

BRANDYWINE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PAW



PRINTS

November 2023

Letter from the Superintendent

While we're just a few short months into the school year, it seems as though Brandywine Community Schools has already experienced so much for which to be thankful. We've had a great start to the year and have our students, staff, families, and community to thank for all of our successes.

As families who have children in grades K-8 are most likely aware, the district has adopted a new English Language Arts curriculum, Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA). While we knew that CKLA would present its own set of challenges, we also believed that the benefits of this curriculum far outweighed any obstacles we would have to overcome. The most significant obstacle certainly has been closing the gap between where the curriculum presumes students should be and where the previous curriculum left off. And while this is a challenge, I commend our students and staff for working through these growing pains to get us to where we need to be. While it's too early to provide any significant quantitative data in relation to the implementation of CKLA, the qualitative data is all positive.

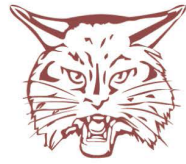
In addition to the new ELA curriculum, our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) team has been working hard to implement new behavior support systems, and enhance the academic supports we provide. This team meets weekly to review student data, both behavioral and academic, and discusses interventions that might support each individual student. They have also worked to grow our Student Assistance Team, a process through which a team of educators collaborates as problem solvers to uncover underlying causes for adverse student performances or behavior. In addition to this, members of this team have put together a Student Connectedness Survey where we can analyze students' connection to adults in our buildings to ensure that all students have meaningful connections with adults at Brandywine.

This fall we also had a ribbon cutting ceremony for our new Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) outdoor classroom. As Mrs. Maddi High, GSRP Teacher, stated, the goal is to "encourage a love of nature in our students and incorporate learning that cannot take place in the classroom." We're excited to see the impact this will have on our young Bobcats, as studies show that outdoor learning spaces not only improve academic performance but also promote physical and mental well-being. Students who engage in outdoor education develop critical thinking skills, a sense of environmental stewardship, and a greater appreciation for the world around them. These spaces are a testament to the idea that sometimes the best classrooms have no walls at all.

As has been customary at Brandywine, our Marching Band had a successful fall season, taking several top honors at their competitions and receiving straight Division I ratings at festival. The Varsity Volleyball team had one of its more successful seasons in recent years leading to a "Conference Coach of the Year" honor for Coach Emily Zablocki-Kohler. Merritt Elementary continues to be recognized for its MTSS efforts in the area of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), receiving a Silver Award for its Tier I behavior supports.

Yes, we certainly do have much to be thankful for at Brandywine Community Schools, which is why "It's a great day to be a Bobcat!"

Travis Walker,
Superintendent



November 9, 2023

Dear Brandywine Community Schools Resident,

The Brandywine school district is a vibrant one, where we have a vision to Engage, Educate, and Empower tomorrow's global citizens. Our active and passionate community believes in our schools, our athletics, our arts, and our growing career and technical education (CTE) programs. A part of ensuring the success of our school district is by listening to the community and learning what they believe the facility needs of the district are. To do this, we have engaged the community through surveys and forums and assembled a list of priorities in accordance with the community's feedback.

It is our intention to bring to the residents of our district a zero-mill increase bond proposal in the May 2024 election. By doing so, we will have the opportunity to generate approximately \$20.5 million dollars for the school district, without increasing the tax rate. It is our hope that you will take the time to submit feedback via a survey regarding our current plans.

Below is a list of established priorities that have been developed, along with a brief description of each:

- Secured Entries - These vestibules would provide a delay mechanism to assess persons entering a school campus during the instructional day, increasing the safety of our students and staff.
- Performing Arts Center (PAC) Addition - Although the district has an outstanding performing arts department, including a concert band, jazz band, choir, and musical performances, there is currently not a dedicated space for performances and rehearsals, thus all performing arts activities take place in our gymnasiums. These spaces do not have the proper acoustics or setups to allow our students to display their talents to the fullest.
- Career Technical Education (CTE) Addition - Our current CTE shop spaces include Machine Shop, Auto Shop, and Cabinet Making and Millwork. These spaces are not currently compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, nor do they allow us to grow our programs at a time when we are seeing more kids enter into industry and the skilled trades after high school.
- Merritt Elementary Gymnasium Addition - Because the current gymnasium at Merritt Elementary is also used as the cafeteria, and due to increased enrollment in recent years, our K-2 students are having to use a regular classroom without any furniture as a second gym for physical education classes. This also reduces the usable space of the building for other educational opportunities.
- Repurpose Existing CTE Areas with an Athletics Focus - Should a new CTE Center be built, we would want to repurpose the existing spaces. We currently have a need for an additional boys' and girls' locker room for competitions and a wrestling practice area.

