



# Superior Central Newsletter

Home of the Cougars

February 2022

Volume 26, Issue 2

[www.superiorcentralschools.org](http://www.superiorcentralschools.org)



**FROM THE OFFICE OF MR. BILL VALIMA**

**Superintendent/Principal 6-12**

Two years ago, we were introduced to COVID-19. We have spent the last couple of years managing educating students during a pandemic. I am hoping that we are now returning to normal. Knock on wood, we haven't had an active case in school since the end of January. I want to thank the community for the way we pulled together and supported our kids during this time. It hasn't always been easy, but I think we did a pretty decent job.

With things starting to get back to normal our students have been participating in more extracurricular events.

At the beginning of the month, our middle and high school band students had the opportunity to participate in Solo/Ensemble. Four middle and high school students were awarded Division II honors (Janessa Perron, Aidan Korpi, Calla Porter, and Liam McDougall) and 17 took home Division I honors (Kierra McDonald, Kianna Perron, Racheal Davis, Nikolas Pasco, Ruth Johnson, Bree Swajanen, Neo Wilson, Isaac Gleason, Gavin Vining, Jack McDougall, Cole Ozoga, Carter Korpi, Janessa Perron, Zander Mullins, Cody Moore, Jack Ledesma, and Will Spranger)!

From February 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 33 of our high school students took part in the Michigan Youth In Government conference held in Lansing. If you have not heard of MYIG, it is a state conference in which student throughout the state come together to form a mock government. We are one of a few organizations who are granted full use of the State Capitol for two days. It is a wonderful opportunity for our kids. At the conference, two Superior Central students were recognized for their outstanding leadership. Senior, Olivia Millin was recognized as the most outstanding delegate in the National Issue Forum and has been selected to attend the National Conference on National Affairs in North Carolina this summer. Junior, Wyatt Kulik was recognized as the most outstanding Committee Chair at the conference. Also, Seniors Zach Frusti and Emma Rutter successfully passed their bill through both chamber of the legislature and it was signed by the Youth Governor. Successfully passed bills at the conference are passed on the actual State Legislature for consideration.

Over the weekend our middle school Science Olympiad team competed at the Regional Competition at Northern Michigan University (we did not have a high school team this year due to a conflict with Michigan Youth In Government). Our middle school team finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and now move on to the State Competition at Michigan State University in April!

Congratulations to all of our academic extracurricular students on their success!

This is the time of the year when we start planning our Sinking Fund projects for the summer. As you might know, last summer we installed two new boilers and updated the heating units throughout the high school end of the building (we updated the heaters in the elementary a couple years back). This summer we hope to replace the bleachers in the high school gym as well as resurfacing the gym floor. The last 8 years of sinking fund have made a huge impact on the district. I want to thank you all again for supporting that initiative. It is my hope to renew it next November so that we can continue to make improvements to our facility.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Ethan Phillipson and Eva LaVallie on being named Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Class of 2022. Their hard work and dedication to their studies should be commended.

Thanks again for giving me the opportunity to work with your children. As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to call me @ 439-5532 x 244 or email me @ [bvalima@superiorcentralschools.org](mailto:bvalima@superiorcentralschools.org).

Sincerely,

*Bill Valima*



**Kathy McCowan ..... K-5 Principal and Special Programs Coordinator**

Dear families,

It has been 5 months since the start of the school year. K-5 students seem so excited to be here, to be together, and to learn in their classrooms. While it is not safe to say that COVID is behind us, I am grateful for the options that Superior Central School offers to parents. While testing students has become a daily event, I gladly welcome the opportunity to keep kids in school, learning with their teachers and classmates.

That said, today is a great day to THANK a teacher. They have gone above and beyond to coordinate school work and lessons for multiple students who have been absent for multiple days all at different times. Even further, teachers continually work to keep all students learning and growing despite the challenges.

Thanks also goes to our school families who take the time to pick up work and ensure that it gets done to prevent any learning loss. We understand that school work at home is not always easy and appreciate your continued effort to help your child succeed.

We just completed our mid-year district assessments. The column to the right outlines the guidelines we follow in regard to academically at-risk students in grade K-3. We want children to succeed. It's always a partnership. I feel fortunate that we have that at Superior Central! Feel free to reach out anytime.

