

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****

- December 2 School Resumes, Y5-12th Grade
- December 2 Y5-12th Winter Art Show, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
- December 4 NHS Blood Drive, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
- December 5 HS Holiday Pops Concert, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
- December 9 Whiteout Basketball Game, 7:00 PM, Allendale High School
- December 9 Board of Education Meeting, 5:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room
- December 10 MS Choir Concert, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
- December 12 MS Band Concert, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
- December 14 Robotics MS VRC Tournament, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Allendale Middle School
- December 14 SWE Tea, 11:00 AM, Allendale Baptist Church
- December 14 Falcon Kids Choir Concert, 7:00 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
- December 23 - January 4 No School, Christmas Break

Allendale Public Schools would like to

Thank you

For supporting
Hunger Awareness Week
30,495 Items were donated
Your generosity is greatly
appreciated.




Congratulations Ms. Murphy!

We are thrilled and honored to celebrate Ms. Audra Murphy, Principal of Allendale High School, who was a student-athlete and member of the 2006 Hillsdale College Chargers Women's Volleyball team.

This outstanding team has been inducted into the Hillsdale College Hall of Fame! Pictured alongside Ms. Murphy is her coach, Chris Gravel, and his wife, sharing in this special moment.





HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Athletic Hall of Fame

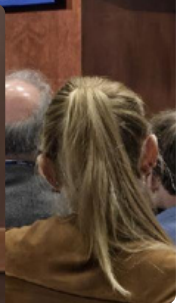
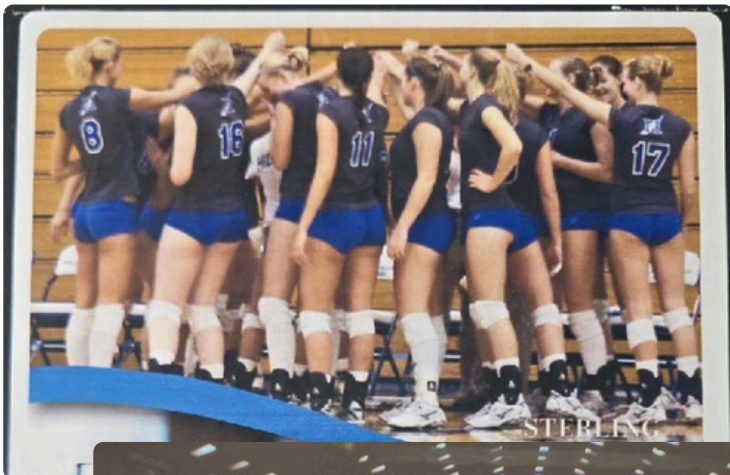
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024

2006 Volleyball Team

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| #1 Rebecca (Grzegorski) Heaton | #10 Tessa (Bloemers) Mares |
| #2 Stephanie Booms | #11 Devon (Blain) Younan |
| #3 Audra (VanderMolen) Murphy | #12 Melissa Bartlett |
| #4 Megan (Howard) Molenkamp | #13 Kitrick (Smith) Matthews |
| #6 Hannah (Barrett) Krombeen | #14 Taryn (Rudland) Monroe |
| #7 Jamie (Murray) Flores | #15 Caitlin (Baron) Kovalak |
| #8 Jen (Pilot) Wagner | #16 Emily Bennett |
| #9 Katherine (Jones) Huffman | #17 Elisse (Shank) Hudkins |

Coaches

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chris Gravel Head Coach | Rick Langston Assistant Coach |
| Stephanie Gravel Assistant Coach | Sumer Wells Assistant Coach |

