



Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross, Superintendent

Ypsilanti Community schools
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August 14, 2023

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As we embark on this new academic year, we want to express our enthusiasm and commitment to providing the best possible educational experience for every student in our district.

We have been working diligently over the summer to prepare for a successful school year ahead. This year, we are excited to introduce new initiatives aimed at enhancing the learning experience and providing new opportunities. From innovative classroom technologies to a renewed focus on social and emotional well-being, we are committed to providing a comprehensive education that prepares our students for success in an ever-changing world.

Our partnership with parents and guardians is critical to achieving our highest potential; therefore, we encourage you to stay engaged through regular communication with teachers, attending parent-teacher conferences, and participating in school events. Our doors are always open to your questions, suggestions, and feedback.

In that regard, it is with great pleasure that we inform you that we have taken your concerns seriously about your ***before-school needs*** and have worked diligently to provide a solution that meets the needs of our families for students enrolled at **Erickson, Estabrook, Holmes, and YIES** elementary schools. We will offer a **FREE Grizzly Sunrise Club, a before-school high-dosage tutoring and enrichment** program **beginning at 7:00am** Monday through Friday. To enroll your child(ren) click [here](#) for the Enrollment form.

We look forward to seeing you at the **Back to School Bash** on **Saturday, August 19th**, from 12-3 pm at Prospect Park.

We thank you for your support and look forward to meeting you soon. The 2023-24 School Year will be the BEST YET! We are "Stronger Together!"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alena Zachery-Ross".

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross
Superintendent of Schools

What are we excited about this year...

- Last year, we kicked off our Toyota “Driving Possibilities” Partnership. We’re excited about the opportunities ahead!
- Year Three of our Dual Language Program at Ford Early Learning Center and the first year at Estabrook
- Our [Detroit Drives Degrees](#) (D3C3) kicks into high gear for our secondary students.
- Every student will graduate with a stackable credential at our high school buildings

We ask that you guide and support your child’s learning by ensuring that they:

1. Attend school daily and arrive on time, ready for the day’s learning experiences,
2. Complete all homework assignments given by teachers,
3. Read daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills,
4. Share school experiences with you so that you are aware of their school life,
5. Inform you if they need additional support in any area or subject, and
6. Know that you expect them to succeed in school and attend college.

Our schools and students can greatly benefit from your involvement and contributions. We seek volunteers to help us with the following activities:

- Teacher-led instructional support, usually in the classroom,
- Reading with children who need extra help,
- School-wide events,
- Student recognition events, and
- Outreach and recruitment of parent and community volunteers

Transportation: We have worked over the summer to improve on time and safe implementation of our services. You will be able to view your student’s route at this [link](#) (except for special needs and preschool. More information about specific routes will be available by August 23rd.

Household Survey: We are excited to continue to offer free breakfast and lunch **to** all students starting this new school year, thanks to the Michigan Healthy School Meals Program! Even though meals will be provided for free, it’s important for families to continue sharing household income information in order for our schools to receive full access to federal and state funding for educational programs that our students are entitled to. Keep an eye out for more information and steps you can take during school registration.

Here is a link to the helpful link [2023-2024 School Calendar](#)

Reminders:

- Be sure to update your contact information, including address, phone number, email, and emergency contacts in PowerSchool.
- Make sure that your child meets all immunization requirements per the State of Michigan.

Upcoming Dates:

- **Saturday, August 19th:** Back to School Bash 12-3 pm at Prospect Park
- **Monday, August 28th:** 1st Day of School

Additional information is available on each building’s website; please be sure to continue to check the YCS website and read emails provided by your building principal regarding the start of school.



Our 2023-24 Building Leaders

Early Learning Centers

Beatty [Erin Bradley](#), Principal
Ford [Daniel Young](#), Principal
Perry [Brian Dickerson](#), Principal*

Elementary Schools

Erickson [Kelly Mickel](#), Principal
Estabrook [Ryan Johnson](#), Principal
Holmes [Zachary Chutz](#), Principal*
YIES [Dr. Cassandra Sheriff](#), Principal

Middle School

YCMS [Charles Davis Jr.](#), Principal*
[Jeanina Harris](#), Associate Principal
[Reginald Olds](#), Assistant Principal
[Lavell Blanchard](#), Assistant Principal

High Schools

YCHS [Dr. Chelsea Harris-Hugan](#), Principal
[Raymond Alvarado](#), Assistant Principal
[Michael Cavanaugh](#), Assistant Principal*
A.C.C.E. [Leslie Davis](#), Principal*

Online School

YC2S [Kier Ingraham](#), Principal

Our 2023-24 District Leaders

Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent

Human Resources

Human Resources Coordinator

Business Services & Finance

Student Support Services

SEEK Project Manager

Food Service

Facilities

Technology

Technology Resource Specialist

Transportation

State & Federal Programs

Ypsilanti Programs Community Liaison

Special Projects

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross

Dr. Carlos Lopez

Sue McCarty

Chelsee Keck*^

Damien Butler

Ruth Jordan

Dr. Mark Coscarella^

Paul Garrett*

Aaron Rose

Solomon Zheng

Jerilyn Lynn

Annette Adams*

Barbara Boone*

Cherisa Allen

Turquoise Neal*^

* - New in the 2023-24 school year or new role

^ - Hired with the help of the SEEK grant