From the Superintendent's Desk:

I am honored to be an advocate for the great things happening at Greenville Public Schools. We have amazing staff who focus on every student, every day. We are very proud of the growth we are seeing academically, socially and emotionally. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to our community for its commitment to our students through the raising of the bond, which has allowed for several upgrades throughout our district. It has been a very busy year of construction, but we have also been busy implementing goals associated with our new strategic plan.

District Strategic Plan 2.0
Accomplishments & Goals in Progress:

- Hired a K-12 Career Advisor (who has already provided classroom lessons, career-related trips and created career-readiness partnerships with 23 companies and organizations)
- Implementation of Developmental Kindergarten
- Implemented six (6) certified Career and Technical Education classes
- District-wide training of Restorative Practices to reduce suspensions
- Implemented several marketing initiatives
- Providing mental health support to students and staff, including a direct-service partnership for students with Spectrum Health
- Developing a long-term financial plan for the next 10 years

I am excited to say there is much more to come! The bond renovations for GHS and the GMS Cafeteria will begin during Spring Break 2020, starting with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) area and will begin during Spring Break 2020, starting with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) area and will begin during Spring Break 2020, starting with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) area and will begin during Spring Break 2020, starting with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) area and will begin during Spring Break 2020, starting with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) area. The bond renovations for GHS and the GMS Cafeteria will begin during Spring Break 2020, starting with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) area and the performing arts center. It’s a great time to be a Yellow Jacket!

Linda Van Houten
Superintendent

**Change**

- K-12 Chinese Immersion
- Anti-Bullying and Positive School Culture
- Exemption Options for Middle School PE
- Safety and Security
- Athletic Programming
- Curriculum Evaluation
- Key Communicator

Ongoing evaluations of programs and services will continue to challenge us to be better and to provide and improve our opportunities for students every day. If you are interested in participating in a school-wide task force, please let us know as we always welcome anyone to help us plan for the future of Greenville Public Schools.

**GMS Cafeteria Remodel Set to Begin**

Ken Poor, Food & Nutrition Director

**Why We Need You to Fill Out Your Census 2020**

Public schools rely on accurate census count numbers to fund numerous educational programs. These programs include Head Start, special education and Title 1 funding. In order for our schools to receive the funding necessary for these programs, we need your help in completing the census questions. Historically, newborn babies and children under the age of 5 have been undercounted in the census count, which has an effect on our schools and programs we can provide. In addition, accurate census count numbers are vitally important to our breakfast and lunch food-service programs. A healthy breakfast and lunch are critical for our students to find success in the classroom. Helpful food assistance programs for our students can only be funded properly with this census data collection.

**Save the Date**

**AUGUST 5, 2020**
4:30PM-7:00PM

**GHS Yellow Jacket Stadium**

AUGUST 5, 2020
4:30PM-7:00PM

**GHS Yellow Jacket Stadium**
What is Developmental Kindergarten?

Developmental Kindergarten (DK) is a program that allows students to develop the prerequisite academic, social and emotional skills needed for success in kindergarten. The goal of the DK program is to provide a transition year during which a child can learn and grow in a carefully planned environment to support his/her academics and social, emotional and physical skills before entering the rigorous demands of kindergarten.

DK is a full-day program that provides the same full-day schedule as kindergarten. Students will be taught by a highly-qualified, certified teacher and will take part in lunch, specials classes (art, PE, etc.), recess and other school events. Students will be exposed to the kindergarten standards through a hands-on, play-based approach.

Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten?

If your child will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2020, they are eligible to enroll in kindergarten. Below is a checklist parents can use to gauge if Developmental Kindergarten or Kindergarten is the best placement for their child. A student does not need mastery of all the listed skills to be ready for kindergarten. This should rather be a reflection of what would make your child’s first year a success and build his/her confidence and abilities for a successful academic career.

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist:

- Can your child write his/her own name?
- Can your child identify the basic colors?
- Can your child name all of the uppercase and lowercase letters?
- Does your child know all of the letter sounds?
- Can your child listen to a story and retell it what it was about?
- Can your child read a picture and tell a story that matches?
- Can your child rhyme?
- Can your child separate easily from a parent?
- Can your child share with others and take turns?
- Can your child sit and work on a task for a duration of 15 minutes or more?
- Can your child follow a multi-step direction?
- Can your child count up to 20 objects and tell how many there are?
- Can your child tell time through analog clocks?
- Can your child use a multi-step instruction?
- Can your child follow a multi-step instruction?
- Can your child draw a picture and tell a story that matches?
- Can your child rhyme?
- Can your child separate easily from a parent?
- Can your child share with others and take turns?
- Can your child sit and work on a task for a duration of 15 minutes or more?

TECHNOLOGY - Bond Update

Laura Pleune, Director of Instructional Technology

We are nearly complete with our bond technology upgrades in the elementary buildings. Our PreK-2nd grade classrooms are using CleverTouch interactive boards, which allows students to manipulate items on the board and become centralize in their learning. Our 3rd-5th grade classrooms have a wireless presentation system, which the students can use as well as the teachers. Collaboration among the students and the ability to interact as large or small groups have increased engagement in the classrooms. All classrooms have updated audio with compatibility for sound from the Chromebooks and a teacher microphone.

