

**ENROLL NOW!**

# THE MAPLE MESSENGER

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

SPRING 2019



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Dear APS Community,

I am excited to share the many achievements and accomplishments of our students and staff in this spring edition of the Maple Messenger. Throughout the pages of this edition, you will see a continued focus on Productivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence - PRIDE with our work with students across the district and into our community.



The work that we have accomplished as a District to provide outstanding experiences to our students is done thanks to our community. As always, thank you for the trust, dedication, and continued support to provide quality educational programs in the areas of Academics, Arts, and Athletics to your children and grandchildren.

Go Maples!!!

Robert Behnke  
Superintendent

Spring marks the time of year that parents begin to make important educational transitions for their students. In the coming weeks, we will host kindergarten round-up (see below), host open houses at Springbrook Middle School for incoming 6th grade students (see page 4), and prepare for high school course selections. This year students from Adrian High School enrolled in 105 courses as part of the dual enrollment program. Learn more about that on page 5.

Adrian Public Schools has long been the leader in the county when it comes to programming opportunities and offerings for students. I would strongly encourage you to share the great things happening at APS with your neighbors and invite them to become part of the Maple Family at one of the upcoming enrollments or school events.

## 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)

## First Student App

With the launch of a new real-time interactive app, First Student is proud to continue its ongoing support of Adrian Public School students. FirstView® is the industry's most comprehensive and secure bus tracking and parent communication app. FirstView® helps you better manage your time during the hectic before- and after-school rush by putting your student's up-to-the-minute bus information in your hands.

To download, go to [firstviewapp.com](http://firstviewapp.com). You also can find FirstView® in the App Store or Google Play.



## Mark Your Calendars for Kindergarten Registration

Adrian Public Schools will host early kindergarten registration nights throughout April for the 2019-2020 school year.

The registration nights will be held April 16th at Alexander Elementary, April 17th at Lincoln Elementary, April 15th at Michener Elementary and April 18th 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, 2019.

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

**ENROLL NOW!**

## Recreation Programs

Taking feedback from students, parents, coaches, and community members, the Adrian Public Schools Recreation Department launched the first programs this winter. Starting with a partnership with the YMCA and the APS Varsity Basketball Coaches, students from across all four elementary buildings had an opportunity to learn skill based essentials while competing against their fellow elementary schools. Enrollment in the program increased dramatically to 106 students, up from 39 last year.

This spring a running club, soccer club, and swim club will launch for our elementary students through continued collaborations with the YMCA, E-Race Stigma 5K, and Community Mental Health. Little League will return this summer thanks to the support from the City of Adrian. Look for more information on the Maple Pride Facebook page in the coming weeks.



## Mathematics Updates

That's not how we did it when we were kids!!! This is often a theme used by adults when talking to students today about numeracy and math. The important takeaway with math instruction is that there is more than one way to do a math problem and still get the correct answer.

Throughout the 2018-2019 school year, elementary teachers participated in a mathematics professional development series to implement new lessons on numeracy and number sense. Improving numeracy and number sense provides students a deeper understanding of numbers, setting them up for current and future success as mathematical thinkers.

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the District held a Mathematics Parent Night to

demonstrate the new approaches and allow parents an opportunity to learn more so they can support learning at home. Next school year, the District will continue to work more deeply with parents and provide additional opportunities to support math instruction at home.



## Roberts to Retire



After dedicating 31 years to Adrian Public Schools, Athletic Director John Roberts announced his retirement at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Roberts spent his first 22 years at Adrian High School as an English teacher, coach, and the school's Activities Director. The last nine years, Roberts has served as the Adrian High School Athletic Director and Assistant Principal.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity that was given to me 31 years ago. The chance to live and work in this great community has simply been a blessing," said Roberts.

A committee of parents, athletes, coaches, and administrators will be conducting a search in the coming weeks. The Board of Education will take the committee's recommendation into consideration at the May 13, 2019 meeting.

