

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****

Dec. 25-Jan. 5 No School - Christmas Break

January 8 School Resumes

January 15 Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room

January 18 Half Day, Young 5s-12th grade

January 18 Preschool Open House, 6:00-7:30 PM, Allendale Early Childhood Center

January 18 Preschool Registration for 2024-2025 School Year Opens, 8:00 PM, Online

January 19 Half Day, Young 5-12th grade; End of 1st Semester

January 20 Boots & Bling Family Dance, 2-4 PM or 6-8 PM, High School Gym & Cafeteria

January 30 Oakwood Singing Falcons/Talent Show, 7:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center



We are like a
SNOWFLAKE,
all different in our own
beautiful way.

- Unknown



MILLAGE FACTS

ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2024

WHY DO WE HAVE A SCHOOL BALLOT ISSUE IN FEBRUARY?

THE FEBRUARY 27, 2024 BALLOT PROPOSAL WILL ALLOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TO LEVY 18 MILLS OF NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE ON ALL COMMERCIAL BUSINESS, RENTAL PROPERTIES, VACANT LAND AND SECOND-HOME PROPERTIES. IN ORDER FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO RECEIVE ITS FULL OPERATING REVENUE ALLOWANCE FROM THE STATE, THE DISTRICT MUST LEVY 18 MILLS.

What is the 18 mill Non-Homestead Millage?

The 1993-94 Proposal A changed school funding and redefined how taxes on property are assessed. As a result, public schools must levy 18 mills on non-homestead properties to receive full State Foundation Grant funding. Tax revenues from this millage are utilized in the District's general operating budget. It is important to note that this is NOT a tax on homestead properties, and is NOT a new tax - it is a proposal to continue the existing 18 mill assessment on NON-HOMESTEAD PROPERTIES only.

What does "Non-Homestead" mean?

You do not pay this tax on your primary home. It is only paid on property that is not a primary residence such as businesses, investment property, a vacation home and rental property.

What is the financial impact of the renewal?

The State of Michigan provides APS the Foundation Grant Allowance less the 18 mill levy on non-homestead property. Any amount levied less than the 18 mills is not reimbursed by the State. If the millage is not renewed, the District would lose approximately \$4,950,000 per year beginning January 2025. The State will not replace this funding, and the District would be faced with finding alternative funding, or implementing steep cuts in programming and staffing.

What does this mean to Allendale residents?

On February 27, 2024, Allendale voters will be asked once again to vote on the state mandated 18 mills on non-homestead properties. The District is requesting a four year renewal of the non-homestead 18 mills and an additional 3 mills that may be used only to restore the 18 mills, should Headlee rollbacks occur. Without the non-homestead millage renewal, all of the District's operating millage would be reduced to zero when the current millage expires in December of 2024. If the proposed renewal is approved on February 27, 2024, homeowners will NOT see an increase in their property taxes on their primary residence. This is not a new tax, but rather a proposal of the District to continue to levy the 18 mills for the non-homestead tax as it has since 1994. Approval of the millage will give the District the continued ability to collect full State funding for its schools.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions regarding the Non-Homestead Millage Renewal Proposal, please contact Superintendent Garth Cooper at 616-892-5570 or coopergar@apsfalcons.net



ALLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS REGISTRATION 2024/2025



(All registrations are online)
Available Online March 1, 2024

TO REGISTER for Kindergarten or Young 5's children must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2024 to attend for the 2024/2025 school year.

Parents of children turning 5 between September 1st and December 1st, 2024 may submit online registration, Allendale Public Schools will make every effort to consider your child's registration

◆ **REGISTRATION AVAILABLE ONLINE MARCH 1, 2024** ◆



★ **REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS NEEDED:** ★

1. Birth certificate (county issued) (original or copy)
2. Proof of residency (utility bill, lease/mortgage work best)
3. Complete up to date official immunization record or valid waiver (DPT, Polio, MMR, Varicella, Hep B)
4. Health appraisal form completed and signed by a physician dated 2023 or newer
5. Proof of vision/hearing screening

The above items are not required at the time of registration, but must be provided BEFORE your child can attend school.

Free hearing and vision screenings as well as free dental screenings are available for students entering kindergarten (or Young 5's) through the Ottawa County Department of Public Health.

***PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** If you have questions about Young 5's or Kindergarten classes please attend our informational meeting on February 27, 2024, at 6:00 PM, in the Allendale Early Childhood Center cafeteria. You may also watch the informational video on our website <https://www.allendale.k12.mi.us/district/enrollinginaps/> or scan the QR code above.*

PLEASE VISIT our enrollment page after March 1st 2024 to register your child. (Use the link or QR code listed above.) We look forward to partnering with you for your child's education. For additional information, contact Allendale District Office 616-892-5570 or Allendale Early Childhood Center 616-892-5580.

Parents/Guardians of current 2023/2024 Young 5's/Kindergarten students at APS

There is no need to submit a new registration for your child. If your child is currently attending Young 5's or Kindergarten at Allendale Public Schools they are expected to continue for the next school year.

Allendale Public Schools



preschool Open House

When? Thursday, January 18, 2024

Time? 5:30pm-7pm

Where? AECC Cafeteria

Come meet our experienced preschool staff!

Learn about our NEW preschool class options!

Hear about our NEW preschool locations!

2024-25 Allendale Public Preschool Registration

Will go LIVE on Thursday, January 18 at 8pm.

Online Registration Google Form will be found on the APS Website.

Preschool Registration



Allendale Public Schools

2024-25 Preschool Registration

Registration will be time and dated via Google Form submission.

When? Thursday, January 18, 2024

Time? Google Form will go live at 8pm

How? Link for the 24-25 Preschool Registration Google Form will be found on the APS website!

Allendale Public Schools

2024-25 School Year

See our **NEW** Preschool Options & **NEW** Locations!



3 year old Preschool: Half Day, 2 Options*

**These classes will be located in the Evergreen Elementary West Wing*

The following options are 3 hour classes:

Option #1: Mon/Wed/Friday Morning class

Option #2: Tuesday/Thursday Morning class

4 year old Preschool: Half Day, **NEW!** 2 Options*

**These classes will be located in the Evergreen Elementary West Wing*

The following options are 3 hour classes:

Option #1: Monday through Thursday Morning class

*Option #2: **NEW!** Mon/Wed/Thursday Afternoon class*

4 year old Preschool: Full Day, **NEW!** 2 Options

The following options are 7 hour school day classes:

*Option #1: **NEW!** Tuition-based Preschool School Day**

**This classroom will be located in the Evergreen Elementary West Wing*

*Option #2: **FREE** Great Start Readiness Preschool School Day***

***All GSRP classrooms will be located in the AECC building, **FREE** to families that apply and qualify due to funding from the State of Michigan*

Preschool Wraparound Child Care*

**This classroom will be located in the Evergreen Elementary West Wing
Wrap Care is only available to 3 year old and 4 year old children that are enrolled in an Allendale Public School Tuition-based Preschool classroom or a Great Start Readiness Program Preschool classroom.*

Allendale Early Childhood Center Happenings

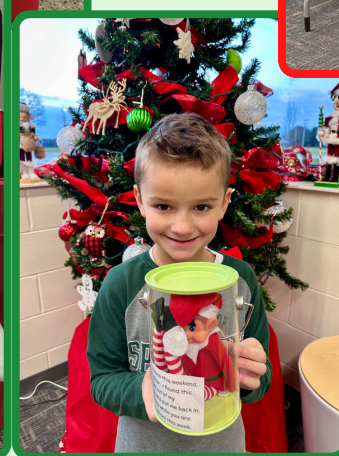
Mrs. Craddock's GSRP class went to the AECC office to sing Jingle Bells in their cute sparkle Santa hats.



AECC students come to the office to whisper what they want for Christmas in Santa's ear.