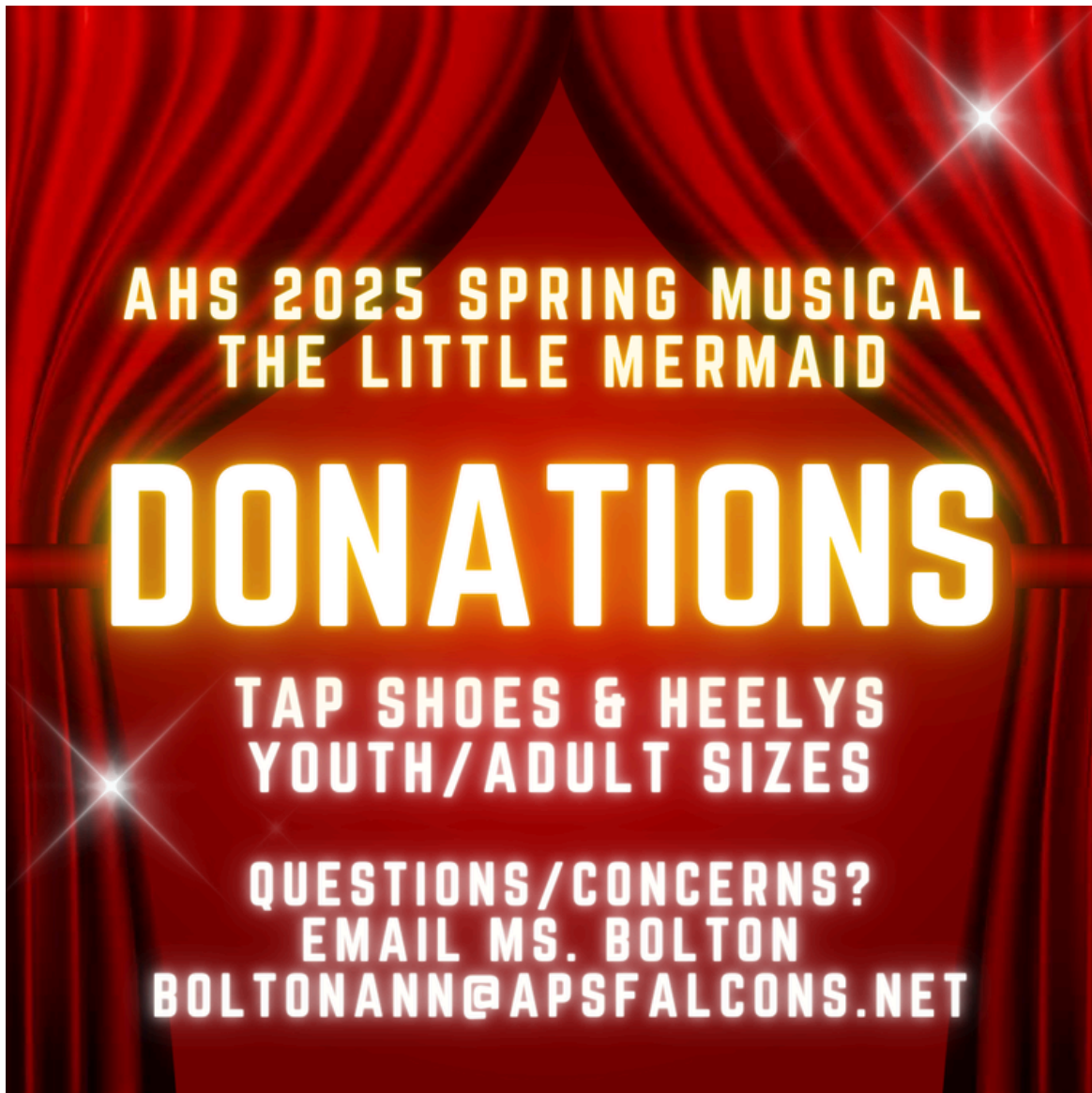


Allendale Public Schools' Human Resource Director, Troy VanderLaan, was recently recognized as the "Most Influential Community Member" by the Allendale Chamber of Commerce at their "Best of Allendale" event on November 21st. He was selected based on his work in the community. Troy has built great relationships with local businesses through his efforts to host work fairs at the high school, as well as establish opportunities for work-based experiences for APS students. Troy also partners with community members through his efforts on the Allendale Public Schools' Foundation. In addition, Troy is an active collaborator with GVSU in several ways, from serving on a Dean's Advisory Board, to participating on a GVSU alumni panel helping to prepare graduating teacher candidates for upcoming job interviews, and also as the APS liaison to the West Michigan Teacher Collaborative, which is creating opportunities for aspiring teachers. Troy served as the Allendale High School principal for almost 5 years where he got to know many families here in Allendale, then became the Human Resource Director for the district.



Allendale High School is gearing up for an unforgettable production of *The Little Mermaid*, and we need your support! We're looking for donations of tap shoes and heelys (youth and adult sizes - color black preferred) for our talented cast members as they bring this magical story to life.

