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THE MAPLE MESSENGER

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

FALL 2024



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Hello Maples,

We are excited to welcome back our students, families, staff, and entire team as we gear up for the start of another exciting school year. I am grateful for the work of so many over the last two years in creating and implementing so many great programs and initiatives for our students.



Guided by A.S.P.I.R.E. (Adrian Schools Project Inspire Resilience and Excellence) we have created, and are implementing the following initiatives: Diploma Plus, Portrait of a Graduate, a strategic plan for facilities, athletics, ("The Game Plan") fine arts, ("The Play Bill) and teaching and learning, ("The Lesson Plan").

Again, thank you to the students, staff, parents and community members who have collaborated with us on exploring and now implementing these initiatives. Throughout the course of this school year we will be communicating in more detail what each of these initiatives entails and how they all work together to

ensure a first rate learning experience for our students that focuses on relevance, engagement and real world application of what students are learning in the classroom. As a school district we will continue to challenge ourselves with the question, "What are students DOING with the content we are teaching them?" We will continue to pursue opportunities for students that are extensions of the classroom and let them apply their knowledge in real world situations.

Our goal will continue to be engaging students in the educational process and inspiring them to understand their "Why." Every student will create their own Individual Success Plan that we hope will guide their school experience as we work with them to intentionally connect their educational journey to their interests, abilities and dreams. I am grateful for the outstanding administrative team, teaching and support staff and all of the parents and community partners that make Adrian Public Schools such an outstanding place to work and learn. Come join us.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Maple Messenger. Inside you will find exciting highlights of all of the great things our students are doing as they become leaders in Academics, the Arts and Athletics.

Nate Parker
Superintendent of Adrian Public Schools

Adrian Public Schools prepares for the start of a new school year

The first day of school is Monday, August 26, 2024. The first day will be a half day of instruction.

If you are an existing APS student who has moved and need to update your bus route, please call the school office. Adrian High School and Springbrook Middle School bussing updates must be made by August 5 and elementary bussing updates must be done before August 7 to ensure first day of school transportation.

School offices are now open for new student enrollment, address changes, and all other beginning of the school year needs.

If you have any further questions regarding the start of the school year, please call your student's building at:

- 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

2024-2025 school year start and end times:

- Elementary: 8:35AM-3:38PM; Half-day dismissal: 12:10PM
- Springbrook: 7:35AM- 2:24PM; Half-day dismissal: 11:00AM
- High School: 7:45AM-2:36PM; Half-day dismissal: 11:10AM

K-8 OPEN HOUSES, AUGUST 22



Adrian High School's Maple Time fosters connections and success

The heart of Maple Time is based on a simple, research-backed concept: students are more likely to succeed when they have strong, supportive relationships with at least one adult in the school. This idea isn't just theoretical—it's proven. Research shows that students who develop these connections perform better academically and socially.

Every Wednesday, students and staff gather for a 14-minute Maple Time session. Though brief, these sessions are packed

with purpose. Each week, students engage in activities designed to build relationships and team spirit, receive tutoring, set and review success plans, check grades, and participate in social-emotional learning (SEL). These sessions follow a common lesson plan, ensuring every student receives a consistent and structured experience.

Highlights of our Maple Time sessions will include:

- Relationship and Team Building: Activities that strengthen bonds among students and between students and staff.
- Tutoring and Academic Support: Time dedicated to helping students with coursework and addressing academic challenges.
- Success Plans and Goal Setting: Guidance on creating and achieving academic and personal goals.
- Grade Checks: Regular reviews of academic performance to keep students on track.
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL): Lessons aimed at developing essential life skills like empathy, resilience, and self-awareness.

Students who form strong relationships with their mentors often see improved grades and better social interactions. They feel a stronger sense of belonging and are more engaged in their school community.

Maple Time underscores our commitment to providing a supportive, caring, and nurturing environment for every student at Adrian High School. By focusing on building strong relationships, offering academic support, and teaching vital social-emotional skills, we are helping our students not just survive, but thrive. Together, we are building our Maples to a brighter future, one meaningful connection at a time.



