



Volume XLVII Issue 1
August 2025

Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



PAIGE SOWDERS

My name is Paige Sowders and I am honored to be joining the third grade team. I am a veteran educator with 19 years of experience in elementary education. Most recently, I supported student learning at Alma Public Schools. I am thrilled to be returning to the classroom, especially as part of such a wonderful school community.

Though I'm originally from Grand Rapids, I spent the last 26 years living in Indianapolis. It feels great to be back home in the Great Lakes State! Currently, I live in Mt. Pleasant with my amazing family. I have two

step kids, Lily and Jake, who keep us busy with their active sports schedules. As a family, we love spending time outdoors—whether it's walking our dogs (Louie and Stella), visiting amusement parks, watching baseball and softball, or playing pickleball (though a few of us are very competitive!).

Thank you to everyone who has already extended such a warm welcome. I can't wait to get to know all of you! Go Mustangs! Warmly, Paige Sowders

Hi Mustangs! My name is Ashley Barrett and I am so excited to join this community and teach 3rd grade at Montabella! I grew up in Bay City, but 10 years ago moved to Mid-Michigan. In 2015, I graduated from Ferris State University with my Bachelors degree. In my spare time I love to spend time with my family and make memories with my 3 kids. We love camping, going to the parks, riding bikes and going to get ice cream. I am looking forward to a great year of teaching and being apart of the Mustang community!



ASHLEY BARRETT

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 4 — Fall sports meeting 5:30 PM

August 5–7 — High School Band Camp 6:00-8:00 PM

August 7 — Registration for JR/SR High (6-12th Grade)

SCHOOL PICTURES WILL BE TAKEN DURING REGISTRATION
(retakes 09/23/25)

- 10th, 11th & 12th Grade: 12—2:00 PM
- 7th & 8th Grade: 2—4:00 PM
- 6th Grade: 6—7:15 PM
- 9th Grade: 7:30—9:00 PM

August 14 — Open House 4:30-6:00 PM

- Enjoy hot dogs & light refreshments in JR/SR cafeteria

August 19 — **First Day of School**

October 2 — Elementary School Picture Day (retakes 11/04/25)

WHAT'S INSIDE

Meet Our Mustangs

Superintendent's Message/New Mustangs

Meet Our Mustangs

FYI

Spotlight Students

Student of the Month/Mustang Highlights

25-26 School Calendar

Welcome to the Mustang Herd!

Hello Mustang family! My name is Christopher Boggs and I will be the new band director for the Jr/Sr high school, as well as teaching 6th and 7th grade tech classes. I was very honored to get to do my student teaching here, and even more honored to get hired to stay after my student teaching. I am very eager and excited to start! I have

already been to the band room, to clean and organize things all summer! My hobbies

outside of all things music related, are watching movies and playing video games to relax.



CHRISTOPHER BOGGS

Hello! I am excited to join the Mustang community and to get to know everyone! My name is Matt Mudget, I grew up in Traverse City and I have enjoyed living in Mid-Michigan for the past few years. I graduated from Central

Michigan University with my degree in Music Education. I love music and its impact on myself and my students! My main instrument is percussion, though I had the joy of learning many instruments in college. I enjoy fishing, traveling, camping and many more outdoor activities! Once again, I am thrilled to join the Mustang family and to bring my joy for music to the elementary school!



MATTHEW MUDGET



Improving Montabella

The Montabella School Board will be working on a process this school year to set some district goals. They will accomplish this by participating in a process called strategic planning. This planning process is facilitated by an outside organization and hopes to help the district identify some long-term goals that align with the district's mission and vision. The rationale of strategic planning is to help guide decision making and resource allocation to align with the goals of the district. The finished product should provide some very specific measurable goals and action steps which will help Montabella Schools continue to grow. It has been about 8 years since the district took part in the strategic planning process and things have changed so it is time to revisit the goals.

A critical part of this strategic planning process is gathering feedback. The district needs perspectives from students, staff, parents and community. There will be a few different ways for everyone to provide input. There will be two in person sessions with the facilitator to gather feedback and there will also be the option of an online survey. Additional details will be shared on our website and Facebook pages as the dates gets closer.

