Greetings LPS Community,

As always, it is my honor to share with our community the many wonderful accomplishments that have occurred in our classrooms, on our stages and on our athletic fields and courts, where our 14,000-plus students have made us so very proud throughout the school year.

This issue of the Dialog is always a favorite, not only because we pay special tribute to our graduating seniors, but also because we highlight so many impactful aspects of our district and celebrate the accomplishments of our students and staff members.

As we draw this school year to a close, it is without question that I have never been so proud of our LPS family.

When school districts throughout Michigan were officially closed to in-person instruction, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you stepped up. When virtual learning plans needed to be developed and carried out, you were there. When families who rely on school breakfasts and lunches that were no longer available, you were there. When nerves were frayed and uncertainty crowded our minds, you were there. We were there for each other. We were there together.

Our school year began with all of the wonderful happenings that occur during any school year in LPS - from Homecoming celebrations and Friday Night Lights to the many artistic pursuits, music performances, and PTA events for families - all of the activities and classroom learning that make our district shine.

But, when the school year came to an unexpected halt, that is when our students, staff and families really shined their brightest. I am proud of the learning plans, the food assistance, the technology support and the social-emotional supports we were able to pull together for our families and staff, in a very short time period.

We know this was challenging for all, and the collective efforts of many were essential. Over 200,000 meals were packed and provided to families throughout this closure; over 3,200 chromebooks were distributed to our students across the district and dozens of families were assisted with internet access, thanks to the efforts of our LPS Education Foundation “Bridging the Digital Divide” campaign and many generous donors.

We were there for each other. We were there together.

Congratulations to the 1,092 graduates of Churchill, Franklin, and Stevenson high schools! This year, 185 students graduated Summa Cum Laude (3.95 GPA and above); 100 graduated Magna Cum Laude (3.75-3.94 GPA); and 108 graduated Cum Laude (3.5-3.74 GPA).

A large section of this edition of the Dialog is dedicated to the Class of 2020. We hope you enjoy reading about just a few of our many talented and accomplished students.

Class of 2020, you are Livonia Pride!

Continued on page 3
NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION
New families can begin the registration process online.

To begin the registration process, visit www.livoniapublicschools.org/registration and complete the forms from the comfort of your home!

If you have any questions, or would like to find out which school your child will attend, please call (734) 744-2541 or email registration@livoniapublicschools.org.

ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION AT A GLANCE

- Visit www.livoniapublicschools.org/registration to begin the registration process as early as possible.
- Complete and submit the registration forms online. Forms are divided by grade level and assigned building. Please be sure to complete the correct form!
- You will be contacted within 10 days of submission to confirm that your forms have been received, and to schedule an appointment to present your required documentation.
- If you do not have access to a computer, we will have computers and printers available at registration sites for your use. Please call (734) 744-2541 for an appointment.
- You MUST present all required documentation in person to complete registration.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION
To keep our staff and community healthy, we ask that families limit the number of people who attend registration appointments. Masks are required to enter the building.

K-6 STUDENTS
Centralized Registration will be offered for K-6 students during the summer months at the Administration building, located at 15125 Farmington Rd. The office is available for scheduled appointments only. Please use the back entrance.

Summer Registration Information
July 8-September 3
Monday/Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Tuesday/Wednesday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAYS

September 8-18
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
CLOSED LABOR DAY

Beginning September 21, all registrations will be completed through your child’s school.

7-12 STUDENTS
Summer registration for students in grades 7-12 will be facilitated through the assigned school, beginning July 8.

Appointments are required.

JULY 8-SEPTEMBER 3
MONDAY-THURSDAY, 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
CLOSED FRIDAYS

SEPTEMBER 8-18
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
CLOSED LABOR DAY

Emerson Middle School
734-744-2665

Churchill High School
734-744-2650, ext. 46913

Frost Middle School
734-744-2670

Franklin High School
734-744-2655, ext. 47913

Holmes Middle School
734-744-2675

Stevenson High School
734-744-2660, ext. 48913

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)
Michigan’s Nationally Recognized Pre-K Program
GSRP is a high quality, no cost, state-funded preschool program for children who are 4 years old by September 1. The program runs from September to June, but registrations are accepted year-round. Please visit www.livoniapublicschools.org/GSRP to register. If you have any questions, please call 734-744-2715, ext. 17990, or email sroque@livoniapublicschools.org.

