

**Monthly Memo from the Superintendent**  
**Chelsea Families**  
**January/February 2019**  
**Volume 3, Issue 5**

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.

**School Board Recognition Month**

January was School Board Recognition Month and the Chelsea School District is joining 541 local and 56 intermediate school districts across the state to thank these community volunteers for their untiring dedication to public education.

Serving on a school board has been described as the 'toughest volunteer job in America.' Yet Michigan's public school board members dedicate countless personal hours to attending meetings school functions, and hours of preparation for the decisions they make. On top of that many pursue their own professional development to stay on top of the ever-changing education landscape. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of our schools and students.

It's an exciting and challenging time in public education. School board members in our district develop policies and make tough decisions that help shape the future of our education system. They bear the responsibility and oversight for an annual budget of \$27 million, 2,344 students, 444 employees and five buildings.

We proudly join educators and community members in saluting these education advocates as they provide vision and leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding and school facilities.

Thank you to:

President Shawn Quilter  
Vice President/Treasurer Kristin van Reesema  
Secretary Laura Bush  
Trustee Tammy Lehman

Trustee Dana Durst  
Trustee Keri Poulter  
Trustee Jason Eyster

**[CEF Foundation Gala](#)**

The mission of the Chelsea Education Foundation is to enhance the Chelsea School District's educational experiences by financing projects beyond the resources of the District and providing scholarships to the District's graduates.

Each year the Foundation hosts a Gala to raise money for this purpose. The Gala is at the Common Grill and is sure to be a fantastic night. To see more information or to attend the Gala, you can follow the link above. Hope to see you there!



Please join us in support of the Chelsea Education Foundation

Monday, March 18, 2019 • Common Grill • 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Plated dinner from award-winning chef Craig Common  
Wine and beer served throughout the evening  
Live auction • Musical entertainment

**Tickets**

Individual tickets \$100 per person  
Seating limited to 150 persons

**Sponsor Levels**

Platinum \$5,000 • Gold \$2,500 • Silver \$1,000 • Bronze \$500

Sponsor level benefits can be reviewed at [chelseaeducationfoundation.org](http://chelseaeducationfoundation.org)

Tickets on sale through Wednesday, March 6th

***Snow Day Update:***

As I am writing this newsletter we are at 9 days of school cancellation due to weather. While I would much prefer to have our students in school, the safety of our students, staff, and families has been the priority.

In my 30 years as an educator, I have not witnessed this type of weather impact on our schools. I heard today that Big Rapids has missed 17 days of school! It is my hope that the weather begins to cooperate and we can get back on track.

As stated in a previous communications, we are allowed 6 days of cancellation by the state. I am allowed to request a waiver for 3 additional days. What this means is that if we need to cancel school for any reason beyond one more day, we will need to make these days up. I will be communicating throughout so you are aware of our status and our plan should this happen.

There is current legislation on the floor that allows there to be an automatic waiver in the event that the Governor calls a State of Emergency. If this bill goes through, we will get the 2 days that Governor Whitmer called a State of Emergency credited.

I appreciate your patience this year and hope that the weather cooperates moving forward.

### **Count Day**

Our February Count Day was Wednesday, February 13th. Since we did not have school on the 13th, it was shifted to the 14th. This count day represents 10% of our total funding from the state. This number combined with next year's Fall Count (90%) will represent our funding for the 2019-2020 school year. While we encourage high attendance on count day, we do have 30 days to recapture students who were not in attendance. With that said, our office assistants put in a great deal of work tracking students who miss on count day. Thank you for making every effort (within reason) to have your child at school on count day.

### **Instructional Rounds and Critical Thinking**

The administrators across the district have been conducting [Instructional Rounds](#). Our focus has been on critical thinking. Our Critical Thinking Team of teachers has been hosting us on these rounds. We have witnessed high levels of engagement, while students investigate and inquire about the world around them. These have been very valuable to our administrative team and support our efforts as we focus on our Profile of a Graduate.

### **Accolades**

Brad Bush, our Athletic Director was selected to the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. As a coach for the Bulldogs for 21 years, Coach Bush compiled a record of 169-60 and had 18 playoff appearances. We are very proud of Coach Bush and congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.

Matt Ceo was recently named the Administrator of the Year by the Michigan Association of Middle School Educators (MAMSE). Mr. Ceo joined the middle school team in 2016 and has been a tremendous asset to Beach. We are are very proud of Mr. Ceo!

Mr. Fritzemeier and the CHS orchestras played a Back-to-Back performance with the Jackson Symphony Orchestra on February. It was a fantastic performance that exhibited the talents of our students and Mr. Fritzemeier. Congratulations to all of the musicians..

### **Important Dates:**

February 19, 2019 - Beach Middle School Band and Orchestra Concert - 7:00 p.m.

February 20, 2019 - CHS Band and Orchestra Concert - 7:00 p.m.

February 23, 2019 - Company C Showcase - 7:00 p.m.

February 26, 2019 - Beach Middle School Choir Concert 7:00 p.m.

March 8, 2019 - End of 2nd Trimester - ½ Day Students, Full Day Teachers

Sincerely,



Dr. Julie D. Helber  
Superintendent