

# PLAINWELL

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## SCHOOL MATTERS



### second trimester

In this issue of School Matters, we highlight the activities and events from the second trimester at PCS.

### seniors

In this issue of School Matters, we highlight and celebrate our 2020 seniors - CONGRATULATIONS!

### distance learning

In this issue of School Matters, we review our response to the COVID-19 outbreak and highlight how PCS is handling distance learning.



# CONTENTS

## 03. ADMINISTRATIVE VIEWPOINTS

Letters and news from Matthew Montange, Superintendent

## 04. COVID-19 RESPONSE

Latest news, updates & thanks from PCS regarding the COVID-19 cancellation

## 06. ELEMENTARY & PCS

Latest news & events from PCS and Gilkey, Cooper & Starr Elementary Schools

## 10. MIDDLE SCHOOL

Latest news & events from PMS

## 12. HIGH SCHOOL

Latest news & events from PHS

## 13. RENAISSANCE & COMMUNITY ED.

Latest news & events from Renaissance High School & Community Education

## 14. SENIORS

CONGRATULATIONS! Highlights from the 2020 senior graduates

## 18. ATHLETICS

Latest news & events from Plainwell Trojan Athletics





# ADMINISTRATIVE VIEWPOINTS

## SUPERINTENDENT MATTHEW MONTANGE

Dear PCS Families and Community,

These past couple of months have been such a strange experience for everyone as we adjust to a situation that no one has been through before with very little in the way of accurate information. We asked you to step up and you did. This massive effort has been noticed and is GREATLY appreciated by our community, our kids and parents, and our team here at PCS. We have gotten so much positive feedback, especially with our communications to parents and our efforts to get work together for kids. Our staff and district made the choice to step up right away and provide work and services for kids, this would not have been possible without our great staff. We have asked our families and staff to be as flexible as needed, and to be patient as we adjust to a new way of teaching and learning. We do not know what the fall will bring for schools in Michigan BUT rest assured that PCS will have multiple plans in place and ready to go for our staff and students. It is not possible for me to thank all of you directly, this was truly a team effort and it would not have happened without your willingness to put in the effort. I am so thankful to work and live in such a community and it is an absolute privilege to lead and work alongside each of you. Thank you so much.

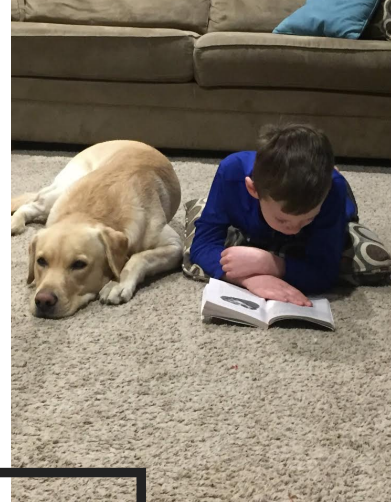
Our wireless extenders are up and running at the High School, Middle School, and Cooper parking lots. You are welcome and encouraged to use this free wireless from our parking lots if needed to complete online work. Don't forget that our Chromebook repair service is up and running and available multiple times a week, check the PCS website for details.

If you need help with school work, school supplies, food access, mental health support, or have a general concern or comment, please contact your teacher or building principal. We will do our best to connect you to the appropriate person or organization that can best meet your needs. We are here to help you and will continue to do so throughout this school closure and beyond.

We will continue to follow Executive Orders from the Governor regarding reopening our facilities and re-starting activities. When we are allowed to open we will do so. We will also be celebrating our Senior Class a little differently this year so be on the lookout for opportunities to support and celebrate our Class of 2020!







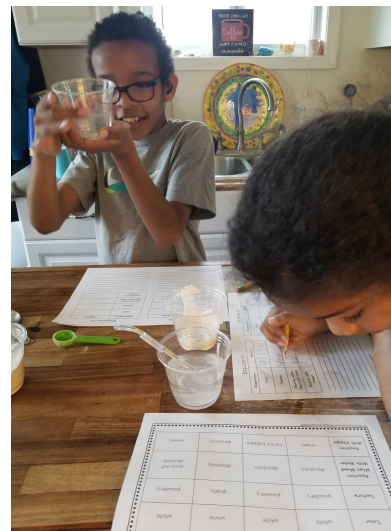
# MANY THANKS

**FOOD SERVICE & GOOD HANDS:** A very special thank you to the Plainwell food service team for their continued work and effort during the school cancellation. Through April, they served over 22,700 meals to our community! In addition, Good Hands and their volunteers have continued to provide weekend meal bags. They have provided 6,950 meals to the PCS students and their families! **THANK YOU FOR YOUR AMAZING EFFORTS IN HELPING OUR COMMUNITY!**

**TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS & SUPPORT STAFF:** Thank you for your tireless and dedicated work in providing for our students during the closure. From creating learning packets and continued learning options, to your efforts and dedication to disinfecting and keeping our school and buses safe, to keeping in touch with families and supporting the students' needs, we are incredibly thankful! Each of your efforts are noticed and we greatly appreciate all you are doing to continue to stay engaged and supportive to PCS, the students and their families during this time!

**FAMILIES & COMMUNITY:** Thank you for your support during the closure. We appreciate you working with your students to continue their education through the learning packets and online learning options! We know this is added work and stress and we SO appreciate your support!

**STUDENTS:** Thank you for continuing to be your best self during the closure. We appreciate you for your efforts to continue your education, for supporting your family by being helpful and by helping our community with uplifting thoughts and actions. You make us proud! Always strive to: **WORK HARD & BE NICE TO PEOPLE!**





## CONTINUED LEARNING

Plainwell Community Schools is continuing to offer educational opportunities during the COVID-19 closure. Through online options and personalized learning packets, students are able to continue learning from home with educational and reasonable lessons from their classroom. Our goal is to continue to provide learning opportunities without overwhelming the student and/or family during this new and challenging time. We appreciate the support of our administrators, teachers, support staff, community, students and their families during the COVID-19 closure. We ❤️ the Plainwell Community!

