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The Review

Hamtramck

www.hamtramckreview.com • e-mail news@thehamtramckreview.com




Quick Hits

HPS district talks about its challenges

As you can see, this week's issue of The Review is featuring articles about the Hamtramck Public School district.

Several HPS administrators and principals wrote about their experiences during the past year.

This past year can be summed up in one word: Challenging.

Obviously, the Covid crisis affected all of us. For students, it meant being taught their lessons virtually – at home.

That was a huge hurdle for both the HPS staff and students to get used to.

While this method of teaching is not ideal – nothing can take the place of in-person learning – it did allow students to learn more about technology.

Even teachers had to make huge adjustments.

Thankfully, the district rose to the occasion.

We hope you enjoy reading how our school district met this incredible challenge head on with success.

— SPECIAL SCHOOL EDITION —


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Superintendent




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Rising to the challenge at Hamtramck Public Schools

By Jaleelah Ahmed
Superintendent of Hamtramck Public Schools

The 2020-21 school year has been unlike any other in the history of Hamtramck Public Schools, but like most other times when our community has faced challenges, we have worked together to overcome the difficulties before us.

While the pandemic forced the majority of our students to learn from home the entire school year, we saw tremendous engagement in learning across the district.

This would have been impossible without the ongoing dedication and passion of our students, families, teachers and staff.

From the earliest moments of preparing for the school year in July, it took the commitment of the school community to prepare for the roadblocks before us.

We had to ensure every student had the technol-

Continued on page 2

District finances are once again in excellent shape

By Sherry A. Lynem
Director of Finance

The General Fund is the Operating Fund of the District. It is where all the money used to run day-to-day operations is accounted for.

These operations include making payroll for more than 400 employees, providing teachers and staff with training, purchasing supplies, materials, furniture and equipment, utilities, and repairing and maintaining our buildings.

We collaborate with management and the School Board to make

sure the District's priorities are met. Because of our strong financial management our General Fund has a healthy surplus. The district's finances are audited by an independent auditing firm every year.

We are very happy to report that we once again have received an Unmodified Opinion from the auditing firm of Yeo & Yeo. This is the highest rating possible of our finances and internal controls.

We have concentrated our spending on supporting students and teaching.

Continued on page 2





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Congratulations Class of 2021



District finances are once again in excellent shape

Continued from front page

ers. We have been able to purchase a new reading curriculum, increased our EL staff and equipment & programs to support our EL students.

We have continued to upgrade technology throughout the District, and we have a one-to-one student/device ratio. This became particularly important during this year as we implemented virtual learning due to COVID 19.

We have made numerous building improvements, including new playscapes and parking lots, new roofs, new boilers just to name a few.

Many more improvements are needed and we are planning to use Federal COVID relief funds to upgrade the ventilation in our buildings to make them even safer for our staff and students.

The district had the good fortune during this year to purchase a new building on Conant Street. We are looking forward to finalizing details for the renovations and sharing them with the community soon.

The job of the Finance

Department is to support the instructional efforts of the school district so that they can have the ability to afford the human resources and supplies they need to do the best job possible in nurturing and educating our students.

As a 10-year Director of Finance in Hamtramck Public Schools I am very proud of the dedication that our instructional team puts forth on a daily basis. I consider myself to be blessed to be able to do my part to help them.

Rising to the challenge at Hamtramck Public Schools

Continued from front page

ogy they needed to learn from home and that they would have access to critical support services – from counselors to food delivery – to help them thrive.

Despite all of the roadblocks, we have seen the Hamtramck community persevere thanks to the flexibility, creativity and collaboration of our school family, including our incredible teachers, who provided enriching and unique lessons to promote academic, social and emotional growth.

These successes have required hard work and commitment on all of our parts, and I am immensely grateful for all that has been done to support our students.

As our high school seniors prepare for graduation and complete their educational journey at Hamtramck Public Schools, we should take a moment to congratulate them for remaining focused throughout the school year.

While this is the culmination of 13 years of learning, it is in many ways a beginning for our graduates, as they start the next exciting chapter of their lives.

We look forward to seeing what the Class of 2021 will accomplish and hope they will remain a part of the Hamtramck school community for years to come.

With the end of the school year near, we cast our eyes to what lies ahead and eagerly await the return of children to our buildings. Preparations have already begun for a return to in-person learning in September and we cannot wait to share in the excitement of students in our hallways and classrooms, as well as on our playgrounds.

Among those preparations are critical infrastructural improvements to our schools – through the ESSER funds the district is scheduled to receive – and the addition of the Conant building to

help close the equity gap for our students.

This building brings with it a sense of renewed hope for the future of our district and is another step toward giving our students all of the tools they need to succeed.

In the coming weeks we will share more information about the Hamtramck Public Schools plans for the 2021-22 academic year, as well as details on summer learning opportunities for those children who require additional support in advance of the start of the 2021-22 school year.

We have learned much in the process of navigating through the challenges this year, but there's one thing we've always known – that we are far stronger working together than alone.

The coming school year holds limitless opportunities for our students – we hope you will join us by enrolling at www.hamtramckschools.org.

Sports programs remained healthy and exciting

By Brian Anderson
Athletic Director

The 2020-2021 school year was a year of great adversity but also great achievement for the Hamtramck Cosmos' athletic programs.

