

DIALOG



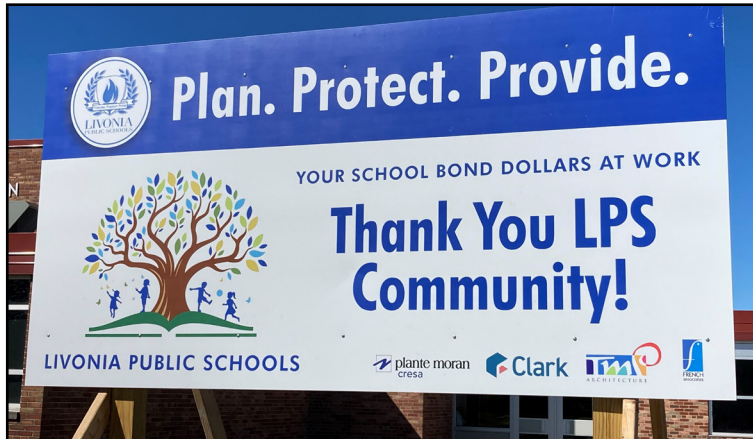
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JANUARY 2023

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BOND WORK CONTINUES TO ELEVATE LPS OFFERINGS



Amid the turmoil of the pandemic, Livonia Public Schools kept its eye to the future by proposing a bond issue that would continue the building improvements that began in 2013 throughout the district.

The May 2021 bond issue was approved by voters and the community is now seeing those first projects come to fruition. The \$185 million bond is providing the funds to renovate all school kitchens, which are original to the schools – at least 50 years old; renovate and reimagine library media centers; install air conditioning at all schools and many other improvements that were not included in the scope of the previous bond in 2013.

“We are making progress with this past summer’s phase 1 work throughout the district,” said Phillip Francis, assistant superintendent of operations and district services. “The current bond is allowing us to continue the improvements to our facilities, while keeping an eye to the future through smart design and innovative concepts that allow for higher functionality and collaboration for our students and staff.”

The LMCs, for example, are designed to be centers for student collaboration and innovation. Features include intentionally designed furniture and spaces for students to work together on projects; an Idea Factory for hands-on learning; group meeting spaces for media/technology group instruction and small spaces for quiet reading.



Aerial view of the LCTC expansion, which includes robotics.

The kitchens, LMCs, restrooms, air conditioning and more are approaching completion at Coolidge, Kennedy and Randolph elementary schools, in addition to Cooper Upper Elementary and Emerson Middle School. Renovations will continue at additional schools beginning next summer. Air conditioning is being added at Grant, Hayes, Hoover, Johnson, Riley, Holmes and Churchill this year. A/C installation will continue at additional schools next summer.

On the horizon is a dynamic expansion of the Livonia Career Technical Center and new robotics space at the LCTC.

(Continued on page 2)



Newly-redesigned Library Media Center at Randolph.

(Continued from page 1)

This project is particularly exciting, according to Francis. “As our focus continues to be on growing our career-tech programs, we are excited for this renovation while also offering a new space for our growing robotics programs at the middle and high school levels,” said Francis. “This space will draw students who have those interests and will elevate the offerings at the center for decades to come.”

Additionally, plans are in the works for the district to conduct a “new build” for the first time in about five decades with the construction of a state-of-the-art early childhood center at the former Dickinson school on Newburgh, just north of Six Mile. The designs have been completed and construction is scheduled to begin next summer.

“To be able to expand our early childhood programs and attract new families to LPS from an early age is a great thing. We are thrilled for this addition to our district and our community,” added Francis.

For more information about the 2021 bond projects, please visit livoniapublicschools.org and click on the Our District tab.



New kitchens are part of the 2021 Bond projects.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

HOW TO REGISTER

Livonia Public Schools is eagerly anticipating the 2023-2024 school year. We can't wait to welcome our new class of kindergartners!

Kindergarten registration opens February 1. (Not including Niji-Iro Elementary) Here's how to register:

Visit 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, 2023, 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 contact Registration at registration@livoniapublicschools.org. Please include your home address when emailing or leaving a message.