Other updates included:
- Announcement panels throughout the building.
- Security camera replacement and additions.
- Media Center audiovisual updates.
- Infrastructure throughout the buildings.

Our elementary classrooms will also be receiving new Chromebooks; carts will be ready for use this coming fall. After much planning, we are ready to launch the next phase of the bond at GHS and GMS Cafeteria. The upgrades will include:
- New audio and visual equipment in all classrooms, cafeteria, A.F. Allender Gym, weight room, Legacy Learning and more.
- New security cameras.
- Announcement panels throughout the building.
- CTE upgrades.
- New audiovisual and security cameras at GMS as well.

We appreciate all of your continued support. Our students and staff are courageously moving our district forward utilizing the new technology to communicate, collaborate and engage in learning!
**What Is DECA?**

Kelly Roney, GHS Marketing Instructor & DECA Advisor

Greenville High School students are fortunate to have the opportunity to learn about the field of marketing and the option to apply their skills by joining DECA, a career and technical student organization.

DECA is an international association of marketing students with over 225,000 members. DECA is designed with programs to address the learning styles, interest and focus of its members. DECA’s tagline states, “DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.”

Although DECA was created for students interested in business careers, many students who will pursue other degrees can also thrive through the opportunities DECA provides in applying knowledge of all content areas while challenging creative and problem-solving skills through role-plays, case studies, projects and leadership experience.

Within Montcalm County, GHS has the only high school DECA program. Our chapter is made up of 65 students and one advisor. We participate in community service activities, school and community outreach programs, leadership events and competitive conferences. As a member, students can participate as much or as little as they prefer. Some students choose to participate in community and leadership events while the majority love the competitive aspect of the organization.

DECA hosts three levels of competition: district, state and international. Students must qualify in their chosen event in order to move on to the next level of competition. Since 2000, GHS has qualified students to compete at the international level 19 out of 20 years. Participating in DECA allows students the unique opportunity to interact with business professionals creating a network of potential future employers. It provides its members with a competitive edge whether going directly into the workforce or continuing their education. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Kelly Roney at GHS or visit www.deca.org or www.mideca.org.

**JOB SHADOW**

A Job Shadow is an experience where a student shadow’s an employer, but they do not perform any work. A job shadow usually lasts anywhere from a couple of hours to a full day. Job shadows may be arranged through Amanda Butler, GPS K-12 Career Advisor, at butlera@gpsmi.us.

**WORK-STUDY**

Students without IEP
- Paid & student works flexible hours
- Students seek out work-study opportunities with employer
- 16-17 year olds – up to 24 hrs/week & 18 year olds - unlimited hours
- Student provides own transportation

Educator/Coordinator: Kelly Roney
roneyk@gpsmi.us

**WORK-BASED LEARNING**

Students with IEP
- Unpaid & student works 2 hours during school hours
- Teacher seeks out employment opportunities for students
- School district provides transportation
- Focuses on communication, responsibility, teamwork, building resilience and promoting independence

Educator/Coordinator: Jenna Olenaeck
olenaeckj@gpsmi.us — 616.225.1000 ext. 8215

Work-based learning is a great way for students to learn through experience. Participating in a work-based learning opportunity can help students get a taste of a career while learning transferable workplace skills. At GHS, work-based learning takes on a few different looks. Students can choose to participate in Job Shadows, Work Study or students with special needs can participate in Work-Based Learning.

**What Is Robotics?**

Students at Baldwin Heights worked together to accomplish a goal (shoot balls into a portal) during each qualification round.

GMS
- The GMS Innovative Solutions class provides students an opportunity to build and program robots using Lego Mindstorm EVO robot kits.
- Students work in small teams to program robots to use motors to move their robots and sensors such as touch, light and ultrasonic sensor to respond to their environment.
- The Lego Mindstorm kits were purchased with a grant from the Education Foundation of Greenville.
- GMS also recently started an Intro to Robotics Club to give students the opportunity to explore and gain hands-on experience building and coding KNEX robots.
- This five-week club will allow students to work collaboratively to trouble-shoot and design a robot that can navigate through obstacles on a map.
- The next offering of the GMS Intro to Robotics Club will begin in March. With the help of a generous donation from a local company, four additional robot kits will be purchased, which will allow more students the opportunity to participate.

GHS
- The Robotics GHS team, known as the RoboJackets, is in its third year and will participate in the 2020 FIRST Robotics Competition, “Infinite Recharge.”
- The team will be part of a three-team alliance working together to accomplish a goal (shoot balls into a portal) during each qualification round. The alliance with the highest score wins and moves on to the next round. The RoboJackets will be active in about 12 rounds of competition at the First In Michigan (FIM) District Competition at St. Joseph High School and our second competition will be at Grand Valley State University.

**Junior Achievement**

Michelle Blaszczynski, Assistant Superintendent

Junior Achievement (JA) is an organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on learning.

Thanks to Greenville Area Community Foundation (GACF) grant funding as well as generous donations from local businesses, Greenville Public Schools has been able to exponentially increase opportunities for our students and spread this program across Montcalm County.

