

# GRIZZLY GAZETTE

The purpose of YCS is to develop mindful, engaged students with the skill set, work ethic, and attitude to contribute to a community that honors diversity, equity and justice.



## BOARD MEMBERS SPEND THE DAY VISITING SCHOOLS

The members of the Board of Education toured district school buildings and engaged with staff and students to explore how the school environment influences their learning outcomes. It is important to our Board members that each student is provided with the tools and materials for a high-quality educational environment that promotes success for all.



# **SUPERINTENDENT DR. ALENA ZACHERY-ROSS RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD**



**STRONGER TOGETHER**



The historic Bethel AME Church of Ann Arbor will recognize Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross for her outstanding leadership during the COVID pandemic. Dr. Zachery-Ross has shown a commitment to education and service to Ypsilanti Community Schools and beyond. Her tireless efforts and expertise helped the school community navigate the complex and challenging realities of the pandemic.

In addition to the presentation of leadership awards, the Bethel Scholarship Ministry will host a benefit concert featuring the Detroit Youth Choir. Reverend Mashad A. Evans Sr. remarked, "proceeds generated from this benefit concert will be used to provide scholarships and book awards for deserving students in their post-secondary educational pursuits. In addition, the concert will provide an opportunity for Bethel to honor leaders who have provided leadership to our community during the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Upon receiving the award notification, Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross shared, "I am thankful for this recognition, and I appreciate the historic Bethel AME Church of Ann Arbor parishioners for their ongoing support, commitment to excellence, and humanity." We are proud to acknowledge Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross for her leadership and look forward to her receiving recognition Sunday, March 19, 2023, at 2 pm at Huron High School. Tickets for the concert are available at <https://app.neptix.com/events/sounds-for-scholarships>

## **GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY'S SECOND ANNUAL BLACK BOYS AND MEN SYMPOSIUM**

The 2023 Black Boys and Men Symposium seeks to bring together youth service providers, all K-12 educators, higher education faculty and staff, and community leaders to understand and interrogate the "systems" that impact the lives of Black boys & men to deconstruct and rebuild for their success. This is an essential professional development opportunity for all staff who touch the lives of Black boys and those who desire to engage in inclusive learning environments surrounding Black lives.

To register and learn more about the symposium, visit [www.gvsu.edu/bbms](http://www.gvsu.edu/bbms).

**COMMITMENT TO GREATNESS**



# YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

## YIES Students' Art Project Awarded Best-in-Show

One Ypsilanti International Elementary School Kindergarten class was selected as the Best-in-Show winner. The Big Umbrella Welcome was inspired by "The Big Umbrella," a heartwarming and inclusive picture book about the idea that there is always enough room for everyone. The story inspired Kindergarten artists to create self-portraits and place them under the umbrella, showing that they are accepted just as they are. It is a beautiful reminder that everyone is welcome under the Big Umbrella, regardless of who they are or what they look like.



Artwork: The Big Umbrella Welcome  
Artist: Kindergarten class  
Art teacher: Kathy Fisk  
School: Ypsilanti International Elementary School  
Best in-show winner



## YCS ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA

Ypsilanti Community Schools' young artists will show off their artistic ability at the first annual YCS Arts Extravaganza sponsored by Embracing Our Differences Michigan. The event will be held at Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College on May 16, 2023, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The purpose of this event is to celebrate the diversity and inclusion of all students. The YCS Unified Arts teachers and students welcome families to view artwork displays and view student musical and dance performances. "Our YCS Unified Arts partnership with Embracing Our Differences Michigan is an opportunity for our students and teachers to exercise their voice, choice, and agency unapologetically to advocate and serve as co-conspirators for social justice and celebrate our great diversity together," Dr. Carlos Lopez, Assistant Superintendent, Ypsilanti Community Schools, disclosed.

Ypsilanti Community Schools Visual Arts Coordinator Kathy Fisk in collaboration with the YCS Unified Arts team has taken the lead in coordinating this program which is a collaboration between Embracing Our Differences Michigan and Ypsilanti Community Schools. "We congratulate YCS for their exciting work in celebrating diversity. Embracing Our Differences Michigan is proud to partner with YCS and offer our support and encouragement," Nancy Margolis, Executive Director, Embracing Our Differences Michigan.

All expenses for this project are being funded by Embracing Our Difference of Michigan.

# GOVERNOR WHITMER PROCLAIMS MARCH 2023 AS MARCH IS READING MONTH

Press release:

On March 1, 2023, Governor Gretchen Whitmer proclaimed March is Reading Month in Michigan. Throughout the month of March, people of all ages are encouraged to promote the importance of reading and parents are asked to explore the fun of reading with their children.