Brandywine Community Schools empowers critical thinkers, collaborators, and leaders through high expectations in an inclusive environment.

- Running Track Repair - Our track is near the end of its usable life and is in need of repair. We can continue to patch existing cracks but they are growing larger and becoming more frequent, creating injury risks for our students.
- Artificial Turf at the Football Stadium - The installation of artificial turf would allow us to increase the use of the field by multiple programs, as well as the frequency of use. Its use would be extended beyond the football teams to the soccer teams, marching band, physical education classes, and as a practice facility for other athletic teams.
- New Baseball Field Location - Our current baseball field is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, preventing some families from attending their children's/grandchildren's games. It also prevents the district from hosting any MHSAA tournament event.
- Parking Lot Improvements as Needed Throughout the District - In a recent facility study, it was found that a large portion of our parking surfaces need to be redone/resurfaced. This may include some additional parking.
- Building Envelope Improvements as Needed - Again, through our facility study, our architects identified a number of structures that needed improvement to keep students and staff warm, dry, and safe. This includes items such as doors, windows, roofs, and exterior walls.

It is our sincere hope that you will take the survey below so that we can continue to gather feedback from the community and make adjustments that fit the community's vision for the district. You can access the survey by going to <https://bit.ly/bwinecommunitysurvey> or by using your smartphone's camera to scan the QR code in the lower right corner of this page. If you do not have access to technology, we would encourage you to come into Brandywine Innovation Academy, located at 1830 S Third St., or call Taylor Biek, Administrative Assistant, at 684-7150 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on regular business days and we'd be happy to provide you with a device to access the survey.

We value your input and hope to hear from you soon. As always, "It's a great day to be a Bobcat!"

Yours in Education

Travis Walker
Superintendent



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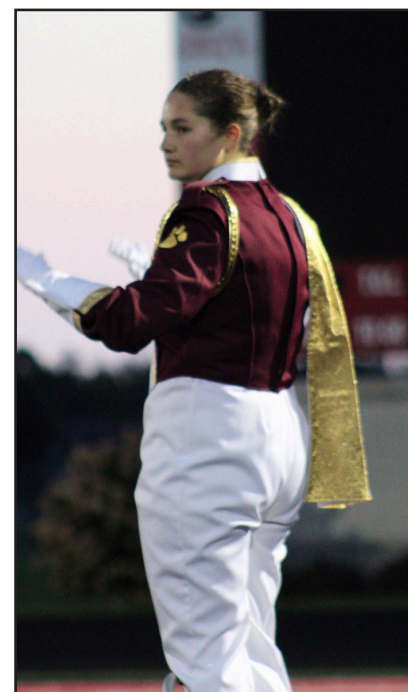
Career Pathway Day

On October 20, ninth grade students from Berrien County gathered at Lake Michigan College for Career Pathway Day, organized by Berrien RESA and Michigan Works! The event gave students the chance to explore career paths while meeting local employers and learning more about career opportunities.



Marching Band Season A Success!

Our Pride of Brandywine Marching Band under the direction of Mrs. Ruth Livengood, assisted by Justin Reske, wrapped up another award-winning season. Their 2023 Marching show, entitled "Take a Number," earned them rave reviews. The band earned second places at both band competitions they attended, and they walked away with Best Music, Best Marching, and Best Color Guard caption awards between both competitions. They have never walked away with more caption awards in recent history. In addition, they attended District 6 MSBOA Marching Band Festival and earned a Division 1 rating (highest possible), setting the standard of excellence for yet another year.



Outdoor Classroom Opens at Merritt Elementary

Merritt Elementary celebrated the opening of their new outdoor classroom with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 13.

The outdoor classroom is located just behind the school, adjacent to the recess playground. It includes a large pavilion with picnic tables, a shed to keep the outdoor equipment, a large field, and small hiking trails. Maddi High, Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Teacher, is the mastermind behind the outdoor classroom.