## GIVING BACK

Throughout the COVID-19 break and cancellation, Plainwell Community Schools gave back to the community in many ways. Many classrooms, school buildings, and PCS families donated their unused products to local charities - including cleaning & disinfectant products, unused snacks & food and other products to help give back to the community that supports us. In addition, many teachers came together to make home-sewn masks to donate to local healthcare facilities to help with the mask shortage.

## ESSENTIAL WORKER THANK YOU

Gilkey Elementary created an awesome project as a way to thank the essential workers throughout our community and world. They reached out to the students throughout the district to request THANK YOU pictures, which they put together in a video and sent to the essential workers to say thank you for the selfless and hard work they are doing during the coronavirus outbreak.

From all of us at PCS - **THANK YOU** to every essential worker who has so willingly provided love and support to all of humanity during this time - you are a HERO!

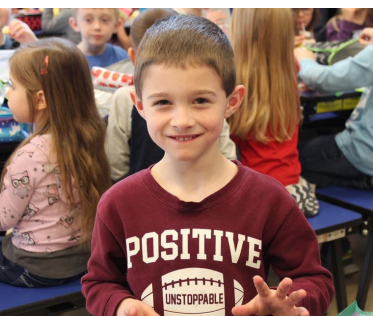
## STAYING CONNECTED

We are all missing the PCS students greatly during this time away from school. To stay connected, the district has come up with many ways to engage with students and the community. Individual school buildings have created YouTube Channels, Facebook Pages, Zoom chats and several personalized videos to continue to connect with students by reading stories, doing art projects, going on adventures and providing activity options for families!

In addition, individual schools have come up with fun ways to support their students with yard signs, as well as social distance greetings. Plainwell Corners Preschool teachers, along with others throughout the district have held social distance parades or drive by greetings with banners and signs to wish their students well.







# COOPER NEWS

LATEST FROM THE KOALAS

## GNN! COOPER'S GOOD NEWS NEWS

In early January 2020, Christine Beach's fourth grade class at Cooper Elementary created a news channel: Good News News (GNN), where each week they highlight a positive news story from around the world. The project is an awesome way for the students to come together - they research, create and produce the show each week. The project encourages the students to work as a team, as well as look for the good in the world. Even during the COVID-19 cancellation, students continued the production of GNN. The Barrows Family reported from their home and shared ways to give back to the community.

There are plenty of great stories in the world and the fourth grade class at Cooper has created a great way to share them - GNN!

## KOALA'S GIVE BACK

From one group of koalas to another! A special thank you to the students at Cooper Elementary who raised \$300 (in one week!) to donate to a foundation in support of the koalas that were impacted by the Australian wildfires. Way to go Cooper Koalas and thank you to all that supported the fundraiser!

## NATIONAL READING MONTH

March was National Reading Month and Cooper Elementary had a lot of fun activities planned throughout the month, including readable t-shirt day, hat day, and a visit from author Pam Cameron! What a fun way to recognize the importance of reading!



# GILKEY NEWS

LATEST FROM THE GECKOS

## READ ALOUD DAY

For World Read Aloud Day, the Gilkey Gecko's fourth grade students read to the kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classes. It was a fun way for students to share their love for reading with other students. Thank you to the teachers who put together this special day and to the upper elementary students who shared their favorite stories with the lower elementary students!

## GECKO CART

For National School Breakfast Week (March 2-6), Gilkey Elementary along with Plainwell's Food Service Department introduced a new Gecko Cart for breakfast service. The cart featured different breakfast items all week long, where the students were able to enjoy a new and convenient breakfast concept.

## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

In late February, teams from Plainwell and Otsego Elementary Schools competed in a quiz bowl type of competition for 3rd-5th grade students. The teams read and studied seven different stories and after several months competed in the Battle of the Books.

It was a fun competition that started with 18 teams who battled for the opportunity to move on to the Grand Battle. The top three teams from each battle advanced to the Grand Battle where the "Book Spies" from Gilkey Elementary brought home the trophy!

Way to go to all those that competed and congratulations to the winning team!





# CONGRATULATIONS

to PCS Elementary Schools' Kindergarten graduates as they finalize their first year of school! We wish you all the best in first grade! We also congratulate our 5th graders as they finish their last year of elementary school - best wishes in Middle School. We are so proud of you!



## AUTHOR VISIT

March was National Reading Month, which allowed for many fun opportunities for the elementary schools to celebrate. Each school had a number of great activities, special reading programs and more to make the month extra special.

The elementary schools also hosted a special guest for National Reading Month. Students and staff from all three elementary schools received a visit from Author Pam Cameron, who shared her book "Sport - Ship Dog of the Great Lakes." Ms. Cameron provided a presentation, along with highlights from her book.

It was a great experience for the students and we are very thankful and appreciative for Ms. Cameron taking the time to visit PCS!

## BAND & CHOIR FIFTH GRADE PRESENTATION

It was a fun experience for the PCS fifth grade classes as the middle school band and choir presented and performed for them on Valentine's Day. It was a great opportunity for the students to show what they have learned in their music classes in middle school and provided a good introduction for the fifth grade students to learn about the different programs available to them when they enter middle school.

Thank you to all that participated in this fun presentation!

# STARR NEWS





# PCS NEWS

## KINDERGARTEN & 2020-21 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, students will register online to attend PCS, beginning with new Kindergarten enrollees, the Class of 2033.

A parent/guardian enrolling a new student will be asked to upload the following: Property deed, rental agreement or recent tax statement, utility bill (city water/sewer, electric, or gas) dated within 30 days that includes the name of the parent/guardian.

We will also use this process for parents/guardians to update their student's information. Each year, beginning in July, parents of each and every student will be asked to update data. Even if there are no changes you will be asked to log-in to Infinite Campus and acknowledge that there are no changes. This will allow us to have updated information prior to school starting. We will no longer be sending home the demographic sheets at the beginning of the school year.

Parents updating their child's information will need to supply the above mentioned documents if anything has changed since the previous school year such as custody or residency.

We will be sending out more information as we get closer to rolling this out.



