



KNOW Your Schools

Rooted in Community, Reaching for Excellence.

Vol 15, Issue 4, June 2021

Superintendent's Message

Dear Holton Families:

The 2020-2021 school year certainly was challenging! Yet even in the face of those challenges, our scholars were able to learn, grow, graduate, and continue to succeed. From the courts and fields to the classroom whether in person or virtually, our students and staff continued to excel! I am so proud of our community and our ability to support one another and our kids!



2021-22 Enrollment

As we plan for next year, we need your help! We are planning a typical return to school next fall. We will communicate any updates should we be required to include safety protocols including facial coverings. The first day of school will be August 30. If your child is currently enrolled, please let us know how you plan to enroll next year! We will offer in person instruction, a K-12 virtual option, and a 9-12 Alternative Education Option at Holton Virtual Academy. We are still finalizing the K-12 Virtual Option. For your child to enroll virtually, you and your child must sign our Virtual Instruction Student/Family Contract. Please complete the survey at <https://forms.gle/8EQi6VQ1cv4QzEw9> by July 1, 2021. For new or returning students, you can learn more about how to enroll by visiting <https://www.holtonschools.com/for-parents/enrollment/>.

2021-22 School Calendar

The first day of school for the 2021-22 school year is August 30. Join us for the District Open House on August 25 from 4PM-7PM. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school! We will share more details later this summer.

Retirees and Service Award Recognition

We recently celebrated our 20, 25, and 30 years of service employees. This year Mrs. Erin Byrnes, Mr. Todd Peterson, and Mrs. Heather Schulz completed their 20th year and Mrs. Deb McLeod completed her 25th year of service. We are incredibly thankful to the dedication of each of these staff members! Finally, we have two retirees this year. Mrs. Chris Frederick and Mr. Jeff Scott. Both have been outstanding, dedicated staff members impacting hundreds and hundreds of students and families. We wish them a very happy and healthy retirement!

Bond and Facility Projects

Our final bond projects will be finishing up this summer. This includes replacing the remaining portion of the elementary roof. We are installing new signs on Syers Road and at the elementary building. All of our kitchens will also be getting updates this summer. We are thankful for the support of the community to ensure we have excellent school facilities for our students to learn and grow in!

I hope you and your family have a great summer filled with lots of time to read and enjoy all the beauty West Michigan has to offer! Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and grace throughout this school year! On Holton!

Respectfully, Dr. Adam Bayne

Congratulations to our 2021 Retirees Chris Frederick and Jeff Scott



Mrs. Chris Frederick has served as an instructional assistant for Holton Public Schools for 23 years and is retiring this year. While we are sad to see Mrs. Frederick leave, we are thankful for the time she was here. Chris made a positive impact with

not just the students she worked with, but also the staff. She worked hard to make our students as successful as they could be and could always be counted on to help anyone who was in need. Chris was always one of the first staff members to report in the mornings and it won't be the same not having her here to greet everyone as they arrive. *We wish Chris the best in her future endeavors, hope she enjoys retirement and has the opportunity to do a lot more of the traveling that she loves!*

Mr. Jeff Scott has retired from Holton Public Schools after spending 31 years teaching at Holton Elementary. He spent the majority of these years as a fourth grade teacher, only in the last few years moving to a lower elementary math intervention position. With the many changes this year he completed his last year of teaching at Holton Elementary back in fourth grade. He enjoys teaching students in the classroom as well as playing alongside them. He is often seen outside on the playground throwing a football, kicking a soccer ball, and interacting with his students. Mr. Scott has shown his dedication to Holton Elementary, and we are thankful for the many years of service to our families and students. We wish him the best of luck with his retirement and many years of relaxation.

Congratulations, Mr. Scott, on your retirement!

