

# HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS *Newsletter*



EDUCATE • EMPOWER • EQUIP  
**Students for Life**

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- Jim Robinson, *Facilities*
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## Message from Superintendent Rob Ridgeway



Growing up an Athens Area Schools Indian, never would I imagine I would come to liken myself to a large, semiaquatic rodent with buck teeth, but here I am. While I was not born or raised in Harper Creek, in my heart I truly am a Harper Creek Beaver. I admire the rich heritage of the Harper Creek community and appreciate we are unique, a community school - the cornerstone. Whether you are fond of our mascot or not, we surely personify its qualities. We are not afraid of hard work, do not sit idly by, and like our mascot, we transform our landscape. Indeed, we lead not follow, doing what is right not easiest.

Navigating the pandemic was certainly challenging but together our community persevered and triumphed. As I reflect, I am thankful for the benefits and lessons learned and shall incorporate them into the educational blueprint to our bright future. Let's consider and celebrate these positives as we build our 2021-22 school year.

Communication. Indeed, improvements in communication is a positive that must be celebrated. We found new ways to communicate with our students, families, and community, from relaying information to critical two-way conversations. Communication apps and video conferencing allowed the flow of transparent, relevant education. Improvements to the district website and webpages, increased use of Facebook, Instagram, and Zoom enhanced our partnerships with families and stakeholders. We discovered better avenues for student and parent voices to be heard through targeted and open surveys, as well as direct conversations with teachers, staff members, principals, and administrators. We will keep these improvements and build upon them.

Technology. While technology was paramount in pandemic communication, it was indispensable in the day-to-day delivery of instruction. Without technology, education would have become severely obstructed. We were in the process of instituting a one-to-one device program and in response to the pandemic the timeline for the project veered from a steady stream to whitewater rapids, quickly providing portable devices to students, teachers, and staff members. Among the many lessons learned last year, technology reigned paramount and continues to be integral in our educational plan.

Technology and communication were not the only lessons learned. We found that while rote skills have their place in education, it is more important to learn concepts and develop critical thinking skills. Through distance learning we rediscovered the need for creativity, flexibility, and alternatives in education. Moving forward we enthusiastically encourage work experiences and off-campus opportunities such as community college, vocational pursuits, online classes, and exploring career pathways.

As for the 2021-22 school year? We will offer 100% in-person learning five days a week for all students K-12 complemented by a full slate of athletic and extra-curricular activities. Masking is recommended but not required in school buildings and on campuses, however, masks may remain mandatory on school buses. We safeguard student and staff rights to wear masks and will ensure no stigma is attached. It is crystal clear that social-emotional needs must be met to reacclimate students still struggling with isolation, and dedicated staff members are ready to support emotional wellbeing and social development. It goes without question we will continue good handwashing and respiratory etiquette, and sanitizing and cleaning protocols, including the regular use of Clorox 360 cleaning machines.

We look forward to the 2021-22 school. We are eager to see you in the buildings, at events, and enjoying competitions – it has been a complete calendar year since we have cheered on and celebrated together. Welcome back as we explore the transformed educational landscape. It is good to have you home.

## Wattles Park Elementary



## Welcome Back, Wattles Park Students!

By Brent Swan, Principal, Wattles Park Elementary

Our 2021-2022 theme is Ready, Set, Grow! The staff at Wattles Park Elementary is eager for our students to return for a year of outstanding learning and growth. Our mission to Educate, Empower and Equip is done through providing a safe and nurturing environment and partnering with parents and the community.

### News from Chef Ruemanapp

Breakfasts and lunches are free for all students for the 2021/2022 school year regardless of financial status. That's correct! Breakfasts and Lunches are free for all regardless of financial status.