If you would like to donate these items, please bring them to the AHS Main Office. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Bolton at boltonann@apsfalcons.net



**AHS 2025 SPRING MUSICAL
THE LITTLE MERMAID**

DONATIONS

**TAP SHOES & HEELYS
YOUTH/ADULT SIZES**

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS?
EMAIL MS. BOLTON
BOLTONANN@APSFALCONS.NET**



Congratulations to all our talented AHS students who auditioned for **The Little Mermaid**! Please see the cast list attached and be sure to mark your calendars to see the show on March 7, 8 & 9! Tickets will be on sale in 2025 on Allendale Ludus. This is going to be an unforgettable performance you won't want to miss!

Allendale High School
presents



Ariel
Nadia Heath

Prince Eric
Zach Torno

King Triton
Nathan Crysler

Sebastian
Kinley Detter

Ursula
Braylie Barnhart

Scuttle
Alli Quackenbush

Flounder
Bianca Veliz-Figueroa

Chef Louis
Kate Allen



Grimsby
Matt Torrey

Windward
Gianna Hellem

Flotsam
Angela Simmons

Leeward
Violet Stokes

Jetsam
Izzy Tidd

Pilot
Eli Berens



Mersisters

Aquata
Grace Duchaine

Andrina
Bella Martinez

Arista
Malia Woods

Atina
Natalie Busman

Adela
Clara McDonald

Allana
Selene Veliz - Figueroa



Ensemble

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Abriella Palmer | Alex Fogal |
| Allie Russ | Alivia VanKlombenberg |
| Arleigh Geerts | Aspen Nagtzaam |
| Bailey Mullennix | Caden Carter |
| Christian Duroucher | Eli Berens |
| Faith Henry | Gus Wittlieff |

Ensemble

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Haylee Cole | Isla Lewis |
| Luke Goff | Mandy Simmons |
| Matt Torrey | Mya Dean |
| Noah Forslund | Savannah Milton |



Need we say more, other than a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to our **Boys Cross Country team!** They took the state title, and we couldn't be more proud of their hard work and dedication! Congrats to each and every one of you! Let's Go Falcons!!!



Congratulations to our **All Conference, Fall athletes!** These students gave their all on and off the court, and we are so proud of their Falcon Pride! It is not easy to excel in sports and school, it takes dedication and hard work, and that is what each of these students exemplifies!



Allendale High School's Veterans Day assembly was a success. We were blessed to welcome several special guests, veterans, community members, as well as the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department honor guard for our ceremony. The words shared by our keynote speaker, Ken Murrillo, were so meaningful to our staff and students and we can't say thank you enough to him and all of our veterans for their service to our community and country.



Allendale Middle School Choirs is proud to announce that 5 of our amazing middle school choir students have been selected through blind auditions to participate in the ACDA 2025 National Honors Choirs program! The American Choral Directors Association hosts a national conference every 2 years, attracting prominent musicians and music educators from around the world. Our students' achievement highlights not only their individual talent but also the dedication of our middle school choirs.

These 5 students will represent our school and Allendale community on a national stage, joining singers from across the country. Please join us in celebrating their hard work, talent, and commitment to musical excellence!

For more information on how to support these students attending honors choir in Dallas, TX in March 2025, please contact Mr. Wurst at WurstAda@APSFalcons.net.



On Tuesday, November 12, two of our **Allendale Middle School Band** students represented Allendale Bands at Western Michigan University's MidFest (an honors band). Evelyn DeLeeuw, 8th grade tuba player, and Oliver Gross, 8th grade alto saxophone player, were among 100+ band students from 30+ MS Band programs from all over Michigan.

The event, hosted by WMU's Irving S. Gilmore School of Music, included a wonderful day of making music with a nationally renowned guest conductor, seeing the beautiful campus, and concluded in performance with WMU's Concert Band and the MidFest Band. What made the day remarkable was the MidFest group's ability to put together a full concert in one day and sound great doing it.