Recognized for 25 years of service to Holton Public Schools! Deb McLeod



Recognized for 20 years of service to Holton Public Schools! Heather Schulz, Erin Byrnes, and Todd Peterson



District Services Building
Summer Hours Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 - 3:30 • Ph. 231-821-1700

Back to School Open House
August 25, 2021 • 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Open House	August 25
First Day of School	August 30
Early Release	September 1
No School	September 3 and 6
Early Release	September 15
Early Release	October 6
No School	Teacher PD - October 8
Half Day MS/HS Conferences	October 14
Early Release	October 20
Early Release	November 3
Half Day Elem Conferences	November 4
Early Release	November 17
No School	November 24, 25 and 26
Early Release	December 1
Early Release	December 15
Half Day	December 17
Christmas Break	December 20 - December 31
Return to School	January 3
Early Release	January 5
Half Day (Exams)	January 13 & 14
No School	January 17
Early Release	January 19
Early Release	February 2
Early Release	February 16
No School	February 17, 18 & 21
Early Release	March 2
Half Day MS/HS Conferences	March 3
Early Release	March 16
Half Day Elem Conferences	March 17
No School	March 25
Spring Break	April 1 - April 8
Half Day	April 15
Early Release	April 20
Early Release	May 4
Early Release	May 18
No School	May 30
Early Release	June 1
Half Days	June 9 and 10
Start time: MS/HS.....	7:45 a.m. End time.....
Start time: Elem.....	8:50 a.m. End time.....
Half day end time:	MS/HS.....
	10:55 a.m. Elem.....
	12:00 p.m.
Early Release end times:	MS/HS 1:05 pm
	Elem 2:15pm

Class of 2021 - Top Ten Graduates



Madison Bosset is the daughter of Mike and Brenda Bosset. She is Valedictorian of her class, and plans to attend Muskegon Community College before transferring to Michigan State to get her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree.



Kennedy Greene is the daughter of Sean and Heidi Greene. She is Valedictorian of her class and plans to attend Aquinas College where she will play softball. Kennedy's career plans are undecided.



Abby Wisniewski is the daughter of Lori and Dave Wisniewski. She is Valedictorian of her class, and plans to attend Michigan State University to study professional and public writing.



Kylie Gould is the daughter of Ken and Tammy Gould. She is the Salutatorian of her class, and plans to attend Central Michigan University to study elementary education and continue playing softball.



Rashelle Fox is the daughter of Rodney and Renee Fox. She is ranked 5th in her class, and plans to attend Paul Mitchell The School Honolulu majoring in cosmetology.



Kendra Westerhouse is the daughter of Debra and Matthew Westerhouse. She is ranked 5th in her class, and plans to attend Muskegon Community College before transferring to Grand Valley State University. She is interested in the medical field.



Breanna Zinky is the daughter of Roy Zinky. She is ranked 5th in her class, and plans to attend Muskegon Community College before transferring to Grand Valley State University. Breanna will study computer science.



Kendall Greene is the daughter of Heidi and Sean Greene. She is ranked 8th in her class, and plans to study psychology at Olivet College while playing softball.



Cameron Wackernagel is the son of Michael and Emalee Wackernagel. He is ranked 9th in his class, and plans to attend Muskegon Community College to pursue a career in architecture or business.



Emma Erickson is the daughter of Brian and Christine Erickson. She is ranked 10th in her class, and plans to pursue a career in the medical field at Muskegon Community College.

Welcome Summer

I hope to find everyone enjoying their summer. I want to thank the Holton community for all of your support this school year. When we think back to last August and the vast amount of unknowns that were in front of us, we have many reasons to celebrate as a school community.

As you reflect on this year with your children, I will challenge you to find the positives by acknowledging the things that we got to do. It is very easy to focus on the things that were missed out on or that were not allowed to happen. In our community we were able to be in-school, to continue learning, we could be with friends, to learn from our incredible Holton staff, to ride the bus and to participate in athletics and clubs. The list goes on! While all of it was different from our "normal" year, we should be celebrating all that we were able to do because our community and our schools came together for our kids.

On behalf of the entire Holton staff, I would like to wish you a wonderful summer break with your children, creating many memories that will last throughout a lifetime!



Sincerely, Erik Carlson, MS/HS Principal



Proud of all your hard work Class of 2021! Best wishes for a successful future.



DECISION DAY!



