

# THE MAPLE MESSENGER

Adrian Public Schools ... Showing Maple PRIDE before, during and after school

SPRING 2018



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**D**ear Adrian Public Schools community:  
Welcome to the Spring 2018 edition of The Maple Messenger, the official newsletter of Adrian Public Schools!



It has been an outstanding year so far at Adrian Public Schools as our district continues to find new and exciting ways to provide a 21st century education to all students. In the process, we continue to work hard to connect with the entire Adrian community, share our successes and seek new partnerships.

We look forward to continuing to grow our Maple family, and encourage you to share all the positive news at APS with your friends, family and neighbors.

Here are a few updates I'd like to share with you:

We've scheduled kindergarten registration nights for April 17 at Alexander Elementary, April 19 at Lincoln Elementary, April 24 at Michener Elementary and April 26 at Prairie Elementary. All programs start at 6 p.m.

Springbrook Middle School will hold its sixth-grade open house on April 18 at 6 p.m. I'm particularly excited to show our incoming sixth-graders and their families the wide range of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs at Springbrook, as well as the innovative projects our students are doing in the Project Lead the Way labs every school day.

Last but not least, our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program, or PBIS, which started last year, is producing great results when it comes to producing Maple PRIDE — Productivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Excellence — throughout Adrian Public Schools. Maple PRIDE has become contagious, with students recognized in all of our buildings every month for demonstrating the five PRIDE characteristics.

We have had numerous successes this school year, and I'm sure we'll have more as the school year winds down, thanks in no small part to our incredible students, motivated faculty and staff and family members who go the extra mile to help ensure a world-class education right here at Adrian Public Schools.

Go Maples!

Sincerely,

Bob Behnke, Superintendent

### Connect with APS

-  [www.theadrianmaples.com](http://www.theadrianmaples.com)
-  [www.facebook.com/maplepride](https://www.facebook.com/maplepride)
-  [www.twitter.com/APSMaPlePRide](https://www.twitter.com/APSMaPlePRide)
-  [www.youtube.com/user/APSpodcasts](https://www.youtube.com/user/APSpodcasts)



### Mark your calendars for kindergarten registration

**A**drian Public Schools will host early kindergarten registration nights throughout April for the 2018-2019 school year.

The registration nights will be held April 17 at Alexander Elementary, April 19 at Lincoln Elementary, April 24 at Michener Elementary and April 26 at Prairie Elementary. All programs will start at 6 p.m. To be eligible for kindergarten, children must be 5 years old by Dec. 1, 2018.

Unsure which school your child should attend? Call (517) 264-6640 or visit [theadrianmaples.com](http://theadrianmaples.com).

**ENROLL NOW!**

## Save the date: Sixth-grade open house

Springbrook will host an open house for current fifth-grade students on April 18 from 6-7 p.m. Springbrook features a dedicated sixth-grade wing and offers students dozens of opportunities to explore a wide variety of academic, athletic and community service interests.



Springbrook students also have access to an award-winning fine arts program and are able to earn up to 4.5 high school credits and pursue course advancement opportunities. Make the best choice for your future sixth-grader and enroll your child at Springbrook!

Call (517) 263-2115 for more information.

## APS continues to promote literacy at home

Adrian Public Schools continues to focus on literacy as a critical part of a 21st century education.

In recent years, the district has implemented a K-12 English Language Arts Curriculum, adopted a phonics instruction program, provided teacher professional development on literacy, and enhanced reading intervention programs for students.



APS recommends these tips to promote literacy at home:

- Encourage your child to read regularly at home.
- Designate a distraction-free area where your child can concentrate.
- Communicate with teachers about your child's reading progress. Programs at school, such as Literacy Nights, will give you additional insight and support for your child.

• Seek help when needed. Reading help is available at

the Adrian Community Education Center and REA Literacy Center.



## Long-term ‘Game Plan’ announced for athletic programs

The Adrian Public Schools Athletic Advisory Committee has created a long-term “Game Plan” centered on five core priorities:

- Maple Pride: Winning Mindset and Personal Development of Student Athletes
- K-12 Athletic Program Opportunities
- Conference Membership
- Professional Staff
- Quality Facilities

The committee’s plan will serve as the official blueprint for APS athletics, with guidance from coaches, staff, parents, students, administrators and community members.

The committee began meeting in October to make long-term plans for the district’s athletic department. The “Game Plan” sets goals in key areas to promote life skills and character development, increase opportunities in recreation and athletics, improve facilities and explore athletic conference participation.