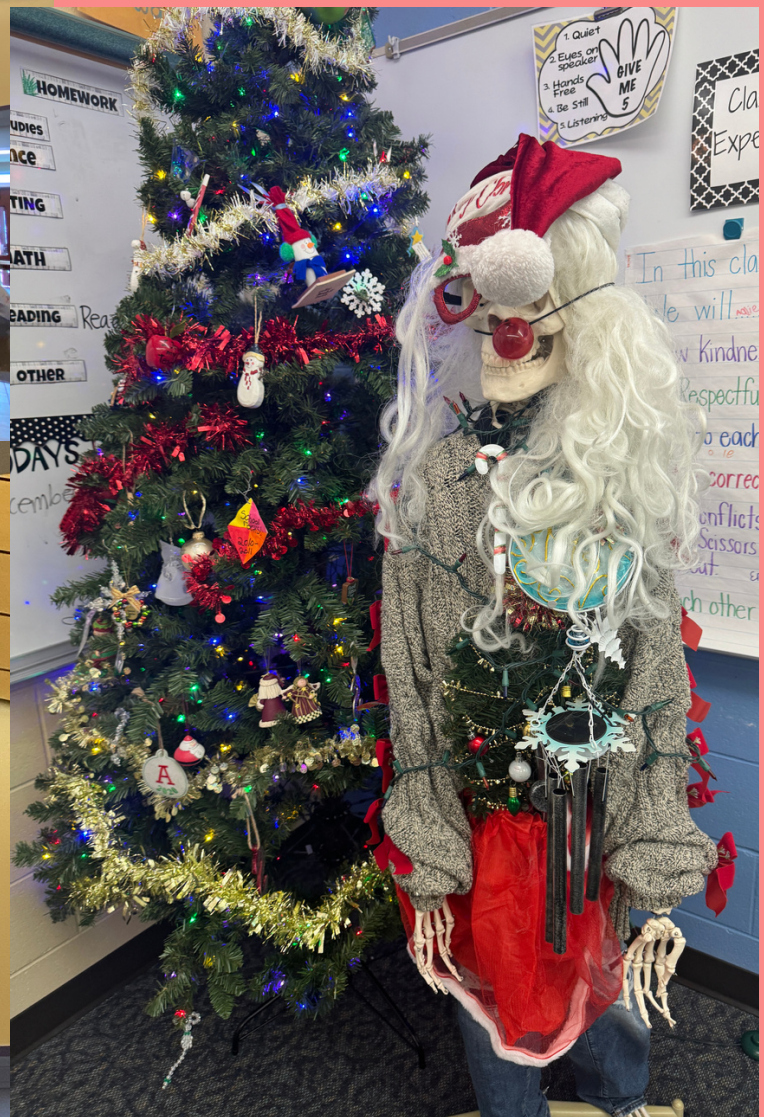
The elf on the shelf visited the AECC. The kids loved seeing him as they got off the bus.



Oakwood Intermediate Happenings

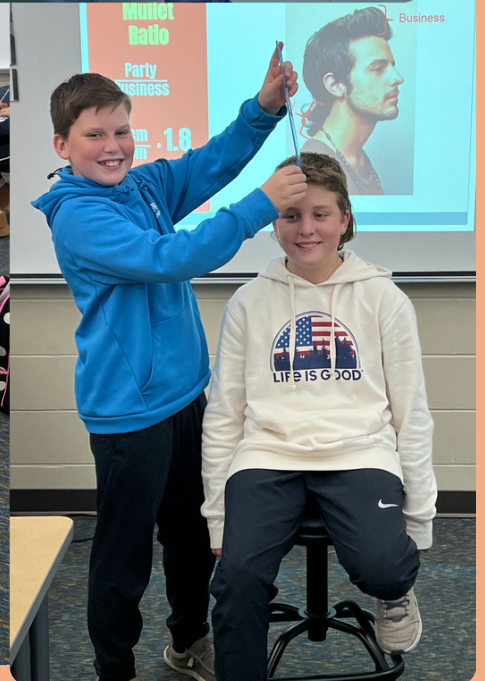
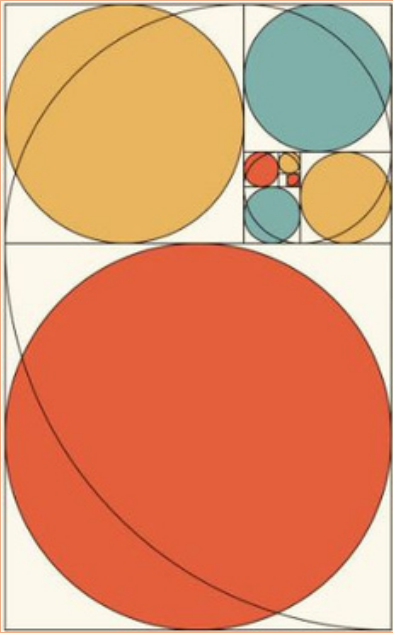
The Oakwood students and staff spend a lot of time reading, solving math questions, learning about how important our character and being good humans is, encouraging our creative tendencies, learning about the science of things, how history has shaped our here and now - but our students and staff have fun here at Oakwood as well. The last few weeks before our holiday break, our students and staff donated almost 6,000 items to the Love INC food pantry. They decorated Indiana Bones (named by our students) with holiday apparel, adopted four families through the Holiday Helper program, and had a visit from Chippy the Elf.

