

WHAT'S INSIDE

Spanish Club Trip
Superintendent Message
Miscellaneous
Class of 2025 Top 10
Spotlight Students
Student of the Month
Class of 2025

World Travelers

Our Spanish Club went on the trip of a lifetime - they traveled to London, Paris, and Barcelona!



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7—MS Band Concert 7:00 PM

May 8—HS Band Concert 7:00 PM

May 8—Kindergarten Roundup 3:30-6:00 PM

May 12—6th Grade Band Concert 7:00 PM

May 16—Kindergarten Graduation 12:30 PM

May 18—Class of 2025 Graduation 6:00 PM

May 26—NO School

May 30—Last Day of School—Early Release 12:15 PM





School Resource Officer vs Security Guard

School safety is something that continues to weigh heavily on the minds of school personnel as well as parents and community members. The more school violence that takes place in our country the more heavily it weighs on all of our minds. The district was fortunate enough to be able to work collaboratively with Home Township to provide a school resource officer at Montabella Schools for a couple of years. The presence of this officer was a nice peace of mind for everyone in the community. Unfortunately that is no longer an option for the school district. School resource officers need to be employed by local law enforcement and must have jurisdiction where the school is located. For Montabella the only two law enforcement agencies with that jurisdiction are Home Township and Montcalm County. Both of those agencies are struggling to find police officers and are having difficulties policing their jurisdictions due to staffing and budget issues. Neither of them are in a position where they could partner to provide a school resource officer.

There is an option of using security guards and that is a practice that is used by some other schools in our state. Security guards are allowed but they have different skills and would not necessarily be allowed to do all of the same duties as a school resource officer. When the district looked at the responsibilities or job duties that the school resource officer did and looked at whether a security guard would fit those responsibilities we discovered a big gap. The limits to what the district could get from a security guard did not seem like it would be worth the investment. The diagram to the right shows the common job duties and which officer would be able to do each of them.

Do you feel like the security guard would still be worth the investment for the district? Let us know your thoughts, email me and let me know. smillis@montabella.com

duty	Resource Officer	Security Guard	duty	Resource Officer	Security Guard
Build relationships with students	✓	✓	Classroom presentation about laws and implications	✓	
Initiate police reports	✓		General classroom presentations	✓	✓
Administer tickets (vaping)	✓		Lead lock down drills	✓	
Advise school staff on emergency plans	✓		Carry a weapon on school grounds	✓	



We had lots of smiles and full bellies with our invited guests that were able to join the Books & Breakfast celebration.





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.

Montabella Community Schools

Non-Homestead Operating Millage

Visit Your Local Polling Location
May 6th from 7am - 8pm

HAS NO IMPACT ON PRIMARY HOMEOWNER TAXES

IS A REPLACEMENT 18 MILLS TAX FOR INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES, SOME AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES, AND 'SECOND HOMES' IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE THE FULL FOUNDATION ALLOWANCE ESTABLISHED FROM THE STATE.

PROVIDES OVER \$1.5 MILLION DOLLARS TO SUPPORT MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OPERATIONS SUCH AS:










- *CLASS SIZES
- *TEACHER SALARIES
- *ATHLETICS
- *TRANSPORTATION AND MORE

Visit <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/> for Michigan Voter Information



Ms. Moore's class enjoyed March is Reading Month! They learned many interesting facts about Badlands National Park and shared their work with the school on their bulletin board. They also had a blast during flashlight reading.



 Who pays for what?	Operational Millage Tax 'Non-Homestead' On the May 6th Ballot Generates over \$1.6 million	Sinking Fund Tax Expired last payment was collected in 2024-25 winter taxes	Bond Tax Passed in 2018
	Paid by Non-Homestead Property Owners 2nd homes/rental owners, businesses, some agricultural properties Does NOT include Primary Homeowners This money cannot be replaced by any other source.	Paid by ALL tax payers including ALL primary homeowners	Paid by ALL tax payers including ALL primary homeowners Cannot be used for general operating costs
Athletics ¹			
¹ TOTAL cost for Athletics for the 23-24 school year—\$309,456			
Transportation ²			
² TOTAL cost for Transportation for the 23-24 school year—\$780,079			
Maintain Smaller Class Sizes/Teacher Salaries ³			
³ Average Teacher Salary (INCLUDING benefits—health, dental, vision, retirement, FICA)—\$103,821			
Maintenance ⁴			
⁴ TOTAL cost for Maintenance for the 23-24 school year (supplies, equipment, repairs) \$169,995 from Operational Millage & \$365,215 from Sinking Fund for maintenance and repairs			
Construction ⁵			
⁵ Allowable in all three tax brackets, but not typical out of Operational Tax			

