

December 2023

In Touch

with the Beecher Community School District

Monte “Man Man” Morris Jersey Retirement

Monte Morris became part of an elite group of Beecher athletes. Friday, December 1, 2023. The Beecher Athletic Department retired the former student/athlete's jersey.

Morris, a 2013 Beecher graduate, currently plays for the Detroit Pistons. He became the fifth athlete in Beecher's history to have his number retired, and only the second basketball player.

He joins the ranks of Carl Banks (76) football, Lonnie Young (24) football, Courtney Hawkins (5) football, and Roy Marble (21) basketball.

Morris wore No. 11 at Beecher. The Basketball team all wore the number 11 jersey during the



beginning of the game during the tip off. That number will never again be worn on the Mose Lacy Field House gym floor ever again.

The Jersey was unveiled during the event along with his picture in a trophy case that will be displayed with the other retired jersey in the Ira A. Rutherford Administration Building on the 2nd floor across from the Board of Education Room.

After the ceremony, Monte Morris signed autographs and took pictures with several Beecher students, and community members, including High School Principal Lance Sumpter.



In Touch

with the Beecher Community School District

Published for the residents of Beecher Community School District.



Board of Education

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Beecher Community School District Mission Statement

The mission of Beecher Community School District is to deliver excellence in education while empowering students to be successful in every area of their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy

In compliance with the Title V, of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Direct all inquiries along with Section 504 inquiries to Dr. Richard Klee, Superintendent, Ira A. Rutherford, III Administration Building, 1020 W. Coldwater Rd., Flint, MI 48505 (810) 591-9206, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, it is the policy of the Beecher School District that no person, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding discrimination. Direct all other inquiries to Dr. Richard Klee, Superintendent.

Administrative Staff

Beecher High School

Lance Sumpter	591-9281	lsumpter@beecherschools.org
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Dailey Elementary

LaShema Marble	591-9890	lmarble@beecherschools.org
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Beecher Adult

Donnetta Moore	591-9824	dmoore@beecherschools.org
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Alternative Education

Elayashia Kendall	591-9820	ekendall@beecherschools.org
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Early Head Start Ages 0-3

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State & Federal

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Curriculum

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Pupil Accounting/Student Services

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Personnel

Dee Ann Wilson	591-9204	dwilson@beecherschools.org
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Food Service/Sodexo

Eric Hindbaugh	591-9323	Eric.Hindbaugh@sodexomagic.com
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Business Office

Auyanna Dompheh	591-9865	adompheh@geneseeisid.org
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Head Start Program (GISD)

Melanie Briggs	591-9349	mbriggs@geneseeisid.org
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Important Phone Numbers

Beecher Community School District	591-9200
Beecher High School	591-9277 or 591-9241
Athletics	591-9254
Guidance	591-9279
Beecher Adult Education	591-9821
Dailey Elementary School	591-9357
Higher Learning Academy (Alt Ed).....	591-9820
Special Education.....	591-9867
Early Head Start	591-9806
Head Start Program (GISD).....	591-9349

www.beecherschools.org

Superintendent's Message...

Dear Beecher Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've undertaken together as a school community. The past several months have been filled with academic achievements, creative endeavors, and a collective commitment to nurturing the growth and development of our students.

We have received a \$10 million commitment letter from the Charles S. Mott Foundation to renovate, remodel, and reopen the old Beecher High School. It, along with state and federal funding and additional private donors, will let us move our 9th-12th grade students back to the building by Fall 2025. We also received an MDE grant for a Health Science Academy, which will allow our students to learn about the range of health careers possible and graduate with work experience and professional certifications starting in Fall 2024.

Our identification as a CSI school by the Michigan Department of Education has produced three broad goals that we are working diligently to meet.

1. Academic – raise proficiency in all areas and increase our graduation rate.
2. Whole Child – meets the social and emotional needs of all of our students.
3. Talent Management – attract, recruit, and retain highly qualified certified staff.

As the holiday season arrives, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support and collaboration we have received from every one of you. Your dedication to your children's education and well-being is truly inspiring, and it is this spirit of cooperation that makes our school district exceptional.

I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for a joyous holiday season. May this special time be filled with love, laughter, and moments of shared happiness. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or any other holiday traditions, I hope that the spirit of the season brings warmth and togetherness to your homes.

Thank you for being an essential part of our Beecher family. Enjoy the well-deserved break, and I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year, ready to embark on another year of learning and growth.

Happy Holidays!



Richard E. Klee, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Beecher Community School District

www.beecherschools.org

Why Choose Beecher?

We treat you like family! Beecher is the "Home of Champions" and we provide an environment that serves the whole child from our Early On Program through all grades and including adult and alternative education. Our teachers and staff care about your success!