“Thanks to this communitywide effort, APS athletics will continue to serve as a cornerstone within the district and build upon the principles of Maple PRIDE: Productivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Excellence,” said **John Roberts**, Adrian Public Schools athletic director.

## APS IN THE NEWS

### Adrian Schools to replace instruments

*Toledo Blade*, Feb 13, 2018

### Adrian BlueBotics off to competition

*The Daily Telegram*, Feb. 11, 2018

### Adrian Public Schools adopts long-term ‘game plan’ for district athletics

*Toledo Blade*, Jan 3, 2018

### Adrian Schools’ ‘Cops and Kindergartners’ program inspires children’s book

*MLive*, Nov. 28, 2017



## Generous grants fund new band and orchestra instruments

Adrian Public Schools' aging band and orchestra instruments will soon be replaced, thanks to the generosity of the **Elizabeth Ruthruff Wilson Foundation** and the **Adrian Schools Educational Foundation (ASEF)**. The funds, along with a matching

contribution from Adrian Public Schools, total \$90,000 and will be used to replace instruments over the next three years — some of which are more than 20 years old — starting this school year.

“For Adrian Public Schools families, this program means students will have access to better instruments as they continue their music education, which plays a critical role in a well-rounded, 21<sup>st</sup> century education here at APS,” said **Bob Behnke**, Adrian Public Schools superintendent.



The \$30,000 Elizabeth Ruthruff Wilson Foundation grant was officially awarded at the Feb. 12 Adrian Board of Education meeting. The ASEF pledged \$30,000 to the instrument replacement project, and the district has budgeted \$30,000 toward the effort.

“The Adrian Schools Educational Foundation is happy to help meet the needs of the district band and orchestra instrument replacement plans, and equally delighted that the Elizabeth Ruthruff Wilson Foundation is matching our pledge,” said **Lisa Neuman**, foundation director.

## AHS students enrolled in more than 50 college courses

This year, many Adrian High School students enrolled in Adrian Public Schools' dual-enrollment programs with local Michigan colleges, taking more than 90 college-level classes between the 2017 Fall and 2018 Spring semesters.

In the fall, 36 students took a total of 53 courses from Siena Heights University, Adrian College, Jackson College and Washtenaw Community College. This spring semester, 29 students enrolled in 43 courses from Siena Heights University, Adrian College, Jackson College, Washtenaw Community College and Concordia University.

We are proud of the academic achievement of our students!

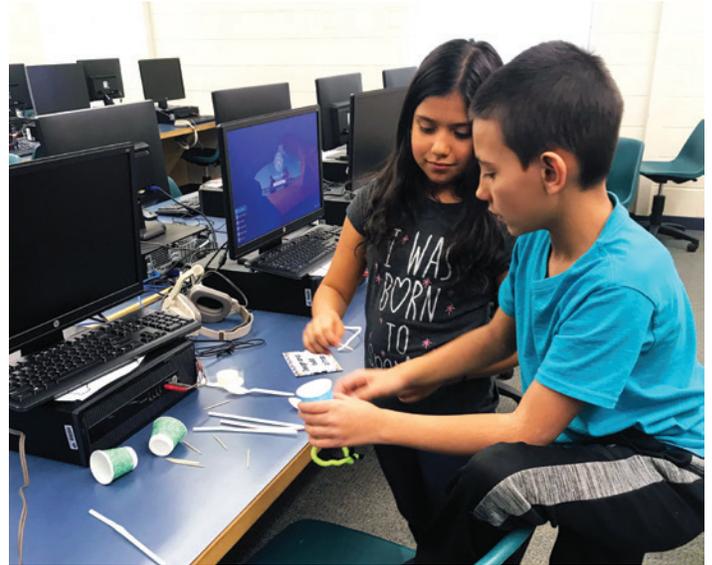
Examples of the exciting and challenging courses available to students through dual-enrollment include:

- American Democracy
- Calculus
- College-level Algebra
- Data and Statistics
- Introduction to Business
- Introduction to Communications
- Introduction to Criminal Justice
- Introduction to Engineering
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Introduction to Psychology
- Introduction to Sports Management
- Japanese
- Macroeconomics
- Medical Terminology
- Musical Theatre
- Principles of Accounting
- Principles of Sociology
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Reading and Writing Spanish
- Statistical Reasoning

*Is your child interested in dual enrollment?  
Call (517) 263-2181.*



# ELEMENTARY



## Maple Makers provides real-world STEM experiences

Adrian Public Schools continues its commitment to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) instruction at all grade levels.