*K. McCowan*

**One School, One Book**

**Every family. Every K-5 student. Every night.**

It's that time of year again! Every student in grades K-5 will receive a copy of the same book – TO KEEP – and parents are asked to read it aloud to your child(ren) during March.

The book is meant to be read aloud as a fun, family activity. You will receive a reading schedule - generally about 15 minutes each night. *I am personally asking you to make the time so that your family can participate in this special event.* In school, there will be daily trivia questions and other activities to explore the book.

With the *One School, One Book* program, we aim to build a community of readers at our school. Everyone – students, parents, teachers, aides, and even the principal will all be reading, too!

What better conversation is there to have than to talk about a BOOK? :)



**Read by Grade 3 Law**



In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed a law that requires schools to identify learners who are struggling with reading and writing and to provide additional help. The law states that third graders may repeat third grade if they are more than one grade level behind when scored on the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP).

**How does SCS address that?** Elementary students who score in the at-risk level on district benchmark assessments qualify for extra instruction with our Title I or Special Education teacher. This instruction is focused on teaching the skills that these at-risk students are missing in hopes of filling the gaps in their learning.

**Who is targeted:** As a Title I school, all students can receive extra help. That said, students in grades K-3 are given priority in order to build the strong foundation needed for future school success.

**What if my child is at-risk?** An Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) will be written for all students who have been identified as at-risk in Reading. The IRIP is developed with the help of teachers, the principal, parent or legal guardian, and anyone else that the team agrees needs to be involved. The IRIP outlines the student's strengths, areas of needed improvement, and a plan for interventions. A Read-At-Home Plan is part of the IRIP.

**What happens in 3rd grade:** In the Spring of 3rd grades, students take the M-STEP assessment in both ELA and Math. If your child's reading score on the English Language Arts M-STEP is more than one year below grade level, the state will notify you (and SCS) that your child may be retained.

**Working together:** Superior Central will be in contact with you regarding your students test scores and plan for the following school year. Again, it is a team effort to ensure success for your student.



## SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS HONOR ROLL

### 2021-2022 Second Quarter

Congratulations to the following students for being named to the Honor Roll for the second marking period.

An \* denotes all A's

### UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Miss Hill's 3rd Grade:** Riley Gohl, Elias Hughes, Aundraya Kulik, Henry Mallory, Blake Pederson\*, Lane Porter\*, Mathew Taskey

**Ms. Thompson's 3rd Grade:** Amelia Hart, Ainsley Karvinen, Anthony Knaus, Nevaeh Lawson\*, Marlee Miron\*, Josyia Perron, Ellie Slifka\*

**Mrs. Kelto's 4th Grade:** Emma Beaupied, Edye Burdett\*, Jacelyn Denman, Daniel Jarquin, Evan Kelto, William Kolpack, Braelynn Lawson, Larissa Lindgren, Harrison McDougall, Scarlett Ott, Kate Rondeau, Oliver Rondeau, Caleb Simon

**Ms. Stebelton's 5th Grade:** Harlow Fairbanks, Liza Helminen, Aubrianna Kroupa, Nina Massie\*, Charli Nordness, Violet Porter, Gisela Schultz, Ellarie Wachter

### MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

**6th grade:** Marlene Johnson\*, Elaina Karvinen, Joseph Kasten, Meredith Kempker, Lillian Lindgren, Scarlett Loehr, Adrienne Lovegrove, Conor McDonnald\*, Kendra Pederson, Hailey Quarfoot, Natalia Salmi, Lilly Simon, Gavin Stebelton, Emma Stoliecki, Kylie Stuer, Stevie Suhs, Aiyana Taskey, Gunnar Way

**7th grade:** Peyton Adams, Andrew Charlebois, Samuel Charlebois, Rory Hancock, Kiera Lovegrove, Zander Mullins, Jasmine Nesberg\*, Kianna Perron, William Spranger, Elijah Valima, Gavin Vining

**8th grade:** Rowan Allender, Gwenyth Charlebois, Kalli Foro, Isaac Gleason\*, Clay Horne, Jenna Hoy, Jack Kasten, Kiera McDonnald, John McDougall, Janessa Perron

**9th grade:** Drew Begovac, Ruth Johnson, Samantha Johnson, Sierra Moore, Stephanie Nordness, Calla Porter\*, Abbagale Stoliecki, Derick Tyner

