

**ENROLL
NOW!**

517-264-6640

THE MAPLE MESSENGER

Adrian Public Schools ... Showing Maple PRIDE before, during and after school

SPRING 2025

SVSU MATH OLYMPICS



DISTRICT

Letter from
Superintendent
Parker

pg 2

HIGH SCHOOL

Adrian High
School
Diploma Plus
program

pg 5

ELEMENTARY

Elementary
schools partner
with Adrian
Steel

pg 6

ELEMENTARY

WIN club
focuses on
building
reading skills

pg 7

DISTRICT

Registration
open for
2025-26
school year

pg 8

Hello Maple Community, I hope this message finds you well.



As we continue to advance our district's commitment to providing exceptional educational opportunities, I am excited to share two key initiatives that will have a lasting impact on our students and those living in the Adrian Public School District.

Diploma Plus Initiative

At Adrian Public Schools, we believe that a high school diploma should be more than just a certificate—it should be a launchpad for future success. As a district we are committed to our Diploma Plus Initiative, designed to ensure that every student earns a diploma PLUS additional college credits, credentials, and experiences that set them apart. This initiative provides opportunities for students to earn dual enrollment college credits, obtain career-specific certifications through the Tech Center, participate in industry-recognized certification programs that enhance employability, and engage in internship opportunities which allow students to gain real-world experience before graduation.

Through this initiative, we aim to provide a more comprehensive and robust educational foundation, ensuring our students are well-prepared for both post-secondary education and career opportunities. The Diploma Plus Initiative is a testament to our district's dedication to innovation and student success whether

a student's goal is college, the trades, military or the workforce.

Community Recreational Facility

In addition to enhancing academic opportunities, we recognize the importance of creating spaces that foster well-being, connection, and community engagement. After conducting a thorough facilities assessment and gathering feedback from stakeholders, we have identified a need for additional recreational spaces that serve both our students and those living in the Adrian Public School District.

To address this need, we are exploring the development of a state-of-the-art indoor recreational facility. This facility would provide year-round access to sports, recreation, fitness, the arts, and community events, benefiting students and residents of all ages. Many communities have successfully built similar facilities, and we believe that Adrian could greatly benefit from this investment in our collective future. We are completing the exploration and community feedback phase of this initiative and if this process demonstrates that the community supports this idea, a small, .75 millage proposal would be put on the November ballot. (If successful, a .75 millage on a home valued at \$200,000 would add \$75.00 per year in taxes.)

We are excited about these initiatives and the positive impact they will have on our district and community. As always, we appreciate your support and engagement in shaping the future of Adrian Public Schools.

- Nate Parker

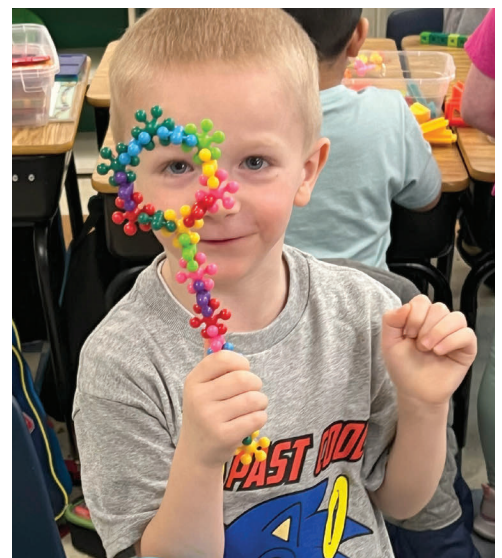
Superintendent of Adrian Public Schools

Registration for 2025-26 school year open soon

Adrian Public Schools is enrolling for the 2025-2026 school year. All four APS elementary schools will be hosting Kindergarten Round-Up on April 8 from 5:30PM-6:30PM. For more information about Kindergarten Round-Up or for assistance with registration, please contact your student's building:

- Alexander Elementary: (517) 263-9533
- Lincoln Elementary: (517) 265-8544
- Michener Elementary: (517) 263-9002
- Prairie Elementary: (517) 265-5082
- Springbrook Middle School: (517) 263-0543
- Adrian High School: (517) 263-2181

To be eligible for kindergarten or young fives, children must be 5 years old by Dec. 1, 2025. Unsure which school your child should attend? Call (517) 264-6640 ext. 4108.





APS ATHLETICS

Adrian Public Schools has an extensive list of athletic opportunities from elementary through high school.

