

FALCONER NEWS

www.allendale.k12.mi.us

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****Please continue to check our website for the most up-to-date information on events taking place****

- March 7, 8, 9 High School Musical, Wizard of Oz
- March 11 Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room
- March 13, 14 Half Day, Young Five - 12th Grade, Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 15 No School, Young Five - 12th Grade
- March 19 Elementary Fine Arts Fair, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM, Evergreen Elementary
- March 25 Oakwood Fine Arts Fair, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
- March 25 Board of Education Work Session, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room
- March 29 - April 5 No School, Young Five - 12th Grade, Spring Break

Thank you Allendale!

The ballot proposal for a four-year renewal of the Non-Homestead Millage passed 70%-30%. The Non-Homestead Millage is a special levy on industrial, commercial, some agricultural property and "second homes." Without the support of voters, the district would have lost a critical revenue stream that we are required by law to collect. Allendale Public Schools is very fortunate to have such tremendous support and we look forward to continuing our commitment to excellent education. Allendale Public Schools would like to extend a special "thank you" to those who will provide the revenue from this millage renewal. It is with your support that we are able to continue providing outstanding educational opportunities for students in the Allendale community. Of course, the best way for **all of us** to say "thank you" is to support our local businesses and industries whenever possible. Shop local!



The Allendale High School Choir presents their spring musical, **The Wizard of Oz!** This production is the work of nearly 80 cast members, of various ages, and will be one you do not want to miss! Our talented cast and crew continue to work to prepare for this production. Thank you for your support of the spring musical! See you there March 7-9!

Link to purchase tickets:
<https://allendalefinearts.ludus.com/index.php?sections=events>

Congrats!

MSVMA

State Honors Choir Performance

Alex Mansuy

Connor Liles



Congratulations to AHS Choir students **Alex Mansuy** and **Connor Liles** for performing at MSVMA's State Honors Choir on January 27th at Devos Hall.



ALLENDALE BANDS



Congratulations to **Maddox Lewis** on an outstanding performance in the 2024 MSBOA All-State Orchestra for the second year in a row!



High School Happenings continued

Congratulations to AHS Choirs on a successful day at MSVMA District 10 Solo and Ensemble on February 3rd! 11 soloists and small groups performed, as well as **Allendale High School's Chamber Choir** and **Select Women's Ensemble**. Congratulations to all!



High School Happenings continued

Huge congratulations to our college athlete commits that will be signing their
National Letter of Intent.

Tyler Sparks	Baseball	Allendale	2024	Committed	Alma
Easton Tolson	Baseball	Allendale	2024	Committed	Swarthmore
Jacek Haight	Boys Basketball	Allendale	2024	Committed	Albion
Alyssa Wallinga	Softball	Allendale	2024	Committed	Grace Christian
Max Springer	Baseball	Allendale	2024	Committed	Mid Michigan CC
Halle Steele	Girls Soccer	Allendale	2024	Committed	Milligan
Jaden DuCharme	Boys Golf	Allendale	2024	Committed	Alma

Another great season for our wrestlers! These athletes have worked so hard, and came together to win districts, yet again. This team has demonstrated teamwork and Falcon P.R.I.D.E. through their hard work and dedication to each other and our school. Great job to each of our athletes and coaches involved with **Allendale Wrestling!**



High School Happenings continued

On January 29th, **Allendale Boys and Girls Basketball** teams played Spring Lake, with a common goal of fighting cancer! A local Allendale family is in the middle of this battle. The game was played in their honor and for their benefit. This was a great example of our athletes coming together with community members to show their Falcon P.R.I.D.E.!



Blood Drive:

Goal: 24

Number of Donors: 37

Successful Donations: 25 whole blood, 2 double reds = 29 successful units!

First Time Donors:

- Noah Brose
- Kyle Foote
- Angela Green
- Hannah Post

Congratulations to our milestone achievers:

- Joan Byers, 4 gallons!
- Angela Headley, 3 gallons!
- Tracie Sult, 3 gallons!



Lives saved in our community: 79!!

A note from the coordinator of the blood drive at AHS:

Thank you doesn't even begin to cover it you guys. That is 29 pints that will go on to save nearly 79 patient lives in the days and weeks to come! Our patients will have blood on the shelves because of you and our students – a time when these units were desperately needed with the winter storms that affected our collections last month. Thank you, to you and our Allendale students, for pushing so hard to make these drives so successful.

High School Happenings continued

Student leader at AHS, **Liam Reynolds**: Senator Mark Huizinga hosted Allendale High School senior Liam Reynolds. Liam is our senior class president, and his time in this role has been marked by commitment to the betterment of his school and community. His leadership is characterized by a genuine passion for creating a positive environment for all students. We are proud of all Liam has done here at AHS, and can't wait to see the amazing things he will do in the future!



Olivia Sapayan's (Grade 11) photo titled "In the Middle" (below) was awarded a Gold Key in the regional Scholastic Art Awards! Our region is very large and extremely competitive and Olivia's photo was the only piece selected from Allendale High School.

This is the highest regional award and it will automatically be sent to the National Competition in New York City.

There will be an awards ceremony to honor Olivia and the other winners on Sunday, March 24th at 1:00 p.m. at Van Singel Fine Art Center.



Allendale High School hosted over 50 schools (both middle schools and high schools) competing at our annual **Allendale Science Olympiad Invitational**, on Saturday February 24th. Allendale had two high school teams and one middle school team compete. The teams are now preparing to compete at regionals in March, in hopes of securing a spot to compete at the state level in April.



High School Happenings continued



March 4-8, AHS has a fun-filled week entitled, "**Beat the Blahs**". This is a week of fun, spirit day challenges, and special prizes for staff and students. The goal is to bring mental health awareness to everyone in our building and community. Winters can get long and dreary, and we want to take a few days to bring some sunshine to our staff and students! Beat the Blahs week is capped off with a Power Buff Volleyball game between Junior and Senior boys, as well as a volleyball match between staff and students! What a great week to boost staff and student morale as we press on to spring sunshine!

Sophomores from Allendale High School were given the opportunity to tour the Careerline Tech Center (CTC) in January. This gave them an opportunity to see inside classrooms of the various programs CTC offers, along with speaking with staff and students about the programs. CTC provides a wide range of opportunities for our students, and we are proud to partner them for the betterment of our Allendale students.



Students explored various programs that are offered at CTC, and even were able to tour the classrooms, lab, auto shop, and AG studies barn!



High School Happenings continued

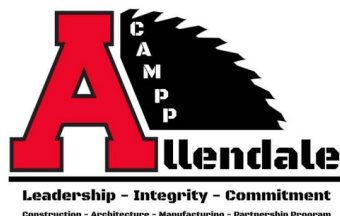
Allendale High School CAMPP Team Community Outreach Project

On February 7th our Allendale High School CAMPP Team presented three custom made cornhole game sets to Mr. Weber and his Entrepreneurship Class. The team unanimously decided to build the game boards to support the kickoff of the new **Red Zone Spirit Store** located in the high school. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to showcase their craftsmanship and increase their focus area in the following categories.

