



# The Grizzlies Gazette



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### MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Office of the Superintendent

Hello everyone, I hope that you and your families are well! We are off and running, and you have done an AMAZING job supporting and welcoming our students! Thank you! We understand that many processes and procedures are quite different than in the past, and you have been so terrific in your flexibility!

### Something Professional

I would like to remind you that you should be reading your district emails at least twice daily. We know that things are continually changing, and your direct supervisors and administrators will keep you posted as to the changes. Also, Taryn Willis will keep you updated on all district matters. It is essential to read emails from her.

This Wednesday is Count Day! We know that this is also changing from the state. Thank you again for your flexibility! I appreciate your involvement and ensuring that this is done with care. As you know, this directly affects our funding. Thank you for your diligence in this matter!

### Something Personal

I have wanted to do more than just my typical work, school, and home routine. As an educator, I believe that we should always be working towards positively influencing others. I recently learned from my two adult children that the way people are doing this in today's world is via social media. I was surprised to learn that so many people have created blogs, vlogs, Instagram posts, and YouTube channels to share information. I have recently started a YouTube channel. I currently have two sections of content. One part includes my sermons from church, and the other part is what I want to tell you about- Life Lessons! These will be lessons I have learned from being an educator, administrator, pastor, mother, daughter, wife, friend, etc. You get it! Life Lessons! I hope to make people laugh, cry, smile, and reflect on the everyday lessons learned daily. I hope you will check me out and subscribe. It should be fun!

[Check it out here! Alena Zachery-Ross](#)

### Something Profound

I read this from a journal I use daily called The Best Self. They send out a weekly email from The Best Self Co. Team. I found these words and activities profound, and I hope they will be helpful to you as you begin the week!

### Weekly Focus

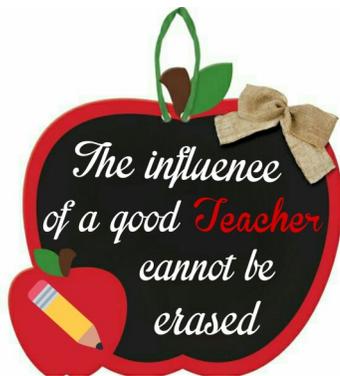
*"Happiness is a direction, not a place."*

**Sydney J. Harris**

- ◆ It's easy to get pulled along by your to-do list and to get lost in the vast array of things you've got to do.
- ◆ But when was the last time you stopped to notice how you feel?
- ◆ Now, more than ever, it's essential to focus on our mental as well as our physical health - and there's plenty we can do to lift our mood and feel happier.
- ◆ So this week, take some time to think about what you enjoy, then create space for those activities in your planner.
- ◆ For example, if you get joy from losing yourself in a good book, make more time to read. If you feel connected when you chat with your friends, schedule a Zoom call to catch up. If you feel refreshed after spending time in nature, take a guilt-free walk.
- ◆ You deserve to feel good, so make quality time for yourself. Not only will you feel happier, but you could find that you're more productive and creative too!

**You've got this!!!**

**Alena Zachery-Ross — Superintendent of Schools**



"The beautiful thing about life, is that we will never reach an age where there is nothing left to learn, see or be; it's magical really."

- Dulce 'Ruby' -





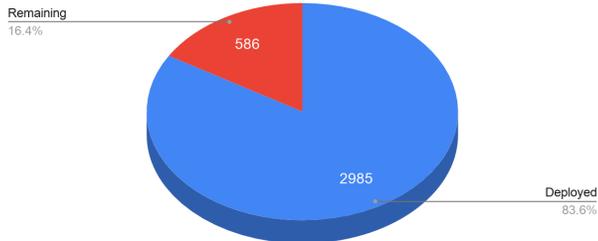


## Technology

Hello YCS, as we look ahead I hope everyone is getting more accustomed to how things are. This year, we are finishing up the wireless project, so when you return to campus, we'll have a new wireless network for you to work on.

Device distribution continues as we are close to 84% of devices assigned to students throughout the district. We continue to schedule pick up days on Tuesdays and Wednesday between 9am to 3pm, and a family can reach us at [techsupport@ycschools.us](mailto:techsupport@ycschools.us).

