



ORCHARD VIEW

Extra Edition

A GROWING PARTNERSHIP

KIDS ZONE!

RETHINKING EDUCATION

VOLUME ZOO!

A Newsletter for the Orchard View Community

WINTER 2025-26



Cardinal Pride is Soaring!

Hello Orchard View Families,

It has been a wonderful fall season and a strong start to the 2025-2026 school year.

There is so much to celebrate across our school community, and I want to take a moment to highlight a few of the many bright spots from the past several months.

We celebrated the completion of the football stadium renovation, an important milestone that fulfills a promise made eight years ago when voters approved the projects included in the Sinking Fund. The updated Cardinal stadium is a space our athletes and community can be proud of for years to come.

This year, our food service team also saw the completion of a new hoop house located north of the middle school, funded entirely through a grant. This exciting addition allows us to grow produce year-round for use in our breakfast and lunch programs, as well as for distribution to families during special events. It will also serve as a hands-on learning environment where students can explore concepts

related to agriculture, nutrition, and sustainability.

We had a record number of students participate in Middle Vision so far this year. This sixth-grade program, held at the Career Tech Center, introduces students to a wide range of career pathways through engaging, project-based learning. Pathways include welding, law enforcement, cosmetology, health services, automotive repair, culinary arts, veterinary science, coding, videography, photography, podcasting, and construction. The program continues to grow, and this year every sixth grader will have the opportunity to participate if they wish.

Across each of our academic buildings and Community Education sites, exciting programs continue to take shape. We remain committed to offering meaningful experiences that reflect student interests and help them feel connected, supported, and engaged. Fostering a true sense of belonging is at the heart of all we do. I encourage our students to get involved, participate in activities, and perhaps even try something new.

As we head into the winter season, please keep an eye on notifications regarding

inclement weather and potential delays or cancellations. Our last day of school before the holiday break is December 19th, and we will resume classes on Monday, January 5th.

As the holidays approach, I hope our students, staff, and families are able to enjoy time celebrating with loved ones. I am sincerely grateful for the kind, thoughtful, and positive people I have the privilege of working with each day. Wishing each of you a warm, joyful, and festive holiday season.

Sincerely,
Tom Hamilton, Superintendent



Keep on top of all the **GREAT THINGS** happening at Orchard View on our Facebook page!

Non-Homestead Operating Millage Renewal Proposal

Thank you for voting in the Non-Homestead Operating Millage Renewal Proposal. The renewal was voted down by 45 votes in November. This millage is not a tax on personal homes. It is a tax on businesses and those who own more than one home or property within Orchard View School District. This millage works together with State aid funding and this school year is the last year it can be levied without voter approval. The State does not make-up the difference if there is no operating millage and this results in about a 10% loss of funding annually. The Board and District are discussing next steps and when this will go to the voters again. If you have any questions, you may contact Superintendent Hamilton at 231-760-1310.



Fresh Learning, Fresh Lettuce!

Orchard View Middle School's new hoop house, fully funded through a grant, gives students hands-on experience with gardening, plant science, and sustainability. Our first fall harvest of crisp lettuce is being served in our cafeterias, showing students the full journey from garden to table while promoting healthy eating and real-world learning.



ORCHARDVIEW.ORG

Middle Vision + Career Exploration: A Partnership That Keeps Growing

Six years ago, Orchard View Middle School launched **Middle Vision** in partnership with the MAISD Career Tech Center (CTC). At that time, a small group of sixth graders had the opportunity to explore welding, giving students an early hands-on look at future career pathways.

The following year, the program expanded to include two neighboring districts and opened the doors to all of the career pathways offered at the CTC — from healthcare to culinary arts, manufacturing, graphic design, public safety, engineering, and more.

This year marks an exciting milestone:

Every sixth grader at OVMS who wants to participate now has the opportunity to do so.



This continuation and growth is a direct result of:

- The strong partnership between **Orchard View Schools** and the **MAISD CTC**
- The **visionary leadership** at both the MAISD and Orchard View. **Ms. Gabby Stout**, a teacher at Cardinal Elementary, has been instrumental in supporting all of the moving parts that go into making a program like this sustainable, and OVMS school counselor, **Ashley Keena**, goes above and beyond
- A shared belief that early exposure to real-world career opportunities can inspire student engagement, confidence, and future planning

Middle Vision continues to evolve each year, and the success of the 2025–2026 Session One reinforces just how meaningful this work is for our students and our community. We are proud to offer experiences that help every student imagine bold futures — and take their first steps toward them.



6th grade OVMS Middle Vision student Leontaye Barnes with his welded creation.