Every organization or business has room for improvement, Montabella Schools is no different. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas of how to make Montabella a better place for students to grow and learn.

Community Input Sessions:

Thursday, September 18

Wednesday, October 1

Hello Mustangs! My name is Olivia Outman, and I'm so excited to begin my career as a second grade teacher at Montabella Elementary! I grew up in Cadillac, Michigan, but spent a lot of time here with my family-walking in parades, swimming in Horseshoe Lake, making Dollar General and Leppinks runs with my Aunt Shelly, and cheering on my cousins at sporting events at Lakeview and Montabella. I enjoyed it so much that I decided to move here after I graduated high school! Over the past six years, I've had the opportunity to substitute teach at several local schools, where I've loved building connections and creating safe, supportive spaces for students to grow. I am so grateful to now be part of the Montabella family and can't wait to learn and grow alongside my students this year!



OLIVIA OUTMAN



NICHOLE CHAPMAN

Hello, My name is Nichole Chapman and I am excited to be joining the Mustang family as a GSRP teacher. After graduating from Montabella and getting my bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, I have taught early childhood in several different environments. I am currently working towards my Master's degree in Early Childhood Education. Outside of the classroom, you will find me exploring Michigan with my husband and our two children, Clyde and Aspyr.

We would also like to welcome Jessica Kolenda (High School Spanish/English)



TARA DOOLITTLE

Hello, my name is Tara Doolittle. I taught English for 7 years at Central Montcalm High School, and after taking the last 4 years off to convert a milking parlor into a home and help family members as needed, I'm ready to get back into the classroom as the new English 10/11 teacher. My husband Chad and I celebrated 25 years of marriage in May, and we have 3 adult children

(Brendan, Aubrey, and Angel), a son-in-law (Alan), and 6 children around the world in Denmark, Germany, Japan, Mexico, and Australia that we hosted as exchange students over the years. I enjoy floating at our lake property in the summer, reading (especially WWII era fiction and non-fiction), camping (hammock camping is my favorite), hiking, singing with our church worship team or with my daughters, and dancing when a good song comes on (you just might catch me in the middle of a random dance party when class is not in session). I'm looking forward to joining the Montabella Mustang community!



DAWN KROLL

program, being a teacher for five years, and raising four kids, I decided to return to college to pursue a teaching degree. I recently graduated from Western Governors University with a dual license in Special Education K-12th grade and Elementary Education PK-6th grade. I have also been serving in youth ministries for many years. I enjoy playing board games with family and friends, camping, canoeing, traveling, and going for walks with my husband. We also love seeing our kids and grandson whenever we can! I am excited for this new adventure in life with the Mustang community!

Hello! My name is Dawn Kroll. I am excited to join the Montabella Mustang family this year. I will be teaching 6th and 7th grade Special Education. After spending four years working in a high school work-study substitute



SUMMER SMITH

Hey Mustangs! My name is Summer Smith, and I am thrilled to be joining the Mustang family as the new 7th and 8th grade ELA teacher and JV volleyball coach! I am from Midland, MI, and graduated from Breckenridge High School in 2021. I continued my education at The University of Olivet, where I played softball for two years. When I am not teaching, you can find me on a field or court-- playing, coaching, umping, refereeing, or watching sports-- especially volleyball, basketball, or softball. Outside of athletics, I enjoy reading, playing my guitar, and hanging out with my friends and family. I am excited to join the Mustang family and become an active member of the community this fall!

Hello! My name is Devon Bramen and I am excited to become part of the Montabella community as the 7th and 8th grade math teacher. I attended Greenville Public Schools and graduated through their Early College program with Montcalm Community College where I earned my associates degree. During this time, I was a math (my major) tutor at MCC. After graduation, I transferred to GVSU where I began tutoring in Physics (my minor) while also substitute

teaching when I did not have class. My student teaching semesters were done at Rockford Freshman Center

and Cedar Springs High School. Some interests I have are pets (I have 3 dogs and 2 cats), video games, and community service. I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with all of you.