"This month, we are reminded of the crucial role reading plays in our lives from stimulating our imagination to building the foundation for our future success," said Governor Whitmer. "I am proud to declare this month March is Reading Month and encourage our communities, schools, and parents to find ways to bring the joy and benefits of reading to Michigan's youngest learners. Use this month to pick up something new and recommit yourself to being a lifelong learner. I look forward to seeing how kids and adults alike explore reading this March!"

"Reading is an ever-present gateway to knowledge and life-long success," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. "Choosing a diverse selection of reading materials for all ages builds literacy skills, engagement, and greater understanding."

During March is Reading Month, Michiganders are encouraged to explore the benefits and fun of reading. Educators and parents are encouraged to recommit themselves to making sure children and young adults read diverse literary works early and often so they can see themselves and others in what they read.

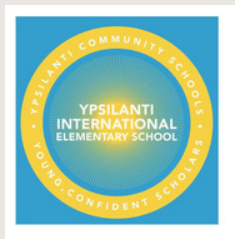
## Investing in Literacy

Expanding literacy support and investing in education is a top priority for Governor Whitmer.

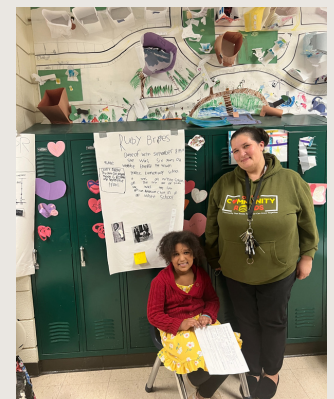
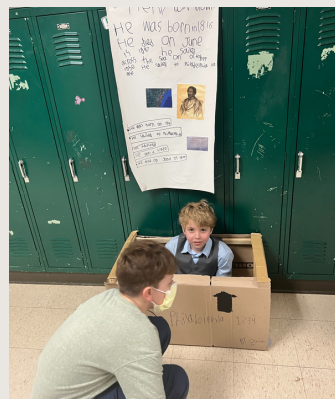
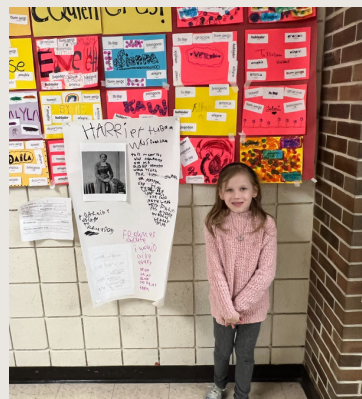
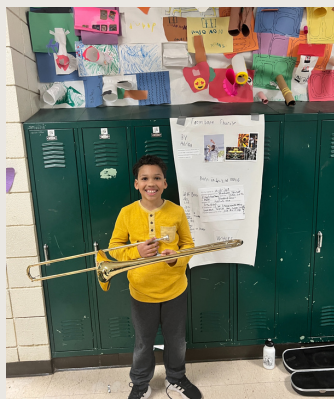
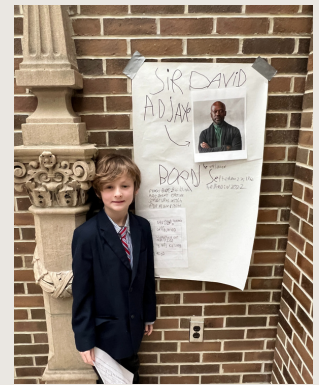
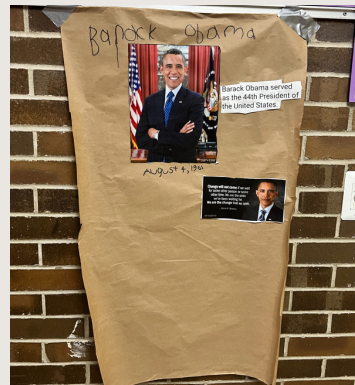
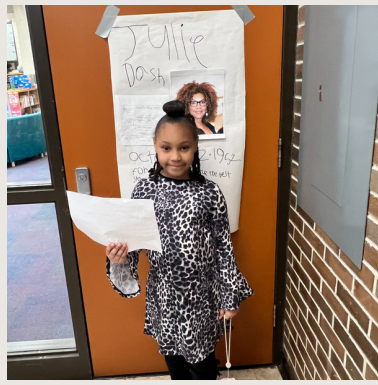
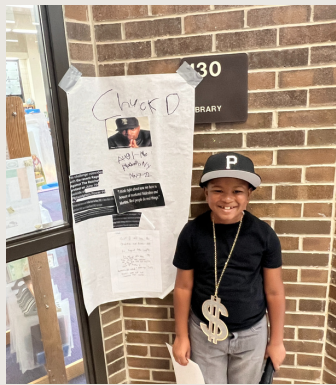
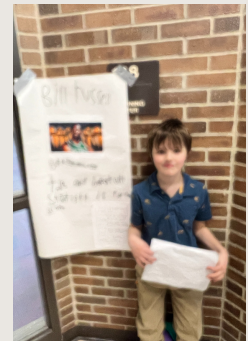
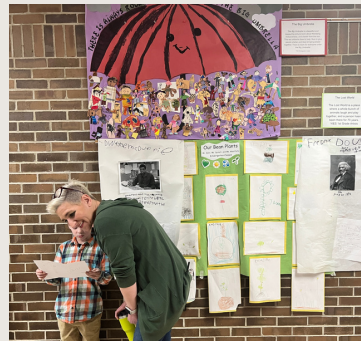
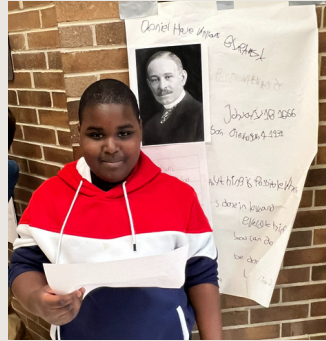
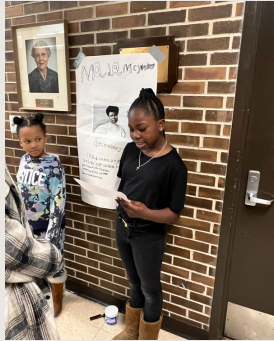
Last month, the governor proposed her fifth budget making record investments in education including in-class resources, mental health, campus safety, school infrastructure, and tutoring.