**10th grade:** CJ Adams, Jaimme Driver, Alice Hancock, Jason Kanerva, Liam McDougall, Clara Rondeau, Breanna Swajanen\*, Lily Swetich, Neo Wilson

**11th grade:** Emily Augustyn, Madisen Begovac\*, Hudson Cady, Jacob Charlebois, Wyatt Kulik, Natalie McGee, Riley Moore, Adair Porter, Evelyn Smyth\*, Brylee Tyner\*, Sophia Valima\*, Emmett Vining

**12th grade:** Katrina Augustyn, Riley Johnson, Garrett Koski, Eva LaVallie, Dakota Maki, Ethan Phillipson\*, Anna Robinson, Maggie Rondeau, Emma Rutter, Christopher Thompson, Evan Thompson



## SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS HONOR ROLL

### 2021-2022 First Quarter

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### UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Ms. Thompson's 3rd Grade:** Riley Gohl, Amelia Hart, Ailie Heinonen, Anthony Knaus, Nevaeh Lawson\*, Evelyn McGlone\*, Marlee Miron, Blake Pederson, Josyia Perron, Lane Porter\*, Nebraska Schafke, Ellie Slifka\*, Matthew Taskey

**Mrs. Kelto's 4th Grade:** Emma Beaupied, Edye Burdett, Daniel Jarquin, Evan Kelto, William Kolpack, Braelynn Lawson, Larissa Lindgren, Harrison McDougall, Scarlett Ott, Oliver Rondeau, Caleb Simon

**Mr. Larson's 5th Grade:** Ava Buggy, Harlow Fairbanks, Harper Frusti, Liza Helminen, Aubrianna Kroupa, Nina Massie, Charli Nordness, Violet Porter, Gisela Schultz,

### MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

**6th grade:** Hunter Baker, Riley Balkum, Marlene Johnson, Joseph Kasten, Levi Kempainen, Meredith Kempker, Lillian Lindgren, Conor McDonald, Kendra Pederson, Hailey Quarfoot, Natalia Salmi, Lilly Simon, Emma Stoliecki, Kylie Stuer, Stevie Suhs, Aiyana Taskey, Gunnar Way

**7th grade:** Connor Blomgren, Teagan Hall, Rory Hancock, Josie Knaus, Kiera Lovegrove, Zander Mullins, Jasmine Nesberg, Kianna Perron, William Spranger, Hannah Theodore, Elijah Valima, Gavin Vining

**8th grade:** Rowan Allender, Gwenyth Charlebois, Kalli Foro, Isaac Gleason\*, Clay Horne\*, Jenna Hoy, Kiera McDonald, John McDougall, Janessa Perron, Blake Tanner

**9th grade:** Drew Begovac, Ruth Johnson, Samantha Johnson, Kate McGee, Sierra Moore, Calla Porter\*, Abbagale Stoliecki

**10th grade:** Craig Adams, Jaimme Driver, Alice Hancock, Jason Kanerva, Liam McDougall, Clara Rondeau, Breanna Swajanan\*, Lily Swetich, Neo Wilson

**11th grade:** Emily Augustyn, Izabel Barber, Madisen Begovac\*, Hudson Cady, Jacob Charlebois, Wyatt Kulik, Natalie McGee, Riley Moore\*, Adair Porter, Evelyn Smyth\*, Lucas Swetich, Brylee Tyner\*, Sophia Valima\*, Emmett Vining

**12th grade:** Katrina Augustyn, Riley Johnson, Garrett Koski, Eva LaVallie\*, Dakota Maki, Olivia Millin, Ethan Phillipson\*, Rhianna Ricker, Anna Robinson, Faith Robinson, Maggie Rondeau, Emma Rutter, Wyatt Smith, Christopher Thompson, Olivia Viau



## Kindergarten Round-up

**Who:** *Child who will be 5 on or before September 1, 2022*

**What:** *Screening and registration for Kindergarten beginning August 2022*

**When:** *Thursday May 19, 2022*

**Where:** *Superior Central Elementary School*

**How:** *Call 906-439-5531 x 201 for an appointment*

**What to bring:** *Original birth certificate & proof of residence & immunization records*



## **Water Quality and Watercraft**

Although the problems associated with COVID-19 are not completely behind us, the looming threat of a school wide quarantine is not nearly as high as last year so the Natural Resources and Watercraft Design class is back to a more normal schedule. That means taking some time in the fall to study water quality within the school's Quarry Pond and the nearby Slapneck Creek. For nearly 20 years various Superior Central science classes have been monitoring the Quarry Pond, and again this year the pond's levels of nitrates, phosphates, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, turbidity, and pH are all excellent.