## 6th Grade Open House

Springbrook Middle School is opening its doors to welcome the parents and students of next year's incoming sixth graders. Tour the building, learn more about elective offerings, talk with teachers, and see all that Springbrook has to offer. Open House is Tuesday, April 16, 2019, from 6-7 p.m.

Middle school will be a fun time in your child's life, but it requires some early planning and lots of support (for parents and students). Please make a point to attend this important transition.



## APS IN THE NEWS

**Adrian School's Veterans Day Event Honors Military With Music Program**

Daily Telegram November 10, 2018

**Alexander Tops Food Drive Goal**

Daily Telegram March 6, 2019



**Habitat to Develop McKinley Site**

WLEN September 12, 2018

**Adrian School Board Approves New Teacher, Head Football Coach**

Sentinel-Standard March 01, 2019



## Maple Blues Blast

Maples from far and wide came together on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> for the fifth annual Maples Blues Blast held at Adrian College's Tobias Room. The joint event, hosted by the Adrian Schools Educational Foundation and Maple Fans Club drew in a crowd of 300 APS supporters.

Thanks to program sponsors, auction donors, auction bidders, and raffles, over \$43,000 was raised, almost a

\$6,000 increase from last year. Thank you to all of the supporters, donors, volunteers, and attendees, for making the 2019 Maple Blues Blast a success. Programs and experiences of Adrian Public Schools students will be enhanced because of your generosity.



## Dual Enrollment

Adrian Public Schools is proud to provide challenging academic experiences to students. This includes the opportunity for dual-enrollment where students can earn college credit during their high school years.

This fall, thirty-four students took a total of fifty-three courses. This term, thirty-two students are currently enrolled in fifty-two courses from Siena Heights University, Adrian College, Jackson College, Washtenaw Community College, and Concordia University.

APS is proud to offer these opportunities to families while also helping ease students transition to college.

To be eligible for dual enrollment courses students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and qualifying test scores. Want to learn more, or have specific questions? Have your student contact their counselor at (517) 266-4532.

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

- Business Communications
- Calculus II
- College Algebra
- Criminal Justice
- Criminal Law
- Criminology
- Developmental Psychology
- Intro to Business
- Intro to Fiction Workshop
- Music Theory
- Sociology
- Macroeconomics
- Marketing
- Music Theory
- Musical Theatre Workshop
- Police Admin & Operations
- Principles of Accounting
- Social Psychology
- Statistical Analysis & Design
- Statistics & Society

Is your child interested in dual enrollment?  
Call (517) 266-4532



# ELEMENTARY

## Alexander Food Drive

Students and staff at Alexander Elementary School held a week-long food drive to benefit the St. Mary's Food Pantry in Adrian. Students collected an amazing 6,112 items. This exceeded their goal of 2,000.

Classrooms competed in a little friendly competition to see which room could gather the most items. Ms. Risner's class came in first with 1,155, Ms. Petterle's class was second with 926 items, and Ms. Sabbadini's class collected 818.

On top of collecting food items, students raised \$590.00 and donated it to help the Food Pantry serve those in our community.

A big thank you to all of our Alexander families for their kind and caring actions!!!