In spite of dealing with various delays, constant doubt over whether their seasons would take place, and ever-changing restrictions and policies for the sake of health and safety, the Cosmos' athletes still competed through their seasons and accomplished a lot along the way.

In the fall season, the boys' soccer team managed to go 9-2. This included a thrilling overtime win in districts against Detroit Western before

bowing out to state powerhouse, Grosse Pointe North, in a very competitive game. Featuring only two seniors, the future is bright for the Cosmos' soccer program.

The girls' volleyball team was able to finish with a winning record and in the top half of the league while also having enough athletes for a JV program for the 2nd year in a row.

This program is clearly on the rise.

In the winter, the girls' basketball program finished 9-5 for its first winning record since 2015. Featuring predominantly juniors, the 2021-2022 season promises to be an exciting one.

Not to be outdone, the Cosmos' boys' basket-

ball program won its first league championship since 2000, defeating nationally ranked River Rouge twice along the way. This resulted in a Top 10 ranking in the state polls and several Cosmos being recognized for individual honors. Coach Foster has built a great program that is garnering recognition across the state.

As of this time, the Cosmos' spring teams were still finishing up their seasons but we are excited to see what the future holds.

Most importantly, we are grateful all of our athletes and coaches were able to have seasons and we are truly proud of their efforts to stay safe during this trying year.

Making our schools a safe environment

By Rich Wawrynski
Buildings and Grounds Director

Hello Hamtramck!

Well another school year has passed, and albeit a very different school year, the Facilities and Custodial Departments have been on site tending to building maintenance and cleaning duties throughout the entire pandemic.

Enviro Clean, our custodial partner has been diligently addressing all custodial needs as well as implementing our pandemic cleaning procedures to keep our facilities and grounds safe for

our students, staff and families.

The maintenance department, comprised of 8 crew members, a secretary, an assistant director and myself have been very busy this past year.

Not only have we managed our normal duties, such as outdoor maintenance and general repairs, we have utilized this past year to accomplish many other tasks which would have been impossible while our buildings were full of students and staff every day.

These additional tasks include moving massive amounts of furniture to

provide socially distanced classrooms, painting in numerous areas throughout the district, flooring/ceiling renovations, a new boiler at Dickinson East Elementary and many more improvements.

Last, but definitely not least, we are proud to announce the acquisition of our newest property located at 9300 Conant Avenue in Hamtramck.

We will be working as a team, alongside "Partners in Architecture", to maximize this additional space. Details and our plans will be shared in the very near future.

Meeting the learning needs for students this past year and next

By Carol Paul
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

It has been a pleasure to serve the Hamtramck Public School district and community over the last two years.

The department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment works collaboratively across the District to ensure the curriculum is standards-aligned, based upon research, and is continuously evaluated for improvement.

We make it our personal goal to exceed expectations and to provide equitable access for all learners.

In the fall of 2020, HPS crafted a learning plan and shaped educational

environments that best fit the needs of our students while keeping all safe.

Over the past nine months, the District has risen to meet the needs of students while continuing to meet state guidelines. There were many historic moments for the District over the last year, and we thank our community for supporting our efforts during the pandemic.

Here at HPS, we are forward thinkers and have outlined a three-year strategic plan. The Strategic Planning Committee consisted of HPS staff, community members, and parents.

We reviewed ten years of data, conducted interviews, and collected sur-

vey data to build a strong blueprint for the future. Based upon the strategic plan, the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment team will work on three main objectives during the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Establishing a guaranteed and viable culturally responsive curriculum towards the goal of sustainable cultural proficiency.
2. Establishing a culturally responsive data acquisition and decision-making culture.
3. Audit all building curricular materials to ensure alignment to the vision for high-quality, culturally responsive subject-specific instruction.

In a difficult year, teachers and staff continued to connect with students

By Michelle Imbrunone
Director of Human Resources

Serving the HPS Community as Director of Human Resources over the past year has been a wonderful professional experience.

While we worked collaboratively to seek out safe ways to ensure continued learning for all students, the work of our staff demonstrated why our district is known throughout the Metro-Detroit areas as a leader in innovative educational practices.

Embracing the cultural traditions and pride, makes Hamtramck Public Schools a destination district for our families.

During the pandemic, our families continued to partner with our teachers and other staff members to meet our students where they were at.

Virtual learning created new opportunities for our staff to grow and stretch their own understanding of various technology and platforms to garner student attention, maximize learning, and focus instructional pedagogy.

While my own personal family history is deeply rooted in the Hamtramck community, I continue to be honored by the degree of parental involvement and trust that our school community works to earn each day.

The dedication by our teachers over this difficult year to connect with students in new ways reaffirms the commitment by educators to make every moment matter.

Our building administrators supported the high levels of engagement from all members of our staff, renewed the commitment to school-home connection which is a positive environment where all students and staff can thrive.

As a member of an already very strong, highly collaborative leadership team, the overarching goals this year will be to focus our efforts on supporting the Strategic Plan.

There are two objectives that will be driving our work:

- Evaluate systems and processes that are already in place and deter-

mine those that need to be modified or developed

- Establish the way by which decisions are made, implemented, and monitored within the Hamtramck Public Schools

Further efforts will center on building and supporting high levels of educator effectiveness, continuing our efforts to recruit candidates through establishing residency pipelines for certified staff members, and to work with the professional team to continue to grow opportunities to enhance the professional development and growth of all staff.

