

LCS Staff News
NOVEMBER 2023



LCS Announces New Staff Ambassador Role

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We are excited to announce a new role in the District aimed at bridging the gap between our schools, district-level offices, and the various civic-minded groups and organizations that work diligently to support the mission of Lapeer Community Schools.

With that in mind, we have created the role of *Staff Ambassador* at each of our schools. This individual will be the main point of connection, ensuring seamless collaboration and communication between these entities to better serve the needs of the entire school community.

“For quite some time we’ve had the desire to create a strategy that could move us a way from the siloed approach to outside collaboration, and even collaboration between buildings,” said LCS Superintendent Matt Wandrie. “This team of advocates will not only serve the needs of their individual building, but also play a major role in how we develop partnerships in the community for the betterment of the entire district.”

Do you think you might be a great fit in this role? Turn the page to learn more.

Responsibilities

- Point of contact between the school and district-level office and outside groups that support our schools. The staff ambassador will be the primary point of contact to promote partnerships and collaborative initiatives.
- Organize/attend regular meetings with various community-based organizations, both inside and outside the District, to discuss potential collaborations, get feedback, and provide updates about school events and programs.
- Promote the Mission of Lapeer Community Schools. Above all, the staff ambassador will be a champion of our district's mission, ensuring that every partnership and collaboration aligns with our goals and vision.



Are you the Right Person for this Role?

Our community thrives when our schools, parents, and local organizations work hand-in-hand. To accomplish this, we need people with the right skills to foster these relationships. The Staff Ambassador will work closely with teachers, administrators, and other staff, ensuring everyone is kept in the loop regarding partnerships and opportunities.

We are looking for positive, high-energy people to fill these roles. If you are already doing many of these types of duties in your school, you might be a great fit!



Ultimately, the ambassadors will report to their building principal on matters related to the role and to Jared Field, LCS Director of Communications.

Looking Ahead

Staff Ambassador is not just a title; it's a commitment to ensuring that Lapeer Community Schools is deeply integrated into the community we serve. If you are interested in applying for this position, please see the attachments that were sent to your email on October 23. Please respond by no later than 3 p.m. on Monday, November 6.

Questions? Contact Jared Field at Jared.Field@LapeerSchools.org.



Preliminary Timeline

LCS 2022 SCHOOL BOND

PROJECTS	2023				2024				2025				2026			
	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL
Safety + Security (Includ. Schickler Reno)	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue											
CFI Demo + Renovations	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue												
Elementary Multi-Purpose Additions	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue					Dark Blue							
Elementary HVAC Renovations		Green	Green	Green	Light Blue				Dark Blue							
High School Classroom Additions		Green	Green	Green	Light Blue				Dark Blue							
High School Auditorium Renovations					Green	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue							
High School + Middle School Renovations					Green	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue							
Asphalt + Concrete Paving										Green	Green	Green	Light Blue			
Bus Garage Renovations																Dark Blue
District Wide Roof Replace										Green	Green	Green	Light Blue			Dark Blue

DESIGN

PROCUREMENT

CONSTRUCTION



November 2023 Bond Update

Since our last update, there's nothing left standing in the demolition zone at the Center for Innovation - West Campus. All that remains is what's left of the cleanup, landscape grading and seeding (pictured right).



In our next update, we will go into some detail about plans for facade improvement of the remaining CFI facility. Soon, we will have full access of the north parking lot once again.

In other news, we have begun the earliest stage of the LHS Auditorium renovation. Two weeks ago, members of our bond leadership team met with auditorium stakeholders to discuss the initial design phase of the project. Because of our limited funds to meet our long list of needs in that space, we must prioritize the most important aspects of the long-overdue renovation.



We are also well into the design phase of the LHS science classroom additions. The construction phase of that project is not expected to begin until next summer.

Finally, we've broken ground on the elementary multipurpose space at Turrill Elementary (see photo above right). That project (and the projects at Murphy and Schickler), is slated to be completed in winter 2025.

Onward and upward!

Secretarial Changes for Fall 2023

We have a few very important secretarial changes that we want you to be aware of.

