

## Fun Fact about March

While the current calendar (Gregorian Calendar) has March as the third month of the year, that wasn't always the case. In the Roman calendar (Julian Calendars), March was the first month of the year. January and February didn't exist.



## Calling all Future Kindergarteners

Please share the word about Kindergarten Registration night  
WES March 11th 6:00 pm at the school (418 W Blanchard Road)  
SES March 12th 6:00 pm at the school (301 S. 4th Street)

## Free Annual Health Fair

The health fair will provide free health education services, health and lifestyle products, and food for those in need in the community.

### Resources Available

- Primary Care Providers
- Mental Health Specialist
- Medical Specialists
- Community Organizations

Scan the QR code for the most up-to-date information about the health fair.



<https://healthfair2024.eventbrite.com>

In partnership with



**Prescription Take Back**  
Bring outdated/unused prescription or over the counter medications to be safely disposed.

Kid-friendly! Raffles! Gift Cards!

MyMichigan Medical Center  
Mt. Pleasant

4851 E. Pickard Road  
MountPleasant, Michigan

Saturday, April 6, 2024  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

CMU, in AFEO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity and provide equal opportunity for all individuals, irrespective of gender identity or sexual orientation and including but not limited to minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities. (MCL 2002.1(121))

## FLOATING HOLIDAYS - OR MONTHLY CELEBRATIONS

- National Craft Month
- Easter occurs in March every four years
- National Dress in Blue Day - First Friday in March
- March Madness - NCAA Basketball Tournament
- Daylight Savings Time Change - Spring Forward
- St. Patrick's Day
- Pi Day (Birthday of Albert Einstein)

## Joke Time

What is a leg's favorite Month?  
March

Why is everyone so tired on April 1st?  
Because they just finished a 31 day March.

What falls in March but never gets hurt?  
The Rain

Can February March?  
No, but April May.

### DISCLAIMER:

The services, products and businesses represented at the CMU College of Medicine/MyMichigan Health Health Fair are for informational purposes, and are not intended as an endorsement by any sponsoring organization, or in lieu of medical treatment. No medical diagnosis or treatment is being provided, and for that, attendees must go to their private physician, or make an appointment to see a physician they meet at the Health Fair to become his/her patient, or go to a hospital, clinic or other facility.

# Superintendent's Corner

On so many occasions throughout this so-called winter we have been left wondering, “What happened to our normal cold temperatures and snowfall?” Although we can “thank-our-lucky-stars” for safer traveling and roadways, there has also been an almost love-hate relationship with the ground not being covered with white stuff. When we have it, there are times we regret it; when we don’t have it, we feel a sense of longing for winter-type activities. Ultimately, if we are able to get through this entire school year with ONLY three days lost to snow/ice, in my book that would be AMAZING!! Here is your message from the superintendent’s desk for this March.

RETIREMENT- In the spring of 2021, Shepherd Public Schools chose to “take a chance” on hiring a new superintendent - for the most part - being unaware of. And yet, you chose me to come be with you. As we age, we become more contemplative of the variables in our lives that we cannot control. Oftentimes, because of these variables and the way things can “play out”, we may say, “Things happen for a reason.”

There is no question the appointment I was given to be with Shepherd Public Schools “for-such-a-time-as-this” happened for MANY MANY reasons. From the moment I signed a contract to be here with you to this point in time, I have been and will always be FOREVER GRATEFUL you chose me. From all points on any compass, this District, its people and the lifeblood of love, hard work and goodness that exists within the community of Shepherd will be forever branded on my heart. THANK YOU eternally for allowing me to serve alongside you for this period in time.

When a person retires they leave the organization of which their livelihood has represented. Although it has been just three years since I have been able to be here with you, my desire in retrospect would have been to have had many many years in this amazing district with you wonderful people.

In any position a person ever holds, a healthy desire is to, quote, “Leave the place better than when you arrived.” Please know it is my hope to have accomplished this; that you and the people of this fine district are now in a greater position to do school better, learn better and grow better each and every day.

In closing, your newest mission statement reads, “To prepare all students to reach their full potential with the support of a unified community.” As you continue on this mission and as you seek to continue to unify and build stronger the community of Shepherd, may you accomplish this being guided by the notion that “LOVE conquers all.” Jim Harbaugh’s parents have a saying in their family - it goes - “Who’s got it better than us?? NOBODY!” Shepherd Public Schools may want to adopt this saying as well. In all that you do, may you all remain BlueJay Strong!! I love you all and will miss you when I am gone.