## BOND UPDATE

- Community Center - Construction complete Summer 2020
- MS Wing Addition - Construction starts Winter/Spring 2021
- Elementary Playgrounds - Construction complete Spring/Summer 2021
- Community Pool - Construction starts Spring 2022
- Community Gymnasium - Construction starts Spring 2022
- Other Projects - Construction starts Spring 2024

## PARENT PORTAL UPDATE

HELP US HELP YOU! Please be sure that we have the correct contact information for your family for School Messenger. To confirm that we have the correct information, please log-in to your Infinite Campus Parent Portal account. Once logged-in to your parent portal account, please verify your contact information to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information for your family. Please visit [plainwellschools.org](http://plainwellschools.org) for step by step instructions to review your parent portal account.



# MIDDLE

## NJHS FLEECE BLANKETS

During February, the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) requested donations from the community for their fleece blanket project. Once they had collected all the material, the Middle School NJHS students made 21 fleece blankets during their first session, but were unable to meet for a second session because of the announcement to close school. The blankets were donated to Bronson Children's Hospital and the extra fleece that wasn't big enough for blankets will be used to make cat/dog toys that will be donated.

A big thank you for all the community donations, as well as many thanks to the NJHS students that participated in this special project!

## PBIS PROGRAM

Plainwell Middle School kicked-off the PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Program on March 10. The program is intended to support PMS in teaching school expectations for areas around the building, to reinforce appropriate behavior when teachers catch students being good, help ALL students meet school expectations and reward students for making good choices!

The PBIS Program is a great program to remind students of positive choices and behavior, PMS looks forward to continuing this program in the Fall 2020.

## GEOGRAPHY BEE

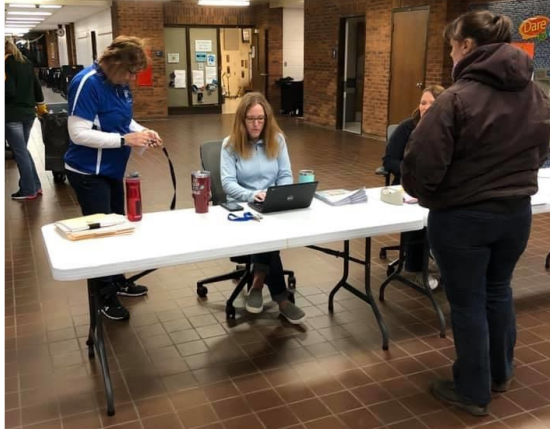
In February, the Middle School students competed in seven rounds of competition through their Social Studies or U.S. History classes. A point was earned for each correct answer and at the end of the seven rounds the finalist for each class was determined. Those finalists then went on to compete in the ESC with Middle School Principal, Mrs. Stamos, as the moderator. It was an intense competition with Jacob Erdody taking third place, Richard Ritzema taking second and Logan Tungate taking first!

In addition, Logan Tungate went on to qualify for the State finals for the National Geography Bee! Way to go Logan - Trojan pride!





# SCHOOL



## YEARBOOK COVER

Each year Plainwell Middle School encourages their students to submit a cover for the yearbook which is voted on by their peers. We are excited to congratulate our top three entries: 1st place Sarah Lagenour, 2nd place Joel Schober and 3rd place Olivia Perrin. Sarah Lagenour's artwork was selected as the 2019-20 yearbook cover and is also featured on the back of School Matters.

We are incredibly proud of all of the talented entries and congratulate Sarah as the winner!



## PMS PRE-FESTIVAL CONCERT

In February, the 6th, 7th and 8th grade choirs, as well as the honors choir performed for their pre-festival concert. All four groups performed the music they were preparing for Choir Festival.

It was a beautiful concert for all those that were in attendance.



## CHALKBOARD PROJECT

In March, Plainwell Middle School's Student Council shared a presentation at our Board Meeting for an upcoming project at the school, the Chalkboard Project. "The purpose of the Chalkboard Project is to change the way we speak to one another". The program changes the way that students see themselves, as well as how they perceive other students see them.

The program will launch next year at Plainwell Middle School where the Student Council is very excited to introduce this concept to the PMS students.



## CONGRATULATIONS

to Plainwell Middle School 8th grade students as they complete their final year in Middle School. Best wishes as you continue your education in High School. Go Trojans!



# TOOHS HIGH SCHOOL



## UMATTER

During the week of March 9, Plainwell High School presented UMatteer week. In an effort to increase awareness of teen suicide and mental health issues, 50 PHS students planned a week long event to let each and every PHS student know they matter. It was a celebration of life and events included mindfulness workshops, what's your spark contests, safe talks and more. These events were part of the school day by holding a short PLUS time each day. PHS is proud of the students for hosting this week-long event, it was a great week to remind all PHS students that "UMatter".

## MI HEART AWARD

In February, Plainwell High School was awarded with the MI HEARTsafe School Award. This was awarded "For exemplary work to prepare and protect students, staff and visitors in the event of a cardiac emergency". Way to go PHS!

## PHS CHOIR

Congratulations to the PHS Choir! All four of our choir ensembles competed at the Choral Festival in February and all four qualified to move on to sing at the State Choral Festival in May which was unfortunately canceled. This is a huge accomplishment and we are very excited and proud of their hard work.

## HOLOCAUST LITERATURE CLASS

In early March, the PHS Holocaust Literature classes went to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Farmington Hills. They had a tour specifically designed by the education specialists at the museums to further students understanding of the curriculum of their class including the history, stories of the survivors and the implications of being a bystander. The students also had the opportunity to meet a survivor during the visit. What an amazing learning experience for these High School students.



**PERSONAL WELLNESS & COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

Mr. (Bill) Stouffer and his wife, Rachel have been recording videos twice weekly for the Renaissance alternative and adult learners complete with instructional and motivational posters. Since they are at home with their children, you can often find them working out together. As soon as the school closure was announced, Mr. Stouffer volunteered to do this right away because he was concerned over the student's health and well-being. Through years of observation, we have learned how positively physical activity affects our students and it's important for us to deliver those opportunities to them. The RHS students are notoriously happier during Softball season and we believe keeping yourself active and happy is an important life-long skill.