"Mrs. High began this journey over a year ago," said Merritt Elementary Principal Matt Severin. "She mapped out a five-year plan, and through her grit and perseverance, she has completed most of her wish list in less than 10 months!"

Mrs. High intends to use the space to increase the amount of time her students spend outside learning.

"Our goal in creating this outdoor learning area is to encourage a love of nature in our students and incorporate learning that cannot take place in the classroom," Mrs. High said. "To do this, our goal is to increase our time outside by two and a half to three hours from the one hour we currently have for recess."

She hopes that with more time spent outside, her students will develop new ways of thinking, build independence, foster resiliency, and increase happiness.

Mrs. High plans to use the pavilion and picnic table areas for whole group and small group lessons and meals. The class will utilize the field for all types of play during their recess times and during their one hour of free play to help facilitate and enhance learning about their current studies. They will also be utilizing the trail to expand their learning space and engage in different ways of learning.



Athletic Hall of Fame

The 2023 class of the Brandywine Bobcats Athletic Hall of Fame was inducted on September 30. The annual event was held at the Milton Township Hall, with a total of 80 attendees. Six individual Bobcat alumni were honored at the event: Dale Clark (1967), Marv Selge (1974), Tony Mudd (1980), Amber McGaffigan (2002), Mackenzie Cass Shelton (2013), and Josh Hood (Coach). Also inducted was the 1973 Baseball team, which was the first Brandywine team to reach a state semi-final. Nominations are now open for the Hall of Fame class of 2024. The forms can be found on the Brandywine website under the "Alumni Section."

Pictured left to right:

Marv Selge, Josh Hood, Mackenzie Shelton Cass, Amber McGaffigan, Tony Mudd

1973 Baseball team left to right: Paul Heyn, Sam Dyer, Mark Reidenbach, Chuck Hurdle, Marv Selge

Team members not pictured: Dan Anders, Bob Antus, Ken Hancock, Bruce Johnson, Mike Layman, Bill Rhoads, Don Ross, Jack Shaffer, Mark Siedelberg, Dave Turner, Ron Woods, Rick Zache



\$60 for 60 Campaign

The Brandywine Education Foundation will launch its inaugural fundraising campaign "\$60 for '60" in late November. This campaign is designed to support all Brandywine Community Schools, asking alumni and community members to donate \$60 in honor of the 60th anniversary of the first class to graduate from Brandywine in 1963. Please look for more details in the formal announcement to come.

Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations Open
Find the nomination form at brandywinebobcats.org
Please email Becky Clarke Foster at fosterstutoring@gmail.com for questions.
Nominations are due December 15

Recycled Shoes

In Mr. McLaughlin's new 3-D Visual Art Class at Brandywine Middle/Senior High School, students were tasked with an interesting project - creating their own wearable shoes out of recycled items. The shoes that the students created were required to be made of fully recyclable materials, and needed to fit the students' feet.. Check out the amazing results!



Welcome Deputy Duthler!

This past month we welcomed a second School Resource Officer (SRO), Deputy John Duthler. Deputy Duthler will join our other SRO, Deputy Amber McGaffigan.

Our SROs act as a bridge between law enforcement and the school community. They establish positive relationships with students, offering guidance, mentorship, and support. This interaction helps cultivate trust and understanding between young individuals and law enforcement, fostering a sense of safety and security. The role of a School Resource Officer goes far beyond law enforcement; they become integral members of the school community, fostering a safe and conducive environment for learning and growth.

Deputy Duthler has been a police officer since 2006, working first with the Pokagon Tribal Police Department and transferring to the Berrien County Sheriff's Office in 2013. Within the Sheriff's Office, Deputy Duthler has worked with the Tactical Response Unit as a Crime Scene Investigator, Field Training Officer, and Peer Support Team member. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army as well, serving in many different roles throughout his military career. He is a graduate of Western Michigan University, with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

Deputy Duthler is married with two elementary aged children, a big Bernese Mountain Dog ("Emmy Lou"), and a hamster ("Cookie"). Welcome, Deputy Duthler!



Letter from President, Board of Education

As we approach the holiday season, I wanted to pass along my warmest wishes to the Brandywine community. I want to provide an update on some things that the Brandywine Community Schools Board of Education has accomplished so far this year and provide some insight into what will be pursuing in the near future.