Students enrolled will:

- Master core subjects
- Have a 2:1 Chromebook advantage (one at school & one at home)
- Feel safe and secure with all buildings having metal detectors and armed security guards
- Become strong achievers and leaders in the community
- Be career and college-ready at graduation with 40% of our eligible students attending Genesee Career Institute (17 programs provide experiential learning that can lead to immediate entry into the workforce upon completion of high school)
- Have access to no cost medical support at the RAHS Clinic

Beecher Community Schools is a 21st Century grant awardee and has a variety of supports including tutoring, enrichment activities and athletics to engage in afterschool. Students are offered early support focused on remediation as needed. The district also has a partnership with the Flint Center for Educational Excellence, Genesee Health System, and the University of Michigan which has the RAHS Health and Wellness Center on campus.

Students enrolled can:

- Participate in a wide variety of after school programs (academic, athletic and social)
- Be part of a student leadership team like the National Honor Society
- Be dual enrolled, earning high school & college credit with Mott Community College and the University of Michigan-Flint
- At Dailey Elementary have access to Music, STEAM, and PE classes
- At Beecher High School access to GenNET classes, participate in Art, Teenquest, GearUp, Upward Bound & Drivers Training on site
- Be a student athlete (football, cheerleading, track & field, boys and girls basketball, volleyball, and baseball)

Recent upgrades:

- New interactive Promethean Boards in every classroom
- New classroom furniture
- Updates in HVAC controls with central air conditioning and heating
- New doors, windows and sidewalks
- Alternative education at the Beecher Higher Learning Academy!

Coming attractions in Fall 2024:

- Coming attractions in Fall 2024:
- Opening of a renovated old Beecher High School into a 21st Century model school

Learn more about Beecher Community Schools by going to our website, Twitter, Facebook and Mobile App: <https://www.beecherschools.org>/ or call (810) 591-9200.



Achievement and Attendance

Achievement and attendance are on the rise at Beecher High School. To both recognize and celebrate the dedication of our students, BHS highlighted their accomplishments through convening a program. On Tuesday November 28, 2023 during 5th and 6th periods, honors assemblies were held to recognize student achievement in the following areas:

- Academic excellence
- Perfect attendance
- Most improved attendance
- Achievement on the NWEA, PSAT, M-STEP, and SAT assessments.

As it relates to the standardized assessments (e.g. NWEA, PSAT, SAT, and M-STEP), Beecher High School had a number of honorees. The stage was filled with greater numbers of students improving achievement on these exams. Interestingly enough, greater numbers of students achieved **advanced proficiency**! Additionally, many more achieved proficiencies on all four areas of a given test!

Owl Pellets

Owls cannot digest the fur, feathers and bones that they eat when they eat their prey. Examining these owl pellets can tell you what the owl ate. Owl pellets can be found underneath any tree that owls roost in. The owl pellets we are using have been treated so they are safe to handle.

Students have been discussing the different ways that organisms can interact and predator/prey is one of the most important. This activity is giving our students a chance to discover what kinds of things owls eat by dissecting an owl pellet.

Biology students spent one day pulling apart owl pellets and the next day identifying what their owl ate. The students found mouse skulls, rabbit skulls, a Norway rat skull, fur and feathers. One of the pellets had what looked like bird bones.



BHS Programming Competition 2023

On November 25th, four of our scholars from Computer Science class had the privilege and opportunity to attend and compete at the Eastern Michigan University High School Programming Competition 2023.

The students were given the experience of competing with other high schools in Michigan. It was an open competition where all high school students in computer science classes were invited to participate. They had both first-year programmers and second-year programmers (programming in separate categories) who competed. Teams competed in groups of two to three members. Each team was given a set of programs to complete in a three-hour time period. Our Beecher students were split into two separate teams.

Out of the 12 schools who competed, two schools, one from Kalamazoo and another from Ann Arbor won the majority of the awards in both beginner and advanced. Two additional schools won one award each.

Troy Marble, Barryonte Harris, J'hon Spiller and Dominique Moore all had a great time and a great experience competing, networking with other state computer science high school students and learning more about careers in computer science.

Hopefully when they compete next year more students can participate. Congratulations on a job well done. The students went into this competition with an open mind and not knowing much but left with a wealth of new information and knowledge and a genuine love for the computer science field. They are all now genuinely interested in computer science careers.

Shaun Wright-Verdun
Teacher, Beecher High School

Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead

Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead is primarily celebrated by the Mexican people. It takes place on the first and second day of November every year. It is based on a mixture of beliefs of the Catholic Holy days "All Souls Day" and "All Saints Day" and beliefs of the ancient Aztec beliefs about death and the afterlife.