**LESSONS - ASL CLASS VIA ZOOM**

Before the closure, Miss Sarah Johnson was facilitating an online American Sign Language (ASL) class with a group of RHS students. Since the formation of the group, they learned the basics such as letters and greetings, researched cultural norms, and performed a holiday song. They had a few remaining projects to complete, one was researching the top ASL Universities and the other was performing the National Anthem at the RHS graduation ceremony. The closure did slow them down but they are (virtually) back together again learning and sharing. Whether or not they will be able to perform at the graduation ceremony is yet to be determined, but their determination is not.

**RHS GRADS/ GRADS-TO-BE**

Like so many students around the world, Renaissance Alternative and Adult Education students are finding new ways to accomplish their goals. So far, about half of the RHS students have fully completed their requirements and the other half are working from a distance. When the time comes and the Renaissance graduating class of 2020 gets to celebrate, there will be a lot to be thankful for and look forward to. This will be it's first ever group of graduates to exceed 100 graduates! The construction on the Community Center is set to begin soon and our programming is proving strong and resilient through the recent closure challenges. Congratulations to all of the Renaissance graduates, as well as those pictured:

*Congratulations*

**RHS GRADUATES**

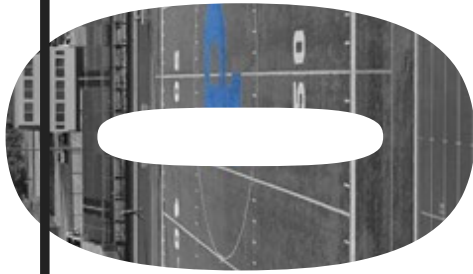
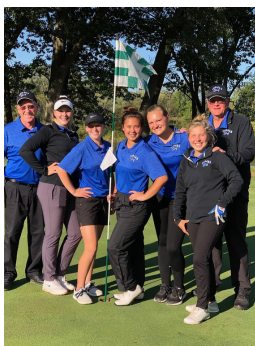
Lorriann Ai, Andrew Anderson, Jessica Arendt, John Asselmeier, David Babbitt, Tarah Belknap, April Bennett, Moses Bifaruka, Cody Bockheim, Melissa Botchway, Logan Brand, Carter Brizendine, Kahle Broadhurst, Jeffrey Brown, Josiah Buer, Damien Clodfelter, Greg Converse, Dylan Copen, Israel Cortez, Daniel Cunningham, Tate Decker, Manuel Del Real, Kayla Durfee, Skyler Durfee, Jon'ee Dykstra, Daniel Eavou, Erica Enders, Tyler Farrah, Keara Finkbeiner, Gabe Foote, Laura Foote, Nimkee Fox, Leona Frost, Lacey Fuller, Maritsa Garcia, Priscilla Gibbs, Shayne Gilmore, Joslin Goodrich, Kirath Guilmette, Jasmine Greene, Brittinn Hamlin, Ronald Hawkins, Zachery Heckman, Macey Hiemstra, Nicholas Hilton, Shianne Hincley, Elizabeth Hinds, Steven Hinds, Hannah Holcomb, Brooke Hogue, Ricky Jung, Beken Kaufman, Justice Keyzer, Haley Kczma, Jacob Klemens, Koffi Kpodzaho, Nittaya Laheman, Trenton Lindstrom, Ashley Lowm, Nichole Markley, Charmaine Marshall, Deseree McClelland, Mathew McCreary, Abbie McKee, John McKibbin, Mason Merchant, Jason Moore, Breanne Morehouse, Brenda Munoz, Jaden Neff, Brandy Nelson, Cody Norris, Jenna Potter, Gabriel Pruitt, Rachel Rial, Madelyn Rasler, Brittany Rice, Nathaniel Rice, Amanda Ripsam, KC Robertson, Nathaniel Rose, Kyria Ruggles, Christina Rutherford, Grant Ruzza, Lindsay Sagas, Hannah Schaffer, Paije Scheppleman, Sarah Schrepper, Jonah Selby, Alexander Sheffer, Marnesha Singleton, Dylan Smith, Callahan Smith, Mackenzie Sonnerville, Aryion Strong, Candalaria Tercero, Tammy Tissue, Julia Torres, Kierah Thompson, Ean Tyrrell, Michael Vandam, Ana VandenToorn, Kianna Vanier, Shyann Vincent, Colleen Weaver, Alecia Weber, Jade Weber, Ronald Werner, Shirell Wilburn, Felice Williams, Kent Wilson, Thomas Wilson, Zachary Wolthuis

**COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION****EVENTS CANCELED**

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, there will be no recreation programs, community education classes, facility use contracts or senior citizen events scheduled until at least June 30, 2020. An update for events after June 30 will be provided once more information is available. Until then, we send you well wishes and good health!



