

All About Science

On November 12th, Montabella Elementary hosted an exciting Science Night for our Mustang families. The evening was filled with energy as families rotated through various interactive stations, completing a range of fun and engaging tasks. It was a night of friendly competition and hands-on learning, creating memorable experiences for everyone involved. Thank you Chartwells for preparing dinner for our families to enjoy! We would also like to thank Montabella Elementary PTO and PCA Corporation for donating items to help make the evening possible! We look forward to future Science Nights with new stations.



Students in Mr. Urbanawiz's Anatomy and Physiology class are using augmented reality (AR) to deepen their understanding of the human body. With AR, they can explore the intricate details of the digestive, muscular, and nervous systems in an interactive way, bringing the structures and functions of the body to life. This hands-on approach enhances their learning experience, allowing them to visualize and engage with complex biological systems in real-time.



School Board Appreciation

January is designated as School Board Appreciation Month in Michigan. Montabella Community Schools has a school board that is composed of seven members that are elected by the community. Members are elected for a six year term. These members dedicate their personal time to make decisions that impact the operation of the school district.

That sounds great, but what does the board really do? What type of decisions do they make on behalf of the district? The main responsibility of the Board of Education is policy. They approve all policies that impact operations of the district from personnel, to finances, to programs and more. Many of these policies ensure that state laws are being followed, while others outline certain procedures. Montabella Schools along with other school districts in the state of Michigan have multiple policies that govern the way that the organization works. There are over 300 policies that help govern the district. In addition to policy work the board approves all large purchases, election information, bond issues, contracts and more.

There are a variety of topics that the board of education needs to be familiar with and take action on. It is not a glamorous role but one that is very important for the operations of the school district. Please thank these fine individuals for their dedication and commitment to making Montabella the best it can be.

Eylie Foster

Scott Parks

Ivan Renne

Erica Vincent

Jeramee Gilman

Tim Eldred

Steve Sweet

chartwells
serving up happy & healthy

Snack Time

Ms. Lisa, from Chartwells, helped stock Ms. Moore's class with special snacks. These snacks will not only be a delicious treat, but they will be used during fun learning activities!

Thank you Chartwells!





Maverick the Mustang Montabella's Therapy Dog in Training



Maverick the Mustang is not your average dog. With his calm demeanor, keen intelligence, and eagerness to help, Maverick has been on an incredible journey of growth as a therapy dog in training. Recently, he completed his first round of training, marking a significant milestone in his development. Maverick's path to becoming a full-fledged therapy dog has been a process of learning, socialization, and experience.

The First Round of Training

Maverick's initial training focused on essential skills like obedience, socialization, and basic therapy dog protocols. He learned how to interact with a variety of people, stay calm in different environments, and respond to commands reliably. With Maverick being a puppy it wasn't always easy, but his natural temperament and eagerness to please made him an ideal candidate for therapy work.

During this first phase of training, Maverick was introduced to a variety of situations. He practiced remaining calm in public spaces, interacting with strangers, and learning how to settle in new environments. His ability to remain composed in the face of distraction and his gentle nature stood out, showing that he's got the makings of an excellent therapy dog.

The Next Steps: Home and Public Work

Now that Maverick has completed his first round of training, he is ready to begin working more closely with his handler, Wendy. They will continue their training together, with a focus on school vs. home settings as well as brief outings in public spaces. These real-world experiences are crucial as Maverick fine-tunes his skills, ensuring he is prepared for a variety of situations where he'll be needed most.



August 16, 2024

October 27, 2024

January 26, 2025

While Maverick is not yet ready to work in schools or with children, his trainers are optimistic about the progress Maverick is making.

Why Therapy Dogs Matter

Therapy dogs like Maverick provide emotional support and comfort to people in a wide range of settings. They can help reduce stress, promote relaxation, and offer companionship to those in need. Whether visiting hospitals, nursing homes, or schools, therapy dogs create an atmosphere of peace and positivity.

Maverick's future is bright, and he's already proven to be an exceptional companion to those his trainers and those he meets

along the way. As he continues his training and builds confidence in different environments, we know that Maverick will become a trusted friend to many who need him the most.