DEVON BRAMEN

Hi everyone! My name is Sabrina Travis and I'm so excited to be joining the Mustang family. I graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in Science Education and have a passion for making science fun and engaging through hands-on learning. I live in Mt. Pleasant with my husband, and we run a pig farm together. I'm also a proud 4-H mentor and love working with youth in our local community. In my free

time, I enjoy gardening, camping, and spending time with our animals. I'm really looking forward to an exciting school year and can't wait to get started!

SABRINA TRAVIS



MARK NORDIN

Hello, hello, hello! My name is Mark Nordin and I am excited to be the Online teacher at Montabella! I grew up in West Michigan but fell in love with Mid-Michigan after getting my Bachelors at Central Michigan. In my spare time I love movie nights with friends and cooking. I also love collecting globes! This one here is from before WW2. I found it in an antique shop. I am looking forward to my first school year with the Mustangs!

Pesticide Advisory

State of Michigan law requires that schools and day care centers that may apply pesticides on school or day care property must provide an annual advisory to parents or guardians of students attending the facility.

Please be advised that Montabella Community Schools utilize an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to control pests. IPM is a pest management system that utilizes all suitable techniques in a total pest management system with the intent of preventing pests from reaching unacceptable levels or to reduce an existing population to an acceptable level. Pest management techniques emphasize sanitation, pest exclusion, and biological controls. One of the objectives of using an IPM approach is to reduce or eliminate the need for chemical applications of pesticides. However, certain situations may require the need for pesticides to be utilized.

As required by State of Michigan law, you will receive advance notice regarding the non-emergency application of a pesticide such as an insecticide, fungicide or herbicide, other than a bait or gel formulation, that is made to the school grounds or buildings during this school year. Please note that notification is not given for the use of sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants or anti-microbial cleaners. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be notified following any such application.

Advance notification of pesticide applications, other than a bait or gel formulation, will be given by at least 2 methods. The first method will be by posting at the main entrance to the school district, which is located at 1390 E. North County Line Rd Blanchard, MI 49310. The second method will be by posting information on the school's web site (www.montabella.com).

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school are entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the pesticide application, if they so request. If you prefer to receive the notification by first class mail, please contact the district office for a form and return it to our office.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school may review the school's Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application upon request.

If you have questions regarding the school's pest management procedures, please contact:

Shelly Millis
(989) 427-5148
smillis@montabella.com

TITLE I

Title I is a federally funded program designed to provide additional help for students based on local eligibility criteria. Title I support is available for all students at Montabella Community Schools who meet the criteria. At the elementary level, students may work outside the classroom with Title I staff or a Title I staff member may assist students within the classroom; at the secondary level Title I staff may provide services through a course within the students daily schedule. The parent of any student has the right to request the professional qualifications of all teachers and paraprofessionals working with the student. Requests can be made at the school offices. A students’ success in school is directly related to the quality of communication and shared commitment which exists between the home and school. In order to emphasize this point and to respect the Title I guidelines, a school/parent compact, or statement of mutual understanding, is put forth. The purposes of the compact are to identify conditions that are supportive of academic success and to highlight areas of shared responsibility in your student’s school experience.

MONTABELLA ELEMENTARY COMPACT:

TEACHER/STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT TEACHER COMMITMENT, I will: Provide a variety of teaching strategies to best meet all student learning styles. Provide a positive atmosphere for teaching and learning. Be flexible to meet individual student needs. Maintain high expectations for myself and my students. Value the uniqueness of each child and his/her family.

STUDENT COMMITMENT, I will: Bring the necessary materials (completed homework, pencil, textbooks) needed to class each day. Ask questions when I don’t understand something. Always try to work to the best of my ability. Show respect for myself, my school, other students, and other’s belongings. Accept responsibility and consequences for my actions. Follow all school, classroom, and home rules.

PARENT COMMITMENT, I will: Support the school staff in regards to my students’ educational and behavioral progress. Provide a structured time and place for study at home. Encourage my child to complete and return all homework assignments. Communicate with the school any concerns regarding my child’s progress. See that my child attends school regularly and is punctual. I will contact the school when my child is absent. Be a reading role model for my child and by having him/her see me read and encouraging my child to read at home.