# CONGRATULATIONS



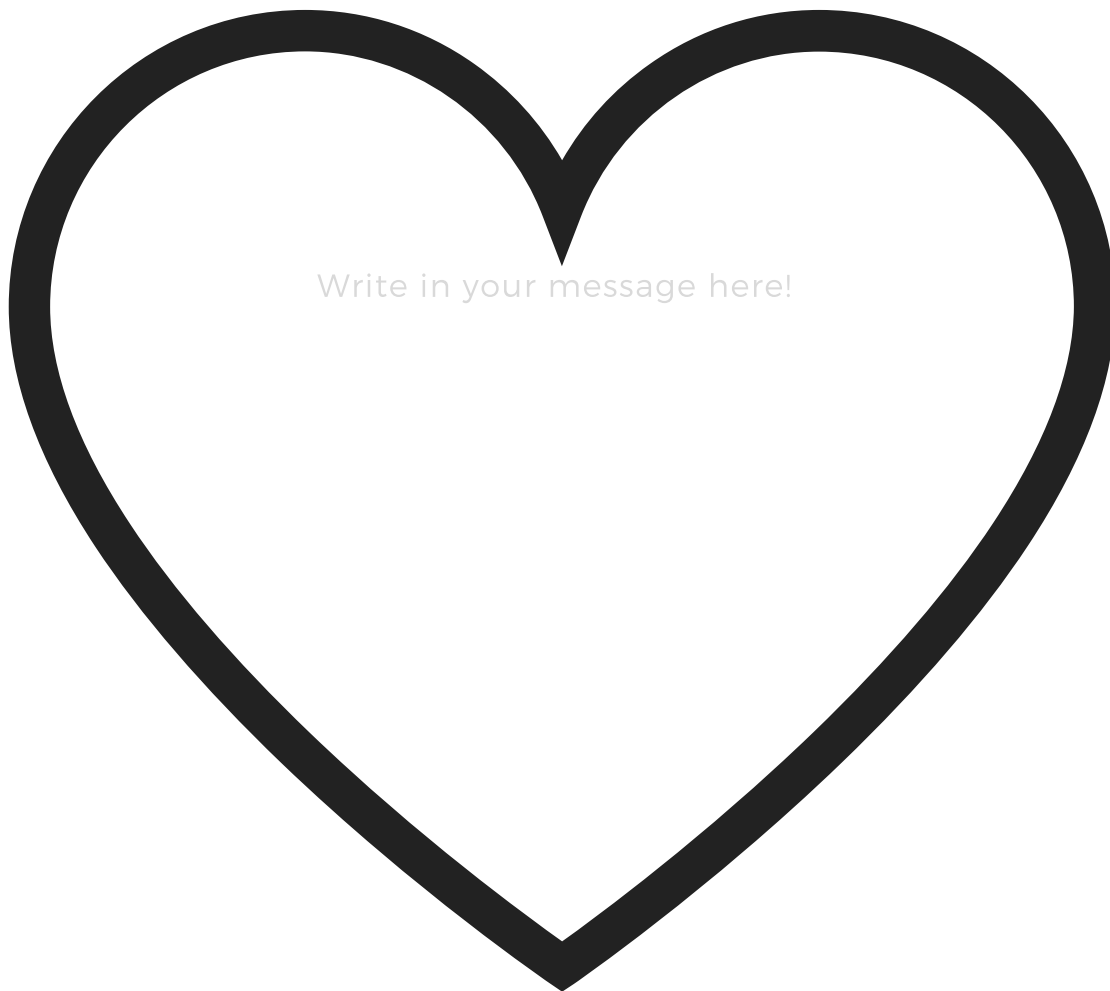
Join us in celebrating the 2020 seniors by displaying this sign in your home window. Add your own message inside the heart to show your support & Trojan pride!







# WE



Write in your message here!

# YOU







## VALEDICTORIAN ABIGAIL ELIZABETH ALMEDA

**UNIVERSITY:** University of Michigan | **MAJOR:** Engineering (undecided what concentration)  
**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 8 AP Courses/ Don't know how much college credit yet  
**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** Family Travel Forum (FTF) Teen Travel Writing Scholarship: Honorable Mention, MHSAA Scholar Athlete Finalist, Regents Scholarship (University of Michigan)  
**FAVORITE PCS TEACHERS:** Ms. Beauchamp: I've had Ms. B throughout my whole high school career, and because of this, she has had a huge impact on me, both academically and personally. As the director of musical and my choir, she has helped me pursue my love of music, whether it's through performing on stage in front of an audience or singing in a classroom with my peers. Ms. B and choir/musical as a whole have served as a safe place for me throughout my years at PHS. Whether I'm stressed about school, or having personal problems, I could always trust that Ms. B would put a smile on my face and help me put my problems in perspective. She has taught me many valuable lessons that I know I'll keep with me for the rest of my life! Mr. Bakalyar: I've had the pleasure of having Mr. Bakalyar as my pre-calc and calculus teacher. These two subjects are known to be two of the hardest in the school, yet somehow he made them two of my favorite classes. Before entering pre-calc, math was my least favorite subject. Now, coming out of calculus I am excited to pursue a degree in engineering! Mr. Bakalyar has been able to make both of these classes fun, and whenever I'm in his class I can trust that I'll be laughing, despite how hard the subject is. He has a unique way of personally connecting with each of his students and making them feel valued. He has helped me realize my love for mathematics, and has encouraged me past academic obstacles to become the student I am today!

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** Performing High School Musical with many of my closest friends!

**MORE FROM THE GRADUATE:** Class of 2020 President, National Honor Society President, Captain on Women's Varsity Soccer, Musical, Choir, Quizbowl, & Chemistry Club



## SALUTATORIAN SARAH LINDENBACH

**UNIVERSITY:** University of Michigan | **MAJOR:** Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience  
**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 8 courses - 11 credits toward college as of June 2019 (does not include 4 APs taken this year)  
**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** Wolverine Conference Scholar Athlete, various small scholarships  
**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Mr. Mielke. He pushed me to be the best version of myself each day and inspired me to pursue a degree relating to the human brain.  
**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** Walking out for the 400 Free Relay at MHSAA States with Amber Widner, Meghan Pallett, and Riley Nugent knowing there wasn't a better group of girls I wanted to swim my last race with.  
**MORE FROM THE GRADUATE:** A special shoutout to my 1st grade teacher, Sara Truax- Sarah with an "H" will always be the superior spelling.



## LYDIA BACON

**UNIVERSITY:** Montana State University | **MAJOR:** Engineering  
**AP COURSES TAKEN:** Five AP courses and 4 classes at KVCC.  
**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** Received a scholarship through Montana State University for \$48,000 over four years and I have applied for community scholarships.  
**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** My favorite PCS teacher was Mrs. Pendola. I had Mrs. Pendola in 2nd grade and I liked that she would take us outside for classes. She also really helped me out because I had just transferred from another school.  
**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** My favorite PHS memory was probably going to state this year with my cross country team because it was something everyone worked hard for and the whole trip was a lot of fun.



## JADE DAVIS

**UNIVERSITY:** Wisconsin | **MAJOR:** Neuroscience with a Minor in Psychology  
**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 6 AP classes, College Credit for all so far  
**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** Academic All State for volleyball, 2x all conference honors  
**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Mrs. Battilana, she was very influential in many lessons I learned as a kid and was also very supportive to all her students. She made everyone feel cared for and appreciated. High school: Mr. Huberty gives great advice and always listens to anything one might need to talk about. He is a great coach and mentor to all the kids here. He also laughs at all my jokes which is greatly appreciated.  
**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** Favorite PHS Moment: Any time I was in class with all my best friends, probably doing more laughing than talking.



