

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****

JUNE 8	Young 5 - 12th Grade Half Day
JUNE 9	Young 5 - 12th Grade Half Day; End of 2nd Semester
JUNE 12	Special Board Meeting, 5:15 PM, Oakwood Board Room
JUNE 12	Regular Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room
JUNE 26	Board of Education Work Session, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room

Child Protection Registry

The State of Michigan is offering a free program to stop adult-oriented advertisements from reaching e-mails and mobile phones (text messaging ads). The Michigan Child Protection Registry, created by Michigan's state legislature in 2004, allows Michigan schools and families to protect their students from receiving adult-themed content and is located at www.ProtectMiChild.com.



Summer Reading & Writing!

All Kindergarten through 5th-grade students will bring home a Summer Reading and Writing Journal this summer! During the last week of school, teachers will work with their students to set summer reading and writing goals, which will be recorded in their journals. Students will be able to keep track of the books they are reading and progress toward their goals. The journal also includes reading and writing prompts that can be responded to in the journal and/or discussed with family members. The Summer Journals are a great way to keep our Falcons reading and writing over the summer.

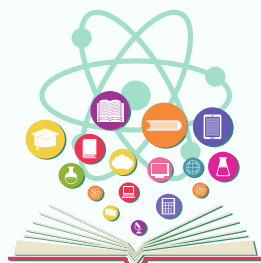
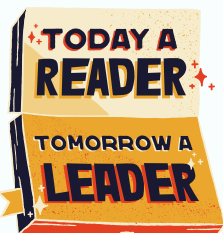


Summer Learning Camp

We are getting ready for summer fun, learning opportunities, community building, and outdoor learning. During the Summer Learning Camp, APS will proudly provide opportunities for 167 learners to reinforce skills in literacy and math as well as explore ways to extend their learning progress through targeted instruction and fun learning activities.

Our Summer Learning Camp filled up quickly so registration is now closed. The 30 staff members are busy getting ready to welcome the students on the first day of camp.

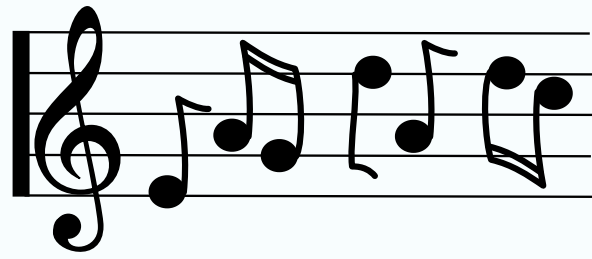
No matter their age, it's important for all kids to keep learning over the summer! The students will feel the sense of community as they work together to strengthen their academic and social skills. We look forward to an amazing summer with our staff and students.



High School Happenings



Congratulations to AHS Select Ensemble Chamber Choir & Select Women's Ensemble for performing at MSVMA State Choral Festival! Both groups performed well and received high scores. Congratulations to all!



AHS Music Department's Collage Concert on May 4 and 5



High School Shop Class

Allendale high school students competed at the Michigan Industrial and Technology Educational Society (MITES) Regional and State student project competitions. They all did very well. A big CONGRATS to our talented students!
We are ALLENDALE! Go Falcons!