The governor also proposed a bold investment in lifelong literacy, so Michiganders of all ages can get the support they need to succeed in their next grade or job. Since taking office, she has worked across the aisle to triple the number of literacy coaches and boost support for students in every community without raising taxes by a dime.





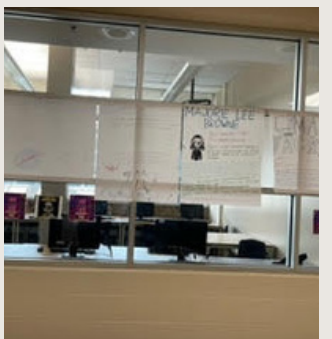
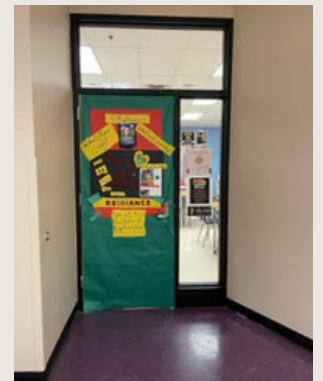
## YIES CELEBRATES NAAPID 2023







# BLACK History MATTERS







## YCHS CELEBRATES NAAPID 2023

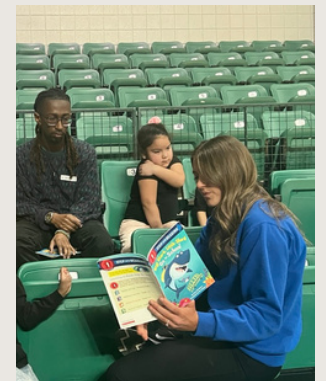
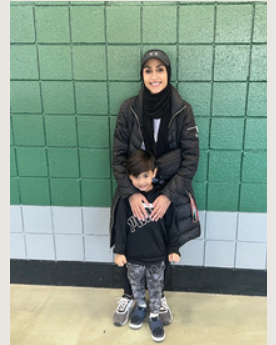




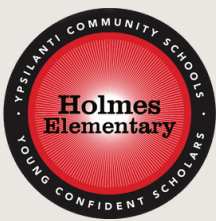


## BEATTY VISITS EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Over 100 of our youngest scholars from Beatty, had the opportunity to engage with athletes from the NAIA Competitive Cheer and Dance National Championships! There were parents, staff, and volunteers in abundance engaging our preschoolers in reading and crafts. Thank you to each person who committed their time to make this wonderful event happen. YCS appreciates each and every one of you!

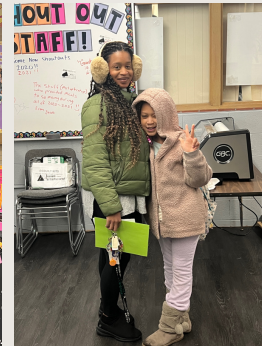




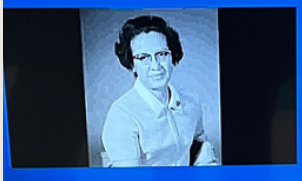


# HOLMES CELEBRATES NAAPID 2023

Holmes staff and students held the NAAPID celebration on Monday, March 13. The day began with Principal Anglin's Grizzly Gathering. Parents were invited to volunteer in classrooms and share lunch with scholars.