The Department of Human Resources works in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Education to ensure that all standards are met for our teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals.



Start Here, Stay Here, Succeed Here

Cosmos students shined in class, sports and extra-curricular activities

By Chris Vraniak
Principal, Hamtramck High School

I'd like to start off by thanking our Cosmos students, staff and families for uniting this year to get through all of the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic created.

Our Cosmos community was truly resilient and engaged throughout the last year and I could not be more proud.

And, amazingly enough, we were able to have some fun along the way! The 2020-2021 school year was not a lost year – it was a huge success as our Cosmos learned a myriad of technology tools that will forever help them shine, both in and out of the classroom.

With all of the challenges that this year presented, Cosmos students not only grew academically,

as our students managed to perform exceptionally on state assessments, but they also excelled in the wide-array of extra-curricular activities.

We continued to lead throughout the community and the state as our LEAP members cleaned up the community, our DECA students competed at the state and national levels in their business curriculum, and our chess clubs made great gains while virtual this year.

Excitingly, the Drama club took home another large grant and looks forward to launching an exciting summer program this year. STEM events also took place through partnerships with General Motors and Henry Ford Community College. In the athletics arena, our programs managed to build on past successes,

highlighted by a league Title in boys basketball.

Looking forward to next year, we are excited to reintegrate our students into the classroom, with a new 21st century library and cafe, a virtual learning center and new STEM course offerings that align to our students interests.

Our mission will continue to be progressing all students socially, emotionally and academically with a very individualized approach.

As always, we aim to connect every student who walks through our doors with their passion so they can best progress towards their college and career goals, and continue to prove that Hamtramck High School is one of the elite high schools in the area.

Despite pandemic, recreation programs continued

By Craig Daniels
Director, Hamtramck Recreation Dept.

The Hamtramck Recreation Department offers a variety of fun activities for the entire family from the youngest child to the oldest child at heart.

Our programming goes beyond just sports related programs. We offer sports, arts, and special events and the 2020-2021 year, while challenging, was great! We hope this finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

Hopefully, we are beginning to emerge from 12 months of COVID and towards a sense of normalcy in our daily lives.

This past year we had to modify some of our programs, but we were able to bring the community some of our known

events and a couple of new ones.

Most recently we held our Egg Scramble, and for the first time ever Stroll In The Park that featured food, snacks, balloon animals and a photobooth to commemorate the day both at Pulaski Park. We also have youth Dance, Soccer, Baseball, Tae Kwon Do, and Fitness classes starting in June. Registration is going on now.

As the weather warms and we return to more outdoor activities, I invite you to explore our parks.

Summer wouldn't be the same without day camp. Our 7-week Summer Playground Program registration has already begun. The program starts June 28th at Pulaski Park and Keyworth Stadium.

We have our Movie In

The Park series starting June 25th showing Trolls World Tour to kick off the summer.

While we will not be offering swim lessons this summer, the pool at Hamtramck High School is scheduled to re-open July 6th for open swim, adult lap, and water aerobics.

The Community Center is still closed for working out in the gym, but adult fitness classes are going on and Co-Ed softball is starting soon.

We encourage you to participate in all we have to offer. A world of friends, fun, and fitness awaits just outside your door.

We hope to see you this summer and thank you for a great year! Your Recreation Millage Dollars At Work!

English learning team is the core of the district

By Nabil Nagi
English Learner Department (ELD)

It has been an honor and a privilege being a leader of the largest department in the district servicing the majority of our student population.

There were many initiatives that were carried out during this challenging year and we used every learning opportunity to advance our student-driven focus and every challenge to gain insight into our learning experience.

As we are consistently working on advancing quality of services delivered to English Learners, ELD Department proudly hosted professional developments such as Seven Steps for a Language-Rich Interactive Classroom with Carol Salva, National Geographic EDGE, Inside and Reach Into Phonics training, as well as provided opportunities to our educators

for 100% reimbursed ESL certification classes.

All of our EL teachers had an opportunity to hear from experts and gain insight into best research-based practices during MABE (Michigan Association of Bilingual Education) annual conference.

Our English Learners were provided with opportunities to attend in-person newcomer learning labs focused on guiding students to be successful with remote learning, language acquisition, and content-area instruction from September 2020-October 2020 & March 2021-June 2021.

Simultaneously, EL teachers were conducting virtual instruction groups daily. ELD Department ensured that students have access to CCSS aligned curriculum with digital licenses for remote access and that our EL teachers are available

to them for language support, content area support, and social-emotional learning.

The ELD Team also conducted WIDA 2021 in person testing from February to March, as well as supported iReady, & NWEA testing with all the COVID-19 safety protocols.

In addition to servicing students, the ELD Department oversees the Parent Engagement Team.

Our Parent Engagement Team consists of Parent Engagement Facilitators, Parent Liaisons, and School and Community Facilitators who assist with translation, make phone calls, gather documentations, serve as interpreters during IEPs, parent meetings, enrollment etc. In addition to parents' support, our team translates District important documents for every school and department.

Parent Engagement Team also assists with online application and in-person paper applications, helps parents apply for jobs, etc.