Looking Ahead

Maverick's journey as a therapy dog is far from over, but his progress has been nothing short of inspiring. Maverick is on track to make a real difference in the lives of our Mustangs. We can't wait to see what the future holds for Maverick, the Mustang who's set to bring joy, comfort, and healing to all who cross his path.

Stay tuned for more updates on Maverick's adventure as he continues his journey toward becoming a fully certified therapy dog!

August 7, 2024



September 17, 2024



October 11, 2024



January 26, 2025

May 6, 2025 Ballot News

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



Non-homestead millage is a property tax that applies to **NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**, like businesses, second homes, or rental properties. This millage helps provide essential funding for local education and services without impacting homeowners. If a non-homestead millage is not passed, our school could face a significant loss in funding, which may result in cuts to educational programs, teacher layoffs, increased class sizes, athletics, and transportation. This does not effect taxes on your primary residence.

The non-homestead millage typically supports a variety of educational programs, including:

1. **Classroom Instruction** – Funding for core subjects like math, science, language arts, and social studies, as well as elective courses.
2. **Teacher Salaries** – Helping to maintain competitive pay for teachers and staff, which is key to attracting and retaining quality educators.
3. **Special Education Programs** – Ensuring that students with special needs receive the support and services they require.
4. **Extracurricular Activities** – Sports, music, arts, and clubs that enrich students' educational experience beyond the classroom.
5. **Technology** – Funding for educational technology like computers, software, and online learning tools.
6. **School Maintenance and Improvements** – Ensuring schools have the necessary infrastructure and facilities to provide a safe and modern learning environment.
7. **School Safety & Security**— It helps fund measures to keep students and staff safe, like cameras or other safety infrastructure.
8. **Support Services**— Counselors who play an important role in student well-being, academic support, and career planning.
9. **Transportation**—Maintain bus routes, pay for fuel, driver salaries, and vehicle maintenance.

By funding these critical areas, the non-homestead millage helps ensure schools continue to offer a well-rounded, high-quality education for all students.

Down on the Farm Montabella Elementary

Kindergarten Roundup May 8, 2025—3:30-6:00 pm

Class of
2038

Step 1: Schedule Appointment by scanning QR code below (click on EITHER link to look for availability—click on “Look for appointment slots further ahead” until you reach May 8th.) or call (989) 427-5414 ext. 606.

Step 2: Complete enrollment forms found at Montabella.com—click on “Enroll” create an account if you do not already have a student enrolled at Montabella

Onsite Hearing/Dental/Vision Screenings



Child must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2025 or approved waiver





League Champions

Mustang Wrestling went 2-0 at their last MSAC meet, beating Fulton 54-24 and St. Charles 60-10. With wins over St. Charles and Fulton, Mustang Wrestling is undefeated in the MSAC, making them 2025 League Champions! Great job Mustangs!



You're just our type! *Give blood.*

Blood Drive Montabella High School

Wednesday, February 12, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

To schedule an appointment log onto RedCrossBlood.org
(sponsor code MontabellaHS) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Montabella Jr/Sr High School 2024-2025 1st Semester Honor Roll

Highest Honors: 3.78-4.00

12th Grade: Mya Felan, Alayna Foster, Tyler Koons*, Jaylie Newcombe*, Eli Rathka, Addyson Strohl*, Peyton Webb*, Gavin Willis*

11th Grade: Ashlyn Binge*, Isabell Darling*, LeeAnn Duncan*, Annaliese Harris, Hayden Helmer*, Kenzie Karcher*, Natalie Ludwig*, Leia Webb, Braydon Williamson

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

9th Grade: Joshua Arganbright*, Kirstyn Cummings, Lewis Davidson*, Mason Davidson, Lia Dood*, Bailey Kauffman, Cooper Kieff, Maxie Ludwig*, Leah Sissell, Alivia Thompson*, Temperance Wilson, Makaylynn Wood*

8th Grade: Ashlynn Bott, Colton Eldred, Kolton Mayer, Ella Scherzer

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

6th Grade: Noah Arganbright*, Emma Bursley, Lily Deal*, Raylan Eldred, Jackson Evans, Ethan Foster, Alana Gonzalez, Madisyn Helmer*, Lucas Houseman, Gianna Kent-El, Blaine Kieff, Nicholas Pifer, Lucas Rodriguez*, Kaitlyn Taylor*, Lawson Willis