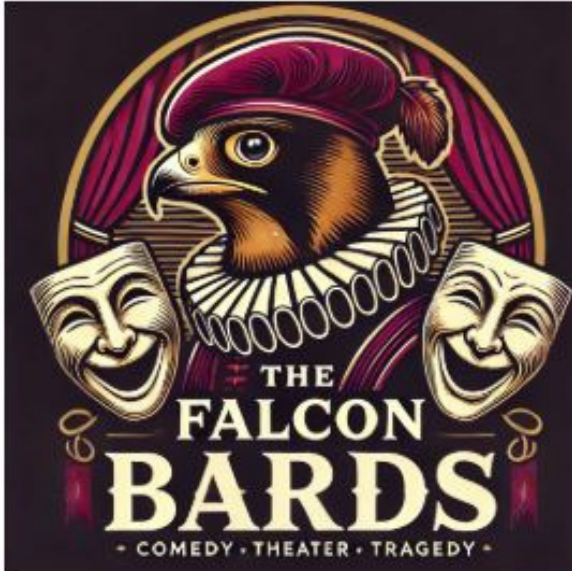
Evie and Ollie had a fantastic time participating and were wonderful representatives for Allendale Bands. Overall, it was a great learning experience and thrilling performance. When you see Evie and Ollie, please congratulate them on their achievement!

Thanks to everyone for supporting our Band student and being flexible with the schedule for the day!



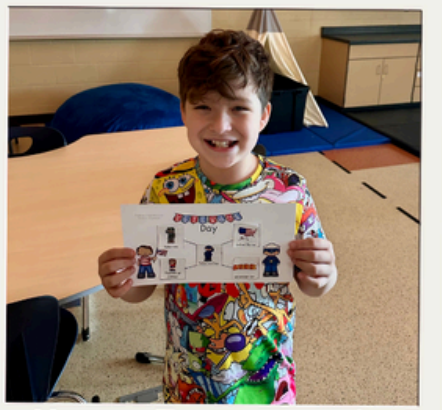
The **Falcon Bards** is a NEW after school theater group that recently gave seven performances within our district and greater community. Led by Mr. Wurst, students prepared a 30 minute show of high energy songs from various musicals. They met for 8 weeks after school to learn singing, choreography, and stage presence. Their program included, "Green Eggs and Ham" and "Oh, The Things You Can Think" from the musical Suessical, "It's The Hard Knock Life" from Annie, "Happy All The Time" from Elf, and "Interjections" from the classic Schoolhouse Rock Live! Two students, Selah Johnson (7th grade) and Ryan Lussier (8th grade) were chosen through audition as soloists to also perform "Maybe" from Annie. The Falcon Bards performed for Evergreen Elementary students, ECC students, the high school Concert Choir, and for residents at Green Acres of Allendale and Riley's Grove in Zeeland. Please take a moment to congratulate these amazing performers on a job well done!

Zoey Anderson, Kennedy Brock, Penelope Brown, Elizabeth Clark, Emmalin Crane, Teagan Dykstra, Elana Goetzel, Reagan Holmes, Ruby Holmes, Selah Johnson, Allie Klesney, Ryan Lussier, Hayley Michalak, Kinsleigh O'Neil, Isabella Rico, Avlynn Schmit, Easton Terrell, Macie Tiano, Grady Wynsma, and Mia Zavala.





Hunger Food Drive
Total: 7,852 items

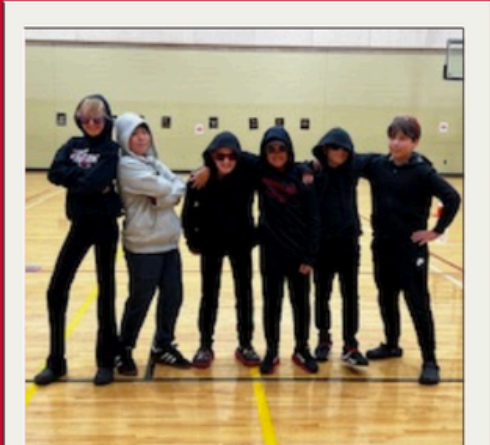


Mrs. Feenstra's
Class Learns About
Veterans Day



We Love Our
Veterans

Oakwood Dec '24



5th Grade
Kindness Rap



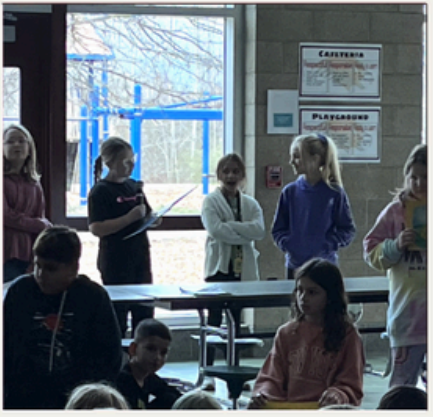
Communitarian



Reading Buddies



Singing Falcons Tour
Allendale Fire
Station



4th Grade
Kindness Story



Readers Are
Leaders

OAKWOOD: WE BELONG HERE

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



The Evergreen Special Education Resource Program paraprofessionals have worked hard to ensure that the diverse needs of the students at Evergreen are met. They support students, teach them, promote independence, and have made incredible progress with many of the students they work with. They have also established positive relationships with the students and staff at Evergreen. There have been many new challenges this year and the special education resource paraprofessionals have risen to the occasion in each situation.

