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The Chalkboard

Cultivating the unique potential of each student by providing a challenging, supportive, and inclusive environment.

Winter 2017

Message from the Superintendent

Dr. Cecilia Heiberger

I am proud to announce the start of the Coolidge School Renovation/Expansion Project which began with our groundbreaking ceremony held on December 9, 2016. Thank you to all the students, families, and community members who joined us in celebration of this wonderful event. The Coolidge School project is in alignment with Lansing School District 158's Strategic Plan developed with input from teachers, administrators, parents, community members and Village representatives. The Coolidge renovation/expansion project represents renovation of approximately 25,600 square feet of existing space and approximately 64,400 square feet of new construction. Several of Coolidge School's original 1928 engraved exterior stones will be incorporated within the interior design elements. A historical pictorial representation of the original building will also be displayed in the proposed atrium. The cost of the project through the lowest qualified responsible bid process totaled \$20.1 million. Funding for the project was secured through federal Qualified School Construction bonds with little to no interest which represents a savings of approximately \$7 million in interest. The renovation/expansion of Coolidge School will address the educational needs of our students, life safety upgrades, student capacity, aging infrastructure, and site circulation. Our one-to-one computing initiative will be fully supported as a result of this project. The Coolidge project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2019.



Congratulations to District 158 Girls on the Run and their outstanding coaches!



MAY 20 2017 Squeeze'd Girls on the Run Central 5k
34 people are interested

"You see things; and say, 'Why?'"

But I dream things that 'never were and I say, 'Why not?'"

George Bernard Shaw

Family Learning Celebration

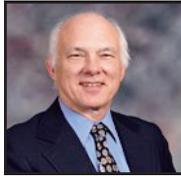
MARCH 30, 2017

Please save the date to join us as we celebrate our students' and staff's excitement for learning with classroom projects and performances in Early Childhood through grade eight. Come for our students' musical performances, technology-based projects, physical fitness workouts, and STEM based learning. We invite our families and all of the Lansing community to celebrate with District 158 at Memorial Junior High School on March 30th from 6 pm to 8 pm.



Lansing Elementary School District 158

BOARD OF EDUCATION



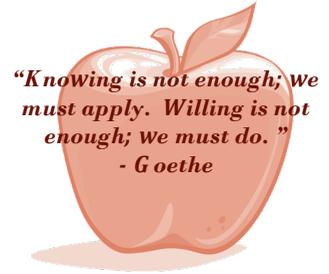
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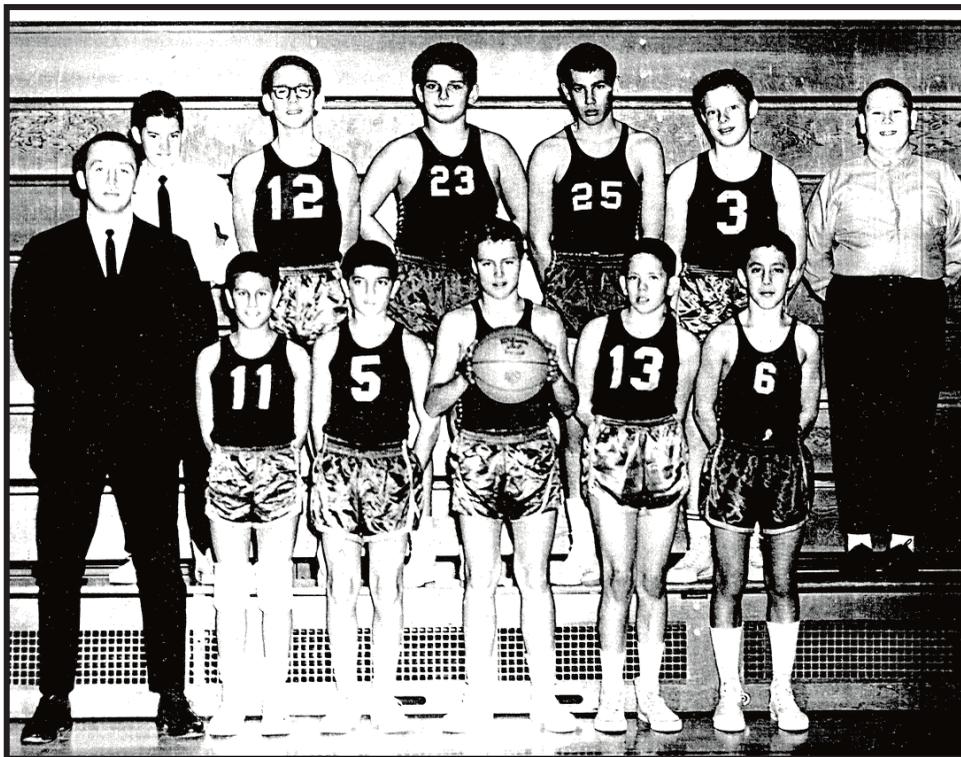


PHILIP SCHUMAKER



CHUCK TAYLOR

CELEBRATING A MOMENT IN TIME 50 YEARS AGO! MEMORIAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S 1966-1967 UNDEFEATED BASKETBALL TEAM



