



ADDISON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

219 Comstock • Addison, MI 49220

The mission of Addison Community Schools is to provide a well-balanced curriculum and learning environment, supplemented by enriching experiences in order for all learners to be successful.

January 28, 2020

Dear Addison Parents and Community Members,

Time flies! We are already half way through the school year. This letter is to inform you all of important district topics and upcoming activities.



It is always a pleasure to recognize our school board members, Jim Driskill, Lisa Gramm, Lisa Houghton, Christine Kennard, Mike Murphy, Rick Meyer, and Jim Woodcock. Board members volunteer their time to meet regularly to support and promote our educational vision and mission. Responsibilities include knowledge of state and federal laws, district budget, athletics, district policies, student achievements, as well as daily operations of the facilities. January is School Board recognition month. Thank you to Addison Community Schools Board of Education for their dedication to our students, staff, and community.



Bond Sale Saves Addison Community Schools Taxpayers \$1.07 million dollars!

Addison Community Schools announces savings of \$1,071,456 in debt service costs over the next fifteen years by refinancing outstanding bonds. Taking advantage of favorable interest rates in the current bond market, the district issued \$4,850,000 in lower interest rate bonds to replace higher interest rate bonds issued in 2010. The school district is continually looking out for the interest of taxpayers. In the same way home-owners may have refinanced mortgages, low interest rates available in the current municipal bond market offered Addison Community Schools an opportunity to achieve similar savings.



Addison Community Schools will be starting school before Labor Day, for the 2020-2021 school year. The first day of school for students will be Monday, August 24, 2020. The yearly calendar will be posted on the schools webpage soon.



On Monday, January 27, 2020, Addison Community Schools Board of Education chose to look for other options than arming staff. The safety committee will continue to look for ways to keep our students safe.



Addison will be hosting a kindergarten round-up on April 16, 2020 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm in the high school auditorium. If you have a child who will turn five by September 1, 2020, he/she is eligible to attend kindergarten. Students who turn five between September 2, 2020 and December 1, 2020, may still attend kindergarten with a signed waiver. Addison offers kindergarten and Young 5's, which are both full days, from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. Our Young 5's program is designated for our youngest incoming students. At kindergarten round-up, parents will have the opportunity to learn what our elementary has to offer, while students enjoy a classroom experience as well as a short bus ride! If you have any questions, please contact the elementary office. We always enjoy meeting our newest Panthers!



The decision to cancel school due to inclement weather is not taken lightly. Delays and cancellations are determined by current road conditions as well as state and national forecasts. While decisions are not always well-received, the safety of our students, parents, staff, and bus drivers is and will remain our utmost priority. If the situation arises when school is in session, but a parent determines the commute to be unsafe for their child, students will be excused upon a parent phone call. This absence will not be counted against your child.



Another measure Addison Schools will be implementing to ensure the safety of students is the installation of the Raptor Visitor Management System. This system allows schools to screen and track every individual who enters the building, including contractors, vendors, guardians, substitute teachers, and volunteers. With the Raptor system, the school will be able to access the sex offender database and any other custom database, including banned lists. This screening is instant, so the front desk employees will immediately know whether a person entering the building is safe. If a visitor is determined to be dangerous, instant alerts will be sent to designated personal. Once an individual is approved, each visitor receives a printed badge with their name, photo and reason for visit. By requiring visitors to wear a badge, staff can quickly determine if an individual received approval to enter the building. Please be prepared to provide a license or state identification for a one-time scan.



Social media sites such as Facebook allow our district to highlight the work and accomplishments of our students, staff and coaches. It is also a mode of communication to our community for upcoming events and cancellations. Occasionally this venue receives negative feedback and comments that unfortunately often have incorrect information. Parents and community members are encouraged to contact the school directly in order to voice any concerns and receive accurate information.



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Addison Community Schools is fortunate to employ two behavioral specialists, Ms. Monica Flores and Mrs. LuAnn Hurd. All year both Ms. Flores and Miss Lu have been readily available to meet and work with students to support social-emotional learning. They have addressed anti-bullying, self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Research suggests that social emotional learning opportunities improve classroom behaviors, increase self-confidence, increase test scores, and improves attitudes about school and interactions with others. Evidence also has determined that social-emotional interventions decrease aggressive behavior, emotional distress and conduct problems.



Scholarships and FAFSA!

February is a critical time for seniors to be completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and their scholarship applications. These two types of financial aid go hand-in-hand and provide both “free” and low-interest money to afford education after high school. Seniors should complete these by following the steps below.

Step One: Make a FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov.

Step Two: Complete the FAFSA Application at fafsa.ed.gov using your FSA ID.

Step Three: Check scholarships at colleges they are considering attending.

Step Four: Apply for Lenawee County Educational Foundation (LCEF) scholarships at www.lisd.us/career-college/lcef/scholarships/. There are over 124 scholarships on the LCEF scholarship portal that students can apply to using one application. (If you live in Hillsdale or Jackson counties there are additional scholarships available as well through their respective community foundations.)