That was clear this winter during Maple Makers at Alexander, Lincoln, Michener and Prairie elementary schools. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade met after school each week for a wide range of STEM-related activities, including computer coding, game design and cardboard construction.

“Maple Makers gave our students a hands-on, real-world learning experience,” said **Tracey De Meritt**, Adrian Public Schools technology teacher. “Our STEM activities were both fun and gave students an early glimpse at the skills they’ll need to be successful in the modern workforce. I hope to bring the program back next year.”

The Maple Makers Club was established at Lincoln Elementary School in 2015 as an afterschool place for students to let their curiosity and imagination come to life. For the past two years, participating students have held MakerNight at Lincoln Elementary and had a booth at the Adrian Public Schools STEM night.

## Prairie Science Olympiad Team competes at Tri-County event

On March 6, 10 Prairie Elementary School students competed in the 2018 Elementary Tri-County Science Olympiad at Siena Heights University. Each Prairie fourth-grader competed with a partner in an event testing their science knowledge and problem-solving and engineering skills.

Competition challenges ranged from using knowledge of the solar system and outer space to trying to build the tallest tower out of random materials.

Congrats to all Prairie Olympiads!



## Lincoln students demonstrate classroom technology at Capitol

**O**n Dec. 6, Lincoln Elementary students gave Michigan lawmakers and business leaders a first-hand glimpse at how technology helps them learn every day at school.

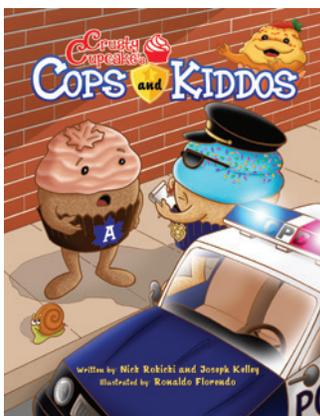
The students participated in the **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Virtual Student Technology Showcase** at the Capitol in Lansing. During the day-long event, Lincoln students demonstrated best practices of how technology can enhance teaching and learning for the success of Michigan students.

The Lincoln team built a Replica of the State Capitol building and created buttons for those in attendance. Students met with **Gov. Rick Snyder**, **Lt. Gov. Brian Calley**, state **Rep. Bronna Kahle** and state **Sen. Dale Zorn**.

## Michener Elementary’s ‘Cops and Kindergartners’ inspires children’s book

**M**ichener Elementary School’s “Cops and Kindergartners” program has inspired a new illustrated children’s book about forging positive relationships between police and our youngest students.

The book, entitled “Crusty Cupcake’s Cops and Kiddos,” features the City of Adrian in its illustrations, along with themes reflecting Maple PRIDE: Productivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Excellence. Nick Rokicki and Joe Kelly, the book’s authors, read the book to all elementary students as part of March



is Reading Month. Books can be ordered through the main office of any APS elementary school.

“It is truly rewarding to see the Cops and Kindergartners program brought to life on the pages of a children’s book as we continue to see positive relationships form between our kindergartners and City of Adrian Police Department officers,” said **Sharon Ketola**, a Michener Elementary teacher who started the program last school year.

Students have been involved in the writing process over the last few months. In an online vote, Adrian Public Schools students chose “Mia” as the name of the book’s lead character. The authors also provided video updates to students throughout the writing and illustration process.

Ketola started Cops and Kindergartners to build positive relationships between police and students in Adrian. Students have hosted officers at school for reading time, arts and crafts and a holiday party. Officers have explained the significance of each piece of their uniforms, given students a glimpse inside police vehicles and more.

## Alexander students collect cans, cash for needy



**A**lexander Elementary students collected 2,794 canned food items and raised cash donations to help Adrian residents in need during the school’s most recent communitywide drive.

The items were collected during Alexander’s Annual Canned Food Drive in February. All of the food items and money collected were donated to the St. Mary’s Food Pantry.

Way to show your Maple PRIDE, Alexander students!

## Springbrook students design 21<sup>st</sup> century bridges

Springbrook Middle School students tried their hands at designing and building their own model bridges this semester. The project is a key component of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education at Springbrook.