- We are very excited about the approval of our new K-8 curriculum. I want to commend Mr. Walker, Superintendent and the Teaching and Learning Council for conducting their due diligence and providing the necessary data for the BOE to make a prudent decision.
- The BOE has created a new policy that prevents students from checking out novels that contain sexually explicit materials without the express permission from their parents or guardians.
- We have decided to revamp current policy that will allow the BOE an easier path for the BOE to solicit and garner input from parents, faculty members, and other members of the community.
- Early this year we received a presentation and update from Ms. Duffield, Lead of the Sex Education Advisory Board. The law requires that the BOE receives a report every two years. I want to personally express my gratitude to Ms. Duffield and her team of volunteers for their work and commitment to providing a quality sex education program for our students.
- We have approved additional security measures that will assist in hardening our schools and mitigate the chance of an unauthorized visitor from breaching any of our facilities.

Below are some things that I hope to be working on as we move forward:

- We will be working on a policy that give parents and guardians quick and easy (on demand) access to all curriculum and supplemental material being used to educate their students.
- We have begun discussions surrounding the search and implementation of new curriculum for grades 9-12. We may be garnering assistance from a third-party consultant to assist in our pursuit of a quality 9-12 curriculum.
- Take a deep dive into the intervention/tutoring program to see if there are other tools, methods, and resources we could use to enhance the success of our current program.
- We have begun to take a deep dive into our current CTE program. With the leadership of Mr. Kirk Shafer, CTE Director, we will be able to take the CTE program to the next level and make the necessary changes that will enhance the success of the students who wish to pursue the trades.
- We received a presentation regarding the Parent Involvement team headed by Mr. Severin-Principal Merritt Elementary School. It was awesome to see what we have in place for grades K-6. I think it would make sense for us to look at how we can utilize best practices to implement a program involving parents of the 7-12 students.

I am honored to serve the Brandywine Community as the President of the BOE. I take this responsibility with great respect and humility. I am excited to work alongside of the other BOE members and am confident that we have a staff that is committed to providing the best education as is possible.

God bless and have a great Holiday Season.

Thomas A. Payne
President, Brandywine Community Schools BOE



Honor Roll

3rd Grade All As

Bartus, Jack
Book, Elaina
Crouch, Grace
Halby, Ella
Hillebrand, Laurium
Jackson, Eli
Kyles, Isabella
Lenox, Oaklee
Lintz, Kaci
Nichols, Kowan
Place, Alice
Renkiewicz, Cameron
Sater, Sophia
Stanley-Pytlarz, Harper
Stombaugh, Lydia
Stout, McKenna
Ulrich, Ethan

3rd Grade All ABs

Albright, Caroline
Anders, Marcie
Anderson, Aydin
Anderson, Bentley
Bishop, Killian
Compo, Brooke
Davis, Elizabeth
Doss, Page
Earles, Braxton
Erickson, Landen
Flynn, Reed
Gilman, Oliver
Glaser, Kailynn
Gustafson, Kinsley
Haulcomb, Sonny
Jerdon, Evelyn
Kurzhal, Kade
Miller, Xzavier
Owens, Faris
Pearison, Fayah
Pierson, Kynslea
Reed, Shannon
Rohlf, Piper
Shindeldecker, Zayden
Sullivan, Latham
Thompson, Wesley
Walker, Lavette
Wieger, Adlie

4th Grade All As

Borowski-Garza, Garrett
Jankoviak, Ezra
Pontius, Lilly

4th Grade All ABs

Aguirre Lopez, Antonio Jr
Baker, Hunter
Banish, Kaydence
Beadle, Kyler
Burt, Malakhi
Cole, Savanna
Crouch, Ellie
Dodd, Analise
Germann, Cal
Harris, Rowan
Hood, Carson

Howard, Lilyth
Kidman, Jax
Monjeau, Hannah
Overholt, Sadie
Quinton, Peyton
Schmidt, Charlie
Schoff, Ziva
Simpson, Hunter
Tavernier, Braidyn
VerHage, Raidyn

5th Grade All As

Bestle, Raelynn
Brumitt, Rae
Burns, Ellamarie
Colburn, Raven
Farley, Isabella
Huss, Emma
Oliver, Samantha
Pelc, Wesley
Ulrich, Evelyn