On May 18th, the Class of 2021 celebrated Decision Day! Decision Day is an event that many schools around the country take part in. Inspired by college athletes signing a letter of intent to play sports in college, we host this assembly to announce and celebrate each senior's plan for after high school. Mr. Jason Gripton did a fantastic job as the guest speaker!

Each senior signed a letter of intent to the postsecondary path of their choice, committing to persevere and complete the goals that they have set for themselves. In addition, seniors were given the opportunity to win prizes! Including mini fridges, microwaves, backpacks, and other items to help them succeed in college. We are so proud of our Seniors, and cannot wait to see them succeed in college and beyond!

Grace Adventures Camp

After a year off because of the pandemic, Holton middle school returned to Grace adventures camp. The group was a bit larger than usual because the students who were unable to attend last year got the opportunity to make up for what they missed last year.

Campers had the opportunity to kayak, swim (although the water was cold), shoot bows and rifles, play laser tag, go on the zip line and high ropes, find out if they could survive in the woods with their orienteering skills, play gaga, ride horses, and much much more. Most of all they have the opportunity to spend some time away from home and school and get some amazing, much-needed bonding.

As always, the staff at Grace Adventures was top notch and really treated everyone from Holton with the love and care that they are so good at.



PBIS/RIDE WITH PRIDE ASSEMBLY

Holton Middle/High School held its end of the year PBIS/Ride With Pride Assembly on May 20th. This assembly is an annual event where the staff recognizes and rewards students for their hard work and positive behaviors throughout the year. We gave away Hot n' Ready pizzas, gift cards, ice cream, electronics, games, candy and more for our PBIS rewards. Additionally, we gave away gift cards, a moped and even a car for the Ride With Pride rewards!

Our Middle School Ride With Pride winners were Gabe Helms, Riley Rull and Trinity Tyndall. Gabe and Riley won longboards and Trinity won the grand prize of a new bike! These prizes were donated by Jeff Pawlowski of Twin Lake Greenhouse. Bo Larabee won the moped and Drew Trygstad won the car. Since last year's seniors missed out on so much, they were included in this year's program. Congratulations to all the winners!

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!



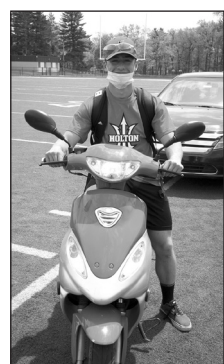
Fremont Ford, Lakeshore Yacht Sales, Twin Lake Greenhouse, The Scoop (Mrs. Wagenmaker), S and M Heating and Cooling (Mrs. Goyings), Jostens, Mrs. Bosset, Mrs. Raymond and Mr. Baker.



Mike Robinson, Drew Trygstad and Ed Devine



Car Finalists: Captain Shane Brown, Fremont Ford Co-Owner Mike Robinson, Broderick Fialek (picking for Aidan Poling), Drew Trygstad, Alexia Stewart, Rashelle Fox, Haily McKee and Fremont Ford Co-Owner Ed Devine



Bo Larabee on his new moped



Moped Finalists: Cierra Pentoney, Zoey Carty, Tanner Steffens, Shelby Bayne and Bo Larabee



Middle School Winners: Gabe Helms, Riley Rull and Trinity Tyndall

Graduation 2021!

Holton High School celebrated its 104th graduating class on June 2nd, 2021 at Red Devil Stadium. The class of 2021 had 56 students cross the stage to receive their diplomas and go from students to alumni. This year's class earned over one and a quarter million dollars in scholarships and institutional aid. Our valedictorians Madison Bosset, Kennedy Greene, Abby Wisnieski, and Holton's salutatorian Kylie Gould did a wonderful job capturing their time at Holton along with some words of wisdom. The guest speaker and Holton alumnus, Tyler Friend gave an inspirational speech on overcoming obstacles and coming out a better person. We wish all of our graduates success and best wishes with all of their future endeavors.

Congratulations Class of 2021!



Holton Elementary Families

The year has come to a close, and what a year it has been. Thank you to all of you who have worked so hard to make this year complete. It took the work of parents, guardians, family members, students, and school staff working together to complete the year. It was a year very different than any other, from three different learning options (face to face, hybrid, and virtual), to masks and social distancing, eating meals in the classroom, new expectations, and more. It truly shows the flexibility and resilience we all have.