MONTABELLA JR/SR HIGH PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENTCOMPACT:

A PROMISE OF COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE As a Title I school, Montabella Jr./Sr. High School has created a form that states the responsibilities of parents, teachers, and students to ensure that a quality education is available through the efforts of all three parties.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITY: It is important to have my child reach his/her full academic potential. Therefore, I will: Believe my child can learn. Show respect and support for my child, the staff, and the school, and recognize and respect diverse cultures within the school. Remind my student of behavior expectations at Montabella Jr./Sr. High and support the school in its efforts to maintain proper discipline and provide a safe and orderly learning environment. Make sure my student is on time and strives for 100% attendance and will contact the school when absent. Check with my child daily regarding information sent from school, major assignments given, and current grade levels. Encourage my child to participate in class, complete as much homework as possible, and take advantage of available remediation opportunities. Promote an environment at home so my child understands that living in a group, whether it be a family or classroom, requires standards of behavior and cooperation, and that one must accept the consequences of one’s actions. Use internet reports or progress reports to monitor my student’s achievement in specific classes. Attend conferences, meetings, parent nights and participate in school committees when available. Keep lines of communication open and model respect by going to the teacher first when there is a concern.

EDUCATOR RESPONSIBILITY: Student must be given the opportunity to succeed. Therefore, I will: Believe each child can learn. Show respect and support for my students, their parents, and recognize and respect diverse cultures within the school. Demonstrate professional behavior and a positive attitude. Provide a positive atmosphere for teaching and learning in the classroom and guidance and support in GASS class. (Guidance for Academic Student Success) Enforce the rules and policies of the school consistently and fairly. Make efficient use of

academic learning time. Provide individualized strategies to increase student competencies as needed (i.e., organizational strategies, test-taking strategies, reading strategies). Utilize a wide range of teaching techniques to benefit the wide range of learning styles in order to meet the state curriculum standards and ensure student success on state assessments. Strive to teach, not to tell. Maintain open lines of communication with students and parents in order to support their learning and respond to parent communication within 24 hours, when appropriate.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY: it is important that I do the best that I can. Therefore, I will: Believe that I can learn. Show respect for my parents, my peers (and their belongings), the staff, and the school, and recognize and respect diverse cultures within the school. Follow rules at my home and school. Come to school every day prepared, ready to learn and be in class on time. Give my parents (or guardian) all papers and information sent home with me from school. Finish my schoolwork and participate in classroom activities. Take responsibility for my actions. Take advantage of guidance, support, and additional time offered in GASS class. Take advantage of the additional opportunities offered to me through tutoring and remediation classes. Communicate with my teachers and parents by asking for help when I need it.

Homeless

In order that homeless youth receive the necessary means and measures of appropriate teacher and learning, both State and Federal Government along with Local School Districts are required to provide a coordinated effort to assure that such services are available and delivered. Such provisions generally include but are not limited to free lunch, Title I services, and when possible, transportation to the students school of origin. It is important to understand that income is typically not the main factor in the identification of and qualification for homeless status. Should you have concerns about homeless youth within our school district, you are encouraged to contact any of our school counselors, school social workers, or school administrators. The designated homeless liaisons for Montabella Community Schools is Mr. Moore, Montabella Elem. Principal—phone (989)427-5414.

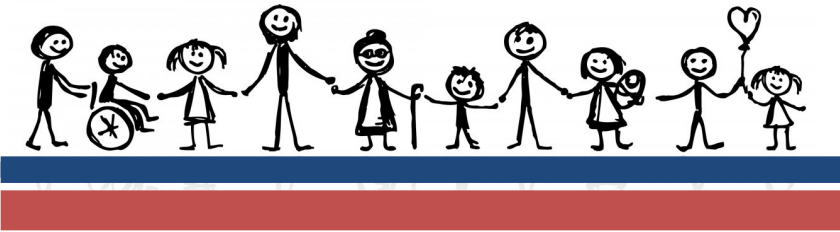
Who is homeless? (Sec.725) The term “homeless children and youth” - - (A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and (B) Includes: (i) children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations’, or are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement; (ii) children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings...(iii) children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and (iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

ANNUAL REPORT

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will not have assessment and accountability data ready for schools until fall. Therefore, Montabella Community Schools Annual Education Reports are not available at this time. When new public reporting requirements are released from the MDE the annual report will be published and available at the central office and at each building office.