### Ypsilanti Community Schools



Since we are now a month into school, I'd like to encourage staff to please use the formal [ticketing system](#) to request technology help or support. Our techsupport email gets crowded as we use this email for a variety of tech related requests (from device pickup to general tech support for parents) and we could easily overlook a staff member's request. To ensure any problems you might have are properly logged and tracked, to make certain we address your problem in a timely manner. If you have forgotten how to submit a ticket, you can find resources [here](#).

**Nik Jackson — Technology Director**

## Instructional Technology

An instructional technology specialist helps integrate technologies, such as computers, hardware, and software, into educational settings. The Instructional Technology team works with staff members to assist and troubleshoot for different platforms, software, and some hardware issues. We conduct office hours three days a week. Our office hours are:

- ◆ Mondays, 1:00—2:00 pm
- ◆ Tuesdays, 4:00—5:00 pm
- ◆ Wednesdays, 7:30—8:30 am

### During the office hours we do

- ◆ Troubleshooting
- ◆ Assist with software and hardware
- ◆ Professional Development
- ◆ Assist with Google Classroom
- ◆ Clever related issues
- ◆ Academic platforms (HMH, Imagine, DnA, etc...)
- ◆ PowerSchool/PowerTeacher
- ◆ Zoom & Google Meet Troubleshooting

Our email addresses are:

- ◆ Clark Rodeffer—[crodeffer5@ycschools.us](mailto:crodeffer5@ycschools.us)
- ◆ Solomon Zheng—[szheng3@ycschools.us](mailto:szheng3@ycschools.us)
- ◆ Jerilyn Lynn—[jlynn6@ycschools.us](mailto:jlynn6@ycschools.us)



**SAVING  
LIVES**

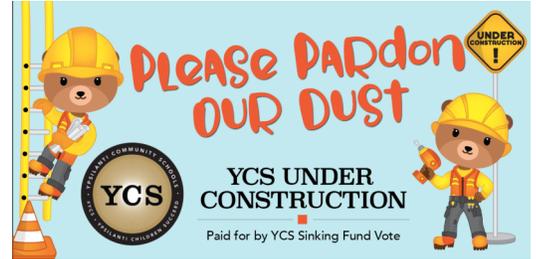


## Facilities

### Sinking Fund Publicity Project

YCS is a Community based school district. Our community is YCS and they show it through their continued support. Our community recently communicated their support by voting and ultimately approving the YCS Sinking Fund, which provides a tremendous amount of financial support for our facility improvement projects. As a district, we want to express our appreciation to the community and keep them informed on the ways YCS is utilizing this valuable sinking fund resource.

In partnership with Taryn Reid, YCS Communications Director, we have developed an outward facing communication plan to keep our community informed as well as express our appreciation. Currently, we have two different signs being installed throughout the district. One board is a "Pardon Our Dust" sign that is placed in front of buildings where projects are in progress. In some cases this work is taking place inside the building and residents may not be aware of the improvements that are being made at each location.



Our second set of signs will be installed after the project has been completed and will thank the community for their partnership with YCS and their support of the sinking fund. These signs communicate completed projects and are expandable for any future work. The "Thank You" signs include the logo of the companies responsible for the scope of work at each site. Additionally, these companies are supporting the purchase of signage.

I am YCS, You are YCS, We are YCS!

**Aaron Rose — Director of District Operations**

## Student Support Services

Student Support Services staff are immersed in the new procedures that have them developing contingency learning plans for their students who are learning remotely with very high hopes of returning to face-to-face learning as soon as it is safe to do so. A virtual training was done at the department meeting recently, with the help of the ISD.



This is a new process that lets parents and students know that there have been changes in their IEPs due to COVID-19. However, please be assured that the IEPs are being implemented and services are being provided. We've been visiting all of the classes--both face-to-face and virtual and it is so great to see our students learning and engaged!

We are still looking for two parents to represent the district at the WISD Parent Advisory Committee. If you are interested, please call our office at (734) 221-1952. We will let you know the details and what you need to do to become the representative. We need a parent voice at the county level and would love to hear from you.

**E. Ruth Jordan — Student Support Services Director**

**"Self-Care is giving the world the best of you not what is left of you.**

**Katie Reed**

***"I kept always two books in my pocket, one to read, one to write in."* — Robert Louis Stevenson**





## Communications Department

Remember that October 7th is Count Day!