As we move into the summer months, we are excited to be hosting a fun filled summer program beginning June 21st through August 20th. This program includes mornings with our Holton teachers focusing on math and ELA academic needs, then transitioning to a partnership with Project Focus for afternoon hands on learning activities. The students will also be attending two weeks of day camp at Camp Newaygo for outdoor education. This will be a great opportunity of learning and new experiences for our students.

Most of all, I am hoping that everyone gets time this summer to relax and enjoy many outdoor activities and fun with their families and friends. As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact me anytime at ebyrnes@holton.k12.mi.us or 231-821-1828.

Happy Summer, Erin Byrnes, Holton Elementary Principal



Yearbook Cover Design Content



This year the elementary held a yearbook cover design contest with the fourth and fifth grade students. All of the students did an amazing job at showing their creativity. It was very difficult to choose a winner. The judges decided to use two of the designs, one for the front cover and one for the back cover.

Congratulations to Breanna & Victoria!

Adventure Avenue – Sensory Path



One of the elementary teachers applied for an engagement grant through the Muskegon Community Foundation. She chose a sensory path to be added in the elementary hallway. This path helps many of our students who need movement breaks have a place to get the wiggles out. Also, classroom teachers use the space to bring their whole class for a brain break and movement. It has been a welcome addition to our halls.

Field Day Fun

Holton Elementary students participated a fun field day on June 8th and 9th. Students were able to go to the stadium and enjoy a variety of activities with their classmates. Kindergarten – 2nd grade had their fun on June 8th and 3rd – 5th grade had their turn on June 9th.



END OF YEAR PICNIC

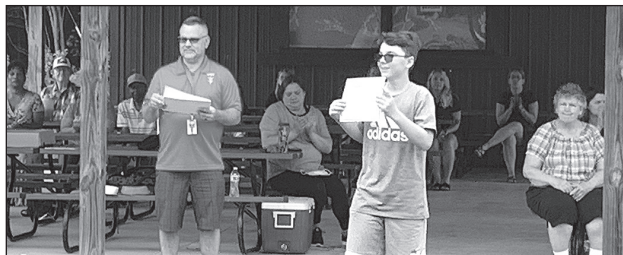
On Monday, June 3rd students enjoyed a picnic lunch outside. The kitchen staff filled their stomachs with hot dogs, beans, chips, fruit, and more. It was a great time for kids to spend some extra time outside as we celebrate the end of another school year.

Thank you Chartwells for the delicious picnic food.

Wishing you all a Happy Summer



5th Grade Graduation



4th Grade Visits the Lakeshore Museum

Thursday, June 3, the Lakeshore Museum hosted our fourth grade students for a 1-day event providing a hands-on experience to complement this year's virtual Big Lesson program. Students were engaged in various activities inside the museum that included a timeline of events from the glacial period through the lumbering era. Students also toured downtown Muskegon historical sites, Hackley and Hume homes, and the "gifts" provided to Muskegon by Charles Hackley.



Kindergarten Registration

2021-2022

Kindergarten Options & Enrollment Information

For the 2021-2022 school year, Holton Elementary will continue to offer two options for our new Kindergarten students! There will be traditional Kindergarten classrooms as well as a transitional Kindergarten classroom. As the academic expectations of Kindergarten increase, it has been shown that some children need more time to grow socially and emotionally before they are completely ready for traditional Kindergarten. There is strong research to support delaying the heavy academic demands for some children leads to much more confident learners.

The transitional Kindergarten class is a two-year experience for students who can use the extra time. The first year will be in the transitional Kindergarten classroom using a curriculum that focuses on a play-based experience and allows them to become curious and confident learners. The second year, students would enroll in a traditional, academic Kindergarten classroom.

If you have a child that will be five before December 1st, 2021 and you are interested in traditional Kindergarten or transitional Kindergarten, please call the elementary office at 231-821-1826 for enrollment information through June 18th; after June 18th contact the district services office for enrollment information at 231-821-1700.