## RACHEL FURGE

**UNIVERSITY:** Denison University | **MAJOR:** STEM with a focus on math and physics.  
**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** My favorite PCS teacher is Mrs. Winninger, she's an amazing woman and mentor to me all through middle school, and some parts of high school.  
**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** My favorite PHS moment was when I made Grubaugh laugh.  
**MORE FROM THE GRADUATE:** I am involved in TaeKwonDo outside of school, being a second degree black belt, and also run track and field. I really enjoy art and drawing. I also have well over 70 plants all growing in my room!



## MALLORI GRITTER

**UNIVERSITY:** Grand Valley State University | **MAJOR:** Psychology or Allied Health Sciences  
**AP COURSES TAKEN:** I have taken 4 AP courses, US History, Biology, English Literature, and Calculus  
**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** My favorite PCS teacher would be Ms. Battilana from Starr Elementary because she goes above and beyond for her students!  
**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** My favorite PHS moment would have to be any time I spent with the therapy dogs brought in for U Matter Week!

# TOP OF THE

## CONGRATULATIONS



## REBECCA GIBSON

**UNIVERSITY:** University of Michigan Ross School of Business | **MAJOR:** Business Management  
**AP COURSES TAKEN:** AP US History, Biology, Psychology, Calculus, Literature, Spanish  
**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** 2019-2020 Wolverine Conference Scholar-Athlete Award, Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan's Outstanding Senior Scholar-Athlete Award, DAR Good Citizen Award, Purdue's Presidential Scholarship, Indiana University's Dean's Scholarship  
**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Mr. Mielke because he has taught me many academic and non-academic skills that I will use throughout my life. He is the most influential teacher at Plainwell.  
**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** My favorite PHS moment was winning the basketball District Championship my junior year, and making it to Regional Finals. It was an amazing feeling to win a tight game with my best friends.  
**MORE FROM THE GRADUATE:** Throughout high school I was involved in Pro Youth Team, PALs, Red Cross Club, Quiet Heroes, 4 year Varsity Basketball and Soccer, 3 year Varsity Cross Country



## EMMA HARRIS

**UNIVERSITY:** Western Michigan University | **MAJOR:** Speech Pathology and Audiology  
**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 5  
**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** Bronco Merit Scholarship  
**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Mr. Schwartz, she is amazing and I took AP Chem, one because I like chemistry but also just to have her again. You can see her passion everyday!  
**MORE FROM THE GRADUATE:** I was in color guard all 4 years and captain junior and senior year. I also played the flute in the wind ensemble for all 4 years. Lastly, I was NHS Secretary and Class of 2020 Secretary.



## ALEJANDRA LEMUS

**UNIVERSITY:** Kalamazoo College  
**AP COURSES TAKEN:** Biology (scored a 4), Psychology (4), Literature, Calculus. Scholarships: Lux Esto Scholarship, \$120,000 and J.T. Williamson Award, \$12,000  
**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Mr. Bakalyar. He's very smart and teaches things in a way that's clear and well paced. He's all around a very cool person who I admire and respect.  
**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** Not really one specific memory, but being a section leader for 3 years and seeing the personal growth, development, and countless experiences the role initiated.  
**MORE FROM THE GRADUATE:** I'm excited to dive into life at K College and find my path, and experience struggles, successes, and change along the way. I couldn't be more grateful for everyone who has gotten me to this point in my life, everyone who has had an impact whether big or small, and the people and experiences that have given me richness in my life that I will carry with me going forward.



## TAYLOR MANSHEIM

**UNIVERSITY:** Loyola University Chicago | **MAJOR:** Double Major in English and Computer Science  
**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 5 AP classes and have gotten credit for the two tests I've taken so far. I'm taking the 3 other tests this May.  
**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** Presidential Scholarship from Loyola.  
**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** It's hard to pick a favorite teacher, but I guess I have to say Mrs. Wingle because she is understanding and knowledgeable about her class.  
**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** My favorite moment was probably snow coming this year, because I went with a great group of people.



## KARINA OTTEN

**UNIVERSITY:** University of Michigan | **MAJOR:** Engineering  
**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 6 and 8 college courses (10 if you count the two that I got credit for through the tech center)  
**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** Regents Merit Scholarship  
**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Mrs. Winenger. I don't think that I ever actually had a class with her in middle school, but I got to know her through the robotics team. I would go in before school to talk to her about anything, and after school too. She is the one who first got me interested in science, robotics, and architecture, which eventually led to engineering. I could and did talk to her about anything, including any middle-school drama or current events. Plus, she always gave me the scoop on what was happening between teachers or around the school, before other students knew. Until she left Plainwell, I would get off the bus at the middle school and visit her before school started.  
**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** All of the marching band competitions and concert band performances



# CLASS 2020

## TO THESE GRADUATES!



### JULIA RHODES

**UNIVERSITY:** Western Michigan University | **MAJOR:** Nurse Anesthetist

**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 6

**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Mrs. Truax from Cooper Elementary. She was my 1st grade teacher. She always pushed me to do better and I think she is a huge reason I am, to this day, still determined to push myself.

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** Mr. Bakalyar's daily jokes. Also on senior/junior support day he dressed up as a cowboy but halfway through class he ripped off his flannel and had a batman shirt on. He ran out of the room and said "Batman is needed".



### MADISON ROGERS

**UNIVERSITY:** Eastern Michigan University | **MAJOR:** Nursing

**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 5

**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** Attending Eastern Michigan University on an Academic Full Tuition Scholarship

**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** My favorite teacher that I have had in all my 12 years of education is Mr. Chase Mielke. He has been there for me not only in academics, but with personal issues, too. He cares about his students beyond their grades in their classes. He cares about them as people.

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** There have been countless memories that I have made at PHS, and to pick a favorite would be very hard. Honestly, the thing that I will always hold closest to my heart was the fact that I was able to make such a solid group of friends that I will always be able to count on.

**MORE FROM THE GRADUATE:** While at PHS I was involved in Basketball, Volleyball, Red Cross Club, PALs, Quiet Heroes, and National Honor Society.



