Room, with Mr. Rautio. Notice the students who are doing an extra great job walking quietly down the hall. Give them a Soar Buck for being great role models.

It's all in a morning's work for 7-year-old "Principal" Lucy Trotter, who earned the chance to be the Principal for the Day at Cleveland Elementary.

Shadowing the adult Principal Rob Witherspoon, Miss Trotter made the rounds at Cleveland and experienced first-hand what it's like to be the leader of the school.

"I like seeing all of the classrooms," she said, while sitting in the principal's office on Wednesday.

Miss Trotter earned this special opportunity after being a top earner in the school's Fun(d) Run, raising \$1,000 for her school. She said her family members all contributed to her donation requests.

So, after experiencing the role of principal, does Miss Trotter want to someday be a principal of a school?

"Ummm, I kind of want to be a baker, too," she said, adding that she really enjoys baking cookies, cupcakes, and brownies.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EDUCATORS AND SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR!

## ELEMENTARY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: PEGGY BRISSETTE



Peggy Brissette is a third-grade teacher at Coolidge Elementary School. She has been a teacher in Livonia Public Schools for 21 years.

Mrs. Brissette is known for her positive attitude and for being a lifelong learner who is always searching for new ways to connect and engage with her students. She sets high expectations; supports each student in achieving success; and encourages her students to be the best version of themselves, every day.

She is described by her colleagues as a mentor and team player, and someone who "lives and breathes" the district's Community with Character elements. Mrs. Brissette stepped outside of her comfort zone during the 2020-2021 school year by teaching third grade in the Livonia Virtual fully remote option. She excelled in learning best practices and shared those practices with her colleagues in LV. Her students thrived in the online classroom community that she created - even sharing weekly virtual lunch and social time with her students. She strikes the right balance between fun and learning while building relationships with her students.

## SECONDARY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: AMY MUNDAY



Amy Munday is a special education teacher in the Western Wayne Skill Center program at Garfield Community School. She has been teaching in Livonia Public Schools for 14 years.

Mrs. Munday is known for her positive attitude and genuine connections and relationships with her students, families, and colleagues. More than ever before, Mrs. Munday has shown her perseverance and creativity throughout the COVID-19 health crisis by turning her interest and talent in refinishing household furniture into a micro-business. She and her students work each day to refinish donated pieces of furniture - giving new life to worn out desks, chairs, dressers, tables, etc. She and her students then sell the pieces on their Skill-Ful Designs Facebook page. All proceeds benefit Garfield Community School.

Her colleagues said she is innovative in a way that extends well beyond a "growth mindset." She works tirelessly to provide learning experiences for her students, while caring deeply about their overall wellbeing.

## SUPPORT PERSON OF THE YEAR: ERIC RAYMOND



Eric Raymond is the building supervisor at Garfield Community School. He is a 34-year employee of Livonia Public Schools.

Mr. Raymond is known as being "the heart of the school," keeping the building and grounds clean, safe, and welcoming. He is described as being an "outstanding example of a respectful and kind human being" who has a work ethic that is second to none. He truly takes pride in keeping Garfield an impeccable learning environment for students and staff in the three programs that are housed at the school.

Outside of his custodial duties, Mr. Raymond takes it upon himself to build relationships with students, even inviting them to partner with him during his work day. For students who may need to move around throughout the day, Mr. Raymond develops a work plan and teaches skills that students will carry into their daily lives. He is patient and kind while offering instruction and it is apparent that the students truly love working alongside Mr. Raymond.



# Thank you from the Livonia Goodfellows

A sincere thank you to the many LPS families and employees who participated in our annual food drive. More than a dozen schools participated in Livonia and Clarenceville districts. Riley Upper Elementary School alone contributed 200 boxes of food, far surpassing its past average of 100 boxes!

We extend gratitude to the individuals, families, groups, and businesses who helped make our drive an enormous success! And, as always, thanks to our wonderful volunteers who make the drive not only successful, but fun!

Sincerely,  
Jim Hobart, and the Livonia Goodfellows



*Churchill students organize donations*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is the policy of the Board of Education that Livonia Public Schools School District will not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, handicap, disability, sexual orientation, sexual identity, or transgender status.

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

FERPA is a federal law that affords parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. This includes the right to: inspect and review records; request an amendment to records; consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information in student's records (except in instances where disclosure without consent is allowed); and file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students." See the full policy at [livoniapublicschools.org/publicnotices](http://livoniapublicschools.org/publicnotices).