We need to ensure that all students are accounted for on this day!

- ◆ [Grab and Go Food Delivery](#) will begin on October 9th! Please see the new flyer for more information and share with your students! This is a great program for our students and families.
- ◆ [YCS Community Flu Clinic](#) is on Saturday, October 10th and we have a lot of great partners joining us for the day! We will have food distribution and produce boxes from Food Gatherers, voter registration, census forms, mental health information and e-cards from the Ypsilanti District Library!

The Marketing and Communication team is working on a virtual special event for staff! More information is soon to come!

**Taryn Willis — Marketing and Communications Coordinator**

## Business Office

Hot off the press news: The Governor has finally signed the budget for the 2020-2021 on September 30, 2020, for the fiscal budget year of October 1 through September 30, 2021. We will be able to confirm what it means for YCS when we get our first payment of State Aid on October 20.

Business office will present these updates to the Board in the next board meeting after October 20 as we get confirmations.

We have received multiple grants to support the current COVID situations. We will keep you informed on each of those grants as well.

Business office has submitted all the financial data to our auditors and now we are waiting for the review to be completed. This will be presented to the Board at the next meeting as well.

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." - **Joshua J. Marine**.

**Priya Nayak — Director of Business and Finance**



## Grants

We have submitted our Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) - Education Equity Fund grant to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). This grant is known as the Equity grant. Many individuals had input on the grant. Our allocation is about \$363,000.

Here are the highlights of items that we intend to fund:

- ◆ A new platform called Panorama (<https://www.panoramaed.com/>) to help with SEL, Social and Emotional support, and MTSS;
- ◆ Oasis rooms (students and staff),
- ◆ 300 chromebooks,
- ◆ 200 Wi-Fi hotspots,
- ◆ Seesaw, which is an on-line platform that supports younger students remote learning (<https://web.seesaw.me/>),
- ◆ a Walking/Running club for students, staff, and community members.

We should hear from MDE by the middle of October regarding the status of this grant.

**Mark Coscarella — Director of State and Federal Grant Programs**





## Food Service

Food Service and Transportation are excited to offer meal delivery services on our bus routes. Kim (transportation) has created a route schedule that will cover the four corners of town. Each bus will stop at the designated location for 30 before proceeding to the next stop. We will begin services on Friday, October 9, and every Friday after.

The foodservice department is proud of our partnership with Food Gatherers. Starting the week of Oct 5, we will offer non-perishable food boxes and combo boxes (produce, dairy and meat) at our distribution sites.

Please check the YCS website for more detailed information.

Apple Crunch Day will be celebrated on Wednesday, Oct 7. All students at Estabrook will receive a goody bag that contains apple treats and gifts.

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**We Are YCS!!!!**

**Tiffany Houston — Director of Food Services**



**Grab and Go FOOD DELIVERY**

Every **FRIDAY** beginning **October 9th** until the **end of December\***

**11am-2pm**

YCS will provide seven breakfast and seven lunches for each student in the household as a grab and go.

Bus routes\* will be available on the YCS website for you to choose the route closest to your home!

[www.ycschools.us](http://www.ycschools.us)

\*This program is funded by the USDA and is subject to change without notice.  
\*\*Bus routes may change and will be updated on the YCS website. Please check the website every Friday.

## Transportation

Special reminder for transportation drivers. All school transportation departments must adhere to standards set forth by the federal government {FMCSA~Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration} to ensure individuals performing safety sensitive work such as a school bus driver must pass a pre-employment drug screen, then be added and participate in quarterly random drug testing.



Last week we had transportation staff begin work as COVID Facilitators with the Elementary F2F students. Also last week other transportation staff help to build supply kits for YCS students and look forward to assisting with this project again in the future. Future projects include transportation partnering with the food department to provide bus routes where families will be able to get healthy food for their school age children in addition to the school sites also offered. This will begin on Friday, October 9, 2020 and continue through the end of the year (as funding is available). The bus routes and times will be available on the district website.

Thank you to the dedicated staff here at YCS. Your cooperation and commitment to our school district is greatly appreciated.

Take care and stay safe.

**Kim Searcy — Director of Transportation**  
**I am YCS, YOU are YCS, WE ARE YCS!!!**



# Watch for our next issue!