PARENT MEETING APRIL 12

Livonia Public Schools is hosting an informational meeting for parents of incoming kindergartners. This meeting will be held on April 12, 2023, from 6-7 p.m. Please note that this meeting is for parents only. Parents should attend the meeting at their child's assigned school. This meeting will be filled with useful information for parents, including:

- Program overview
- Information on busing and food services
- Question-and-answer session
- School tours

Registration will be available on-site for parents who have their required documentation with them.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

Schools will be open for incoming kindergartners and their families to see their school and learn important information about the start of their learning journey. It's the perfect chance for your child to step into the classroom before class begins.

Tuesday, June 6, 2023:

- Cleveland, Grant, Hayes, Randolph

Wednesday, June 7, 2023:

- Buchanan, Coolidge, Hoover, Kennedy, Roosevelt, Rosedale

FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANDREA OQUIST



Greetings LPS Community,

Each January, the phrase, “today is page one of your 365-page book ~ write something amazing” comes to mind as we close the book on the year that has passed and turn the first page of the new year. So many possibilities, resolutions for those improvements we would

like to see happen in our lives and fresh beginnings that bring so much optimism. All of this, with one page flip of the calendar...that's pretty special!

For me, the blank pages are filled each and every day with the joys of leading such an exceptional school district filled with curious learners, dedicated staff and involved families. I often utilize this space in the Dialog to convey my enormous sense of pride, gratitude and love for Livonia Public Schools – and these first blank pages of the 2023 book are no different.

Our district is operating full tilt – from the exciting construction projects made possible by the 2021 bond, to the renewed parent-community-school partnership of the new Vision Forward Team (formerly known as the District School Improvement Team) to the ongoing growth of our Professional Learning Communities collaboration model for our staff and much more... there are so many exciting things happening in Livonia Public Schools!

The first phase of the bond work is nearing completion and includes newly renovated kitchens, library media centers, restrooms and the installation of air conditioning at Coolidge, Kennedy and Randolph elementary schools in addition to Cooper Upper Elementary and Emerson Middle School. We are completing plans for Summer 2023 and look forward to the enhancements at our next 5 schools.

A significant addition is in the works at the Livonia Career Technical Center with the construction of a new robotics complex and the expansion of learning spaces, including high tech simulation labs for our health and medical programs. We are thrilled to watch this project come together!

This spring, we look forward to breaking ground on the district's first new-build construction project in more than 50 years – the new Livonia Public Schools Early Childhood Center. This state-of-the-art multi-function facility, designed for our youngest learners, will be built on the site of the

former Dickinson school on Newburgh, between Six Mile and Seven Mile. This project will enable LPS to expand childcare and early childhood programming while attracting new families to the district. Stay tuned for the exciting details of the groundbreaking in the spring!

While brick and mortar improvements are essential, it is really the people with whom we work and those we serve that hold the highest importance. Serving students and families is our main focus and we know that when we work together, we can do our very best to benefit our students each day. It is my true pleasure to bring back an updated version of the former District School Improvement Team. The Vision Forward Team consists of students, parents, staff, community members, business partners and district leadership with a focus, this year, on creating a “Portrait of an LPS Graduate.”

This dynamic group is brainstorming and developing the character traits and qualities we wish to see in every LPS student as they exit our schools and programs. This collaborative work is both fulfilling and inspiring! I'm so grateful to all who are giving their time and talents to this important endeavor.

This year, we look forward to the continued work of another group of stakeholders who are willingly giving their time and energy to assist LPS with its work surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion through our Engagement in Equity efforts. While groups of staff have been involved in exploring challenges and opportunities for growth in DEI for several years, we are excited for the next chapter of our book to be written. We know that a primary goal in our district is to ensure that every student feels academically, socially and emotionally supported and has a true sense of belonging in our schools and programs. Our DEI efforts are supporting this and I am grateful for the many minds and hearts involved. We are truly better, together.