### **McKinney Vento Act**

Livonia Public Schools follows federal mandates for the McKinney Vento Act by enrolling any homeless children who lack a regular and adequate night-time residence. Homeless children are placed according to their best interests, and have the same rights as resident students. If you are aware of children in this circumstance, please refer them to our homeless liaison at 734-744-2535.

### **Child Find (Student evaluations)**

If your child is between birth and age five and you suspect that they may have a special need or developmental delay, please call 1-800-EARLYON (for birth to age three) or 734-744-2765.

If your child is enrolled in LPS in grades pre-K to adults up to age 26 and you suspect a special need or disability, please contact the administrator at your child's school or the Student Services Department at 734-744-2524.

### **Lost or Stolen Property**

Livonia Public Schools and its staff members are not liable for damage to or loss of personal property of students. It is suggested that items brought to school by your child and deemed by you to have substantial value be insured separately on your homeowner's policy.

### **AHERA Update**

LPS, as required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) conducts ongoing surveillance and re-inspection programs for asbestos. LPS has an ongoing operations and maintenance program to address the asbestos in the buildings owned and operated by the district. Contact Harry Lau at [hlaul@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:hlaul@livoniapublicschools.org), or 734-744-2511 if you wish to view the report.

### **Integrated Pest Management**

Occasionally, Livonia Public Schools may apply pesticides to our schools, school grounds, and athletic areas. As parents and guardians, you have the right to be notified prior to such applications. If you wish to be notified via first class mail or e-mail, please contact Harry Lau at [hlaul@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:hlaul@livoniapublicschools.org) or 734-744-2511.

A posting of pesticides used inside or outside of any LPS building will be placed in advance at the entrance of the building, and on the Livonia Public Schools website. In an emergency situation, LPS may make an application without prior notification to parents or guardians; however, parents/guardians will be notified of the application after it occurs.

Further information regarding pesticides can be obtained by contacting The National Pesticide Information Center at 800-858-7378.



## CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER OFFERS VOCATIONAL CLASSES

Livonia Public Schools offers vocational education programs at the Livonia Career Technical Center and at Churchill, Franklin, and Stevenson high schools. These programs are designed to prepare youth for a broad range of employment and educational training services.

All vocational education programs follow the district's policies of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap, or disability in all activities and employment. In addition, arrangements can be made to ensure that the lack of English language skills is not a barrier to admission or participation.

For general information about these programs, contact: Gary Harper, Principal, LCTC  
8985 Newburgh Livonia, 48150; 734-744-2816.

## SCHOOL CLOSING information

SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION IS COMMUNICATED THROUGH:

- Our website:  
[www.livoniapublicschools.org](http://www.livoniapublicschools.org)
- Social media:  
[facebook.com/Livoniapublicschools](https://facebook.com/Livoniapublicschools)  
Twitter @LivoniaDistrict
- Phone/Email/Text: Be sure you have an updated email address and phone number on file to receive notices. Check your ParentConnect account to confirm your information is correct; contact your child's school to make updates or changes.



## Follow Us on Social Media



Stay connected with LPS!  
Have a social media post you want us to see?  
Tag us on Twitter and Facebook, or use #LivoniaPride



Twitter: @LivoniaDistrict



Facebook.com/LivoniaPublicSchools



LinkedIn/company/LivoniaPublicSchools



YouTube: LPS Video

## GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAM DEADLINE

*For incoming 9th Grade LPS Students and 9th Grade Non-Public Students Living Within LPS Boundaries*

The School of Global Education is open on a limited basis for students whose home high school is Churchill or Franklin. More information is available online at [livoniapublicschools.org/highschoolprograms](http://livoniapublicschools.org/highschoolprograms).

A random drawing will be held to determine who enters the program if the interest is greater than the number of seats available. The deadline for submitting an interest form is March 4, 2022.

Interest forms should be submitted to: Mr. Pete Mazzoni, Stevenson High School 33500 West Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152. A copy of the student's most recent standardized tests scores, as well as a letter of recommendation from the student's current English or Social Studies teacher should be included with the interest form.

Contact Stevenson at 734-744-2660 ext. 48902 with questions, or for more information.



## DIALOG

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To contact the LPS Communications Office, please call (734) 744-2522, or email [communications@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:communications@livoniapublicschools.org).



# LPS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*The mission of the LPS Education Foundation is to enlarge the resources available to the school district, which will foster and expand educational opportunities for programs impacting students by building effective collaborations.*



## SO GOOD TO BE BACK!



The LPS Education Foundation held its annual luncheon fundraiser in November after a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The largest fundraiser of the year for the Foundation, the luncheon was attended by many supporters from around the community and the school district.