Our district and community support expands through work of our School and Community Facilitators who provide direct family support (Comcast, Computer distribution, Food distribution), as well as help foster students and homeless families.

Most importantly they assisted our families during the pandemic during virtual learning.

Easily noticeable, the ELD Department is at the very core of the HPS system, serving as a bridge between home and school, extending its hand to all who might need some extra help while navigating school life and beyond.

Kosciuszko students mastered new learning methods

By Nuo Ivezaj
Principal, Kosciuszko Middle School

The Kosciuszko Middle School's ELL (English Language Learner) students proved their dedication to learning during this year of the pandemic.

Always cooperative and patient, the ELL students worked with their teachers to overcome technical and curricular challenges and, in the end, came up scholars.

The year began with supply and computer distribution through the windows of the KMS cafeteria. Once chromebooks were distributed, the faculty worked tirelessly to help students establish WiFi connections and enroll in the appropriate Google Classrooms.

With virtual classes underway, Newcomer students returned to the building to participate in Learning Labs in which they received socially-distant, face-to-face instruction.

This came to an end in early November as COVID cases surged in Hamtramck and throughout Michigan.

For the next five months, ELL students, as did all KMS students, participated in virtual learning, mastering new learning platforms as they mastered new content.

Always supporting each other as well as their teachers, KMS ELL students again demonstrated their commitment to school principles. They truly were respectful, responsible, scholarly and, in the year of the pandemic, safe.

KMS ELL teachers Armanda Cabej and Violetta Kuzniar offered parent outreach bringing their teaching skills to a new classroom of HPS students, students' parents.

As part of Title I outreach, the Family Literacy classes are offered annually at no charge. This year,

Continued on page 7

Valedictorian Khadija Helal credits her success to hard work

With a stellar 4.202 grade point average, Valedictorian Khadija Helal occupies a unique pedestal in the history of Hamtramck High School.

Khadija maintained a perfect academic record throughout her high school career, receiving no less than an "A" in any class throughout her entire educational career, which included six Advanced Placement classes, nine Honors classes, and three college courses while at Hamtramck High School.

Khadija credits hard work and her time man-



Khadija Helal

agement for her success, as she packed her schedule with extra-curriculars serving as the National Honor Society President, the DECA Historian, Sec-

retary for Class Office and was a member of the Princess Project, Marching Band, Muslim Student Association and interned with Girls Making Change during her time as a Cosmos.

Khadija will attend the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in the fall of 2021 on full academic scholarship where she plans on majoring in dentistry and venturing into the world of entrepreneurship. Her advice to young students – "define your success. If you're happy, you're successful."

Salutatorian James Zotkaj will focus on computer science

James is the definition of a spectacular student, as his combination of academic achievements and involvement in extracurricular activities demonstrate.

He was the President of the Hamtramck DECA chapter, winning district and competing at the state level in marketing.

James also participated on the FIRST Robotics team as a programmer, as a General Motors student intern and on the LEAP environmental committee, where he worked with his peers on commu-



James Zotkaj

nity clean-up initiatives.

Graduating with an outstanding 4.171 GPA and an extremely impressive 1450 SAT score, James

will be attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor on the 4-year, full-ride Hail scholarship.

James plans to double major in both Computer Science and Business and dreams of working for either Apple or Tesla.

As a proud first-generation college student and first-generation Albanian-American, James credits his family, teachers and peers for his success and credits his hard work and ability to "take the initiative" for his successes.

