

# Cardinal Connection

Serving the Communities of  
**Bloomington, Grand Junction & Pullman**

Publication of Bloomington Public Schools

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## PULLMAN ELEMENTARY

### M-Step

Students in grades 3-5 are required to take the M-STEP which is an online standardized test. Students in 5th grade, they will be taking 4 sub-tests: Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students in 3rd and 4th grade will be taking 2 sub-tests: Reading and Math. All students who are working in-person will be taking the test while they are in school, and those students who are working remotely will be scheduled to come in on a Friday to take the test with their teacher.

The testing schedule for Pullman is as follows:		<b>4th-Grade</b>	
Reading	4/20/2021	Reading	5/4/2021
Math	4/21/2021	Math	5/5/2021
Science	4/22/2021	Make-up	5/6/2021
Social Studies	4/27/2021	Remote Learners	5/7/2021
Remote Learners	4/23/2021	<b>3rd-Grade</b>	
Remote Learners	4/30/2021	Reading	5/11/2021
		Math	5/12/2021
		Make up	5/13/2021
		Remote Learners	5/14/2021

## BLOOMINGTON ELEMENTARY

The M-Step testing schedule for Bloomington Elementary is as follows:

<b>5th-Grade</b>	4/19-23/2021	<b>3rd &amp; 4th Grade</b>	
Remote Learners	4/23/2021	Remote learners	4/30/2021
<b>4th-Grade</b>	4/26-30/2021	<b>3rd-Grade</b>	4/26-30/2021

### Young 5 Guest Teacher

The Young Fives were honored to have a guest presentation by a cadet teacher, Carolina Perales. Her presentation was about the Earth and the planets in the solar system. The students read a book, Fly Guy Presents Space, sang a song, completed a worksheet, and looked at a model presentation so that they could create their own planet. The students were especially excited to try on the homemade astronaut helmet. The presentation was very enjoyable and exciting for our class. Great job Carolina!



### Vegetable Gardens

Spring has sprung at Pullman Elementary! We know when spring comes at Pullman Elementary because our students work hard to prepare the vegetable gardens. The students enjoy being able to get outside, prepare the soil for growing, and planting seeds. Over the next several weeks, the students will take care of the gardens by watering and weeding to ensure they will be able to grow vegetables. Mrs. DeVries oversees the gardens and supports any other teacher who wants to extend their lessons to the gardens.



### Focus on Literacy

While students are at school, teachers and paraprofessionals are working hard to support students' growth in all academic areas. Literacy is very important because it carries over into all other content areas. This year, we have been trying to support our students and their families at home with ways to improve literacy skills.

Students have received 9-12 books to keep at home. It is very important for students to practice their reading skills everyday by reading books. Teachers have significantly increased communication to all families and have supported them by giving suggestions on other ways to support literacy. Reading should be a fun and enjoyable activity. Here are few ways families can help their students become better readers:

#### Read Aloud

When you read out loud to your child you are helping them understand new ideas, build new knowledge and learn the meanings of words.

- Ask your child questions before, during and after you read the book. It is important that they understand what they are reading and can talk about it.
  - Examples: What do you think the story is about? What has happened in the story so far? What do you think will happen next? What was your favorite part of the story?
- Ask your child to tell you about the characters in the story and where the story takes place.
- Ask them to point to the cover of the book, the title, where you start reading on a page, have them point to a word or specific words, or point to a letter or specific letter.
- Talk about sounds in words, point out letters and letter sounds
  - Have your child tell you the sounds of letters.
  - Point to words as you read them.
- Provide a variety of materials for your child to read. Read everything, anytime.
- Have fun! Encourage a love for reading! Bring the words to life as you read.
  - Use different voices for different characters.
  - Set aside a time each day or evening for reading. Make it a family event.
  - Find a quiet space or corner to read in.

