

# FALCONER NEWS

[www.allendale.k12.mi.us](http://www.allendale.k12.mi.us)

**\*\*Please continue to check our website for the most up-to-date information on events taking place\*\***

September 9	Regular Board of Education meeting, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room
September 14	Music Booster Mattress Sale, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, High School Gym
September 20	Homecoming Football Game, 7:00 PM, Allendale High School
September 21	Homecoming Dance, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM, High School Gym
September 23	Board of Education Work Session, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room
September 27	No School Young Fives - 12th Grade

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I want to start by saying thank you to all who were able to vote during the August 6<sup>th</sup> election. While we were disappointed that the bond proposal on the ballot did not pass, we were heartened by the fact that support was strong, and the defeat was by a very small margin. We greatly appreciate the support we received from so many in our community. Thank you!

Given this strong support, we believe that the proposal that a steering committee of parents, community members and district staff put together reflects the needs of our students and community, and are considering presenting a bond proposal to the community again next May. We also want to ensure that the priorities that the steering committee identified, aligns with our community's vision for the district. With that in mind, we are seeking additional input regarding the main elements of the proposal.

To that end, we have put together a brief survey and ask you to please give us your feedback by Monday, September 16, 2024. Since we truly want to get feedback from our entire community, but our ability to connect with all stakeholders is limited, I would ask you to please share the survey link with your family, friends and neighbors that live in Allendale, but who do not have children in Allendale Public Schools at this time.

You can access the survey by using the QR code below, or by following this link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7RF33X>



Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the survey. Your input is vital and important to us as we look to improve our school community!

Sincerely,

Garth Cooper  
Superintendent



School Meals reminder: 2024/2025 School Year brings Free Breakfast and Free Lunch to each student. A meal is reimbursable only when a Fruit or Vegetable is on the tray.

Breakfast is served at each building cafeteria when students arrive:

AECC: 8:20AM- 8:44AM

Evergreen: 8:20AM -8:37AM

Oakwood: 8:18AM – 8:28AM

Middle – 7:15AM- 7:33AM

High/New Options – 7:10AM – 7:45AM

Lunch is served according to each student/class daily schedule.

\*Don't Scrape the App! Please continue to fill out the School Meals and Summer EBT application.

Benefit status must be on record for the school year to qualify for other programs like summer EBT, Sports and AP testing fee reductions. It is best practice to have the application complete by October, however it is open all year. <https://allendale.familyportal.cloud>

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### **Congratulations!**

Mrs. Emily Miller was recently named the "Elementary Art Teacher of the Year" by the Michigan Art Education Association (MAEA) for the 2024-25 school year. Mrs. Miller excels at getting her students to fall in love with art and does a tremendous job of building close relationships with each of her students. Mrs. Miller has earned this recognition, as she shows up every day ready to engage her students as they create beautiful masterpieces inside of her classroom.



## **2025 MAEA Elementary Art Educator of the Year**



**Emily Miller**

## Happenings at APS

### Senior Sunrise:

Students gathered at our football stadium to watch the sunrise, on their last, first day of school! What a special time for these kids and students to take in a beautiful sunrise, while grasping the reality that they are about to begin their senior year of high school! This is a special time for each of them! We are proud of our seniors and look forward to watching them soar through this year and beyond!



**Freshman orientation** went off without a hitch! We welcomed our Freshman class in the Ceglarek Fine Arts Center and what a fun time it was! Our incoming Freshmen were given the opportunity to ask questions to a group of students (upperclassmen), and were also taken on tours of our building! This is an awesome group of students and we are so excited they are starting their journey with us at Allendale High School!



## Happenings at APS continued

Our School Resource Officer, Deputy Ortman is starting his 9th year with APS! We are so fortunate to have Deputy Ortman in our district, he is an asset to our staff and students in so many ways!

# OTTAWA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BACK TO SCHOOL!!



# Back To School

HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL:  
BUILD THE HABIT OF GOOD ATTENDANCE EARLY



## What Can I Do?

Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before

Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school.

Set regular bedtime & morning routines.

If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers or a school counselor for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable.

Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.

Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.

Try to schedule non-urgent related medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.

If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher for resources to continue learning from home.



*Attendance Matters*

IF YOU HAVE BARRIERS PREVENTING YOU GETTING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR BUILDING'S SECRETARY AND ASK TO TALK TO AN ATTENDANCE TEAM MEMBER.

# Too Sick for School?

HERE'S HOW TO TELL



STAY HOME IF...

SYMPTOMS...

OKAY FOR SCHOOL IF...

Your child has a continuous cough or feels too sick to participate in school activities.

Cough / Cold

Cough isn't distracting and child has energy to participate in school activities.

Eye or ear is red and has yellow or green discharge. See doctor for treatment.

Eye/Ear Discharge

Has been on antibiotic eye drops for 24 hours. The amount of discharge decreases.