We wish all our families a blessed and safe holiday season. We look forward to a productive and healthy 2024.



Allendale Middle School Happenings

The middle school math team was all onboard with a fun day learning about the ratio of the mullet in their math class. Of course the teachers needed to dress the part in order to really bring home the ratio of the business in front to the party in the back. We viewed classic mullets throughout time and the students measured and found the multiplicative relationship between the party and the business. Depending on the grade level, some math classes tied that in with proportions and graphing. The engagement was high and we even had many of our very own math students who were willing to have their mullet ratio calculated! They had no idea what a mullet-star they'd be that day. The lesson really connected at the middle school level and brought a lot of fun to learning.



Allendale High School Happenings

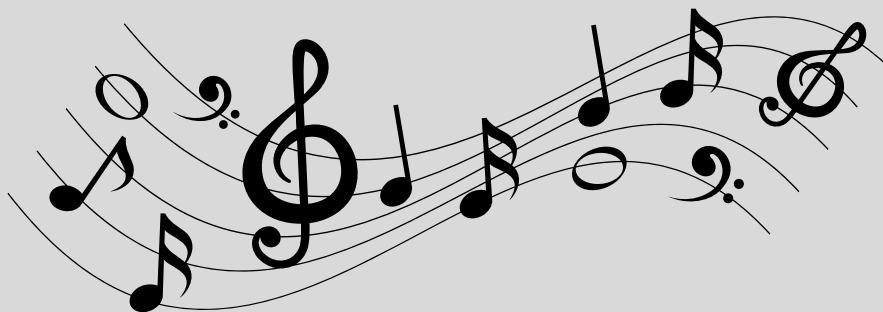
Congrats!

**MSVMA
State Honors Choir**

Alex Mansuy
Connor Liles



Congratulations to AHS Choir students for singing at MSVMA Regional Honors Choir! Special congratulations to AHS Choir students Alexander Mansuy and Connor Liles for being accepted into MSVMA State Honors Choir! Alex and Connor have been invited to sing in the MSVMA TTB ensemble on January 27th, 2024. The performance start time is at 3:00 pm at Devos Hall in Grand Rapids. If you are interested in attending this event, please email Ms. Bolton at boltonann@apsfalcons.net for more information. Congratulations, Alex and Connor!



JANUARY IS
SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

Thank You
Allendale Public Schools
Board of Education

WE APPRECIATE YOU AND
EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR OUR
STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY

KIM CANNATA, PAM DEJONG,
ANNA HENDRICKS, KEVIN HOLSTEGE,
COREY MANGO, ELIZABETH RAMEY,
JOSH THURKETTLE



APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



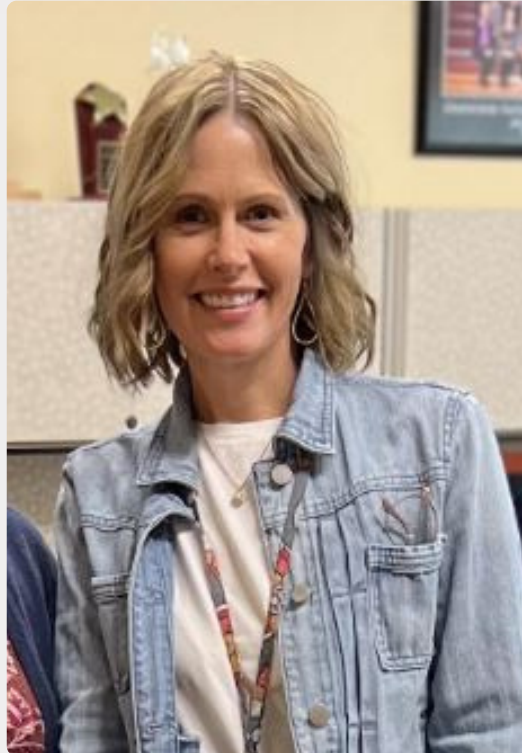
Emily Rotman

Special Education Teacher – AECC

- Mrs. Rotman has been with APS since 2022.
- Mrs. Rotman has formed excellent relationships with staff and students at the ECC through her dedication to supporting them and through her hard work. Mrs. Rotman goes above and beyond on a regular basis to support other staff members and students in need. Mrs. Rotman is calm and works very well with everyone, while taking initiatives to collect data and meet with teams to develop plans to support students. She also is an excellent teacher who is able to really help students gain new knowledge and show their skills through her intervention and work with them. Emily also has done a remarkable job on special education paperwork and compliance. She is a true all star!
- Mrs. Rotman just got married in September!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Erin Jungslager

School Psychologist - all buildings

- Ms. Jungslager has been with APS since 2009.
- Ms. Jungslager is a wealth of knowledge and an excellent school psychologist. She is always wanting to learn and improve practices while ensuring that current practices are compliant. She has been part of the planning and development of new practices and is great to work with! Ms. Jungslager is very supportive of her colleagues and is well respected by her peers. Ms. Jungslager has an excellent work ethic and excellent quality of work. She is also great with students and parents and explains processes and procedures so all can understand. Ms. Jungslager is very much appreciated by our department and we are blessed to have such a great team member.
- Ms. Jungslager loves working for APS because of the great people and friendships, as well as spending time with amazing kids! Outside of work, she enjoys hanging out with her three adult children. She has also been practicing being brave by trying new things like joining a choir and signing up to swim in a triathlon relay!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



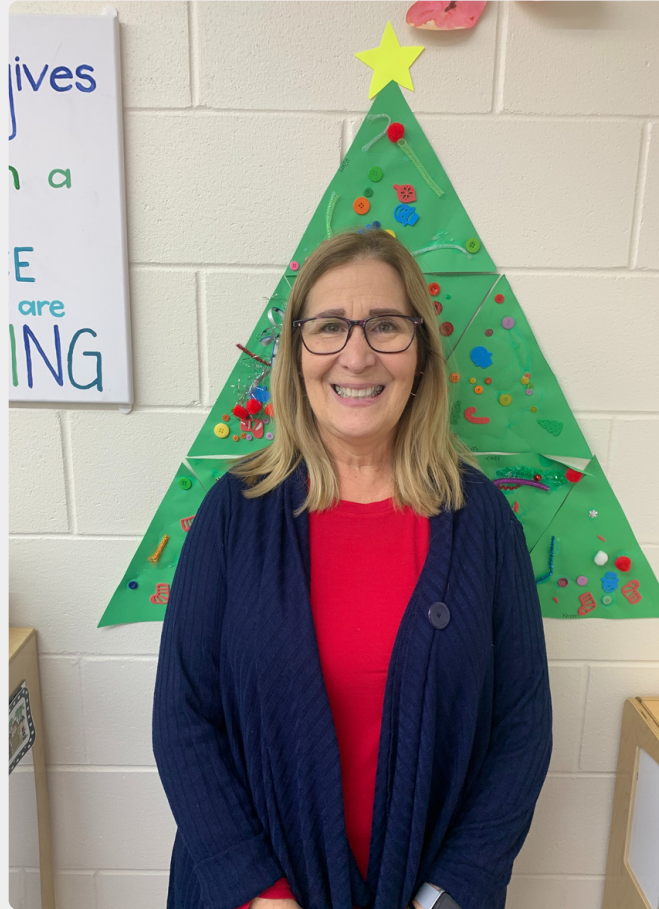
Caitlin Moorehead

SXI Parapro - Oakwood

- Ms. Moorehead has been with APS since 2022.
- Ms. Moorehead is an incredible team member. She works so hard and so efficiently to ensure that all the students in her classroom's needs are met. She collaborates very well with all other staff and cares deeply for the students. She treats the students with care and respect and shows her passion for helping others on a daily basis. Her positive attitude and upbeat personality also make her great to work with. We are very proud of the work Ms. Moorehead has done and greatly appreciate all she has contributed and brought to the special education department and SXI program. We are very fortunate to have her on our team.
- Ms. Moorehead was a stay at home mom for 8 years before coming to work for Allendale. - She has two children, Cooper (9years old) and Charlie (6years old). She was a photographer for 8 years specializing in lifestyle and photography.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