IMMUNIZATIONS

New vaccination regulations have been put in place that affect any student changing schools, as well as those who will be enrolled in Kindergarten and 7th grade. Please visit www.michigan.gov/teenvaccines for more information.



SCHOOL OF CHOICE

Montabella Community Schools school of choice procedures: All students that were previously accepted into Montabella Community Schools through school of choice will remain students of the district until transferring. Students do not need to reapply to remain at Montabella Schools. If a non-resident student transfers out of Montabella Schools, in order to return the student must go through the school of choice application procedures. School of choice application periods are closed on the dates indicated. Non-resident students will remain in their school of choice district until the next application period, which is at the start of each semester. The only transfer allowed during non-application periods is a transfer back to the student's resident district. Fall open enrollment: **July – September 12, 2025.**

FAMILY RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 require school districts to make available to parents and students the contents of student records maintained by the school. A procedure has been established which allows **parents** who are interested in examining their child's record to contact the building principal where the child attends school to make arrangements for the examination. If, after examination, the parent (or student who has reached the age of majority) conclude that the file is in error or in any way disagrees with the contents, they are afforded the opportunity to challenge the record. Further, a due process hearing is afforded, if desired. Those who examine the records and conclude that they would like a copy will be able to obtain one from the school for a nominal fee. The official administrative student record contains such information as the record of academic work completed, level of achievement, intelligence and achievement test score, attendance dates, teacher or counselor ratings, etc. Notification of Rights under FERPA for elementary and secondary institutions and designation of directory information; 1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. 2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believe are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask Montabella Community Schools to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school administrator, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. 3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist) or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance service committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Montabella Community Schools, 1390 N. County Line Rd., Blanchard, MI 48829, 989-427-5148.

ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS

Information about adult education classes, GED preparation, and GED testing can be found on the Mt. Pleasant Community Education website mtpleasantschools.net/ Domain/15 or call 989-775-2370 Central Montcalm Public Schools also offers adult education classes. Information can be found on the Central Montcalm Community Education website www.centralmontcalm.org or 989-831-2402.

DANGEROUS WEAPONS LAW

As the school year begins, students and parents should be reminded of the Dangerous Weapons Law. Section 1311, paragraph 2 of the State School Code gives district Boards of Education the power and the authority to expel students possessing dangerous weapons on school grounds. There are guidelines that the Board of Education must follow when determining the consequences for violating the Dangerous Weapons Law. With heightened national concern regarding school violence, please be aware, and make your child aware, of the danger and consequences resulting from bringing or possessing any type of weapon on

school property. What may be a unique or beautiful part of a knife or gun collection at home, will be considered a "dangerous weapon" when brought to school. Appropriate action will be taken by school administration.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

It is the policy of the Montabella Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity or in employment. Grievance procedures for the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, are available by contacting the Montabella Central Office at 989-427-5148.

BUILD UP MICHIGAN (Project Find)

In Michigan we know that education begins at birth. We also know that some of our children need extra help or other related special services along the way. That's why Michigan's special education system helps children as young as newborns and up to age 26. Build Up Michigan provides information about special education programs and services and helps to arrange free evaluations to find out if a child is eligible for extra help from any of Michigan's public schools. If a child you know is struggling in school or has a physical, emotional or communication problem that might prevent success in school, call Build Up Michigan. We're here to help. Contact your building principal or call 800-252-0052, visit www.BuildUpMichigan.org You can also contact Angie Porter at the MAISD 616-225-4830.

PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

Public Law 93.380 provides: An education agency or institution may disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student who is in attendance at the institution or agency if the information had been designated as directory information 45 C.F.R.99.37(a). According to Section 99.37(a) of Public Law 93.380, the following information is designated as directory information with respect to all past and present students of the Montabella Community Schools: 1) Name; 2) Address; 3) Telephone Number; 4) Date and Place of Birth; 5) Major or minor fields of study and courses taken; 6) participation in officially recognized activities and sports; 7) Weight and height of member of athletic teams; 8) Dates of attendance; 9) Degrees and awards; 10) The most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student; and 11) Other similar personally identifiable information. If you, as parent, do not want this type of personally identifiable information made part of publicity, please send a letter of notification designating the specific categories of information you do not want released with respect to your child. Direct this letter of notification to: Montabella Central Office, 1390 N. County Line Rd., Blanchard, MI 49310. In accordance with this law, a parent or student currently in attendance in the Montabella Community Schools has ten (10) days from the date of this notice to file written notice to the school district.

Find Us



www.montabella.com
www.montabellamustangs.com (Athletics)



Montabella Community Schools &
Montabella Elementary



Mpride_stampede (Mr. Riley)

Be Responsible

Be Respectful

Be Safe



Veronica Lightfoot



Xilei Murphy



Grant Preston



Serenity Sadler



Milo Belson



Hudson Knapp



Gabriella Kent-El



Gentry Gatehouse



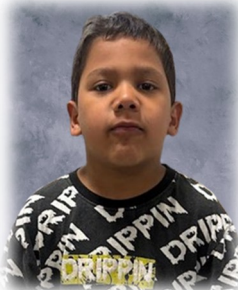
Knox Nemeth



Larissa Garber



Sebastian Christensen



Bayne Row



Ace VanBuskirk



Carter Felver



Sam Oswald



Katalina Jaramillo



Harper Blanzzy



Oakley Bandfield



Cienna Swinson



AvaLynn Spencer



Giovanni Collier



Breslynn Seath



Addilyn Arganbright



Johnny Weller



Yovani Garcia Pantoja



Sawyer Andrews



Colten Sleight



Kenna Prill



Harley Teed



Johnathan Barber



Mauricio
Pacheco-Hernandez



Jasper VanBlaricum



Forrest Corwin



Cataleya Miller



Emmy Moreland

April & May

Spotlight Students

Every Child
Every Chance
Every Day

JR/SR STUDENT OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS



April

Raylan Eldred (6)
Ema Dood (7)
Callen Eldred (8)
Garrett Paulson (9)
Bryce Willis (10)
Hayden Helmer (11)
Alyssa Bishop (12)



May

Connor Moore (6)
Reese Pitts (7)
Tripp Eldred (8)
Katelynn Painter (8)
Leah Sissell (9)
Ky Ely (9)
Tristan Knapp (10)
Leia Webb (11)

Montabella Jr/Sr High School 2024-2025 2nd Semester Honor Roll

Highest Honors: 3.78-4.00

12th Grade: Connor Ball*, Ashlynn Davis*, Alayna Foster, Tyler Koons*, Jaylie Newcombe*, Addyson Strohl*, Joshua Taylor*, Gavin Willis*

11th Grade: Ashlyn Binge*, Isabell Darling*, LeeAnn Duncan, Lillien Fuller, Annaliese Harris, Hayden Helmer*, Kenzie Karcher*, Natalie Ludwig*, Leia Webb*, Landon Wymer

10th Grade: Ryann Ball*, Allison Cook*, Grant Cook, Lydia Eldred*, Brayden Foster*, Braleigh Fulk*, Gabriel Kauffman*, Bailey Kelsey, Marly Lambert*, Emma Peterson*, Presley Storey-Dolan, Bryce Willis

9th Grade: Joshua Arganbright*, Kirstyn Cummings*, Lewis Davidson*, Mason Davidson*, Lia Dood*, Gary Eckert, Tucker Evans, Kain Karcher, Bailey Kauffman*, Cooper Kieff, Maxie Ludwig, James Rodriguez*, Leah Sissell*, Alivia Thompson*, Temperance Wilson, Makaylynn Wood*