- Standard breakfast includes: Breakfast Entrée, Fruit and Milk
- Standard lunch includes: Lunch Entrée, Fruit, Vegetables and Milk
- Milk is available for students who choose to bring their lunches from home at a cost of 55¢
- Ala cart items will continue to be charged to student accounts. Yes, ala cart items will still be charged to accounts. Milk alone is an ala cart item.
- Even though meals are free families need to complete the 2021-22 free and reduced meal application at [lunchapp.com](http://lunchapp.com). Paper applications are available at all the schools and at [www.HarperCreek.net](http://www.HarperCreek.net).

# Harper Creek Educational Foundation and The Beaver Boosters' Annual Golf Outing is Saturday, October 2, 2022

## SAVE THE DATE





## Welcome Back, Beadle Lake. We Missed You!

Mrs. Nneka Daniels, Principal, Beadle Lake Elementary

The 2021-2022, school year will be full of **learning**, **exploration** and **growing**. Beadle Lake is a place where we make good friends, do kind things, and choose joy every day. The Beadle Lake team is looking forward to your arrival! We hope that everyone got the opportunity to do everything they wanted to this summer. We hope this included running, playing, reading, swimming, resting and lots and lots of dreaming! Our Principal, Mrs. Daniels, will be sending out information to you soon. Check out all the cool pics we took last year. We will have many more opportunities to have fun as a Beadle Lake family this year. **We'll see you soon!**



## Resilient and Full of Efficacy – Belief in Self

By Laura Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

As we round out the summer moving into August and the start of school, we find ourselves ready to go back to our new normal, yet uncertainty looms to some extent. Uncertainty summons stress and stress has the potential to tear down even the strongest relationships. The challenge before us is to regularly check in on the health of our relationships with all of those we engage with throughout the day. By checking in we can together build resilience.

**“Resilience is the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.”**

I would like to lift up all involved in our summer school programming. They are a prime example of resilience and efficacy! Our students who attended, all of our staff who worked through the summer to help them to continue to grow and learn, our families who sent their children, our partners: Sherman Lake YMCA staff, Binder Park Zoo staff, and What a Do Theater staff. The work that was done this summer is nothing short of amazing and is an excellent example of resilience in action and efficacy.

Resilience



This year we will continue to work to make sure we are an organization where everyone feels like they belong. We will be learning and reflecting on our own competencies that need to be in place to help us to continue to grow and learn together as LEADERS. Cheers to another upcoming year where we will continue to improve and show up for each other in a positive way.



Come see us at the  
Calhoun County Fair  
August 17, 2021!



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   |                         |



# Sonoma Elementary



## Thankful for Our Community

By Mrs. Shalen King-Short, Principal, Sonoma Elementary School

Community is what makes this school district so special. With a new year approaching, Sonoma wants to give a big-shout out to the Harper Creek Community.

Victory Life Church continues to support Sonoma Elementary by donating material and giving of their time. This year they donated and poured new sand into the sandboxes, as well as painted new lines for Four-Square and Hopscotch on the playground. They also cleaned up the playground and around the building. VLC didn't stop there. Inside the building, they donated materials for a chalkboard wall in the sensory area. They also redecorated the staff lounge to remind the staff how much their hard work is appreciated.

Craft Photography helped us by creating banners to promote our LEAD mission of Lead by Example, Encourage Kindness, Act Respectfully and Do the Right Thing. These banners will be hung throughout the school to support students and staff in our commitment to being LEADers this school year.

With community support through fundraisers, our Sonoma students will get to enjoy a new rock wall in the gym. It is up and built and we are so excited to use this new tool to support health and wellness with our students!

Lastly, a big shout out to families who took the time to bring students to our Discovery Camp, it was a big success and the students enjoyed participating in the Big Zoo Lesson at Binder park, along with What a Do theater.

Thank you to all our community members who worked tirelessly to help us prepare for an amazing 2021-2022 school year.



## Save the Date!

### 5th grade WEB Orientation

Open to all incoming HCMS 5th grade students  
**Friday, August 20th**  
**8:00 AM-Noon**

# Harper Creek Middle School



## Welcome Back!

By Mrs. Kim Thayer, Principal, Harper Creek Middle School

Harper Creek Middle School is excited to welcome all of our students back for the 2021-2022 school year! We are so looking forward to school this year.