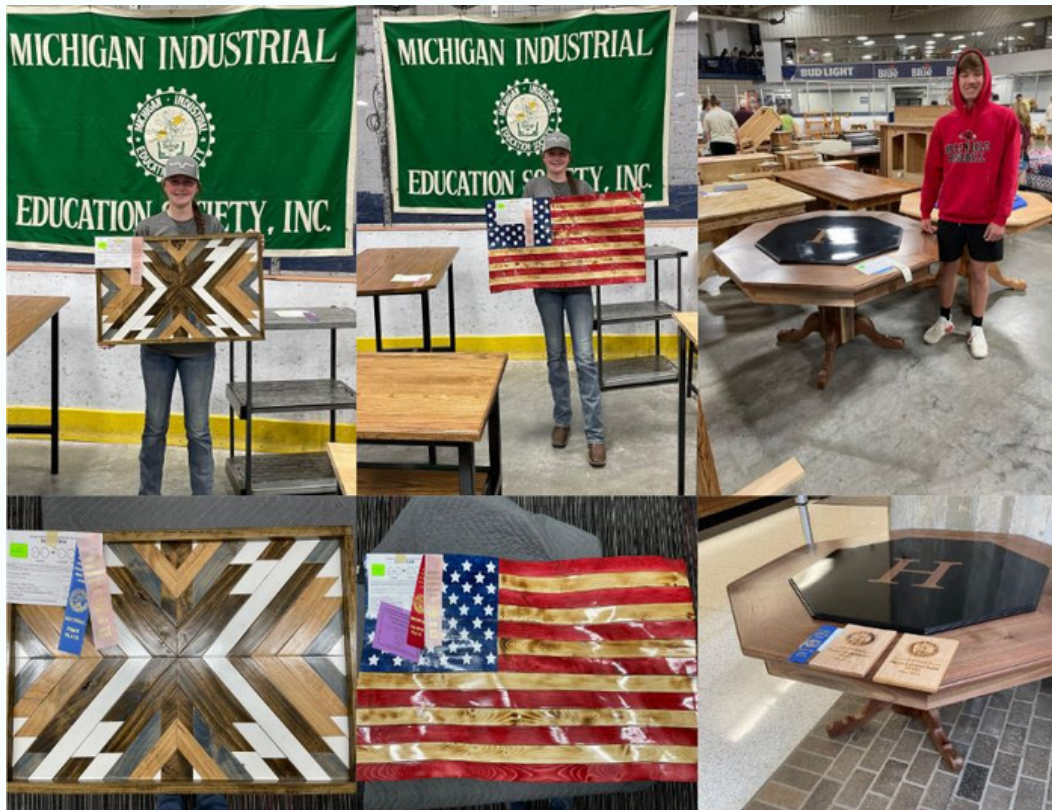
Michigan Industrial & Technology Educational Society MITES project competition

Applied Technology	Open	Graphic Arts	Woodworking
<i>(Technical Writing)</i> Drew Ashbay 1st <i>(Divisional Winner)</i> Hogan Malott 1st Seeton Hoogerhyde 2nd Kaylin Koekkoek 2nd Kelsey Berghorst 3rd Noah Nienhuis 3rd Sidney Ruster 4th Taylor Talcott 4th	<i>(Safety Poster)</i> Miles Carlson 1st Kaden Curtis 1st Nate Diehouse 2nd Weston DeMott 2nd Ethan Thomas 3rd Devan Kravevic 3rd	<i>(Digital Illustration)</i> Micah Johnson 1st Charlotte Sole 1st Delany Sall 2nd <i>(Poster Design)</i> Micah Johnson 1st Charlotte Sole 1st Hinako Ueshima 2nd Delany Sall 3rd Boss Johnson 4th	<i>(Wall Art)</i> Taylor Weener 1st <i>(Carving)</i> Taylor Weener 2nd <i>(Small Table)</i> Taylor Weener 4th <i>(Tables)</i> Jacek Haight 1st <i>(Divisional Winner)</i>

Michigan Industrial & Technology Educational Society (MITES) State project competition in Kalamazoo

Applied Technology	Open	Graphic Arts	Woodworking
<i>(Technical Writing)</i> Drew Ashbay 1st Hogan Malott 4th Seeton Hoogerhyde 5th Kaylin Koekkoek 5th Kelsey Berghorst 1st Noah Nienhuis 3rd Sidney Ruster 3rd Taylor Talcott 2nd	<i>(Safety Poster)</i> Miles Carlson 7th Kaden Curtis 5th Nate Diehouse 3rd Weston DeMott 1st Ethan Thomas HM Devan Kravevic 2nd	<i>(Digital Illustration)</i> Micah Johnson 4th Charlotte Sole 1st Delany Sall 2nd <i>(Poster Design)</i> Charlotte Sole 1st Micah Johnson 2nd Boss Johnson 4th Hinako Ueshima 5th Delany Sall 10th	<i>(Wall Art)</i> Taylor Weener 6th <i>(Carving)</i> Taylor Weener 6th <i>(Small Table)</i> Taylor Weener HM <i>(Tables)</i> Jacek Haight 3rd

MITES Regional 2023 continued...



Freshmen, Taylor Weener and Junior, Jacek Haight showing off their craftsmanship skills at the Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society (MITES) State Competition in Kalamazoo.