Specialized Early Childhood Programs
Contact Patty Kozlowski at 734-744-2813, ext. 22902
- Early On developmental screenings for infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months; to request an early-on screening, call 1-800-EarlyOn.
- Preschool programs for children ages 2.5 to 5 years with special needs
- Early childhood programs for students with speech concerns
Prior to this health crisis, our district budget was stable and strong; class sizes were continuing to decrease and student supports were increasing. We are committed to maintaining and sustaining this work, but we realize it will be a challenge with expected budget cuts from the state. We are preparing for a deep per pupil cut that calls for an immediate $9 million cut from the current 2019-2020 budget, which ends June 30 and another $9 million cut from the 2020-2021 school year budget, which begins on July 1. While our fund balance will play a critical role, we are advocating strongly at the state and federal level for funding stability to help districts absorb these drastic cuts. The anticipated cuts are a result of a $1 billion-plus shortfall in the state’s School Aid Fund, due to a sharp decline in sales tax revenue during the pandemic.

**RETURN TO LEARN**

Currently, we are working to develop plans for a safe and successful “Return to Learn” in the fall. We have assembled a district steering committee and multiple task force groups, consisting of over 200 LPS staff and parents from across the district. Additional parent feedback opportunities will also be offered via focus groups and surveys. Work has been ongoing to map out return-to-school scenarios, based upon the guidance and direction from the state and health departments.

I am confident and hopeful about this collective effort and we are committed to making thoughtful and well reasoned decisions. This is important work and we look forward to combining input from our stakeholders with guidance from county and state sources to create the safest and most beneficial plan for students and staff in the fall. Our website houses a special portal to keep our families, staff and community updated on the efforts and recommendations of the LPS Return to Learn Task Force.

I wish our amazing Class of 2020 all of the best as they embark on their futures and I wish all of our LPS families an enjoyable and restful summer. Always know that I am proud and thankful for each of you and this could not be more abundant during our recent and current challenges. Every act of kindness and every bit of grit, grace and effort during this time has shown that together, we can do anything.

Wishing you all the best,

Andrea Oquist,
Superintendent

---

**WE WANTED TO SHARE THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE THAT WAS SENT TO OUR FAMILIES AND STAFF IN EARLY JUNE.**

LPS Colleagues and Community,

I write to you at the end of a week which has brought strife and sadness to the hearts and minds of many within our school community, following the tragic death of George Floyd, the aftermath of which has continued to unfold throughout our nation. For some, the focus has been on talking and sharing a passionate message with others about the injustices before us in our country. For others, the focus has been on listening, learning and leaning in to better understand.

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.”
- Maya Angelou

For many years, this has been an impactful message to me as a leader. Never more so than now.

In a conversation with a colleague, he shared, “The only thing I ask of others is that they lead with an open mind and an open heart.” How impactful it would be if the interactions between individuals throughout our world followed this mantra? The intention of our Community with Character work within our district is to bring this forth as a foundation of our interactions with one another.

Over the past two years, our district’s Engagement in Equity committee has worked to better understand the needs of all our students, specifically our students of color. The events that have transpired over these past days have shown us the importance of this work continuing, and growing. In our work, we have engaged in dialogue that has spanned a continuum surrounding the remarkable responsibility we have within our school community. Our responsibility to be places where every child, parent and member of our staff is welcomed and cared for; is treated with dignity and respect; is valued and understood for the individual they are.

This past year, our work extended into ongoing training with Dr. Virginia Winters and Dr. Alyn Moore from Wayne County RESA, who have facilitated our learning and our dialogue in very powerful ways. We are eager to move forward together so as we know better, we do better.

“Far too often, people think of themselves as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas you are connected and what you do affects the whole world. When you do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity.” - Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

We seek the opportunity to learn, grow and make meaningful change that supports the wonderful and amazing students entrusted to us, because each step taken within ourselves, within our community, strengthens us all.

My sincere regards,

Andrea Oquist, Superintendent
I enrolled in Livonia Public Schools before the start of fifth grade. I could not be more thankful to have spent my years since then in this school district. Livonia has kind and compassionate teachers and staff members who truly care about their students. They have made school a place where I genuinely enjoy to be, and they have made each day of learning so much fun!