Temperature is 100.4 or higher.

Fever

Fever free for 24 hours without medication.

Rash is contagious. Hand foot and mouth disease and impetigo are contagious. Child should see their doctor for diagnosis.

Rash

Treatment has been started and rash is dry or can be appropriately covered.

Your child's doctor suspects or diagnoses strep throat.

Sore Throat

After being on antibiotics for 24 hours if strep throat. If able to participate in regular school activities.

Your child has vomiting or diarrhea.

Stomachache

It has been 24 hours since last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.



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# Did you Know...??



**Just a little bit late doesn't seem like much but...**

He/She is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is approximately...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	1 week per year	A 1/3 of a school year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	2 weeks per year	Almost one school year
Half an hour per day	Nearly half a day per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
1 hour per day	Nearly 1 day per week	Over 5 weeks per year	Nearly 2 years

**Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day!**  
**Allendale Start Times:**

ECC  
8:44 am

Evergreen  
8:37 am

Oakwood  
8:28 am

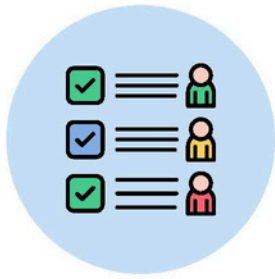
MS  
7:33 am

HS  
7:45 am



*Attendance Matters*

IF YOU HAVE BARRIERS PREVENTING YOU GETTING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR BUILDING'S SECRETARY AND ASK TO TALK TO AN ATTENDANCE TEAM MEMBER.



# Helping your Child IMPROVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

## Attendance Matters

1

Good attendance is a parent and student responsibility. Help your child understand why going to school every day matters. Reinforce that showing up to school consistently is an important life skill that will help them be successful in their future.

2

## Have a Night Time Routine

Having a night time routine makes for a smoother morning.

- Clean out and organize backpack.
- Complete any homework.
- Lay out clothes/shoes the night before.
- Make lunch at home the night before.
- Go to bed on time.



## Have a Morning Routine

3

Help your child learn the value of a regular routine. Do your best to do the routine the same way every morning. Don't drag out the goodbye process... it makes leaving home even more difficult.



4

## Lead By Example

Be a good example and enforce rules. Speak highly of the school and support staff. Don't let your child take time off school for minor reasons. Don't let your child persuade you into making an excuse for them to miss school.

## Open Communication

5

If your child doesn't want to go to school, determine the reason(s) why. Have open communication with their teacher and other school staff in order to create a strong support system.

6

## Be Prepared

Don't get discouraged with regression. Going back to school after a long weekend, holiday break, or illness can cause school avoidance to flare up again. Be prepared for this and remember consistency is the key.

## Don't Give Up

7

The best gift you can give your child is to not give up...even when you feel like it. There's no "quick fix" in overcoming school anxiety. The best lesson your child learns is they CAN do hard things and be successful.

8

## Keep a School Calendar

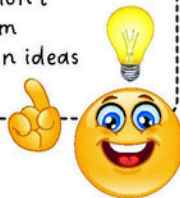
Keep a school calendar. Write down all important dates, holidays, events that will take place each month. This helps your child be aware of what is coming up and to help them be prepared in advance for commitments. It is also a convenient place to document absences.



## Teach Problem Solving Skills

9

Learning to handle problems effectively is a valuable life skill. When problems arise, don't rush to solve your child's problem for them. Encourage them to come up with their own ideas of solutions to their problems.



10

## Teach Calming Strategies

Teaching your child calming strategies is a great way for them to take an active role in overcoming school avoidance.

### Easy Deep Breathing Exercise:

Inhale through nose. Hold for 5 seconds.

Exhale through mouth. Repeat 3 times.

# A

## Attendance Matters

IF YOU HAVE BARRIERS PREVENTING YOU GETTING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR BUILDING'S SECRETARY AND ASK TO TALK TO AN ATTENDANCE TEAM COMMITTEE MEMBER.





# FAMILY C.A.R.E.

COMMUNITY. ACCESSIBILITY. RESOURCES. ENGAGEMENT



**BRI BLANKSMA**  
ALLENDALE ECC

**BLANKSMABRI@APSFALCONS.NET**  
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**KARI WIERSEMA**  
EVERGREEN- TEAM LEAD