CARDINALS ON CAMPUS

OV High School students visited the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, and the University of Toledo, gaining first hand insight into campus life, admissions, and future opportunities. Our Cardinals are dreaming big and taking confident steps toward their goals!



WELCOME TO THE

VOLUME ZOO!

Mrs. Dault's students at Cardinal Elementary recently completed their innovative 'Volume Zoo' project. This assignment challenged students to construct animals using various boxes and then calculate the total volume. The unit concluded with a special exhibition, where students presented their calculations and creations to their families."





STUFFED WITH MATH NIGHT

Our **Stuffed with Math Night** was a huge success! Families enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner prepared and served by our amazing kitchen staff, followed by an evening full of math-focused fun. Students and families visited engaging stations, including an Estimation Station, Make-and-Take bead racks, a turkey craft, and our Friendship Measuring Mix activity.

A big shout-out to our incredible OVEE staff for creating such an enjoyable and memorable night. Our families left stuffed with great food, great learning, and even a few furry friends who stopped by to join the fun!



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



Shout out to our **dedicated K-5 teachers** for their continued commitment to learning and growing in our EL and Bridges curriculum. Through our state grant work, teachers are engaging in powerful professional learning that supports our shared commitment to gold-standard instruction.

Our early release days play a vital role by giving teachers time to collaborate, explore best practices, and strengthen the strategies and routines that meet the diverse needs of our students.



CARING CARDINALS!

Students at OV Early and Cardinal Elementary came together to donate an incredible **3,667** non-perishable items! OV Early students contributed their donations to *Mission for Area People*, a wonderful local organization that supports those in need. Cardinal Elementary is using their donations to create an on-site pantry to help Cardinal families who may be facing challenges.

This inspiring act of kindness not only cultivates giving hearts but also teaches students an important lesson: even if we aren't in need ourselves, we can come together to help others in our community.

Mrs. Cooper's second graders, winners of the building-wide food pantry collection challenge.



A special shout out to Emilia (left hand side) from Mr. Simila's class and Evelyn (right hand side) from Mrs. Poehl's class for being the top contributor's at OV Early El.

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A CARDINAL! #CARDINALSCAN

Students of the Month



OV Early Elementary

OV Cardinal Elementary

Orchard View Middle School

Orchard View High School

Orchard View Community Ed

NOVEMBER



CATTELEYA PACE



JANESSA QUINONES



KENNETH PARKER



BRENDEN TENGLER



RAYNE TEMPLE

OCTOBER



ALEXIS HIBBS



CAMILA PEREZ



NOVA COOPER



EMILEE SECREST



NIRVANA LONG-ROSS

A COMMUNITY Invested in Every Stage of Learning and Living

A thriving community is built when every generation feels seen, valued, and connected and at Orchard View, our schools are the heart of that connection. From our youngest learners to our most seasoned community members, we invest in people because strong schools create a strong community for all.

At Orchard View, our commitment to community isn't just something we say, it's something we live every day. We begin by supporting our youngest learners through high-quality child care for infants and toddlers and free preschool for all three- and four-year-olds, ensuring every child has the strong start they deserve.

As students begin their school journey at OV Early Elementary, they are welcomed by caring, highly qualified staff who provide individualized attention and a foundation for lifelong learning. Families also benefit from wrap-around child care programs, helping parents balance work and education while their children thrive. Students then move on to Cardinal Elementary, where second through fifth graders are supported by dedicated staff in a learning environment that continues to spark curiosity, foster growth, and build on academic success year after year.

At Orchard View Middle School, students engage in Middle Vision, our expanding after-school programming designed to nurture leadership, explore interests, and uncover potential career pathways. At Orchard View High School, AVID (Advancement Via Individual

Determination) is introduced, which prepares students for college, building organizational skills, confidence, and collaboration. For students who thrive in different learning settings, our Innovative Learning Center offers smaller class sizes, vocational pathways, and individualized support to ensure every student reaches graduation.

Our dedication doesn't end at graduation. Orchard View supports our community through Adult Enrichment classes, OV Travelers for those who want to explore beyond Muskegon County, and our Senior Citizen Program, providing opportunities to learn new skills, stay active, build friendships, and remain connected.

At every stage of life, there is something for everyone at Orchard View, because together, we are a community.

Let's continue to grow together!