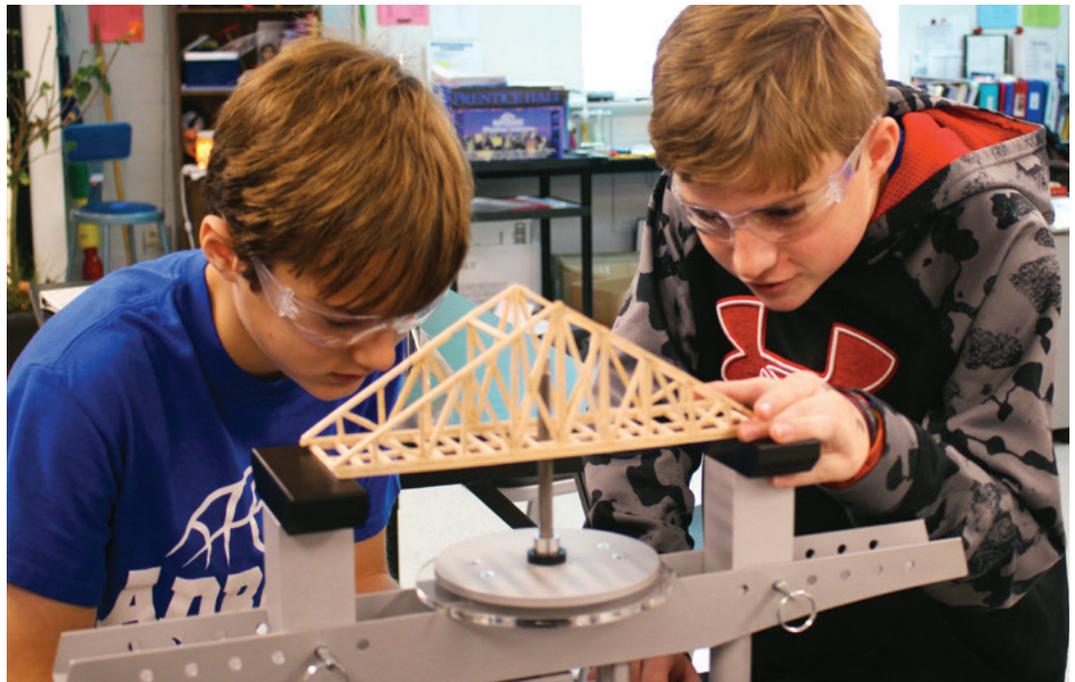
To create their model bridges, students worked with a bridge simulator computer program to experiment with different designs. Next, students sketched bridge designs and drew to scale on 1/8-inch scale paper. With their designs in hand, students built their model bridges with balsa wood.

Once students completed their bridges, they stress-tested them and collected the data.

“The bridge unit allows students to use real-world technology to design, construct, test and reflect on their own bridges,” said **Denee Hartung**, Springbrook science teacher. “Each student uses a simulation to create 10 different designs

and ultimately choose the best one to create and construct to scale. Students then test their bridges with a digital stress-tester. The data help students identify where their bridges need more support.”

Hartung’s students jumped at the chance to learn skills that will prepare them for college and jobs. The bridge project has been a favorite for many students in her class.



“I heard that it was fun and challenging and I like being challenged,” said eighth-grader **Sean Leonard**.

## Shrek coming to Springbrook

You heard correctly. Shrek, the loveable green giant, is making his way to Springbrook.

Springbrook students will perform “**Shrek the Musical Jr.**”, a musical based on the popular “Shrek” movie series, March 22-24 at the Adrian High School Performing Arts Center.



Each show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for students and seniors, and \$6 for adults. The Springbrook production of “Shrek the Musical Jr.” includes a cast and crew of nearly 60 students.

“Our students put hours of time and dedication into this musical production, which will provide a fun and entertaining night for the whole family,” said **Michael Yuen**, APS Theater Manager. “We encourage the entire Adrian Public Schools community to join us!”



## Adrian High School BlueBotics kick off season, demonstrate robotics skills

The BlueBotics, Adrian High School's award-winning robotics team, gave the Adrian community an up-close look at what it takes to be successful on the robotics competition floor during a special presentation at the City of Adrian Library on Feb. 2, part of the City of Adrian's **First Friday** community learning series.

During the First Friday event, the BlueBotics demonstrated last season's robot and discussed the 2018 season. The event drew 40 community members.

"This was a fantastic opportunity to show our friends and neighbors how the BlueBotics robotics team puts the skills we learn every day at school into action," said AHS junior **Dylan Thacker**, the team's programmer and lead driver. "We hope our presentation created



excitement in the community about our upcoming season as we continue to sharpen our robotics skills."

This season's game challenge, FIRST Robotics Power Up, is modeled after a 1980s-era, 8-bit video game. To win, students must build three different robots capable of completing certain tasks autonomously. Teams work in strategic alliances to collect the most points.

