

## Happy National Assistant Principal's Week!!!



## Happy Paraprofessional's Day!!!



## 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

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Bring outdated/unused prescription or  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.

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



<https://healthfair2024.eventbrite.com>

MAY YOU BE PROUD  
OF THE WORK YOU DO  
THE PERSON YOU ARE  
AND THE DIFFERENCE  
YOU MAKE



Please see the back 2  
pages on information  
for CMU Stem  
summer camps.

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.

CMU is an EEO 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. MGA 20842 (1/21)

# Superintendent's Corner

Some folks are already saying, “Well, since February didn’t act like Winter, it appears we could be exchanging April for the same type of weather we had in February. So, maybe we’ll want to keep those wintry clothes in the fronts of our closets just a little longer than normal. The “great hope” always is for warmer temperatures on and around the time of the Maple Syrup Festival!!

**WINTER TO...** This past winter season for Shepherd Public Schools brought so many things to celebrate and acknowledge. Sports teams excelled and in every instance it seemed our teams and athletes took achievements to new heights. Academics in each of our schools rose to new levels also as staff worked together with Peter Grostic with “Curriculum By Design” to sharpen focus and improve form and technique in classrooms. And, as most are aware, with fewer than our normal six days of “foul weather closure” used, we have been able to have students in classrooms more than in other winters. As we soar into this Spring season, students and staff must now give focus and attention to the “high stakes testing” required. At each of our levels; elementary, middle and high school students now take end-of-year assessments that help with future decision-making regarding programming and procedures. Our hope is ALL students can show measurable gains and improvement in their academic performance. We say goodbye to the winter - and HELLO to Spring!

**SPRING ACTIVITIES...** Next up for our Shepherd BlueJays will be spring sports, spring volunteering, spring clean up, our Shepherd Maple Syrup Festival and in our classrooms, as mentioned above, Spring Testing! In all these matters and affairs, one thing is guaranteed; that Shepherd Public Schools staff and students will over achieve. Individuals and teams of people will once again showcase - whether it’s in our classrooms, sports fields, track area or any other arena - single persons and groups of people will represent with a special degree of effort, dedication and humility what it is that continues to make this community the AMAZING place it is to live, work and play. You ARE each living representation of what BlueJay Strong is all about.

Your attention to this edition of the Jay News is appreciated. May each of you have a most wonderful spring season filled with the joys and wonders of watching our children and our world grow and bloom to wonder around us!! In all we do, let’s TOGETHER, remain BlueJay Strong!!

P.S. As a side note, please be informed that Shepherd Public Schools will, for the last time in the foreseeable future for the Maple Syrup Festival, host the Carnival Rides on our property. After this year’s Festival; for the 2025 season and beyond, the Festival Committee has agreed to find an alternate location for the amusement rides each Festival season.

# Shepherd Elementary



## Science Fair

Thank you Mrs. Zingery and Mrs. Dodick for all your hard work on organizing such a great event for our students! Great job to all of our student scientists!

One of our 5th grade writing standards is to teach formal letter writing. Students in Mrs. Clark's, Mrs. Brock's, Mrs. Fitzpatrick's & Mrs. Mikek's 5th grade put their formal letters to practical use by writing to colleges, trade schools, & other post secondary organizations of their choice. To our surprise, we have gotten a reply from many of the colleges! Some even sent items for students such as T-shirts, pencils, frisbees, and more. We received a special visit from Mr. John Veilleux, Chief Marketing Officer from Central Michigan University, to present the importance of "building your personal brand" and the value of college. He gifted each student with a CMU T-shirt. Students were excited to get a response from their college and also learned that writing well can lead to results. Letter writing is a skill that students will use throughout their lives and by incorporating it into a real life situation, this has emphasized a meaningful connection between learning and life skills.



March is Reading Month: A special thank you to Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Catrell for organizing our March is Reading month activities. Another special thank you to all of the guest readers that joined us. In the 2024 March Madness Dive into Reading Book Bracket; the championship game saw the "Book with no Pictures" knock off "The Epic Adventures of Huggie and Stick" in a close battle.

**Spring time is testing time! Our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will all be taking state of Michigan M-STEP tests. Testing can raise anxiety in all of us! Please encourage your children to do their best, get a good night's rest and eat breakfast in the morning! BlueJays, you are going to do great!**

This month, our schoolwide theme is friendship skills. In our morning announcements we're reminding students to invite others to play, play in fair ways, take responsibility for mistakes by making amends, and how to handle name-calling assertively. These skills help students make and keep friends.