We feel very fortunate that our middle school families trust us and value the importance of in-person instruction. We will continue to work hard to ensure the safest environment for our students.

Harper Creek Middle School staff will also evaluate each child individually to determine if additional support is needed to ensure they are at grade level by the end of this school year.

Please feel free to stop by or call, we are open and ready to help!

### 5th grade:

Every year we hold a 5th Grade WEB Orientation! This year it will be on Friday, August 20, 8:00 AM-Noon. In-district transportation is provided. The families of incoming 5th grade students will receive a letter with details.

### 6th grade:

For some students, this will be the first time some students will be learning in the building. We will make sure you are welcomed and feel at home. You have camp and rockets to look forward to!

### 7th grade:

Making the transition to the other side of the building includes more elective choices and sports opportunities! This is the year to grow into the leaders of the building.

### 8th grade:

Welcome to your last year in middle school. The staff is committed to ensuring you are ready for high school and look forward to partnering with you to L.E.A.D. Harper Creek Middle School in the 21-22 school year.

- L**ead Respectfully
- E**ncourage Kindness
- A**ct Responsibly
- D**emonstrate Safety



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## 2021-2022 Calendar

Secondary Meet the Teacher Night.....	Wednesday, August 18
Elementary Meet the Teacher Night.....	Thursday, August 19
First Day of School.....	Monday, August 23
Full Day, No Early Release.....	Wednesday, August 25
Full Day, No Early Release.....	Wednesday, September 1
No School.....	Friday, September 3
No School.....	Monday, September 6
No School.....	Friday, October 15
Half Day of School.....	Friday, November 12
Half Day of School.....	Wednesday, November 24
No School.....	November 25 and November 26
Full Day, No Early Release.....	Wednesday, December 15
Winter Break.....	December 20 - December 31
Half Day of School.....	Thursday, January 13
Half Day of School.....	Friday, January 14
No School.....	Monday, January 17
Half Day of School.....	Friday, February 18
No School.....	Monday, February 21
No School.....	Friday, March 25
Spring Break.....	March 28 - April 1
Full Day, No Early Release.....	Wednesday, May 25
No School.....	Monday, May 30
Half Day of School.....	Wednesday, June 1
Last Day of School, Half Day.....	Thursday, June 2

Meet the Teacher Night  
 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
 HS/MS: August 18  
 Elementary: August 19

High School Student Hours		Middle School Student Hours		Elementary Student Hours	
Full Day	7:45 AM - 2:50 PM	Full Day	7:40 AM - 2:40 PM	Full Day	8:45 AM - 3:40 PM
Half Day	7:45 AM - 10:50 PM	Half Day	7:40 AM - 10:43 PM	Half Day	8:45 AM - 11:55 PM
Early Release	7:45 AM - 1:40 PM	Early Release	7:40 AM - 1:30 PM	Early Release	8:45 AM - 2:30 PM



# Harper Creek High School

## High School Update

By Dennis Anthony, High School Principal

Harper Creek High School is excited to begin the 2021-22 school year! Many district staff members have been hard at work this summer preparing the physical and academic settings for the year ahead. As is the case each year, there is some important information we would like to share with you to help ensure a great start.

All high school students and their families are invited and welcome to join us for our annual Open House and Meet the Teacher on August 18th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Student Schedules, locker assignments, school-picture order forms and other important information will be available. The cafeteria will also be open to make deposits into student lunch accounts, and the transportation department will be available as well.

All **new** students and **incoming 9th graders** and their parents/guardians are invited to our High School Orientation, at 5:30 p.m., also on August 18th. Parents, 9th graders and new students will meet in the high school auditorium for a brief introduction and overview of Harper Creek High School. Immediately after the orientation, new students may pick up their class schedule, tour the building and meet the teachers.

