



May 24, 2020—Issue 4

# The Grizzlies Gazette



## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Office of the Superintendent

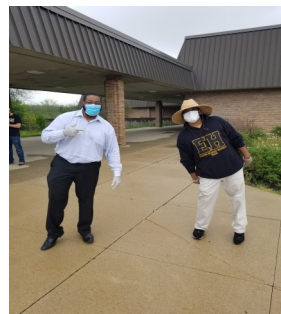


We met with the Summer School committee and the 20/21 Task Force this past Wednesday. It was quite invigorating! Although we could not allow everyone who was willing to serve on the committees to serve, yet, even if you were not initially selected, you will be asked to provide input on our plans for next year in the near future. I invite you to see the representatives that are on each committee [as well as the breakout session protocols and notes](#) that the staff completed while working. We will meet every week and we will share the notes with you to keep you abreast of the ideas from the group of over 70 staff members who were selected to assist in informing the Board and Administration on the decisions for next year. Please remember that this is a health crisis and decisions will be made in accordance with health and safety guidelines and state regulations. I anticipate we should have final decisions made by mid-July.

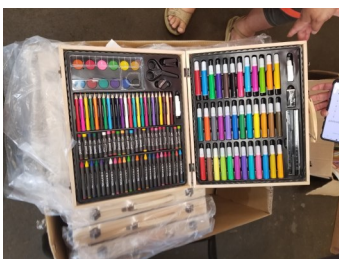
As many of you have been hearing, like we are, it has been shared with districts that we face the very real possibility of a large per pupil cut for the next school year. The YCS Board of Education and District Administration are fighting for our public school dollars. We need your voice in our advocacy campaign as well through MASA. Educators across Michigan are being called upon to take part in the Our Children, Our Future Campaign to advocate for recovery dollars for Michigan's schools. Congress has passed the CARES Act, which sent nearly \$400 million to Michigan, but the reality is, we will need \$3-5 billion over the next three fiscal years to avoid catastrophic cuts to education in every community in our state.

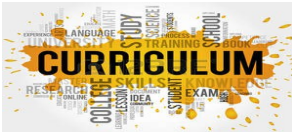
MASA has begun the campaign and ask that you please take the first step of contacting your member of Congress using their Voter Voice portal. Please take a minute to send this letter from the MASA website. It is a very quick process and it does make a difference. You can use the letter on the website or customize it for yourself. The important thing is to take action and let your voice be known to those who make the decisions. We will certainly keep you informed as we learn more over the upcoming months.

Congratulations to ALL of our YCS Seniors! It was wonderful to see our exceptional ACCE and YCHS staff there to support our seniors while the seniors picked up their cap and gowns, t-shirts, customized yard signs and yearbooks on Friday and Saturday! Thank you Team Grizzly for your dedication and support!. They were excited in spite of the rain!



I would also like to thank all of those who participated in the supply distribution for our YCS students. The toolkits are AMAZING! For those who were unable to pick them up, we will arrange to make deliveries in the next few weeks. Thank you to Kier Ingraham and the Student Supply Distribution committee for your leadership and support!





## Office of the Assistant Superintendent

If we really believe that all students can learn, we should always be asking ourselves the following four questions:

- *What is it we expect our YCS students to learn?*
- *How will we know that our YCS students have learned it?*
- *How will we respond when our YCS students do not learn?*
- *How will we respond when our YCS students already know it?*

As we plan ahead for an online remote learning infrastructure, we must think *less is more and be intentional with the amount of instruction that is covered. We must chunk the learning by addressing instructional lessons that are aligned with a minimum amount of intentional priority standards like the ones identified by Oakland Schools below. Focusing on critical standards that are realistic and manageable.*

- [English Language Arts Prioritization of Learning Grade Level/Course Doc](#)
- [Mathematics Prioritization of Learning Grade Level/Course Doc](#)

**Carlos Lopez — Office of the Assistant Superintendent**

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## Human Resources

May is going so fast! Here we are already May, 2020 did we blink too long-wow! The Family Feud matches that took place last week were awesome! If you get a chance to participate in the next round of Sunshine Committee Activities. Do it! They are fun and fast!



Summer School postings are up and ready for you to apply. We understand some staff are having difficulty accessing the online application. Please email Lois Nowling at [Nowling5@ycschools.us](mailto:Nowling5@ycschools.us) for assistance.