# Winn Elementary

## Book Nic Fun

Winn Elementary hosted its annual Booknic during our reading month in March. Each child invited a VIP to come to lunch on March 17th. Our VIP's brought lots of yummy lunches and our kids provided great books to read. The hallways were full of families enjoying good stories and delicious food! Why is taking time to read aloud every day so important? Reading research tells us that daily reading time like this creates; stronger readers, writers, thinkers, and speakers. We know that one of the biggest factors that separate high achieving students from students that struggle in school is the amount of time they read each day. If you want ideas for books to read aloud as a family, check in with your child's classroom teacher. Creating lifelong readers is as easy as setting a goal each week to read as a family. Let your child see you reading. Take time to visit the library. Join Mrs. Richards each week for "Tucked in Tuesday." Start a new family tradition and get lost in a great book. Happy Reading!



## Local Author Visits Winn Elementary

Did you know we have a real children's book illustrator as a parent?? Kara Elmore has been busy this past year illustrating a wonderful book called, "The Adventure of Cece and Sheriff." Kara worked with Dominic Thrasher, a classmate of hers from Sacred Heart school, to create a book for children. Dominic and Kara came to Winn as a surprise mystery reader for the whole school. Dominic captivated the kids by performing his book alongside music that his friend wrote especially for the story. Kara told us about how she illustrated the book and her little secret she hid in the book in honor of Shepherd. Kara hid a little Blue Jay feather for all of her Shepherd BlueJays! Each classroom received an autographed copy of the book. Dominic challenged us to continue to read and write because who knows... Maybe, we have another published author sitting in our building right now! Thank you to Kara and Dominic for sharing your love of reading with us!



**NEVER  
STOP  
READING**

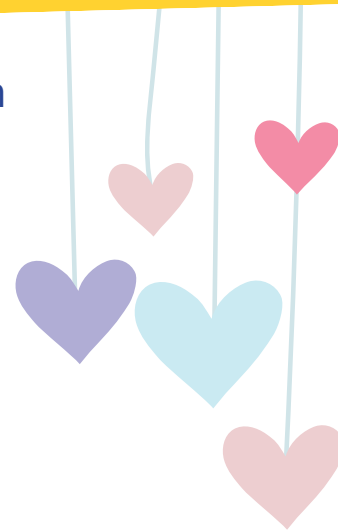
thank  
you

# SMS Middle School

This week (4/1 - 4/5) is Assistant Principal Appreciation Week and we have an amazing person to celebrate.

Mrs. Ana Allingham is an amazing leader, student advocate, friend, teacher, co-worker, Disney fanatic, lego legend, shoe lover, and always leads with her heart. Thank you for all that you do for Shepherd Public Schools!!!

**We appreciate you so much!**



**Shepherd Middle School will be completing our state testing in the next month and the dates are as follows:**

*PSAT 8 - Tuesday, April 9th 8 am - 11am (approx.)*

*Students test whole group in a gymnasium*

*M-STEP - 6th, 7th, 8th- Testing window is April 8th -May 17th*

*M-STEP will be given in the classrooms so days and times will vary*

*6th grade - Math and English Language Arts*

*7th grade - Math and English Language Arts*

*8th grade - Science and Social Studies.*

**Good  
LUCK  
you got  
this!**

## Important upcoming dates:

April 25th - 7th grade field trip to the Career Technical Education Center at Mt. Pleasant High School

April 26th - No school - Maple Syrup Weekend

April 29th - No school - Maple Syrup Weekend

May 7th - 7th grade attending the Powwow

May 8th - 8th grade taking part in School Ready Store put on by Junior Achievement

May 17th - Middle School Mock Rock

May 23rd - 6th grade field trip to Morey Courts

SHEPHERD MIDDLE SCHOOL

2023-2024

**ORDER A YEARBOOK TODAY!**

Order Online at

[ybpay.com](http://ybpay.com)

**\$15.50**

Yearbook ID Code is

**13603624**



SHS High School

CONGRATULATIONS



Top Row: Xavier Catrell Valedictorian, Liam Cox #9, Tristan Leonard Salutarian, Nolan Caszatt #10, Jonathan Schwarzkopf #6

Bottom Row: Maggie Galan #5, Abigail Gates #8, Kaitlyn Klumpp #7, Rachel Yuncker #3, and Kathryn Showalter #4

Way to go

2024

# Shepherd High

## TESTING INFORMATION

Testing is required by the state. Testing can not be interrupted once it starts. Students can not join a testing session. Testing sessions must start on time.

