

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 29 – April 5 No School for Young 5–12th Grade, Spring Break
- April 8 School Resumes
- April 10 SAT Test Day, Allendale High School
- April 15 Board of Education Regular Meeting, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room
- April 19 MSVMS State Solo & Ensemble, 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Allendale High School
- April 20 MSVMS State Solo & Ensemble, 8:00 AM – 5: PM, Allendale High School
- April 24 National Honors Society Blood Drive, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
- April 29 Board of Education Work Session, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room

Allendale is now accepting registration applications for the 2024–2025 school year for Young Five – 12th Grade.

Register your 4 year old for FREE preschool!

Registration for the 2024–2025 School Year is Now Open!
Follow the link below or visit our website.
www.allendale.k12.mi.us



Did you know?

Allendale Public Schools has FREE preschool for 4 year olds!

Come join our FREE 4 year old preschool classrooms!
(child must be 4 by Dec 1 to qualify)

For more information, email Dawn at:
KoekkoedDaw@apsfalcons.net
Or call 616.892.3941



Apply here for FREE preschool!



Allendale High School Happenings

Congratulations to all involved in Allendale High School's production of The Wizard of Oz! Over 75 APS students in grades 3-12 were involved in this production. We are excited to share that we had 2 sold out shows (Friday/Saturday performances) - a first for an Allendale Musical! Special thank you to the parent and teacher volunteers who offered their time and expertise to make this show a success. Congratulations to all!

Photo credit to falconsfoto.com



Allendale High School Happenings continued

Wizard of Oz continued



Allendale High School Happenings continued

Allendale High School CAMPP Team Visits Local Residential Construction Sites



68th Ave



Pierce St



The Allendale CAMPP Team was given the opportunity to visit two residential construction sites in February. The houses, located in Allendale are in different phases of construction. These phases allowed the students to get a first hand look at the different steps including excavating, foundations, framing, electrical, plumbing and HVAC that is required to build a house. The students were able to see the concepts and fundamentals they learned in the classroom carried over into real-life applications. They witnessed first hand the variety of contractors involved in the building process, the behind the scenes logistics, and were able to connect them to the careers discussed in the classroom.

Student quotes:

- *"I liked being able to see how very few people can work together, but still build efficiently and quickly." ~TW*
- *"I enjoyed seeing the stuff I learn in class shown out in the real world. I could relate things I saw to what we learned in class." ~JB*
- *"They used 2 miles of wiring and it took the electricians 8 days to pull all the wire." ~XC*
- *"Having the water boiler and four heating zones to heat up the water super fast. Impressive!" ~ARV*

The connection from classroom to application is a highly effective method to the learning process. The site visit provides that valuable step in the process. Allendale High School and the CAMPP Team would like to thank Dave Bosch from Curt Moran Builders and Don Miles from Miles Builders for providing the students in the CAMPP program the opportunity for this wonderful experience.

Construction - Architecture - Manufacturing - Partnership Program



WE ARE ALLENDALE!





Congratulations to OK Blue Winter All Conference recipients:
Coleman Sparks, Jaxon Ramos, Jacksen Fitten, Jack Guerrero, Alex Genuise,
Avery Brose, Lilly Krupp, Katelynn McCann, Destiny Wiggins,
Not Pictured: Harrison Meekhof, Sumner Meekhof

Allendale High School Happenings continued

The Class of 2026 is selling beautiful hanging baskets from Kraker Greenhouse.. The cost of each basket is \$20. Orders are due to the High School office April 9, WITH payment at that time. Checks can be made out to Allendale Public Schools or Venmo can be sent to Heather-Lake23. Baskets will be ready for pickup on May 7, at Kraker!

Flower Sale!!