Attendees enjoyed hearing the unique story of Two Men and a Truck former executive chairman Brig Sorber, who

founded the now-international corporation in the early 1980s as a means to earn spending money. Brig, with his younger brother Jon, used a 1966 pickup truck in the early days, to move household items for their first customers. To grow their business, the pair placed an advertisement in a local shopping guide with a stick-figure logo that was designed by their mother, Mary Ellen Sheets. The logo remains the corporate logo to this day.

Brig spoke of the journey of growing the business and the simple philosophy behind its success – honesty, trust, and hard work.

Those tenets are also found behind the success of the LPS Education Foundation. The Foundation supports Livonia Public Schools through its Competitive Edge College Savings Program for kindergarten students who graduate from LPS and the ever-popular grants program, which provides funding for specified projects, materials, and other “extras” for classrooms and departments in the district.

Funds raised at the luncheon are designated for the Competitive Edge program.

“Although there were fewer people in attendance this year because of COVID-19, the luncheon at St. Mary’s Cultural Center was excellent and the speaker, Brig Sorber, was outstanding,” said Lorna Durand, president of the LPS Education Foundation. “The event raised more than \$6,000 for the Competitive Edge program to support those students who complete their education in LPS and wish to pursue post-secondary programs.”

For more about the LPS Education Foundation and ways to support its efforts, visit [www.lpsfoundation.org](http://www.lpsfoundation.org).

## FOUNDATION CORPORATE DONORS

- Alpha USA
- Auch & Company
- Author Gallagher Co.
- Bill Brown Ford, Inc.
- CAF America (Charity Aid Foundation)
- Chase Fidelity Holdings
- Cheryl Bowker Agency – Allstate Insurance
- Community Financial Credit Union
- DFCU Financial
- Edward Jones
- Feldman Chevrolet of Livonia
- Keller Thomas Professional Corporation
- LEADS
- Livonia AM Rotary
- Livonia Jaycees
- Livonia Kiwanis Early Risers
- LPS Employees
- LPS PTAs/PTSAs
- LPL Financial
- MacFarland & Company Home Sales
- Marathon
- MARSP (Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel)
- Masco Corporation
- Michigan Educational Credit Union
- NTH Consultants
- Parkside Credit Union
- Plante Moran
- Progressive Neuro-Psychiatry
- Roofing Tech Associates
- Rotary Club of Livonia AM
- Roush Industries
- Sellinger Associates
- St. Mary Mercy - Livonia
- T.D. Ameritrade
- Tiseo Architects
- ZF TRW Automotive

## ENROLL YOUR KINDERGARTNER IN OUR COMPETITIVE EDGE SAVINGS PROGRAM!



LEARN MORE AT [LPSFOUNDATION.ORG](http://LPSFOUNDATION.ORG)

### Support the LPS Education Foundation with your vehicle purchase

Buy or lease a vehicle and \$200 will be donated to the LPS Education Foundation.

Bill Brown Ford | 734-421-7000  
Feldman Chevrolet of Livonia | 734-425-6500

Bring this coupon to Bill Brown Ford or Feldman Chevrolet of Livonia when purchasing or leasing a new or used vehicle. Does not include prior sales.

Coupon must be presented at time of purchase.

For more information, call the LPS Education Foundation at 734-744-2510.



Livonia Public Schools  
15125 Farmington Road  
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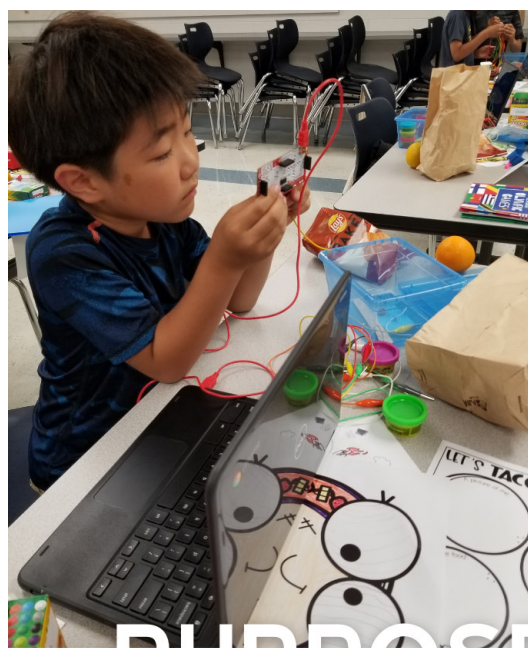
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