Jacek competed against the top 11 projects in his category from across the state.

Taylor competed in three different categories. Two of the categories she was in had over 30 projects that she was up against.

Congratulations, Taylor and Jacek!!!!



Freshmen: Charlotte Sole

Sophomores: Weston DeMott and Devan Kralevic

Junior: Delaney Sall

Seniors: Micah Johnson and Nate Diephouse

The group showed off their Graphic Arts and Safety Poster skills at the Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society (MITES) State Competition in Kalamazoo. They brought home (3) 1st, (3) 2nd's and a 3rd

Congratulations!!!

We Are Allendale!!!

Allendale High School's Male and Female Outstanding Athletes of the Year:
Aaron Holstege and Ava Buhlman



Allendale boy's volleyball had a very successful spring season! The team, led by Captain and outside hitter, Brycen Marsman and senior setter Caden Hessel, earned a second place finish in the GR West Conference. The team also took second place in the District State Tournament. Twelve athletes were awarded All Conference honors from the GR West division and three were from Allendale! Those athletes with All Conference honors are Brycen Marsman, Caden Hessel and Middle Blocker Brandon Bredeweg. Congratulations to the entire team on their winning season!



Middle School Happenings

A couple months ago the middle school opened up a competition for students to submit artwork for our new wall mural. The students voted and Izzy Mitchner's design won! She put a team together to help her paint the mural. The team members were Jason Morgan, Brooklyn Zeller, Layla LaLonde, and Azahanna Jones. The mural is on the first wall guests see when entering the building from the main entrance. They did an amazing job!



Middle School Choir

Middle School Choir received a grant from the Peter R. Marsh Foundation (prmfoundation.org), whose mission is "Guiding individuals to recognize the needs of others and honoring those who attend to those needs." Each middle school choir performed at five local retirement homes including Sheldon Meadows in Hudsonville, Sunset Manor in Jenison, Green Acres of Allendale, Green Acres of Standale, and Riley's Grove in Zeeland. Students also had an opportunity to connect with residents on a personal level in order to build empathy and compassion as part of their performance. We are grateful for the generous support of the Peter R. Marsh Foundation as well as our district's leadership in helping students make these important community connections through music.



Middle School Choir continued...

Student reflections on their visit to Green Acres of Allendale:

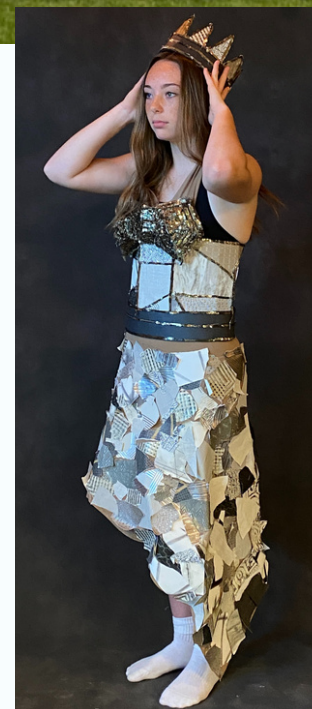
I have 2 favorite/memorable moments from our community concert. My first favorite part is when Mr. Wurst was getting A-Tisket-A-Tasket ready and we went down to talk to all the elderly people and I talked to this one lady who was very funny, joyful and enlightening. Then we went back on stage to sing A Thousand Years and while singing I smiled at the same lady and she winked at me which I thought was very memorable. My second favorite thing was watching all the elderly people sing along to some of the songs we sang. I could see the smile and enjoyment on their faces.

The concert at the retirement home was so fun. It was amazing to see the residents' faces when we sang songs they knew. There were two guys at the retirement home that stuck out to me, one guy's name was Mike, he was so appreciative of what we came here to do, and he just had a smile on his face and a distinctive glimmer in his eyes and it was just so much fun to see that. I don't know the other guy's name but he had a stuffed gorilla on his lap and while we sang he had the animal dance and bop to the beat. It was so precious. I loved the community concert. It was so much fun. It was more emotional than I anticipated it to be, seeing the emotional looks on their faces, happy or sad or even bittersweet. It was an amazing experience and I would do it again.