## Conclusion



"I think Katherine Johnson was smart and brave to go on this mission and to change women's lives to try out different places to work at." Ja'siana

"I think Katherine Johnson was really brave and she knew her math and her calculations. She was a little scared when she helped the first man get to the moon." Tamora

"Katherine Johnson was smarter than Einstein and she was so smart that she skipped lots of grades. She was the smartest person alive. She was nice to help the first mission to the moon." Anthony

"Katherine Johnson is a very inspiring person to me." Elisabeth

"Katherine Johnson did not feel segregation at NASA because they all were working together and she is a very cool person." Ky'Leigh





# ESTABROOK CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Estabrook students entertained a packed house at the Black History Month Program. The students performed skits, rapped, and danced, capturing the audience's attention.



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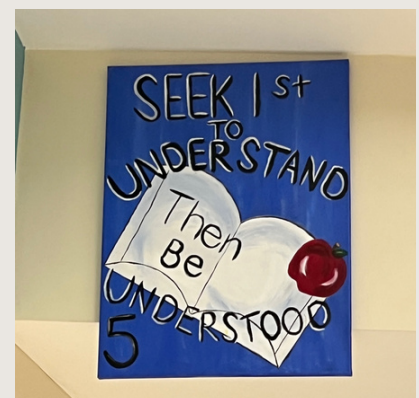
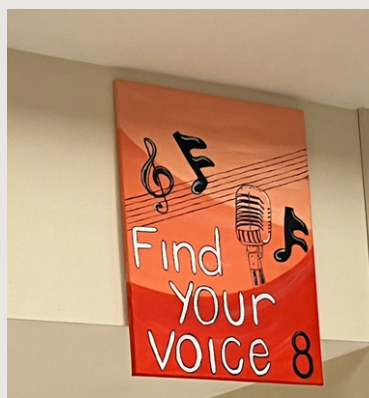
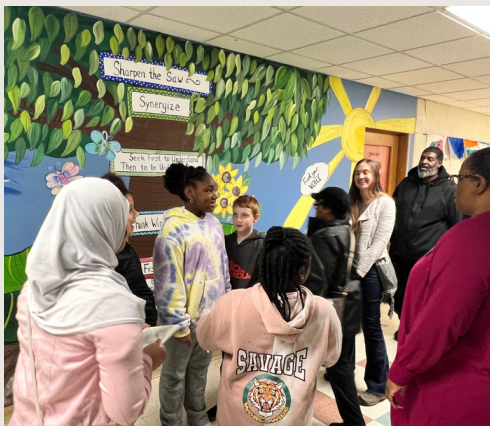
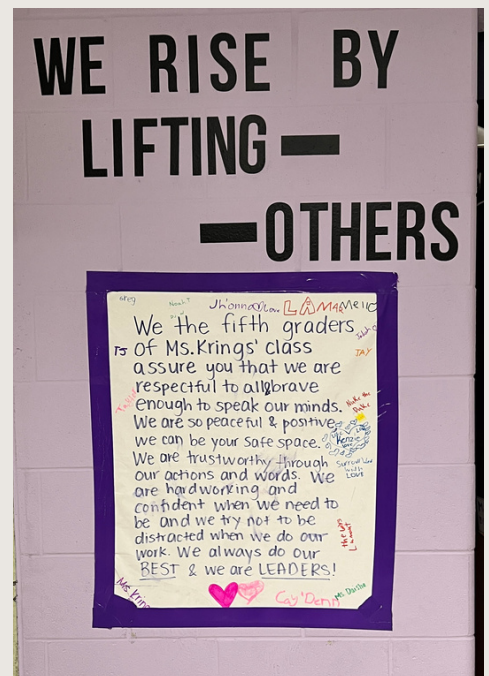
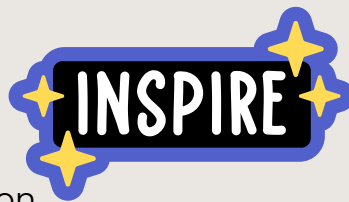
# ERICKSON LEADERS GIVE TOUR TO BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES



Recently, student leaders at Erickson showcased their leadership skills by providing a building tour for the Board of Education trustees.

The building tours allowed the school administration and student leaders to highlight recent accomplishments, programs, or initiatives.

The trustees interacted with students and other staff members. During the tour, the leaders showed the trustees various classrooms, the media center, the cafeteria, and other parts of the building important to the students. The students highlighted special programs or resources that Erickson offered.



