



KNOW Your Schools

Rooted in Community, Reaching for Excellence.

Vol 19, Issue 4, June 2025

Superintendent's Message

Dear Holton Families:

Thank you for a fantastic school year! I hope your summer is filled with joyful memories, time to read great books, and all the beauty West Michigan has to offer. As we move into summer break, here are a few important updates:

Academic Success!

We're incredibly proud of the academic growth our students have shown this year! Based on benchmark assessments from NWEA Measures of Academic Progress:

- **Math:** 100% of assessed grade levels showed growth from Fall to Spring, and half exceeded national norms.
- **Reading:** 83% of grade levels showed growth, with 33% outperforming national norms.

While we continue working to improve achievement for all students, it's important to pause and celebrate these gains. Congratulations to our students, staff, and families for their hard work and progress!

2025-26 Enrollment:

We continue to enroll students for the 2025-2026 School Year. We have a variety of options for enrollment. You can learn more about how to enroll by visiting <https://www.holtonschools.com/for-parents/parents/enrollment/>. Holton Public Schools is a great place to Grow, Learn, Graduate, and Succeed!

Service Award Recognition

We recently celebrated our staff completing 20, 25, and 30 years of service. While we had no 20- or 25-year honorees, we are proud to recognize Ms. CJ Johnson for 30 years of dedicated service to Holton Public Schools. We are incredibly thankful for the dedication of Ms. Johnson and all of our staff members!

Retirees

Erin Byrnes, Kenda Standfest, and Sharon Almond will be retiring (or did this school year) from Holton Public Schools. Each of these individuals profoundly impacted the students, staff, and community they've served. Combined, these three staff members have served Holton Public Schools for nearly 80 years! That results in an impact on thousands of students. Amazing! We wish them each a long, happy, and healthy retirement and many fun memories on this new journey! We are grateful to their contributions to Holton Public Schools.

Golden Apple Award

The Golden Apple Award was established long ago with the intent of honoring an individual or group of people who have contributed to Holton Public Schools by volunteering significant time to support our students. This year, the District is recognizing an outstanding volunteer, Pat Fox. Pat helps support our bowling and golf teams. She also coordinates our RED Book program which connects Holton Elementary Students with FREE books three times per year. Pat has been doing this for many years impacting hundreds of elementary students by connecting all of them with books to read. Holton Public Schools honored Pat at our end of year luncheon. She was provided a plaque to recognize her outstanding contributions.

Turf Replacement Project

The Turf Replacement at Red Devil Stadium will begin the week of June 16. This project will involve multiple steps including preparation, turf demolition and removal, subsurface and drainage repair, shock pad installation, turf installation, and clean up. Our contractors expect that the turf will be ready for use in August. You can learn more about the project at <https://www.holtonschools.com/community/turf-replacement-project/>. I look forward to the new field!

Thank you for your support of Holton Public Schools! I am so proud to serve this district! On Holton!

*With Great Respect and Pride,
Dr. Adam Bayne*



2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Open House	August 20
First Day of School	August 25
No School	August 29 - September 1
Early Release	September 3
Early Release	September 17
Early Release	October 1
1/2 Day - Conferences	October 9
No School - Teacher PD	October 10
No School - Fall Break	October 13 - 14
Early Release	October 15
Early Release	November 5
Early Release	November 19
No School - Thanksgiving Break	November 26 - 28
Early Release	December 3
Early Release	December 17
1/2 Days - Exams	December 18 - 19
No School - Holiday Break	December 22 - January 2
School Resumes	January 5
Early Release	January 7
No School - Teacher PD	January 19
Early Release	January 21
Early Release	February 4
Mid Winter Break	February 16 - 20
Early Release	March 4
1/2 Day - Conferences	March 5
Early Release	March 18
Early Release	April 1
No School - Spring Break	April 3 - April 10
Early Release	April 15
Early Release	May 6
Early Release	May 20
1/2 Day -	May 22
No School - Memorial Day	May 25
Early Release	June 3
1/2 Day - Exams	June 9 - 10
Start time: MS/HS.....	7:45 a.m.
End time.....	2:35 p.m.
Start time: Elem.....	8:50 a.m.
End time.....	3:45 p.m.
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



Abbie Beattie is the daughter of Tony and Heather Beattie. She is ranked 5th in her class. Abbie plans to attend Muskegon Community College to pursue her Associates Degree in Nursing and then transfer to Ferris for their Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program.