Middle School Art

Mrs. Roberts' eighth-grade 3D class hosted a remarkable trashion show at school. The students showcased their innovative fashion designs, all of which were entirely crafted from discarded materials and recycled products. This event is a great example of how we can creatively address the issue of waste reduction and environmental sustainability. The students' designs highlight the importance of reusing and repurposing materials to reduce our impact on the environment. This trashion show serves as a reminder that we can all do our part to combat climate change by adopting more sustainable practices.



Middle School Science

Students in Ms. Kelly's science class have been raising salmon this school year to release through the "Salmon in the Classroom" program provided by the DNR. Ms. Kelly received the Chinook salmon eggs in the fall and raised them all winter and spring until they matured to the smolt stage in their life cycle. Last week, some middle school students were able to go to Aman Park and release the salmon into Sand Creek.

Thank you to Ms. Kelly for putting in a lot of hard work maintaining the tank, water quality, and organizing the field trip to release the salmon. Also, a big thank you to the generous people at Grand Haven Offshore Challenge for sponsoring our program and covering all costs associated with it.



Oakwood Happenings

5th Grade Goes to Camp Henry

The 5th grade students attended Camp Henry at the end of May. They were blessed with beautiful weather and a fun experience! Camp Henry is a great way for our students to be a part of collaborative groups, challenge their thinking and best of all – get to meet some new friends. Years later when asked about their favorite memories of school, many students share about their time at Camp Henry. Enjoy the pictures!



4th Grade Field Trips

Throughout the month of May, our 4th grade students attended two field trips. The DJ Angus Boat escorted our students around on Spring Lake and onto Lake Michigan. Students gathered water samples and tested for certain properties.



Thank you to the Ottawa County Parks Department for the grant allowing our students to visit Grand River Park, in Jenison. Students participated in a variety of learning activities, organized by the Ottawa County Parks staff. Tying curriculum together with hands-on activities is a great way to get students excited about what they are learning.



Oakwood Book Swap

Oakwood's End-of-the Year Book Swap was a HUGE success with almost 1,100 books being chosen by our students! They were able to bring in books from home to swap with books others brought in. Some additional books, purchased with grant money, were added to the swap options. All students were able to choose a minimum of two (2) books to read and enjoy over the summer.



PTO Popcorn Staff POPS!

Thank you to the APS PTO for our monthly popcorn treats! Our parent volunteers are the best!



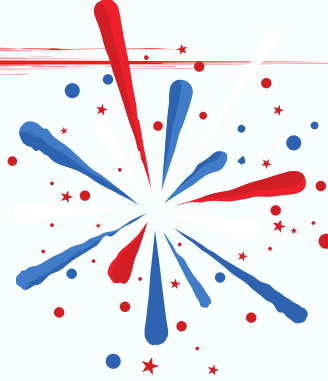
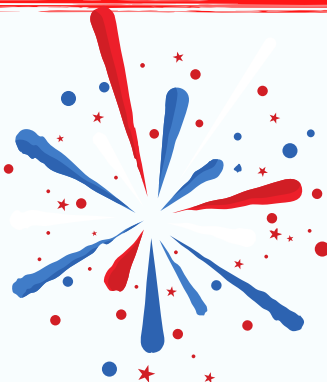
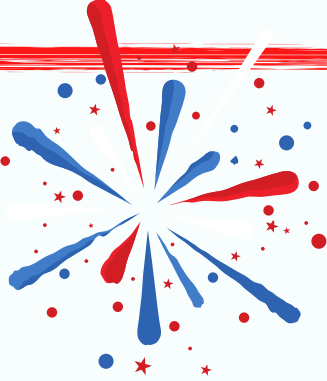


Evergreen Happenings



Our very own Mrs. Oslund, 3rd grade teacher in Evergreen, has received the honor of being named by Van Andel Institute a Betty Van Andel Teacher of Excellence for the 2022-23 school year. Here is a link to a short video clip from VAI that highlights each of their Teachers of Excellence.