- **Lynda Arms**, the current head secretary at Cramton Campus (LVP), will begin in her new position as the auxiliary Human Resources secretary at ASC following the transition of **Tammy Creason** to substitute secretary status. Lynda will begin training at ASC the week of November 20.
- **Abbie Gibbs** has been hired as the new head secretary at Cramton Campus (LVP) and will begin working and training on November 13. Abbie has several years of experience in customer service and will be a great asset to our LVP community.

- Following the retirement of Murphy Elementary head secretary **Denise Loper**, **Suzette VanMeter** has been hired to fill that position. She started training late last month and is official on November 1. Suzette, a Lapeer resident, has many years of experience in office management and we are excited to have her on the team!
- Following the departure of Schickler Elementary head secretary and brand new mom **Jill Schaffer**, **Melissa Sanders** has now officially taken over this role. Melissa is a former building paraprofessional who has been in this position on an interim basis since June.

With this final new hire secretary in place, we will now begin to develop a training and transition schedule for all positions.

Welcome Abbie and Suzette! And, of course, a million thanks to Tammy, Denise and Jill for the service to the students and staff of Lapeer Community Schools.



Tami Curry

Tami brought back to Murphy Elementary the Super Volunteer Workshop along with the Kindergarten Workshop during conferences. Tami is working hard to build positive relationships with our parents and make them feel like they are a part of the Murphy Elementary community. Tami is a great asset to our district and school!



Tammy Creason

On behalf of the entire front office staff at ASC, we want to wish Tammy Creason the very best as she transitions out of her full-time position. Tammy has been an incredible asset to the District for many years in numerous roles, and has been a pleasure to work with. For those of you who don't know Tammy, she's quiet, reserved but oh-so-funny when you get to know her. Tammy has a way of saying things that just cannot be replicated. We will miss that and so much more! We love you, Tammy!



Chell Alvis

Chell is always eager to jump in and help no matter what the task. In the last year, she has learned everything from catering to Z reports and she can handle them all. Saying a few words of recognition will never be enough to express our gratitude for all her great work. Chell is a positive force making our food service department a happier place. We are lucky to have her on our team!



Tanya Blaine

Tanya Blaine, one of the deans at the Zemmer 8-9 Campus, has been a great addition to our school. She has brought a ton of experience with her and has been a big part of Zemmer getting off to a great start this year! Thank you, Tanya!



Dianne Boal

The staff and students at CFI would like to wish Dianne Boal, our building paraprofessional, a happy retirement. We are so grateful for her more than 15 years of dedication to the staff and students at Lapeer Community Schools. She is known for her hard work and caring attitude. You will be greatly missed!



Do you know someone on our staff deserving of recognition?

Recognition isn't just about noticing the big events, it is about recognizing the small things along the way that have a big impact. When you send a submission, please name the employee, share specific info about what they did and why it was important to you. If possible, please send a photo. Please submit your own staff shoutout to [Jared Field](#) prior to the 20th of each month.



It's that time of year again! Open enrollment is almost here! What follows is all the information you will need for 2024!

A presentation for Messa and Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) will be held on:

Thursday, Nov. 2 at 6pm via Zoom

MESSA will present at 6pm

FSA/HSA presentation will be at 6:30pm.

Topic: 2024 LCS Open Enrollment- Informational Meeting with MESSA and Gallagher

Time: Nov 2, 2023 6 PM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://lapeerschools-org.zoom.us/j/87839549015>

Meeting ID: 878 3954 9015

Important Information

2024 will be *full open enrollment* just like last year. This means that *ALL EMPLOYEES* who are eligible for benefits will need to complete our Open Enrollment process. (Even if you decline benefits, you will still need to complete the enrollment online)

You should have received the 2024 Open Enrollment Newsletter and an instructional summary in your email on October 27. This includes the new employee contribution rates for 2024, which are on page 6-7.

Those of you who are eligible for insurance benefits, you will be able to start enrolling online on Nov. 1st at www.messa.org.

If you have questions about a plan or want help selecting a plan that best fits your family needs you can speak to a MESSA representative at (800) 336-0013. We understand it can be a challenge to do Open enrollment online, so we are offering an opportunity for employees to come to the Administration & Service Center (ASC) Boardroom where we can assist in the online enrollment. Computers will be provided. See dates and times below:

Monday, November 6: 2 pm - 6 pm (ASC BOARDROOM)

Thursday, November 15: 2:30 pm - 6 pm (ASC BOARDROOM)

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Krista Trevithick at krista.trevithick@lapeerschools.org or call 810-538-1610.