ADRIAN RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Fall Sports

Football - Run Club
Volleyball (Co-Ed)
Flag Football
Cheer

Winter Sports

Boys & Girls Basketball
Wrestling
Gymnastics

Spring Sports

Soccer - Run Club
Swimming

Summer Camps

Football - Volleyball
Cheer - Soccer - Track
Baseball - Softball
Boys & Girls Basketball
Tennis - Golf - Wrestling

SPRINGBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Fall Sports

Football (Co-Ed) (2 teams)
Girls Volleyball (2 teams)
Cross Country (Co-Ed)
(2 teams)

Winter Sports

Boys & Girls Basketball
(2 teams each)

Wrestling (Co-Ed)

Swimming & Diving (Co-Ed)

Spring Sports

Boys & Girls Track
Softball (2 teams)
Baseball (2 teams)
Boys & Girls Soccer

ADRIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Fall Sports

Football (Co-Ed) (9th, JV, Var)
Volleyball (Girls) (9th, JV, Var)
Boys & Girls Cross Country
(Varsity & JV)
Girls Swimming and diving
(Varsity & JV)
Boys Soccer (Varsity & JV)
Boys Tennis (Varsity & JV)
Sideline Cheer (Co-Ed) (Varsity
& JV)
Girls Golf (Varsity & JV)

Winter Sports

Boys & Girls Basketball (Varsity
& JV)
Co-Ed Wrestling (Varsity & JV)

Boys Swimming and diving
(Varsity & JV)

Girls Competitive Cheer
(Varsity)

Girls Gymnastics (Varsity & JV)

Boys & Girls Bowling (Varsity
& JV)

Boys & Girls Powerlifting
(Varsity & JV)

Spring Sports

Boys & Girls Track (Varsity & JV)
Softball (Varsity & JV)
Baseball (Varsity & JV)
Boys Golf (Varsity & JV)
Girls Soccer (Varsity & JV)
Girls Tennis (Varsity & JV)
Boys Volleyball (Varsity)

APS FINE ARTS

Adrian Public Schools has an extensive list of fine arts opportunities from elementary through high school.

CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Elementary

Music - 60 minutes per week
Art - 50 minutes per week

Springbrook Middle School Electives

Electives: Band, Choir, Orchestra, Visual Arts

Adrian High School Electives

Band, Choir, Orchestra, 2D Design, Ceramics, 3D Sculpture,
Jewelry, Painting, Art, Photography, Studio Art, Piano,
Guitar, Drama, Dance

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Elementary

Drama Clubs, Dance Camp, Creative Drama
4th/5th Honors Choir

Springbrook Middle School

Plays, Musicals, Tech Clubs,
Piano Camp, Show Choir Camp

Adrian High School

Plays, Musicals, Tech Clubs, Balladiers, Jazz Band,
Lenawee County Honors Band, Dance Club,
National Art Honor Society,
National Thespian Association, Chamber Orchestra

**OUR SCHOOL
DISTRICT
NEEDS YOU**

**Now Hiring
for Substitute
Positions**

APPLY TODAY!



 **Edustaff**

CALL US TODAY | 877.974.6338 | edustaff.org



Springbrook Middle School's Robotics Revolution

Springbrook Middle School had always been known for its academics, athletics and art programs, but something new was brewing in the school's science wing. For years, we have had a Robotics after-school program. With the amount of student interest, we have now created a Robotics elective class for our 7th and 8th graders.

Mrs. Johnston, Robotics Club team advisor, started the

program. Part of the curriculum for the class is that students would participate in competitions against other schools within and outside of the county.

Our first competition of the school year was in Hudson. This event showcased the talents of middle school students from various schools, and Springbrook's teams delivered outstanding performances across multiple challenges.

In the "Robo Challenge" the duo of Owen Salenbien and Grayson Butts came home with the Gold. While classmates Liam Plato and Ryder Dowling brought home the Bronze.

In the "Swept Away" game the team of Wyatt Soule, Andrew Betz, Myles Powell and Adam Beutler brought home the Silver, while Parker Smith and Brysen Smith brought home the Bronze.

Principal Benschoter shares his pride in the students' achievements commenting, "Our students' performance in this competition reflects their dedication, teamwork, and the high quality education they receive at Springbrook Middle School. Watching them excel and represent our school with such distinction is inspiring. Mrs. Johnston did an awesome job getting our students ready to represent themselves and Springbrook."



The ASEF donates \$101,000 to APS

It's that time of year again for the Adrian Schools Educational Foundation's premier fundraising event! The Maple Blues Blast!

But wait!

The times they are a-changin'. The foundation has decided that the best days of the Blast are behind us and we are going to head in a new direction to engage our district families, to invigorate our faithful donors and to inspire our next generation of APS contributors. Watch our Facebook page for some old and some new opportunities to come out and support the ASEF.