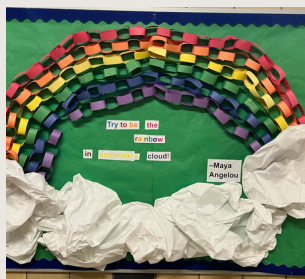
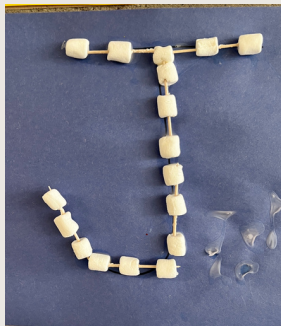




# A LOOK INSIDE FORD EARLY LEARNING CENTER

The walls inside Ford Early Learning Center are decorated with student artwork. Studies have shown that engaging in art activities can positively impact cognitive development, including creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills. Encouraging children to participate in art can help cultivate these skills and potentially lead to long-term success in their professional lives.

# AWESOME!

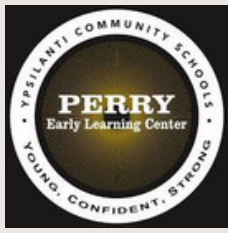


# NEVER STOP READING



The staff at Ford ELC has volunteered to read aloud to students. Reading aloud is crucial for children's literacy development, as it demonstrates fluency, develops an interest in books, and exposes them to vocabulary and language patterns beyond everyday speech. It also helps them understand the structure of books when they read independently and supports them in becoming better readers. Students of any age can benefit from hearing an experienced reader reading a book.





## PERRY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

### PERRY POINTS OF PRIDE PRESENTED TO THE YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Perry students attended three virtual performances through the University Musical Society at U of M and an in-person event on 3/13/2023.
- Kindergarten and first-grade boys attend "Gentleman's Lunch" twice per month with Mr. Easley and other positive male role models from the community.
- In the fall of 2022, first-grade students from Perry met weekly for Grizzly Jr. Robotics. This year's theme was SUPERPOWERED and the students learned where energy comes from and how it is used; they knew the impact of our energy choices and then brainstormed ideas to create a better "energy journey" for our community. On December 3, two robotics teams from Perry, led by Ms. Miller and Mr. Bennett, participated in the FIRST LEGO League Explore Gigawatt Festival. The teams presented their models and posters to reviewers and received an award.
- Perry students participated in Global Play Day on February 1, 2023.
- Perry has one of the largest student populations in the district, with 379 students, and one of the highest retention rates with staff total experience, a combined 478 years serving the YCS community.
- Perry has several educator-led groups, such as:
  - Gardening Club
  - Reflection Network
  - Literacy Study Group
  - Staff Appreciation and Events
  - PBIS
  - PTAB (Parent Teacher Advisory Board)
- Perry is the proud home of Grizzly Learning Camp and Extended School Year.
- This year at Perry, 172 projects have been funded through Donors Choose, totaling \$100,000 in supplies and assisting 41 teachers and students.



# ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS INTERESTED IN HEALTHCARE FIELDS

The Certified Nurse Assistant (C.N.A.) program is enrolling students for the fall. Students will experience work in many healthcare career paths like nursing, dental assistant, radiography, surgical technology, physical therapy technician, and hospital administration.

C.N.A.s are responsible for helping patients with daily living activities, assisting with personal hygiene, and maintaining a safe, clean environment. In this program, students receive hands-on training in basic nursing tasks such as taking vital signs, moving patients, and providing personal care. In the last portion of the course, students work in a Long-Term Care Facility, and students care for residents.

Students who enroll in this program have the opportunity to earn nine college credits and can take the state C.N.A. exam. The C.N.A. certification also meets one of the admission requirements for the W.C.C. Nursing Program and many other health programs. Upon completing the program, students will have earned a C.P.R. and a C.N.A. certificate!

The application can be found on our website.

## CAREER EXPO AT ACCE ON MARCH 20

ACCE had its first Career Expo on March 20, 2023. Students had the opportunity to interview with potential employers during the session. The students also created resumes and wore business attire for the interviews.

The Career Expo provided an excellent opportunity for students to explore different career options and gain insights into what it takes to succeed in various industries.