- Community involvement
- Leadership Skills
- Teamwork
- Public Speaking
- Public Relations
- Marketing

The Team was amazing. They all worked together to accomplish their goals. A big shout out to the CAMPP Team, their talents and commitment to the community.

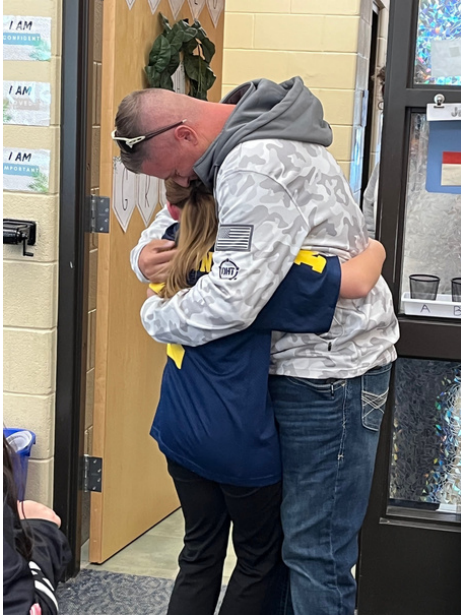
WE ARE ALLENDALE!



Oakwood Happenings

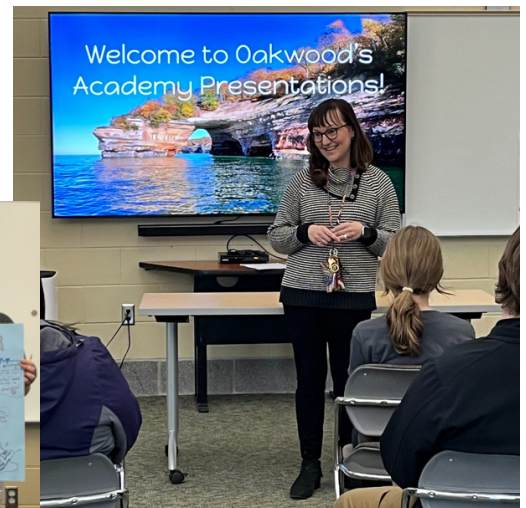
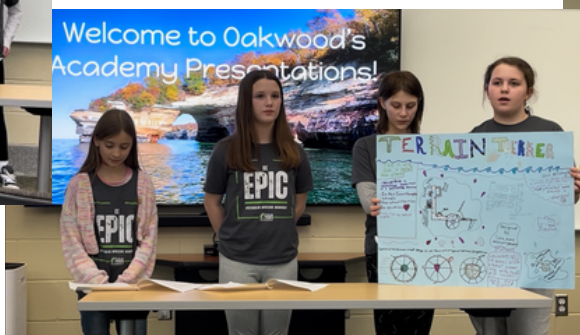
Homecoming ... of a Different Sorts!

What a special time Miss Kulikamp's class was able to be a part of! Kennedy, a 5th Grade student, her dad, returned from a 10-month deployment in the Middle East. A HUGE thank you to Staff Sergeant Joseph Bourdon, United States Army (National Guard), Alpha Battery 1-182nd FAR, for his service to our country. Despite all the tears (by many others besides the family), it was a HAPPY reunion for Kennedy and her family! It's also a great reminder ... to always be kind to others as you may not know what they are going through. Thank you to all our military families - for the sacrifices you ALL make.



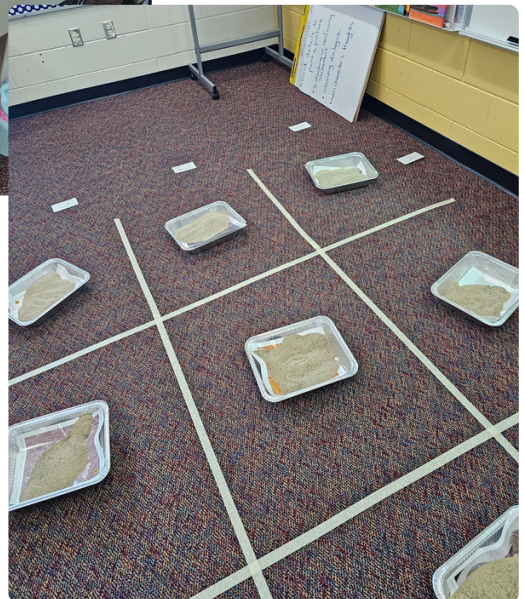
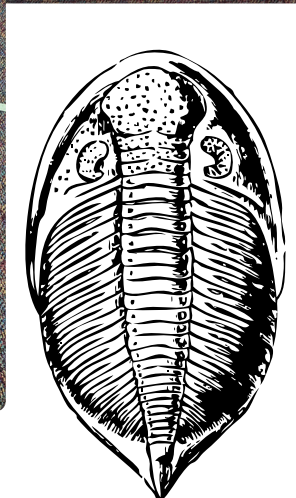
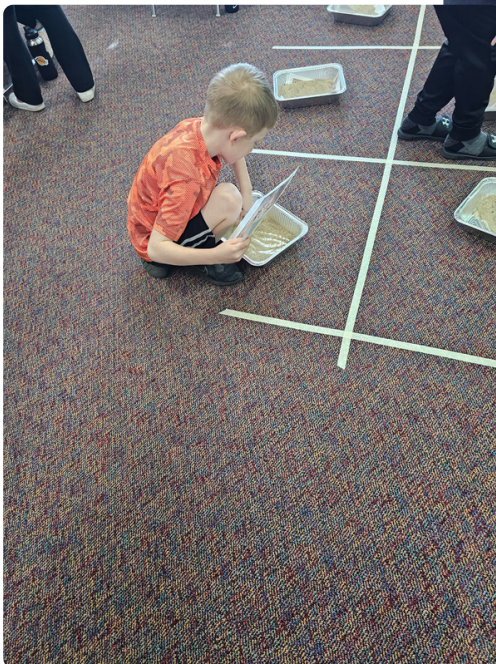
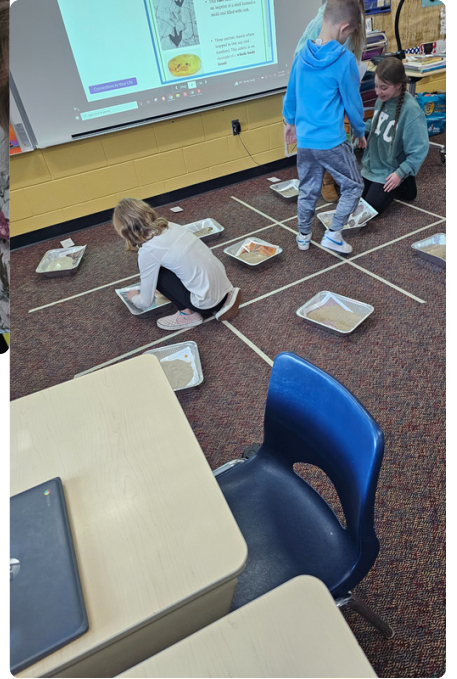
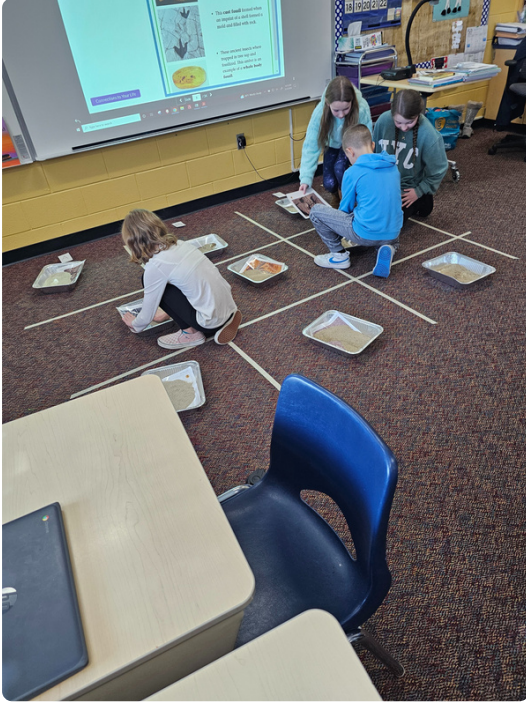
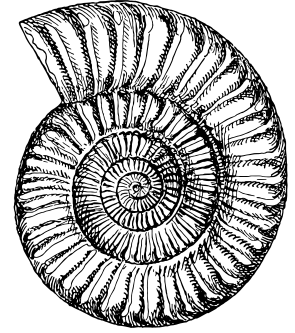
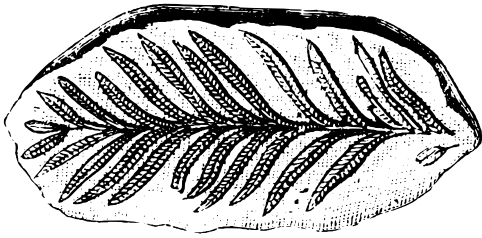
Your Design Thinking in Action