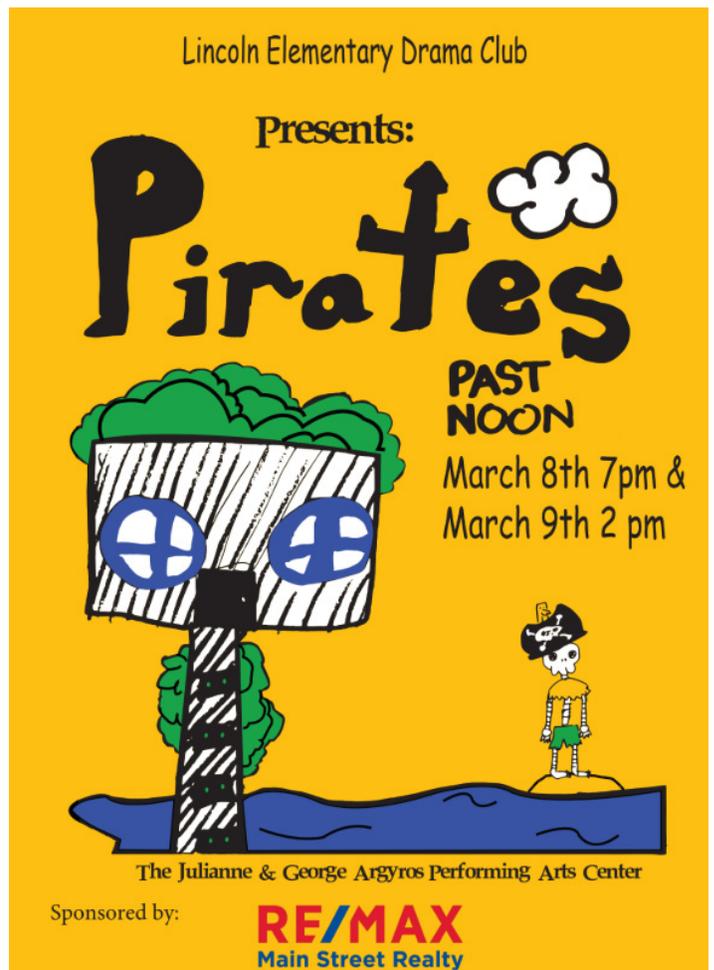


## Lincoln Drama Club

The Lincoln Elementary Drama Club wrapped up its fifth year with a production of *Magic Treehouse Pirates Past Noon*.

Not only did 100 students grades 1-5 have an opportunity to act and perform on the stage, but 21 students grades 3-5 worked behind the scenes learning the technical end of theater production as part of the tech crew. "It is great to see the full integration, not only the performing arts but the fine arts come to life with this production," said, Sam Skeels, Lincoln Elementary Principal. Students got to experience hands-on training in designing the set, poster and shirt artwork, moving scenery during the production, and much more.

A big thank you to Director Emily Gifford and all the staff and parent volunteers that make this production a huge success. Over the last five years, new experiences have been added for students by adding different elements to the production and making sure every student can participate using their own special skills and talents.



## Prairie Elementary Celebrates March is Reading Month

Each year, students across the nation celebrate March is Reading Month. Prairie Elementary students set a challenge to read 3,000 pages during the month. Read Across America Day kicked off this challenge along with other fun activities which include Drop Everything and Read, Relax and Read, and Grandparents Read and Tea.

To help students build their libraries at home, the building hosted a book fair. A month of reading activities wraps up with the Family Literacy Night which includes food, fun, and games. Events include a picture book putt-putt, bingo for books, and a famous Reader's Theater. Parents, come on out and join the fun with your children on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, from 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.



## Michener and Disney Team-up

Michener Elementary was one of six schools in Michigan to be selected to receive a Disney Musical in Schools Grant through the Wharton Center at Michigan State University. Not only does this grant provide funding and support over the next three years, but it is also designed to create a sustainable elementary theater arts program at Michener for years to come.

Theater professionals from the Wharton Center are providing support and training to Michener staff members Lisa Overton, Tina Pellowe, and Lora Wallich, through an Artist in Residence Program. Twenty-eight talented young actors will be bringing to life Disney's "The Lion King Kids."

"We are so excited to be able to perform this amazing show for our fellow students as well as the community," said Lora Wallich, Musical Director. The show went on tour and performed for students at Alexander Elementary School and Governor Gretchen Whitmer during her recent visit.

Lion King Kids will hit the stage on March 28th at 6:00 p.m. at the Julianne And George Argyros Performing Arts Center at Adrian High School. Admission will be by donation only.



## Join the Springbrook Parent Advisory Council

In the continued effort to make sure parents are informed and involved in the educational process at Adrian Public Schools, Springbrook Middle School Principal Nate Parker launched a Parent Advisory Council this year. The Parent Advisory Council has worked with Principal Parker to examine the strengths and opportunities to improve building procedures, programming, and course offerings.