Step Five: Check with Miss Deneau frequently to see what Addison community scholarships are available.

If students and their families need any assistance, Miss Deneau and Mrs. Davis are available at the high school to help!

Important deadlines: The state of Michigan FAFSA deadline is **March 1**. The Lenawee County Educational Foundation Scholarships are due **February 28, 2020**.



NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) testing is a computer adaptive test that our students' take two to three times per school year. The results provide teachers with information to help them deliver appropriate content for each student and determine each student's academic growth over time. MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) growth measures what students know, regardless of their grade level. It also measures growth over time, allowing us to track your student's progress throughout the school year and across multiple years. Teachers can use the score to inform instruction, personalize learning, and monitor the growth of individual students.

Principals can use the scores to see the performance and progress of a grade level, school, or the entire district. After each MAP growth test, results are delivered in the form of a RIT (Rasch Unit) score that reflects the student's academic knowledge, skills, and abilities. Think of this score like marking height on a growth chart. You can tell how tall your child is at various points in time and how much they have grown between one stage and another.

The RIT (Rasch Unit) scale is a stable, equal-interval scale. Equal-interval means that a change of 10 RIT points indicates the same thing regardless of whether a student is at the top, bottom, or middle of the scale. A RIT score has the same meaning regardless of grade level or age of the student. You can compare scores over time to tell how much growth a student has made. If you would like to see your child's NWEA results please contact your building Principal.



Science Olympiad - This year we are pleased to announce that our middle school has a Science Olympiad team. The team is made up of 6th-8th grade boys/girls and is coached by Krista Surratt. The team practices three to four times a week preparing to compete in various scientific disciplines, including earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. The team recently competed in the Hudson Invitational and medaled in Food Science. They are hoping to compete on February 8, 2020 at the Sylvania, OH Invitational and plan on bringing home more medals.



Addison FIRST Robotics Team 8394 is making history at Addison High School. This is the first team to compete in FIRST Robotics at Addison High School. The team is very excited to get started, even though they are a rookie team this year, they believe they can achieve a lot. FIRST Robotics provides high school students with the opportunity to design, build, and program a robot for competition. Furthermore, this program is building skills in leadership, communication, and developing an important background in CAD development, programming, and fabrication. This program has had a significant impact on culture. FIRST Robotics has grown to over 3,000 teams in 70 different countries. How can you and/or your business become involved? There are many ways, all of which are rewarding to your business and the students. To learn more about how you can support Addison FIRST Robotics, please Contact Darek Whoolery at 517.257.0388 or addisonpanthersrobotics@gmail.com with any questions or to discuss sponsorships.



Influenza is commonly known as “the flu”. It is an infectious disease caused by an influenza virus. Symptoms can be mild to severe. The most common symptoms include; high fever, runny nose, sore throat, muscle and joint pain, headache, coughing, and feeling tired. These symptoms typically begin two days after exposure to the virus and most last less than a week. The cough, however, may last for more than two weeks. If your child does come down with the flu please use your best judgement and keep them home to get well.



The Addison Community Schools Drama Department is performing “Shrek”. Here is a summary of the storyline: once upon a time, in a faraway swamp, there lived an ogre named Shrek whose precious solitude is suddenly shattered by an invasion of annoying fairy tale characters. They were all banished from their kingdom by the evil Lord Farquaad. Determined to save their home -- not to mention his -- Shrek cuts a deal with Farquaad and sets out to rescue Princess Fiona to be Farquaad's bride. Rescuing the Princess may be small compared to her deep, dark secret. The play will be on Friday, February 28, 2020 at 7:00 pm and Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 3:00 pm in the high school auditorium.



Addison Community Schools has multiple opportunities for students to be involved in sports. At the elementary level there several sports and travel teams that are organized outside the school’s athletic department. Starting at sixth grade students have an opportunity to participate in wrestling, cross-country, and track. Seventh and eighth grade students have the following sports to choose from: cross-country, football, track, wrestling, volleyball, cheerleading, and basketball. High school sports to choose from are: cross-country, football, track, wrestling, volleyball, basketball, sideline cheer, competitive cheer, bowling, and golf. Students may also participate in a cooperative hockey league. This spring we are piloting a clay target club. Our sports teams have been competitive in a very tough Cascades Conference. We have had success in track, as back-to- back MITCA state champions, Cascades football champions, competitive cheer success, and individual track and wrestling all-state athletes.



Addison Community Schools continues to offer our very own classic rock radio station, 957 The Panther. With the supervision of Mr. Mike Ingels, students who are enrolled in our radio broadcasting class have the opportunity to cover sporting events, play-by-play as well as school activities. Tune in or check us out at <http://www.957-thepanther.com> .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read “Steven Guerra”.

Steven Guerra
Addison Community Schools Superintendent