Seniors Celebrated by the Elementary Students



On Tuesday, June 1st, the seniors of Holton High School wore their caps and gowns and paraded past cheering elementary students and staff wishing them well. Elementary students and staff are excited to see the seniors each year and show their support for their great accomplishments. Holton Elementary wishes the Class of 2021 the best of luck in all of the future plans.

ALL A'S BREAKFAST

May 21st was the day of our annual All A's Breakfast. This is a day to reward the students who have worked hard to get all A's this year. The day starts off with a delicious breakfast, followed by a day off from school to do something fun.

Congratulations to all of the students and keep up the good work!



Seniors: Maddy Bosset, Kayla Chartrand, Emma Erickson, Rashelle Fox, Kendall Greene, Kennedy Greene, Abbie Wisniewski (not pictured: Evan Bayne, Hannah Frey, Cameron Wackernagel, Kendra Westerhouse, Breanna Zinky)



Juniors: Robert Norton, Jasmin Cooper, Cameron Edgerton, Austin Fowler, Leah Fox, Austin Laster, Gracie Sullivan



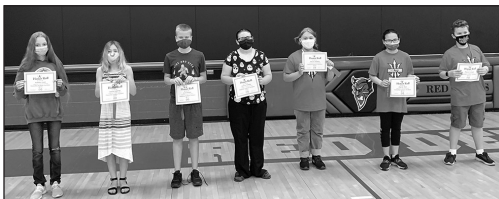
Sophomores: Vanessa Peltoniemi, Teagan Bayne, Courtney Boes, Skylar Larson Alexis Oles (not pictured: Kate Conzemius)



Freshman: Zoey Carty, Abby Fowler, Bo Larabee, June Newell, May Newell, Ryann Robins, Kylee Rickle



Eighth Grade: Lexi Bartolameolli, Abbie Beattie, Kenzie Greene, Cody Davis, Landyn Ortiz, Grace Thompsen, Jazlyn Spring, Caden Varela (not pictured: EmmaLee Fox, Trinity Tyndall)



Seventh Grade: Kendra Dean, Leanna Giddings, Jacob Bayne, Monica Mullins, Alexia Handley, Alyssia Ruiz, Mason Schropp (not pictured: Alexandria Smith and Jacob Unger)



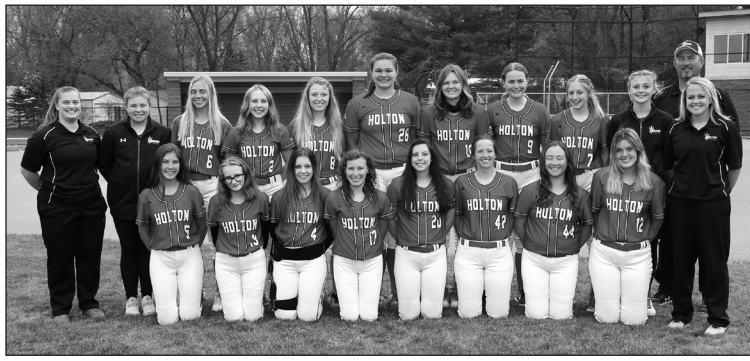
Sixth Grade: Joy Barnard, Jake Crowell, Martha Barnard (not pictured: Ava Wackernagel and Sophia Wackernagel)

Spring All-Conference Athletes

BASEBALL: Aidan Poling, Cody Moreen, Austin Fowler (HM)
SOFTBALL: Kylie Gould, Kennedy Greene, Ryann Robins, Abby Fowler, Madison Bosset (HM)
GOLF: Wyatt Monette (HM)
TRACK: James Hunter (100M, 110M Hurdles, High Jump), Kate Conzemius (Pole Vault)

Softball Team Success

Our varsity softball team has put together another outstanding season despite all of the changes due to the pandemic. The girls have persevered and have won conference and districts for the 6th time in a row. The girls also captured a regional title for the 4th time in the past 5 years. On Holton!