## AHS choir groups excel at District Solo and Ensemble

Two Adrian High School choir ensembles received top ratings at the **District Solo and Ensemble Festival** in Jackson in January, demonstrating Adrian Public Schools' dedication to artistic expression as part of a diverse 21<sup>st</sup> century education.

"Such a strong performance by our choir groups required dedication and focus before, during and after school as we prepared for District Solo and Ensemble," said **Steve Antalek**, Adrian High School's Director of Choirs. "We will continue to encourage all students to participate in our choir groups and instrumental ensembles as a cornerstone of a well-rounded education here at Adrian Public Schools."

At District Solo and Ensemble, each student or group of students is evaluated by one judge and rated on a scale



of 1 to 5, with "1" being the highest rating. Ocho, an eight-member ensemble of Adrian High School Lady Blues singers, earned the top rating of "1", making the group eligible to perform at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival.

The Freshman Choir also had a stellar showing, earning a "2" rating at the festival.

"We're very proud of the effort and passion our choir students invest in developing their skills," said **Scott Gregory**, Adrian Music Boosters President. "Music teaches so many lessons, from presentation and communication skills, to teamwork and confidence — all of which better prepare our students for a successful life. We encourage participation in the District Solo and Ensemble Festival and similar opportunities so that our young musicians gain more of the unique experience that comes from performing."



## Into the Woods

### 'Into the Woods' coming to AHS

Adrian High School students will perform **"Into the Woods"** May 3-5 at the Adrian High School Performing Arts Center. Each show begins at 7:30 p.m.

A cast and crew of 34 students are working on the Stephen Sondheim musical, which is based on classic Brothers Grimm fairy tales.

Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors, and \$8 for adults.

### AHS names Dean of Students

**Scott Kelley**, a veteran teacher and expert in student relations, has been named Adrian High School Dean of Students. In this newly created role, Kelley will develop student academic intervention programs, support positive relations among Adrian High School teachers, students and families, and help supervise student activities.

"Scott is helping Adrian High School fulfill our ongoing mission to provide all students with a well-rounded, cutting-edge education that helps them reach their full potential in a safe, respectful and nurturing learning environment," said **Ron Jacobs**, Adrian High School principal. "We are excited to have him onboard as we continue to provide



a 21st century education to all students that prepares them for college and careers."

Kelley comes to Adrian Public Schools from Ypsilanti Community Schools. There, he was a Teacher Leader, overseeing nearly 40 teachers and serving as a liaison between the administration and teachers for evaluations, discipline, policies and procedures and grading. He also interviewed and hired teachers and administrators in this role.

"I am very excited to be part of the Adrian Public Schools family and work with all students, families and community members," Kelley said. "I am looking forward to working with the staff at Adrian High School as we help all students reach their full potential inside and outside the classroom."

Welcome, Mr. Kelley!

# ¡CELEBRAMOS!



## Lo más destacado de la Conferencia sobre Liderazgo Latino

Este otoño tuvo lugar la segunda Conferencia sobre Liderazgo Latino en colaboración entre la escuela Adrian Public Schools y Siena Heights University.

Durante el evento que duró todo el día, más de 35 estudiantes participaron en una variedad de talleres y escucharon a conferenciantes sobre la planificación para la universidad, las opciones profesionales, las oportunidades de liderazgo dentro de la comunidad y las relaciones entre la comunidad y la policía.

## Nuevo cargo para ayudar a que se gradúen los estudiantes que aprenden inglés

Steve Almaguer Gonzalez, que actualmente mentor para la graduación en la escuela Adrian High School, estrena cargo este año académico como mentor para la graduación en el distrito de estudiantes que aprenden inglés.

El Sr. Gonzalez continuará en Adrian High School, y también continuará gestionando la línea de teléfono en español, (517) 417-6277, aconsejando el Club LatinX de Adrian High School, coordinando la Conferencia de Liderazgo Latino, y la planificación anual de viajes a Michigan State University para estudiantes latinos.

En sus palabras: "La preparación para la universidad y su éxito en sus carreras profesionales de los estudiantes



de las escuelas Adrian Public School empieza asegurándonos de que se gradúan de la escuela secundaria, y estoy orgulloso de ayudar a que los estudiantes alcancen esta meta tan importante. En mi nuevo cargo, espero involucrar a los padres y las familias, centrándome en la asistencia, y formando parejas de colaboración de nuestros estudiantes de la escuela secundaria con otros de la escuela elemental para reforzar sus habilidades de lectura."



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