### March is Reading Month



We always try to make March is Reading month a very fun and exciting month to celebrate reading. This year was just as much fun as previous years. Our theme was "Reading is Sweet". We created a Candy Land game board that extended around the whole school with the titles of books that every student read every day. Our goal was to make it around the school and the students were also surprised with a guest appearance from Cinderella who came all the way from her palace to give each student a book.

Each week a member of the Sweet Royalty visited the students: Queen of Candy, King of Cookies, Jester of Jello, and Duchess of Donuts. Students were given a book to keep each week along with a special sweet treat from the Sweet Royalty. The students were also surprised with a guest appearance from Cinderella who came all the way from her palace to give each student a book.

During the last week of March the students celebrated with fun games and prizes. They were also visited by the Easter Bunny who gave away candy and special prizes. Students were also put into a drawing for McDonald's coupons.

"The students and staff enjoyed all of the exciting activities that took place throughout the Sweet month of March. The fun activities made school feel a little more 'normal' as this school year has not felt very 'normal' in so many ways," stated Melissa Corona, Principal.

### Farm Crates

Michigan Blueberry Growers Association has generously donated lessons in the form of Farm Crates to our Kindergarten through 2nd Grade classes. Both Bloomington Elementary and Pullman Elementary receive these Farm Crates from the American Farm Bureau each month. Ms. Huff's Kindergarten class at Pullman Elementary recently enjoyed a lesson based on fruits and vegetables. We learned about the different parts of plants that we eat: roots, stems, flowers, tubers, fruits, and leaves. We enjoyed the two stories that went along with the lesson on fruits and vegetables. Afterwards, we explored the Ag Mag newspaper and read an article on popcorn. We learned that popcorn is a different type of corn grown just for popping! Funding is made possible by the charitable giving committee partnership with Naturipe Farms. We are looking forward to more lessons from AFB



### 2021 Honor Roll for 1st Semester

<b>6th Grade Highest Honors</b> Bailey Allison Nathan Coleman Ezekiel Gonzalez Aria Reed Rachel Reilly Rebekah Youngblood <b>High Honors</b> Travis Graham Hannah Hammond <b>Honors</b> Lluvia Alberto-De La Rosa Aiden Byers Paul Edwards Kyleigh Gillan Evalyn Hegelmann Randy Martinez Lozano Kimberly Mendez Gomez Mattilyn Raterink Nevaeh Shinn Nathan Warner	<b>8th Grade Highest Honors</b> Michael Sullins <b>High Honors</b> Joshua Dowd <b>Honors</b> Lillanne Ashbrook Alex Finch Loucas Georgiou Alyssa Hernandez Garcia Kyra Pirch Reed Remington Janely Salazar Samuel Stocchiero Samuel Youngblood  <b>9th Grade Highest Honors</b> Lupita Garcia Staci Hassing Jaiden Horvath Alondra Martinez Aguilar Yulissa Perales Julian Serna <b>High Honors</b> Julie Salazar <b>Honors</b> Jaden Barnes Morgan Cross Cadence Graham Emma Hosier Gracie Hutchins Evan Jewett Cassandra Johnson Katie Karvaneek Abigail Krall Benjamin Krall Jaiden Manning Kenya Martinez Lozano Annel Morales Lita Null Avimael Romero Diaz Mirella Salazar-Garcia Jocelynn Suranyi Roxanne Sustaita  <b>10th grade Highest Honors</b> Abigail Hernandez <b>High Honors</b> Maria Sustaita <b>Honors</b> Manuel Alberto-De La Rosa	Jenae Bennett Monica Corona-Garcia Madryn Hegelmann Katelyn Jewett Addison Miller Jennifer Salazar-Garcia <b>11th grade Highest Honors</b> Antonio Garcia Jacob Kolean Salvador Serna Jr. <b>High Honors</b> Makennah Vandommelen Noah Wells <b>Honors</b> Emma Allison Malachi Cassels Drake Cross Otto Cuesta Martinez Adrian Floren Neomy Garcia Trejo Martha Garcia-Frausto Devin Halliday Hillard "DJ" Kirby Marissa Latham Callin Lenont Elisha Rude Allison Starbuck Leslie Sustaita Hunter Thrasher <b>12th Grade Highest Honors</b> Angelina Andrade-Marquez Caiyla Felty Carson Fisher Kallie Harrison Savannah Hayes Maria Herrera Alexander Houdek Olaisa Moss Aimee Sustaita Christopher Taylor Nicole Weinert <b>High Honors</b> Mavrick Manning LeAnne Pettipas Amber Specie <b>Honors</b> Elizabeth Amos Marta Douglas Stephen Stocchiero Trace Wixom
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### Summer School K-8

