

# CHARGERS CONNECT

December 2023



**WE ARE CHARGERS!**  
**WE CHANGE THE WORLD!**

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## MATTSON MEMOS

### GREETINGS TO OUR CTA CHARGER COMMUNITY!

Dear CTA Families,

As we embrace the festive season and reflect on the past year, we can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for our incredible CTA community. The milestones achieved, the growth witnessed, and the unwavering support from each of you have made 2023 truly special.

The first half of the school year has been nothing short of remarkable. We've seen our students flourish, our dedicated staff going above and beyond, and our parents sharing their excitement for our children's achievements. It's a testament to the collaborative spirit that defines us as a CTA community.

At CTA, we support our world-changers and foster strong partnerships with our families. As we transition into 2024, this commitment remains steadfast. The smiles and achievements in our classrooms, on our playgrounds, and within our community reflect the collective effort we put into prioritizing our students. Whether it's academics, arts, sports, or community service, our CTA Chargers are undeniably CHANGING THE WORLD!

Thank you for choosing CTA as your partner in your child's education. Your support makes a world of difference in the lives of our students. Here's to a fantastic conclusion to 2023 and the anticipation of an even brighter 2024!

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Warm regards,  
Autumn Mattson  
CTA Superintendent



SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH THE  
HOLIDAY CONCERT

# HOLIDAY CONCERT





**MRS. KATE BIALKOWSKI** CTA Principal (K-5) kbialkowski@ctachargers.org

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! We love spreading as much Holiday joy as we can throughout December. Our teachers work tirelessly to provide awesome and engaging learning experiences around the holidays: K-2 does Holidays around the world, rotating classrooms and learning about various different cultures and traditions. The upper elementary students take it a step further and study specific countries, customs and traditions to present in writing, orally or via slide shows. The hallways are covered in festive artwork and crafts and we teach all about the importance of giving and kindness, along with our December Character Trait: Responsibility.

## HOLIDAY CONCERT

Mrs. Ovokaitys hosted a fabulous Holiday Music Concert on Wednesday, November 29th. Elementary students performed a variety of songs, not only through singing but also percussion and rhythm instruments, highlighting music of the season and the skills they have been learning in music class. It was a wonderful turnout and we are so appreciative to all families who made it out to watch!







**MRS. JENNY BANGMA** CTA Principal (6-12) [jbangma@ctachargers.org](mailto:jbangma@ctachargers.org)

December greetings! It's hard to believe that we have already completed the first semester of the 2023-24 school year. In the classrooms, hallways, and courtyards, we've made memories that will last. As we conclude this semester, let's celebrate the perseverance and dedication it takes to accomplish eighteen weeks of learning, coursework, and assessment. Our secondary staff, students, and families have worked tirelessly this semester and it shows! I hope that your well-deserved winter break includes celebration, togetherness, and rest. Happy Holidays! See you in 2024!

## HOLIDAY CONCERT

The CTA Holiday Concert was a magical evening of music and merriment. As the guiding force behind the middle school choir and high school orchestra, Mrs. Donna Ovokaitys, CTA's K-12 Music Teacher, has cultivated a harmonious blend of talent and passion within our Charger performers. With enchanting melodies and festive tunes, the students showcased the fruits of their hard work under Mrs. Ovokaitys's guidance, creating an unforgettable experience for all who attended.



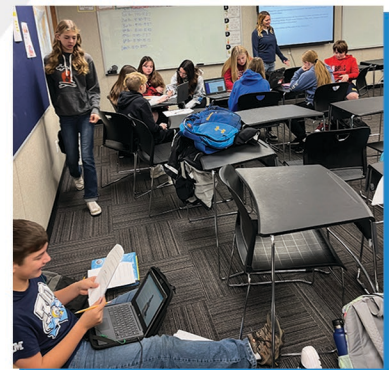


## SECONDARY EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

**6-8 Legacy Tribe** - Led by CTA staff member, Mrs. Perry, our Legacy Tribe group is an opportunity for our young women Chargers who are in grades sixth through eighth to come together in the pursuit of growing in self, leadership, service, and community within our school and beyond. Meetings consist of learning from models of women in leadership, goal setting, self-reflection, team-building, servitude, and expressing gratitude. Empowering our young women to develop their skills in all of these areas will help to shape the next generation of female leadership." Meetings are held during middle school lunch.

**6-12 Art Club** - This club is meant to inspire students to tap into their creativity through art projects. Ms. Stacy Rowland, a CTA parent, organizes and leads this club twice a month after school.

**6-12th Open Lift** - This extracurricular activity is hosted on most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45-3:45 pm in CTA's gym. It is led by CTA's physical education teacher, Mrs. Perry. All students in middle and high school are welcome to attend.