Notes from Central Office

Green Themes

with Outdoor Ed Coordinator Beth Rupprecht

A View of the Skinner Lake Property from Above

The short, peak color window has come and gone at the Skinner Lake Outdoor Education Campus. It was absolutely spectacular this year! Here's a look at one of our wetland areas that is teeming with life during the warmer months, the perfect spot for students to learn about forest habitats.

As we teach our students, forests like the one at Skinner Lake are essential, interconnected ecosystems that support an incredible array of life and contribute to the overall health of the earth. This, we hope, is one of the major takeaways for all students who visit our campus. We want them to have an appreciation, respect, and sense of stewardship for the environment that can be achieved only through hands-on experiences in nature.



LAPEER
**ATHLETIC
BOOSTER
CLUB**

LAPEER LIGHTNING ATHLETIC BOOSTERS RAISES FUNDS TO
SUPPORT STUDENT ATHLETES IN LAPEER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

\$100,000 AND COUNTING!



Next Meeting:
Tuesday,
November 14

7 pm at LHS

Recipe of the Month: Caramel Apple Salad

Compliments of Jill Kosko, Preschool Teacher, Kids & Company

Ingredients

- 1 C softened butter
- 2 C powdered sugar
- 2 egg whites
- 12 oz. Cool whip
- 8 oz dry roasted peanuts
- 1 can pineapple tidbits (drained)
- 3 Granny Smith apples (leave the peels on)

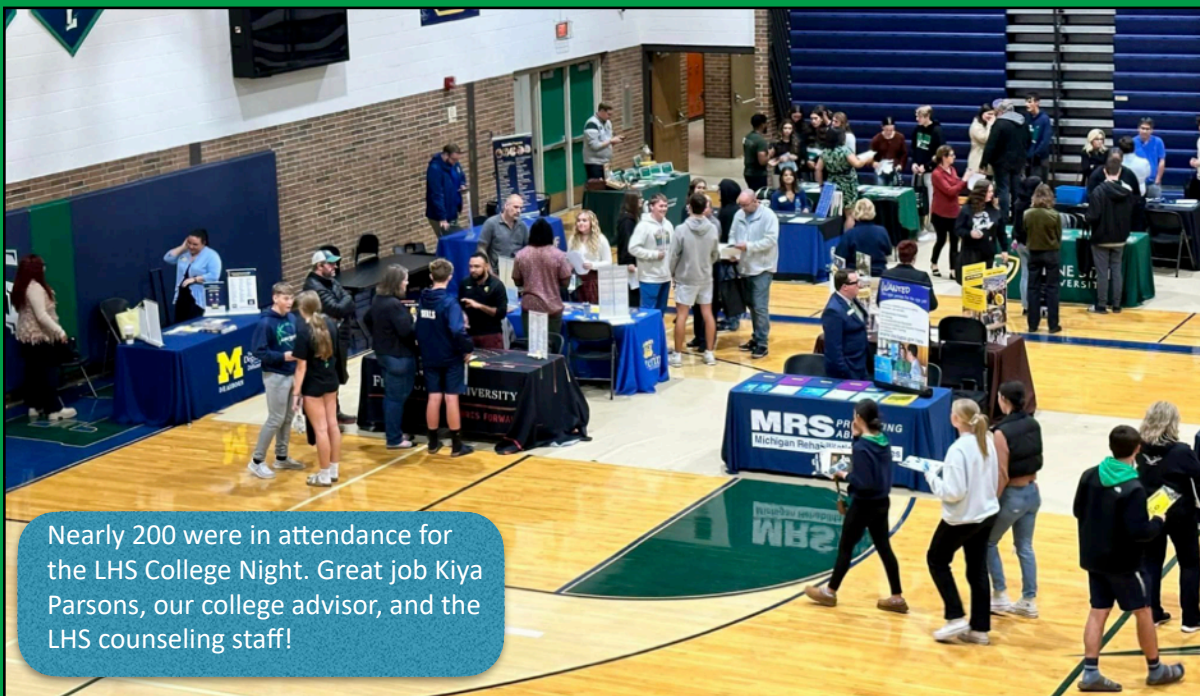
Directions

- Combine the butter, powdered sugar and egg whites with mixer
- Fold in the cool whip.
- Add pineapple, and diced apples.
- Add peanuts on top when served chilled!