**APRIL 10**

10TH-GRADE PSAT 10/  
11TH-GRADE SAT TESTING  
STARTS AT 8 AM  
9TH-GRADE FIELD TRIP

**APRIL 11**

9TH GRADE - PSAT 9  
11TH-GRADE WORKKEYS  
STARTS AT 8 AM  
10TH-GRADE FIELD TRIP

**APRIL  
15**

11TH-GRADE TESTING  
3RD- 5TH HOUR

THE SHEPHERD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025  
presents

*On the Red Carpet*  
BE A STAR FOR THE NIGHT!

TICKET SALES START  
MONDAY APRIL 1ST IN  
FRONT OF THE HS  
OFFICE!

APRIL 20, 2024  
R & R VENUE  
SHEPHERD, MI  
7 PM - 10 PM  
\$20/PERSON

April 10 & 11  
Senior Talent  
Portfolio Days

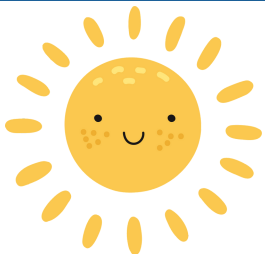
Class  
2024!

Seniors will not report to school or CTE on April 10th or 11th

**Important**

**Information**

Seniors should use these 2 days today  
to complete any requirements left  
to complete their portfolio.  
Community Service Hours, College Visits,  
Job Shadows, or Presentations.



## 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



# Odyssey Middle/High

**ART REACH**  
*Of Mid Michigan*

## FESTIVAL OF BANNERS

“The Art of Gaming”

#LiveArtfully #MakeMemories #Art4All

*A select group of students have been working on Art Reach banners for the Festival of Banners. These banners will hang on light poles throughout Isabella County from May - November 2024.*

### ***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*



Basketball ended with victories over Clare and Mt. Pleasant.



It is time to begin forming our co-ed softball team and scheduling practices and games.

The rest of the school year will go quickly!

April 9 - MSTEP

April 10 - PSAT, SAT

April 11 - WorkKeys testing

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 online

Please call for more information!



# Project Aware Counselors

## Developing Skills

Project AWARE Counselors have been able to reach many 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!

## 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!

The emotional support dogs are back! Keep an eye out for the emotional support dogs on April 24th and May 15th at Shepherd Middle School and Shepherd High School during lunch. Thanks Mrs. Harnish for setting up this awesome opportunity!



## Connect With Us!

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's mental health or you'd like to learn more about community resources available to you, please reach out to us!

Cathy Huffer, Shepherd Elementary - [chuffer@shepherdschools.net](mailto:chuffer@shepherdschools.net)  
Emily Hinsman, Winn Elementary - [ehinsman@shepherdschools.net](mailto:ehinsman@shepherdschools.net)  
LeeAnn Gall, Shepherd Middle School - [leeann.gall@shepherdschools.net](mailto:leeann.gall@shepherdschools.net)  
Dave Gutierrez, Odyssey MS/HS - [dgutierrez@shepherdschools.net](mailto:dgutierrez@shepherdschools.net)  
Morgan Harnish, Shepherd High School - [morgan.harnish@shepherdschools.net](mailto:morgan.harnish@shepherdschools.net)

## Family Resources

Greater Lansing Food Bank will be distributing food to Isabella County residents at the Black Elk Building Parking Lot (7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858) with registration beginning at 9:00 AM, and pickup running from 10:30 AM to 12 PM (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, food, earn some money, and win some great prizes all while spending time with other parents! The last Parent Café will be held on May 7th! There is a morning (10am-noon) and an evening (5-7pm) session 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! Or register at this link: [Parent Cafe Registration](#)

# CMU STEM CAMP INFORMATION



## summer STEM 2024 Camps

Summer 2024 STEM Camps are available for several grade bands and generally run M-Th in either morning (9a-12p) or afternoon (1-4p) sessions. Each four-day camp is a flat rate of \$25/student which includes all materials. Single-day programs are available in July and August for a flat rate of \$10/student and will run from 9a-12p.

