



## Gibraltar School District

19370 Vreeland Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183    [www.gibdist.net](http://www.gibdist.net)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have now completed almost two months of school and that means it is parent-teacher conference and report card time! Communication between home and school is crucial, especially this year and we encourage all parents to be as involved as they can be in their child's education. Checking your child's grades, reviewing report cards or progress reports, and zoom meeting with your child's teacher during conferences is a great way to stay connected with your child's progress and know their areas of strength and areas that might need to be strengthened. Ask your child's teacher ways that you can support your child at home and ways the school can support them if they are struggling. Keeping up with your child's **official** building's Facebook page and Twitter accounts will also help you stay "in tune" to what amazing learning opportunities your child is experiencing every day and events that are going on at the school or during virtual school.

Also, don't forget to vote on November 3! Please click on the link to learn more about the Wayne RESA Regional Enhancement Millage Renewal. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=977770262709181>

Please read below to see all the outstanding things our students and staff are doing to make Gibraltar Schools a great place to be!

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!

### Chalk the Walk



On Monday, October 5th, the team and scholars at Parsons kicked off their annual 21 day Kindness Challenge by wearing lots of orange. During the month of October, the students were given a specific daily challenge to spread kindness in their school or within the community. Some of the challenges this year included learning five new things about someone in their classroom, writing letters to the residents at Gibraltar Manor and finding positive quotes about kindness.



This month Parsons took spreading kindness to another level. Mrs. Villa challenged the school to "Chalk the Walk" on October 21st and October 28th during our virtual Wednesday. Students drew pictures and wrote kind messages on the sidewalks throughout their neighborhoods. Some clever students even surprised a teacher in the neighborhood and wrote uplifting messages on her sidewalk. We look forward to doing this challenge multiple times throughout the school year.

## Lakeshore Virtual School

LVS would like to recognize our **October Students of the Month**. Each Student of the Month characteristic is based off of our acronym LVS Pride. Our first letter, **L**, represents **Leadership**. These students have shown leadership at LVS by being on progress or ahead in their classes. They have taken ownership of their learning by always reaching out for help in their classes, attending and participating in teacher/mentor zoom meetings, and are consistently on time with their mentor contact attendance each week. We are extremely proud of these students and are thrilled to recognize them as our Students of the Month for Leadership.



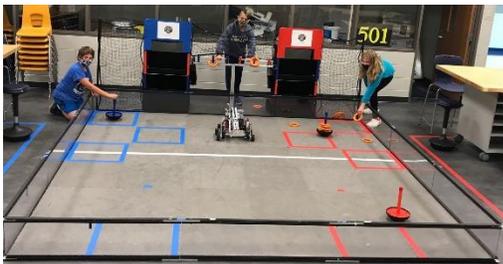
Congratulations to: Grace Brehmer, 1st grade, Cayden Pugh, 5th grade, Alyssa Williams, 6th grade, Chace Crawford, 7th grade, Ben Ingram, 10th grade, Katie Cooper, 11th grade

## Athletics



Winter sports are scheduled to begin on time. Competitive cheer and girls basketball start November 9th. Boys basketball starts November 16th. Bowling and wrestling also start on November 16th, while boys swim starts November 23rd. Hockey gets the early jump on all winter sports and starts November 2nd. This year we welcome Trent Begeman as our head hockey coach and Paul Morrison as our head boys basketball coach for their first seasons at the helm. Good luck Marauders!

## SMS Robotics is Gearing Up for the 2020 - 2021 FTC!



It's robotics season at Shumate Middle School! Shumate Robotics officially began its fifth season of competitive FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) robotics at the beginning of October 2020. This year's FTC game is called Ultimate Goal, and the game focuses on autonomous programming, collecting and shooting plastic rings, hitting targets, and moving goals. Shumate Robotics is fielding three different teams this year - Team 12249 - Terror Hawks, Team 12303 - Hacker Hawks, and Team 12459 - Gibraltar Jedi. There are 26 robotics

students (seventh and eighth grade) enrolled for fall competition season, and our teams are led by coaches Jeff Bouwman, Matt Maher, Mike Stepaniak, Shivam Patel, and Shlok Patel. Currently, our robotics students are very busy prototyping and constructing their robots in our new state of the art STEM Lab located at Shumate Middle School. Students have an amazing build space, all the needed building resources, a 3D printer, and a full size arena for testing and practicing. Best of luck to the Terror Hawks, Hacker Hawks, and Gibraltar Jedi. Have a great robotics season! [#GettingScienceDone](#)



## Gibraltar Food Service



Free Meals! USDA is covering the cost for all meals during COVID-19 for all students this school year through June 2021. You are not taking it away from someone who needs it more, so please encourage your child to take a meal.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

*Hot* food rolling out on the November menu for all schools.



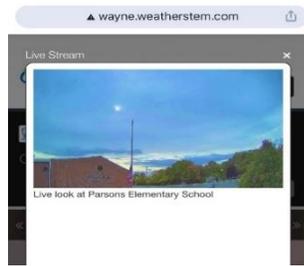
Parsons Lunch Aides have been decorating students' lunch bags with positive messages and pictures, bringing good vibes and good food.

## Carlson High School

Forensics students at Carlson High School were tasked with investigating a simulated crime scene last week. This included securing the scene; determining search strategies; and collecting direct and circumstantial evidence to determine what may have occurred. Throughout this semester, they will also learn to analyze fingerprints; blood and handwriting samples. This upperclassmen group of future detectives plan on diving into cyber activity as well, as the world of crime evolves around us.