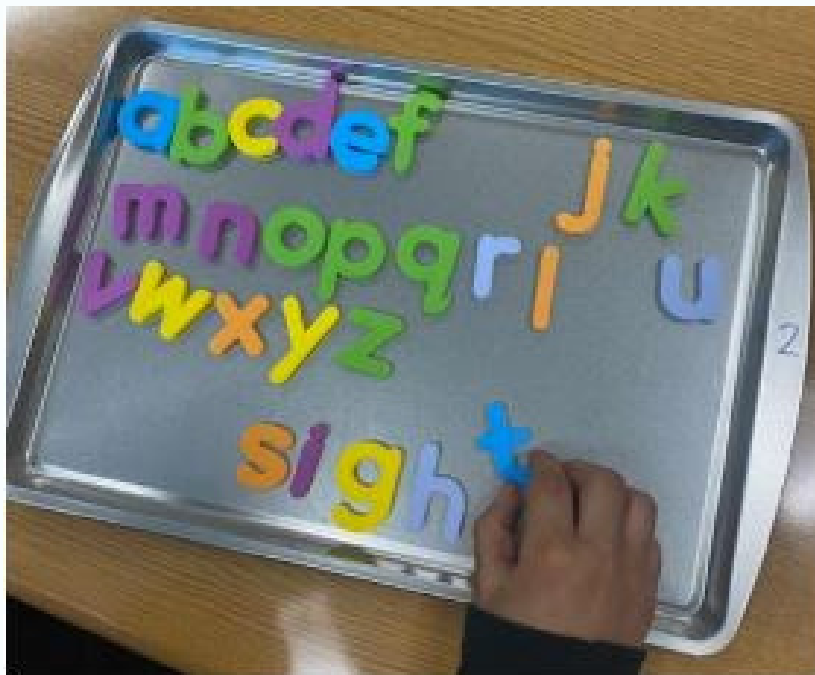
<https://youtu.be/950ODga0Fm4>



Falcon Hour

This year we ran an after-school intervention program called Falcon Hour. Falcon Hour provided targeted support to students in grades 1-8 in the areas of reading and math. There were 60 students and 15 teachers involved in Falcon Hour this year. Students received small group instruction from one of our own Allendale teachers twice a week for an hour after school. By targeting students' specific needs in a small group setting, students made great gains in both academic skills and confidence. One student stated, "Falcon Hour is the best part of school!"

We are grateful to the teachers, transportation providers, families, and students for their dedication to Falcon Hour this year. They all played a role in its success. We are already beginning to plan for Falcon Hour next year and look forward to offering this incredible opportunity again!



11th Annual

FALCON OPEN

AT

TERRA VERDE GOLF COURSE

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

9 AM - SHOTGUN START
LUNCH TO FOLLOW

COST IS \$125 /GOLFER, \$500/4-PERSON TEAM AND INCLUDES
GREENS FEES, CART, DRIVING RANGE, LUNCH & PRIZES

Sponsorship & Registration Forms Available at:
<https://www.allendale.k12.mi.us/district/aps-foundation/thefalconopen/>



The golf outing raises funds for the APS Foundation which
has supported school programs & scholarships since 2005



Hearing & Vision Screenings



Free hearing and vision screenings are available year-round at the Ottawa County Department of Public Health at clinic locations in Grand Haven, Hudsonville and Holland. Anyone up to 21 years of age is eligible for screenings. All children ages 3 to 6 are required* to have hearing and vision screenings before entering kindergarten.

FREE SCREENINGS - CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

English (616) 396-5266

Español (616) 393-5780

www.miOttawa.org/HearingVision

*mi*Ottawa Department of
Public Health

*Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978, Part 93, Section 9307: A parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis applying to have a child registered for the first time in kindergarten or first grade in a school in this state shall present to school officials, at the time of registration or not later than the first day of school, a certificate of hearing and vision testing or screening or statement of exemption under section 9311.



Exámenes de audición y visión



Los exámenes gratuitos de audición y visión están disponibles durante todo el año en el Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Ottawa en las clínicas de Grand Haven, Hudsonville y Holland. Cualquier persona 21 años de edad o menos es elegible para las pruebas de detección. Es obligatorio* que todos los niños de 3 a 6 años se sometan a exámenes de audición y visión antes de ingresar al jardín de infantes.