**ACCE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS**  
*Career*  
**EXPO 2023**

*Immediate Interviews* *Dress to Impress*

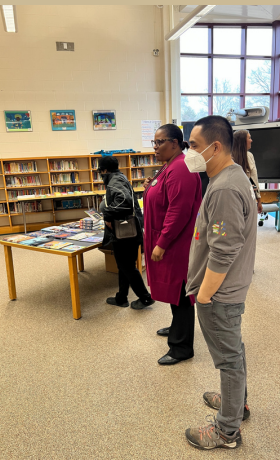
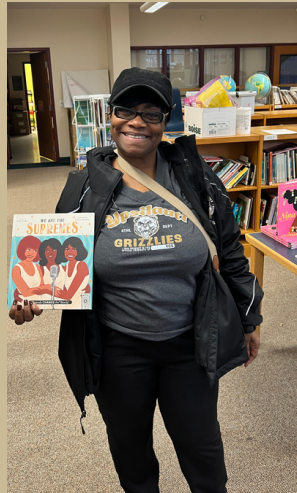
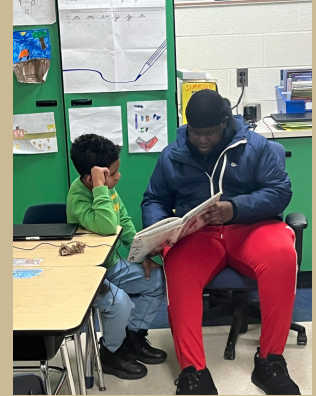
**MARCH 20, 2023**  
**9:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
1076 Ecorse Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

The following organizations will be on-site:

Army National Guard	Ypsilanti Township Fire Dept.
Hair Lab Detroit Barber School	University of Michigan HR Dept.
Military Recruitment Center	Huron Valley Ambulance
Beautiful Luxe Beauty	St. Joe's Trinity Health HR Dept.
Home Depot	Washtenaw Community College Trades
Kroger	Fresh Thyme IHOP
Michigan Works	Speedway Wendy's
	Meijer United Way MIAT

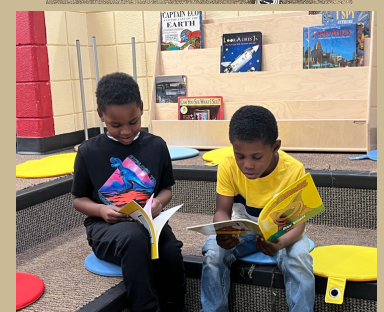
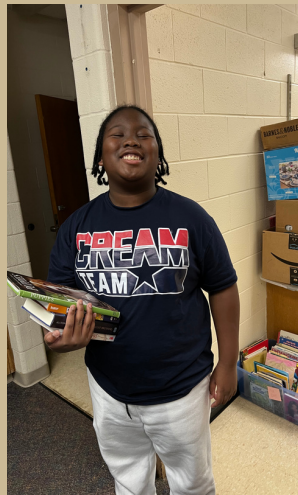
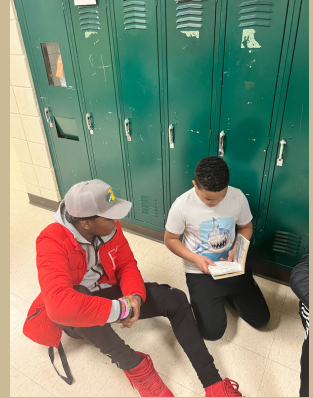


# MARCH IS READING MONTH



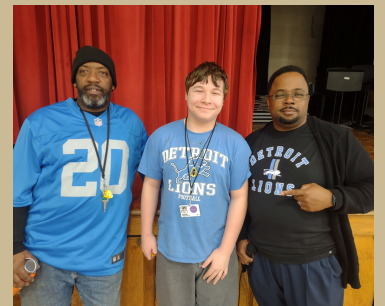
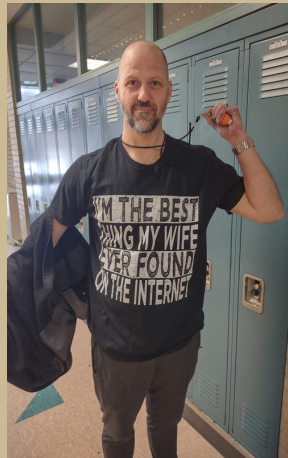
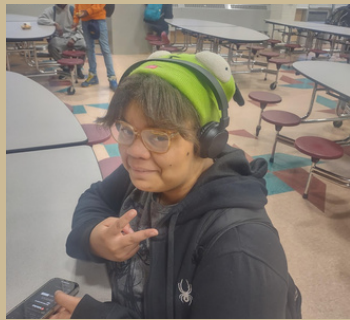
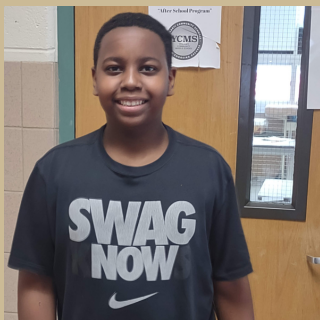
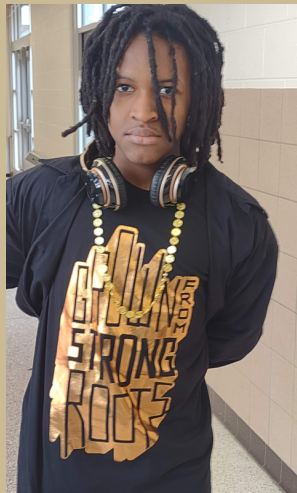
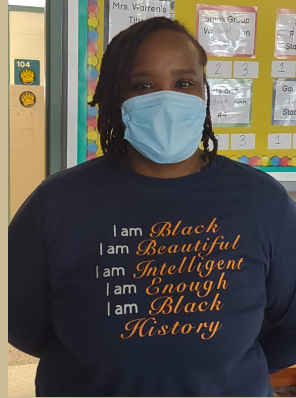