Mikeal Beach is the son of Dawn Beach. He is ranked 6th in his class. Mikeal plans to attend Muskegon Community College or a trades school for welding.



Maverick McFarland is the son of Eric and Melissa McFarland. He is ranked 7th in his class. Maverick plans to attend Michigan Technological University to earn his business degree.



Austin Jensen is the son of Val Jensen and Sherrie Schroeder. He is ranked 8th in his class. Austin plans to attend Grand Valley State University to earn a Bachelor's degree in Internet Technology.



Cody Davis is the son of Jacob and Selina Davis. He is ranked 9th in his class. Cody plans to attend Michigan Tech to earn a Masters degree in Computer Engineering.



EmmaLee Fox is the daughter of Amanda Fox, raised by Rick and Pat Fox. She is ranked 10th in her class. EmmaLee plans to attend Muskegon Community College to become a Registered Nurse before transferring to pursue a degree in Pediatrics and NICU Nursing.



Grace Thompson is the daughter of Chris and Susan Thompson. She is the Valedictorian of her class. Grace plans to attend Muskegon Community College to study Criminal Justice and play softball.



Ashley VandenAkker is the daughter of Scott and Tracy VandenAkker. She is ranked 3rd in her class. Ashley plans to attend University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science and the Arts.



Kenzie Green is the daughter of Sean and Heidi Greene. She is the Salutatorian of her class. Kenzie plans to attend Aquinas College to study Business/Sports Management and play softball.



Karly King is the daughter of Jeremy and Bobbie King. She is ranked 4th in her class. Karly plans to enter the workforce and explore entrepreneurship to pursue her love for all things agricultural.



Principal Letter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we wrap up another incredible school year, I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Holton community. Your unwavering support, dedication, and involvement have made this year truly special.

Our students have achieved remarkable milestones, both academically and personally. From outstanding performances in the classroom to moments on the sports field and in extracurricular activities, their hard work and resilience have been commendable.

Thank you to our teachers and staff. Our exceptional teaching staff has poured their hearts into nurturing our students' growth. Their passion, creativity, and commitment have made a lasting impact. Let's take a moment to appreciate their tireless efforts.

Now, as we bid farewell to the school year, it's time to embrace the joys of summer break. Summer break is a time to recharge. Whether you're planning family vacations, exploring new hobbies, or simply enjoying quality time together, I encourage you to make the most of this well-deserved break.

Stay connected. Although the school halls may be quiet, our community remains strong. Stay connected through our Facebook page, newsletters, email, and upcoming events. We look forward to welcoming you back in the fall with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Wishing you all a safe, relaxing, and joyful summer!

Warm regards,
Mr. Erik Carlson, Principal



Showcase 2025



Elaina Acker, a junior, created an original colored pencil composition for the event. Her work was titled, "Surrounded by Silence."

Student Expressions 2025

Eight Holton Middle and High School students that had work represented at the Expressions exhibit. Expressions is the annual student art exhibition showcasing the artistic talents of Muskegon County K-12 students. The exhibition includes two and three-dimensional artworks created in a variety of media from Muskegon County school districts. Students that had work displayed at the Expressions 2025 show were: Keonna Marr (7th), Kiera Goodin (7th), Haily Bawcum (12th), Ashley Jensen (11th), Lily Erikson (11th), Quint Painter (11th), Maria Villeneuve (11th) and Jozalynn Erickson (7th).

Reading Buddies:
Growing Readers,
One Page at a Time!