Fifth grade teachers, Mrs. Lema and Miss Haveman, recently participated in a Design Thinking and PBL (Project-Based Learning) training with the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District. They were able to use their newly learned skills with a small group of students in an after-school program. The students were challenged with how to improve usage of the National Parks in Michigan. The students worked through the Design Thinking process to create some really cool solutions to the driving question. Students then presented their solutions to a group of parents, Oakwood staff and our Superintendent, Dr. Cooper. We are looking forward to Mrs. Lema and Miss Haveman using more of their Design Thinking skills in the classroom and at Oakwood.



Evergreen Elementary Happenings

Evergreen **3rd grade students** have been conducting "digs" in their classrooms to better understand cast, trace and whole-body fossils.



Evergreen Elementary Happenings continued

Evergreen **1st graders** presented Music Informances for family and friends in February. Students used singing, movement, listening and instruments to demonstrate how they learn about music!





Allendale Public Schools

COMMUNITY BUDGET GUIDE

2023-2024 Fiscal Year

"Investing in Our Kids and Our Community"

Message from the Superintendent

This Community Budget Guide was developed to assist parents and taxpayers in understanding the financial operations of Allendale Public Schools. As you know, budgeting is a complex undertaking that requires consideration of many factors, including but not limited to, enrollment projections, resource allocation, capital and operational funding needs and compensation of personnel. With all that in mind, the APS Board of Education makes its financial decisions based on three guiding principles:

1. **Mission Focus.** We are unwavering in our commitment to educate, inspire and support all students with a first-class education that provides the knowledge and skills they need to live successful lives.
2. **Faithful Stewardship.** We are committed to faithful financial stewardship, as demonstrated in part by increasing our Fund Balance consistently over the last nine fiscal years and our commitment going forward to increase it by 1% annually.
3. **Fair Compensation.** As the school district continues to grow, we are committed to working collaboratively to provide fair and competitive compensation for our personnel as well as ensuring appropriate staffing needs in all areas.

The Board encourages you to look over this guide, and we welcome your comments or suggestions regarding allocation of the District's resources. By careful leveraging of our resources and partnering closely with our community, we will insure that we are meeting the needs of all students in Allendale Public Schools.

-Dr. Garth Cooper, Superintendent

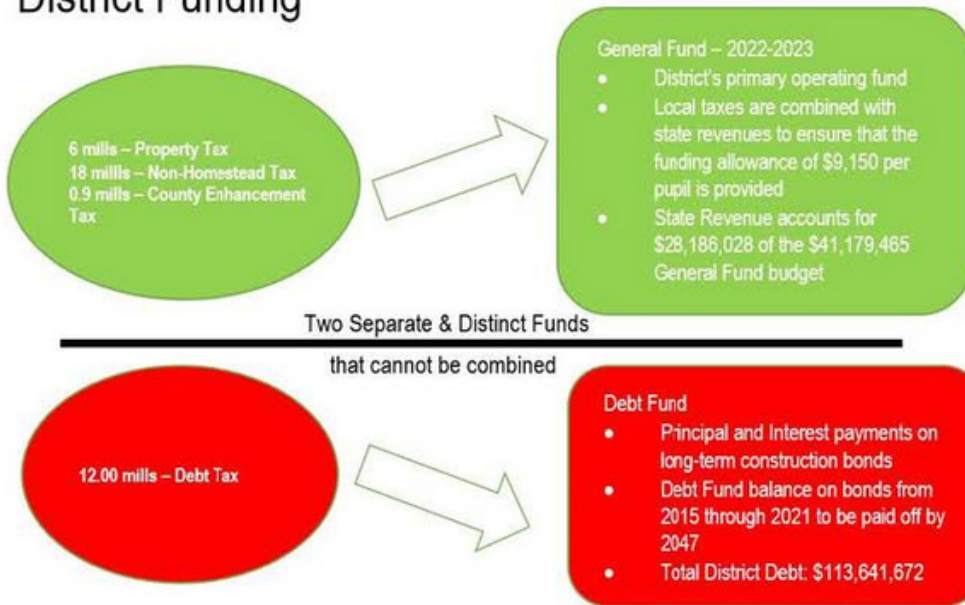
***Allendale Public Schools
commit to educate, inspire,
and support all students.***

~APS Mission Statement~

In This Guide

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- 3 Enrollment History
- 4 Revenue Sources
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District Funding



Budget Basics

Allendale Public Schools has two primary funds: General Fund and Debt Fund.

General Fund

The General Fund provides for personnel and program expenses as well as the day-to-day operations and maintenance of our schools. The majority of the General Fund revenue comes from the per-pupil foundation allowance we receive from the State of Michigan.

The Board of Education must annually approve a balanced budget by June 30. Currently, the district is in the 2023-24 Fiscal Year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. Operational expenses are funded annually through the state foundation allowance of \$9,150 per pupil in 2022-2023 and \$9,608 in 2023-2024.

Debt Fund

The Debt Fund pays down the principal and interest from past bond issues approved by the voters for the purchase of land, construction of facilities, and technology and equipment.

The Board of Education can only ask the community to support tax requests for construction projects and cannot ask the community to support a tax increase for operational expenses. Funds raised through the sale of voter-approved bond issues cannot be used to support operational expenses such as employee salaries and benefits, school supplies, and textbooks.