The purpose of the ASEF is to enhance the educational excellence of APS. We do that through our signature classroom and art grant program. This year, we contributed a record-breaking \$101,000 to that program! Over 90 grants were awarded to educators throughout the district. Some examples of this year's grants are play sets to enable dramatic play in elementary classrooms, materials for the Creative Confections Club at Springbrook and supplies for the outdoor art studio at AHS. But that's not all! Field Trips that support science, math, history and the performing arts, classroom environment enrichment, supplies that support our amazing curriculums, new musical instruments, support for after-school programs, and MORE!

For over 30 years, the ASEF has provided equipment, supplies, staffing and opportunities that would not have been possible through the district budget alone. We ensure your Maples have access to the greatest quantity and quality opportunities anywhere in the county. We are proud to be part of the APS community. If you would like to contribute to our mission of educational excellence, please go to our website and donate TODAY!



Diploma Plus: Continuing a Tradition of Excellence

The opportunities at AHS are growing! As students create their student success plans and select classes for the next school year, they are also exploring options that complement their diploma. Our rigorous curriculum pushes students academically, preparing them for challenges they will face after high school. Going to the tech center allows students to gain the career-oriented skills needed to get certifications. Dual enrollment provides experience in a college setting to earn college credits that can transfer to a future university. Work experience is a great way for students to attend their required classes and gain real-world knowledge as an employee.

Expanded STEM lab and career programming at Adrian High School will improve the hands-on courses AHS is able to offer on-site. Intro to Building is the latest course added to the elective options and will start in March 2025.

The goal for Adrian High School students is that they graduate with their high school diploma and more. What else can they take with them as they enter the next phase of their lives? What knowledge, skills, credits, and certifications will help them reach their goals? Maples will have no shortage of options.



“Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical” Debuts at Springbrook MS

In January, Springbrook Middle School presented its annual musical and was proud to debut a new show “Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical.”

“Staging a new show is exciting because so much is unique to our production. There are few preconceived ideas from the audience or expectations that the show has to be presented a certain way,” said Michelle Force, Musical Director. “The creativity and dedication from our production team, cast, and crew was truly inspiring. I love seeing our students invested in the theater program, and watching how they embrace the opportunities at APS.”

Springbrook’s production involved 61 students. Many of them had previous experience in drama, and some were exploring theatrical performance for the first time. Sever-

al students began their theater journey in the elementary drama programs. Alexander, Lincoln, Michener, and Prairie Elementary Schools all have thriving after-school programs. This year Michener Elementary presented “Disney The Lion King KIDS” and Alexander Elementary presented “How I Became a Pirate”. Lincoln Elementary performed “HONK!” and Prairie Elementary will present “Disney Frozen KIDS” May 9-10, 2025.

Emily Gifford, APS Theater Manager, is the Director of Lincoln Elementary Drama Club. “Being in the unique position of working with students in drama and theater across the district from Kindergarten through 12th grade affords me the chance to witness their extensive growth and development in the performing arts over the span of many years,” Gifford said. “The programs at the elementary level expose them to the basic principles of theater, performance and technical production, and we build on this as productions get more complicated and involved at the higher levels. Having this strong foundation has created a rock solid theater program with students exploring varied interests and building skills in all areas of this inclusive art form.”

The district thanks the Adrian Schools Educational Foundation for its continued support of our Fine Arts programs. Earlier this year, Springbrook students presented the play “A Wrinkle in Time” and Adrian High School presented the Greek tragedy “The Trojan Women.” AHS has one more musical theater performance this year and will bring “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” to the stage April 24-27, 2025.

For more information about the Fine Arts at Adrian Public Schools, follow Adrian Maples Fine Arts on Facebook and Instagram, or visit www.adrianmaples.org.

ELEMENTARY



Fourth Grade National Parks Project

Fourth graders embarked on a virtual expedition through America's National Parks, blending research, creativity, and presentation skills. Each student selected a park, wrote to its Visitor Center requesting resources, and eagerly awaited a response.

"Watching the students receive mail from their National Park was so much fun!" said 4th-grade teacher Amber Peña.

"Seeing their faces light up was the highlight of the project."

Beyond letter writing, students conducted research, wrote essays, and designed arrowheads symbolizing their parks. "The students took time to handwrite a letter, learn how to address and mail it, and then wait patiently for something in return," Peña explained. "Many of the kids received a response, and the entire class was invested in watching when someone did!"