5th Grade All ABs

Antidel, Lexie
Baxter, Emily
Bishop, Bentley
Davis, Lillian
Davis, Sophya
Deal, Aiden
Gaudin, Chelsea
Julian, Ily
Julian, Peyton
Keefer, Makayla
Klug, Elliana
Letcher, Abigail
Long, Cryffin
Mena, Ian
Monjeau, Lillianne
O'Hara, Brennan
Oaks, Brayden
Peterson, Virginia
Plouhar, Madison
Reed, Silas
Rink, Chloe
Rose, Oakley
Vigansky, Benjamin
Whitman, Cohen
Williams, Levi

6th Grade All As

Hood, Brady
Legus, Alyvia
Olson, James
Saddison, Cooper
Sallee, Sophia
Smothermon, Carson

6th Grade All ABs

Adams, Sophia
Beadle, Kaylee
Bowman, Dante
Brumley, Danni
Bullock, Kingsley
Carter, Mariah
Cross, Kaydence
Desmond, Ava

Elrod, Ella
Gordon, Bailee
Grice, Dyosa
Harris, Libbie
Hradel, Crystian
Jackson, Payton
Krause, Bella
Livengood, Grant
Michelin, Jett
Peterek, Aubree
Pomranka, Emma
Ramos, Xoe
Renkiewicz, Aubree
Rusher, Jordyn
Saddison, Alexander
Skinner, Addison
Smith, Jaelyn
Vanderboegh, Kirra
Westfall, Ryan
Wilbur, Autumn
Wolfe, Spencer
Wylie, London
Yatch, Rylee

7th Grade Excellence

Anglin, Parker
Banish, Addysen
Bortz, Sophia
Colbert-Lorenz, Grace
Flynn, Mason
Fowler, Kayden
Germann, Ben
Harris, Hudson
Manigold, Dayton
McGinnis, Landon
Okerbloom, Brady
Tongel, Wyatt
Roberts, Alaina
Wogatzke, Laila

7th Grade A/B

Alejandro, Jordan
Clubb, Maddison
Gill, Aaron Lucas
Hunsberger, Ava
Kirschbaum, Ellyssa
Kisakye, Seth
Marazita-Russell, Caitlyn
Moody, Abigail
Morgan, Clayton
Price, Zaya
Province, Miracle
Reed, Kloe
Richard, Taytum
Rohl, Emily
Sallee, Olivia
Rose, Isabelle
Stover, James

8th Grade Excellence

Bosch, Brady
Colburn, D'artagnan
Cooper, Carson
Gadberry, Olivia
Gamble, Malachi
Hombaker, Aidreanna
Howard, Isaiah
Huss, Madison
Livengood, Melody
Miracle, Benjamin
Murray, Alison
Padron, Isabella
Ramos, Dominic
Swank, Taryn
Tonkel, Kolton
Wylie, Issac

8th Grade A/B

Anderson, Holly
Andrews, Jaxson
Babcock, Lincoln
Carter, Brooke
Ernsperger, Madisen
Gibson, Gabriella
Glass, Owen
Hood, Bryce
Huston, Emma
Inman, Tanner
Parmelee, Kynzie
Place, Noelle
Ritchie, Kyle
Roeder, Sydney
Shaffer, Greyson
Smith, Jaydan
Tongel, Jackson
Velasco-Roman, Saray
Witt, Riley

9th Grade Excellence

Allen, Jacob
Brumitt, Brook
Bullock, Shara
Deno, Lucy
Erickson, Mackenzie
Freeze, Emery
Gill, Aleta
Gonzalez-Padron, Melonie
Hamilton, Taryn
Hubbard, William
Kubisiak, Hannah
Lary, McKenzie
Maynard, Aiden
McGrath, Sarah
Monroe, Rosalee
Olson, Chelsy
Peterson, Louisa

9th Grade A/B

Adams, Layla
Bates, Brayden
Bauman, Baylee
Borders, Allah
Bright, Avery
Burt, Elijahia
Carpenter, Maddox
Craw, Gabriel

Davis, Madison
Devdhara, Shivam
Elrod, Camillia
Forray-Molica, Augustino
Gaudin, Kayla
Glaser, Dustin
Hamrick, Tamra
Hogue, Bradley
Ibanez-Molina, Alex
James, Tionna
Linley, Bradie
Liska, Zachary
Luster, Kyia
Marazita, Cameron
Miller, Olivia
Pierson, Tejha
Price, Mackenna
Reed, Carson
Rosenhagen, Gwendolyn
Staton, Joseph
Storey, Tiffany
Thomas, Jayden