Evergreen Special Education Paraprofessionals (Left to Right)

Amber Brower:

- Worked at APS for 10 years
- Has known she wanted to work in education since she was in 1st grade. She is thankful to get to do what she loves with the people she loves

Avery Teller:

- Worked at APS for 2 years
- Working in the school system has encouraged Avery to go to school for teaching. She began taking online classes on the 1st of November!

Evergreen Special Education Continued

Carol Rhodes:

- Worked at APS for 4 years
- Likes to go to GVSU football games to watch her daughter in the marching band. Also likes to go camping, have bonfires, and scrapbook

Jessica Janiszewski:

- Worked at APS for 5 years
- Loves to cook and bake

Tomi Jo Clark:

- Worked at APS for 4 years
- Enjoys baking and spending time with her kids

Heather Potgeter:

- Has worked as a special education paraprofessional for 1 year
- Loves to horseback ride and camp with her family in her free time

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Stefanie Torp

Special Education Teacher

- Mrs. Torp has been with APS for 12 years.
- Mrs. Torp is a hard worker who is dedicated to supporting students in meeting their potential. She is a great team player who is respected by her peers, students, administration, and parents she works with. Mrs. Torp is very knowledgeable and supports other staff when they have questions or need assistance. She does not shy away from any challenge and goes above and beyond on a regular basis. We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Torp at the High School and as a member of the special education team. She is very deserving of this recognition and we appreciate all she does.
- Mrs. Torp had the opportunity to run a 200 mile relay in Canada with a group of friends that ended at Niagara Falls! It was one of the most fun, and adventurous things she has ever done.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Alexa Buckland

Speech and Language Pathologist

- Ms. Buckland has been with APS for 4 years.
- Ms. Buckland does a great job as a speech and language pathologist and we are fortunate to have her on our team. Ms. Buckland is a true team player, supports others, and supports the district. Ms. Buckland is very knowledgeable and her input has been sought in multiple committees. Ms. Buckland is also awesome with students. She makes speech therapy fun and engaging. She also works hard to teach the students the skills they need to be successful.
- She loves to travel, hike, camp and do anything outdoors. She got engaged at Black Rocks in the UP this past summer and plans to get married next August!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



Julie Vander Loo

Kindergarten Teacher

- Mrs. Vander Loo has been with APS for 3 years.
- Mrs. Vander Loo is a dedicated member of our Kindergarten teaching team. Mrs. Vander Loo goes above and beyond to build relationships with her students and families, as her classroom has grown into a beautiful little learning community. Everyday you can walk into Mrs. Vander Loo's class, and see students highly engaged in learning, as she gets her students to fall in love with school, even at the very start of their educational journey. Mrs. Vander Loo is also a valuable member of some of our AECC building teams, as she gives valuable insight on how we do things inside our building. We are blessed to have Mrs. Vander Loo as a member of the AECC!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



Paige Caligiuri

School Counselor

- Mrs. Caligiuri has been with APS for 2.5 years.
- Mrs. Caligiuri, or Ms. Paige, as we call here here at the AECC, always does what is best for her students when here at school. Ms. Paige works with a quiet and calm demeanor, helping students learn how to regulate and deal with big emotions that they might encounter throughout the school day. Whether it is in whole-class instruction, small groups, or one-on-one sessions, students learn how to deal with big feelings, what it means to be a good friend, and how to work through problems that they might encounter throughout the day. We are blessed to have Ms. Paige as a dedicated member of the AECC!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Evergreen Elementary



Gretchen Burk

1st Grade Teacher

- Mrs. Burk has been with APS for 12 years.
- Mrs. Burk has a big heart for kids and tirelessly advocates for them. Mrs. Burk support students beyond the school day as a Falcon Hour teacher and also serves as a teacher leader in the building. Her desire to make a lasting impact on her students is noticed every day through the conversations she holds and the lessons she teaches.
- Fun fact about Mrs. Burk, she likes to write songs for fun occasions!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Evergreen Elementary



