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**Students for Life**

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## Message from Superintendent Rob Ridgeway



We are in the people business. We do not make things, we do not sell things and we do not worry about profits. We inspire; we instruct; we lead.

As I reflect on recently released test scores from the spring I am dissatisfied they do not reflect the herculean effort I witnessed over the past eighteen months. The scores do not show we are leaders in education. We are so much better than our scores reveal. Some will point to the pandemic to justify the scores. While it may be true that learning and educating during the pandemic was hard - for students, families, and schools alike - it does not account for how schools across the nation and world faced the same challenges and succeeded, if not excelled.

We surpassed state averages in some areas, yet many scores hovered at or near state average. We must guard against lowering expectations just to get by during this difficult time. We need to ensure best efforts of ourselves and of one another. While I suspect there are many variables, both universal and individual, as to why we find ourselves in the middle, this I know for sure - I am not satisfied with being average. We are so much more than average.

Why not us? Why not Harper Creek? Why can't we be the best – the leader among our city schools, among the county and state? Of course we can. We have all the talent and tools we need to be the best, and we all have our role to play. This is our call to action. We must rally together - school community and community at large - to put emphasis on excellence, to approach school and academics like athletes approach their sport, with the same fervor with which we approach our passions - be it music, art, or even video games.

The road to excellence may be paved with rigor, but we are not unaccustomed to hard work. The pandemic isolated and divided us causing us lose sight that we are all members of the same team – you, me, teachers, staff members, students and their families, and community members. This is our call to reunite, to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, to stand together for our students. Why not us, indeed. With partnership and pride let us be the leaders in learning and excellence. We are Harper Creek Community Schools. We lead not follow; we do what is right, not easiest.



## Wattles Park LEADers

By Mr. Swan, Principal

It has been a great start to the school year at Wattles Park. Every morning at Wattles Park, students and staff begin reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the Wattles Park LEADer's Pledge: We at Wattles Park pledge to:

- L**ead by example
- E**ncourage kindness
- A**ct Respectfully
- D**o the Right Thing

With many of our students coming back to in person learning after 15 months of virtual learning, students have been getting used to being together at school again. Friendships have been renewed, routines have been re-established and procedures have been relearned by students.



# Beadle Lake Elementary

## Beadle Lake Leaders

Mrs. Nneka Daniels, Principal, Beadle Lake Elementary

Beadle Lake students have been working really hard to be leaders and set examples inside and outside of school. We are leading in the hallway and walking responsibly and setting an example for others. We are leading in the cafeteria by using the appropriate voice level, cleaning up our area and walking as we transition to the playground. We are leading by encouraging kindness when new students join our school. The best part about this leadership is that we catch kids doing these things all the time. Beadle Lake students know what it means to Lead by example. Encourage kindness. Act Respectfully and Do the right thing.



# Sonoma Elementary





# Harper Creek Middle School

## Harper Creek Middle School HoCo Carnival

By Melissa Barnes, Harper Creek Middle School

The Harper Creek Middle School 6th Annual Homecoming Carnival was a huge success. Beautiful weather and a lot of volunteers made for a fun evening for students and adults. Highlights were the dunk tank, where students had the chance to dunk their favorite teacher. A petting zoo, which had calves, a goat, a miniature horse and chickens. Lots of midway games, cotton candy, sno cones, and hot dogs made for the perfect carnival. A huge thank you to all our volunteers who helped.