Truly great work is coming from the COL Committees, the Summer School Committee and the 20-21 School Year Task Force. The ideas have been innovative and forward thinking. This will help us on our journey moving forward and to plan for recovery.

***"Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than the one where they sprang up." – Oliver Wendell Holmes***

As new evaluation information continues to be released from the Governor and the Center For Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), we strive to keep you updated with the latest information. Human Resources developed and sent out to your email an [FAQ](#) to help you understand the changes. While we do not anticipate any all encompassing adjustments to the process, we are not out of the woods with potential changes. CEPI indicated there may be some changes to the Registry for Educational Personnel (REP) coming "shortly".

## NEW PROCEDURE

There is a new procedure on how DPPD, SCECHS, College Credits, Military Credit will be entered into MOECS. Beginning July 1, 2020, all professional development regardless of its type will be entered into MOECS. In order to get credit toward certification renewal all staff will need to adjust to this new process. But, know that together we will support each other with this transition. More to come....

I cannot say this enough - check your email daily- I suggest twice a day. This is where you will find important and vital information regarding the District. You may find some items more interesting than others, but be informed.

# Have a safe and happy Memorial Day!

**Sue McCarty — Human Resources Director**



**SAVING LIVES**



## Student Support Services

First of all, we'd like to congratulate all of our seniors who graduated. Despite their disappointment at not being able to participate in a formal ceremony, we appreciate all of the YCHS staff for going above and above for ensuring that our student's hard work was noticed and showed them that our pride in what they've done was by no means diminished!

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

The Student Support Services Department staff have shown remarkable creativity, innovation, and excitement in the lessons and activities that they have been providing for their students! They've thrown parties, held competitions between students, and had fun and engaging activities for students and their parents. They have also reported great attendance and participation. However, we still miss our students greatly.

Some of our students will qualify for Extended School Year (ESY). These services are written in their IEPs and parents will be notified by US mail for information regarding start date and times. In all likelihood, these services will be provided virtually.

We wish you and your families a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend.

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

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## Communications Department

We are almost to the end of the 2019-2020 school year! Although we had a bump in the road, we have pushed through and gotten near the finish line. Remember, the last day of school is Friday, June 12, 2020. Please keep reminding parents of this day and to look for more information to come regarding the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.



A few other things to keep reminding families about in the next few weeks:

- Food Distribution will continue until June 25, and then we will switch over our annual Meet Up Eat Program. More information on locations will be coming soon.
- (NEW PROGRAM) We are excited to announce a new partnership with the Heeren USDA Farmers to Family Food Box Program. The program will begin this Tuesday, May 26, at the Willow Run Middle School campus from 12-2 p.m. This program will run weekly every Tuesday until the end of June 2020. 200 boxes are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis and will provide fresh produce boxes to families! Please see the [flyer for details](#).
- [FREE Internet services](#) are still available for families who need reliable internet services in their homes. Please keep pushing this service to families! And if families need Tech Support, please have them email [techsupport@ycschools.us](mailto:techsupport@ycschools.us) or call our [YCS hotline](#) at 734-221-1061.
- Free COVID testing sites are now available at two YCS schools--Ford Early Learning Center and Perry Early Learning Center through the Washtenaw County Health Department. If you have COVID related questions, please call 734-302-2606.

**Taryn Willis — Marketing and Communications Coordinator**



## Food Service

We are excited to announce that we are still serving more than 30,000 meals per week. We are proud to take care of our kids during these times, but we can't wait until we see their smiling faces come through the door.

In the upcoming week, expect to hear some great news in regards to a new program. We are participating in the Farm to Families Program and will be able to supply 200 families with fresh fruit and produce boxes.

**Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Connected**

**Tiffany Houston — Director of Food Services**



**SAVING LIVES**



## Business Office

I cannot believe we are already on Memorial Day weekend. I hope everyone gets a well deserved break from all the meetings and enjoy the time with your family.

We attended the Revenue Consensus meeting hosted by the Senate Fiscal committee, MSBO and WISD. The State of Michigan is anticipating a 1 Billion dollar shortfall for both the 20/21 and 21/22 fiscal years. This shortfall will certainly impact the amount of funding we receive for the next two years. Because the Board of Education must adopt a balanced budget by June 30, 2020, we have been working with the administrators, building principals, and the Board of Education in creating a balanced budget for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Please note that the state is expecting to have another Revenue Consensus meeting in August. As we get more information, we will present it during the board meetings and will always keep you updated with the most current information. We are stronger together and be assured that we will get through this together.