Tax Levies or Millages

6 mills - State Education Tax:

Paid by all Michigan property owners, these 6 mills are collected at the state level and are combined with a portion of state income and sales taxes, as well as state lottery profits and a portion of other taxes to fund the state School Aid Fund, which is allocated to school districts on a per-pupil basis.

18 mills - Non-Homestead Tax:

Paid by Michigan property owners without a homestead exemption, these 18 mills are collected locally, and represent a portion of the per-pupil state foundation allowance. This millage must be approved by the voters.

12.00 mills - Debt Tax:

This tax levy is used to repay the principle and interest on voter-approved construction projects and is paid by all property owners in the Allendale Public School District.

0.9 mills - Ottawa County Enhancement Millage

Paid by all Ottawa County property owners where the funds will primarily be used to maintain academic and extracurricular offerings, improve mental health and social-emotional learning services district-wide with additional staff, and ongoing upgrades to district safety and security.



2022-2023 Enrollment

Grade Level	Student FTE
ECSE	15
Young 5s	92
K	179
1	189
2	185
3	183
4	175
5	208
6	184
7	173
8	207
9	210
10	201
11	200
12	191
ACS	76
Total	2,668

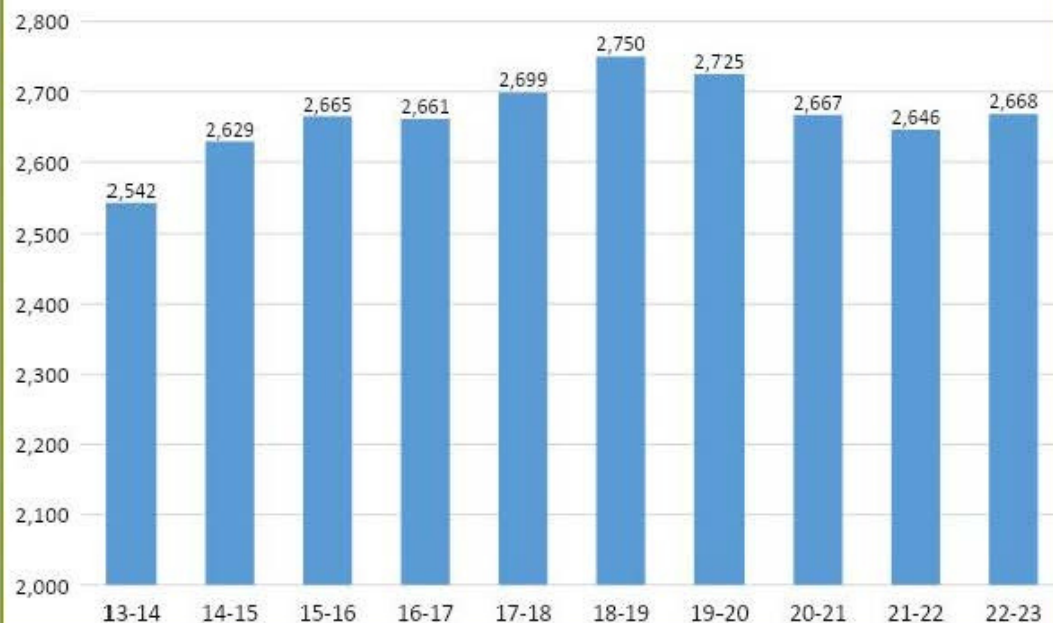
NOTES:

FTE refers to Full-Time Equivalent student. For state reporting and funding purposes, the District must account for the instructional time for each student. Because some students are enrolled part-time with Allendale, FTE is used.

The 9th through 12th grade numbers above include both Allendale High School and New Options High School students.

APS provides classes in Art, Music, Physical Education, and Technology Literacy at Allendale Christian School. The time Allendale Christian students spend in those classes equates to the 76 FTE shown above.

APS Enrollment History



Enrollment History

Allendale Public Schools have grown steadily as Allendale Township has grown over the last 30 years. Allendale has become a bedroom community for many families who work in the Grand Rapids - Muskegon - Holland triangle of West Michigan.

Factors that impact enrollment for our schools:

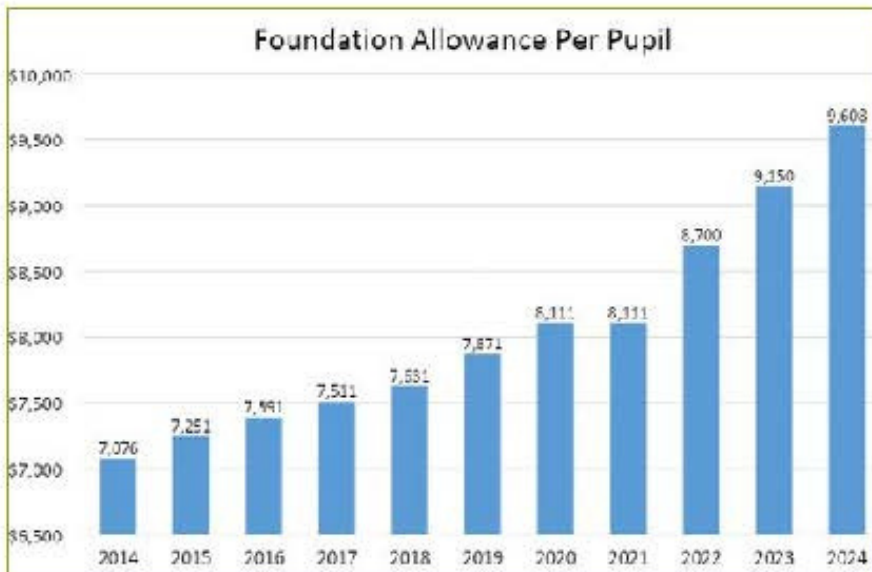
- School Choice has been a positive option for Allendale Public Schools. The District has a 1.4:1 ratio of incoming students versus exiting students for school of choice.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district saw a decline of 58 students in 2020-21. Enrollment has held steady since.



Per Pupil Foundation Allowance

Created in 1994 with Proposal A, the state Foundation Allowance is the District's major source of funding. To the left is the 11-year history of that funding.

The per pupil foundation allowance has shown steady growth since 2014. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and pressure on the State's School Aid Fund budget, the foundation allowance remained the same for 2020-2021. With the economy improving, the State was able to provide sizable increases to the district's foundation allowance since 2020-2021.

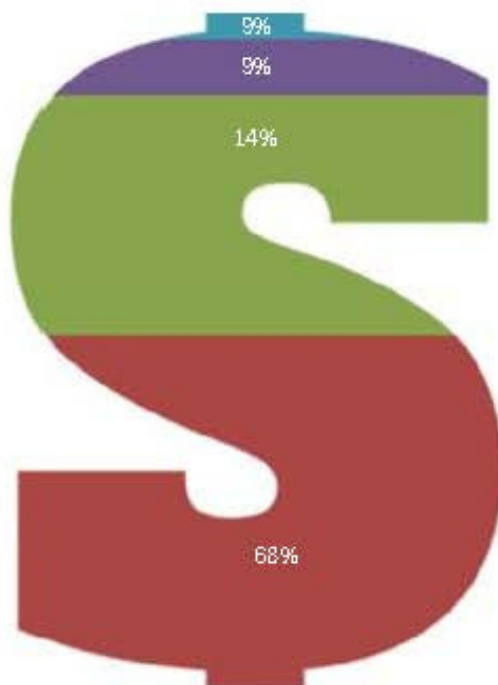


Revenue Sources

Three quarters of the District's total revenues come from state funding sources. The other quarter is based on the community's census data regarding economically disadvantaged students and specific populations of students like those with special needs or English learners. The District's free and reduced lunch rate is just under 33% of the total student enrollment. This percentage rate tends to exclude the District from poverty-based grants and special programs.