COMMUNITY

ORCHARD VIEW SPORTS

Basketball - Boys Varsity

Tues 12/09/25	Fremont	A	7:00p
Fri 12/12/25	Montague	H	7:00p
Tues 12/16/25	Hesperia	A	7:00p
Thur 12/18/25	Manistee	H	7:00p
Tues 12/30/25	Lee (Hall of Fame Classic)	A	3:00p
Mon 01/12/26	Shelby	H	7:00p
Tues 01/13/26	Whitehall	H	7:00p
Fri 01/16/26	Oakridge	H	7:00p
Tues 01/20/26	Hart	A	7:00p
Thur 01/22/26	Montague	A	7:00p
Tues 01/27/26	Ludington	A	7:00p
Fri 01/30/26	Manistee	A	7:00p
Tues 02/03/26	Muskegon Catholic	H	7:00p
Fri 02/06/26	WMC	H	7:00p
Tues 02/10/26	Whitehall	A	7:00p
Fri 02/13/26	Oakridge	A	7:00p
Thur 02/19/26	Fremont	H	7:00p

Basketball - Boys Junior Varsity

Tues 12/09/25	Fremont	A	5:30p
Fri 12/12/25	Montague	H	5:30p
Tues 12/16/25	Hesperia Senior	A	5:30p
Thur 12/18/25	Manistee	H	5:30p
Wed 12/24/25	Oakridge	A	5:30p
Tues 12/30/25	Lee (Hall of Fame Classic)	A	5:30p
Mon 01/12/26	Shelby	H	5:30p
Tues 01/13/26	Whitehall	H	5:30p
Fri 01/16/26	Oakridge	H	5:30p
Tues 01/20/26	Hart	A	5:30p
Thur 01/22/26	Montague	A	5:30p
Tues 01/27/26	Ludington	A	5:30p
Fri 01/30/26	Manistee	A	5:30p
Tues 02/03/26	Muskegon Catholic	H	5:30p
Fri 02/06/26	WMC	H	5:30p
Tues 02/10/26	Whitehall	A	5:30p
Fri 02/13/26	Ludington	H	5:30p
Thur 02/19/26	Fremont	H	5:30p

Basketball - Boys Freshman

Tues 12/02/25	Comstock Park HS/MS	A	4:00p
Fri 02/06/26	WMC	H	4:00p

Basketball - Girls Varsity

Tues 12/09/25	Godwin Heights	H	7:00p
Thur 12/11/25	Montague	A	7:00p
Tues 12/16/25	Whitehall	H	7:00p
Fri 12/19/25	Manistee	A	7:00p
Tues 01/06/26	Ludington	H	7:00p
Mon 01/12/26	Muskegon Catholic	A	7:00p
Thur 01/15/26	Oakridge	A	7:00p
Tues 01/20/26	Fremont	H	7:00p
Fri 01/23/26	Montague	H	7:00p

Mon 01/26/26	North Muskegon	A	7:00p
Thur 01/29/26	Manistee	H	7:00p
Tues 02/03/26	Ludington	A	7:00p
Fri 02/06/26	Mona Shores	A	7:00p
Tues 02/10/26	Hesperia Senior	A	7:00p
Thur 02/12/26	Oakridge	H	7:00p
Wed 02/18/26	Holton	H	7:00p
Fri 02/20/26	Fremont	A	7:00p
Tues 02/24/26	Whitehall	A	7:00p
Thur 02/26/26	Kelloggsville	A	7:00p

Basketball - Girls Junior Varsity

Tues 12/09/25	Godwin Heights	H	5:30p
Thur 12/11/25	Montague	A	5:30p
Tues 12/16/25	Whitehall	H	5:30p
Fri 12/19/25	Manistee	A	5:30p
Tues 01/06/26	Ludington	H	5:30p
Mon 01/12/26	Muskegon Catholic	A	5:30p
Thur 01/15/26	Oakridge	A	5:30p
Tues 01/20/26	Fremont	H	5:30p
Fri 01/23/26	Montague	H	5:30p
Mon 01/26/26	North Muskegon	A	5:30p
Thur 01/29/26	Manistee	H	5:30p
Tues 02/03/26	Ludington	A	5:30p
Fri 02/06/26	Mona Shores	A	5:30p
Tues 02/10/26	Hesperia Senior	A	5:30p
Thur 02/12/26	Oakridge	H	5:30p
Wed 02/18/26	Holton	H	5:30p
Fri 02/20/26	Fremont	A	5:30p
Tues 02/24/26	Whitehall	A	5:30p
Thur 02/26/26	Kelloggsville	A	5:30p