Meet the 2021 graduates of Hamtramck High



Aminah Raja



Abdul Obayed



Abdullah Mathith



Abeer Mohamed



Abraham Algaheim



Afrida Muna



Ahana Roy



Ahmed Almadrhi



Ahmed Alshaibah



Ahmed Nagi



Ahron Black



Aiman Alwajih



Ajsa Hasanspahic



Al Khansaa Obeid



Ali Aldais



Ali Alqusaimi



Ali Zaid



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Angel Montgomery



Aniful Hasan



Aritra Das



Asmaa Obaid



Ayesha Ahmed



Ayesha Nishat



Ayham Fadel



Charbel Moubarak



Christian Pacheco



Dayla Gradford



Dana Elhadi



Dante Martin



Deanna Almaisari



Deboshree Chowdhury



Derhem Obaid



Dina Al-Kainaei



Duaa Alhalemi



Emir Islamovic



Emmanuel Cooper



Ezzaldin Obaid



Faiza Akther



Faiza Laskar



Faiza Sultana



Fatou MBack



Gabrielle Jackson



Georges Nemer



Gina Ghose



Habiba Khan



Hadiel Alashwal



Hagar Saleh



Hana Mozeb



Haris Cehajic



Hassan Nadeem



Haythum Musleh



Humayun Uddin



Hussam Al Ashmali



Iftehah Mahdi



Iftekhar Hasan



Ira Lockett



Ismat Begum



Jaba Islam



Jackee Jackson



James Clay Jr



James Zotkaj



Jasmin Akther



Javier Whitaker



Jayden Gray



Justyce Hamilton



Ke mari Anderson



Ke mya Bason



Kenan Pajic



Khadija Helal



Khawlah Al Gahim



Khawlah Algehim



Lafreda Hinton



Limon Ahmed



Madian Ghaleb



Mahya Ahmed



Mamnoon Jannat



Mariam Obeid



Marvin Petty

Meet the 2021 graduates of Hamtramck High



MD Jisan



Mikolaj Sobiesiuk



Mitha Begum



Mohamed Al-gaoni



Nam Mohamed Alguheim



Mohamed Almasmari



Mohamed Elgohaim



Mohima Ahmed



Mosa Almasmary



Muaz Islam



Musmmat Begum



Mustafa Anakeeb



Mustapha Ayash



Nadija Basic



Nafisa Begum



Naim Ahmed



Najmin Akther



Nayema Begum



Neseem Musaid



Nezar Naji



Nibedita Mondal



Nilay Dash



Noman Ahmed



Nujhath Jahan



Nurun Khanom



Olfit Hassan



Raghda Mozeb



Rahid Chowdhury



Rashel Ahmed



Redwan Ahmed



Renayia Anderson



Roshid Ahmad



Sabrin Khanom



Sadia Rahman



Safoan Khan



Saged Ali



Saleh Zokari



Samia Aktar



Samiha Rahman



Sarah Lattimore



Shah Kamali



Shahbaj Mukul



Shahriar Rahman



Shakil Koysar



Sharmin Sultana



Shazana Begum



Shuhena Begum



Sourov Datta



Sowgata Barua



Stefan Sidorowicz



Sujoy Barua



Sumayah Farris



Sumit Dhar



Susmita Ghosh



Tahmina Begum



Tahmina Shima



Tahsin Nazifa



Tahsina Ritu



Taisir Kassem



Tasfia Shahid



Thair Alwajeeh



Thamanna Begum



Victoria Davis



Waajid Rashid



Wasam Ibrahim Ismaili



Yaseem Alhanuma



Younis Almadrahi



Zahraa Zokari



Zannatul Tasnim



Foodservice company provided over 800,000 healthy meals

By Fred J Marinucci
General Manager of Foodservice

We at Southwest Foodservice Excellence (SFE) are very honored to partner with Hamtramck Schools for the food nutrition program.

While nobody could have imagined the terrible pandemic we have endured over the past 14 months, we are very proud to continue to serve the students and community members of Hamtramck.




















































In spite of the numerous issues encountered including, but not limited to –the weather; road construction; supply chain shortages; staff exposure and subsequent contraction of the virus; and quarantines – we at SFE have distributed 836,672 meals from July 1, 2020 through

May 31, 2021!

The staff members responsible for this remarkable accomplishment are: Shabnom Begum, Anna Bloczynski, Millie Hirsch, Joyce James-Myrick, Wil Jones, Julfa Kadir, Edina Majdanac, Sherry Maloy, Doris Matta, Jackie Mieses, Antoinette Moubarak, Mohamad Nassereddine, Jeanne Nawrocki, Rashara Nealy, Audrey Nowakowski, Megan Nowakowski, Louise Nykiel, Laila Obeid, Mira Pilipovic, Shahrin Reza, Khaizaran Saleh, Sheryl Siirila, Terry Smith, Rosalind Walthall, and Ernestine Young.

We will continue to provide meals for the students and community until we resume the long-awaited return to school!

Meet the 2021 graduates of Horizon High

 <div>Ahmed, Amin</div>	 <div>Ahmed, Naji</div>	 <div>Ahmed, Rifath</div>	 <div>Ahmed, Sakib</div>	 <div>Al Awdi, Mohamed</div>	 <div>Al-Refaei, Abraham</div>	 <div>Al-Sahari, Abdulrahman</div>	 <div>Al-Sanani, Akilah</div>
 <div>Alabeli, Seima</div>	 <div>Alaghim, Taher</div>	 <div>Ali Isa</div>	 <div>Ali, Nada</div>	 <div>Almadrahi, Abdelsalam</div>	 <div>Almansob, Arif</div>	 <div>Almasmary, Aesa</div>	 <div>Almulaiki, Bashar</div>
 <div>Alomari, Immaar</div>	 <div>Alrawhani, Amr</div>	 <div>Alreyashi, Amir</div>	 <div>Alsyadi, Waseem</div>	 <div>Asraf, Ahmed</div>	 <div>Assaidi, Akram</div>	 <div>Begum, Shahnaj</div>	 <div>Begum, Tanzina</div>
 <div>Chowdhury, Fayza</div>	 <div>Chowdhury, Shuchuta</div>	 <div>Das, Durjoy</div>	 <div>Drake, Karen</div>	 <div>Essa, Mohamed</div>	 <div>Faddell, Amr</div>	 <div>Fisher-Curley, Telia</div>	 <div>Gibbs, Antonio</div>
 <div>Gradford, DaVon</div>	 <div>Green, Kamarion</div>	 <div>Hill, Payton</div>	 <div>Islam, Tomal</div>	 <div>Jackson, Davon</div>	 <div>Jahaj, Besmir</div>	 <div>Jobah, Nomran</div>	 <div>Jones, Kennee</div>
 <div>Kaeed, Dawood</div>	 <div>Kaid, Bilal</div>	 <div>Mohammed, Tasnima</div>	 <div>Muthana, Hamdi</div>	 <div>Nahshal, Omar</div>	 <div>Rageh, Hezam</div>	 <div>Saleh, Osaid</div>	 <div>Slappey, Destinee</div>
 <div>Tyler, LaDonis</div>	 <div>Wadud, Rumman</div>	 <div>Wheeler, Shakira</div>					

Tau Beta staff and students remained well connected

By Kim Winiarski
Principal, Tau Beta Elementary

Tau Beta Elementary reflected on a three-year anniversary.