Many Mexicans believe that the souls of their loved ones return these two days every year and they prepare for these visits with fervor. All the activities and rituals are directed toward leading the departed souls back to their side these two special days. Altars are built to display the favorite things of the deceased. These elements include favorite foods, favorite drinks, favorite mementos, pictures of the loved ones, burning incense, 'papel picado' to decorate, candles, and flowers—"Cempasuchiles/Flowers of the Dead/Marigolds."

The Mexican people go to the grave sites of their loved ones, clean them, and wait for the return of their departed loved ones. The students in Señor Fenton's Spanish 2 class were tasked with choosing a favorite picture of themselves, their favorite food, and a treasured memento. They were to explain how these things represent the unique person they are and why they would help to lead them back to the land of the living to visit with their relatives. They presented these favorite things to the class and explained how these things represented who they are and why they would want them on their altar to help them return for a visit with their 'living' relatives.

The students did an outstanding job and completed their presentations all in Spanish. Señor Fenton was pleased and proud of the presentations completed.



Somaurya Thames next to the Spanish class Altar.



Zebiyah Fields on the left and Jakob Hearnlay on the right next to the Spanish class Altar

High School

Blooms and Blessings

One of my favorite parts about teaching is making hall displays with the students. This year I decided to kick off my classes with a “Beecher’s Blossoms” display. It was a conglomeration of recycling, collages, and creativity.

I reached out to my neighbors and asked for donations of old magazines for a school project I wanted to do with my kids. Magazines of all kinds started pouring in; travel, sports, cooking, entertainment; there were magazines that would appeal to everyone in the class! Perfect! Now all I had to do was make a “flower” of myself to model for the students so they could envision how theirs should look. I always like to see a completed product; shout out to my Visual Learners! ☺

Each student was given a paper plate and asked to bring in a picture of themselves. They would leaf through the magazines looking for words or pictures that depicted who they are, what they like, their dreams or aspirations, etc. The goal was to cover as much of the plate as possible so anyone who looked at it would know/learn things about them without having to ask or talk to them.

This was such a fun introductory project to do in my classes. Even if the students thought they knew each other, they still learned new things about their friends and classmates from the words and pictures they chose. After all of the flowers were completed, it was time to create the hall display. My students helped cut the grass, stems, leaves, and sun. When that was finished, they started to assemble it one flower at a time. It was awesome watching it grow each day. Students would stand and search for their “flower” to see if it was up yet.

There was only one problem: not many people would get to see the display because they don’t come down my hall. That was when Ms. Trayc, our Head Secretary, suggested that next time I put up a display, to place it where more people can enjoy it...so that is exactly what I did! I decided to go full bore on the next exhibit. This one was all inclusive, not just my classes. I called this arrangement, “Beecher’s Blessings”.

Once again, the students were hard at work helping create hundreds of “feathers” for every person at Beecher High School (students, staff, security, custodians, food service, the clinic, everyone!). Once we had them traced, cut out, and counted into bundles, they were distributed throughout the building with an attached sheet of suggested writing prompts. A few included: What/Who are you thankful for? What is your favorite Thanksgiving food/dessert? Describe the perfect fall day. Create an artistic feather. Write a Thanksgiving poem. The feathers slowly started to make their way back to my classroom and mailbox. I decided to surprise everyone and have the turkey display up when we returned from our October intersession. Thankfully Jerell and Skinny, two of Beecher’s custodians, were at the school to help me hang the paper! I could not have done it without their help.

The students and staff genuinely enjoyed this project, as well. And I enjoyed seeing them stand there and read what everyone wrote. This was truly a culminating activity that brought Beecher High School together and showed us that we all have so much to be grateful for,

big and small. This turkey also showed that one feather alone does not depict a whole picture, but when you put them all together they certainly create something beautiful. And that is Beecher.



Frankenstein Book Report T-Shirts

During October and November, the Junior English class at BHS read the classic gothic fiction novel *Frankenstein*. During the unit, the students read aloud, took notes on the main points of the chapters, completed comprehension and reflection questions, made timeline posters, and completed compare/contrast activities as they watched *Edward Scissorhands*, a movie based on the idea of a monster, his creator, and his experiences in a community that he didn’t understand.

In November, after the class finished reading *Frankenstein*, they had a new project to complete. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Aurino, Mrs. Kelly, and Mrs. Rempel, the students were able to create Book Report T-Shirts that featured a summary of the book, the names of the five main characters (Victor Frankenstein, the Monster, Robert Walton, Elizabeth Lavenza, and Henry Clerval), and a picture or series of pictures that represented the story.