Wrestling - Boys Varsity

Sat 12/06/25	Mona Shores HS	A	9:00a
Wed 12/10/25	Manistee	A	5:00p

Wed 12/10/25	Fremont	A	7:00p
Wed 12/17/25	Ludington	A	5:00p
Wed 12/17/25	Whitehall	A	6:00p
Sat 12/20/25	Chippewa Hills	A	TBA
Sat 12/27/25	Montague	A	9:00a
Wed 01/07/26	Oakridge	H	5:00p
Wed 01/07/26	Montague	H	7:00p
Wed 01/14/26	Mason County Central	A	5:00p
Wed 01/14/26	Hesperia Senior	A	7:00p
Wed 01/21/26	North Muskegon HS	A	5:00p
Wed 01/21/26	OPEN	A	7:00p
Sat 01/24/26	Ravenna (GMAA Tournament)	A	9:00a
Wed 01/28/26	Hart	A	5:00p
Wed 01/28/26	Ravenna	A	7:00p
Sat 01/31/26	Montague	A	9:00a
Fri 02/06/26	Montague (Conference Tournament)	A	1:00p

Wrestling - Boys Middle School

Wed 02/11/26	Quad w/Montague/Hesperia/Mason County Central	A	4:00p
Wed 02/25/26	Quad w/Fremont, Hart, Muskegon Catholic	A	4:00p

Cheerleading - Girls Varsity

Wed 01/07/26	Fremont	A	5:00p
Sat 01/10/26	Ludington	A	9:00a
Wed 01/14/26	Montabella	A	5:00p
Wed 01/21/26	Whitehall	A	5:00p
Wed 01/28/26	Oakridge	A	5:00p
Wed 02/04/26	Shelby	A	5:00p

Cheerleading - Girls Middle School

Mon 12/08/25	Mason Co. Central MS	A	5:00p
Mon 12/15/25	Hart MS	A	5:00p
Sat 01/10/26	Ludington HS	A	9:30a
Mon 01/12/26	Montague NBC MS	A	5:00p
Tues 01/20/26	Ludington MS	A	5:00p

Bowling - Boys Varsity

Mon 12/29/25	Cardinal Invite	H	9:30a
Sat 01/10/26	Reeths-Puffer	A	9:00a
Wed 02/04/26	Montague (GMAA Meet)	A	TBA

Bowling - Girls Varsity

Mon 12/29/25	Cardinal Invite	H	9:30p
Sat 01/10/26	Reeths-Puffer	A	9:00a
Wed 02/04/26	Montague (GMAA Meet)	A	TBA

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALL-CONFERENCE ATHLETES!



FOOTBALL
1ST TEAM
Ca'Mari Reese

HONORABLE MENTION
Thomas Klein
Lawrence Spencer
Xander Randall



BOYS SOCCER
1ST TEAM
Xander Randall
Santino Rivera

HONORABLE MENTION
Caiden Weiler



VOLLEYBALL
1ST TEAM
Delaya Johnson

HONORABLE MENTION
Elixis Scott



ORCHARD VIEW SCHOOLS

35 S. Sheridan
Muskegon, MI 49442

NONPROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 623
Muskegon, MI

BUILDING CONTACTS:

Central Office 231-760-1300

High School 231-760-1400

Middle School 231-760-1500

Cardinal Elementary 231-760-1700

OV Early Elementary 231-760-1850

Community Education 231-760-1350

**innOVative Learning Center/
Adult Education 231-760-1953**

ORCHARDVIEW.ORG



FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE: Rethinking What a Well-Rounded Education Should Be

By Nick Kunnen, Director of Adult & Alternative Education

What does it truly mean to be well educated today? Is it the depth of knowledge students can recall, the real-world skills they can apply, or the dispositions they bring to new and unfamiliar challenges? At Orchard View's Innovative Learning Center (ILC), we're leaning into these questions as we examine the balance students need not only to graduate, but to thrive in an increasingly complex world.

In recent years, it's become clear that learning doesn't exist within a single classroom or curriculum. It grows within a broader educational ecosystem, a network of teachers, support staff, families, community partners, local employers, and even the learners themselves. Each part of this system influences how students develop academically, socially, and emotionally. So we ask ourselves: Are we, as an ecosystem, creating conditions that nurture not just knowledge, but also essential skills and dispositions?

This year, the ILC is intentionally rebalancing its approach. While content knowledge remains foundational, we are elevating the role of transferable skills, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, digital literacy, and the dispositions that shape lifelong learning, such as curiosity, resilience, empathy, and determination. Through competency-based learning, authentic project work, and increased



community-connected experiences, students are engaging in tasks that mirror the complexity of real life.

This shift doesn't mean abandoning traditional knowledge based approaches; it means strengthening it with relevance and purpose. It means designing learning that invites students to question, to explore, to reflect, and to demonstrate their growth in multiple ways. And it means working together across

our educational ecosystem to support students as whole people, not just as test takers, credit earners, or course completers.

We certainly don't claim to have all the answers. But we are committed to asking the right questions and evolving our practices to meet the moment. Because when the ecosystem is balanced, when knowledge, skills, and dispositions work together, students don't just prepare for the future. They help shape it!