Attention Foodies!

If you would like to submit your favorite recipe for submission in this space, please send it to Jared at Jared.Field@Lapeerschools.org. Make sure you send it before the 20th of the month for submission.



Nearly 200 were in attendance for the LHS College Night. Great job Kiya Parsons, our college advisor, and the LHS counseling staff!



GRANTS



The Leaderfund offers the opportunity for teachers to apply for a grant ...

Now there is an easier application process!

Go to **Leaderfundlapeer.com** to link to the following grants. Here is our website QR code:



or click on the link below:

MINI: up to \$250

GRANT: \$250+



'It's the little things, folks!'

 **Kristen Wilcox**
29m · 👥

Juan came to Lapeer from an inner city school in New York. I got to know him last year during HS math intervention which is part of my day.

He is well known (understatement 😊) in our school. All he wanted for his birthday was a sign to take pictures with, with his friends. So, Ramsey Kress went to work on a sign. When we delivered it, you would have thought we bought him a car. He couldn't believe it. "Mrs. Wilcox, this is my best birthday ever!" (In his Spanish accent). It's the little things folks! I've got the best career ever! 🍀💙⚡



Bus Garage Staff Raises Funds for The Refuge

Our incredible bus garage staff hosted a soup fundraiser on October 25 to benefit The Refuge in Lapeer. Since 2002, The Refuge Lapeer has been helping Lapeer County residents who have been displaced or found themselves homeless. The Mission of The Refuge Homeless Shelter of Lapeer County is to provide temporary shelter, food and support services.

Well done, Brenda Wells and bus garage staff!



Follow LCS Online



[Facebook.com/LapeerSchools](https://www.facebook.com/LapeerSchools)

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Lapeer Schools on Flickr

@LapeerSchools on Twitter

[LapeerSchools.org](https://www.LapeerSchools.org)

[LCSblog.com](https://www.LCSblog.com)

Have something exciting to share about Lapeer Community Schools? Don't keep it a secret.

E-mail Jared Field, LCS Director of Communications, at jared.field@lapeerschools.org



Mr. Moore at Murphy gets a Pie in the Face!





Check out this certificate of recognition presented to numerous members of our staff. We had two teams, totaling over 25 people, participate in the 2023 CRIM Educator 10 mile run. MESSA sponsored teams across the state including several from Region 10. We are proud to say that Lapeer was the top participating school in our region!

Lightning fast!

Captured: Bill Behnke Cannot run from his Past

LAPEER, Michigan – In a remarkable turn of events, Bill Behnke, a longtime employee of Lapeer Community Schools, was taken into custody after two weeks on the run.

Behnke had eluded District officials, who were poised to serve him with his 30-year service pin, on numerous occasions, including opening day and a pair of COLT Team building visits last month.

His luck finally ran out on Halloween when he was cornered during a 6-12 principal meeting at ASC.

Despite numerous efforts, his dedication to his job and an uncanny ability to disappear whenever recognition was on the horizon, made this occasion seem surreal.

“It was like that scene from the movie *Seven*,” recalled LCS Superintendent Matt Wandrie. “This fugitive from recognition just walked right in the building. Fortunately, the only thing in the box was a 30-year service pin.”

Behnke, still bewildered and probably a little agitated from all the hullabaloo, accepted the long-overdue recognition along with a round of applause from the assembled group of admirers. The pin symbolizes his 30 years of faithful service to the students and staff of Lapeer Community Schools.

Thank you, Bill! You are hereby sentenced to 10 more years of service!





At MESSA, your health and well-being are our top priority. That's why we're reaching out to encourage you to take full advantage of your preventive care benefits, especially when it comes to cancer screenings. MESSA offers 100% coverage for cancer screenings when you visit an in-network provider – so you can get the care you need without worrying about the cost.