Spring Flower Fundraiser:
10" Hanging Basket With Wire Handle



1. Bubblegum Petunia



2. Royal Velvet Petunia



3. Bordeaux Petunia



4. Red Ivy Geranium



5. Coral Ivy Geranium



6. Lavender Ivy Geranium



7. Evening Star Calibrachoa



8. Rising Star Calibrachoa



9. Red/Purple Fuchsia



10. Hot Pink New Guinea Impatiens



11. Red New Guinea Impatiens



12. Sweet Cherry New Guinea Impatiens

Flower Sale!!



Beat the Blahs Week was a success! We had lots of fun, and brought awareness to mental health through spirit day challenges, extra Falcon Ticket drawings, treats for classes with perfect attendance, and much much more!

Mattress Races!



Falcon Ticket Winners



Falcon Ticket Winners



Falcon Ticket Winners

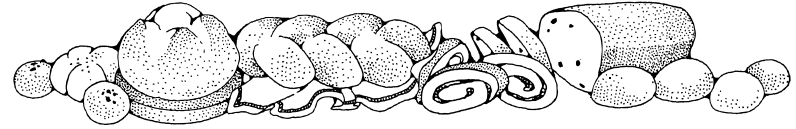


Falcon Ticket Winners



Allendale High School Happenings continued

Thank you Main Street Pub, Allendale, for providing our students with the opportunity to see different job opportunities in the restaurant industry! Also, thank you to our students for being engaged during this fun learning opportunity! Let's Go Falcons!



**Main Street Pub,
Allendale**



**Main Street Pub,
Allendale**

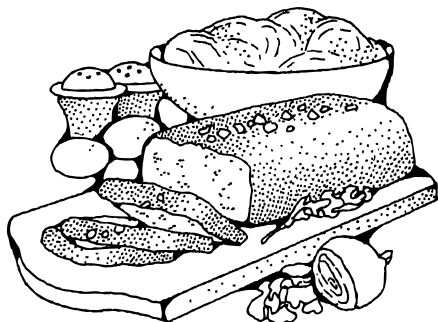


**Main Street Pub,
Allendale**

Thank You

Huge "thank you" to Mainstreet Pub-Allendale for showing us around and helping us learn the different job opportunities at the restaurant.... And for the delicious food and special dessert!

**Main Street Pub,
Allendale**



Allendale Middle School Happenings

At our recent Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Festival (MSBOA) on March 5, all four Allendale Bands achieved Division 1 Superior ratings! This was a testament to the dedication and talent of our students and the value we place on music education in Allendale. Our 7th grade Band impressed with a challenging concert lineup (performing at our 8th grade MHSAA classification), while the 8th grade Band received high praise for their exemplary execution of diverse music. This marks the first time since 2019 for our 7th grade Band and since 2014 for all Allendale Bands to receive this honor in the same year. Special thanks to our Administration and Staff for their unwavering support. Join us for our Spring Concert on May 16 in the CFAC to witness the Allendale Middle School Bands in action.

ALLENDALE BANDS



Allendale Middle School Happenings continued

Allendale Middle School Choirs participated in five Community Concerts over the past 2 weeks. Each choir visited local retirement communities to perform a short concert and talk with residents. Our goal for performing has been to nurture kindness, emotional wellness, empathy, and compassion in ourselves and our audience. Our choirs were able to participate in these concerts through the generous grant provided for the second consecutive year through the Peter R. Marsh Foundation. The feedback and encouragement we received from Riley's Grove echoes the sentiments students received from every retirement community:

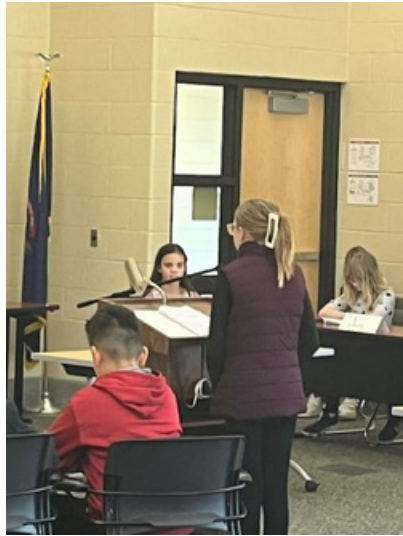
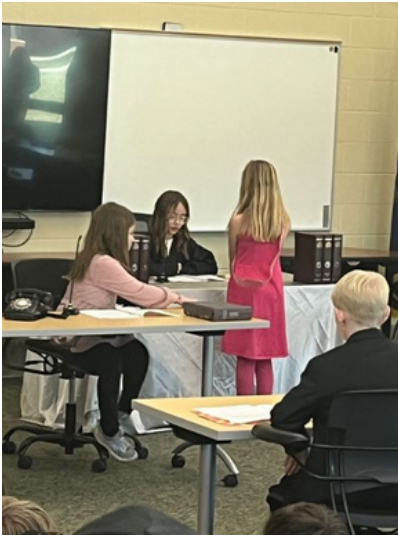
Thank you so much for coming to Riley's to do the performance yesterday! Everyone loved the performance because it is all I heard about from the residents for the rest of the afternoon. Some of our residents who usually can't communicate very well had huge smiles on their faces afterwards. Music is one thing that sticks with you even when our brains start to fail us so I can't thank you enough for coming. The boys were also so kind when greeting all the residents. They all confidently shook hands, introduced themselves and asked the residents' questions, which is something I and the residents were impressed to see. We're looking forward to having you back in the future!



Oakwood Happenings

February on Trial

Miss Licari's 4th grade class performed a Reader's Theater in front of a packed audience of parents, grandparents and fellow 4th graders. February on Trial, was about how Leap Day is just as important of a day as all the holidays in the month of February. The students did an awesome job of memorizing their lines, speaking with intonation and voice, convincing the jury, and all with lots of humor thrown in as well. It was a real treat for all those in attendance! Oakwood sure is blessed with such a great staff who make learning engaging and fun for our students. Thank you to Miss Licari for going above and beyond for her students.



4th Grade Students Visit the Careerline Tech Center

In early March, the 4th grade students at Oakwood had the privilege of visiting the Careerline Tech Center in Holland. As part of their monthly Career Development focus, students were able to visit three separate programs to learn more about job opportunities available in a particular career pathway. Students walked away with some great information and excitement for what their future might hold.



Oakwood Happenings continued

Do Pancakes Really 'Matter'?

Oakwood's 5th graders have been hard at work conducting science experiments for our matter unit. They have been exploring the properties of various white powders and recently had the exciting task of identifying an unknown substance based on their experiments. Additionally, they delved into chemical reactions, learning how to distinguish between physical and chemical reactions. To top it off, students applied their knowledge in the kitchen, deciphering how pancake ingredients come together to create delicious golden brown fluffy pancakes – and yes, they got to enjoy the fruits of their labor! We are so proud of our 5th graders for their curiosity, hard work, and enthusiasm in learning about these scientific concepts.