### MEGAN STEFL

**UNIVERSITY:** Michigan State University | **MAJOR:** Marketing

**AP COURSES TAKEN:** AP Physics, AP Lit, AP Government, KVCC Arts & Culture, KVCC Introduction to Marketing

**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Mrs. Larson because she made physics so much fun. She's such an understanding lady who knows that sometimes life gets in the way. She genuinely wanted all of us to succeed & would do anything to help us.

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** Probably anytime in AP physics. Although nobody ever knew what was going on we always had a fun time doing it.

**MORE FROM THE GRADUATE:** Shoutout the boys- Carter VanLent, David Shearer, and Joel Likens for always keeping it interesting



### AVERIE MAY THOMPSON

**UNIVERSITY:** George Washington University | **MAJOR:** Economics

**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 6

**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** GWU Presidential Academic Scholarship

**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Mr. Christopher (Bernie) because he inspired my obsession for politics and government

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** Any choir or musical moment- there are too many to remember



### ELIZABETH THORNTON

**UNIVERSITY:** Western Michigan University | **MAJOR:** Psychology

**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 5/College Courses: 4/ College Credits: 20

**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** AP Scholar Award/Scholarship: Presidential Academic Scholarship

**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Mrs. Wingle is my favorite teacher because of how honest and hilarious she is. You can't help but love her!

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** Positive Psychology field trip



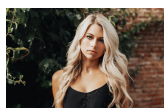
### MAISY YAW

**UNIVERSITY:** Michigan State University | **MAJOR:** Chemical Engineering

**AP COURSES TAKEN:** AP History, AP Biology, AP Physics, AP Chemistry, AP Literature, and AP Calculus

**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** My favorite teacher definitely has to be Mrs. Jane Kostanko. Working with her on the yearbook has truly been a blessing. She is the funniest person I have ever met and I can honestly say that she cares for all of her students.

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** My favorite PHS moment would have to be Snowcoming 2019. Dancing the night away with my friends and getting to spend time with them all day was so much fun.



### ALEXANDRA URIDGE

**UNIVERSITY:** Western Michigan University | **MAJOR:** Biomedical Sciences

**AP COURSES TAKEN:** AP Chemistry, AP biology, AP Psychology, AP Calculus, AP Literature (5 AP courses) with 5 College Classes (18 credits total)

**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** I will be attending the Lee Honors college and have \$10,000 from the medallion scholarship and an \$8,000 Bronco Merit Scholarship.

**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** My favorite teacher during my time at Plainwell has to be Mr. Green from the middle school. Mr. Green was the most extraordinary teacher I've ever had. He made sure to notice every student in the room, all the time. I always felt like Mr. Green's class was the best part of my day and he was always positive. He constantly pushed me to be better and challenged me at school. He definitely changed how much I liked middle school lol. Thanks for everything Mr. Green, you're the best!!

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** My favorite PHS moment was sophomore year when coach Ash looked at me walking to lunch and said "you know you can smile and say hi right?". Every single day since he said that I have talked to him. No matter what kind of day I was having, he always knew what to say. Every day I looked forward to talking to him when I walked out. Thanks Coach, for being the best person to talk to!

**MORE FROM THE GRADUATE:** I am hoping to attend Physician's Assistant School after I graduate with my bachelors degree. I would also like to say a huge thank you to my parents for supporting and believing in me all these years.



### TESSA VANN

**UNIVERSITY:** Michigan State University | **MAJOR:** Psychology

**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 5AP, 1 College, 23 Credits from AP and CLEP

**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** AP Scholar Award

**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** I have no idea. Honestly, I've had so many great teachers along the way and have learned great things from each and every one. If I had to pick one, I guess I would say Mr. Mielke, just because he knows me like no other teacher does (thanks to PALS) and he has had a huge impact on my life.

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** Junior year marching band. I'm in the colorguard, so I'm a little removed from the music of the show. It makes it easier to listen to what's going on and take it all in. My junior year was the first year I was a section leader, so I was crazy stressed all the time and just trying to hold everything together. My favorite moment was when our show finally "clicked". We work so hard to put on a 7 minute show, and when everything finally came together it was amazing. I remember losing myself in the music and just letting go. We were all performing so much and you could tell everyone was just in the zone. It was amazing.

**MORE FROM THE GRADUATE:** I was recognized by WMU Dept of Statistics for excellence in Data Sciences -Music has been a part of my life for years. I really enjoy playing piano (in addition to trumpet in band), and I've been a part of many things because of it (school musicals, Solo & Ensemble, State Solo & Ensemble). -I was also very active in French. I took up to french 3 and scored very highly on the CLEP test for that as well.



### VICTORIA VANSLAMBROUCK

**UNIVERSITY:** Michigan State University | **MAJOR:** Marketing or Dermatology

**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 4 AP courses, 3 college courses and will receive 10 college credits

**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Ms. Beauchamp for teaching kids how to push themselves in a positive way. She brings out the best in all of us and knows how to turn any group of kids into family. Along with that, her positive influence truly reaches her kids and it has helped me keep my stuff together throughout high school to be the best version of myself I could be.

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** This may sound cheesy but it really has been the little moments. The unexpected things like AP chem boat ride study sessions, the feeling of finishing an undefeated season, the adrenaline rush as the curtain opens on opening night, playing just dance with your entire choir, dancing with Katie Wingle and Mrs. Villarreal and taking aux at snowcoming. Dr. Wright doing the worm on live TV, and so many more little moments like those that make me incredibly grateful to have attended Plainwell.



### MAKENNA VEEN

**UNIVERSITY:** Michigan State University | **MAJOR:** Kinesiology

**AP COURSES TAKEN:** 6 with 23 college credits currently earned. If I pass the tests I have scheduled for this year I will have 42 college credits.

**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** Consumers Credit Union Scholarship, AP Scholar Award, Conference and State level honors for cross country and track

**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** Mr. Grubaugh, I had him for 2 English classes and AP psych. He has a sense of humor that is hilarious to witness. I also genuinely enjoyed the way he lectured and ran his class.