Here at Holton Middle School, we believe in the power of reading. It opens doors to new worlds, sparks imagination, and builds crucial skills for academic success. That's why we're so incredibly proud of our continued relationship with Read Muskegon and the Reading Buddies program.

The Reading Buddy program pairs our trained local volunteers with younger students for regular reading sessions. It's a win-win for everyone involved! Our middle school students benefit from the one-on-one attention and encouragement from a positive role model, helping them to develop a love for reading and improve their fluency and comprehension.

Every week, pairs of students meet in a comfortable and supportive environment. They might read aloud together, discuss the story, or even play literacy-based games. The focus is always on making reading enjoyable and building confidence.

The success of the Muskegon Reading Buddies program is a testament to the enthusiasm of our students and the dedication of our staff and volunteers. We are so grateful to everyone who participates and helps to foster a strong reading culture within our school. Holton looks forward to the continued partnership with Read Muskegon.

Holton Theatrics took us Back to the 80s!



Congratulations to the cast!
It was a wonderful performance by all!

Hope Squad

Our peer to peer suicide prevention program "Hope Squad" was able to put together a variety of activities focused on community building and mental health awareness. Recently, students participated in "Hope Week" which focused on increasing knowledge of mental health interventions accessible within the school and within our community. They also participated in a day of fun at the elementary school focused on teaching students the importance of deep breathing and positive peer connections. Hope Squad is actively reaching out to peer nominated students for recruitment of their 2025-2026 squad.



March Is Reading Month Recap:
Heroes Who Read

This year, March Is Reading Month launched with an epic face-off as students were divided into superhero squads in the ultimate Marvel vs. DC showdown. Teams included the Avengers, X-Men, Guardians of the Galaxy, Justice League, Teen Titans, and Team Gotham. From the first page, the competition was fierce as students raced to transform reading logs and points into minutes, proving that heroes wear more than just capes, they read.

To up the challenge, The Riddler dropped weekly brain-bending puzzles and riddles in true race-against-the-clock fashion. Students scrambled to crack the clues, unlock bonus points, and keep their teams alive on the scoreboard. Even teachers jumped into the action, joining teams as reading mentors and proving that literacy is a full-school superpower.

After a month of heroic reading, the Guardians of the Galaxy soared to victory, earning an out-of-this-world pizza and cupcake celebration for their hard work and dedication.

The stakes were high and one super reader rose to the top. The highest-minute reader across the entire school earned an Amazon Fire Tablet, proving that dedication to reading really does pay off!

But the adventure didn't end there! All students who completed the minimum required reading minutes earned a spot on the field trip to Twin Lake Park, a fun-filled day outdoors with games, friends, and well-earned celebration.

Whether Marvel or DC, every reader this month proved one thing: when you open a book, you become the hero of your own story.

JUNIOR/SENIOR PROM 2025



The Junior/Senior Prom 2025 was held at The Lotus Room Event Center on April 26th. The theme was "Luxury At The Lotus" Ethan Aleem and Kendahl Swenson were crowned Prom King and Queen.

Ride With Pride/PBIS Celebration!

On Thursday, May 8th, Holton Middle/High School held its annual end-of-year Ride With Pride/PBIS assembly. Hundreds of prizes were given away to students who have earned RED Tickets this semester for meeting school expectations. We also threw hundreds of Ride With Pride t-shirts, blankets, water bottles, and other items into the crowd. We had some big ticket giveaways including, bikes, an e-bike, and a car for our Ride With Pride winners. Students must fill out a pledge at the beginning of the year and stick to it in order to be eligible to win the Ride With Pride prizes. This year's middle school Ride With Pride winners of the bikes were: Lucia Garza, Kiera Goodin, and Jacob Helms. Kailey Evartt won the e-bike, and EmmaLee Fox won the car! Holton Middle/High School would like to sincerely thank **Fremont Ford, The Pizza Mill, Slater Directional Drilling, Twin Lake Greenhouse, The Crane Family Foundation, Hackley Community Care, Chartwells, Dawn Hall, Jessica Wagenmkaer** and others for their generous gifts. Without them, we would not be able to do any of this!