Questions? Please contact Superintendent, Shelly Millis—smillis@montabella.com or (989)427-5148

Vote May 6th on the Operational Millage Tax

For more information regarding the Operational Millage Tax please visit:
www.montabella.com/operating-millage-tax/



"Think! Energy" educators from Consumers Energy came to present to 4th grade students about different types of energy, and how to be safe utilizing electricity and other forms of energy. Students also learned how to conserve energy and how to conserve water usage in their homes. The students had a great time and learned a great deal! Thank you to Consumers Energy for coming to Montabella! ~Mr. Pohanka and Ms. Babcock



Incoming college juniors and seniors can apply for the Nita Curtis Scholarship by June 30th. Contact Karen Deja (989)427-5412 with any questions. Applications can be mailed to PO Box 532 Edmore, MI 48829

Top Ten



Tyler Koons is the son of Toni Koons and Jerry Koons. He currently resides in Edmore and is graduating first in his class. Tyler has participated in Language Arts Team (2 years), Spanish Club (3 years), NHS (3 years), Band (8 years), Science Olympiad (1 year), Track (4 years), Cross Country (1 year). Tyler participated in MSBOA Honors Band as well as MSAC Honors Band. He traveled with the Spanish Club his sophomore and senior year. Tyler volunteered at many Montabella events, including the Red Cross Blood Drives. He was the senior class representative. Tyler plans to attend Western Michigan University to pursue a career in Aviation Flight Science.

Valedictorian

Peyton Webb is the daughter of Timothy and Desiree Webb. She currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating second in her class. Peyton has participated in NHS (3 years), Science Olympiad (3 years), Student Council (1 year), Model UN (4 years), Quiz Bowl (3 years), Language Arts Team (4 years), Robotics (2 years), Volleyball (4 years), Competitive Cheer (2 years), and Track and Field (4 years). Peyton was chosen for student-athlete leadership. In Competitive Cheer she earned the Coach's Choice Award. She participated in MSBOA Honors Band. Peyton also consistently worked part-time while volunteering for many activities to help other Montabella students. She was the senior class president. Peyton plans to attend Alma College to pursue a career in computer programming.



Salutatorian



Gavin Willis is the son of Erica and Phil Vincent, Billy Willis, and Darby Weaver. He currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 3rd in his class. Gavin has participated in NHS (3 years), Football (4 years), Basketball (4 years), and Track and Field (4 years). Gavin was also Team Captain in Football and Basketball. For Football, he received 1st Team Wide Receiver and Honorable Mention Cornerback. For Track and Field he received 1st Team in High Jump and the 4x200. Gavin plans to attend Grand Rapids Community College to pursue a career in medical imaging, specifically, MRI imaging.

3rd

Jaylie Newcombe is the daughter of Trisha Newcombe and Sam Lancewicz. She currently resides in Edmore and is graduating 4th in her class. Jaylie has participated in Volleyball (4 years), Equestrian Team (7 years), and Competitive Cheer (3 years). Jaylie received Volleyball Offensive Player of the Year, was Team Captain, as well as Honorable Mention All Conference. For the Equestrian Team she received Top 10 Most Points. Jaylie was Team Captain in Competitive Cheer where she earned Second Team All Conference, All District Honorable Mention, 1st Team All – League, 1st Team All—District, 2nd Team All—Region. In Band she received All League Team Honors Band, 1st Chair Flutist, and MSBOA Honors Band. Jaylie plans to attend Ferris State University to pursue a career in Business Finance.

4th



Alayna Foster is the daughter of Amanda Foster. She currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 5th in her class. Alayna has participated in NHS (3 years), SADD (2 years), Student council (3 years), Science Olympiad (1 year), Model UN (3 years), Theater Program (3 years), Honors League Band (2 years), Track (4 years), Volleyball (3 years), Competitive Cheer (2 years), Sideline Cheer (1 year), Basketball (1 year). She was the Vice President of NHS and the President. Alayna ran the theater program as well as participating in many plays and musicals. Alayna also participated in Honors League Band as well as volunteering at many events! Alayna plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University to pursue a career in Music Education.

5th

Class of 2025



Justin James is the son of Danelle Squier and Justin James. He currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 6th in his class. Justin has participated in Football (4 years), Basketball (3 years), and Track and Field (3 years). Justin plans to attend Ferris State University to pursue a career in construction management.