# Parking Lot Trial Run

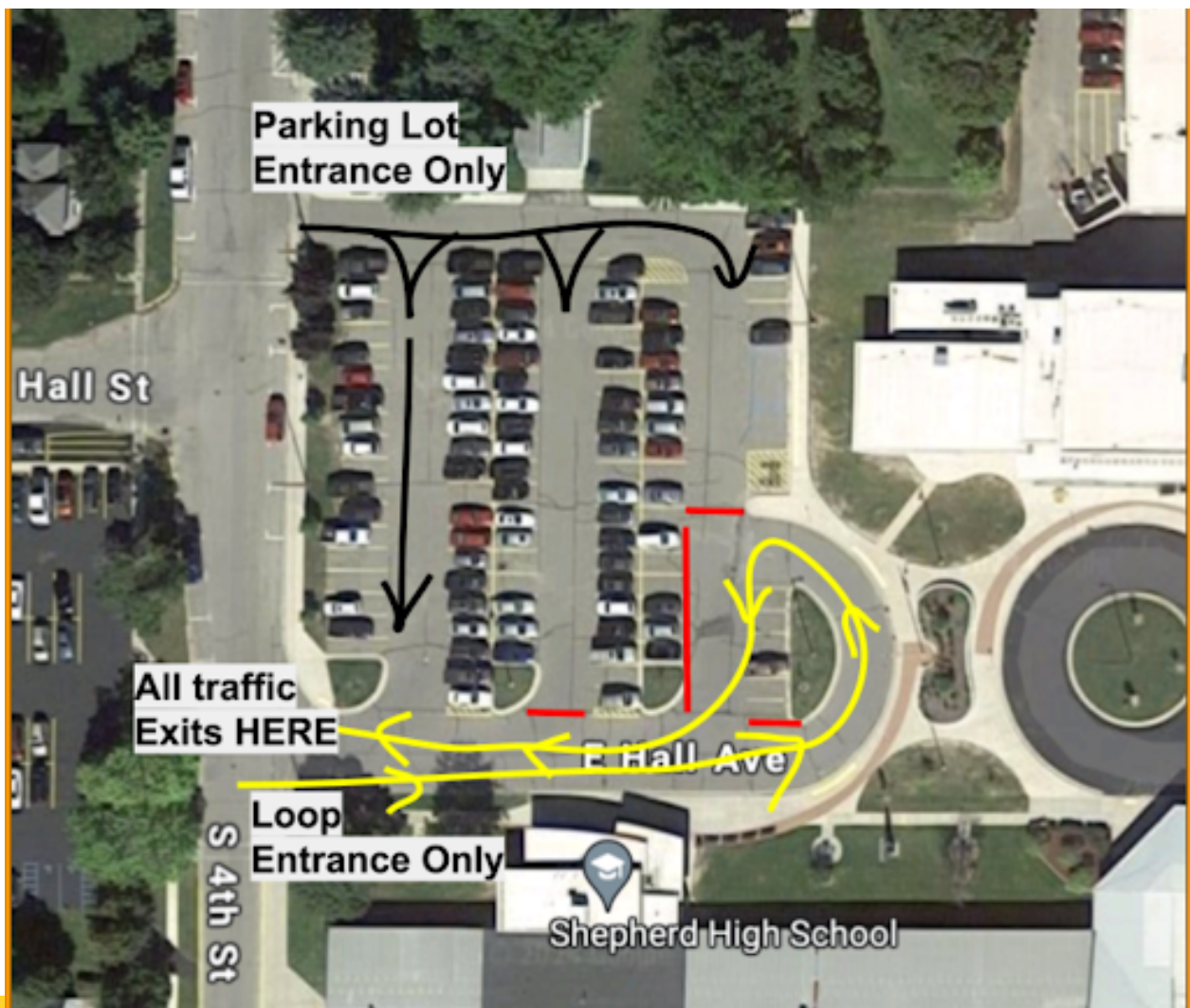
Shepherd Families,

We have all heard, seen and experienced the traffic problem that has been building here during arrival and dismissal. We have spent the last few months working on it and we think we have landed on something that may help the situation.

When we return from Spring Break, the parking area and arrival/dismissal loop will undergo a significant change that we are going to “trial” for the month of April and then re-evaluate. Below is an initial diagram of the changes. As we get closer to spring break, be on the lookout for more information, a cleaner map, video explanations on our webpages and temporary signage and traffic barriers in the parking lot.