8th Grade: Ella Scherzer*

7th Grade: Callie Bandfield*, Ema Dood*, Evan Greene, Henry Sweet

6th Grade: Noah Arganbright*, Ella Blanz, Saleen Bott, Lily Deal, Jackson Evans, Ethan Foster, Madysyn Helmer, Blaine Kieff, Nicholas Pifer, Lucas Rodriguez*, Kaitlyn Taylor, Lillian Wilkinson, Lawson Willis

*Student Received a 4.00 for the 2nd semester

High Honors: 3.40-3.77

12th Grade: Mya Felan, Ambrea Humphrey, Javon Perkins, Eli Rathka, Jadon Trost, Jennifer Swanson, Peyton Webb

11th Grade: Conner Cluley, Jaelyn Snyder, Braydon Williamson

10th Grade: Emily Allen, Wade Hanshue, LJ Jordan, Kaitlyn Kade, Brooklyn Rauch, Leah Stratton, Bryson Williamson

9th Grade: Kailyn Ely, Seth Jordan, Skyler Miller, Bryton Strohl

8th Grade: Chloe Decker, Colton Eldred, Oakley Gatehouse, Matthew Gonzalez, Makayla Helmer, Kolton Mayer, Elizabeth Nielsen

7th Grade: Baillie Carlson, Reese Pitts, Marshall Preston, Autumn Willis

6th Grade: Emma Bursely, Braxton Butterfield, Brooklin Crandell, Elizabeth Decker, Raylan Eldred, Riley Eldred, Alana Gonzalez, Forrest Guild, Justin Hanses, Isabella Irwin, Malakhi Kauffman, Gianna Kent-El, Lane McKinstry, Addison Nielsen, Lucas Snyder

Honors: 3.00-3.39

12th Grade: Jayden Brigham, William Fate, Justin James, McKenna McCormick, Brendan Rameau, Isabelle Storey

11th Grade: Bryce DeLong, Stewart Houghton, Donovan Lampo, Haden McCarthy, Tuff Rood, Gavin Simmons, Blake Snyder

10th Grade: Mason Bogart, Noah Carlson, Allison Chapman, Kody Dalrymple, Dakarai Ely, Audrina Lovett, Sierra Pranger, Joslynn Smith, Brayden Snyder, Ellie Zeien

9th Grade: Marley Demmick, Russell Duncan, Sidney Jaquays, Mia Lambert, Owen Maybee, Garrett Paulson

8th Grade: Noah Barber, Bowdie Blanz, Ashlynn Bott, Joslyn Clay, Sharon Cline, Callen Eldred, Tripp Eldred, Jackson Hansen, Olivia Lau, Lincoln Snyder, Shawn Walker

7th Grade: Sophia Belson, Lily Brewington, Chad Burke, Eleanor Compton, Kadin Dalrymple, Alyssa Helmer, Jacoby Koehler, Danial McCarthy, Brooklynn Porter, Brooklynn Race, Abygail Rummel

6th Grade: Harley Corwin, Kathryn Graham, Lucas Houseman, Kristara Huguélet, Nickali Johnson, Jeff Kowalski, Defusha McCan, Colten Miller, Raelynn Perkins, Beau Rogers, Jase Wood



Alex Geer
Forrest Guild
Danial McCarthy
Ashlynn Bott
Olivia Lau

Other Nominations

Lorelei Phillips	Joslynn Smith
Ashlyn Newcombe	Landon Wymer
Chloe Decker	Lillien Fuller
Colton Eldred	Natalie Ludwig
Temperance Wilson	Lucas Rodriguez
Joseph Silverthorn	Landyn Visser
Skyler Miller	Ariel Peterson
Marley Demmick	Austin Gotwalt
Brayden Snyder	LJ Jordan
William Young	TJ Rood
Bailey Kelsey	Anthony Chaffee
Presley Storey-Dolan	Addyson Strohl

**Montabella
Open House
August 14, 2025
4:30-6:00 PM**



**FREE Hot Dogs & Light Refreshments
in JR/SR Cafeteria**

**K-12
Reconnect
Explore
And celebrate
a new school
year!**



Stay connected and informed by signing up to receive important text messages! This will ensure you get timely updates on school events, announcements, and other essential information directly to your phone. Don't miss out—sign up today to stay in the loop! Make sure your information is updated in PowerSchool so you receive text messages attached to your child/ren. Text 'Y' to 67587