We want to stress the importance of making routine cancer screenings a part of your preventive care. So, don't hesitate to schedule your colonoscopy, mammogram or prostate exam today.

MESSA is here for you

In addition to cancer screenings, MESSA covers preventive care free of charge for members and covered dependents when you go to an in-network provider, **including:**

- One annual physical per calendar year.
- Up to two gynecological exams.
- A long list of immunizations and vaccinations including COVID-19; flu; pneumonia; tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap); tetanus and diphtheria (Td); measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR); and zoster (shingles).

Some age restrictions may apply. We have the resources. Please put them to work for you.

Questions about MESSA Benefits?

If you have questions about your MESSA benefits, you can call MESSA's East Lansing-based Member Service Center at 800-336-0013. MESSA also offers online chat for members and dependents; learn more at messa.org/

Member service representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Lapeer High School Class of 2024
Project Graduation

BOTTLE DRIVE

SATURDAY NOV 4, 2023
10AM-4PM

Ray C's Harley-Davidson
1491 S. Lapeer Rd

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ROLLAND-WARNER PTC

ROLLER SKATE

Fundraiser

UNLIMITED
SKATING &
LASER TAG!

NOV. 21
6-8:30 PM



\$12

INCLUDES ADMISSION AND SKATE/BLADE RENTAL

LAPEER AREA SPORTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
2100 N. LAPEER RD., LAPEER

(Katrina) **WANDRIE'S WISHES
FUNDRAISER**

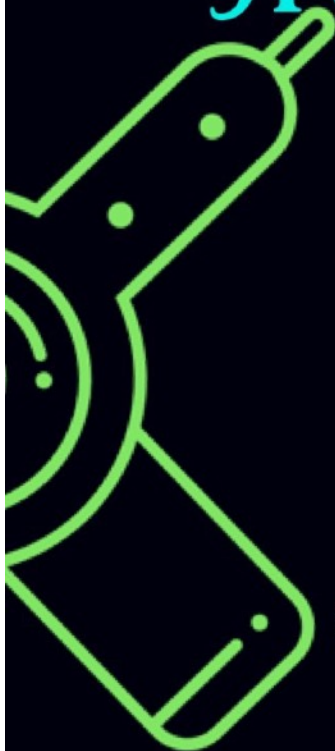
**LASER TAG AND
SKATE NIGHT!**

*Thursday, November 2nd
6-8:30pm*

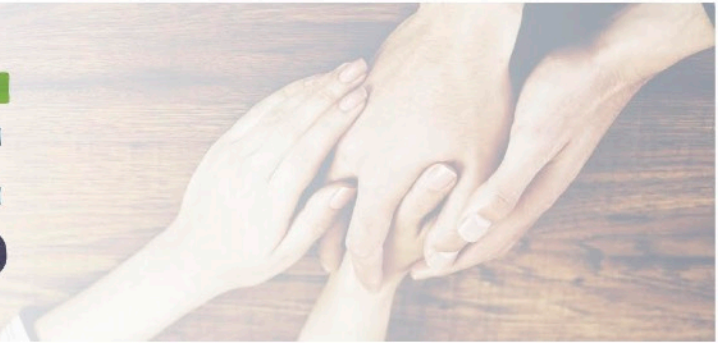
*\$12 includes skate rental,
skating and unlimited laser
tag*

*Help us raise money to buy
birthday gifts and cake
bundles for kids in need!*

*2100 N Lapeer Rd, Lapeer,
MI 48446*



MENTAL HEALTH MEETUP



with State Rep.

PHIL GREEN

Join me for a community discussion on
youth mental health

Monday, Nov. 6, 2023

6:30 – 8 p.m.

(Doors Open at 6 p.m.)

**Lapeer High School
Auditorium**

933 S. Saginaw St.
Lapeer, MI 48446

Presentations from:

**Lapeer County Community
Mental Health**

Lapeer County ISD

McLaren Health Care

What are the signs of depression and anxiety, self-harm,
and suicidal thoughts and where to begin to find help.



For more information, please contact the office of:

STATE REP. PHIL GREEN

(517) 373-0587 | RepPhilGreen@house.mi.gov | RepPhilGreen.com