Beth Suits

3 Year Old Preschool Teacher

- Mrs. Suits has been with APS since 2007.
- Mrs. Suits is a dedicated member of our preschool teaching team. Mrs. Suits has a calm and loving demeanor, as she gets the AECC's littlest learners to fall in love with learning at such a young age. There is always fun being had inside her classroom, as she does a great job of getting her students up and moving, while also learning the expectations of what it looks like to be a great little falcon while at school. We are blessed to have Mrs. Suits as a part of the AECC team!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



Staci MacDonald

Building Behavior Aide

- Mrs. MacDonald has been with APS since 2022.
- Mrs. MacDonald is a dedicated member of the AECC and our Behavior Support Team. No matter how big a behavior might be, Mrs. MacDonald responds in a way that lets her students know that she truly cares and is there for them. Mrs. MacDonald does a great job of building relationships with her students, as they love to be around her, even when they might be dysregulated. We are blessed to have a "Master of Behaviors" like Mrs. MacDonald as a part of the team here at the AECC!
- Mrs. MacDonald has played softball her whole life, and as a teenager, she was fortunate enough to play in the National AYSO Soccer Tournament in Hawaii.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Evergreen Elementary



Dan DeZwaan

Evergreen Elementary Music Teacher

- Mr. DeZwaan has been with APS since 2002.
- Throughout his career as a Music Teacher, Mr. DeZwaan has not only brought a love of music into his classroom, but he has routinely found ways to enhance opportunities for students to experience music in engaging and fun ways. From grade-level music programs, and Falcon Kids' Choirs, to recently added DrumtastiX groups, Mr. DeZwaan continuously seeks out ways to offer musical experiences for his students. Over the years, Mr. DeZwaan has been involved as a teacher-leader through serving as a chairperson for the Music Department and as a member of the School Leadership Team.
- Mr. DeZwaan and his wife Carrie, are well-known for their baking and candy-making skills, which they cheerfully use to bless others around the holiday season. We are so grateful for the contributions that Mr. DeZwaan has made to the Allendale community. Thank you, Mr. DeZwaan, for all you do for the students and families of Allendale!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Evergreen Elementary



Kari Wiersema

Community School Coordinator

- Mrs. Wiersema has been with APS since 2016.
- Mrs. Wiersema is highly recognized and appreciated by all of our staff for going above and beyond to support our students and families in need. She meets with new families to our school to welcome them and address any needs they may have. She builds strong relationships with families, students and staff. She keeps our closets stocked with extra clothing, coats, shoes, boots and snacks. She leads our social committee and models encouragement in all that she does. She finds ways to support the mental health of students and staff. Kari is a true blessing to have on our Evergreen Staff!
- Mrs. Wiersema lives in Allendale with her husband, has three children, one dog and two grand-dogs. For fun, Mrs. Wiersema enjoys sports of all kinds, especially beach volleyball in the summer.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Oakwood Intermediate



Frank Rytlewski

Physical Education Teacher

- Mr. Rytlewski has been with APS since 2022.
- Mr. Rytlewski came to Allendale with 10+ years of PE experience. Mr. Rytlewski has done a great job of teaching not only our PE standards, but also focuses on problem solving, conflict resolution and communication while students are in his class. He has done an amazing job of thinking out of the box when creating activities that are physically accessible to all our students.
- Mr. Rytlewski just got a new puppy named Channing. Mr. Rytlewski also loves a good – or any – game of Pickleball! He is an avid player to say the least. We are glad to have Mr. Rytlewski as a part of the teaching staff at Oakwood Intermediate.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Oakwood Intermediate