2022 – 2023 Revenue Per Student - \$15,434



■	Federal	\$1,369
	Title I At-Risk Program	
	Title II Professional Development Program	
	Title III English Learner Program	
	Special Education – IDEA Grant	
	COVID-19 Relief Funds	
■	Other Funding	\$1,390
	Special Education– Ottawa Area	
	Intermediate School District Millage	
■	Local Funding	\$2,111
	Non-Homestead Property Tax	
	Athletic Event Revenues	
	Early Childhood Program Fees	
■	State Funding	\$10,564
	Foundation Allowance <u>less</u> Property Taxes	
	included in Local Funding	
	Section 31a At-Risk Funding	
	Great Start Readiness Program Funding	
	Special Education Headlee obligation	

Personnel and Non-Personnel Expenses

Because education is a people-intensive service, 77% of the General Fund Budget is spent on wages and benefits.

Non-personnel expenditures include such items as:

- Teaching Supplies & Textbooks
- Technology License Fees
- Custodial & Maintenance Supplies
- Utilities
- Capital Outlay for Furniture & Equipment
- Business Expenses (Audit, Legal, Insurance)

2022 - 2023 Cost of Education Per Student - \$14,973

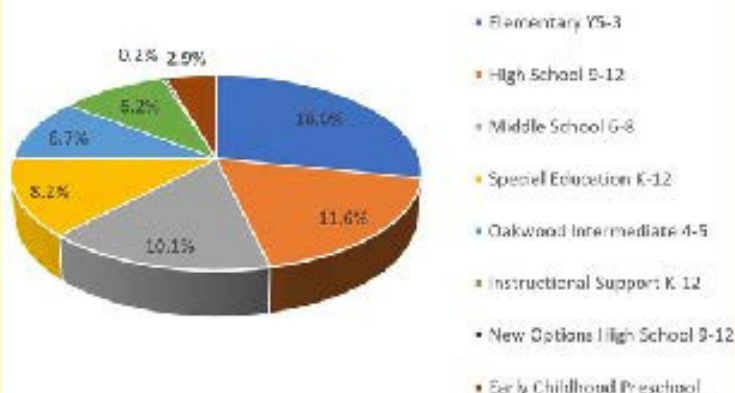


Resource Allocation

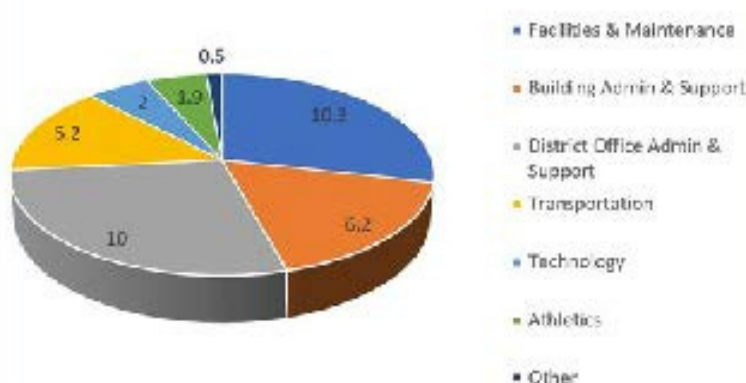
Our priority as a District is to allocate resources directly to the classroom and other educational opportunities for students.

As seen in the pie charts below, 64% of revenues are allocated to instructional programming while the other 36% provide the needed facilities, transportation, support, and other opportunities to enhance the educational environment.

Instructional Expenses as % of Budget - 64%



Non-Instructional Expenses as % of Budget - 36%



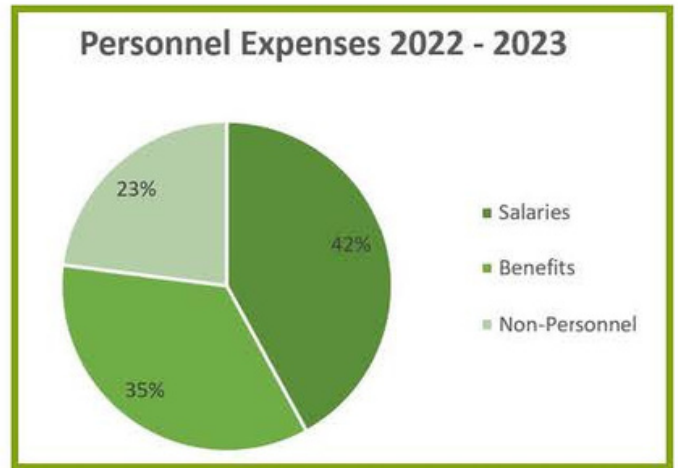
2022 - 2023 Personnel Expenses		
Salaries	16,968,815	42.5%
Retirement	9,094,264	22.7%
Medical	3,224,158	8.1%
Soc. Sec./Medicare	1,247,303	3.1%
Dental	271,370	0.7%
Life/LTD/Worker's Comp	84,659	0.2%
Total Personnel	30,890,569	77.3%
Non-Personnel	9,058,156	22.7%
Total Expenses	39,948,725	100.0%

The majority of the District's budget is personnel costs. Included in the non-personnel costs are the costs of substitutes for teachers and aides, along with other contracted services. These contracted services include the District's business services and various other special education services. These costs make up 14.5% of the non-personnel costs.

Personnel Information

The Board of Education works collaboratively with its employee associations to provide fair compensation while addressing the increased staffing needs in all areas. The Board and Administration review compensation data from both the public and private sectors to ensure competitive compensation.

Full Time Equivalent Employees	
Teachers/Professional Staff	167.7
Instructional Aides	51.8
Secretaries	14.8
Food Service Staff	11
Bus Drivers	20
Technology Support Staff	4
Custodial/Maintenance Staff	19
Other Support Staff	22
Administrators	16
Total	326.3



Collective Bargaining vs. "Meet and Confer"

Allendale Public Schools has two union associations with which it collectively bargains contracts. The Allendale Education Association (AEA) is affiliated with the Michigan Education Association (MEA) and serves teachers and other professional staff. The Allendale Support Personnel Association (ASPA) is also affiliated with the MEA and serves our Instructional Aides and Interventionists.

All other groups are non-union and collectively "meet and confer" with administration. Meet and Confer groups have a meeting with administration to share their ideas and suggestions about pay and benefits. The administration then determines what to offer based on state funding and Board of Education budget parameters.

The Board of Education collectively bargained a three-year agreement (7/23 - 6/26) with the MEA and a three-year agreement (7/22 - 6/25) with the ASPA. The secretarial and food service staff also came to new three-year agreements (7/22 - 6/25). Our operations staff agreed to a new three-year agreement (7/21 - 6/24). Our transportation staff agreed to a new four-year agreement (7/21 - 6/25).