Volunteers from our community deliver the curriculum while sharing experiences with students.

Students in elementary through high school learn real-world lessons about how to generate and manage money, how to create jobs that makes their community more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace.

**DISTRICT-WIDE ROBOTICS OPPORTUNITIES**

**Baldwin Heights**

At Baldwin Heights, students are introduced to robotics using Ozobots as easily as kindergarten with the help of 4th and 5th grade students. When they enter 5th grade, 36 students have an opportunity to go through a 9-week course where they learn the use the Dash robot to explore programming further. Some groups within that time frame will complete the program they use with Dash and begin using Lego Mindstorms to further their programming experience. Funds for these experiences came from DonorsChoose.org for a PTTO and other grant money.

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**School Board Student Representative:**

Anna Thompson - Junior

The School Board Representative position for GPS plays a key role in establishing and maintaining communication between the student body, Board of Education, and ultimately, the community as a whole. Sharing student activities, successes and issues with the Board from a student’s perspective helps the Board to make decisions that aid in the success of all students. The Student Board Representative is the voice for the students to the Board, who is there to help our schools thrive. I am excited and humbled to be this year’s Student Representative and I hope to encourage GPS to be even more successful and continue thriving.
We’re an OK2SAY School!  
P: 855.565-2729  
Text: 652729  
www.mi.gov/ok2say

OK2SAY is a student safety initiative available to Michigan students in grades K-12 that enables students to confidentially report potential harm or criminal activities aimed at students, teachers, staff or other school employees. The program is operated through a partnership between the Department of the Attorney General, Michigan State Police, state agencies, schools, parents, law enforcement, and community leaders.

Anyone can confidentially submit tips 24/7 using the OK2SAY app, online at www.ok2say.com, text 652729 (OK2SAY), or by calling 855.565.2729.

We all live by these core values:

- INTEGRITY
- COLLABORATION
- COMPASSION
- RESPONSIBILITY

The event includes a timed 5K run, non-competitive one-mile walk, and free children’s fun runs. It is USATF certified and endorsed by the Michigan Fitness Foundation. The 2020 YJC is supported by 24 sponsors and community partners plus over 100 volunteers. Proceeds benefit the Education Foundation of Greenville (EFG) and are used for wellness programs throughout Greenville Public Schools. YJC partners with Spectrum Health to host the IM Running race series featuring Greenville’s four 5K races. Up to 3000 total runs and includes a $5 discount per race. Registration for the race series is available online only and includes a $5 discount per race.

Race Highlights Include:
- Electronic timing
- Run through the tunnel
- Finish line on Legacy Field
- USATF Certified

TO REGISTER OR FOR INFO:
www.yellowjacketchallenge.com

Reg. fees before April 10: 5K run $20 / Walkers $10
Reg. fees after April 10: 5K run $25 / Walkers $10

Children 5th grade & younger may walk FREE. Shirts are included with a paid registration only. Young Yellow Jacket Fun Runs are free and do not require pre-registration.

YOUTH (ages 7-19) and ADULTS (16 & up) are encouraged to participate in the Tri Greenville Sprint Triathlon & Duathlon on May 30 at Baldwin Lake Beach. The elementary and secondary school that has the highest percentage of participants will win the Tri Greenville Travelin’ Trophy. Not quite ready to participate? Sign up to volunteer! To register or for more information, contact the Greenville Area Recreation and Community Center at 616.754.9163 or visit www.trigreenville.com.

Food & Nutrition Department

Greenville Public Schools serves breakfast and hot lunch at all of our buildings every school day. Universal Breakfast is provided district-wide and free of charge for every student who wishes to participate. Prices for lunch are $2.75 for the elementary and middle schools and $3.00 for the high school. All students at Cedar Crest and Walnut Hills elementary schools will receive free lunch since they have recently qualified for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program.

- www.stopmoneyschool.com is the provider for our student meal deposits. You will need your student’s ID number.
- www.greenville.remitme.com is the department’s online menu tool. Download the app at Google Play or the Apple store. (Search “Spectrum Schools Lunch by Nutrition”).
- www.lunchbox.com is our online meal application, or pick up an application in school offices to apply for free/reduced meal.

If a doctor has determined your child has dietary restrictions that prevent him/her from eating a regular school meal, substitutions will be available at no extra charge. The doctor’s statement, including diet and/or required substitutions, must be submitted to the Food & Nutrition Department at the school the student attends. You can print a copy of the Medical Statement form by going to the district website at www.gpsjackets.org. Click on Departments, Food & Nutrition, Forms.

Charge Policy: The policy of GPS is that students who have no money in their account may go into debt on their accounts up to $10. At no time will students be denied meals. Students may not purchase a la carte items if their account is not current. For more information or questions, contact Kate Bradley at bradleka@gpsmi.us or 616.225.1000 ext.8219.

The Board of Education generally meets in the Community Room at the Central Services Facility, the second Monday of each month at 7:00PM. The public is welcome.

For a complete schedule, please visit www.gpsjackets.org.

No person shall on the basis of race, creed, sex, religion, national origin or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program activity or employment by the Greenville Public Schools.

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