10th Grade Excellence

Alfanta, Lyka
Anglin, Addison
Barrier, Payeton
Byrd, Karleigh
Cano-Strahla, Ryan
Covington, Layla
Davis, Aaniyah
Kline, Allison
Kline, Emily
Krieger, Kasey
Legatt, Lexie
Magyar, Blake
McLaurin, Victoria
McNamara, Gracie
Myer, Makenzii
Oleson-Shackelford, Liam
Olson, Sydney
Partee, Chanel
Pellow, Macy
Reed, Kiya
Richard, Ryder
Riley, Mikaela
Semrinec, Olivia
Serdel, Jase
Smith, Gabriel
VanSandt, Kaegan
Vollman, Aleyna

10th Grade A/B

Albertson, Madilyn
Amster, Hailey
Burr, Keisha
Crespo, Kilea
DeHart, Khloe
Desmond, Jacob
Horak, James
Horvath, Jocelyn
Hoskin, Cody
Kieta, Kathryn
Lennox, Trevor
Lotsbaich, Davis
Marshall, Kyler
Peterson, Anastasia
Riley, Madyson
Ritchey, Tyler

Schoff, Brady
Ucag, Colyn
Yarbrough, Aiden

11th Grade Excellence

Bauer, Bailey
Curtis-Lee, Alexandra
Drotoz, Adelynn
Gill, Adeline
Hayes, Carter
Hayslip, Tiffany
Hogue, Jordan
Manigold, Jayden
Mason, Niyah
Murray, Aubree
Peterson, Miriam
Prekert, Ireland
Ritchey, Katelyn
Roeder, Bailey
Roman, Luke
Runnels, Trenton
Sobecki, Carter
Swank, Taylor
Troup, Lexi
Young, Miley

11th Grade A/B

Adams, Ava
Avina, Monserrat
Bauman, Libby
Bower, Tristan
Brittin, Kendrick
Brown, Benjamin
Carew, Laura
Cruz, Steffany
Davis, Selynda
Ellis, Alex
Godsey, Katelyn
Haraldson, Gabriel
Hawley, EmmaLeigh
Hood, Logan
Kelems, Isabel
Killelea, Thomas
King, Zachary
Krisner, Paige
Lauri, Olivia
McKay, Simone
Needham, Alaina
Posey, Destiny
Robb, Caitlin
Sanchez, Diego
Stephens, Michelle
VanDyke, Delandah
Ward, Maddison
Watkins, Courtney
White, Michael
Wixson, Shaylee

12th Grade Excellence

Babcock, Julia
Brumitt, Kadence
Deming, Drew
Dye, Brock
Dye, Conner
Farmer, Alexys
Gonzalez, Emelyn
Gouin, Eli
Hogue, Isaiah

Hullinger, Tressa
Kline, David
Latislaw, Caden
Linley, Byron
Low, Alli
Mason, Nevaeh
Monroe, Benjamin
Parker, Chloe
Pennington, Abigail
Peterson, Triston
Pressler, Gracia
Scoggin, Aiden
Skinner, Elisa
Sosnoski, Isabelle

12th Grade A/B

Adamczyk, Ethan James
Bosch, Bode V
Brooks, Marina Danielle
Cheney, Landon Scott
Curtis, Xander Allen
Fedore, Allison Jean
Franks, Jaelyn Nicole
Frazier, Joseph Rex
Inman, Hunter Phillip Tay
Macedo, Kaleb Ray
McDiarmid, Sage Nicole
McLaurin, Charles Edward
Miracle, Aiden Joseph
Oakes, Ariana Kilohilani
Palmer Kirtdoll, Jamier Jacorin
Palmer Kirtdoll, Jareemiah Jamestaray
Patrolia, Joshua Jagger
Perez-Gonzalez, Josmar Olivarez
Prince, Skyla Melissa Marie
Rieth, Kaiden Andrew
Ritchie, Anna Jean
Sanchez, Luis Enrique
Smith, Ja'Torian Anton
Solloway, Abigail Marie
Wright, Braeden Wayne
Wynn, Piper Olivia
Zamora, Karla A



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