The next Parent Advisory Council meeting will take place on Thursday, April 11th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Springbrook Media Center. Parents of incoming 6th grade students are also encouraged to attend to help prepare for the start of the middle school experience.



## Tri-County Science Fair

Students from Springbrook's eighth grade advanced science class attended the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Tri-County Science Fair at Adrian College. The competition included students from across Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Monroe Counties. Contestants were instructed to use the scientific method to form a hypothesis and answer a question. They then reported the data and explained their project to judges with a tri-fold display board.

This year's contestants received a record fourteen awards. Four Springbrook students took top place honors, five earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place medals and five more with 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards. In total, the students brought home almost \$900 in prize money. "I am very proud of the effort put forth by our students. Their hard work, dedication, and love of science was evident by not only the time that they invested but also in the high-quality projects that were presented," said Teacher Ms. Hartung.



## Middle School Production - "Annie"

This month, over eighty students from Springbrook Middle School participated in the classic musical Annie. A powerful cast of sixty took to the stage with the support of over twenty students helping behind the scenes. "The show proved to be a spectacular hit and students and staff should be commended for the tremendous work and skill they poured into the production," said Principal Nate Parker.

Under the direction of teacher Barb Schenck, the cast and crew rehearsed four days a week and overcame the multiple snow days to produce a top notch performance. "The passion, dedication, and attention to detail by cast and crew provided for an amazing experience for all those involved as well as those who had the pleasure of seeing our show," said Schenck.





## New Football Coach at AHS

Adrian High School Football will kick-off the season under the experienced leadership of Head Coach Chris Gilliam.

Gilliam, former Birch Run Head Football Coach, has an impressive 104-79 record over his 19-year career. He led the team to 5 Tri-Valley Conference Championships and 7 playoff appearances including one district and regional championship. Gilliam has led the Birch Run powerlifting team since 1998, producing state and national champion lifters as well as leading the group to a 3rd place national finish in 2018.



"My family and I are excited for the opportunity to become a part of the Adrian community. Our program will be

about accountability, effort, discipline, and commitment from both the coaching staff and the players. We will instill leadership qualities in our players so that they can be successful both on and off the field," said Gilliam.

The Maples open the 2019 season on Friday, August 30th, at Ypsilanti Lincoln. The first game at Maple Stadium will be Friday, September 6th, at 7 p.m.

## AHS Band

Aaron Mykeloff took the helm of the Adrian High School Marching Band during the start of this school year. One of the special events that Mr. Mykeloff brought to the Adrian community was a fantastic "Glow Show." This winter's performance took place in front of a packed audience in the Adrian High School gymnasium. Students wore glow sticks and performed several pieces from their fall show as well as some classics like Uptown Funk and the AHS Fight Song, all with the lights off. The visual for all attendees was just as good as the music!

This summer, Mykeloff will be taking approximately 80 students to Camp Amigo, located outside of Sturgis, Michigan. This will be year twelve of the Camp Amigo tradition for the AHS band camp experience. Students will spend the week of July 28th learning from accomplished instructors in their respective fields. They will work together as a collective marching band but will also have the opportunity to work within small groups. Is your AHS student interested in becoming part of the AHS band? Stop by Mr. Mykeloff's band room at AHS to learn more.



Photo: Mike Dickie



The 2019 Adrian High School Robotics Team (BlueBotics) is well underway in their competitive season. This year's statewide program is sponsored by Boeing and is called DEEP SPACE. Team members recently had six

weeks to build an operable robot that would compete against over 4,000 other teams in Michigan. The BlueBotics team competed in Battle Creek where they went 6-6 in their match. For this year's game, teams have to place cargo hatches on a space shuttle or rocket and then load the rocket with cargo. Points are then assessed for the number of hatches, cargo and the ability to climb at the "End Game." "Only having six members on our team and competing against teams that average 20 students makes the accomplishments of this group so much more special," said Ken Tokarz, BlueBotics coach and advisor.