We are committed to continuing to follow the direction of our county leadership, whether it is staying home when needed, working remotely or working on-site when needed. We will be here to support the District to ensure it operates smoothly during this unprecedented time.

We hope you all are doing well.

**Stay Safe, Stay Well, Stay Connected.**  
**Priya Nayak — Director of Business and Finance**

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## Transportation

Hello, I hope that you and your family are well. Thank you to the men and women in Transportation. I appreciate you answering the call once again to be of service to our students and their families in our community. This week's meaningful work consisted of helping with the distribution of the student tool kits. It was nostalgic for some of you that



remembered working out the Sampson Building when transportation operated there just over two years ago.



Please remember to check your district email for important messages and information. Look to your district email for department meeting invites and district information. Please also note that you are expected to be available during your regular work schedule. If you have been impacted by COVID19, you must reach out to the Director of HR Ms. Sue McCarty to find out what your available options are. If you are unable to work, district work rules still apply and your absence must be documented in AESOP.

The next Beginning Bus Class tentatively scheduled for July 2020 and there are no Continuing Education Classes planned for this summer. **CEC** Cards don't expire until

**September 30, 2021**, it is expected that more **CEC** classes will be necessary next summer 2021 to meet the demands.

In case you missed it, the transportation department teamed up with food service and played a round of **Family Feud** against the maintenance group. We want a **REMATCH!** There were some technical difficulties.

### Food Service v Custodians and Maintenance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8Wd9ivqrJq&feature=youtu.be>

Be well and stay safe.  
Kim Searcy — Director of Transportation



**"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." – Henry Ford**





## Technology

With the ending of the school year coming up so quickly our technology department has been busy keeping things going. Everything from infrastructure to end-user devices. We have established a procedure for staff volunteers who would like to pick up devices for students that were unable to receive or pickup a device during technology distribution days. If you are interested, please contact [techsupport@ycschools.us](mailto:techsupport@ycschools.us) and we will coordinate a time for you to come and pick up a device for students.

As the summer approaches, we have been making plans (once buildings are open) to begin upgrading the wireless infrastructure throughout the district. So regardless of the situation in the fall, the wireless network will be much improved once staff and students return to campus.

So additional efforts that we will focus on during the summer include getting more end-user devices, and upgrading our system infrastructure (servers which provide much of the districts network and technology services).

Remember, if you continue to have technology issues, please use the ticket system or email [techsupport@ycschools.us](mailto:techsupport@ycschools.us), both systems are monitored by multiple staff and we ask for a little patience for replies as we have seen an unprecedented amount of requests in the past week.

**Hope everyone has a safe and wonderful memorial weekend!**

**Nik Jackson - Technology Director**

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## Facilities

The YCS Facilities Department continues to operate as a full time, on site department. Each department is working together to support YCS Food distribution, the Continuity of Learning (COL), and maintain our buildings and grounds.



Each department is rotating their support of the Thursday food distribution program. Our grounds team and maintenance team will continue to support food service as this is one of our primary functions as a district in support of our students and families.

Our team is currently supporting the YCS Continuity of Learning (COL) plan through the supply distribution. Our department receives the donations and deliveries of supplies and centrally locates them for the rest of the supplies distribution committee. These supplies were assembled and distributed at the Sampson Transportation garage. It was an honor and privilege to support this effort for our YCS students!

Our department is meeting weekly with our construction contractors as we work on staging, scheduling and coordination of our projects district wide. Kustom is scheduled to begin work at YCHS on May 26th and Trane is in the process of securing materials to begin the Energy Management System work in our buildings. We will continue to provide weekly updates, with pictures, to document and report the progress of these projects.

Looking forward, we are discussing plans for the end of the year classroom closeouts and collection of student materials left behind after our March 13th departure from YCS campuses.

Have a safe, enjoyable and restful Memorial Day Weekend.

**Stay Safe, Stay Connected**

**Aaron Rose — Director of District Operations**

*By doing  
what you  
LOVE, you  
INSPIRE  
and awaken  
the hearts  
of others.*

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**We will continue to keep you informed of developments in our departments twice a month. Please watch your email for the next issue.**

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**SAVE LIVES**  
IT'S WHAT WE DO

**Teaching  
saves lives.**