*Student Received a 4.00 for the 1st semester

High Honors: 3.40-3.77

12th Grade: Connor Ball, Carly Bonasse, Ambrea Humphrey, Landyn Lane, Javon Perkins, Brianne Porter, Jennifer Swanson

11th Grade: Conner Cluley, Stewart Houghton, Haden McCarthy, Gavin Simmons, Blake Snyder, Jaelyn Snyder, Colin Vanas, Landon Wymer

10th Grade: Grant Cook, LJ Jordan, Brooklyn Rauch, Leah Stratton, Bryson Williamson

9th Grade: Gary Eckert, Tucker Evans, Sidney Jaquays, Kain Karcher, James Rodriguez, Bryton Strohl

8th Grade: Chloe Decker, Oakley Gatehouse, Matthew Gonzalez, Jackson Hansen, Makayla Helmer, Brooklyn Kieff, Trayton Ward

7th Grade: Sophia Belson, Chad Burke Jr, Bailie Carlson, Eleanor Compton, Annabella Grandy, Evan Greene, Jacoby Koehler, Reese Pitts, Riley Pitts, Brooklynn Porter, Marshall Preston, Abygail Rummel, Landyn Visser, Autumn Willis

6th Grade: Ella Blanzly, Saleen Bott, Brooklin Crandell, Elizabeth Decker, Riley Eldred, Kathryn Graham, Forrest Guild, Justin Hanses, Isabella Irwin, Malakhi Kauffman, Jeff Kowalski, Defusha McCann, Lane McKinstry, Connor Moore, Addison Nielsen, Aleigha Ryers, Lucas Snyder, Lilian Turner, Lillian Wilkinson

Honors: 3.00-3.39

12th Grade: Isaiah Bedford, Ashlynn Davis, Nishiimeneh Denhof, Mason Irwin, McKenna McCormick, Brendan Rameau, Isabelle Storey, Jadon Trost

11th Grade: Bryce DeLong, Victoria Frantz, Lillian Fuller, Brady Kieff, Abigail McCarthy, Zaidan Myers, Aubrey Pant, Jareth Shappee

10th Grade: Emily Allen, Mason Bogart, Noah Carlson, Dakarai Ely, Wade Hanshue, Kaitlyn Kade, Janah Mosciski, Kaden Schut, Brayden Snyder

9th Grade: Gabriella Arguijo, Marley Demmick, Russell Duncan, Seth Jordan, Mia Lambert, Owen Maybee, Skyler Miller, Saralynn Shelley

8th Grade: Noah Barber, Bowdie Blanzly, Joslyn Clay, Caroline Darling, Callen Eldred, Amelia Felan, Olivia Lau, Ashlyn Newcombe, Elizabeth Nielsen, Patyn Recker, Lincoln Snyder

7th Grade: Lily Brewington, Kadin Dalrymple, Aiden Fletcher, Alyssa Helmer, Danial McCarthy, Brooklynn Race

6th Grade: Emirah Amble, Braxton Butterfield, Kristara Huguete, Nickali Johnson, Colten Miller, Raelynn Perkins, Beau Rogers, Jase Wood, Landyn Visser

Montabella Competitive Cheer Sets New School Records in Rd 2 and Total Score!



Your Mustang Competitive Cheer Team traveled to Evert High School Tuesday, January 29th in what would be another record breaking competition for Montabella!! The team walked in ready to go and to continue to build on their season! The Mustangs went 3rd in the first round and left the mat with excitement as they felt that it was their best performance to date. The scores showed that it wasn't just a feeling, it was a reality as they scored a season high 200.6 in round 1, an increase of another 8.3 points and second highest in history! The excitement and focus carried into round 2 as the Mustangs took the floor and focused on the littlest of details to help improve their scores, where your Mustangs set a school record round 2 score with a 185.7, which is 20 points higher than the teams previous season high!! Emotions were high as the athletes saw their hard work paying off and were determined to hit not just 2 good rounds but all 3! They took the mat with confidence and poise and hit their best Rd 3 of the season with a season high score of 255.2 which resulted in another school record by 18.3 points with a total score of 641.5 on the night! Great job Mustangs!