Another ongoing water quality study has been our participation in the MiCorp Water Quality project. For the past 7 years we have traveled to the same stretch of the Slapneck where we sample the benthic aquatic macroinvertebrates (mostly immature aquatic insects) living there. These organisms are sensitive to the characteristics of the water they live in and high quality water will have a different set of organisms living in it than water of poorer quality. After we identify and tally our collected organisms, our information is sent to the MiCorp database. In this way a long term correlation can be established and any anomaly within what is typically found can be flagged and investigated if necessary. The organisms found in the Slapneck have always represented water quality of the highest order, but this year the quality level has dropped somewhat. The level represented by this year's sampling is not terrible and given the hot dry summer we just experienced the change was not completely unexpected. We will sample the same stretch of river again next fall and hopefully these findings will alleviate any worry we have about this body of water.

The watercraft portion of the class is progressing well also. An interesting research project was added this year that introduced the students to the integral role watercraft have played in expeditions of discovery and environmental stewardship. Each student was assigned a ship of notoriety such as Cousteau's Calypso, Darwin's Beagle, Michigan's own Inland Seas, etc. Once assigned a ship, they searched the internet to discover its mission, design, noteworthy contributions, and then presented their findings to the rest of the class.

Finally, the building of the pirogues is moving along with this year's class of 15 students. Each student has their boat assembled, fiberglass and epoxy resin applied, sanded smooth and ready for their creative paint designs. They are all looking forward to warmer weather, open water, and launching their creations.

**Mr. Bliss**



## Integrating More Local Food



The Agriculture and Forestry class recently became part of an exciting program designed by Michigan State University called “Locally Integrated Food Teams in the Upper Peninsula” or LIFT-UP. The eventual outcome of this project is to create a student-driven solution for putting more locally grown produce in front of our students as they pass through the lunch line. However, to get to this goal the class would need to understand the challenges faced by everyone involved. So a few days were arranged to meet with local farmers, our school’s cafeteria director, and to introduce the students to a couple grant opportunities. From this foundation of knowledge they were then instructed to work together and create a sustainable plan that will work within the limitations of farmer, cook, state regulations and available money.

To start this cooperative process the class was broken into four groups of distinct interest. These fields of interest are; Food Production, Food Preparation, Food Economics, and Food Education. After a few days of each group discussing amongst itself challenges and possible solutions, all of the groups came together for a few more days to try and create a collaborative plan, or what they like to call the “Mega-Plan”.

At this point Abbey Palmer, MSU’s Community Food Systems Educator, gave the students a lesson on effective grant writing. For the next three days, the students collaborated to write an extensive grant proposal that covered five distinct projects:

- \*Building indoor growing beds in the boiler room
- \*Transferring waste heat from the boiler room into the Hoop-house
- \*Building an automated irrigation system in the hoop-house
- \*Educating/motivating elementary students to eat fresh, locally grown produce
- \*Collaborating with local farms to bring more fresh produce into our school.

The students grant proposal was accepted, the money received, large grow tubs and LED lights were purchased and the boiler room growing space has been completed. We still have four more stages of this project to tackle so look to the next newsletter for another project update.

Mr. Bliss

### Developmental Screening

- Open to all 3 and 4 year olds (as of September 1) in our school district.
- Bring your child in for a developmental screening to ensure he/she is meeting their age appropriate milestones
- A representative from CAAM will be available if you are interested in GSRP/Headstart

When: Thursday May 26, 2022

Where: Superior Central Elementary School

How: Call 906-439-5531 x 201 for an appointment



## FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

On Thursday, October 28, firefighters from Rock River Township joined the K – 5 students at Superior Central for a fire safety demonstration. The kids enjoyed a great morning, and we are so thankful to the volunteers who came to educate the kids, and make sure they had the opportunity to honk the horn and walk through the trucks, which is always a highlight.