This year's RWP finalists: Mason Schropp, Kaiden Tallarico, Monica Mullins, EmmaLee Fox, Elizabeth Stoll, and Mike Robinson (Owner of Fremont Ford).



This year's bike winners: Kiera Goodin, Jacob Helms, and Lucia Garza.

We couldn't do this without our sponsors!



6TH GRADE CAMP

The sixth graders had another great year at camp. They challenged themselves to do things they did not think they could do. The group experienced the dunes and the sand. They also enjoyed a little history about the dunes on the Mac Dune Rides. Even though it was a little cold, fun and new experiences were had by all.



Principal Letter

Dear Holton Elementary Families,

As the school year winds down and the days grow longer and warmer, we're seeing more smiles on the playground and hearing the joyful sounds of students enjoying their time outdoors again. Spring has a way of bringing new energy.

This year has been filled with both successes and challenges, and each moment—whether easy or hard—has been worth celebrating. Our students have shown remarkable academic growth, and I am proud of the perseverance, determination, and enthusiasm they've demonstrated throughout the year. Their achievements reflect the partnership between our families, staff, and community.

As we look ahead to summer, we're excited to offer our Summer Learning Program, which begins June 16th and runs through July 31st. The program will operate for six weeks, with a break during the week of July 4th. Mornings will focus on academic enrichment led by Holton teachers, and afternoons will transition into Project Focus, offering engaging, hands-on learning opportunities. We look forward to continuing our students' growth in a supportive, fun environment.

This year holds special meaning for me personally, as it marks my final year in education and at Holton Elementary. After 24 years of serving this incredible school and community, I will be entering retirement. As I prepare for this next chapter, I find myself reflecting on the many special memories made here—memories filled with laughter and the unique spirit that makes Holton so special.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve your children and be a part of their educational journey. Holton will always hold a special place in my heart. While I will miss many aspects of this role, please know that I won't be a stranger.

Wishing you and your family a safe, relaxing, and joy-filled summer.

*With Holton Pride,
Erin Byrnes, Holton Elementary Principal*



Welcome MRS. CALLOW

We're excited to welcome **Mrs. Stephanie Callow** as our new Elementary Principal! Selected through a multi-round process involving staff, parents, and board members, Mrs. Callow brings experience as a teacher and principal across several districts. Mrs. Callow served as an elementary teacher at Mona Shores before working at Muskegon Heights as their Title 1 ELA Instructional and Curriculum Coach. Most recently, she has served at Muskegon Catholic as their Elementary Principal and then became the PreK-12th grade principal after some staffing restructuring. After serving six years in this role, Mrs. Callow is looking to return her focus to the elementary level and support student success with her student centered approach. She is a mom of three and is married to a teacher. Mrs. Callow will begin working with Mrs. Byrnes in the coming weeks and throughout the summer. She is excited to meet students, staff, and families throughout the next few months!

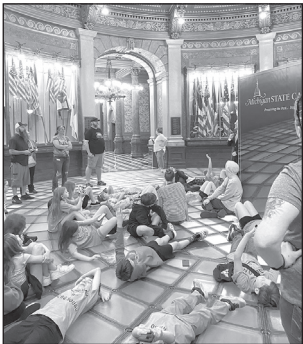


Please give Mrs. Callow a warm welcome!

Elementary Field Trips

Spring is the perfect time for exploration and learning beyond the classroom, and our elementary students made the most of it! Each grade had the opportunity to take a special field trip this season, creating lasting memories and bringing their learning to life. Here's a look at where each grade went this spring!

- Kindergarten & 1st Grade visited Lewis Farms
- Second Grade visited John Ball Park Zoo
- Third Grade went bowling, swimming, and for ice cream
- Fourth Grade went to Lansing to visit the Capitol
- Fifth Grade went to Michigan's Adventure



Holton Elementary Carnival

On May 9th, Holton Elementary hosted our Annual Carnival, and it was a night to remember! Hundreds of students and their families came together to participate, creating a night filled with laughter, joy, and lots of smiles.