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** Qualifying as a team to go to the State Finals for cross country

**MORE FROM THE GRADUATE:** I am going to run track and cross country at Michigan State University in the fall.



### ALYSSA WASWICK

**UNIVERSITY:** Central Michigan University | **MAJOR:** Music Education

**AP COURSES TAKEN:** APUSH, AP Calc, AP Lit

**AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:** This year's KSO Youth Soloist and Centralis Maroon award from CMU

**FAVORITE PCS TEACHER:** I've never had a teacher that I didn't like and they have all impacted me in some way, but having Mr. Hepinstall teach my band classes for the last six years has impacted me the most. He has always encouraged and motivated me, he's provided me with so many amazing opportunities, and he ultimately helped me realize what I want to do with the rest of my life.

**FAVORITE HS MOMENT:** My favorite memory from high school is probably finding out that I was nominated for part of the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. My best friend, Grace Doerr, and I were waiting around after a marching band leadership meeting and realized that the results were emailed out to Mr. Hepinstall, so we ran to his office and both found out that we were nominated for different parts of the festival. That nomination was really the first time I felt like a successful musician. Also, being friends with Grace for the past four years has been really instrumental (pun intended) in finding out exactly what I want to do with my career in music. It has been fun to look back on having been there for each other along every step of the way, from visiting college music programs across the country together, to staying up until three in the morning during sleepovers while looking at audition criteria for different programs, to finally committing to different colleges for almost identical majors.





# TROJAN ATHLETICS



# ATHLETIC INTENT

## BEST WISHES TO THESE TROJANS

PCS is proud to offer congratulations to the following Trojans on signing their letters of intent to continue their athletic careers:

JOEL LIKENS: Adrian College Track Program

ALIVIA TERMEER: Delta College Soccer Program

PAIGE TIMPE: Delta College Soccer Program

KENNEDY VANDERLUGT: Kellogg Community College for Cross Country

MAKENNA VEEN: MSU Running Program

**We wish these Trojans al the best in their future athletic careers!**



# CONGRATS!

PAGE 19 | ATHLETICS

## PHS WRESTLING

Congratulations to the Plainwell Wrestling team who are the 2020 MHSAA D2 District Champions!

## SWIM & DIVE

Congratulations to the PHS Swim & Dive team who took 2nd place at the Conference Finals! Also, way to go Colin Macritchie who is this year's Zone 6 Diver of the Year!

**Congratulations to the Wrestling and Swim & Dive coaches and teams on their success this season! Trojan pride!**

## ALL CONFERENCE ALTHETES

### PCS PRIDE FOR THESE OUTSTANDING ATHLETES

**COMPETITIVE CHEER 1ST TEAM:** Mackenzie Bruce, Elin Joern, Alaysha McCarter

**COMPETITIVE CHEER 2ND TEAM:** Kenzi Cox, Angel Soper

**COMPETITIVE CHEER 3RD & 4TH HONORABLE MENTION:** Madilynn Amani, Kendallyn Collins

**GIRLS BASKETBALL 1ST TEAM:** Vannssa Robinson

**GIRLS BASKETBALL 2ND TEAM:** Rebecca Gibson, Alivia TerMeer, Lauren Vanderstelt

**BOYS BASKETBALL 2ND TEAM:** Reece Comerford, Levi Betz

**BOYS BASKETBALL 3RD & 4TH TEAM HONORABLE MENTION:** Austin Miller

**BOYS SWIMMING 1ST TEAM:** Ivan Ende, Issac Viviano, Jacob Herbert, Alex Rowe, Justin Edgington, Clyde DeLaet, Colin MacRitchie, Jason Perez, Jacob Westdorp, Brennen VanBeek, Ryan Koob, Luca Boven, Alex Blanton

**WRESTLING 1ST TEAM:** Trammel Robinson, Drake Blackmun, Owen McDaniel

**WRESTLING 2ND TEAM:** Luke Lyons

**WRESTLING 3RD & 4TH TEAM HONORABLE MENTION:** Steele Madison, Mason Wassink, Dalton Shannon

**GIRLS BOWLING 3RD & 4TH TEAM HONORABLE MENTION:** Arianna Pike, Kendyl Wycoff, Alexis Buchin





**PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
TODAY'S LEARNERS | TOMORROW'S LEADERS

600 School Drive | Plainwell, MI 49080-1595  
269-685-5823  
plainwellschools.org

# CONGRATULATIONS

## 2020 PCS RETIREMENTS

**BEST WISHES** to Plainwell Community Schools' 2020 retirees! Thank you for your years of service, dedication and support to the PCS students, families and schools. You have helped mold Today's Learners & Tomorrow's Leaders!

|                        |                        |                     |                       |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Dawn Baad</b>       | <b>Janet Foreman</b>   | <b>Kelly Huff</b>   | <b>Mary Hultquist</b> |
| <b>Robin Jirgens</b>   | <b>Laurie Lanphear</b> | <b>Char Madison</b> | <b>Linda McLean</b>   |
| <b>Jane Perry</b>      | <b>Lisa Rasnake</b>    | <b>Julie Root</b>   | <b>Jeff Steele</b>    |
| <b>Sheelagh Straub</b> | <b>Lisa Torres</b>     | <b>Diane Webber</b> | <b>Sandy Zwier</b>    |

**FROM ALL OF US AT PCS THANK YOU!**

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Amy Blades           | .....President      |
| Shannon Zabaldo      | .....Vice President |
| Julli Bennett        | .....Treasurer      |
| Jill Dunham          | .....Secretary      |
| Anthony McNeel       | .....Trustee        |
| David Skinner        | .....Trustee        |
| Christine VanDenBerg | .....Trustee        |

The public is invited to attend all Board of Education meetings. Business meetings are held the third Monday of each month and workshop meetings are held on the first Monday, both beginning at 6:30 PM in the Administration Building, which is located off Gladys St. between Starr Elementary and Plainwell Middle School.

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Plainwell, Michigan 49080

## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES | 269-685-5823

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Matthew Montange | ..... Superintendent                          |
| Melissa Gelbaugh | ..... Director of Finance                     |
| Greg Smith       | ..... Director of Operations & Transportation |
| Dave Price       | ..... Director of Athletics                   |
| Connor Kooyers   | ..... Director of Food Service                |

## STAY CONNECTED!

To stay connected with all the latest Trojan news, please follow Plainwell Community Schools on Social Media or visit [plainwellschools.org](http://plainwellschools.org).