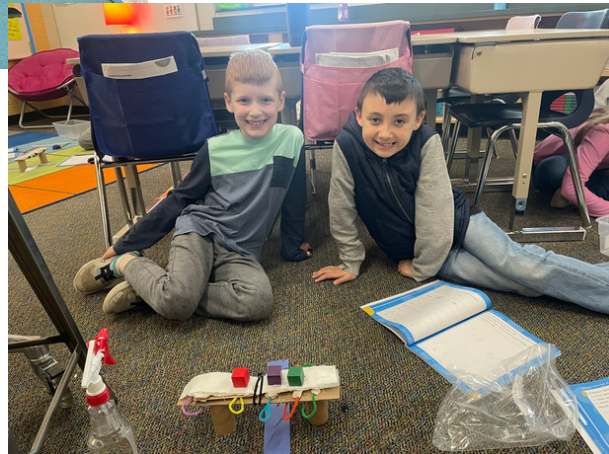
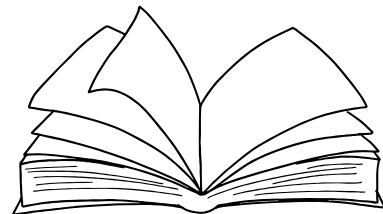
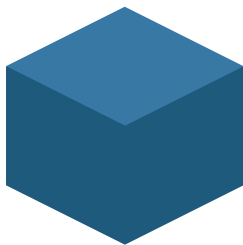
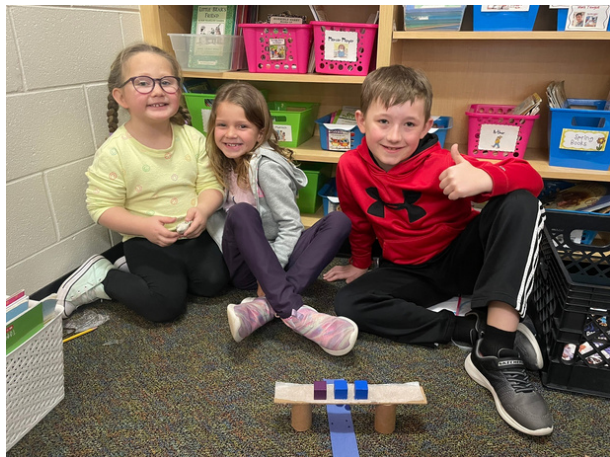
Accelerated Interventions Create M-STEP Review Games

A group of 5th grade Accelerated Intervention students worked diligently to create interactive ways to assist their peers in preparing for the upcoming M-STEP social studies assessment. By analyzing past M-STEP results and comparing them to our district assessments, the students identified both our strengths and areas for improvement. Utilizing this information, they researched the various learning styles of their classmates, resulting in the creation of a wide array of preparation methods. These included student-created songs, quiz bowls, online games, and board games.



Evergreen Happenings

Second graders in Mrs. Powell's class exploring materials to use to build a bridge during a science investigation.



APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Melissa Byker

Special Education Teacher Consultant

- Mrs. Byker has been with APS 22 years.
- Mrs. Byker is a wealth of knowledge and experience in special education. She has a very unique position which requires these skill sets as well as the ability to dive into data, collaborate with parents, staff and administrators, and work with students (as well as many other things). Mrs. Byker is always positive and willing to help. She has great ideas and is respected by her special education colleagues. Mrs. Byker has been and continues to be a mentor for our newer special education teachers and supports all of the special education staff when needed. She is a pleasure to work with and highly appreciated.
- Mrs. Byker and her husband (Barry) have three children, Eden (14 yrs. old, 9th grade) and twin boys, Lincoln and Jenson (12 yrs. old, 6th grade). Outside of school, Mrs. Byker can be found cheering on her boys at their football and basketball games and her daughter as she races in the pool at swim meets. Mrs. Byker enjoys reading mystery novels, baking, cleaning/organizing, teaching Preschool Sunday School at her church, and spending time with close friends. Her favorite seasons are Summer/Fall and she loves to be anywhere near water or snuggled up with her pup (Milo) by a campfire.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Tim Herremans

High School Special Education Teacher

- Mr. Herremans has been with APS 16 years.
- Mr. Herremans is an excellent teacher and team member. He is very knowledgeable and provides high quality instruction to students that is engaging and differentiated to meet the different learner's individual needs. He is able to bring out the potential in students through the design of the lessons/activities and his interactions with the students. During observations, the students all seem to really respect Mr. Herremans and connect with his instruction. Mr. Herremans also has an excellent rapport with staff who respect and appreciate him. Mr. Herremans has gone above and beyond and does an excellent job all around in all aspects of his position at APS.
- Mr. Herremans enjoys spending time with his family, cooking, hiking, golfing, or any other type of outdoor activity. He also coaches his daughter's softball team.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Diana Wilson