A major highlight was the publication of their work into a book. "My favorite part was having the students become published authors," Peña shared. "The day the books arrived was a huge moment! Our library will have a signed copy for future Maples to see."

Students also created brochures, Google Slides presentations, and tri-fold displays for a culminating celebration. This project fostered research, creativity, and public speaking skills while addressing multiple academic standards.

Did you know 4th-graders can visit National Parks for free? Parents can learn more at <https://www.nps.gov/kids/every-kid-outdoors.htm>.



WIN Club: Student success program

WIN Club is an after-school tutoring program. WIN stands for "What I Need." We recognize that every student has unique needs and sometimes needs extra support. Alexander's teachers do an excellent job of meeting students where they are and moving them forward. However, some students need more support than the regular school day can provide.

Kindergarten teacher Tracey Gonzalez and 3rd grade

teacher Amy Giroux are the lead teachers in the WIN Club and their hope is that with extra time students will get what they need to win at reading.

"In the beginning, we spent time assessing what each student needed. We noticed that many students needed phonic skill practice. This was a real benefit because it allowed us to bridge the grade levels. An unexpected bonus has been watching students in different grade levels help each other and become friends," Gonzalez said.

Early intervention and consistent practice are key to student success. WIN Club will provide extra, unique instruction to help your student move forward. WIN Club will be active, hands-on, multi-sensory, and fun! Students will be able to earn incentives and home activities will also be provided. It's a win!

"Amy and I intentionally try to make the after-school time fun and different from the usual school day. We play games, sing songs and try to make the learning hands-on. There is a lot of silliness, but we also sneak in a lot of learning! Most importantly, we strive to build up student confidence and love of learning. We have a great group of kids and have a lot of fun, which makes the after-school time fly by and very rewarding," Gonzalez said.



New Elementary Honors program

Adrian Public Schools launched its Honors Program, designed to challenge and inspire academically advanced students across the District. Launched in January 2024, the Honors Program serves Alexander, Lincoln, Michener, and Prairie Elementary students. Veteran educator Kirk Brackelman leads the program, rotating between schools to facilitate engaging activities and support student growth.

"Our students are diving into activities that spark their curiosity," said Brackelman. "Connecting with them in

different environments allows me to tailor the learning experience to their strengths and interests. The response has been overwhelmingly positive."

The Honors Program focuses on critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaborative learning. Students will engage in advanced coursework beyond the standard curriculum, including project-based learning, STEM challenges, and literature discussions. Creativity and innovation are key components, preparing students for future academic challenges.

In addition to their coursework, Honors students have been given the unique opportunity to provide input on materials and resources for the four elementary STEM labs currently being developed. This real-world project allows them to contribute to an initiative that will impact future students in the District.

"The launch of this program aligns perfectly with our mission to provide pathways for all students to grow academically," said Superintendent Nate Parker.

Assistant Superintendent Derrick J. Richards remarked, "This program enhances the range of advanced learning opportunities in Adrian Public Schools, helping students develop critical skills for their educational journey and beyond."

Prairie Elementary and Michener Elementary Join Forces with Adrian Steel Engineers

In an exciting new educational initiative, fifth graders from Prairie Elementary and Michener Elementary have teamed up with engineers from Adrian Steel for a unique learning experience. Under the guidance of Mr. Neesam at Prairie Elementary and Mrs. Bates and Mrs. Kania at Michener Elementary, the students are diving deep into Newton's Laws of Motion.

Every Friday, the engineers dedicate an hour to teach students about the fundamental principles of motion through engaging and hands-on lessons. This partnership fosters not only a deeper understanding of physics but also encourages students to think like engineers.

The highlight of this partnership is the collaborative project—a model car. Throughout the school year, the students and engineers will work together to design, build, and fine-tune their model cars. The culmination of their hard work will be a thrilling contest at the end of the year, where the students will enter their creations and put their knowledge and skills to the test.

This initiative is more than just a science project; it's an opportunity for students to learn from professionals, apply real-world concepts, and gain confidence in their abilities. The excitement is palpable in the classrooms, as students eagerly look forward to their Friday sessions with the engineers.

Stay tuned as these young engineers-in-the-making steer their way towards the contest, showcasing the incredible results of this inspiring partnership.





785 Riverside Ave., Suite 1
Adrian, MI
49221

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage Paid
Adrian, MI
Permit
No. 279

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

THE MAPLE MESSENGER

Adrian Public Schools ... Showing Maple PRIDE before, during and after school

SPRING 2025

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY!

2025-2026 School Year
Registration Going On Now!

M A P L E P R I D E . . .
I T ' S C O N T A G I O U S !