Three years ago, Tau Beta Elementary school joined the Hamtramck Public Schools family.

This began a new era for a building that has been a part of the Hamtramck community for nearly 100 years. Since that day, Hamtramck has seen students and community members learning inside the grand, historic structure and filling its hallways with laughter, learning and conversation.

While that wasn't possible this school year, due

to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school community remained closely connected through the dedication of our students, parents and education team.

Like every school throughout the Hamtramck Public Schools district—the staff are committed to the success of all scholars.

The staff remain dedicated to ensuring a strong foundation for student growth. In the past few years, Tau Beta has hosted book fairs to encourage literacy and implemented an application called ClassDojo to encourage family engagement and feedback.

Teachers and staff at

Tau Beta also encourage community service among students. To that end, students are currently supporting local organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House through collecting recycled tabs.

“Our goal is for students to develop strong skills and strategies to carry into their college and career years,” said Kimberly Winiarski, Principal of Tau Beta. “While the pandemic school year has certainly been tough for students, we are proud of all they have accomplished and are grateful for our community partners.”

Going the extra mile at Horizon High School

By Kristin Hurt
Principal, Horizon High School

Although this school year was anything but typical, Horizon staff went the extra mile to build community and connections for all of our students.

Two projects that we are extremely proud of are products from a new class, titled ‘Television and Media Arts’. Mr. Guay, one of Horizon’s language arts teachers, created this course to give students an opportunity to connect to each other and their community through a creative lens.

The TV and Media Arts

course at Horizon High School gave students a chance to examine the important role that media and the arts has in their lives and the world around them.

While exploring different careers in the film and media industry, students developed new skills in photography, cinematography, and digital editing that they used to share their voices creatively.

Students also had the chance to meet with professional journalists, filmmakers, photographers, and artists who shared their passion and experience in their given fields, and the inspiration that

drove them to their given careers.

Throughout the year, students created a variety of video and digital editing projects which focused on the themes of sharing who they are and discussing issues that were important to them.

Alongside a variety of independent projects, students collaborated to create a digital photography magazine entitled “School through Screens” and created a short film entitled “We are Beautiful.”

Stay tuned for the “We are Beautiful” premier which will be held in our courtyard this summer!

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Special Education adjusted to a new ‘educational landscape’

By Menhem Aouad
Director of Student Services, Department of Special Education

It is my pleasure to continue to serve the Hamtramck Public Schools, Students, Parents, staff, and the Community as a Director of Student Services.

In my current administrative capacity, I oversee the Special Education Department, the District's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS).

The Special Education Department has been busy adjusting and adapting to the new educational landscape in the era of a national pandemic.

Our staff worked tirelessly to reach our students and families to meet their educational needs and address concerns they may have or barriers to learning that may have arisen.

This year, the department focused on three initiatives. The first initiative was conducted in collaboration with the Grand Valley State University and Wayne-RESA focus on developing district and staff capacity with current research and best practices to meet the needs of students suspected of exhibiting eligibility characteristics consistent with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

As a result of this multi-year effort, the staff have received intensive training in best practices for instructional models, delivery systems, evaluations, and Individualized Educational Plan development. The staff have wasted no time in implementing these new skills and knowledge and have received much accolade for their effort.

The second initiative has focused on enhancing our systems and capacity in meeting the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) needs of our students in light of the national pandemic and the experiences resulting from social isolation, grief and loss.

The district established a steering committee to review various SEL programs. We are in the final stages of the review process and hope to make a recommendation in the next few weeks.

Kosciuszko students mastered new learning methods

Continued from page 3

they were delayed due to Covid, but the staff was pleased to be able to offer some adult education.

Finally, congratulations are due to Mrs. Rahiel Housey-Johnson, KMS ELL Science teacher, for being honored as a Teacher of the Year through the Women Rock Science program of Cranbrook Institute of Science.

In addition, in March Mrs. Housey-Johnson lead her optimist club team members to first, second, and third place finishes in the Optimists of Downtown Detroit's Annual Oratorical Competition. The competition's theme was "Healing the World with Optimism."

At Holbrook, students learned a new language: technology

By Thomas Talmadge
Principal of Holbrook School

The 2020-21 school year has been like no other year in the 125 years of Holbrook being open. Although the content stayed the same the delivery was brand new to all stakeholders.

We all at Holbrook are proud to be part of the HPS team and of our skilled staff for learning a million and one new online learning tools and implementing them very quickly with profound skill following District provided professional development.

This year students became fluent in a new language, the language of technology. Students transitioned to getting up, getting ready and heading off to school to wake up, turn on your district provided Chromebook and jump on Zoom.

We are very proud of our students. It is one thing to be at Holbrooks historic building in class listening and staying focused, it is a completely

different thing to be home and have all the distractions that setting can offer and remain focused on their learning.