# MARCH IS READING MONTH



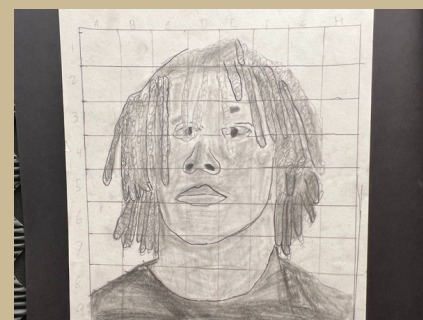
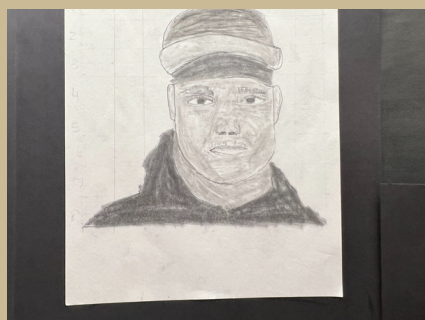
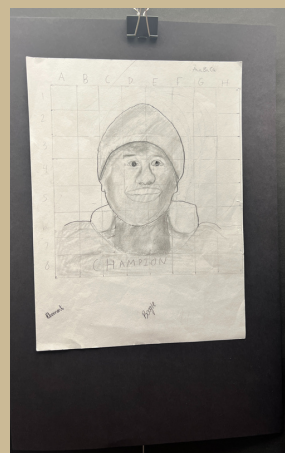
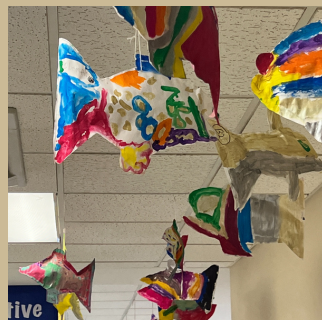
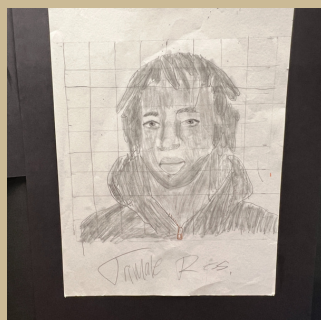
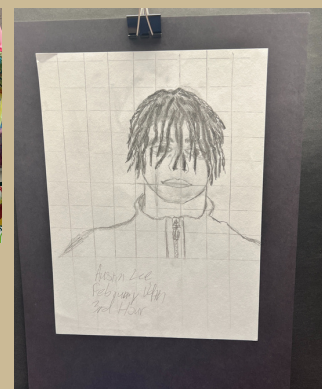
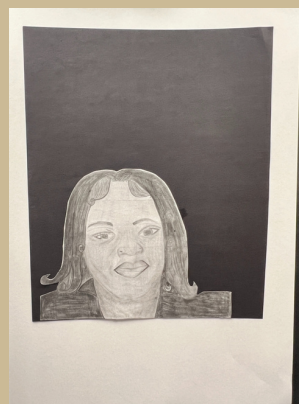
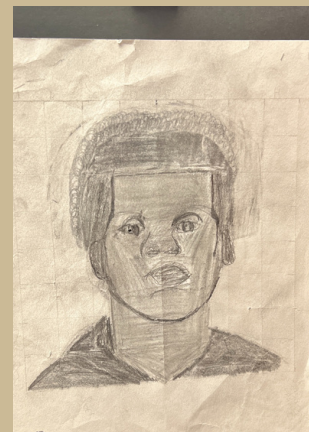


# MARCH IS READING MONTH





# Youth ART MONTH







CRYSTAL HARDING, DIRECTOR





# IN THE DISTRICT THIS WEEK

## HAPPENING IN MARCH

SCHOOL OF CHOICE PERIOD 2/9/23-10/4/23

1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL 3/17 - RECORDS DAY, END OF Q3

1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL & PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES 3/22

1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL & PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES 3/23

NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK 3/27-3/31

SCHOOL RESUMES 4/2

### MONTHLONG CELEBRATIONS

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

READING MONTH

YOUTH ART MONTH

MUSIC IN SCHOOLS MONTH



NWEA TESTING 1/9/23 - 2/10/23

## ATHLETICS

### TRACK COACH

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HEAD COACH - DWAYNE SCOTT

PRACTICES BEGIN APRIL 3RD AT YCHS.