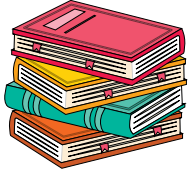
- Drop off/Pickup Lane: Depicted by Yellow lines in Map
  - If you are utilizing the pickup/dropoff lanes:
    - You will enter as normal off 4th st, near the HS.
    - Once you enter the drop off lane, you will stay in the lane, following the yellow line in the map below. There will be barricades to stop traffic from entering the parking lot, forcing all traffic to exit in the same direction that you entered.
    - It is important to drop off when it makes sense and to have your children ready to exit as soon as you enter the parking lane to help with traffic flow.
- Parking Lot Entrance: Depicted by Black lines in map
  - If you are entering the parking lot, you will enter what is currently considered the exit on the north side of the parking lot.
  - All traffic will leave the parking lot via the lane closest to 4th st
  - The 15 minute visitor parking will be unavailable during arrival and dismissal.

Again, be on the lookout for more information as we get closer to spring break and we look forward to improving the pickup and dropoff experience for everyone!

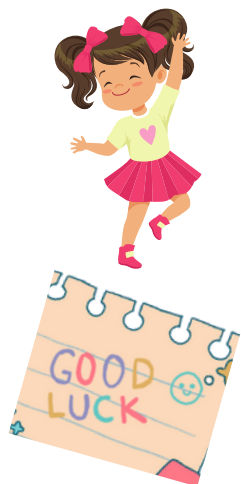


# Shepherd Elementary

March is Reading Month! We kicked off reading month with an assembly for the whole school where we revealed our theme, "Dive into Reading," and started our school wide Book Bracket. Check out your children's reading calendar they brought home for daily reading ideas.



- **Coffee with the Principal:** April 5th at 8:30-Come join Mr. Farley for a cup of coffee. We will have Nurse Alayna and our BlueJay Wellness Center Therapist Marissa joining us to talk about the wellness center.
- The Shepherd Elementary PTO is putting on the **Girls Gala** on March 15th at 7PM
- **Testing Time!** When we return from Spring Break, grades 3rd - 5th will be starting to get ready for state testing. It's an important time to make sure that kids are getting a good bedtime, good breakfast and positive encouragement! Be on the lookout for specific dates, but it's never too early to work on their routines at home.



# Winn Elementary

## Reading Month - Go for the Gold!

Welcome Olympians! Winn Elementary students will be "going for the gold" this month with their reading. This is truly one of our favorite months because we get to celebrate our love of reading here at school and at home. There are lots of activities for our students and families to get involved in this month. Make sure to check the calendar each night for fun ideas. [Go for the Gold Calendar here.](#)

Please save the date for our annual Booknic. Your child gets to bring one special guest, their VIP, to have lunch with that day and read. The book fair will be open for shopping too! It is so much fun to have the school full of good stories and the pure joy of reading. You can order lunch here at school or you can bring a yummy lunch to share!

At home we ask that your child reads 20 minutes each night. Your teacher will be sending home a reading log for you to log minutes and the books your child read. These minutes are fun but they are also so important to your child's future. We know the more words your child reads each day impacts their life as a speaker, thinker, writer, and reader. Set the habit this month with your child to drop everything and read every night. Reading aloud to your child counts too! Grab a good book and read!



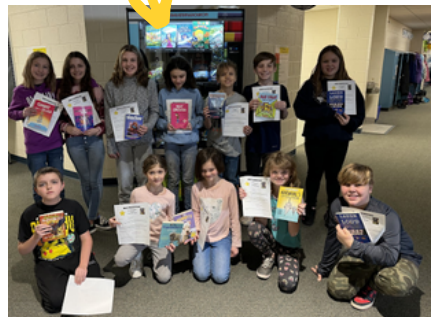
## Congratulations to our February Star Students

As part of our school wide PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program, we are proud to announce our February Star Students. Each teacher nominates 2 students from their classroom to award this special honor. This past month we learned about emotional regulation. The teachers selected students who were excellent role models in that area or who have worked hard to grow in that area. Each student received; a special certificate, picture, and a book from the book vending machine. Meet our STAR students!

**Do you have a future Bluejay at your house?** We would love to talk to all of our families about our Kindergarten program at Winn Elementary. Our registration night is a little different this year. Each building is hosting their own night. Future Kindergarteners are welcome to attend the evening too. You will have the opportunity to meet our Kindergarten teachers and see the classrooms!

If you know of another family that may want to join our school, please encourage them to call our office. Any out of district families can do a "Schools of Choice" request to attend Shepherd Public Schools. We love to have new families join our school! It's a great time to be a JAY!