Melanie Baker  
 Chanel Baldwin  
 Kirsten Birdsall  
 Kelly Chapin  
 Molly Consley  
 Ashley & Brian Crackel  
 Kalyn Critchlow  
 Chad Dishaw  
 Matt Ellenwood  
 Cindy Fredenburg  
 Andrea Fronsman

April Hansen  
 Harold & Kathy Haulman  
 Jen Herney  
 Erica Jenkins  
 Nicole Johnson  
 Katie Koch  
 Amy Markos  
 Steven Maske  
 Brian McManus  
 Sheryl Morris  
 Kim Mowry

Sue Myers  
 Mercedes &  
 Michael Nichols  
 Jason O'Farrell  
 Abby Osborn  
 Penny Osborne  
 Mary Kay PesseB  
 Ricki Reiman  
 Alissa Renner  
 Adam Ries  
 Brady Robinson

Tammy Schneider  
 Amy Smith  
 Paige Thompson  
 Michele Tooman  
 Brenna VanDuser  
 Everlyn VanValkenburg  
 Chelsea Warner  
 Tammy Warnicke  
 Christina Wert  
 Jamie Whitmore  
 Tucker Wilson  
 Anna Winter  
 Donald Wirtz  
 Abby Yancer  
 Heidi Yarger



## Ticket Booth Named for Honorees

By Ed Greenman, Athletic Director

This fall the athletic department through our Board of Education paid tribute to Norma Krutch and Linda Irish by naming the ticket booths at the football field after them. Both individuals were bus drivers for the district and also took tickets at athletic events for over 30 years. They were the face of Harper Creek whenever you came to an athletic event and did a wonderful job for us, so it was only fitting that the district named the two ticket booths in their honor. Thanks Linda and Norma for all that you have done for Harper Creek.





## LEADing at HCHS

By Dennis Anthony, Principal,  
Harper Creek High School

What does it look like to LEAD at Harper Creek High School? Like most schools, HCHS has embraced many new approaches to educate as a result of the last several months. Pandemic teaching and learning has accelerated the rate of

change for many practices, but has not changed the basic tenets of our roles as educators - to educate, empower and equip our students. LEAD time is one new approach HCHS has utilized to accomplish this purpose.

HCHS has for many years utilized a modified “skinny” class period to facilitate supports for students. As a result of learning around PLC (Professional Learning Communities) and recognition that our previous model was not producing the desired impact on student learning, HCHS staff members revamped the model to be more responsive for interventions in the newly coined “LEAD” class. Adopting principles of LEAD - Lead by Example-Encourage Kindness-Act Responsibly-Do the Right Thing, our staff has been working to model and reinforce these principles each and every day in these modified block classes.

HCHS staff continues work to develop assessments that accurately measure what students know, and also help identify students in need. LEAD time is intended to provide students opportunities to receive targeted interventions while also working with HCHS staff to work on goal setting, reflection, and demonstrate the important real-world skills of Citizenship/Culture, Collaboration, Communication, and Creativity & Critical Thinking. When combined with the hard work of our staff to provide quality curriculum and instruction, and the work of students to demonstrate their learning, we are hopeful the principles of LEAD can transform the culture, the teaching, and the learning of our building.

## Harper Creek Professional Learning Community – PLC

By Laura Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

As we move into the month of fall we are deep into seasonal change, transition is very evident as leaves change color and fall to the ground. Here in our district we are also in transition. As an organization we are transitioning to a professional learning community, which is a learning community that is highly collaborative and data driven. A necessary element of that transition requires us to release early on Wednesdays so that grade level and content level teams can meet together weekly. Here are a few frequently asked questions about the PLC culture (source: All things PLC):

### What is PLC?

A professional learning community is an ongoing process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. Professional learning communities operate under the assumption that the key to improved learning for students is continuous job-embedded learning.