It has never been more important to fulfill the mission placed upon us by our board of education to Educate, Empower and Equip our students. The challenges of 2020-2021 demonstrated that we can do it best by remaining flexible in our approach, but steadfast in our commitment to our students and community. Our community can support us by supporting our most valuable resources, our students and their teachers, to give their best throughout the upcoming year. You can start by joining us for the Meet the Teacher and Open House on Wednesday, August 18th, at 6:00 p.m. Also, please continue to communicate with us and check for information on our webpage at [hs.harpercreek.net](http://hs.harpercreek.net).

### NON DISCRIMINATION

Harper Creek Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities.

The Board also does not discriminate on the basis of Protected Classes in its employment policies and practices as they relate to students, and does not tolerate harassment of any kind.

Equal educational opportunities shall be available to all students, without regard to the Protected Classes, age (unless age is a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any legitimate objective of the program/activity), place of residence within the boundaries of the District, or social or economic background, to learn through the curriculum offered in this District. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students. For more information on this policy and all Harper Creek Community Schools policies at [www.neola.com/harpercreek-mi/](http://www.neola.com/harpercreek-mi/)

### STUDENT PRIVACY AND PARENTAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Harper Creek Board of Education respects the privacy rights of parents and their children. No student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning: political affiliations or beliefs; mental or psychological issues; sex behavior or attitudes; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships; legally recognized privileged relationships; religious practices, affiliations or beliefs; or income

Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal.

Additionally, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum of the student, including reproductive health and family planning programs. The term does not include academic tests or assessments. For more information on this policy and all Harper Creek Community Schools policies at [www.neola.com/harpercreek-mi/](http://www.neola.com/harpercreek-mi/)

### INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

Harper Creek Community Schools operates a pest management program in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This program shall also include implementation of an IPM awareness program. All persons applying pesticides on District property shall hold appropriate State certification and be approved by the District IPM Coordinator. Parents may request submit a request for prior notification of pesticide application by submitting a written request sent to the attention of Jim Robinson, Facilities Director, 7454 B Drive N, Battle Creek, MI 49014. Forms are available on the District Website or from any school office.

### NOTIFICATION

Parents/Guardians have the right to request notification before any pesticide application is made to school property. In case of emergency,

- Pest control services will be provided in the District on the first Tuesday of each month, or as needed.
- TruGreen services will be provided at the high school, middle school and administration campus on weekends, as needed. Notifications will be posted on all grounds upon application.

For more information on this policy and all Harper Creek Community Schools policies at [www.neola.com/harpercreek-mi/](http://www.neola.com/harpercreek-mi/)

### BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

As required by Federal law, parents will be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV, HBV, and other blood-borne pathogens when the child has bled at school and students or staff members have been exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality. For more information on this policy and all Harper Creek Community Schools policies at [www.neola.com/harpercreek-mi/](http://www.neola.com/harpercreek-mi/)

### USE OF TOBACCO

Harper Creek Community Schools prohibits the use of tobacco products on District premises (owned or leased), in District vehicles, at all school sponsored events and in all school buildings owned and/or operated by the District

### WEAPON-FREE ZONE

Federal law establishes a Weapon-Free Zone that extends 1,000 feet from the boundary of any school property.

## Link Crew of Harper Creek High School

# Invites the Class of 2025 to Link Crew Ninth Grade Orientation

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021**

**7:45 AM**

in the High School gymnasium.

Email Mrs. Gardner at [Gardnerr@HarperCreek.net](mailto:Gardnerr@HarperCreek.net)  
for more information

# BACK TO SCHOOL



Harper Creek High School Gymnasium

12677 Beadle Lake Road

**Tuesday, August 17, 10:30 AM – 5:30 PM**

**For students Kindergarten – 12th grade**

**On-site Application**

Must bring parent's photo ID and Bridge or WIC or Medicaid