[Winn Elementary Kindergarten Registration Night Flyer](#)



# Shepherd High

## ATTENTION

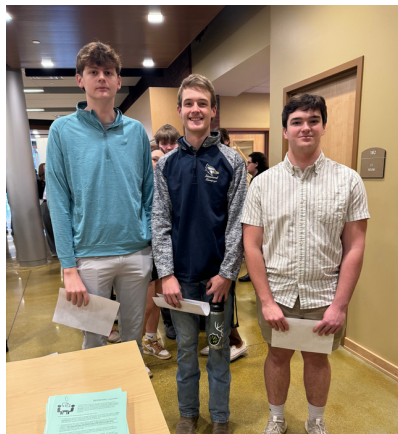
## Parent Teacher Conferences

March 21st - Parent-Teacher Conferences

Invite only from 12-3 pm

If you need to meet with a teacher, please contact the high school office for an appointment.

Our Seniors participated in Mock Interviews at Mid-Michigan College. Mock Interviews area requirement of their Senior Projects.



## IMPORTANT SENIOR DATES

*Congratulations Class of 2024*



### Senior Awards Assembly

May 9th

- Seniors will wear their gowns for the Awards Ceremony.
- All parents are invited to the Awards Assembly.
- The ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. in the high school gymnasium.



### Seniors Last Day/Walkout

May 13th, 14th

- Senior exams will be on May 13th and 14th
- Seniors last day is May 14th
- Senior walkout May 14th at 2:45 pm
- Last day to pay fees and turn in credit recovery May 15th



### Senior Walk Through

May 15th

- Students must wear caps and gowns and be at the school by 8:15 am.
- The walk begins at 8:45 am—, in the bus loop.



### Graduation Practice MANDATORY

May 15th

- Practice starts after senior walk.
- All graduating seniors MUST be in attendance at this rehearsal.
- Students must have their books returned and all fees paid.
- We will hold a senior brunch in the auxiliary gym immediately after the graduation practice.



### Graduation

May 19th

- Seniors should report to the school no later than 2:15 pm.
- Name cards will be distributed so that they can be read during the graduation ceremony by the Class President
- Graduation starts at 3 pm
- Doors open for family at 2:30 pm

finally  
**FINISHED**

# Odyssey Middle/High

We know social and emotional development is just as important as academics. We strive to allow student opportunities to practice teamwork, self-management, and responsible decision-making and appropriate relationship skills.



## ***The rest of the school year will go quickly!***

March 21 - ½ day for students  
March 21 - 12:00 - 3:00 pm PT Conferences  
March 22 - ½ day for students  
March 23 - April 1- Spring Break

April 23 - 7th Grade visits Mt. Pleasant CTE  
April 25 - ½ day for students  
April 26 - 29 - No School

May 27 - No School  
June 6 - ½ day, Last Day of School

### **Summer school-**

June 10-27 Mon-Thurs. 8-11am  
July 8 - Aug 2 Mon-Thurs. 8-11am  
-HS Credit Recovery courses on Plato

**Please call for more information!**

## ***It's Graduation Season!***

May 9 - 9am- Graduation Rehearsal & Senior's Last Day of High School

May 11- Prom, 7-9pm at Chippewa Township Hall

May 16- Graduation, 6pm at Shepherd High School



# Project Aware Counselors

## Developing Skills

Project AWARE Counselors have been able to reach over 190 students across the district. We are so glad to have the opportunity to positively impact our students!

TRAILS to Wellness Groups are happening across the district at Shepherd Middle School, Shepherd High School, and Odyssey MS/HS. These groups help teach students the skills to manage stress and symptoms of anxiety and depression!

Mrs. Gall is hosting a Friendship and Coping Skills Group in the middle school. Our students are learning so much about how to be a good friend and how to communicate through conflicts with friends!

## Building Connections

We are thrilled to be able to take our students out to HopeWell Ranch for great experiences with supportive adult mentors and many animals across the ranch. HopeWell started February 13th and we've been able to take 5 students. We are thrilled to see the positive impact that HopeWell Ranch will have on these students!



## Family Resources

Greater Lansing Food Bank will be distributing food to Isabella County residents at the MyMichigan Medical Center (4851 E. Pickard St, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858) on Friday, March 29th beginning at 9:30 to 11 AM or sooner if supplies run out. All that is required to receive food is a Driver's License with current address.

Gratiot-Isabella Great Start Family Coalition is hosting parent cafés at the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum! Enjoy free child-care, snacks or dinner, earn some money, and win some great prizes all while spending time with other parents! The next Parent Café will be held on April 2nd! There are morning (10am-noon) and evening (5-7pm) sessions available for each parent café! Visit Gratiot-Isabella Great Start Family Coalition's facebook page or email [mmonroe@giresd.net](mailto:mmonroe@giresd.net) for more information!



Mrs. Harnish set up the opportunity for high school students to destress with emotional support dogs during their lunch period. Thanks Mrs. Harnish!