Callie Yatzek named Dean of Students at Prairie

The Adrian Board of Education approved Callie Yatzek to serve as Dean of Students at Prairie Elementary School. Yatzek has taught at Prairie all 14 years of her career.

Yatzek says "It's a place that immediately felt like home to me and a place I've never wanted to leave." Transitioning from being a classroom teacher to becoming the Dean of Students of Prairie brings a mix of emotions for Yatzek. "As a teacher, I was deeply connected to the classroom and students' individual growth, fostering relationships and guiding their educational journey. However, stepping into the role of the Dean of Students means I get to take on a broader leadership role, where my focus extends to the entire school community. It involves shaping the overall vision and culture of the school."

Yatzek is fully prepared for the challenge and said, "I am looking forward to fostering that positive culture and climate that is already evident at Prairie, and creating new opportunities for families to get even more involved." Yatzek and her husband have three children who all attend Adrian Public Schools.

DISTRICT NEWS

APS IN THE NEWS

“Michener Elementary partners with Adrian Steel for 12-week program”

(Daily Telegram, June 18, 2024)

“Adrian Public Schools expanding its fine arts programming to early elementary students”

(Daily Telegram, February 12, 2024)

“APS awarded \$32,000 from student loan repayment program”

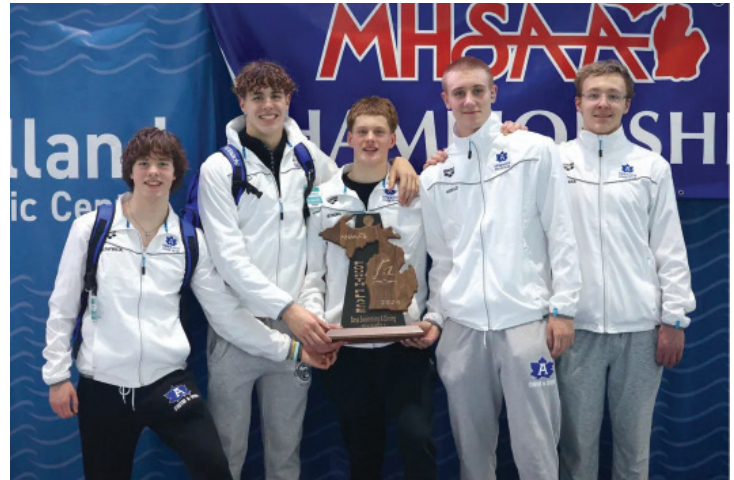
(WLEN, July 11, 2024)

“Adrian Public Schools Superintendent Nate Parker earns “Highly Effective” rating on evaluation”

(Daily Telegram, June 2, 2024)

“Adrian High Schoolers ace Math Olympics at Saginaw Valley State University”

(Daily Telegram, May 29, 2024)



Maple athletics boast successful 2023-24 school year

During the 2023-24 school year Maple teams won three Southeastern White Championships, four County Championships, two District Championships, two Regional Championships, and three individual top-10 finishes, while the Boys Swim Team finished 4th in the state. Athletic Director Chad O'Brien noted the growth in participants in all of the district's programs including Gymnastics and Tennis.

In addition to these team accomplishments, eight Maple Student Athletes earned Lenawee County Athlete of the Year Recognition. Maples chosen in the fall: Cassidy Hawken (Golf), Braylon Petty (Cross Country), Jaden Jankowski (Football/Defensive Player), and Joey Spagnoli (Soccer). Maples chosen in the spring: Carson Ritz (Golf), Sean Parker (Baseball/Pitcher), Tyler Bruggeman (Baseball), and Matt Canales (Boys Track and Field).

As evidence of the strong leadership in the athletic program, Maples Coaches earned ten various Coach of the Year awards. Maple coaches also brought home seven SEC White Coach of the Year honors and three county Coach of the Year honors.

