

## DEAR GRIZZLY FAMILY:

Summer is in full swing, and with it comes the excitement of growth, change, and new beginnings across Ypsilanti Community Schools. As we recharge and reflect, we're also gearing up for an incredible school year ahead—one that's full of opportunity, innovation, and community connection.

We're thrilled to share that **Kelly Mickel** will be stepping into a new district-wide role as **Director of STEM Innovation**! Her dedication to Erickson Elementary has made a lasting impact, and we're excited that she'll now lead efforts to strengthen and expand STEM learning opportunities across YCS.

Joining Erickson Elementary as principal is **Dr. Cassandra**

**Sheriff**, a proven leader known for her commitment to student success. Dr. Sheriff's work at YIES has helped scholars thrive, and we know she'll continue that momentum at Erickson.

We're also proud to introduce our newest school: **Ypsilanti Puentes Multilingual School**, the official name for our dual-language Spanish immersion program launching this fall. Thank you to all who shared input as we selected a name that reflects bridging (puentes means bridges in Spanish) our values of connection and cultural richness. Mark your calendars—a **ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held on August 18 at 5:30 p.m.** to celebrate this exciting milestone!

This summer, YCS is offering a range of free, family-friendly events to keep our community engaged:

- **Jazz in the Parking Lot** – July 12
- **Reading in the Park & YCS Pool Night** – July 18
- **Family Day in the Park** – July 25

Follow us on social media for details and updates!

We're also hard at work enhancing our learning environments. Our schools are undergoing fresh paint jobs, deep cleaning, technology upgrades, new digital signage, and important renovations to create welcoming spaces when students return this fall.



And don't forget—**enrollment for the 2025–26 school year is still open!** We invite you to join us in spreading the word throughout the community, **"Say Yes to YCS"**, to be part of our community. Families can register at [www.ycschools.us](http://www.ycschools.us).

Thank you for being a valued part of our district. Wishing you a joyful, restful, and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross

Superintendent