Ashley Harlock

I am so thankful for the last 13 years that I have spent in the Livonia Public Schools system. I was always given the tools and resources that I needed to further my education and mental development. I have had some of the most amazing and inspirational teachers through the years, and I am so thankful for how much I have grown because of them.

Abby Woods

THE 2019-20 CHURCHILL GRADUATING CLASS COLLECTIVELY EARNED MORE THAN $4.3 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS.

WXYZ Brightest and Best
Alyssa Anderson

James P. Carli Scholarship
Ashley Harlock

National Merit Scholarship
Mary Jiang

PTSA Outstanding Youth
Kayla Blauet

National Merit Finalists
Vansh Amin
Alyssa Anderson
Rishiraj Chandra

Detroit News Outstanding Graduate
Mya Manning

Michigan Mathematics Competition, Top 200
Yajvan Ravan (6th place)
Ian Buchanan
Alexis Chuong

HONORS & HIGHLIGHTS

Girl’s Swimming & Diving
Wayne Inv. Champs

Girl’s Cross Country
City Champs
KLAA Div. Champs

Girl’s Swim
MISCA Academic, All State

Football
MHSAA:
• Pre-District Qualifiers
• District Champs
• Regional Finalist

Boys Bowling
North Farmington Inv. Champs

Pom
Mid-American State Qualifiers

Volleyball
MIVCA Team:
 Academic All State

MHSAA:
• District Champs
• Regional Qualifiers
• Regional Champs
• Elite Eight

Competitive Cheer
Oak Park Inv. Champs
MHSAA Regional Qualifiers

Boys Swim
MISCA Academic All State

Wrestling
MHSAA District Champs
MHSAA Regional Qualifiers

STUDENTS ENTERING THE MILITARY

Brandon Hix
Air Force

Alexander Kachaturoff
Marine Corps

Cameron Moore
Air Force

Mitchell Regan
Marine Corps

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS
Franklin High School

CLASS OF 2020

“I have been in LPS for all of my schooling. My experience during my time at LPS has been one to remember. I have met so many great people that I will remember forever and have made countless memories. LPS helped make this a true home for me.”

Jacob Cox

“I have attended Livonia public schools my entire life. It has been such a pleasure working with some of the best teachers. LPS is not only a school district, it is a fun and welcoming community. I would not want to go to school anywhere else.”

Juliana Johnson

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Boy’s Cross Country
KLAA Div. Champs
City Champs

Football
City Champs
MHSAA Playoff Appearance (5th Straight)

Golf
KLAA Div. Champs, 3rd consecutive year
MHSAA Team State Qualifier

Wrestling:
City Champs
Trenton Invite Champs
Salem Invite Champs

Students entering the military

Nicholas Bugeja
Army

Camden Smythe
Army

Damien Galus
Army

Benjamin Williams
Army

Khadije Musa
Army

Honors & Highlights

Livonia PTSA Outstanding Youth
Madison Moore

James P. Carli Scholarship
Gabrielle Wiwigacz

WXYZ Brightest and Best
Olivia Melville

Franklin Key Recipients
Brooke Gietzen
Caroline Hardy
Jacob Kelbert
Madison Moore
Gabrielle Wiwigacz

National Merit Scholar
Olivia Melville

Students entering the military

Nicholas Bugeja
Army

Camden Smythe
Army

Damien Galus
Army

Benjamin Williams
Army

Khadije Musa
Army

The 2019-20 Franklin graduating class collectively earned $2.3 million in scholarships.
CLASS OF 2020

“Stevenson has given me countless opportunities to grow as a student, athlete, and leader. I will always remember the friends I’ve made, and the teachers who supported me along the way; I can’t thank everyone enough for helping shape me into the person I am today and giving me the skills to succeed in the future!”

Samantha Kuszynski

“My time at Stevenson was memorable to say the least. I am beyond grateful for my teachers and coaches furthering my development as a young man. I will forever cherish the relationships I have created over my four years here.”