Keagon Miller

Madi Gilman

Janey Moreland

Kirra Delo

Avah Perez

Phoenix Post

Lillian Buskirk

Cullen Christensen

Callihan Dawson



Remington Stainbrook

Jackson Simon

Wren Baldwin

McKuiper Garner

Lilianna Quezada

Brantlee Bandfield

Kali Greenhoe

Hensley David

Colson Clay



Annaleigh Post

Clara Cotnoir

Zoey Moore

Freya Mortensen

Eleana Peterson

Ava Spaeth

Illiana McKinstry

Ray Byron

Ambriella McKinstry



Pearson Post

McCoy Garner

Evan Davis

Dean Gilman

Benson Swarts

Marcel Elliott

Alivia Peterson

Kinsley Love

Parker Koehler



Nicanor Garcia Pantoja

Zoey Kowalski

Camden Irani

Sylar Bauman

Caiden Kooiker

Alexander Steve

Meeah Perkins

Holly Snyder

Kinleigh Bailey



Zoie Minnick

Sadie Simon

Brantley Lowther

Olivia Simon

Jaydin Warner

Spotlight Students

Every Child
Every Chance
Every Day

October, November, and December

JR/SR Student of the Month Recipients

October



Colten Miller (6)
 Esther Bristol (7)
 Trayton Ward (8)
 Gabby Arguijo (9)
 Lexi Curtiss (10)
 Isabell Darling (11)
 Eli Rathka (12)

November



Lily Deal (6)
 Callie Bandfield (7)
 Kolton Mayer (8)
 Alivia Thompson (9)
 Brayden Foster (10)
 Jareth Shappee (11)
 Alayna Foster (12)

December



Nicholas Pifer (6)
 Henry Sweet (7)
 Ashlynn Bott (8)
 Logan McElhaney (9)
 Kody Dalrymple (10)
 Blake Snyder (11)
 Jayden Brigham (12)

Other Nominations

Jaxon Devlin
 Reese Pitts
 Michael Ockert
 Ella Scherzer
 Lia Dood
 Presley Storey-Dolan
 Conner Cluley

Ashlyn Binge
 Zaiden Myers
 Connor Ball
 Mason Irwin
 Gianna Kent-El
 Kaitlyn Taylor
 Kathryn Graham

Austin Lobert
 Olivia Lau
 Noah Barber
 Janah Mosciski
 LeeAnn Duncan
 Emma Davidson
 Addison Nielsen

Lucas Houseman
 Kolten Knapp
 Ariel Peterson
 Lesley Burggren
 Tucker Evans
 Leah Stratton
 Allison Cook

History was made as the girls wrestled in Montabella's first ever girls tournament! Shout out to Marley Demmick, Gabby Arguijo, Allison Chapman, and Bailey Kauffman. Special shout out to Bailey Kauffman who placed 4th place today at 120! Good job Mustangs!



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We have several amazing high school peers who have a very positive impact on our students. They are incredible roll models for our elementary students and are helping them excel academically and socially. We are very fortunate to have these dedicated students helping others!

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*



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Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Send in your Coca-Cola caps and Box Tops to help us earn cash for our school.



As always, we thank the Sons of the American Legion Post 240, from Blanchard, for making sure we have a flag to fly at Montabella Community Schools.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 12** — NHS hosting American Red Cross Blood Drive 9-2:15 PM
- February 17** — Teacher PD—NO SCHOOL for students
- March 11** — 6th Grade Band Concert
- March 12** — Early dismissal for students 12:15 PM—Teacher PD
- March 13** — Early dismissal for students 12:15 PM—Conferences
- March 14**—No School
- March 24-28**— No School—SPRING BREAK
- April 18**—Flex Day , snow day makeup if needed
- May 7**—MS Band Concert
- May 8**—HS Band Concert
- May 8**—Kindergarten Roundup 3:30-6:00 PM
- May 12**—6th Grade Band Concert

SCHOOL BUS LIGHTS



YELLOW FLASHING LIGHTS
THE BUS IS PREPARING TO STOP



RED FLASHING LIGHTS AND EXTENDED STOP ARMS



DRIVERS MUST STOP AND WAIT THE RED LIGHTS STOP

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



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