EXÁMENES GRATUITOS - LLAME PARA HACER UNA CITA

Inglés(616) 396-5266

Español(616) 393-5780

www.miOttawa.org/HearingVision

*mi*Ottawa Department of
Public Health

*Ley del Código de Salud Pública 368 de 1978, Parte 93, Sección 9307: Un padre, tutor o persona en lugar del tutor que solicite que un niño se inscriba por primera vez en kindergarten o primer grado en una escuela en este estado deberá presentar a los funcionarios escolares, en el momento de la inscripción o a más tardar el primer día de clases, un certificado de pruebas de audición y visión o examen o declaración de exención bajo la Sección 9311.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



JENNIFER BLAHA – Special Education Teacher

Mrs. Blaha is one of our middle school special education teachers. She is finishing her 24th year as a teacher and her 20th year at Allendale Public Schools. Mrs. Blaha taught 1 year at New Options – the alternative High School. Then spent 1 year split between the Middle School and New Options, and the remainder of her time has been at the Middle School. Prior to teaching at APS, Mrs. Blaha worked for 3.5 years in Coloma Community School District in an Emotional Impairment room (5,6,7,8th grade) with a desegregation program with Benton Harbor. She also worked for half a year at a charter school when she moved to Allendale after she got married.

Mrs. Blaha does a remarkable job working with parents and students. We received feedback from many parents telling us how grateful they are for Mrs. Blaha's dedication to providing services and supports to their children and how happy their children are in her classroom. Mrs. Blaha also goes above and beyond on a regular basis. She coordinates and supervises activities for students who receive special education services after school, where these students can interact with each other, play games, participate in activities, and learn important life skills. This is on top of the daily efforts and dedication Mrs. Blaha provides to support students in achieving their potential, learning new skills, gaining confidence, and showing others what they are capable of. Thank you Mrs. Blaha for all you have done and continue to do for our students.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Food Service



DENISE MIEDEMA – Food Service

Denise has worked for the district for 24 years! She has been married for 40 years, and has three children and three grandchildren. She loves to bake and finds it relaxing. She enjoys traveling and a good adventure, such as making rugs, glass blowing, Grand Rapids Broadway shows, Lewis Farms, Art Prize, and taking her children and grandchildren different places. She enjoys getting to know Allendale's students and often attends sporting and music events. If she is sitting still she usually will be found cross stitching or scrapbooking. Thank you Denise!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Transportation



MEGAN STEFFENS- Bus Driver and Lead Lunch Aide

Megan has been driving bus for APS for the past 3 years. She drives Bus 8 for both a high school and elementary route. She has 2 children who attend APS. Megan has a great sense of humor and is well liked by everyone on our team. She is willing to fill in wherever she is needed to help operations go smoothly! She is such a great asset to our team and she loves what she does. Thanks Megan!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Operations



NICK MCMURRAY – Operations Department

Allendale Operations Department would like to recognize Nick McMurray as our staff member of the month for June 2023. Nick is a graduate of Allendale High School. Nick is one of our maintenance technicians in our operations department. Nick works district wide on the afternoon/evening shift. He has worked for us for almost 2 years and has been extremely positive and dedicated. Nick is very skilled at a wide variety of needed repairs, from plumbing repairs, custodial equipment repairs, cabinet repairs, door repair, and flooring repairs just to name a few, along with anything else that comes up daily. Nick is always willing to help out wherever he is needed. In addition to regular and emergency maintenance repairs, he assists with event cleanups, custodial fill-in, and other tasks during his shift. Nick is very involved daily in raising his young family in addition to balancing his afternoon shift. Nick has been a great addition to the operations team as a maintenance technician, in an effort to keep our facilities operating at a high standard. Thank you Nick.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Early Childhood Center



TERRI MANESS – Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs. Maness is in her 13th year as an APS employee, spending her first two years as a Kindergarten aide, and the last 11 as a Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Maness is a valuable member of our Kindergarten team, and the joy and passion that she brings to her classroom and students on a daily basis is something that is truly remarkable. Mrs. Maness is able to ignite her student's love for learning, and she does it with a soft and calm demeanor. You can even expect to hear Mrs. Maness playing her flute in her class while incorporating music and song into her lessons to help engage her students in their learning. We are blessed to have Mrs. Maness as a part of our AECC staff, as she is a great example of a passionate educator who will do anything for her team and most importantly, her students.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Evergreen Elementary