Seth Lause

STUDENTS ENTERING THE MILITARY

Evan Beck
Undecided

John Briden
Marines

Joshua McLaud
Marines

Ethan Procknow
Navy

Joshua VanKerschaever
Marines

Mason Waters
Navy

THE 2019-20 STEVENSON GRADUATING CLASS COLLECTIVELY EARNED MORE THAN $7.8 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS.

HONORS & HIGHLIGHTS

WXYZ-Brightest and Best
Jessica Zenas

PTSA Outstanding Youth
Leah James

James P. Carli Scholarship
Emma Della Mora

Jay W. Formsma Award
Samantha Kuszynski

Seth Lause

Gabe Award
Tara Bourdage
Allison Gronau

BOYS SOCCER
City Champs
KLAA Div. Champs
KLAA East Div. Champs

Volleyball
Ypsilanti Invite Champs
Summit Academy Champs
City Champs
KLAA East Div. Champs

Girls Golf
City Champs

Girls Swim and Dive
City Champs
KLAA East Div. Champs

Boys Tennis
City Champs
KLAA East Div. Champs

Boys Basketball
City Champs

MVP

Sports Highlights

Boys Soccer
City Champs
KLAA East Div. Champs

Gymnastics
City Champs
KLAA Div. Champs

Hockey
City Champs
KLAA East Div. Champs
KLAA Conf. Champs

Pom
Div. 1 Mid-American Pom Team State Qualifiers

Boys Swim and Dive
City Champs
KLAA East Div. Champs

Girls Bowling
Novi Tourney Champs

Jay W. Formsma Award
Nicole Stefanick

Evan Bradford

Ethan Hamm

Bob Massey Award
Mallory Debono

Kevin Duffy

Michigan Mathematics Competition Top 100
Gabriela Brooks

James F. Brieske Award
Nicole Stefanick

Evan Bradford

Ethan Hamm

Tara Bourdage

Evan Bradford

Gabriela Brooks

Mallory Debono

Emma Della Mora

Kevin Duffy

Allison Gronau

Ethan Hamm

Leah James

Nicole Stefanick

Jessica Zenas
Commencement ceremonies looked very different for this year's graduating seniors. But, social distancing couldn’t keep them down! Graduates were invited to don their caps and gowns, decorate their cars, and pick up their diplomas in style. They were greeted by their school administrators, received their diplomas, and had their photos taken by professional photographers.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020! #LivoniaPride
Franklin High School has the distinct honor of being the first high school in Wayne County to offer the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. In 2009, the school was awarded IB World School status and began recruiting students who would take up the challenge of a college preparatory curriculum that would emphasize the skills of inquiry and international awareness. IB courses provide students with the opportunity to do university-level work that is measured against an international standard.

The seniors from the Class of 2020 who completed the strenuous IB Diploma Requirements are ready to provide leadership and support in the local and global community. They are well-rounded individuals who are ready to solve problems around the world, and are all furthering their educational pursuits at various universities, both in and out of state. If you have questions about the IB Diploma Program, or are interested in enrolling, please contact Sunshine Weber, IB Coordinator at 734-744-2655 x79573 or sweber4@livoniapublicschools.org.

The Livonia Math/Science/Computer (MSC) program, housed at Churchill High School, is celebrating the conclusion of its 36th year. The MSC program is open to students from all three LPS high school attendance areas. Students must have a high level of interest and achievement in math and science coursework. Students in the program take a minimum of 23 semesters of coursework in mathematics, science, and computer science. The foundation of the MSC curriculum is the College Board Advanced Placement exams. Students apply for this program during the fall of their 8th grade year, and selection is based on academic test scores, student essays, and teacher recommendations.

The CAPA program builds the skills, passion, creativity, and supportive artistic community that performers need in order to continue their formal education in the creative arts. CAPA provides a safe, imaginative, and caring place for young people to land and learn. The program includes intense studies in the areas of acting, dance, and vocal music. For any questions, or to set up an audition for the program, please contact Ms. Hillman, Director of CAPA, at ahillman@livoniapublicschools.org.

The seniors from the Class of 2020 who completed the strenuous IB Diploma Requirements are ready to provide leadership and support in the local and global community. They are well-rounded individuals who are ready to solve problems around the world, and are all furthering their educational pursuits at various universities, both in and out of state. If you have questions about the IB Diploma Program, or are interested in enrolling, please contact Sunshine Weber, IB Coordinator at 734-744-2655 x79573 or sweber4@livoniapublicschools.org.