Front row l to r: Coach Jim Long, Paul Rodda, Ron Harrison, Gary Jensen, Jim Nelson, and Jim Yochem. Second row l to r: Jim Currier, Wally LaFrenier, Mike Rubino, Angelo Cimity, Phil Madgiak and Manager Bill Hasting. Not pictured: Mike Daniels, Don Kehl, Bob Snell and Doug Cool

Former Memorial PE teacher, retired TF South teacher, and current Lansing Park Board member Jim Long came across the Memorial Junior High School's 1966-67 undefeated basketball team picture. Mr. Long shared his knowledge of the former Memorial students including Gary Jensen, retired owner of a construction company; Ron Harrison, eye doctor in the Frankfort area; Jim Yochem, lifelong Lansing resident and owner of Earl's Locksmith shop; Angelo Cimity, head athletic trainer at California Junior College; and Bill Hastings, retired Lansing Police officer. Our best wishes and thanks are extended to all our former Memorial students and Mr. Jim Long.

Thank you Golden K's for recognizing our students with the B.U.G. Awards

“PUTTING THE CHILDREN FIRST”

“Our best teachers do more than impart facts and figures — they inspire and encourage students and instill a true desire to learn. That is a fine art in itself.” - Sonny Perdue

LESTER CRAWL PARENT CAFE

The parents of preschool students at Lester Crawl School had the opportunity to participate in a three part series of workshops based on the Pyramid Model. The Pyramid Model from the Center on Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning is a highly regarded research-based model for positive behavior support in early childhood. Lester Crawl School’s Parent Educator, Carrie Halper, arranged for a speaker from STAR NET to conduct these workshops for our parents. The parents learned strategies for building relationships, enhancing social skills, developing schedules and routines, and positive solutions to challenging behaviors. The parents gained ready to use strategies as well as the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with the other parents in attendance.



Pre-K Parent Activity Night

The parents of Lester Crawl School’s Pre-school for All participated in a fun and educational evening full of snowy activities with their children. All of the activities worked on skills that address the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards and could be easily adapted to be done at home. Pre-K students participated in one to one correspondence and number recognition activities and were also able to use their gross motor skills to complete an obstacle course. One of the challenges was to pull their parent on a scooter for a portion of the course. Many of the students enjoyed pulling their teacher, Ms. Torres. Everyone went home tired and happy!



PEER MEDIATION AT MEMORIAL

Memorial Junior High School is proud to announce the launch of a new Peer Mediation program focused on helping students handle conflict. Eighteen students were selected based on staff recommendations to be trained as peer mediators following a six step process that involves: Agreeing to mediate, gathering points of view, focus on interests, creating win-win options, evaluating options, and creating an agreement.



Parent Enrichment Night

District Enrichment teacher, Mrs. Val Kooy shares with parents the enrichment curriculum and related activities at their January 30, 2017 Parent Enrichment Night held at Memorial Junior High School. Parents were provided an opportunity to experience the challenging problem solving activities their student work on during Enrichment classes which include research, applying scientific methodologies, and integrated technology. Students have completed units on environmental sciences and robotics.



Thank you to the Lansing Police Department for their support of our students through the DANGER program and Shop With a Cop program!

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District 158**

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MEMORIAL STEM LEARNING

Memorial Junior High School has expanded their STEM program this year to include a robotics unit that challenges our students to apply engineering principles that build upon design and modeling. Memorial STEM teachers attended training over the summer at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Students were charged with working in teams to design and build a motorized race car that is operated based on computer coding which is programmed by the students.



K-2 TECHNOLOGY CLUB

District 158 started a K-2 technology club this year at all three elementary schools. Our students are learning computer coding, creating presentations, and exploring other web-based programs.



CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

Illinois Social Science Standards

In January of 2016 the State of Illinois adopted the New Illinois Learning Standards for the Social Sciences to be implemented in the 2017-18 school year. These new standards are more rigorous and are designed to help prepare students to be college and career ready.

The focus of the new standards has changed from students being able to memorize content and dates from history to producing students who are civically engaged, socially responsible, culturally aware and financially literate. Similar to the math, science and English Language Arts standards, the intent of these standards is for teachers to facilitate discussions and encourage students to work collaboratively in groups as well as individually.

The standards are broken into disciplinary concepts which simultaneously incorporate inquiry with questioning, investigating, reasoning and responsible action. The standards are arranged in grade-specific standards in the Kindergarten-fifth grade level and in grade spans 6-8 as well as 9-12. The elementary standards were designed in themes aligned to disciplinary core concepts, whereas the middle school concepts are arranged by levels of complexity. The standards are designed for the learning to build upon each other and allows for teachers to differentiate the concepts.

More information on the new standards can be found at http://isbe.net/ils/social_science/pdf/ss-stds-eff012716.pdf

CODING ACROSS THE DISTRICT

"The skills you learn today will let you shape tomorrow's future" *Code.Org*. District 158 students are learning the skills of the future through our one-to-one technology before, during, and after school! *Code.org* had a national event called the Hour of Code. Our students excitedly participated with great enthusiasm and gained insight in the field of technology by learning new programming skills to become future computer programmers!