Bloomington Public Schools will be offering summer school to those K-12 students who have been identified as being below benchmark. If your student has been identified as needing summer school, you should have had contact with someone from the school. In addition, letters will be going home the week of April 12 to give families time to complete the commitment form to hold their spot. Additionally, families will need to complete a transportation form specifically for summer school if you will need to use school transportation.

The schedule for summer school for Elementary and Middle School students is below:

Session 1: June 14 - July 9 Session 2: July 12- August 6  
Summer school will be Monday - Friday 8:00 AM -12:00 PM. The focus of the education will be Reading, Math, and Science Monday -Thursday, and Friday will be additional innovative instruction that may include: Art, Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Activities, Outdoor Education, Gardening, field trips, etc.

All students will be given breakfast and lunch each day. Families can have their student attend Session 1, Session 2, or both Sessions. Each session is 4 weeks long.

### Credit Recovery 9-12

Students in grades 9 - 12, who need to make up classes toward graduation requirements, will be invited to attend summer school as well. These students will have the opportunity to complete courses delivered via Edgenuity that are customized by teachers to deliver needed content and skills that will allow students to demonstrate mastery of essential learning objectives. High school students with internet access and their own device will be permitted to work on their courses from home but are encouraged to attend in person for additional support from a certified teacher. We will have a limited number of spots available for students that need to use school technology to complete their classes. Busing will be also available if needed.

### Global Youth Service Day Grant

A group of 8th grade students will be participating in Global Youth Service Day this spring. Their participation was made possible by a \$100 grant from the Michigan Community Service Commission.

Students will be creating Spanish/English labels for common items in elementary classrooms to help English language learners learn the words for a variety of classroom objects and English speakers will learn Spanish terms for those same objects.

Van Buren County ISD Teacher Consultant Kathleen Kroll and 8th grade science teacher Alan Bobalik worked together to write the grant proposal and find students who wanted to help out with the project. "We have had a great group of 8th graders that have helped with hallway decoration and school spirit activities all year and they jumped at the chance to help out with this project" said Bobalik.

Over the next 2 weeks students will create a list of common elementary classroom objects, design and make Spanish/English labels for those items, then distribute them to classrooms at Bloomington and Pullman Elementary.

Kathleen Kroll had this to say about the project "Creating a language-rich classroom environment has research-supported benefits for both native English speakers and second language learners. We're excited to bridge middle school student's knowledge with early elementary students' needs."

The 8th grade students who are participating in this project are Joanna Deaquino, Gretchen Hutchins, DeeAhna Cross, Ruby Gonzalez, Diana Corona-Garcia, Janely Salazar, Lillianne Ashbrook, Alyssa Hernandez-Garcia, Celine Macias, Jennifer Deleon-Meza, Madison Miller, Jessica Ceja-Morales, Maria Hernandez-Castano, Charish Crawford, Josh Odell, and Betzabeth Ventura-Gonzalez.

### Portage Invite Scholarship

This past fall senior Chris Taylor concluded his high school cross country career by competing at the regional cross country meet for the first time. The race was held at the Portage West Middle School, which is also the site of the Portage Invite. Unfortunately, due to Covid precautions, the Portage Invite was not held in 2020. However, the Portage Invite did continue its tradition of awarding a \$1000 scholarship to a senior cross country runner, and this year the winner of that scholarship was Chris Taylor.