**Program Recognition**

**IB Program Graduates**

**Math/Science/Computer (MSC) Program Graduates**

**Western Wayne Skill Center (WWSC)**

**Creative & Performing Arts Program (CAPA)**

**Western Wayne Skill Center (WWSC)**

**Our mission is to provide each student with individualized, engaging, and powerful learning opportunities designed to promote independence and a rewarding lifestyle.**

**WWSC Class of 2020**

**Kenneth B.**  **Tyler G.**  **Andrew M.**  **Joshua S.**

**Lazer B.**  **Jasmine H.**  **Terrance M.**  **Matthew S.**

**Amari B.**  **Lauren H.**  **Bethanne N.**  **Brian S.**

**Adam B.**  **Craig J.**  **Amanda P.**  **Lewis W.**

**Corey D.**  **Kyle J.**  **Scott P.**

**Zachary F.**  **Samantha K.**  **Brianna R.**

**Yajayra G.**  **Ryan M.**  **Aaron R.**

**MSC Class of 2020**

- Vansh Amin
- Alyssa Anderson
- Sky Bodenmiller
- Sophia Brylinski
- Ian Buchanan
- Alexis Chuong
- Nicholas Colosimo
- Michael Delphia
- Juan Carlos Feraro
- Leo Greco
- Ashley Harlock
- José Hernandez
- Tess Heston
- Alyssa Hill
- Mary Jiang
- Jamie Maertens
- Mya Manning
- Pirro Marko
- Adwoa Mensah-Wiredu
- Andrew Novak
- Abbie Ortell
- Yash Patil
- Eshan Raul
- Zoey Reum
- Diego Robles
- Lauren Rubenson
- James Spielman
- Yana Thompson
- Chloe Zaborney Kline

**Creative & Performing Arts Program (CAPA)**

**The CAPA program builds the skills, passion, creativity, and supportive artistic community that performers need in order to continue their formal education in the creative arts. CAPA provides a safe, imaginative, and caring place for young people to land and learn. The program includes intense studies in the areas of acting, dance, and vocal music. For any questions, or to set up an audition for the program, please contact Ms. Hillman, Director of CAPA, at ahillman@livoniapublicschools.org.**

**CAPA Program Award of Excellence Recipients 2020**

- **Nicholas Alessandrini** - Excellence in Acting
- **Cameron Krome** - Excellence in Dance
- **Jennifer Ponce** - Excellence in Vocal

**Nicholas Alessandrini, Jennifer Ponce** - Anna K. Bonde Scholarship
The Livonia Career Technical Center offers career and technical training in all of the career pathways established by the Michigan Department of Career Development. LCTC honorees were selected based on their academic achievement in their LCTC program; their responsibility as it relates to attendance and completing all assignments with exceptional ability; their leadership skills as they relate to working with peers; and their interest in pursuing a career in the field they have selected.

The following students were honored in the 2019-20 school year:

**Churchill**
- Grace Facione - Digital Illustration
- Janelle McLeod - Advanced Medicine
- Makaiya Snead - Fashion Merchandising
- Hannah Wagatha - Pre-Nursing/Pre-Medicine

**Franklin**
- Analysia Vasquez-Dunnigan - Fashion Merchandising
- Anthony Robertson - Engineering Technology
- Selena Alnassrallah - Advanced Medicine

**Stevenson**
- Ethan Azeez - Engineering Technology
- Seth Lause - Advanced Medicine
- Kaelie Murdock - Criminal Justice
- Nicholas Olsen - Pre-Nursing/Pre-Medicine

Since mid-March, things have not been the same in Livonia Public Schools. COVID-19 shuttered all schools, and students, teachers, parents, and staff members felt frozen for the moment. We had never experienced a state-wide school closure. There were many questions and few answers.

District leaders immediately began forming an in-depth plan, in the event our schools would not be able to re-open. That sad reality became clear on April 2, when the governor announced schools would remain closed to in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

There were lots of emotions, but, it was “go” time - in a very uncertain time. We had never done this before. But, we were determined.

Connecting with every student was our first priority. The district set up a social-emotional hotline for students and parents to utilize if they were feeling overwhelmed.