6th

Addy Strohl is the daughter of Ryan Strohl and Jessica Felan. She currently resides in Mt. Pleasant and is graduating 7th in her class. Addy Strohl has participated in Volleyball (4 years), Softball (4 years), Competitive Cheer (1 year), NHS (1 year). Addy plans to attend Mid-Michigan and Central Michigan University to pursue a career in Elementary Education.

7th



Javon Perkins is the son of Shannon and John. He currently resides in a house and is graduating May 18th, 8th in his class. Javon has participated in NHS (3 years). He was a senior class member. Javon plans to attend MCC to pursue a career in gastroenterology.

8th

Carly Bonasse is the daughter of Kelly Grubaugh and Fernando Lopez. She currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 9th in her class. Carly has participated in Student Advisory (2 years) and Yearbook (2 years). Carly plans to attend Central Michigan University (CMU) to pursue a career in hospitality.

9th



Eli Rathka is the son of Jeff and Kassey Mortenson. He resides in Edmore and is graduating 10th in his class. He has participated in football and basketball all four years and is a part of the YAC at MACC. Eli plans to start an apprenticeship program later this year and pursue a career as a heavy equipment operator.

10th



Mia Nadeau

James
Renneberg

Amelia Peterson

Johanna Gilman

Mathias
Renneberg

Mia Swartz

Nina Shaw

Ricky Conley

Eternity Bondie



Silas Laaksonen

Isaac Koop

Ryleigh Irani

Sophia Luft

Ricky Simmons

Quinn Turnbull

Finn Huguelet

Adaline Barnes

Avery Ames



Estella Collier

Damien Pepper

Auri Eldred

Lillian Ritz

Zander Amon

Skyllar
Rushmore

Piper Phenix

Lane Foster

Cadence Snyder



Xavier Ravens

Gunnar Preston

Norah Reichert

Kenton Nielson

Candice Decker

Ethan Maybee

Hudson Nadeau

Ember Joyce

Paiton Thrush



Skylar McIntyre

Tres Burke

Claire Baker

Jetta Smiecinski

Winter Forquer

Nevaeh Stanley

Eli Mount

Kaylee Preston

Ryder Eldred



Mila VanBuskirk

Audra Preston

Ali Dood

Joslyn Bishop

Spotlight Students

Every Child
Every Chance
Every Day

January, February, March

JR/SR Student of the Month Recipients

January



Ella Blanz (6)
Brooklynn Porter (7)
Noah Barber (8)
Kenneth Graham (9)
Gabe Kauffman (10)
Ashlyn Binge (11)
Emma Davidson (12)

February



Malakhi Kauffman (6)
Abygail Rummel (7)
Makayla Helmer (8)
Alaina Himebaugh (9)
Lydia Eldred (10)
Stewart Houghton (11)
Peyton Webb (12)

March



Addison Nielsen (6)
Alyssa Helmer (7)
Oakley Gatehouse (8)
Lia Dood (9)
Braleigh Fulk (10)
Ayden Perkins (11)
Kai Morton (12)

Other Nominations

Isabella Irwin
Aiden Fletcher
Teagyn Martin
Katelynn Painter
Michael Ockert
Lewis Davidson
Tony Race
Joe Silverthorn
Leah Stratton
Marly Lumbert

Genevieve Bauman
Bryson Williamson
Jordan Row
Silas Peterson
Natalie Ludwig
Isabelle Storey
Jennifer Swanson
Alana Gonzalez
Austin Lobert
Caroline Darling

Brooklyn Kieff
Josh Arganbright
Joslynn Smith
Braydon Williamson
Leia Webb
Gavin Simmons
Emma Bursley
Jackson James
Lucas Houseman
Aleigha Ryers

Jackson Evans
Callie Bandfield
Ceci Lyle
Bryton Strohl
Grant Cook
Logan Bailey
Jareth Shappee
Tony Chaffee

Powerlifting Team



The Mustang Powerlifting team ended its season in March with two athletes competing at the state level. Braleigh Fulk's goal in her first year of competing was to qualify and compete at the state JV competition. Excitedly, she met that goal and placed 12th overall.

Danny McCarthy competed at the varsity state competition and was able to secure a 6th-place finish in his weight class. Also competing in the power lifting this season were Hayden McCarthy, Gavin Aldrich, and Lincoln Snyder.

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

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Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Congratulations to the Class of 2025

*Class Song:
I Will Remember You
Sarah McLachlan*

*Class Colors:
Navy & White*

*Class Flower:
White Rose*

Together, we have experienced life. Separately, we will pursue our dreams. Forever, our memories will remain.
-Unknown