O'Brien tied this success to the intentional efforts of the district to establish a youth recreation program aligned to the district's 26 varsity sports, the hiring of Toby Ernst as Strength and Conditioning Coordinator, and a focus on developing a champion's mindset in its student-athletes, which included increasing expectations academically.

O'Brien reported that these initiatives were key priorities of the District's strategic "Game Plan" for athletics. "We've raised expectations in the classroom, and our athletes have responded by raising their performance," O'Brien noted, "We are committed to building championship programs with student athletes of class and character."



Springbrook prepares for new school year with updated scheduling options

We are excited to announce some schedule updates that will be happening for the 2024-2025 school year at Springbrook Middle School.

Some of the electives that we will have for students this year at Springbrook include: Band, Choir, Orchestra, Encore Math, Encore Reading, Art, PLTW, Technology, Academic

Center, Personal Finance, Newspaper, Creative Writing, 21st Century skills, Readings of the Holocaust, and Leadership.

All Springbrook students will have a gym class every day for the entire school year and Spanish will now be offered as an elective for 8th graders. Springbrook offers three different tracks that students can follow for math instruction. Students may choose the general education track, the algebra advanced track or the geometry advanced track. Choosing the algebra or the geometry advanced track will earn students high school credits.

At Springbrook Middle School, we encourage students to participate in multiple extracurricular activities. Students involved in extracurricular activities learn self motivation, self discipline, have better attendance and enjoy attending school. We try to offer various extracurricular activities so every student can find some things that interest them.

In addition to athletics for all grade levels, Springbrook offers students opportunities to participate in a fall and spring musical and has many student clubs available. Current clubs include: Leadership, Yearbook, Run, History, Study, Show Choir, Culture, Equations, Movie, Drama, Newspaper, You Be the Chemist, Gratitude, Robotics and Set Tech. New clubs are formed based on student interest. The goal is for all students to find a way to become involved in an area that interests them.



Adrian Schools Educational Foundation supports APS students

Each year, the Adrian Schools Educational Foundation (ASEF) awards close to \$100,000 to Adrian Public Schools through classroom and arts grant initiative. The ASEF has also supported significant district projects, including the Julianne & George Argyros Performing Arts Center, the AHS courtyard redesign, and the team room at Maple Stadium. Since our inception in 1987, the foundation has contributed over \$1.9 million to APS. Our mission is to sup-

port educational excellence at APS, and in today's challenging climate of public education funding, we are making a significant impact. We proudly support a robust arts program across the district and provide unique academic opportunities for today's Maples.

ASEF classroom and arts grants have funded various enriching activities, such as elementary school science fairs, hands-on STEAM projects, support of reading and creative writing initiatives, theatrical and musical performance field trips, and visits to art and history museums. In partnership with APS staff, these grants help foster a love of learning and provide students with experiences that go beyond the traditional classroom setting.

Outstanding Teacher & Mentor & Outstanding Alumni Awards will be hosted on Thursday, October 12, 2024 at 7PM in the Julianne and George Argyros Performing Arts Center. A dessert reception will follow the awards program.



Adrian Public Schools students compete at Special Olympics hosted by Siena Heights

Adrian Public Schools students participated once again in the Special Olympics, with a proud tradition spanning decades.

This year's event occurred at the Siena Heights University Field House and attracted participants from schools across the county. Adrian sent students ranging from 3rd grade to 12th grade to compete in various events such as driving golf balls, showcasing basketball skills, running races, and softball throwing, to name a few.

Melanie Nightingale, a high school teacher, emphasized the significance of the event, stating, "Special Olympics is that one day each year where students, teachers, families, and friends come together to celebrate and highlight each one of our Special Olympics athletes. It is a day where all of the behavioral and academic challenges of the classroom are put aside, and each student is celebrated as a winner."

Ian Mohler, a middle school special education teacher, added, "The Special Olympics is a time for students to have fun competing against peers and making new friends."