## DECEMBER'S CHARACTER EDUCATION TRAIT: RESPONSIBILITY

This month's character education work focused on building responsibility within ourselves; in addition, our secondary community unpacked how responsibility impacts our school community and beyond. Our weekly assemblies, as well as the daily middle school "Focused Instructional Team" (F.I.T.) and high school Advisory times, contained authentic learning experiences about how to infuse responsibility into everyday life.

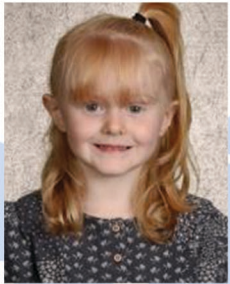
We are so proud of our sixth through twelfth graders for exhibiting exemplary empowerment!



## DECEMBER CHARACTER EDUCATION WINNERS

December's character trait is "**Responsibility**." This month's winners were nominated by their teachers for representing what Responsibility looks like and sounds like in all parts of the day. Congratulations to these Responsible Chargers!

**K**



Amayah Carroll

**1ST**



Ivan Lumbert

**2ND**



Azarius Murphy

**3RD**



Landon Hoekstra

**4TH**



Marcus Brinks

**5TH**



Joshua Jaggers

**6TH**



Jade McKinnon

**7TH**



Mya Brinks

**8TH**



Micah Rypma

**9TH**



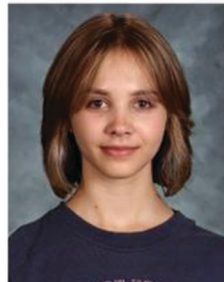
Addison Brinks

**10TH**



Evelyn Todd

**11TH**



Casandra Barendreght

**12TH**



Jacinda McMurray



SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH THE  
DECEMBER CHARACTER  
EDUCATION TRAIT VIDEO

# CARING #WORLDCHANGERS



## CTA STAFF FEATURES

At Creative Technologies Academy, our team is more than just educators - they're superheroes shaping young minds every day! Join us in celebrating these incredible teachers and staff members with some fun facts about them!



Enthusiastic about travel, I've explored 24 states and enjoyed 8 cruises, with Aruba standing out as my favorite destination. I share my adventures with a twin brother and, come summer, find joy in boating and fishing at a lakeside retreat.

**CHANNING TANIS**

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

Raised with 9 siblings, I treasure family dynamics. Beyond, I'm a devoted golfer, finding joy on the greens. My academic journey started at Aquinas College, progressing to a Masters at Marygrove College in Detroit. In my free time, I prioritize moments with my kids.



**TED CUSACK**

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER



Embracing an outdoor lifestyle, I find joy in camping and hiking. Originally from Florida, I've called five states home, with Michigan being my longest residence. A passionate reader, I aim to devour 52 books annually, surpassing my goal this year with an impressive count of 76 books so far.

**HEATHER MORRIS**

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

Named after my father, Mike, in a family tradition, I'm a proud parent of four kids—two boys and two bonus daughters. Despite my allegiance to Michigan football, my daughters favor Michigan State. Armed with two Masters degrees in Children's Literature and Elementary Education, I'm a lifelong learner with aspirations for a Doctorate.



**MIKA LEWIS**

ELEMENTARY TEACHER



A music enthusiast who has attended over 20 concerts in the last 2.5 years, I'm also a dedicated foodie with a current love for sushi. Adventure beckons in my travels, and the Upper Peninsula, where I recently camped at Tahquamenon Falls and Fort Superior Campgrounds, holds a special place in my heart.

**THOMAS METIVA**

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

I find joy in watching football, and when summer arrives, I indulge in wake-surfing behind our boat. Mountain vacations hold a special place in my heart, adding to the tapestry of activities that bring me happiness throughout the year.



**TERESA MARSMAN**

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER



SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH THE STAFF FEATURES VIDEO





## CORE VALUES



We are a  
**COLLABORATIVE**  
Community.



We are  
**INNOVATIVE.**



We practice  
**INTEGRITY.**



We thrive on  
**EXCELLENCE.**



We  
**WELCOME**  
All.

## JOIN THE CTA FAMILY!

### MISSION

Creative Technologies Academy is a Preschool through 12th Grade community of learners committed to positively changing our world by developing students in character, academics, and leadership.

### VISION

Creative Technologies Academy will be a school of choice for students and families, offering differentiated and personalized academic options that engage critical thinking skills and collaborative learning. Immersed in our school culture are small class sizes, character education, access to current technology, and a variety of extracurricular activities.

## CTA ENROLLMENT

STILL AVAILABLE FOR 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR

**FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL**



**FREE  
EDUCATION**



PRESCHOOL



K-5TH GRADE



6-12TH GRADE

Visit us at [ctachargers.com](http://ctachargers.com) or Contact us at 616.696.4905