While working virtually our students were able to master the use of tools such as: Zoom, Google classroom, Google Slides, Bitmojis classrooms, iReady Learning Path, Flipgrid, Seesaw, Kami, NearPod, and many others with the virtual guidance of their teacher.

In closing, we cannot predict the future, but this year has prepared us for whatever may come our way.

Whether face to face or virtual, we will take our experiences and will continue to grow academically and mentally as we continue to focus on all of our students and staff needs.

Thank you to the super staff, these amazing students, and to the Hamtramck Schools District for all that you have done this year. You are loved and appreciated. More importantly, you are ready for whatever comes your way.

Bring it on 2021-22. We are ready!



Hamtramck Public Schools Schools of Choice for the Fall 2021-22 Enrollment

This is open to any Wayne County resident who lives outside of the Hamtramck Public School District area.

Application Period:
June 1st -
September 10,
2021 by 3pm



Unlimited applications will be taken from June 1, 2021 through September 10, 2021 by 3pm. Schools of Choice option 105 (within county) for grades K-12 for fall enrollment 2021-22. Discipline information will be verified prior to acceptance

tinyurl.com/HPSSchoolofchoice



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Demand for technology upgrades was met with success

By Marc Wilkinson
Director of Technology

Greetings, Hamtramck Residents! The Hamtramck Public Schools Technology Department is working diligently to serve our students, staff, and families’ technology needs during this extraordinary time. Our technicians are happy to serve our community and look forward to it every day.

Summer 2021 brings some very exciting upgrades and updates to our technology. Since March of 2020, our learning community has experienced a large shift in the way we work, learn, and recreate, bringing technology to the center of many of these aspects of daily life.

With a huge rise in demand for technology and the vast increase in the use of our networks, we must consistently upgrade not only our devices but also the networks that connect them.

This summer will mark the beginning of a district-wide wireless network upgrade funded through

our federal E-rate grants. Since 2016, the HPS Technology Department has made strides to replace traditional computer labs with a much more equitable solution: providing classrooms with mobile computer carts that house devices for every student.

Removing the labs has made it possible to accommodate a much-needed increase in instructional space. We now issue devices to each and every student directly.

In addition to wireless upgrades in the district, the Technology Department plans to add a new firewall with faster capability, which will increase the security and speed of the internet connection for the entire district.

With this upgraded firewall, HPS will have the capacity to double internet speeds for our students and staff. On another security note, please watch your email, the HPS website, and our social media channels for district communications related to

changes in our computer security policies.

It is paramount for educators and parents to partner in students’ educational journeys and, now more than ever, communication between school and home is crucial.

We are excited to announce that we will be rolling out a new communications platform, Parent Square, in the fall. Parent Square will streamline and simplify communication between home and school, making it easier than ever to stay informed!

To help us reach our goal of keeping families in touch with their schools, please make sure your child’s schools have up-to-date cell phone and email contact information. All it takes to avoid missing important communications is a quick phone call or email to the school’s secretary.

I wish the students, families, and staff of Hamtramck a well-deserved, safe, healthy, and happy summer break!

Dickinson West staff, students and parents rose to a challenge

By Joi Danforth
Principal, Dickinson West

The 2020/21 school year has been very unusual and challenging. Nevertheless, Dickinson West survived and thrived as an educational community. Teachers and staff worked to maintain high quality instruction using online platforms.

The Hamtramck public Schools have worked to train our staff in the application of technology for the purpose of instruction and have supported us with embedded coaching and professional development along the way.

We have also worked to inform and support parents and students with the use of technology from home.

Dickinson West stu-

dents and parents have taken on the tremendous task of learning from home and have been able to learn how to navigate through digital programs as well as how to create a productive home learning environment.

We are so proud of our parents and students for demonstrating their resilience and their commitment to learning.

The Dickinson West community has grown as a body of learners this school year. Regardless of what the next school year may bring, we will continue to approach every challenge with a sense of collective responsibility for our students.

We will work as a team to ensure that students receive the needed educa-

tion and support and we are excited for what the future holds for our school.

Thank you to the extraordinary staff members who worked hard to ensure that our students and our families were taken care of through the 2020/21 school year.

The work of education is tough even in the best of circumstances; you all worked to support our families through a pandemic while still working to maintain your personal lives and families of your own and for this you are appreciated.

This is the work of heroes!

We don’t know what the future will bring, but we are up to the challenge!

Dickinson East will offering a new course in phonics

By Sarah Filipiak
Principal, Dickinson East Elementary

Dickinson East Elementary had an exciting year! Although we spent the majority of our year learning virtually we still did a great deal of learning.

Our students and families did an excellent job adapting to the online environment and made gains in all subjects. I think it is safe to say that students, parents and staff learned a lot about technology this year! The team was so impressed by what our students were able to do on a daily basis.

Many of our DE families opted to send their

children into the building for in person instruction when it was available. We had over 100 students coming into the building for instruction by the end of the school year.

Students were able to safely participate in enrichment activities, complete important testing in person and get themselves ready to return to a school environment in the fall.

The staff at Dickinson East worked hard this year and we have many exciting instructional shifts and events planned for the fall.

We have expanded our library to include a huge new selection of books,

many in the heritage languages of our students and we have monthly events planned that will encourage students to read more.

We will be doing a Dickinson East Dolphin Reboot of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Services (PBIS) program to help our students adjust to the school setting after spending much of the last two school years behind.