Hunter Shines at the State Meet

Junior, James Hunter, recently ended his 2021 track campaign at the state meet held at Hudsonville High School. Hunter qualified in both the High Jump and 110 meter hurdles. James earned a trip to the podium for his finish in the 110m hurdles finishing in 3rd place. In High Jump, he just missed out on earning all-state honors with a 9th place finish.

Way to go James!

Summer Athlete Opportunities

This summer our recently renovated fitness center is ready to train our up and coming Holton athletes. We are providing many opportunities for our athletes to get into the fitness center and train for their respective seasons. We are also having many different opportunities to get into the gym and fields for summer activities for students of all different ages. Below is the fitness center schedule for athletes, and contact information for our varsity coaches. Do not hesitate to contact them with any questions you may have.

FITNESS CENTER SCHEDULE

Monday: 5-6 PM Middle School and High School Athletes
Tuesday: 4-5 PM Middle School Athletes
 5-6 PM High School Athletes
 6-7 PM High School Athletes
Wednesday: 4-5 PM Middle School Athletes
 5-6 PM High School Athletes
 6-7 PM High School Athletes
Thursday: 4-5 PM Middle School Athletes
 5-6 PM High School Athletes
 6-7 PM High School Athletes
Friday: OFF

Summer Youth Golf Opportunity

The First Tee of West Michigan is partnering with local golf courses around the area to provide opportunities for our students to explore and become acclimated with the game of golf. Holton's in district golf course, Stonegate Golf Club (4100 Sweeter Rd, Twin Lake, MI 49457), has an introductory program on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:45 PM for any student ages 7-17. This program runs from July 7 through August 11th. A scholarship rate of \$5 is charged for all Holton students. For more information or to register go to <https://www.firstteewestmichigan.org/>



CONTACT NUMBERS

Administration Office:
821-1700 Fax: 821-1724
 High School Office:
821-1725 Fax: 821-1774
 Middle School Office:
821-1775 Fax: 821-1774
 Elementary Office:
821-1825 Fax: 821-1849
 Transportation Office:
821-1707 Fax: 821-1722
 Maintenance Office: 821-1709
 Athletic Director: 821-1930
 Athletic Office: 821-1707

Varsity Coaches Email

Football: Alex Smith, asmith@holton.k12.mi.us
Volleyball: Austin Bectel, bectelaustin@gmail.com
Cross Country: Tim Horenziak, thorenzi@holton.k12.mi.us
Boys Basketball: Keith Swanson, kswanson@holton.k12.mi.us
Girls Basketball: BJ Jordan, jordan@globalvision.us
Wrestling: Jake Moreen, jacob.moreen@outlook.com
Track: Mark English, menglish@holton.k12.mi.us
Softball: Kirk Younts, kirkyounts@yahoo.com
Athletic Director: Jared Hudson, judson@holton.k12.mi.us



SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY

Summer Reading June 14 - August 21

All ages are welcome to participate in Summer Reading: birth-6th grade, 7th-12th grade and adults. Go to madl.org, click on Summer Reading, follow the directions and start reading!

MADL Take It/Make It

Looking for something fun to do? We will have craft kits available with the supplies you need. Stop by any MADL branch to pick up one.

Virtual Programs

Watch madl.org and Facebook for programs like:
 • Pajama Storytime • Summer Book Talks
 • Trivia • Virtual Pet Show
 • Online Book Clubs • Live Performers

Holton Branch of Muskegon Area District Library
 8776 Holton-Duck Lake Rd • Holton, MI 49425
 231-821-0268 • madl.org

Substitute & Athletics Bus Drivers for the 2021-22 school year

We will provide training

Contact Stacy @ 821-1707 for more details.



CHEF SEAN WEST

My wife and I recently moved to Muskegon from Whitehall with our 2 children in tow. For the past two years, I served as Dietary Director for an assisted living facility in Muskegon. Though I was formally educated at Kendall College in Chicago, I've accrued 20 years experience in various kitchens there and in Western Michigan. From Burger King to the Hearthstone on to Michelin-starred kitchens, I have worked in every facet of foodservice. I am extremely excited to bring my experience to the kitchens of K-12.