Factors Bearing on the District's Financial Future

1. The uncertainty of student foundation funding levels, as well as funding for other K-12 education programs, reflects the economic difficulties faced by the State of Michigan and the District.
2. The district received ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Funds and CRF (Coronavirus Relief Funds) from the Federal Government which helped offset the cost of opening and fully operating the school district for 2020-22. ESSER II and ESSER III funding is projected to be received and spent through 2024 to offset future expenses related to COVID-19.
3. In November 2018, voters of Ottawa County approved a 0.9 mill enhancement millage proposal that will provide approximately \$226 dollars per student for ten years. These dollars will be used for operational purposes.
4. In May 2017, voters approved a \$29 million bond proposal focusing on growth, safety and security, educational technology and building and site improvements. Over \$28 million has already been spent on these projects with the remaining funds being spent gradually over the next two years to provide for the continuing needs of the District.

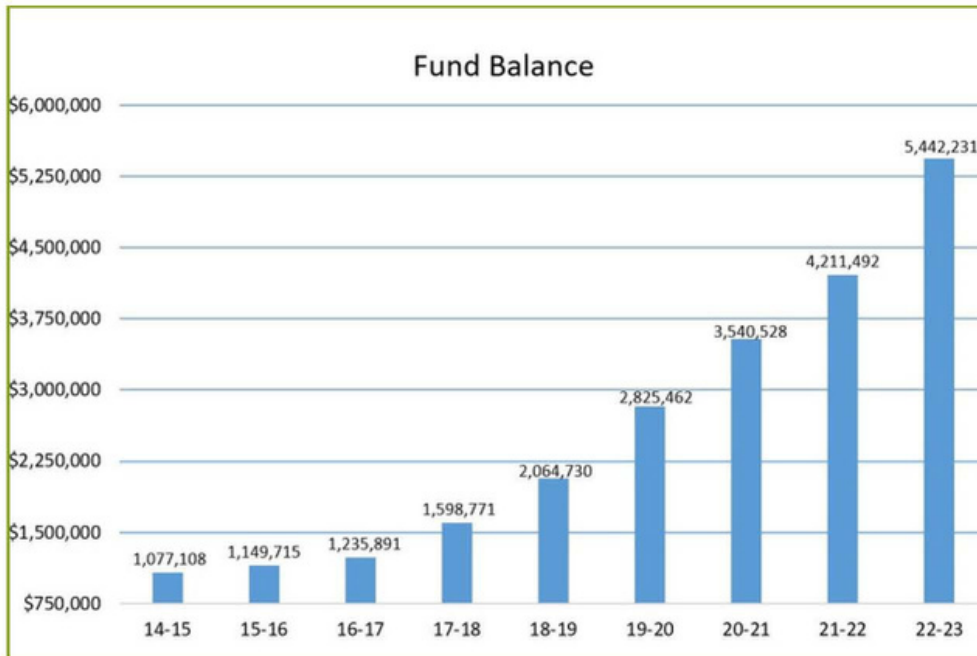
Revenue & Expense Trends					
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Revenues					
Local Sources	\$ 4,793,118	\$ 4,840,558	\$ 4,612,148	\$ 5,059,439	\$ 5,632,492
State Funding	20,881,608	21,640,190	22,588,418	24,529,735	28,186,028
Federal Funding	752,997	739,359	1,996,612	2,786,236	3,652,039
ACT 18 Special Ed Funding	2,441,187	2,217,046	2,175,464	2,314,288	2,565,757
Other	230,810	911,671	1,150,276	1,053,845	1,143,149
Total Revenues	\$ 29,099,720	\$ 30,348,824	\$ 32,522,918	\$ 35,743,543	\$ 41,179,465
Expenses					
Salaries & Wages	\$ 13,875,488	\$ 14,896,226	\$ 14,614,125	\$ 15,872,917	\$ 16,968,815
Retirement	5,279,167	5,801,084	6,164,856	6,834,947	9,094,263
Health & Other Benefits	2,998,541	3,168,742	3,270,272	3,404,600	3,580,189
FICA	1,019,044	1,081,003	1,071,921	1,170,927	1,247,303
Utilities	534,102	555,564	670,095	756,049	848,162
Supplies & Textbooks	1,356,460	706,048	1,184,730	1,330,932	1,243,735
Capital Outlay	152,509	259,982	421,288	149,478	572,400
Oth Purchased Svcs/Expenditures	3,418,450	3,122,443	4,466,146	71,242	6,393,858
Total Expenditures	\$ 28,633,761	\$ 29,591,092	\$ 31,863,433	\$ 29,591,092	\$ 39,948,725

Financial Forecast

As you can see from the table above, our Board of Education and Administration have worked hard to insure that our spending does not exceed our revenues. Each of the last twelve years, the District has added a small amount to its Fund Balance.

As we forecast for the future, we are looking at moderate growth in enrollment. We are forecasting growth in revenue based on additional students, additional state funding per student and revenue per student from the Ottawa County 10-year regional enhancement millage that voters approved in November 2018.

Financial Forecast			
	Actual 2022-2023	Projected 2023-2024	Projected 2024-2025
Revenues	41,179,465	42,020,000	41,800,000
Expenditures	39,948,725	40,820,000	41,800,000
Net Change in Fund Balance	1,230,740	1,200,000	
Ending Fund Balance %	13.6%	16.3%	15.9%
Per Pupil Foundation Allowance	9,150	9,608	9,800
Enrollment	2,667	2,668	2,670



APS Adds to Fund Balance

The past several years, per pupil funding from the state and additional funding for at-risk students has allowed the District to add more into the Fund Balance without cutting programs or staff. The District has increased its Fund Balance for the twelfth straight year in 2022-2023.



Fund Balance History

The Fund Balance is the District's savings account for major expenditures that cannot be addressed with normal General Fund Revenues in a school year. Often referred to as a "Rainy Day Fund," the balance is the historical difference between revenue and expenditures. Increasing enrollment from 2011-2018 required additional staffing and operating costs making it difficult to set aside any significant funds within a normal fiscal year to grow the Fund Balance.

From 2012-2017, the Board of Education and Administration worked to add to the Fund Balance annually. This was achieved while completing three major projects paid for out of the General Fund:

1. Constructing and renovating storage facilities at the K-8 and high school campuses in 2012 to eliminate ongoing costs in renting storage space.
2. Replacement and renovation of the track and the stadium field at the high school in 2014.
3. Replacement of aging buses in 2012 and 2015.

In 2017, voters approved a \$29.6 million bond which helped relieve the pressure on the general fund. These bond dollars were used for construction projects, bus purchases and technology upgrades.

The past couple years, the COVID-19 pandemic along with a decline in overall district enrollment and stagnant state funding have created new challenges that put the district's structural stability in question for the upcoming fiscal years. Allendale Public Schools currently ranks 10th out of 11 Ottawa ISD school districts in overall fund reserve percentage.