A few reminders from Fire Chief Seppanen

1. Be sure to check your smoke detectors at home and replace the batteries at least once a year.
2. Ensure your everyone in your family knows their evacuation route in case of a fire.
3. Establish a meeting place outside of the home where everyone would go to ensure the safety of all family members



### Please:

Report any changes of your: **Mailing, physical address or phone numbers.**

E-mail changes to :

[dkanerva@superiorcentralschools.org](mailto:dkanerva@superiorcentralschools.org) For MS/HS

[bwells@superiorcentralschools.org](mailto:bwells@superiorcentralschools.org) For Elementary

Or

Call : High School 439-5532 x 242

Elementary 439-5531 x 201



*Thank you.*

### **Picture Rock Adventures**

Each year, students in fourth grade go to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore for a winter field trip where they learn about what makes PRNL unique, sustainability, and the thousands of federal lands and waters we have available to us here in the United States. Thanks to a very generous donation by the Swajanen family, our fourth and fifth grade students were able to see some of these rock formations up close and personal as we enjoyed a beautiful September morning on Lake Superior on the Glass Bottom Shipwreck Tours. In addition to the rock formations, the kids enjoyed viewing two shipwrecks (The Bermuda and The Hettler) through the boat's glass bottom. If you've never experienced this tour, I guarantee any fourth or fifth grade student you asked would give you quite the recommendation.

Thank you so much, Tim, Heidi, Betty Jo, and Bree!



## Girls Basketball Varsity/JV

February 21 vs. Carney Nadeau 6:00 pm  
 23 @ Norway 6:00 pm  
 24 vs. Stephenson 6:00 pm

February 28-March 4 Districts @ TBA

Coach: Skip Rutter - Varsity  
 Luke Begovac—JV



## Boys Basketball Varsity/JV

February 23 @ Norway 6:00 pm  
 25 @ Gwinn 6:00 pm  
 March 3 vs. Bark River Harris 6:00 pm  
 5 vs. Munising 3:00 pm  
 7-11 Districts @ TBD

Coach: Adam Ely—Varsity



## Middle School Volleyball

February 26 @ Superior Central  
 March 5 Tournament @ Gladstone  
 12 Tournament @ Superior Central  
 19 Tournament @ Marquette



**All times listed are Eastern time. Schedule is subject to change.  
 Check the website for updated schedule**

### 4th Grade Pictured Rocks Adventures Continues!

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore was selected to receive a 2021/2022 school year field trip grant from the National Park Foundation. The grant is part of Every Kid Outdoors, which our fourth graders at Superior Central Elementary School were able to participate in January.

In addition to our day at PRNL, every fourth-grade student received a pass that allows the child (and anybody else in the car with them) free access to PRNL and over 2,000 federal lands. This pass is good until the end of August when the students become fifth graders. Get out and enjoy the open spaces!



Keep collecting your

### Tadych's MarketPlace receipts.

Formerly Tadych's Econo

Bring them to school. We earn dollars

For programs and

To purchase supplies for the school and students.

Thank you.







# SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOL CALENDAR of EVENTS 2021-2022




<b>March</b>	11	11:48 dismissal – Teachers Professional Development
	14	No School
	25	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> marking period
<b>April</b>	4-8	No School- Spring Break
	11	School Resumes
	15	11:48 dismissal
	18	No School
<b>May</b>	19	Kindergarten Roundup—call for an appointment
	26	Developmental Screening for 3 & 4 year olds– call for an appointment
	27	Graduation 7:00 PM
	30	No School – Memorial Day
<b>June</b>	8-9	1:30 dismissal – MS/HS Exams
	9	Last day of School (provided we do not exceed 6 snow days)
	10	All day Teachers Professional Development

**Doors open at 7:55      School Day begins at 8:15 A.M. and ends at 3:11 P.M.**

## Superior Central 2021-2022 Yearbooks

On Sale now until April 15th

**\$40**



Full color hardcover yearbook with grades K—12  
Pictures for a lifetime of memories!

**Order forms in the offices**

### Board of Education

Please take notice that upcoming meetings of the Board of Education of the Superior Central School District in Eben Junction, Michigan are scheduled as follows:

<b><u>Regular Meeting</u></b>	<b>Monday March 21, 2022</b>	<b>Monday April 18, 2022</b>	<b>Monday May 16, 2022</b>
	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

**Regular meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month. Work sessions as needed. All meetings are 7:00 PM**

Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodations for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in these meetings.

Request must be received at least five days in advance of the meeting.