The preparation for the Special Olympics is extensive. Darcie Anderson, an elementary special education teacher, noted, "Special Olympics is a great way for our students to showcase skills beyond the classroom. My students look forward to this event and enjoy all the practices leading up to it."

The day was a tremendous success, with 50 students from Adrian Public Schools participating. The event was marked by strong family support, as many came out to cheer on their children. We're looking forward to competing again next year!





Third grade students visit Toledo Art Museum due to generosity of Adrian Schools Educational Foundation

The Adrian Schools Educational Foundation (ASEF) is committed to providing students with lifelong learning experiences. Their mission is to support and enhance the educational excellence of Adrian Public Schools. One of the many ways they achieve this is through the Fine Arts Endowment, which enables K-12 students to engage in fine arts experiences.

As part of these initiatives, all third-grade students across the district visit the Toledo Art Museum, where they experience a live glass blowing demonstration and enjoy guided tours led by a docent. Before attending the art museum students study various aspects of art, including art history, focusing on artists such as Van Gogh and Monet.

Without the support of ASEF many students would never have had the opportunity to visit the museum and see the works they studied in art class in real life.

Experiences such as these greatly enhance the educational journey, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of the arts. Adrian Public Schools are incredibly fortunate to receive the grants from ASEF enriching opportunities for our students.

Elementary students prepare for the transition to middle school

Transitioning from fifth grade to middle school marks a significant milestone in our APS student's academic journey. It is met with both excitement and nervous anticipation. Fifth-grade graduation serves as a bitter-sweet farewell to elementary school, where cherished memories and lasting friendships were made, often friendships since kindergarten.

All four of the APS elementary buildings celebrate this transition differently. APS students celebrate the end of their elementary years with clap-outs, end-of-the-year awards assemblies, family picnics and musical performances. At Prairie Elementary School, students wear caps and take time to reflect on their growth and achievements. Students are sometimes apprehensive to leave elementary school, but eager to take on the next chapter at Springbrook Middle School.

To ease the transition, all APS fifth-grade students have a chance to visit Springbrook Middle School with their classmates during the spring and attend an open house where they can meet teachers and become familiar with the building through a scavenger hunt.



Springbrook offers broader academic opportunities and more independence, with the chance to learn and grow with their former elementary friends, and even some new ones. As our fifth graders close a chapter on their elementary school careers, they open a brand new one at Springbrook Middle School.



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2024 -2025 ADRIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT CALENDAR

August 26, 2024	First day of school for students, dismissed PM.	February 14, 2025	K-12 students half day, dismissed PM.
Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2024	No school for students or staff. Labor Day Holiday.	February 17, 2025	No school for students or staff.
September 27, 2024	K-12 students half day, dismissed PM	March 6, 2025	6-12 exams AM. K-12 students half day, dismissed PM.
October 2, 2024	Count Day.	March 7, 2025	6-12 exams AM. K-12 students half day, dismissed PM. End of 2nd trimester.
October 16 & 17, 2024	K-12 Parent Teacher conferences - evening.	March 19 & 20, 2025	K-12 Parent Teacher conferences - evening.
October 18, 2024	K-12 students half day, dismissed PM.	March 21, 2025	K-12 students half day, dismissed PM. Spring Break begins
November 21, 2024	6-12 exams AM. K-12 students half day, dismissed PM.	March 31, 2025	School resumes.
November 22, 2024	6-12 exams AM. K-12 students half day, dismissed PM. End of 1st trimester.	April 18, 2025	No school for students or staff.
November 27-29, 2024	Thanksgiving break. No school for students or staff.	May 22, 2025	Graduating seniors' last day.
December 23, 2024	Winter break begins.	May 23, 2025	K-12 students half day, dismissed PM.
January 6, 2025	School resumes for students and staff.	May 26, 2025	No school for students or staff. Memorial Day.
January 20, 2025	No school for students or staff.	June 1, 2025	High School Graduation.
February 12, 2025	Count Day.	June 4 & 5, 2025	6-12 exams AM. K-12 students half day, dismissed PM. End of 3rd trimester on June 5.