

**Monthly Memo from the Superintendent**  
**Chelsea Families**  
**April/May 2019**  
**Volume 3, Issue 6**

Each month, I will be sending out a *Monthly Memo* from the Superintendent's office to communicate news and notes from around the Chelsea School District. Communication is a key to facilitating successful organizations and you are an important partner in the work we do every day. This newsletter will recap the previous month's events and provide you with information about our efforts moving forward.

**Teacher Appreciation**

As teacher appreciation comes to a close, I am compelled to express to you how proud we are of our staff. As I travel through the buildings and classrooms, I see our staff members teaching our students, but more importantly, I see the care and compassion they have for our Chelsea students and for their profession.

Everyone can think of a teacher who made a difference in their lives. Mr. Cook, my 6th grade teacher was that for me. He was my favorite teacher because he not only taught me valuable academic skills but also taught me about compassion, empathy, and respect. Our Chelsea teachers and staff have placed an emphasis on creating an environment where our students experience a balance of academic, social, and emotional competencies each day.

I am proud to honor our teachers and staff for Teacher Appreciation Week and assure you that we have the best of the best! If you have not had the chance to recognize our teachers this week, a simple email or phone call of appreciation is welcome throughout the year! Thank you.

**Bond Study Team**

Our Bond Study Team, made up of parents, students, community members, seniors, administrators, board members, and outside experts has been studying the possibility of a Bond election in November. We have met several times to review our facility and program needs to determine the support needed from a bond program.

We have also employed a survey through [Epic MRA](#) and some of you may have received a call within the last week or so asking for your opinion regarding a possible bond. Thank you for your involvement. These results will be evaluated when they become available to help guide the Bond Study Team's efforts.

The team will be making a presentation to the Board of Education at the May 20th board meeting that outlines the results of the study and provides rationale to their recommendation.

**Young 5's Program**

We continue our Young 5's or Transitional Kindergarten at North Creek for the third year. We have 34 students in the program this year and to see the gains they have made has been wonderfully gratifying. These students will be well prepared for kindergarten which will help them throughout their academic career. New packets have gone out to incoming kindergarteners and we are

looking forward to getting them turned in quickly to help us determine our staffing levels at North Creek. If you have a student who will be attending North Creek as a Young 5 or a Kindergartner, thank you for turning in your registration packet asap to help us with our planning.

### **Beach Parking Lot Task Force**

We met with a task force comprised of administrators, teachers, paraeducators, other staff members, and students to discuss the traffic flow issues and parking issues that exist at Beach Middle School beginning in October of 2017. Our goal was to identify all areas for improvement and work with our architects and engineers to design a solution that addresses these areas. The design was finalized in 2018 and the work went out to bid in 2019. We will be initiating Phase 1 of the Beach Parking Lot design as soon as school lets out for the summer. Please be mindful of this when traveling along AD Meyer Drive.

### **Mental Health at the Chelsea School District**

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness ([www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)), 1 in 5 children ages 13-18 have or will have a serious mental illness. In the Chelsea School District, we value our role and respect the influence we can have on our youth every day. Our Strategic Framework includes our Portrait of a Graduate. In Goal 1 and in the Portrait of a Graduate, we emphasize the priorities we place on the whole child from an academic, social, and emotional lens.

While educating students is certainly a priority of all schools, we believe that balancing academics with the social and emotional aspects of school is equally important.



### **Goal #1**

**Incorporate the Portrait of a Graduate across all learning environments to develop globally competitive graduates.**

#### ***Academic***

The Chelsea School District will foster students to be innovative and critical thinkers who possess the ability to analyze and question by embedding researched instructional practices into the pre-k-12 classroom.

#### ***Social***

The Chelsea School District will foster students to be globally and culturally conscious citizens who act with integrity by providing opportunities for students to enhance social well-being.

#### ***Emotional***

The Chelsea School District will foster students to be confident, reflective and empathetic by supporting their overall emotional health.

The importance we place on this careful balance is demonstrated in each of our school buildings and at the District level. This [link](#) will take you to a document that outlines the interventions we have implemented at each building to support our priorities. We have also provided resources to students, parents and educators on our website at <https://www.chelsea.k12.mi.us/special-education/mental-health-and-wellness/index>.

In addition to the efforts in each of our buildings, the District has established a District Wellness Committee made up of parents, community members, local businesses, law enforcement, the fire department, Chelsea Public Library, the Rotary Club of Chelsea, clergy, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, CSD students, mental health professionals, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education members. Washtenaw County Community Mental Health has been active with our team, as well. They will be providing mobile mental health support to Chelsea School District through the Washtenaw County Mental Health Millage. This District Wellness Committee, in its third year, has been active and involved in many of the initiatives the school district has implemented.

The team realizes that the work that the school district is doing in the area of social and emotional health cannot be done alone. This year the team is focused on providing support to our youth throughout the community through a collective effort. In its most recent meeting small coordinated groups of the District Wellness Team set out to identify action steps to support this effort throughout the community.

The Chelsea School District will continue to work to provide our students with what they need academically, socially, and emotionally and with the support of the community, our team will strive to provide avenues for parents, students and our educators to seek out support, find resources, and open lines of communication. If you would like to speak to any of our professionals in the field, their contact information is below:

### **Director of Special Education and Early Childhood**

Lisa Nickel, [lnickel@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:lnickel@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 6083

### **North Creek**

Kimberly Gillow, Principal, [kgillow@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:kgillow@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 3005

Charlotte Yu, Social Worker, [cyu@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:cyu@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 3015

Kristin Krarup-Joyce, Psychologist, [kkrarup-joyce@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:kkrarup-joyce@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 3016

### **South Meadows**

Stacie Battaglia, Principal, [sbattaglia@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:sbattaglia@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 5005

Diana Salazar, Social Worker, [dsalazar@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:dsalazar@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 5015

Kristin Krarup-Joyce, Psychologist, [kkrarup-joyce@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:kkrarup-joyce@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 5105

Claire Talarico, Psychologist, [ctalarico@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:ctalarico@chelsea.k12.mi.us) , ext. 5016

### **Beach Middle School**

Nick Angel, Principal, [nangel@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:nangel@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 2005

Matt Ceo, Assistant Principal, [mceo@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:mceo@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 2006

Mara Goodman, Social Worker, [mgoodman@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:mgoodman@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 2015

Claire Talarico, Psychologist, [ctalarico@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:ctalarico@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 2016

### **Chelsea High School**

Mike Kapolka, Principal, [mkapolka@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:mkapolka@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 1005

Lumen Strong, Assistant Principal, [lstrong@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:lstrong@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 1007

Christa Lindemer, Social Worker, [clindemer@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:clindemer@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 1017

Ellen Kent, Psychologist, [ekent@chelsea.k12.mi.us](mailto:ekent@chelsea.k12.mi.us), ext. 1015

### **Important Dates:**

May 27 - No School - Memorial Day

June 2 - Graduation - CHS

June 12 - Last Day of 2018-2019 School Year - ½ Day Students, ½ Day Records for Teachers

Sincerely,

*Julie D. Helber*

Dr. Julie D. Helber  
Superintendent