We will also be implementing a new phonics program this fall which should help all of our students be better readers.

We cannot wait for our students to return!

English language courses expanded this year

By Mirjana Maros
English Learner Department (ELD)

It is my honor to serve our diverse Hamtramck community as one of the leaders in English Learner Department.

This year undoubtedly was a challenging time, but we rose to the occasion. We are making a difference, serving students, parents, educators, and the community by making sure that the best-researched practices are in place when it comes to education of English Learners.

Our whole-child approach to students achievement and their access to personalized learning is evident through various every-day activities such as establishing, implementing,

and evaluating processes for identification and placement of ELs, Former English Language (FEL) monitoring, planning and conducting appropriate staff development pertaining to EL groups, planning and delivery of appropriate instruction for EL students in Newcomer Learning Labs, encouraging and facilitating students leadership through engagement in Youth Voice Committee, etc.

Our department continues to work hard to make sure our students are placed in classes that meet their needs and that our ELs have equal access to all district courses and programs.

We are making budgetary decisions to support our English Learners with

research-based programs and instructional materials such as bilingual reading books, Imagine Learning program, online curriculum, Reach into Phonics program, National Geographic Edge and Inside programs for middle and high school, science experiment kits, parent class workbooks, newcomer backpacks with engaging, reading materials and supplies, etc.

All our services to English Learners expanded during the time of pandemic making us resilient and stronger than ever, with the clear goal to grow further and reach out the entire community by spreading cultural awareness and building culturally competent partnerships.

Early Childhood Elementary School: opportunity, community, and unity

By Vickie Smith
Principal, Early Childhood Elementary

Opportunity, community, and unity are deeply ingrained at Early Childhood Elementary School (ECE). This academic year, 2020-21, has certainly been a year of challenges and yet, it has also been an extraordinary year, largely due to the Hamtramck and ECE community that includes families, staff members, and most importantly, our students.

At ECE, we believe that we are a family and that “ECE is the place to be!”

Even though the world has been in the midst of a pandemic, ECE has used this as an opportunity to grow and to learn how to achieve success in a rapidly changing world.

Teachers and staff have quickly learned how to teach virtually utilizing multiple online programs and resources. Students and parents have swiftly adapted to this “new normal” and have become heavily involved in student learning, while trying to maintain a sense of balance.

We have all learned how to be jugglers, as we juggled teaching and learning at home, while attempting to maintain a sense of normalcy for our children, despite coping with illness, job loss, financial constraints, and adapting to the constantly evolving world in which we lived.

Yet this year, students have had the opportunity to learn 21st Century Skills, particularly in the area of technology, curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving.

This year has been the perfect opportunity to bring everyone into the 21st century! At ECE, we have done it! We have become quite “Googly” and become “ready” for i-Ready, and we have learned that See-saw is more than a piece of playground equipment! Rather, at ECE, we have

seized this opportunity to ensure student success with resilience and persistence, and collectively, we have refused to let our students experience a lost year of learning.

Additionally, we have established and offered learning labs to all of our kindergarten through second grade students. ECE’s Learning Labs have offered in person, highly engaging, hands-on activities that reinforce student learning and success.

Rather than close down as some preschools, our dedicated preschool teachers and paraprofessionals have offered engaging virtual instruction to our youngest students, with parents close by encouraging their children to participate.

What a great opportunity!

Furthermore, this success has been achieved through a sense of community, which has certainly been a safe haven in this time of uncertainty.

Long-standing relationships have had a significant impact at ECE. This has certainly been the case for our families, as the teachers have welcomed “grand-students.”

The staff does not leave ECE, but rather remains at the school, building and maintaining relationships with families. Generations of children continue to attend ECE, because of the loving and considerate staff members and the devoted, caring parents who want the best for their children.

Despite the pandemic and all that it has entailed, ECE has continued to maintain these relationships online through Zoom, Google Meet, Class Dojo, and our Cubs Connect (newsletter.)

The ECE community has thrived by communicating through a virtual open house, virtual parent-teacher conferences,

virtual office hours, and A.C.E. (the Academic Center for Excellence), which has been staffed by our amazing paraprofessionals to assist all students.

Special events have strengthened the ECE community with an online music concert, our March into Reading Hat Parade, virtual assemblies, and the distribution of materials, laptops, and food to ensure that all families have what is needed to sustain our community.

The greatest impact at ECE this year has to be unity, our sense of togetherness and oneness in our combined desire to focus on the “whole” child.

We have worked diligently to learn about a variety of cultures and to celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have had many assemblies that embraced diversity, such as the virtual Black History Program, online Diversity Circus presentation, and the Diversity of Dance online presentation.

Staff members have embraced cultural responsiveness, and eleven staff members voluntarily attended Early Childhood Cultural Responsiveness training on their own time. Additionally, ECE has purchased at least thirty multicultural books per teacher to celebrate and to teach that although we are each unique, we are also unified in working collaboratively to make the world a better and more inclusive place for all.

ECE will continue to advocate and to empower students to think critically, communicate effectively, respect cultural diversity, to be inclusive, and to work collaboratively and creatively to help students to reach their full potential for a productive and meaningful life by continuing our focus on opportunity, community, and unity!

Truly, ECE is the place to be!