Fortunately, the district has received ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Funds and CRF (Coronavirus Relief Funds) from the Federal Government which have helped offset the cost of opening and fully operating the school district for 2019-20 and 2020-21. ESSER II and ESSER III funding is projected to be received and spent through 2024 to offset future expenses related to COVID-19.

The Board of Education's goal is to increase the Fund Balance an additional 1% per year. At the end of 2019-2020, the District's Fund Balance was 9.6%. The District ended 2022-2023 at 13.6% and is anticipating reaching 16.3% by the end of 2023-2024.

Facility Changes

High School

The 2017 voter-approved bond provided many upgrades at the high school. Projects included replacing the roof, providing air conditioning to academic spaces, flooring replacements, gymnasium bleacher improvements, Falcon Stadium improvements including additional seating, security camera replacements and site lighting.

Elementary School

The elementary school which housed students in preschool through 3rd grade, reached capacity. No rooms were available for growth. In fact, enrollment for preschool programs was limited because of lack of space. In May 2017, voters approved the construction of a new Early Childhood Center for pre-school and kindergarten students. This facility opened for the 2019-2020 school year. Currently the building is at capacity. The district is considering options for future growth.

Maintenance of Facilities

The District Administration maintains a list of long-range capital projects for repair and replacement of facilities and equipment. Needs include expanding the Early Childhood Center along with various other projects in all building spaces throughout the district. The Board of Education is considering a bond proposal in 2024 to address these needs.



Capital Projects

Capital projects include the voter-approved bond construction programs and the related debt service payments for those construction programs. Currently, 12.00 mills are levied on property owners to allow the district to meet its debt service requirements.

Several of the bond construction programs listed below have been refinanced to provide significant interest savings to the taxpayers of Allendale Township. The savings from the refinancing will save taxpayers \$35 million of interest expense.

Year of Bond Approval	Bond Construction Program	Bond Amount	Construction Completion Year
1994	High School Building & Campus Construction	\$21.8 Million	1997
1998	Football Stadium & Concession Stand Construction	\$1.2 Million	1998
2002	K-8 Campus Land Purchase, Elementary Building Construction, Fine Arts Center Construction, Transportation Building Construction, and additional High School Athletic & Music Room Renovations	\$27.3 Million	2004-2005
2007	Middle School Building Construction, Oakwood Intermediate Building Construction, K-8 Campus Renovations, High School Science Rooms and Office Renovations	\$59.7 Million	2009
2017	Early Childhood Center Building Construction, High School Stadium and Gymnasium Bleacher Improvements, Roofing Replacement, Mechanical and Air Conditioning Upgrades; Updated Technology Throughout the District and Bus Purchases.	\$29.6 Million	2021

Summary

You can read more about our District Budget, Audit Reports, Collective Bargaining Agreements, and other Financial Data by going to the Allendale Public Schools website at www.allendale.k12.mi.us and clicking on the blue Michigan icon in the upper right hand corner titled "Budget and Salary/Compensation Transparency Reporting."

In 2021, the Board of Education implemented a new strategic plan that is designed to determine the District's direction for the next five years. The Board has set priorities to position the District to continuously improve educational programming for our students and prepare for continued enrollment growth.

General Fund

The District has balanced its General Fund for twelve consecutive years while adding to its Fund Balance. The majority of the General Fund revenue comes from the State of Michigan per-pupil Foundation Allowance. The Board of Education cannot ask the community to support a tax increase for operational expenses. Because 77% of the General Fund is devoted to wages and benefits, the issues of competitive compensation, retirement costs, and health insurance increases are major factors to be addressed.

Debt Fund

Currently the district levies 12.0 mills to all property owners. These funds are used to pay the principal and interest on all voter approved bonds and cannot be used for general operating expenses of the District. Refinancing some of this debt has saved the taxpayers \$35 million in interest expense.

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APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Bill Patteuw

Social Worker

- Mr. Patteuw has been with APS 21 years.
- Mr. Bill is an excellent colleague and school social worker. He is always willing to support students and teachers/staff in need. Mr. Bill has a calm demeanor and students respect him and enjoy working with him. He is knowledgeable and experienced in creating and providing supports for students or staff to implement with students. Mr. Bill is also excellent with parents. He ensures they are involved and supported during meetings (IEP's, Positive Behavior Support meetings, etc..) The Evergreen staff have a lot of respect for Mr. Bill due to his willingness to assist and support. He is also a great communicator to administration which is greatly appreciated. Thank you Mr. Bill for all you do!
- In his free time, Mr. Bill enjoys spending time with friends and family exploring the lakeshores and waters of Lake Michigan, watching sports (GO BLUE!) and fishing/outdoor activities. He has three children who have attended APS since preschool. Mr. Bill's daughter Ana is currently a senior and youngest son Aiden is a sophomore. His oldest son Wilson graduated with the class of 2021. Go Falcons!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Allison Whiteside

Middle School Special Education Resource Teacher

- Mrs. Whiteside has been with APS for 3 years.
- Mrs. Whiteside is a hard worker and very dedicated to supporting staff and students at Allendale Middle School. She creates excellent connections with students and is always upbeat and positive when working with students. Her dedication to student success has led to many accomplishments by the students she works with. Mrs. Whiteside is also driven and works hard to support her coworkers and the initiatives of the special education department. She is an asset to Allendale Public Schools and our special education team.
- Mrs. Whiteside enjoys teaching special education at Allendale Middle School because of the impactful relationships she has with her students and their families. Middle school can often be one of the most challenging years in a student's academic career; she loves seeing the amount of confidence and ownership gained in student learning during this time. She is grateful to not only teach them, but also learn from them everyday! Outside of school, she enjoys biking, hiking, spending time with her husband (Matt), and volunteering at St. Luke's University Parish. Often on the weekends, she and her husband work security for his company at concerts in downtown Grand Rapids.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Amanda Locmelis-Jackson (left), **Sam Bartley** (middle), **Jess Otten** (right)

Paraprofessionals for the ASD program at Evergreen

- Ms. Locmelis-Jackson has been with APS 3 years. Ms. Bartley has been with APS 2 years. Ms. Otten has been with APS 2 years.
- Ms. Locmelis-Jackson, Ms. Bartley and Ms. Otten work very hard in their classroom. They are always on the go, supporting students and the other staff working in the classroom. They all are calm, patient, and caring with the students. Their dedication to the students and meeting students needs so they can maximize their potential is awesome to see. Their is never a dull moment in their classroom and Ms. Locmelis-Jackson, Ms. Bartley and Ms. Otten remain positive while going above and beyond for the students on a daily basis.
- Ms. Locmelis-Jackson participates in family Scouting with Cub Scouts pack 3032. Their favorite part is camping!
- Ms. Bartley's favorite season is Summer, she loves being out in the sun and having beach days with her family. One of her favorite places to visit is Mackinac Island.
- Ms. Otten enjoys walking trails when she is able. She also enjoy going to the gym with her son throughout the week.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



Jenna Masselink

Kindergarten Teacher

- Mrs. Masselink has been with APS 17 years.
- Mrs. Masselink is a veteran teacher who gives her all to her students on a daily basis. Mrs. Masselink is a leader in the Kindergarten hallway, as she serves as our co-grade level chair, and has also served on building teams to help improve the way things are done around the AECC. Mrs. Masselink goes above and beyond to build relationships with her students and families. She will often have previous students come back to her classroom to visit her. We are blessed to have Mrs. Masselink as a part of our Kindergarten team, and also the AECC!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