High School Special Education Paraprofessional

- Mrs. Wilson has been with APS 5 years.
- Mrs. Wilson is adored by her coworkers and students. She is positive, upbeat and great to work with. Diana helps students become more independent and show what they are truly capable of doing. She is fun to be around and well respected for her work ethic and dedication to students success. We are very lucky to have Mrs. Wilson on our special education team and working in the high school!
- Mrs. Wilson supports our students with disabilities in classes and also helps run and keep up the Red Zone (HS lunchtime store). She has 3 grown children and one grandbaby who she absolutely adores. She loves to travel, read books and be outside! Her favorite part of the job is being with the kids! The kids are so fun and full of life and always ready for a good competition!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



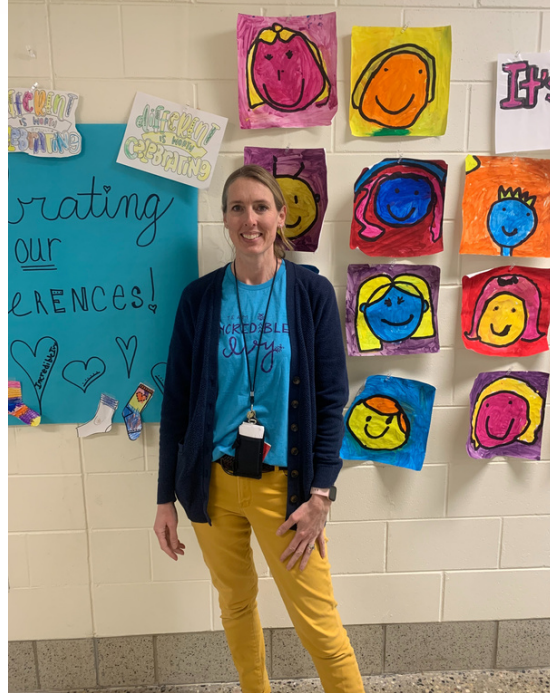
Sara Weaver

Young 5's Teacher

- Mrs. Weaver has been with APS 3 years.
- Mrs. Weaver is a dedicated member of our Young 5's teaching team. Mrs. Weaver does a great job of building relationships with her students and families, and is willing to go the extra mile to ensure that her students are successful at school, while also making sure that they are falling in love with learning. Mrs. Weaver is a member of our school's PBIS School Leadership Team, as she is willing to give great ideas on how we can help improve behavior initiatives throughout our building. We are blessed to have Mrs. Weaver here at the AECC, as she is willing to do whatever it takes to help support her students!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



Sara VanHuizen

Young 5's Aide

- Mrs. VanHuizen has been with APS 9 years.
- Mrs. VanHuizen is a dedicated member of the Young 5's team here at the AECC. Mrs. VanHuizen got her start at APS volunteering in her daughter's classrooms, while also being a lunch and recess aide. In 2018 she began as a full-time Young 5's aide, and she takes pride in building warm and caring relationships with the students that she works with on a daily basis. Mrs. VanHuizen goes out of her way to make sure that student artwork is displayed in the Young 5's hallway, as the hallway is always decorated beautifully with student creations. We are blessed to have Mrs. VanHuizen as a hard-working member of the Young 5's team!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Evergreen Elementary



Brandy Reister

2nd Grade Teacher

- Mrs. Reister has been with APS 23 years.
- Throughout her career, Mrs. Reister has consistently found ways to serve the Allendale community and the APS staff outside of her classroom. Currently, Mrs. Reister supports students after school in the Falcon Hour program and also serves as Evergreen's teacher representative on the District Advanced Tiers Team.
- Mrs. Reister and her husband, Dominic, are Allendlae natives, and they are celebrating their 28th wedding anniversary this year. They have four children. Isabella is a Western grad, Natalya is a junior at Valparaiso, Kanon is a junior at AHS, and Riddick is in 7th grade at AMS. They are a Disney family and love to visit Disney World. They love musicals and are Swifties (though the men in the family may deny it).