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OAKWOOD

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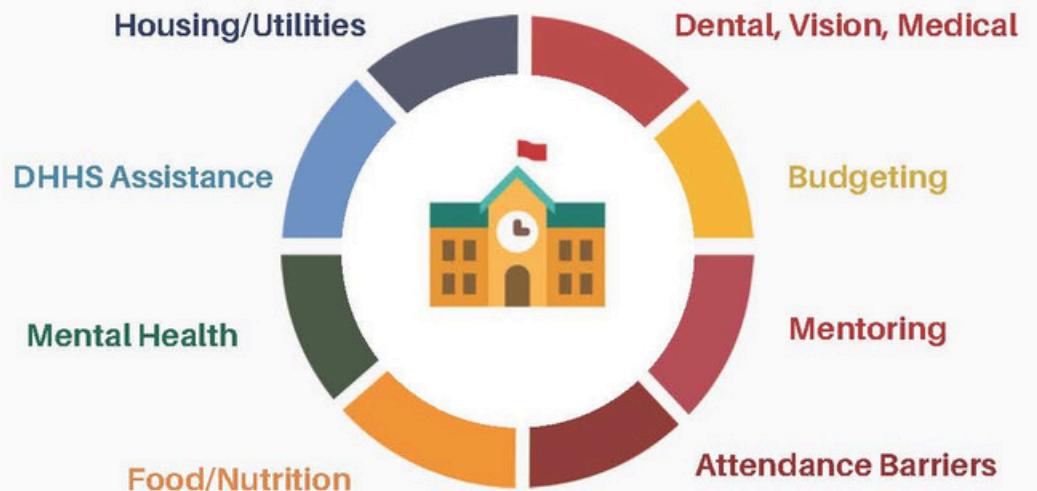


**ALLI VANCE**  
ALLENDALE MS

**ALLI.VANCE@APSFALCONS.NET**  
616-892-3457

The APS Family C.A.R.E. team is dedicated to having all students physically, emotionally, and socially well with strong family support to ensure each student develops to their potential. We are committed to working alongside you to help your child succeed in school.

We will partner with the school, the community, and families to remove barriers to academic achievement for students. Our goal is to help our students and families have what they need to be successful. One way we can do this is by connecting families, students, and the school to resources. The following includes some of the ways we can assist:



## NEED RESOURCES? WE CAN HELP.

Please contact any of us if you need assistance or have questions. Or visit our website at:

<http://sites.google.com/apsfalcons.net/familycare>



# APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

## New Special Education Staff



**Alison Justice**  
Evergreen School  
Psychologist



**Annie Kuiper**  
Special Education Resource  
Teacher - Evergreen



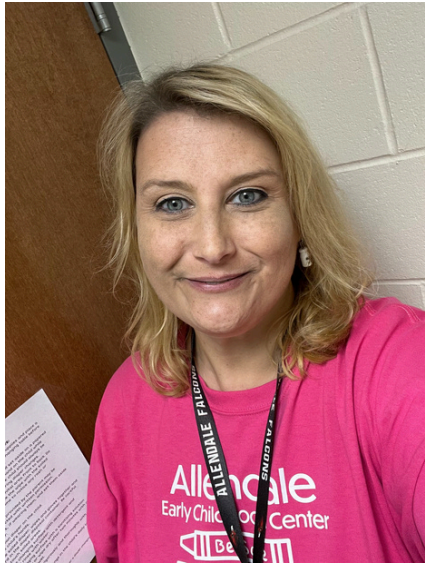
**Kristen Maldonado**  
Special Education Parapro



**Megan Petko**  
Special Education Resource  
Teacher - High School

# APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

## New Allendale Early Childhood Center Staff



**Amy Campbell**  
WRAP Aide



**Amanda Carrier**  
GSRP Lead Teacher



**Ally Gillum**  
WRAP Aide



**Ellie LaMotte**  
Kindergarten Teacher

**New Allendale Early Childhood Center Staff Continued**



**Rebekah Semelbauer  
GSRP Caregiver**



**Megan Wittegan  
GSRP Associate Teacher**



**Jill Bert  
GSRP Associate Teacher**

# APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

## **New Evergreen Elementary Staff**



**Megan Koning  
2nd Grade Teacher**

# APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

## New Oakwood Intermediate Staff



**Alyson Graham**  
5th Grade Teacher



**Hanna Harlow**  
Family CARE Coordinator



**Lauren Johnson**  
4th Grade Teacher



**Sydney Wisniewski**  
4th Grade Teacher



**KRISTIN HARRIS**  
Special Ed Parapro



**GERALD SMOLKA**  
Math



**JENNA VANDYKE**  
Spanish



**SARA VANITTERSUM**  
Social Studies

# MEET OUR NEWEST FALCONS!



**THOMAS TIMMERMAN**  
Spanish



**DEREK FUNK**  
Social Studies



**ALLI VANCE**  
Family Care Coordinator



**KENDALL WINTERS**  
Secretary



**JACIE KING**  
PE & Health

# APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

## New Allendale High School Staff



**Emily Hurrell**  
**Assistant Principal**



**Madison Rose**  
**Science Teacher**



# APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

## New Grounds Staff



**Bill Kennedy and Logan Vissers  
Grounds**



**Don Barns  
Grounds**