Amy Rice

Instructional Aide

- Mrs. Rice has been with APS 2 years.
- Mrs. Rice is a dedicated member of the AECC team. She shows up on a daily basis ready to give her all to the students that she works with. Mrs. Rice does a great job getting to know all of the students that she works with inside all of the Kindergarten classrooms. Mrs. Rice is willing to do whatever she is asked, and is a valued, hard-working member of the AECC that we are blessed to have inside the building!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Evergreen Elementary



Lisa Gross

Good Time Friends Director

- Mrs. Gross has been with APS for 5 years.
- Mrs. Gross plays a crucial part in ensuring the well-being, safety, and development of Y5-5th grade students in their before-school and after-school care. She serves as a positive role model for all of the students and a positive leader for her staff. Mrs. Gross demonstrates resilience on a daily basis and is able to quickly adjust to changes and finding solutions to problems while maintaining a positive attitude. Thank you Mrs. Gross!
- Mrs. Gross enjoys spending time with her family and playing games and cards. She also enjoys relaxing with a book on her weekends.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Oakwood Intermediate



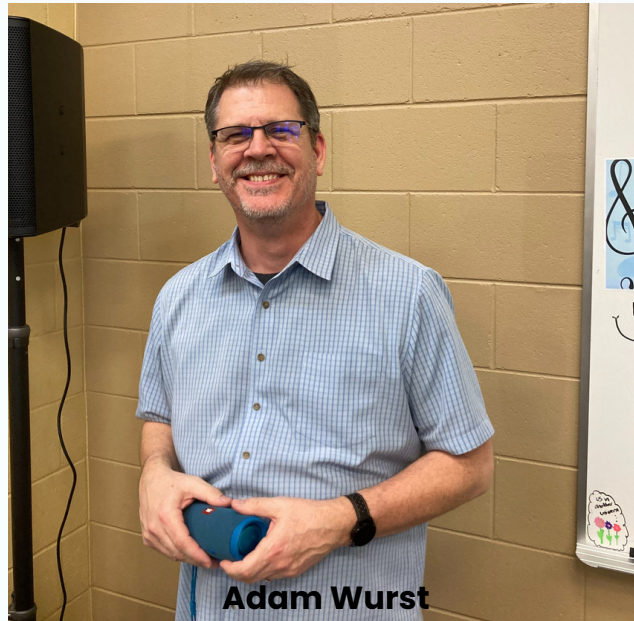
Sarah Lema

5th Grade Teacher

- Mrs. Lema has been with APS for 24 years.
- Mrs. Lema is a master teacher who is always willing to support her students and her team in any way she can. She loves to read and engages students in conversations and activities that involve exploring new genres and new books. She is always willing to learn new and different ways of sharing the content. She is currently participating in additional reading training and PBL and Design Thinking training as well. Mrs. Lema is soft-spoken, but is a mighty part of the Oakwood team.
- Mrs. Lema and her husband, Julius, have two kids, Sabella (16 years old) and Quintin (13 years old). They lived in Tanzania and Mrs. Lema taught at an International school with families from all over the world. They were definitely bit with the travel bug! While they lived there they were able to explore places within Tanzania such as the Serengeti and the island of Zanzibar. They also ventured to Kenya, South Africa, and Namibia. They are excited to be able to check off northern Africa from their bucket list soon as they will be going to Morocco for Spring Break this year. Due to their love of traveling and how much they enjoy sharing the beauty of Tanzania with others, they are part owners of a safari company called Northland Tanzania Safaris.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Middle School



Adam Wurst

Choir Teacher

- Mr. Wurst has been with APS for 15 years.
- "Mr. Wurst is the best!" These are common words spoken in the middle school. Mr. Wurst is our dynamic Choir teacher. He sees, by far, more students each day than any other teacher in the district. His classroom is often bursting at the seams to the point where students have to be turned away because there simply isn't enough room. How does this happen? Care about kids and Mr. Wurst understands that. He has very high expectations for all of his students regardless of ability. Students want to meet those expectations simply because they don't want to disappoint him. The thought of singing in front of 50 of your peers would normally send a middle schooler into a panic attack. Not in Mr. Wurst's class! He creates an environment that is welcoming for all students and accepting of differences and mistakes. By the way, he's had loads of students qualify for State and National Honors Choir. He brings students to nursing homes to brighten their day. He creates scholarships for students interested in continuing their passion at Interlochen School of Music. He picks songs and choreography that makes choir concerts very entertaining. More importantly, he cares about his kids and wants to see them all succeed in areas they enjoy. Congratulations, Mr. Wurst, for this well deserved honor!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Middle School



Vincent Frank

Middle School Choir Accompanist

- Mr. Frank is in his first year with APS.
- Mr. Frank joined the Middle School this year and works as an accompanist with our choirs. Mr. Frank brings a lot of experience as a piano player and singer! Although music takes up a large part of his time, Mr. Frank enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, and sharing time with friends. Mr. Frank also works with students of all ages teaching piano and voice lessons in downtown Grand Rapids in the Vincent Frank Music Studio. Our middle school choirs are so fortunate to welcome Mr. Frank to our singing community and we are especially grateful for his talent, patience, and kindness!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale High School



Stephanie Torp

Special Education Teacher

- Mrs. Torp has been with APS 11 years.
- Mrs. Torp is involved in many things here at AHS. She is the class of 2024 advisor, department chair of the special ED department and runs the CBVI Program. When not juggling the many hats that come with her day to day life, she helps out with the softball program, schedules events for our LINKS and is a member of the transition team as well as a mom to 3 Allendale students. Mrs. Torp has dedicated everything to the students here at AHS. She has helped her students get jobs in the community to help them gain in-person experience at local places like Culvers and Peppinos. Mrs. Torp has taken students to many places in the community and encouraged and challenged them to try things for the first time like how to order food. She makes sure students have the proper attire for school dances and graduation ceremonies. She has made appointments for students to get their hair done for special occasions and has chaperoned numerous times for school events.
- Mrs. Torp is often seen in the stands at band and choir events and never turns down an opportunity to cheer on the Falcons at various sporting events. She is a teacher, mentor, mother figure, shoulder to cry on and the biggest advocate for our students.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale High School



Heather Lake

Front Desk High School Secretary and Middle School Track Coach

- Ms. Lake has been with APS since 2021.
- Ms. Lake is the kind of person who always brings a smile and at the same time can put a smile on everyone else's face. In her front desk secretary role at the High School she has formed relationships with students that truly have a positive influence on their lives. For many students, she is the brightest part of their day! She continually goes the extra mile to help staff, families, and students. Between managing attendance, greeting and helping guests, to helping with student concerns, we can always count on Ms. Lake to be a calm presence and a person who helps get the job done well. We appreciate her kindness, hard work, and teamwork!
- Ms. Lake is also our Allendale Middle School girls track coach. In her spare time, she loves to take walks and runs with her dog, workout at CrossFit Allendale, and spend time with her family and friends.