## Check out the Clouds at Parsons!



We are proud to announce the installation of the third WeatherSTEM cloud camera now located at Parsons Elementary! Our new camera was launched on Thursday, September 29, 2020, and it works directly with the WeatherSTEM weather station and two cloud cameras located at Carlson High School and Shumate Middle School. This initiative was a collaborative effort orchestrated by Mrs. Villa and Mr. Bouwman, and our camera was funded by the generosity of Facebook's Gibby Spin led by Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Holbdy. Gibraltar students now have three different and exciting views of real time weather. Our system also received an upgrade to provide live weather and the best daily cloud videos. The Gibraltar School District became WeatherSTEM's Michigan

flagship in 2016 as the first WeatherSTEM station in the state of Michigan was installed on the Carlson/Shumate campus. Per Mr. Edward Mansouri (WeatherSTEM CEO), "WeatherSTEM is thrilled to be working with the Gibraltar School District to enhance science instruction at the elementary, middle, and high school levels by adding live weather data and video to STEM lessons." We would like to thank our learning community for helping fund our new weather camera. Additionally, we'd like to once again thank WeatherSTEM for providing the Gibraltar School District with best weather readiness technology, live time data, social media platforms, and weather learning modules. Please visit our weather website - <http://wayne.weatherstem.com/gibraltar>. Select "Cameras" to check out our amazing views! #GettingScienceDone



## Hunter Elementary- Young Fives Virtual Field Trip to the Fire Station



The local fire department was not able to visit our school this year due to Covid 19. Young Fives students always look forward to meeting the fireman, learning fire safety and taking a look at the fire engine. No worries our students did not miss out. Young fives experienced a virtual field trip to the fire hall. Students were able to have an inside look at a day in a firefighter's life. They were able to see the tools and trucks up close and learn many important fire safety skills. The children learned how to dial 911 in case of an



emergency. They also practiced what to do if you catch on fire STOP, DROP and ROLL. The boys and girls in young fives made fire dog puppets named Sparky. They will use Sparky to continue to spread the word on fire safety to their family and friends. Each Young Fives student left Hunter with their very own fire safety hat thanks to Hunter school dad Firefighter Carter. Their enthusiasm to spread fire safety is sparking knowledge in our local community.



## **Downriver STEM @ Weiss**



Weiss was thrilled to have Author, J.H. Reynolds, remotely “stop-by” for a visit this past month. J.H. Reynolds has written four stand-a-lone, kid-friendly, scary books called Monster Street. Well-known author, R.L. Stine has called J.H’s books “Fast, Funny, and Frightening”. It was awesome for our students to see J.H’s journey to becoming an author which started while he was in elementary school. During his visit, our students were able to interact with J.H. Reynolds and ask him many questions. We

want to give a huge shout-out to our media clerk, Mrs. Hughes, for helping to set up this engaging experience up for our Wildcats.



## **Chapman Elementary**



A very special thank you to Rockwood’s Fire Chief Mercure and the Rockwood Fire Department for visiting our kindergarten and first grade classrooms during Fire Prevention Month. The Chief and his firefighters visited each class individually and shared important information with our littlest people. They demonstrated a house smoke detector, convinced Mrs. DeLucia to suit up in all the gear and demonstrated how it would sound if a firefighter had to come into their house to rescue them. Having this positive community connection with the Rockwood Fire Department and the Police Department, teaches our students the importance of knowing they are here to always help us! Stop, Drop and Roll!



## **Special Education**

We have been provided with a fantastic opportunity through Wayne RESA and The Statewide Autism Resource and Training (START) Project to participate in Intensive Training this year. The START Project is autism led, but the practices that work for students with autism also work well for many other students. The training includes five modules focused around research based best practices to support students with autism in school. Gibraltar is sending a team of educators to learn about topics such as Educational Supports and Strategies for Students with ASD, Peer to Peer Support for Students with ASD, Positive Behavioral Supports and Strategies for Students with ASD as well as IEP Development and Implementation and Foundations in ASD and the Teaming Process. You can learn more about the START Project [here](#). Our team is excited for the opportunity to learn and bring the information back to their peers to help support all students.

## **Transportation**



Beginning November 2, 2020 through December 15, 2020 the Gibraltar Transportation and Maintenance Departments will be conducting their annual “Fill the Bus” food drive. The bus will be located at the Transportation Building, 28291 Fort St. Donations may be dropped off Monday through Friday 6:30 am to 4:30 am. We will be collecting non - perishable food items and daily essential supplies. All donations go to the Gibraltar Food Pantry. Should you know of a family in need, please contact the Transportation Department. Thank you for your continued support to our annual “Fill the Bus” food drive and have a wonderful holiday season.

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

## **Curriculum and Instruction**

Our staff and students have continued to utilize our new learning management system, [Schoology](#). We are using Schoology in grades 3rd-12th as a platform for teachers to create, deliver, and manage their content, as well as monitor participation and assess performance among learners. Earlier this month, schools distributed Parent Access Codes, which were sent home with your child(ren) as well as emailed through our mass communication platform. These access codes allow parents to create an account within Schoology, giving parents full access to see assignments and grades for your child(ren).



Parent access to Schoology allows you to see much more than you could see on Mi-Star Parent Portal, including whether an assignment was turned in and what that assignment looks like. This is a powerful feature to allow parents and teachers to better partner in supporting student learning. Parent access is especially important in the event we transition to periods of remote learning. While a transition to remote learning is never planned, when it has happened in our district and others, there is never a lot of lead time.

Parents of students in grades 3-5 can obtain Parent Access codes from your child's teacher. Parents of students in grades 6-12 can call the main office or the counseling office to obtain your parent access code.

Below are a few resources to help parents get started with Schoology:

[Schoology Parent Video](#)

[Schoology Digital Print Resources for Parents](#)