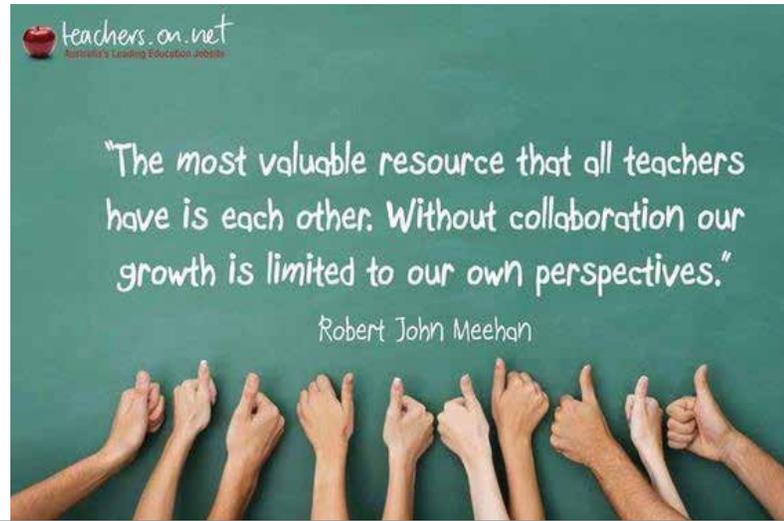
### What research supports the PLC process?

The Professional Learning Communities process is increasingly recognized as the most powerful strategy for sustained, substantive school improvement. Dozens of researchers and organizations have documented the results and advocated for PLC implementation, and the school data in Evidence of Effectiveness shows its success in schools and districts in varying size, demographics and location.

### Who decides how teams use their time during early release?

Our district and school leaders have established clear parameters and priorities that guide the work of our teams toward the goal of improved student learning. This includes the teams using achievement data to drive their priorities using the four questions: 1) What is the priority learning for this unit? 2) How will we know our students have learned it? 3) How will we support students when they haven't learned it? 4) How will we stretch our learners when they have learned it? The professionals on each team monitor their own progress using reflection tools provided.

As we navigate the pandemic, it is more important than ever that we are crystal clear on the priority learning for our students and it is imperative that we work collaboratively to share instructional strategies that are producing results. If as parents you are unclear on the priority of learning for your child, please reach out to your child's teacher(s) and ask so that you can come alongside us as we make this transition to a better way of doing school. We are so eager to collaborate with you too!



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## Harper Creek Community Schools Calendar of Events

November 8	Board of Education Meeting	7:00pm	HC Administration Building
November 10	Early Release Wednesday		
November 12	Half Day of School for Students End of Trimester – Elementary Schools		
November 17	Early Release Wednesday		
November 24	Half Day of School for Students		
November 25-26	No School		
December 1	Early Release Wednesday		
December 7	Middle School Holiday Band Concert	7:00pm	High School Auditorium
December 8	Early Release Wednesday		
December 9	Middle School Holiday Choir Concert	7:00pm	High School Auditorium
December 16	High School Holiday Band & Choir Concert	7:00pm	High School Auditorium
December 13	Board of Education Meeting	7:00pm	HC Administration Building
December 20-31	Holiday Break – No School		
January 3	School Resumes		
January 10	Board of Education Meeting	7:00pm	HC Administration Building
January 14	End of Quarter – Middle School End of Semester – High School		



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

All of us can be the eyes and ears of the community and ensure that our children are safe. Everyone—students, staff, parents, and community members—is encouraged to report potentially harmful or criminal acts using OK2SAY.

To submit a confidential tip:

- Call 855-565-2729
- Text 652729 (OK2SAY)
- Email ok2say@mi.gov
- Download the Mobile App search OK2SAY
- Visit the OK2SAY website at [www.ok2say.com](http://www.ok2say.com)



Harper Creek Educational Foundation  
Give • Grow • Achieve

[www.bccfoundation.org/fund/hccsef](http://www.bccfoundation.org/fund/hccsef)

The sole purpose of the Harper Creek Educational Foundation (HCEF) is to generate and distribute resources to Harper Creek Community Schools for scholarships, enrichment programs, and educational projects.

If you would like to donate or leave a legacy call Rob Ridgeway at 269-441-6555 or contact any HCEF Board Member.

### 2021 HCEF Board Members

Jeff Adams	Rob Ridgeway
Beau Bess	Barry Smith
Shawn DeYoung	Nate Smith
Deb Evans	Harold Vaive
Tina Kyger	Laura Zalle, BCCF Staff
Tina McNeil	