Cristy Sauter

Academic Interventionist

- Mrs. Sauter has been with APS since 2003.
- Mrs. Sauter has held numerous roles from recess aide to crossing guard to special education aide and now she serves our students as an academic interventionist. Mrs. Sauter also serves our district as the president of the AES Professionals group and chairs the Oakwood Social Committee. She is quick to offer direct support, helps out at recess in a pinch and assists with the pick-up line at the end of the day.
- Mrs. Sauter has volunteered/walked in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade twice with her two daughters! Mrs. Sauter also loves to read – reading an average of 100 books per year. Thank you to Mrs. Sauter for your continued support of our Oakwood students and staff.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Middle School



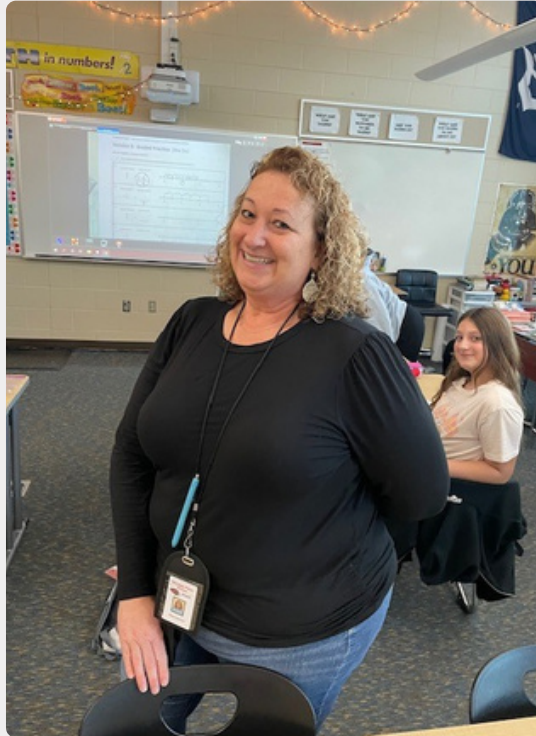
Brian Haraburda

Math Extensions Teacher

- Mr. Haraburda has been with APS since 2013.
- Mr. Haraburda is an exceptional Math Extensions instructor, he tirelessly dedicates himself to the success of his students. Mr. Haraburda's caring, patient, and kind approach fosters a positive learning environment where students thrive. His hard work and commitment shine through in his extra efforts to provide support and resources. A well-deserved honor for a teacher who truly makes a difference in the lives of his students. This is a bitter sweet recognition because Mr. Haraburda will be leaving us for the remainder of the year. He has accepted the Interim Assistant Principal role at Allendale High School. We wish Mr. Haraburda great success in his new venture!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Middle School



Renee Gemmill
Interventionist

- Mrs. Gemmill has been with APS since 2023.
- Mrs. Gemmill deserves applause for her exceptional work as an interventionist. With unwavering dedication, she goes above and beyond to help students enhance their reading and math skills. Mrs. Gemmill's commitment to their success is evident in her tireless efforts, as she works diligently to achieve remarkable results. Her passion for supporting students not only reflects her outstanding professional skills but also underscores her genuine care for their academic growth. Because Mr. Haraburda will be vacating his positing at the middle school, we are excited that Mrs. Gemmill will use her teaching degree and experience to fill in for Mr. Haraburda. Congratulations to Mrs. Gemmill for her outstanding contributions to our school community and her impactful role in the success of our students.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale High School



Doug Johnson

Weight Training and Competitive Athlete Development
Teacher

- Mr. Johnson has been with APS since 2019.
- Mr. Johnson is the throwers coach for the AHS boys and girls track team, the strength & conditioning coach, and previously coached football. In his first two years serving AHS, Doug revamped the weight training program and created the competitive athlete development (C.A.D.) class. He also developed F.A.S.T. (Flexibility, Agility, Strength, Toughness). F.A.S.T. is a program that supports all student-athletes throughout the school year and summer with top notch workout routines. During that time frame he updated the high school's training facility and equipment, and he also updated the training software that all AHS teams and student-athletes use to track and monitor their progress. He also serves on the high school's School Leadership Team.
- Mr. Johnson is in the application process to receive national accreditation for his programs at APS!