As we continue our forward momentum on these and many other fronts, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents, staff, community members, for being the “ink” that allows us to write our story on the pages of this new 365-day book. Let's write something amazing, together, for 2023.

My sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Oquist'.

Andrea Oquist, Superintendent

CELEBRATING OUR OWN

In Livonia Public Schools, it is a more than 40-year tradition to recognize staff who go above and beyond for our students, staff, and community.

In keeping with tradition, we sought nominations in the spring for our 2022-2023 Educator and Support Staff of the Year. As is typical, we received dozens of wonderful nominations from our students, parents, and staff!

The following exceptional staff members were selected by a committee in November and will be celebrated throughout the remainder of the school year. Please enjoy the following snippets describing each of these very special people.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: BETH WRIGHT



Elizabeth Wright is a fourth-grade teacher at Grant Elementary School. She is in her sixth year in Livonia Public Schools and she received two nominations from parents for this recognition.

Beth is described as a teacher who is truly in-tune with the needs of her students, differentiating where needed and communicating thoroughly with parents. She builds and maintains relationships with students and she strives for her classroom to be a supportive environment in which students are encouraged to be themselves and accept others for doing the same. She uses student growth data to drive success in her classroom and students typically work very hard to achieve their academic goals. She is a teacher who knows the strengths and weaknesses of every student in her classroom and works to make them successful and confident learners.

SECONDARY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR ANGELA ALLEN



Angela Allen is a science teacher in the gifted and talented program called Middle School Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (MACAT) program at Frost Middle School. She is a 24-year veteran teacher with Livonia Public Schools and is known for her many contributions in curriculum and assessment at the district level and for her dedication to the success of her students both academically and socially. Often described by her students as their “favorite teacher, ever!” Angela provides a challenging academic environment for her students while instilling a community mindset that reaches outside of the walls of the classroom. Teaching and growing “the whole child,” Angela connects with students in a compassionate way and allows them the emotional space to be inquisitive, make mistakes and learn in a supportive classroom environment.

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SECONDARY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: MARILEE OLSEN



Marilee Olsen is a 23-year veteran vocal music teacher who leads choirs at Emerson Middle School and Franklin High School. In addition to directing multiple choirs, Marilee serves as music director for musical productions at Emerson and Franklin; serves as the music department chair at Franklin; serves as director of the Franklin Choir Boosters; organizes annual trips to New York City, Mackinac Island and other destinations for her students; leads an annual community music tour during the holidays, during which time her students perform at local senior citizen facilities, local businesses and more. Her students experience much more than music instruction – her choir room serves as a safe space for students to feel welcomed, cared for and included in the “choir family.” Marilee’s teaching philosophy centers around “making every day a day of growth and change in a student’s life.”

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SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR: APRIL ADAMS



April Adams is a special education paraprofessional who has served in the role at Cleveland Elementary School for six years.

April works one-on-one with students who need extra support throughout their school day. She is described as a staff member who has a “heart of gold” and is a kind, thoughtful, positive role model for her students and her colleagues. Greeting students with smiles and hugs each day, April’s impact reaches beyond the students with whom she directly works. She is known throughout the school by students as someone who is supportive, caring and willing to help. April’s colleagues say she is a wonderful example of how to build positive relationships with students and families. She enjoys seeing students’ confidence grow as they realize they can be successful in a classroom setting.

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, 2023, 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 February 21 at 6:00 p.m. The link for the meeting is available at www.livoniapublicschools.org/youngfives. Registration for Young Fives begins online on March 1.

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
- Parent Education Programs



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)

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 www.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 K-12 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 hlau@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 hlau@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.

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.

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, 2023.

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 should be included with the interest form.

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

#LIVONIAPRIDE

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

School closure information is communicated through:

- **Our website:** www.livoniapublicschools.org
- **Social Media:** Facebook.com/LivoniaPublicSchools and Twitter @LivoniaDistrict
- **Phone/Email:** **Be sure you have an updated email address and phone number on file so you will receive district notices.** Check with your child's school secretary to ensure your information is accurate.