LPS teams were assembled to create grade-level enrichment and instructional plans that could be delivered remotely. Families were surveyed to determine their access to the Internet and to devices. Chromebooks were distributed, and partnerships were formed to provide online access to families who were without.

Online virtual classroom and IEP meetings, virtual office hours, pre-recorded videos, online classrooms where assignments are linked… this all became the new normal for about 1,000 LPS teachers and more than 14,000 students.

LPS also immediately considered families whose children rely on free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch each day. By the end of June, it is estimated that more than 200,000 meals will have been distributed to families in need.

Whether it is academic, social-emotional, or nutritional support, Livonia Public Schools has kept students as its main focus throughout this unprecedented time.

Plans are being formulated for the start of the school year in the fall. We know that we can and will continue to provide for the students who are entrusted to us. It’s our privilege and our promise.
MORE THAN ROBOTS

Members of the Livonia Warriors & Tyros robotics teams answered the call during the COVID-19 pandemic by firing up their 3D printers and making “ear savers” to attach to face masks without rubbing on the ears. More and more team members became involved and the team donated more than 6,700 ear savers to hospitals and companies around Michigan.

HIGH FIVE!

Franklin High School general education and Franklin Transition Program students coordinated a High Five Day, during which they stood at the doors of the school and offered their classmates a “high five” greeting as an act of kindness. It was the culmination of Kindness Week at the school.

EMPTY BOWLS PROJECT

The Churchill High School National Art Honor Society sponsored an Empty Bowls project in February. Volunteers came in to make a ceramic bowl, which NAHS then fired and glazed. Later that month, they held a soup night where the community could come in and enjoy a bowl of soup and a ceramic bowl for a donation to St. Leo’s Soup Kitchen in Detroit. The event aimed to shed light on the homeless and hunger issues in Detroit. Through the event, the group raised more than $300 for St. Leo’s!

CEREAL DRIVE

Stevenson High School students conducted a cereal drive to benefit Blessings in a Backpack earlier this year. They collected 228 boxes of cereal for this wonderful program that assists many LPS families with weekend food throughout the school year! Way to go, Spartans!

HEROES WITH MASKS

Stevenson High School choir director and Buchanan Elementary music teacher Mr. Byron Turner and his amazing family were featured on local TV news for their incredible efforts in making more than 1,400 fabric masks for frontline workers in the area! That is “sew” great!

Kudos and thanks to the many staff and community volunteers who assist with the LPS Curbside Meals program every Tuesday at Franklin and Stevenson high schools! By the end of June, this program will have distributed approximately 200,000 meals to local families during this difficult time. We could not do this without all of the amazing volunteers!
LPS Students Make a Difference

Prior to the pandemic, 1,436 students in Livonia Public Schools spent their free time helping others. From creating cheerful greeting cards and raking leaves for local senior citizens, to raising funds for a cherished cause such as the Michigan Humane Society, Gleaners Food Bank, or the many others, students truly put their heartfelt compassion into action. This organized effort is known as Youth Making a Difference, and it occurs each school year in LPS and in districts across the country. Sponsored by the Livonia PTSA Council, the LPS program encourages students to select a project that allows them to perform acts of kindness and community service.

During a “normal” school year, this compassionate crew gathers with their families, LPS staff, and the PTSA Council to celebrate the projects - and all of the time, effort and love that went into each one. This year, the PTSA Council celebrated a bit differently.

“Since we could not hold our traditional celebration, we decided to create a slideshow and hold a virtual celebration to honor these students,” said Debbie Pline, YMAD Co-chair. “We know that they will continue to be examples in their communities through their giving spirits.”

The Youth Making a Difference program lines up with the district’s Community with Character climate and culture initiative, which emphasizes respectful interactions including being positive, genuine, supportive, professional, thoughtful, empathetic, kind and reflective.

Vanya, from Webster, made colorful greeting cards for seniors at the American House Senior Living.

Jessica, from Johnson, made six blankets for hospitalized children.

Atticus, from Cleveland, and Aria, from Webster, raked leaves for senior citizens on Make a Senior Smile Day.