RYAN STEVENS – Physical Education Teacher

Evergreen Elementary School would like to recognize Ryan Stevens as our staff member of the month. Mr. Stevens has taught for Allendale Public Schools since 2002 in the role of Elementary Physical Education Teacher. Along with teaching his students important movement skills, team sports, and the value of a healthy lifestyle, Mr. Stevens gives significant attention to teaching students how to work together with others to accomplish tasks and goals. Mr. Stevens is a knowledgeable instructor who brings a joyful attitude to the Evergreen team. His leadership and experience have been valuable assets over the years and we are grateful for the positive influence Mr. Stevens continues to have on Allendale students, staff, and the community.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Oakwood Intermediate

Oakwood Intermediate would like to recognize two ROCK stars this month: Ms. Bre Brown, lead secretary, and Mrs. Amanda Jones, music teacher, as our staff members of the month for May.



BRE BROWN - Oakwood Secretary

Ms. Brown has served as the Lead Secretary at Oakwood for the past six years. She has been instrumental in the day-to-day operations of the building. Ms. Brown is the first to offer her support to staff, students and families when a need arises. She is a smiling face, a pillar of strength and a wealth of knowledge.

Ms. Brown's daughter, Delaney, graduated from Allendale this year. She also has an adult son, Austin, who lives in the area. On the weekends you can find her at some kind of athletic event, cheering on her favorite team, especially the Detroit Tigers. She also enjoys running and spending time with family and friends.

Ms. Brown will be dearly missed as she transitions to a new position at the Careerline Tech Center in the fall. We wish her the best on her new adventures at CTC!



AMANDA JONES - Oakwood Music Teacher

Making music has always been a passion for Amanda Jones. She has done other jobs but truly enjoys her time encouraging students to love music as well, in her role as Oakwood Music Teacher. Amanda loves the variety, hearing students grow as learners and become excited about music. She has been an integral part of many extracurricular events for Oakwood students as well, including the Oakwood Talent Show, the Singing Falcons and the Fine Arts Fair. In her spare time, Amanda enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, visiting Pentwater and gardening.

Amanda will be missed in her role as music teacher as she moves to a new position in the IT field. We know Amanda will continue to do great things in this next chapter of her life. Best wishes, Amanda.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Middle School



LESLIE ROBERTS – Middle School Art Teacher

Mrs. Roberts is the middle school Employee of the Month for her outstanding work as an Art teacher at Allendale Middle School. With 11 years of experience in education and 6 years at our school, she has demonstrated a passion for encouraging students to explore their creativity. Her dedication to teaching art is evident in the fun and challenging projects that she leads, including the highly successful Trashion Show. Mrs. Roberts is always willing to help brainstorm new ideas with her colleagues and is known for providing supplies in a pinch. She is also committed to staying up-to-date with contemporary art and regularly incorporates inspiration from established artists into her lesson plans. Outside of work, Mrs. Roberts enjoys staying active with activities such as kayaking, hiking, paddle boarding, and walking her dog. We are grateful for her contributions to our school community and congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

High School



BOB KONCZAL – High School Social Studies Teacher

Bob Konczal is our AHS Staff Member of the Month! Mr. Konczal teaches World History to many of our freshmen and is the high school's advisor for our AHS Gaming Club. Bob is witty, patient, kind, fun, and caring. He works wonders with our 9th graders by providing them with high school level expectations while also giving them supportive measures to help them meet the expectations. Mr. Konczal's friendly energy and fun classroom helps him relate to our students. This allows our freshmen to build strong relationships with him and also helps our students connect with the rest of our AHS staff during their first year as high schoolers. Mr. Konczal also supports our staff. Bob is always willing to mentor and support our new and veteran staff members. Here is what one of Bob's colleagues and fellow teachers said about him: "Bob is exceptional with the Freshman. He keeps them motivated and engaged even this late in the year, and during each passing period there is a small mob of students surrounding Bob and talking to him. It is evident that his students adore him, and that he is making a positive impact in their educational lives. Bob has also been heading up the board game club for years, and while it is open to all, it provides an opportunity for students that are not participating in other extracurriculars to get involved in a school activity." Thank you, Mr. Konczal, for helping our students and staff feel cared for and supported! Congratulations, and we appreciate your dedication to the students and staff at AHS!