The evening included a free dinner as well as a variety of fun activities. Students participated in exciting games, raced through the inflatable obstacle course, and indulged in sweet treats like cotton candy. The excitement didn't stop there—families also had the chance to enter raffles, tour fire trucks, and explore even more carnival attractions.

The carnival was a huge success thanks to the generous support of our community. A special thank you goes to everyone who donated items, volunteered their time, and attended to make this event so special. We are incredibly grateful for the continued support from our Holton Elementary families!

As we reflect on the amazing time we had this year, we're already looking forward to making next year's carnival bigger and better! We hope to see even more families join us for the fun and festivities in the future.



5th Grade Celebration

On June 5th, Holton Elementary proudly celebrated our amazing fifth-grade students with a special event at the park to honor their transition from elementary to middle school.

The celebration began with a pizza lunch shared among classmates—complete with smiles and lots of excitement for what lies ahead. Following lunch, the fifth-grade teachers honored the students in a ceremony that marked the official end of their elementary school journey. Each student was celebrated for their hard work and growth.

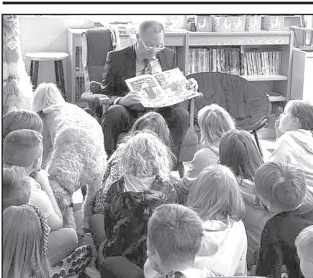
We are so proud of our fifth graders and all that they have accomplished. While we will certainly miss seeing their familiar faces in the halls of Holton Elementary, we are incredibly excited to watch them take this next big step into middle school.



Congratulations to the Class of 2025! We wish you the very best of luck in your new adventures and know you will continue to make us proud.

Yearbook Cover Design Content Winners

A big congratulations to Anthony and Charlie, the winners of this year's Yearbook Cover Design Contest! We can't wait to see your creative designs come to life on the covers of our yearbooks. Thank you both for your hard work, talent, and artistic vision—you've made this year's edition extra special!



Thank You, DJ Hilson for Visiting Holton Elementary!!!

MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL PROGRAM

Through a partnership with the Michigan Health Council, the MAISD offers the **Mini Medical School Program** as a virtual interactive experience for 3rd grade students. In February and March, Ms. Sundberg's and Mrs. Fowler's classes participated in this program that introduced them to the health career zone. The kids learned about a variety of professions in health care and completed work in 7 stations: Bone Health, Medical Instruments, Germs & Hygiene, Organs, Nutrition, Exercise, and Dental Health. We also had a dental hygienist visit to talk about her job and bring us a goodie bag. At the end of the program, kids were given a "swag bag" with goodies from local healthcare providers and a certificate of completion. This exposure to healthcare careers is vital, as it is one of the most in-demand career fields in Michigan and makes up the largest employers in West Michigan and in Muskegon County. We were thrilled to be included!



Daddy Daughter Dance



Graduation 2025



Graduation for the Class of 2025 was held in the High School Gymnasium on May 28, 2025. It was an intimate ceremony celebrating the graduates and all of their accomplishments. Dr. Benjamin Visger, Class of 2003, and Board Certified Neuromusculoskeletal and Osteopathic Manipulation Physician, returned as a guest speaker to offer words of wisdom to the graduating class.

Congratulations to the class of 2025!!

Elementary Track & Field

On May 30th, students at Holton Elementary enjoyed a day filled with fun and activity during our annual Track and Field Day and Park Play event. Students were divided into two groups: Upper Elementary (grades 3-5) and Lower Elementary (grades K-2).

In the morning, our youngest students (K-2) participated in a variety of exciting games and events at the stadium, while our older students (3-5) headed to the township park for their own set of activities. After a busy morning, everyone gathered back together for a picnic lunch outside, enjoying the beautiful weather. In the afternoon, the groups switched locations, allowing each student to enjoy both the track and field games and the park activities.

We were thrilled to see so many families join us to make the day even more special. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to stay active, have fun, and create lasting memories with their classmates and families.



