



## Gibraltar School District

19370 Vreeland Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183    www.gibdist.net

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's a great feeling to say we made it through the 4<sup>th</sup> week of school! Whether your student is in LVS or is face to face, I know that it has not always been easy, but together we are accomplishing great things!



Although Homecoming week will look very different this year, the staff and students at CHS are committed to making it as fun as possible! The Carlson Student Council is doing all it can to provide as many “normal” experiences as it can for students during the pandemic. CHS is thrilled to announce that this year they will be having a spirit week with themed days like normal. They are also having a homecoming court with a king and a queen. They cannot wait to enjoy homecoming spirit week; themed Board Games Week!

As a reminder you can watch the football game and band performance at the link provided on the CHS Facebook page. Our Digital Media class students, with the support of teacher Patrick Morrow have been doing an outstanding job with live streaming the game for us every Friday night!

If you are on Twitter or Facebook, please check out our official district social media sites and our individual building social media sites to see all the innovative and exciting activities our students and staff are doing in the areas of STEM, 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning, and supporting positive social-emotional learning in our classrooms around the district. Additionally, research shows that a happy brain is a brain that can problem solve better, complete tasks more effectively and leads to a more successful life. In Gibraltar, we are continuing our focus on the work by Shawn Achor, called the Happiness Advantage. Promoting positivity will enhance our student's academic ability and develop them into happy and positive thinkers and leaders. Over the course of this year, you will continue to hear about “spreading the orange” and the Happiness Advantage. I look forward to continuing to share our positive journey with you.

Your Partner in Education,  
Amy Conway  
Superintendent

### Spark's Corner



Research shows that being happy and positive primes the brain to be more successful and productive. Promoting positivity will enhance our student's academic ability and develop them into happy and positive thinkers and leaders. Each month we will highlight a building or staff member that is spreading “The Orange” (Happiness) through Gibraltar!



The students and staff at Parsons showed their pride on September 18th by dressing up and talking like a pirate throughout the school day. The day began with a special announcement from Captain Scheetz on the P.A. system. Throughout the day, the students read stories about pirates and even told some pirate jokes.



September 18th is designated as National Talk Like a Pirate Day. The co-founders of this date decided that people should have a chance to dress like and talk like a pirate-even if it is just one day. This date has now become an annual favorite celebration day for all of the pirates at Parsons. There were plenty of smiles behind all of the masks as they once again celebrated their school pride!





## Parsons Has an Exciting Start to the School Year



We are only a month into the school year and there has been a lot of excitement and learning already happening at Parsons Elementary.

The school year began with all of their scholars walking into the front doors on a red carpet that was rolled out just for them. Every student was also greeted by a team of Superhero teachers who were wearing capes and smiling behind their masks. The theme for the school year is Superheroes Save the Year!

One of the new additions to the school this year is the Safety Superhero Zone also known as the SSZ. This is a designated area in the front of the school that has been roped off and reserved for students only. It was created to help with social distancing and to keep outside visitors out of the area.



On Thursday, September 18th, the students at Parsons celebrated Constitution Day by wearing their red, white and blue clothes. Every grade level also participated in an instructional lesson that centered around the United States Constitution.



The masks and dividers have also not stopped them from learning this year. They are reaching new heights as they tackle challenging math problems and participate in daily guided reading groups.

During the month of September, the families were also able to participate in a Virtual Back to School Night which allowed them to have the virtual experience of being in the school by clicking on the different icons throughout the building.

## Hunter Elementary



The Hunter staff knew that many things would look different when the school year started this fall but students' need for positive behavior support did not change. The Hunter PBIS Team worked over the summer to create new visuals for all of the Hunter classrooms. The visuals support team-based processes for community building, problem solving, planning, and student social-emotional support. The new PBIS visuals help create a safe and productive learning environment where teachers can teach and all Hunter students can learn.



## Downriver STEM @ Weiss



Weiss Elementary School is thrilled to add Ms. Friedrich as our teacher in our Cognitively Impaired program. Ms. Friedrich completed her student teaching in the Gibraltar School District at Parsons Elementary School in the Spring of 2020. She did an amazing job in this position and was a highly sought after teaching candidate upon graduating. Before joining Weiss, Ms. Friedrich earned her degree in Elementary Special Education with an endorsement in Cognitive Impairment from Central Michigan University. Working with children that have special needs has been a calling for Ms. Friedrich since she was a kid.

This calling began when a neighbor very close to Ms. Friedrich was diagnosed with autism. Ms. Friedrich had a passion for helping her neighbor and even volunteered many hours in their classroom. Weiss is truly lucky to add another caring and loving adult to our Wildcat team!

## **Chapman Elementary**



Ms. Wertanen's 4th Graders take reading to self and reading with a partner to a whole new level. The students loved being outside and getting some fresh air while at the same time taking part in a very important part of literacy, building reading stamina!



## **Transportation**



Almost a month into the 2020-2021 school year and the Transportation Department is running smoothly. We are extremely proud of our students and appreciate all the support from our GSD staff and families for following the rules while riding their bus. Our second bid day is October 7, 2020 and there might

be some changes with different drivers on the routes. If there are any changes with times, we will advise you at that time. Also, School Bus Safety Week is October 19-23, 2020.

We are hiring bus drivers, so please call or come in and fill out an application at our Transportation Department, 28291 Fort Street, Trenton MI 48183 (734) 379-6370.

## **Curriculum and Instruction**

Our staff has been working hard to build classrooms and learning experiences for our students in our new remote learning management system, [Schoology](#). We are using Schoology in grades 3rd-12th as platform for teachers to create, deliver, and manage their content, as well as monitor participation and assess performance among learners, whether classes are face to face or remote. Starting this coming week, schools will be distributing Parent Access Codes, which will be sent home with your child(ren). These access codes will allow parents to create an account within Schoology, which will give parents full access to see assignments and grades for your child(ren). Along with the Parent Access Code will be a link to a wealth of parent resources to help parents learn to navigate Schoology effectively. Watch for more information to come!