The BlueBotics team is sponsored by Blissfield Manufacturing, the State of Michigan, the Adrian Education

Foundation and the LISD. During the offseason, the team improved the design of the elevator system and now have a camera that has enhanced the ability of our drive team during competition. The team is always looking for students interested in programming, fabrication, marketing, low voltage wiring, accounting, and safety. If you or your student has any questions, please have them speak to a team member or email Coach Tokarz at [bluebotics@adrian.k12.mi.us](mailto:bluebotics@adrian.k12.mi.us).



## High School Musical: Beauty and the Beast

Disney's Beauty and the Beast will take to the stage as this year's spring musical production. "This being my first year at the helm of the Adrian Public Schools Theater Program, I wanted to give an amazing experience for our students," stated Emily Gifford, Adrian Public Schools Theater Manager. She continued, "We are pulling out all the stops with this show. We have a flying company that will set up an elaborate rigging system to help us create the magic this show deserves." Characters will not only take to the stage but will also fly. AHS students began work on the production in early February and are poised to deliver



a fantastic show. Behind the scenes, AHS music students will have the opportunity to perform and work side by side next to prominent professional musicians from around the state as part of the production's orchestra.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. April 25th-27th, at the Julianne and George Argyros Performing Arts Center at Adrian High School.

Photo: Steve Gonzalez (G Photography)

## Exalumnos de Adrian High School liderando el camino

La exalumna Rosie Liliana Vázquez graduada en Adrian High School en el año 2018 y fundadora del Club Latino recientemente comenzó su primer año en Eastern Michigan University.

Rosie mientras estudiaba en AHS usó el Club Latino como plataforma para compartir y educar a sus compañeros sobre la cultura latina a través de la lectura, comida y música interactuando de forma diaria con el resto de los estudiantes. "Fui afortunada de haber tenido la oportunidad de iniciar, liderar y desarrollar distintos proyectos en el Club Latino en Adrian High School y estoy muy agradecida de poder compartir mi cultura con los demás", dijo Vázquez.

El consejero del Club Latino Steve Gonzalez, dijo sobre Vázquez: "Estoy muy orgulloso de Lily y sus compañeros de

clase por tomar la iniciativa de comenzar el Club, ellos expresaron el deseo de educar a sus compañeros sobre su cultura. Estoy aún más orgulloso de que ella siga siendo un ejemplo de liderazgo para los jóvenes latinos en nuestra comunidad".

Vázquez actualmente estudia Bioquímica en UEM y fue orgullosamente elegida como Vicepresidenta de la Asociación de Estudiantes Latinx (LSA) y desde ahí piensa continuar con la labor que inicio en AHS de compartir y enseñar sobre la cultura hispana. Rosie en el futuro planea asistir a la Escuela de Medicina para seguir con su educación profesional y le deseamos desde aquí el mayor de los éxitos en todos sus emprendimientos.



## Artista y cuentacuentos visitan Michener Elementary

Los estudiantes de Michener Elementary tuvieron el placer de recibir a un artista, narrador, músico, poeta, actor y escritor único de su género, David González. El Sr. González usó su don de contar historias para expresar entusiasmo y confianza en los estudiantes como jóvenes escritores. Los estudiantes se enorgullecen de mostrar sus habilidades de escritura y narración. David incluyó y valoró magistralmente a los estudiantes de nuestra comunidad cultural diversa. González, que es embajador cultural del Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos

y tiene un doctorado en musicoterapia de la Universidad de Nueva York, comenzó a incorporar la narrativa en su trabajo con niños con discapacidades de aprendizaje emocional. "Descubrí que no sólo enriqueció mis relaciones con ellos, sino también todo el espacio creativo que nos rodeaba, y encontré una gran alegría y placer al contar historias", dijo González. Esta colaboración fue promovida por la asociación entre las Escuelas Públicas de Adrian y los servicios de extensión del Centro Wharton en la Universidad Estatal de Michigan.





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