



MILLINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

8780 Dean Drive Millington, Michigan 48746 (989) 660-2450
"YOU CAN'T HIDE THAT CARDINAL PRIDE"

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22, 2022

Introduction

With the staff coming back this week and the students soon to follow next week, I am starting a weekly communication called the Superintendent's Updates. I will include information about upcoming events and also information about events that are happening at Millington Community Schools. From time to time, I will also include a section called "Cardinals in the Crown" and "Staff Spotlight". When I was in junior high school, my parents bought me a subscription to "Sports Illustrated" in an effort to get me to read more. There was always a section I liked reading called "Faces in the Crowd", where the magazine highlighted amateur athletes and their accomplishments. "Cardinals in the Crowd" will highlight alumni, parents, and community members who attend after-school events. When I attend sporting events, concerts, plays, and other important events, I plan to sit by someone in the crowd and interview them. I am also planning on visiting classrooms throughout the school year. As I visit staff members, I plan to highlight their accomplishments and share information that our community may not know about them in the "Staff Spotlight". Below is some information you may want to know for the upcoming week:

School Open Houses

Millington Jr/Sr High School – Monday, August 22, 2022 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Sixth Grade Orientation starts at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria followed by Freshmen Orientation at 7:30 pm. Students will have the opportunity to tour the building and move into their lockers. This is a good time for sixth graders to practice their locker combinations.

Meachum Elementary School – Wednesday, August 24, 2022 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Students will have the opportunity to meet with their classroom teachers and tour the building. The PTA, food service, and other important groups will also set up tables in the cafeteria to provide families with important information.

First Day of School

The first day of the 2022-2023 School Year is Monday, August 29, 2022.

Food Service

Breakfast is available free of charge each morning to students in grades K-12. Lunch is still free this school year for students in grades K-8. Unfortunately, due to federal regulations, students in grades 9-12 will resume paying for lunches this school year.

Goals for 2022-2023 School Year

Below are my goals for Millington Community Schools in the upcoming school year:

- 1) Improve communication with internal and external stakeholders.

The principals are continuing to implement strategies to communicate with their students, staff, and parents. Mrs. Moore and Mr. Dantine are planning to send weekly updates to staff members. Mrs. Moore and the Meachum Staff have always done a nice job of communicating through the Remind App. Mr. Dantine and the Jr/Sr High School Staff are going to continue sending messages through Skyward this school year. Please check the Millington Community Schools Facebook Page, website, and the Millington Athletics website for continuous updates. Two of the strategies the district is implementing to improve communication is sending this newsletter to the school community on a weekly basis and also implementing a system of automated attendance calls.

- 2) Promote innovation and efficiency whenever possible.

We are always looking for more efficient ways to conduct business. Staff, parents, students, and community members are always welcome to share ideas with our staff to make Millington Community Schools more efficient in all of our operations. Staff members are encouraged to implement new ideas in the classroom and share successes with their fellow colleagues. Staff members are encouraged to try new strategies in an effort to continuously improve their teaching methods and instructional delivery.

- 3) Improve the Climate at Millington Community Schools

I have always felt that when people feel that they are appreciated and supported, they work harder and are more satisfied with their jobs on a daily basis. Though I know that the world is not perfect and people may not always agree with all of the decisions I make, it has always been my goal to make Millington Community Schools a better place to work and learn. Happy administrators promote a culture where the teachers feel supported and in turn provide a better learning environment for the students. Students who feel safe and enjoy going to school are likely to learn more and take on challenges both inside and outside of the classroom.

Automated Attendance Calls

School attendance is one of the most important indicators of student achievement. In an effort to communicate with families, Millington Community Schools will be implementing Automated Attendance Calls, which will go out at 5:00 pm on each day that school is in session. The automated calls will inform parents and guardians of any absences their child may have had during the school day. Parents are encouraged to notify the school office when their son or daughter is going to be absent from school. As another reminder to families, our schools will also send out attendance letters on a regular basis once students have three, five, eight, ten, or twelve unexcused absences.

Staff Spotlight

This week we are highlighting Millington Community Schools Band Director, Mr. Andrew Ratajczak. Mr. Ratajczak joined our team last April and is eager to start his first full year as our band director. Mr. Ratajczak attended Bay City All-Saint's High School and went on to study music at Saginaw Valley State University. He student-taught at Unionville-Sebewaing High School during the Fall Term of 2021 and was hired at USA as a full-time substitute teacher. You may have also seen him perform in the past in the band, the Bay City Polka Panic, which played from 2016 to December 2021.

Mr. Ratajczak was hired as Band Director of Millington Community Schools and brought stability to a program that had already had two band directors up to that point in time during the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Ratajczak did a nice job of preparing our band to march in the Millington Old Fashioned Days Festival Parade in early August. I also had a chance to stop by to see the band last week during Band Camp and they were hard at work preparing for the upcoming Marching Band Season. On Friday, the band gave parents a sneak peak at the halftime show that they will be performing this year, the theme is music from the band Journey and I am looking forward to seeing the band perform at our home football games and also the Marching Band Festival in October.



Cardinals in the Crowd

“Once a Cardinal, Always a Cardinal”

I attended the JV and Varsity Football Scrimmages Thursday morning and had the opportunity to talk with Travis Cooper (1997) and Pam (Eilers) Cooper (1998). Travis and Pam live in Millington and have three children who have attended Millington Community Schools: Adriana (2019), Kate (2021), and Travis (2023).

The Coopers were at the scrimmage watching their son, Travis Jr., and the varsity football team kick off the 2022 season. Travis is co-captain of the varsity football team, playing defensive line, linebacker, and running back for the Cardinals. He is also involved in power lifting, basketball, and baseball.

During his career at MHS, Travis Sr. played football and power lifted for the Cardinals, he was also on the track team freshman year. Pam was a member of the basketball and volleyball teams when she was a student at Millington High School and continues to be part of the volleyball program by serving as a member of the coaching staff.

When I asked Pam and Travis if they have any advice for the member of the 2022 Millington Varsity Football Team, they said, “Work hard, have integrity, and add to the legacy of Cardinal Football.”