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Oakwood Intermediate



Kari Brose

4th Grade Teacher

- Mrs. Brose has been with APS 12 years.
- Mrs. Brose has been a teacher in the district for many years and has had an impact on the lives of many students (and staff) at APS. She is extremely kind and conscientious, truly wanting what is best for her students. She is always willing to try a new technique and idea, even if only one student will benefit from it. She genuinely cares about each and every student in her class. Mrs. Brose has served on numerous committees and organized various functions for the 4th grade team. She is currently a member of the Oakwood SLT and a Grade Level co-chair for the 4th grade team. Mrs. Brose has seen many changes over the years, but still truly loves being a 4th grade teacher!
- Mrs. Brose and her family love sports, outdoor adventures and spending time with family and friends. They have spent many summers traveling to different National Parks around the United States. Mrs. Brose and her husband, Joel, have four children in the Allendale school system.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Middle School



Lindsey Olsen

Reading Specialist

- Mrs. Olsen has been with APS 11 years.
- We proudly nominate Mrs. Olsen as our Teacher of the Month for her exceptional dedication and impact as a reading specialist. Mrs. Olsen's passion for literacy shines through in every lesson she teaches, igniting a love for reading in her students that transcends the classroom. With her innovative teaching methods and personalized approach, she goes above and beyond to ensure that each student reaches their full potential. Mrs. Olsen's commitment to professional development and collaboration with colleagues further enhances her effectiveness, making her an invaluable asset to our school community. Her unwavering dedication to fostering literacy skills not only transforms the lives of her students but also inspires her peers. Congratulations, Mrs. Olsen, on this well-deserved recognition!
- Mrs. Olsen has been to Disney at least once every year since she was 13!!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Middle School



Morgynn Reedy

Middle School Media Center Aide

- Ms. Reedy is in her first year with APS.
- It is with great pleasure that we nominate Ms. Reedy as our Support Staff of the Month for her outstanding contributions as a Media Center Aide. Ms. Reedy's unwavering dedication to the smooth operation of our media center has been instrumental in fostering a vibrant learning environment for our students and staff. Her welcoming demeanor and willingness to go above and beyond in assisting students and educators alike make her an indispensable member of our school community. Ms. Reedy's organization skills and resourcefulness ensure that our media center is always well-stocked and efficiently managed, providing a supportive space for both academic pursuits and recreational reading. Her passion for promoting literacy enriches the educational experience of everyone who walks through our doors. Thank you, Ms. Reedy, for doing amazing things at AMS!
- Ms. Reedy has worked in a library for 8 years.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale High School



Chad Meyer

Science Teacher

- Mr. Meyer has been with APS 16 years.
- Mr. Meyer started his journey with us in the 2011-2012 school year, bringing with him a wealth of experience from his 9 years of teaching and coaching at Fennville while building his life with his wife, Kristin, and 3 children (TJ, Kenz, and Addie). Allendale was fortunate to gain such an amazing teacher. Mr. Meyer's commitment to fostering a supportive and encouraging environment for students to learn and grow is something to be admired. Mr. Meyer takes the time to meet students where they are at, mentor, and encourage each of them on their individual journey of education. He is kind, humble, and a pillar of grace. In addition to working with our Allendale students in the classroom, we have been fortunate to have Mr. Meyer be this example of humility and grace for our Track and Field program since he started in Allendale. He has not only coached the Boys Varsity track team but also led them to an extraordinary record of either winning or sharing the OK Blue Conference Title every year, with the exception of one. In recent years, he has expanded his role to include coaching the girls Varsity track and field team. With his leadership, our track and field teams, which typically comprise over 150 athletes, have thrived. We have had the honor to observe this educator give all he has to this community, and school not only with students receiving special education services but also our own children. Mr. Meyer, thank you for your dedication to Allendale High School.