Meetings held Third Monday of the Month
JR/SR High School Cafeteria
1390 North County Line Rd. Blanchard, MI 49310
989-427-5148 (p) 989-427-3828 (f)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Eylie Foster.....President
Scott Parks..... Vice President
Ivan Renne..... Secretary
Erica Vincent..... Treasurer
Tim Eldred..... Trustee
Jeramee Gilman..... Trustee
Steve Sweet..... Trustee



As always, we thank the Sons of the American Legion Post 240, from Blanchard, for making sure we have flags to fly at the Central Office, Jr/Sr High and our Elementary.

School Closing Information

In the event that school is closed or delayed due to inclement weather, the information will be broadcast to the following television and radio stations.

TV Stations

WOOD TV8 Grand Rapids
WWTV 9&10 Cadillac
WJRT TV12 Flint
WZZM TV13 Grand Rapids

Radio Station

WCFX 95.3FM Mt. Pleasant
WGLM 106.3FM Greenville
WCUZ 1230AM/105.7FM Grand Rapids
WCZY 104.3FM Mt. Pleasant

BUS NEWS

DON'T LOSE YOUR BUS RIDING PRIVILEGES

Follow these rules:

1. Observe same conduct as in the classroom
2. Be courteous, use no profane language
3. Do not eat or drink on the bus
4. Keep the bus clean.
5. Cooperate with the bus driver.
6. Do not smoke.
7. Do not be destructive.
8. Stay in your seat.
9. Keep head, hands and feet inside the bus.
10. The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.



Now Hiring Bus Drivers

\$1000 Sign on Bonus
(distributed over 16 months)

Training Provided

Full-time (4 hrs regular route)
Special trips available too!

Call
989-427-5024
ext. 631



chartwells
serving up happy & healthy

MEET UP
and
EAT UP

Montabella and Chartwells was honored to sponsor the MEET UP and EAT UP program once again this year!



Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Edmore, MI 48829
Permit No. 1

2025-2026 School Calendar

Montabella Community Schools
1390 E. North County Line Road
989-427-5148 (Fax) 989-427-3828
Blanchard, MI 49310

Aug 14	Open House
Aug 19	First Day of School for Students
Aug 29 - Sept 1	No School, Labor Day Holiday
Sept 24	Teacher PD, no school for students
Oct 15-16	Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct 17	No School
Oct 20	Teacher PD, no school for students
Nov 26	Teacher PD, no school for students
Nov 27-28	No School, Thanksgiving Break
Dec 18	Student dismissal 12:15pm; Teacher work
Dec 19	Student dismissal 12:15pm; Teacher work
Dec 22 - Jan 2	No School; Holiday Break
Jan 21	Teacher PD, no school for students
Feb 23	Teacher PD, no school for students
March 18	Student dismissal 12:15pm; Teacher PD
March 19	Student dismissal 12:15pm; Conferences
March 20	No School
April 3 - 10	No School, Spring Break
April 22	Teacher PD, no school for students
May 1	Flex Day, snow day make up if needed
May 25	No School, Memorial Day
May 29	Last Day of School 12:15pm dismissal

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						8

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				21

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	22

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						18

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			15

Parent Teacher Conferences		
Oct 15& 16	4pm - 8pm	
March 19	1pm - 8pm	

Early Release Days		
Dec 18	Mar 18	May 29
Dec 19	Mar 19	

84 days first semester, 96 days second semester

	School Closed		Flex Day
	Early Release/ Teacher day		Teacher Work Day
	1/2 day PD, 1/2 day teacher work		Teacher Professional Development

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						20

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
						20

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				21

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	26

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						19

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

No School for Students			
Aug 29	Oct 20		March 20
Sept 1	Nov 26		April 22
Sept 24	Jan 21		May 25
Oct 17	Feb 23		

	Parent Teacher Conferences
	First & Last Day of School
	End of Semester

All students are offered FREE breakfast and lunch
For the 2025-26 school year