Dennis, from Kennedy, held a backpack drive.
Spotlight on Staff Achievements

**Frost Honored with SupportMusic Merit Award**

Frost Middle School has been honored again with the SupportMusic Merit Award from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Frost Middle School has received this award in past years for its support and contribution to music education. The SupportMusic Merit Award recognizes individual schools that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. This year, the NAMM Foundation has named 148 schools (K-12) across the nation for the SupportMusic Merit Award. Led by Director Michael Rais, the Frost band and orchestra program was just one of three in the state to be honored with this award.

**Ron Hammye Named Athletic Director of the Year**

Congrats to Franklin High School Athletic Director Ron Hammye for being named Region 11 Athletic Director of the Year by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association for the 2020-2021 school year! Way to go, Mr. Hammye!

**Band Director of the Year**

Congrats to Ms. Elizabeth Hering for being named District 12 High School Band Director of the Year by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association for the 2020-2021 school year! Ms. Hering is the Director of Bands at Churchill High School and district music leader. We are so proud!

**Orchestra Director of the Year**

Congrats to Ms. Patti Kilgore for being named District 12 Orchestra Director of the Year by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association for the 2020-2021 school year! Ms. Kilgore is the orchestra director at Churchill High School and music teacher at Holmes Middle School. Way to go, Ms. Kilgore!

**Conference Grants**

Congrats to GSRP teacher Caitlin Schreuder; Kennedy Elementary teacher Haley Albertson; Johnson Upper Elementary teacher Cassie Acker; Franklin Transition Program teacher Brooke Kwicinski, and Franklin High School teacher Jen Barker for winning grants worth $300 each, to use toward a professional development conference! Thanks to Cagwin Meemic Insurance office in Livonia for making this possible!

**Hockey Coach of the Year**

Stevenson High School Hockey Coach David Mitchell was named Division 2 Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association and SHS Assistant Coach Kyle Zagata was named Assistant Coach of the Year. This is the third time in 12 seasons Mr. Mitchell has been named Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the Association’s Hall of Fame in 2018. Mr. Mitchell is teacher at Holmes Middle School and an alumus of Churchill High School.

Find us on facebook
**REFLECTIONS AWARDS**

The district and its amazing PTSA Council celebrated the 51st Livonia PTA Reflections Awards Ceremony earlier this year. This national PTA program is designed to promote an interest in the arts, outside of the classroom setting. This year’s theme was “Look Within.” Our districtwide celebration recognized 130 students who created 160 works of art in the areas of visual art, photography, film production, dance choreography, music composition, and literature. Amazing work!

**COMPOSER AWARD**

Congratulations to Joey Miller, a Churchill High School incoming senior. He was selected as a Michigan Music Educators Association composition contest winner! He performed his piano piece, “Ode To A Clump Of Fur,” at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids earlier this year.

**MATHMATICS PRIZE**

Yajvan Ravan, a Churchill High School junior, finished in 6th place in the state of Michigan on the 63rd annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC). Yajvan is a student in the Livonia Math/Science/Computer Program (MSC). This is Yajvan’s fourth consecutive top 100 finish in the MMPC, as he also finished in the top 100 as a sophomore, as a freshman, and as an 8th grade student at Frost Middle School. This year’s 6th place is his highest finish so far.

Three other Churchill MSC students finished in the top 200 in the state of Michigan. They are senior Ian Buchanan, senior Alexis Chuong, and junior Pranhav Sundararajan.

**STUDENT ATHLETES**

Stevenson High School Girls Basketball netted success on and off the court this year. At one point during the season, the average grade point average on the team was a 4.26! Awesome job!

**LCTC ART WINNERS**

Kudos to Livonia Career Technical Center’s Graphic Design winners Evan Jaster (Honorable Mention) in the Drawing and Illustration category for his piece ROYGBV (l) and Mason Gosselin, a Gold Key winner in the Comic Art category for the piece Unforgiven (r) in the Regional Scholastic Art Awards competition.

**NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

Big congratulations to Mary Jiang, a graduate from Churchill High School! Mary is a recipient of the prestigious National Merit Scholarship from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Mary was chosen out of more than 15,000 finalists to receive a $2,500 scholarship. The award was granted based on her academic record, the difficulty of the subjects she studied, her PSAT scores, and volunteer and extracurricular activities. In addition to this prize, she also ranked in the top ½% of the top 1% of students in the nation. We are so proud of your achievements, Mary!
What are 21st Century work skills and why should your student care about them?