DO YOU HAVE A SOCIAL MEDIA POST YOU WOULD LIKE US TO SEE? USE #LIVONIAPRIDE OR TAG US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, AND INSTAGRAM @LIVONIADISTRICT.

DIALOG

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

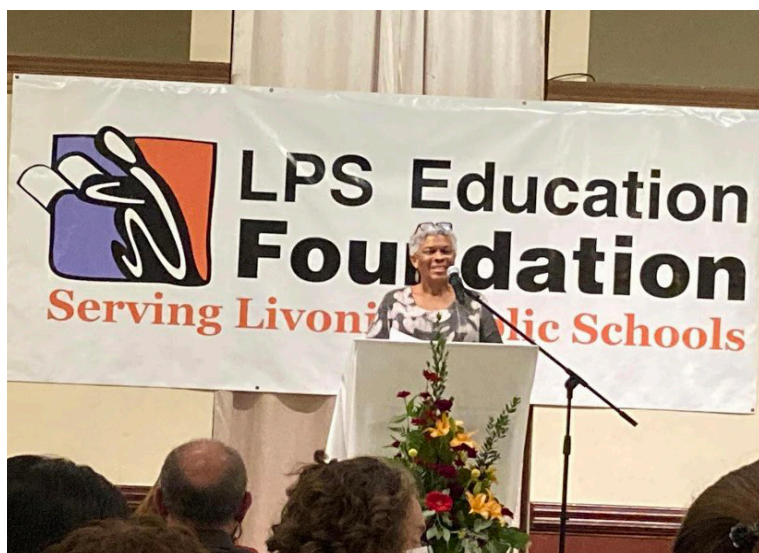


LPS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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.



www.lpsfoundation.org



Every famous person was once a child.
And, every child can grow up to be famous.

It's that simple theory that former journalist Rochelle Riley explored during her time at the podium as the keynote speaker at the 12th Annual LPS Education Foundation luncheon fundraiser in late November.

Current Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Detroit and author of two books, Riley said she believes in changing the idea that children are taught that their futures have limits. "We need to change the dynamic," she said. "All children can

be taught that they can be great – because every famous person was once a child."

As a syndicated columnist for nearly two decades, Riley has been known as a child advocate, among other special interests that include the arts, social justice and the City of Detroit. In her book, "That They Lived: African Americans Who Changed the World," Riley and co-author Cristi Smith-Jones combine classic black and white photos of young children, Lola and Caleb (Riley's grandson) dressed as famous African Americans who made an impact on America and the world, with biographical information about each notable figure.

The children are depicted as famous black Americans such as Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglass and Barrack Obama, with the premise that even famous people were children once. "Children are everything," Riley told the crowd at the luncheon. "We need to see each other like children. Remember, keep the main thing the main thing – and that main thing is children." Luncheon attendees, including master of ceremonies Robb Drzewicki, enjoyed Riley's message and even said they would soon be meeting up for a good meal as new "besties." The luncheon, attended by nearly 200, is the LPS Education Foundation's main fundraiser of the year and helps fund the Foundation's Competitive Edge Savings Program for LPS kindergarten students who go on to graduate from an LPS high school.

For more information about the Foundation, visit lpsfoundation.org.

**BUY OR LEASE A VEHICLE, AND
\$200 WILL BE DONATED TO THE
LPS EDUCATION FOUNDATION.**

**Bill Brown Ford 734-421-7000
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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 734-744-2500 Ext. 42150.



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ECRWSS EDDM
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LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kindergarten registration opens Feb 1!

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY AT
WWW.LIVONIAPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG/REGISTRATION

Kindergarten
Information
Night

APRIL 12, 2023

6-7 p.m. at your child's
assigned school

Niji-Iro application
window currently
closed



Young Fives

For children age 5 between
July 1 and September 1, 2023

No-Cost, half-day program
housed at Jackson Center

livoniapublicschools.org/YoungFives



Don't know your assigned school?

Send us an email at registration@livoniapublicschools.org.
Please include your address in your message.

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