After his fall running season was over, Chris worked on the scholarship application, writing a personal essay and soliciting a letter of support from his cross country coach, Alan Bobalik. Chris's essay is undoubtedly what put him over the top as a candidate for the coveted scholarship. For Chris, the Portage Invite wasn't just another race on the schedule, it had a very personal meaning for him. During the 2018 cross country season Chris was looking forward to racing at the Portage Invite, as it is the largest cross country race in the entire state of Michigan. Unfortunately, a few weeks before the race his grandmother became very sick and passed away. He spent the morning of the race by her side in hospice care. She had always been Chris's biggest fan and fiercest supporter. Before her passing Chris promised her that next season he would finally compete in the Portage Invite and he would do so in her honor.

Throughout his time on the cross country team, Chris carried that same desire with him each day and achieved all-conference honorable mention his senior year.

"Chris is the embodiment of what a cross country runner should be" said coach Bobalik "he is competitive, determined and a great teammate. This scholarship could not have gone to a better person. I look forward to following Chris's path throughout life, I know it will lead to great places."

### Clay Baskets

Due to our crazy Covid schedules this school year, Mrs. Murphy, who has been the Art teacher at Bloomington for 27 years, has been teaching sixth grade Science. This spring, during the unit on Thermal Energy, she decided to take the concept one step further and show the students one way heat and energy work in a real life situation. Each sixth grade cohort (in-school only) spent a week in the Art room making spring baskets from clay. They discussed some of the properties of clay and the process of making clay into a "glass-like" substance. Students used plastic bowls for a mold to help them shape the baskets using coils of clay. They then put a balloon inside their finished basket and used that to hold up the handle. When the baskets were made, they were left out to dry and fired in the kiln. The administration was kind enough to give Mrs. Murphy a few dollars to purchase some spring-colored, fun glazes for the baskets. Students then had to put 2-3 layers of glaze on them. They were fired again and students had a great spring basket to use for the holiday break. It was a fun break for the students to do some hands-on learning and gave the Art teacher an opportunity to show that Art can be used across the curriculum in many ways.

### News From The Band Program

There are many challenges to being in band during a pandemic, such as remembering your protective band masks and bell covers, learning from home, and not being able to have traditional concerts, but our students have done an excellent job at taking on these challenges to keep the music alive. We have much to update you on the goings on of the band program and we hope we can get back to performing for you live soon!

#### High School Concert Band:

The High School band students have been working hard year round. They had their first indoor performance at the Winterfest Pep Assembly and had a blast doing so!

We also had a few recorded performances this year! The students just finished putting together a concert video which is available to view on the Band's Facebook page; "Bloomington Band Pride". If you aren't already a member of the page, feel free to request access and you'll be able to view the video.

We're getting ready for our next concert video and public performance at the 2021 Graduation Ceremony on May 28th!

#### 7th and 8th Grade Band:

After a year of being unable to meet, I am excited to announce that we're getting the band back together! We will be having middle school band camps on Saturdays throughout the spring from 9:00 A.M to 12:00 P.M in the band room to help get our program back up and running! The first rehearsal is April 17th!

There will also be a virtual middle school band class that will be starting the following Monday for all remote band learners. Keep an eye out for more information! Contact Mr. Arking if you have any questions.

#### Beginning Band:

Calling all 5th and 6th graders! Are you interested in joining the band next year? Would you like to learn how to play an instrument and be a part of the proud tradition that is the Bloomington Band Program? On April 20th and 21st, you will have the opportunity to try out a few instruments and sign up for band class next year. On April 20th, I, along with a few fitters from Meyer Music, will visit the Elementary Schools to fit students and talk about band class. 6th graders will have the same opportunity the next day. For remote students, there is a virtual fitting sign up that has been sent to your email. Those take place on the same day as your grade's fitting and will only last 10 minutes. If you do not have that email, please contact Mr. Arking.

We're super excited for what the future holds for the band program! If you have any questions or need to get in contact with Mr. Arking, you can email him at [barking@bdalecards.org](mailto:barking@bdalecards.org).