Jenny Engelhard

Evergreen East Secretary

- Mrs. Engelhard serves an important role in both offices as the first point of contact for visitors, parents, and even students who need assistance. Mrs. Engelhard always greets people with a smile, provides guidance, and helps solve problems, all while keeping calm and professional under pressure. Thanks Mrs. Engelhard for all that you do for our staff, students, and families!
- Mrs. Engelhard recently shot her first buck (6-point). Way to go Mrs. Engelhard!! She also enjoys other outdoor activities as well including fishing, hunting, walking, and traveling with her family.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Oakwood Intermediate



Megan Czarnecki

4th Grade Teacher at Oakwood

- Ms. Czarnecki has been with APS for 2 years.
- Ms. Czarnecki has been a wonderful addition to our Oakwood staff. Although this is only her second year with us, this is her tenth (10th) year teaching. She has taught grades 3, 4 and 5. She filled a long-term substitute position in 4th grade when Mrs. Olsen transitioned to a Reading Specialist position at the middle school. After that, Oakwood was very fortunate to have been able to bring Ms. Czarnecki on as a permanent 4th grade teacher the following year. Ms. Czarnecki is truly passionate about her role as a teacher. Her students are continually engaged in activities and opportunities that Ms. Czarnecki creates in an effort for each of them to be successful each and every day. Her favorite subject to teach is science because of all the hands-on activities and seeing the students' curiosity as they explore the content. In her short time with you, Ms. Czarnecki has already taken on several leadership roles on the 4th grade team and in the building.
- In her spare time, Ms. Czarnecki likes to do photography. Her favorite pictures to capture are those of nature and beautiful places. She wouldn't brag about herself in this way, but the Oakwood staff have been the lucky recipients of Ms. Czarnecki's wonderful baked creations on numerous times. She also makes beautifully decorated designer cookies - in her spare time! Thank you for all you do for our students and staff. Oakwood is a better place with you on board, Ms. Czarnecki.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Oakwood Intermediate



Courtney Farber

Music Teacher

- Mrs. Farber has been with APS for 2 years.
- Mrs. Farber has only been a part of the Oakwood team for two years but is having a large impact already. She shares her passion for music and the arts by the way she engages her students in the work. She brings fresh new ideas to her programs and wants all her students to find enjoyment in music. Her favorite thing to teach in music is Ukulele. Mrs. Farber is always open to trying new things in the classroom and supporting students in creative ways outside of the classroom as well. Mrs. Farber leads our Oakwood Singing Falcons - who recently performed at the Allendale Township Offices for a Veterans Day Ceremony. She is also one of the advisors for the Oakwood Influencers (5th grade Leadership Team).
- In her spare time, Mrs. Farber likes to spend time with her husband and one-year old son, Jaxon. She also enjoys snowboarding, baking, running and being outside. Thank you, Mrs. Farber, for all you do for the students at Oakwood. We appreciate all you do!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Middle School



David Bishop

6th Grade English Teacher

- Mr. Bishop has been with APS 12 years.
- Congratulations to Mr. Bishop, our Teacher of the Month! Mr. Bishop, who teaches 6th grade English, is celebrated for his energetic and engaging teaching style. He goes above and beyond to make learning enjoyable and meaningful, sparking a love for reading and writing among his students. Additionally, Mr. Bishop is an active member of the building School Leadership Team, constantly looking for creative ways to make school more fun and enriching for kids. His hard work and genuine care for his students make him a cherished and inspiring educator at our school. Thank you, Mr. Bishop!
- Something fun about Mr. Bishop is that he defeated Mr. Winters in a lightsaber duel at Halloween this year.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale High School



Liz Stalzer

High School Spanish Teacher

- Ms. Stalzer has been with APS for 3 years.
- Ms. Stalzer aims to make learning both fun and meaningful through activities that get every type of student involved. You only hear great things about her from the student population. Whenever you walk past her classroom you always see students that are actively listening or participating. She is also someone who looks out for fellow staff members and has put in the effort to bring us together to help others of us in need. Ms. Stalzer is always happy, has great energy, and her class is always fun. She does creative stuff in her class like interviewing people and playing games. Ms. Stalzer is really nice and she always notices when someone is struggling, especially the quiet kids. She is always willing to help. She is a very positive teacher and she helps everyone, staff included, understand Spanish because of the way she teaches.