\$25 Sports Physicals & Well Child Visits

Hackley Community Care SchoolBased Health is offering \$25 Sports Physicals and Well Child visits.

Three Opportunities to schedule and appointment, conveniently taking place at Holton High School.

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 8:00am - 4:00pm
Monday, July 21, 2025 8:00am - 4:00pm
Wednesday, August 20, 2025 9:00am - 7:00pm

To schedule an appointment please call 231-733-6692

Congratulations Retirees!

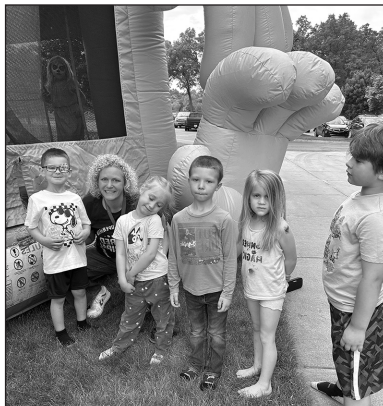


Kenda Standfest, Erin Byrnes and Sharon Almond

Elementary Year End Celebration

At Holton Elementary, our school-wide expectations of **Respect, Effort, and Dependability** are at the heart of everything we do. Throughout the year, we emphasize these values, teaching students how to incorporate them into their daily lives.

On June 6th, we came together to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our students in following these important expectations. The celebration was filled with bounce houses, slides, and exciting obstacle courses for the students to enjoy. There were also face painters and temporary tattoos to add to the festivities. To help everyone cool down after all the fun, each student was treated to a refreshing popsicle on their way back to class.



We're so proud of our students for embracing these values and making them a part of their everyday lives.

*Here's to continuing to live by **Respect, Effort, and Dependability** every day at Holton!*



ATTENTION WRESTLERS

7th - 12th Grade Holton Wrestlers have a busy summer calendar. If you would like to participate in Open Mats, Jayhawks Club, Lifting and Drills and Team Camp, please email Coach Glick at jglick@holton.k12.mi.us



Recognized for Years of Service to Holton Public Schools!

CJ Johnson - 30 Years



Golden Apple Award
Pat Fox

CONTACT NUMBERS

Administration Office:
821-1700 Fax: 821-1724

High School Office:
821-1725 Fax: 821-1774

Middle School Office:
821-1775 Fax: 821-1824

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

ATHLETIC TICKET PRICES

\$5.00 Regular Admission

\$15.00 Max/Family

Free Under 5

Athletic passes can be purchased from the DSB or any athletic event gate.
Family: \$130.00, Individual Adult: \$50, Students: \$30.00
Family Passes or Student Passes can be earned by taking tickets and assisting in other ways at athletic events.
Contact Dustin DeBeau at ddebeau@holton.k12.mi.us if you are interested.

**Reminder: Young students must be attended to. Unsupervised students may be asked to leave the contest.*

MADL

MUSKEGON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

Summer at the Library

June 16 Maciek the Magician
June 23 Nick Thomas Juggling Show
July 7 Camp MADL
July 14 Music for All with Josh & Joe
July 21 Summer Kid ArtFest
July 28 Michigan's Feathered Friends and More

Visit madl.org/summer for more events and information about Teen Crafts and the Summer Reading Program, where you can enter to win prizes.

All-Conference Athletes!



Back Row (L-R) Gabe Colon (Baseball HM) Rylee Pierce (Boys Golf HM) Fisher Mirkle (Baseball HM)

Front Row (L-R) Abigail Isabell (Softball 1st Team) Grace Thompson (Softball 1st Team) Kenzie Greene (Softball 1st Team) Aubrey Goyings (Softball HM) Josey Jefferies (Softball HM)



State Qualifier - Girls Track and Field
Justice Hill

DISTRICT SERVICES BUILDING SUMMER HOURS

Monday - Thursday 8:00 - 3:30
Phone 231-821-1700

Back to School Open House

Wednesday, August 20, 2025
4:00pm - 7:00pm