Today’s students need to start preparing for a changing job market as early as middle school. Employers have identified 12 work skills that are essential in a worldwide market that moves at lightening speed. Regardless of the industry, these skills will provide students with the adaptive qualities they need to react and adapt to change. Each skill is unique in how it will help students succeed in the age of the Internet.

The skills are broken down into three separate categories. The first category includes the learning skills: critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. These skills represent a universal need for any career. Your student has already started to build those critical thinking and collaboration skills in the classroom. The curriculum in most classrooms directly focuses on these learning skills. However, your student might need to seek out ways to develop his/her creativity skills. Encouraging him/her to think outside the box and consider a different way to do things would help.

Communication seems to be a major concern for the children that are being raised in the Internet Age. The constant distraction of their electronic devices has diminished their abilities to confidently communicate face to face. Even though all industries utilize technology in their day-to-day operations, verbal and written communication is still necessary to work collaboratively. Encourage your student to put down the devices and engage in genuine, interactive, face-to-face communication with friends and family. Having a job or participating in a sport or other activity provides another opportunity to build and develop communication skills.

The second category of skills are the literacy skills: information, media, and technology. Students may feel that they are already proficient in these areas due to their exposure to technology. However, in an era of “fake news” it is imperative that our students can find and identify the truth online.

The final category is life skills: flexibility, leadership, initiative, productivity, and social skills are the five interpersonal skills that will carry over to students’ professional lives. Developing and strengthening these skills will assist in standing apart from the competition in universities and the workplace. Like communication, these skills can easily be developed by having your student step out of his/her comfort zone by getting a job or becoming involved in a sport or other activity. Help them to seek out opportunities where they can start demonstrating these skills.

With 21st century work skills, your student will have the tools to be able to thrive in today’s constantly evolving work world. They will set themselves apart from the competition and help to achieve their goals and dreams.

PARTNERSHIPS HELP BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR LPS STUDENTS

Access. That word became vital as Livonia Public Schools’ traditional classroom instruction shifted to online, remote teaching and learning this spring.

When the COVID-19 virus caused school closures for the remainder of the school year, educators quickly learned to adapt. While students and teachers were learning to adjust to this new reality, some students were at risk of being left behind. They had no access to the Internet or the digital devices they needed to participate in these class meetings and lessons.

Livonia Public Schools distributed more than 3,200 Chromebooks over the course of the closure and researched low-cost internet options for families, but quickly realized that most would either not qualify or would have to wait for many weeks to learn if they were approved.

That’s where the LPS Education Foundation stepped in. Through a partnership with the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and a local charity called TAFFY, a plan was developed to raise the funds to provide WiFi hotspots for these families.

The hope is to raise enough funds to provide the hotspots and Internet service for the next two years for these LPS families. Donations are being accepted through the LPS Education Foundation. To learn more, please visit www.lpsfoundation.org.
The mission of the LPS Education Foundation is to enlarge the resources available to the school district, which will foster and expand educational opportunities for programs impacting students by building effective collaborations.

SUPPORT OUR
LPS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The LPS Education Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization chartered by the state of Michigan in 2004.

Its mission is to enlarge the resources available to LPS, which will foster and expand educational opportunities for programs that impact students by building effective collaborations.

Through generous contributions by individuals, community organizations, and businesses, the Foundation is able to provide classroom grants to staff and provide families of kindergarten students with the opportunity to enroll in the Foundation’s Competitive Edge College Savings Program. For more information on these programs, visit www.lpsfoundation.org.

Private citizens, businesses, civic organizations, alumni, and members of the LPS current or retired staff, are encouraged to invest in the future by giving to the LPS Education Foundation.

Decisions on funding are made by the Foundation’s independent Board of Directors. Help give LPS children the tools to build a better tomorrow. All donations are tax deductible and will be used to directly enhance the education of students in Livonia Public Schools.

HOW TO DONATE:

Donations may be made by check or PayPal, or may be a Legacy gift (including the LPS Education Foundation in a will); or from an IRA or retirement account.

Please fill out the form below and mail with a check to LPS Education Foundation, 15125 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154.
Thank you teachers!