HOME

AWAY

## YCS TRACK & FIELD

### MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK MEETS

Monday April 24th - Saline & YCMS @ Pinckney MS - Field Events at 4pm. Running at 4:15pm.

Monday May 1st - Monroe @ YCMS (Shadford Field) - Field Events at 4pm. Running at 4:15pm.

Thursday May 4th - YCMS @ Jackson - Field Events at 4pm. Running at 4:15pm.

Monday May 8th - Bedford @ YCMS (Shadford Field) - Field Events at 4pm. Running at 4:15pm.

Monday May 15th - YCMS & Dexter @ Adrian MS - Field Events at 4pm. Running at 4:15pm.

Monday May 22nd - SEC-MS Championship @ Lincoln HS - TBD

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR HOME MEETS ON APRIL 11TH, 18TH, AND 25TH.



# ATHLETICS (CONTINUED)

## TRACK COACHES

HIGH SCHOOL:

HEAD BOYS & GIRLS COACH – SEAN BRANDON

DISTANCE COACH – TOM JAREMA

HURDLES COACH – ARYION MCCOY

SPRINTS COACHES – DOMINIQUE JACKSON & ASHTON SANDERS

PRACTICES ARE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 4-6 PM AT YCHS

HOME  
AWAY

## YCS TRACK & FIELD



NWEA TESTING 1/9/23 - 2/10/23

## HIGH SCHOOL TRACK MEETS

Thursday, March 23rd @ Lincoln HS (Inside LAB) - Field Events start at 10am, Running at 12pm.

Tuesday April 11th - Adrian @ YCHS (Shadford Field) - Field Events at 4:30pm. Running at 5pm.

Friday April 14th - Tiger Relays @ Belleville HS - Field Events at 3:30pm. Running at 4:30pm.

Tuesday April 18th - Pinckney @ YCHS (Shadford Field) - Field Events at 4:30pm. Running at 5pm.

Saturday April 22nd - Howell Invitational @ Howell HS - Field Events

Tuesday April 25th - Jackson @ YCHS (Shadford Field) - Field Events at 4:30pm. Running at 5pm.

Saturday April 29th - Courageous Invitational @ Wayne State University - Field Events at 10am. Running at 11:30am.

Tuesday May 2nd - YCHS & Tecumseh @ Chelsea HS - Field Events at 4:30pm. Running at 5pm.

Friday May 5th - Goodrich Invitational @ Goodrich HS - Field Events at 3:30pm. Running at 4pm.

Friday May 12th - SEC White Championship @ Jackson HS - Field Events at 12pm. Running Finals at 3pm.

Friday May 19th - MHSAA Regional Finals @ Saline HS - Field Events at 1pm. Running Events 2:30pm.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR HOME MEETS ON APRIL 11TH, 18TH, AND 25TH.



# YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## Board of Education

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## YCS Administration

**DR. ALENA ZACHERY-ROSS**

**SUPERINTENDENT**

**DR. CARLOS LOPEZ**

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**SUE McCARTY**

**DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

**DR. MARK COSCARELLA**

**SEEK GRANT PROJECT DIRECTOR**

**DAMIEN BUTLER**

**DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

## About Ypsilanti Community Schools

Ypsilanti Community Schools is a PreK-12 district that offers students and families access to a rigorous culturally responsive curriculum through individualized support that helps students advance their learning. We offer project-based learning, Small Learning Communities (SLCs), small class sizes, high dosage tutoring, a K-5 and 6-12 International Baccalaureate curriculum, a STEMM Middle College, Dual Enrollment, a comprehensive Fine Arts program, and a highly qualified teaching staff that cares about the relationships we have with our students and families.

We are committed to providing every student with an education that supports voice, choice, and student agency. We use restorative practices to create a culture of belonging where we do with and not to students and we are intentional to ensure that every student is seen, heard, understood, valued, respected, and cared for.

### OUR MISSION

The purpose of YCS is to develop mindful, engaged students with the skill set, work ethic, and attitude to contribute to a community that honors diversity, equity and justice.

### OUR VISION

YCS is — Academically strong and committed to transforming in ways that help students thrive.

YCS is — The choice for a trusted, reliable, and socially just district.

YCS is — A sense of connection for families and students in a district where each and everyone is valued and belongs.

YCS is — Your consistently well-managed and organized school district.