### Which camp titles grab your attention?

- Arduino Programming
- Creative Constructors LEGO Edition
- Drone Flight and Short-Form Filmmaking
- Dungeons & Dragons
- EcoArt Explorers: Consider. Conserve. Create.
- eSports
- Fitness Innovators
- Flight Explorers
- Great Escape: Problem-Solving, Ciphers, and Puzzles
- Iterate. Invent. Innovate.
- Just Winging It!
- Lights & Motors
- make with micro:bits!
- Mastering Makerspace Tools
- Motor Madness
- Moving Masterpieces
- New in Nature
- Share Your Story: An Art and Writing Workshop
- STEM-Inspire Your Attire
- Taking Shape: Geometry in Action
- Waste to Wow! EcoArt & Upcycled Creations
- Single-Day Programs:
  - Amazing Animals & Incredible Insects
  - Plants and Pollinators



Visit [cmucese.corsizio.com](http://cmucese.corsizio.com) or scan for dates, details, and registration for ALL CAMPS!

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Amanda Cornwell at 989-774-3173 or [cornw2a@cmich.edu](mailto:cornw2a@cmich.edu)



# CMU STEM CAMP INFORMATION

Summer 2024 STEM Camps are available for a flat rate of \$25/student which includes all camp materials. Single-day programs are available for \$10/day.



Please keep in mind that student interest in the topic enhances not only the experience, but also that of their fellow campers. Unless otherwise communicated for a specific camp, pick-up/drop-off is at the west entrance of the EHS Building.

## JUNE

Dates	Times	Camp Title	Grade (Entering Fall 2024)
6/17 - 6/20	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">New in Nature</a>	2-3
6/17 - 6/20	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">make with micro:bits</a>	4-6
6/17 - 6/20	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Flight Explorers</a>	5-8
6/24 - 6/27	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Just Winging It*</a>	4-6
6/24 - 6/27	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Lights &amp; Motors*</a>	6-12

## JULY

Dates	Times	Camp Title	Grade (Entering Fall 2024)
7/2	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Amazing Animals &amp; Incredible Insects</a> (Single-day program)	K-3
7/3	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Amazing Animals &amp; Incredible Insects</a> (Single-day program)	4-6
7/8 - 7/11	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Fitness Innovators</a>	K-3
7/8 - 7/11	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Waste to Wow: EcoArt and Upcycled Creations</a>	K-3
7/8 - 7/11	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Drone Flight and Short-Form Filmmaking</a>	6-12
7/8 - 7/11	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">D&amp;D Gameplay (AM)</a>	5-12
7/8 - 7/11	1pm - 4pm	<a href="#">D&amp;D Gameplay (PM)</a>	5-12
7/15 - 7/18	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Creative Constructors LEGO Edition</a>	K-2
7/15 - 7/18	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">EcoArt Explorers: Consider. Conserve. Create.</a>	3-5
7/15 - 7/18	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Arduino Programming</a>	6-12
7/15 - 7/18	1pm - 4pm	<a href="#">Iterate. Invent. Innovate.</a>	3-5
7/15 - 7/18	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">esports (AM)</a>	4-12
7/15 - 7/18	1pm - 4pm	<a href="#">esports (PM)</a>	4-12
7/15 - 7/18	1pm - 4pm	<a href="#">STEM-Inspire Your Attire</a>	6-12
7/22 - 7/25	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Moving Masterpieces</a>	4-6
7/22 - 7/25	1pm - 4pm	<a href="#">Taking Shape: Geometry in Action</a>	6-8
7/29 - 8/1	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Share Your Story: An Art and Writing Workshop*</a>	4-6
7/29 - 8/1	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Mastering Makerspace Tools*</a>	6-8

## AUGUST

Dates	Times	Camp Title	Grade (Entering Fall 2024)
8/5 - 8/8	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Motor Madness</a>	4-6
8/5 - 8/8	1pm - 4pm	<a href="#">The Great Escape: Problem-Solving, Ciphers, and Puzzles</a>	6-8
8/7	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Plants and Pollinators (K-3)</a> (Single-day program)	K-3
8/8	9am - 12pm	<a href="#">Plants and Pollinators (4-6)</a> (Single-day program)	4-6

\* For an additional fee, these camps can be combined with afternoon activities at the SAC for a full-day experience (lunch included).