Students created their design ideas on paper then brought them to life on white t-shirts provided by the school. Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Rempel provided paint brushes, paints, and fabric markers, so students could exercise their creativity. While they didn’t get points for completing the shirts (because they got shirts!), they get extra credit points when they wear their shirts to school and check in with Mrs. Rempel.

As you can see from the photos, the students had a great time fashioning their designs. Several Juniors have already earned extra credit points for wearing their shirts to school.



Early Head Start

The Beecher Early Head Start families visited Flushing Farms September 28, 2023 and Montrose Orchards October 26, 2023. Families were engaged in feeding farm animals, taking hay rides and cozying up to a warm fire. Students stretched large muscles by climbing hay bales and walking the corn maze. Each student picked the perfect pumpkin to take home, received a harvest snack and a book.



Early Head Start

Beecher Early Head Start Families attended a Socialization at the Toddler Country Play Café Tuesday November 14, 2023. Students had the opportunity to engage in pretend and socio-dramatic play. Many activities allowed students to practice gross motor skills by climbing, jumping and running. Families and students also had the opportunity to interact with other families in the program.



Beecher Early Head Start Families received FREE diapers and wipes weekly through a Partnership with GCCARD Neighborhood Services Director Shar-dae Davis. Special Thanks to Mrs. Davis and her team for including our Beecher Families!!



The Beecher Early Head Start Program received a donation of 140 boots for the students and families enrolled in the Program. Special Thanks to Threads for Treads for the generous donation!



For 2023/2024 School Year



Register for our FREE federally funded, year-round, home based program for Pregnant mothers and children birth to three years of age

Meet our newest editions to Beecher EHS Program!



Markeese III



Westyn

If you know anyone who lives in the Beecher Area and is pregnant or has a child that is age Birth to 3.

**Please contact our office at
810-591-9806**

Early Head Start students must have up to date immunizations, well baby checks, and a dental exam on file. If you need help finding a doctor or dentist please call the office.

Services also available for children with disabilities and special needs.

Beecher Early Childhood Special Education Program

This year Beecher Community School District opened a half day early childhood special education program to meet the needs of the children in our community. The program has had so much success that the district has plans to open a second session. Beecher has brought this program to our community at a time where pre-kindergarten educational opportunities are a part of the Governor's plans to restructure the state department of education to include early childhood programming. We are proud to have brought this program to the district to meet the needs of all of the students in our community! If you know anyone with a child between the ages of 3 and 5 years old that has a disability or is suspected of having a disability, please contact Special Education Director, Pamela Lawrence (810) 591-9202 or Jenifer Burke at (810) 591-9234.



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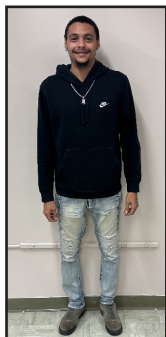
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Alternative & Adult Education

First Adult Education Graduate of the 2023-2024 School Year

Cahkyo Cochran is officially Beecher Adult Education's first graduate of the 2023-2024 school year! "I feel great!" explained Cahkyo, "Finishing school was a lot of hard work for sure. There were so many times I wanted to give up, but I knew I couldn't. I'd be giving up on myself."



There is a lot of truth in the adage, "It takes a village." Cahkyo, had a very strong support network to help him through school. He was extremely blessed to have Salina Cochran, his aunt and mother figure, by his side the entire time. He also had numerous aunts and uncles, as well as the teachers and other classmates at the school, to support him when he felt overwhelmed. Each one played a vital role in helping Cahkyo achieve his goal: Aunt Salina made certain he had a ride to and from school every day, family always made sure there was internet available at the house so he could access the lessons online, and there was never a shortage of moral support at home or school.

"It took him a minute, but he finally did it. I rode him hard, but it's finally done and I'm proud of him," Aunt Salina explained. "There were days he would get mad, but he still listened, and I'm glad he did. Now I can finally relax, too!"

Cahkyo explained how having his diploma is opening so many doors of opportunity for him that were previously closed before. "Now I will be able to get a good job. A decent one." There is



definitely excitement vibrating through the Cochran house this holiday season! This was, by far, one of the best gifts he could have ever given his Auntie. "I couldn't have done it without her. She was my biggest supporter and my loudest cheerleader. I can't thank her enough."

All graduates will be

celebrating commencements June 7, 2024. If you are interested in obtaining or finishing your high school diploma, please contact the Adult Education Center at 810.591.9276. Free virtual and in-person classes are offered.

Beecher Community Schools
Adult Education Center, Ira Rutherford Building
1020 West Coldwater Road
Flint, MI 48505

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