

DEAR GRIZZLY FAMILY:

Spring is in full bloom! This time of year reminds us of all the growth and progress that can be made when conditions are right. At Ypsilanti Community Schools, we find ways to address each scholar's specific needs and provide them with the resources they need to thrive. Over the next few months, we will have multiple opportunities for scholars and our community to collaborate and celebrate, from the various learning opportunities, exhibitions, and year-end performances to ceremonies, promotions, and our highlight, commencement. This month, we're focused on ensuring our scholars continue to come to school all day, every day, to engage in learning and participate in state testing.



State testing is an important time of year for our scholars in grades 3-11 as well as other students across Michigan. These assessments measure student growth and achievement towards state standards and benchmarks. We utilize this data, in conjunction with our district data, to guide our school improvement plans (MICIP). To ensure the best outcomes, it is essential for your child to arrive at school on time and to approach these assessments with their best effort. Your support in this process is invaluable.

We know our scholars have genius within them; however, feeling confident for state testing starts at home! We recommend that all scholars start their day well-rested from a full night of sleep. At school, we will warmly greet them and provide them with a nutritious meal to fuel their brains before the test. We also encourage scholars to remember that they are prepared, stay calm, and read each question carefully during the exams to understand the directions before selecting an answer.

Also, in April, we will recognize National Volunteer Week. Our district thrives thanks to the dedicated volunteers who generously give their time and energy to support our scholars, teachers, staff, and schools daily. Volunteers, whether individuals or organizations are essential to our district's success. We could not do the great work in YCS without those who assist in classrooms, mentor scholars, and support events. We are grateful for their impact on our scholars' educational experience and their commitment to our school community. Thank you, volunteers, for the difference you make every day!



I'm pleased to share information about the Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza! Please come to Perry Early Learning Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 19 to join in on the fun. We extend our gratitude to the area's historic African American fraternities and sororities, social groups, local organizations and friends who are collaborating to make this event happen. Please join us for a fun day filled with music, activities and connecting with the community.

Additionally, College Decision Day is quickly approaching! The Class of 2025 will be officially selecting their post-graduation plans, whether that be college, trade, the military or a career and we could not be more excited to cheer them on as they make their choice. More details will follow!

At YCS, we take pride in creating a learning environment where scholars are motivated to reach their full potential. We believe that consistently attending school all day, every day is essential for academic success and together, we can ensure every scholar is positioned for excellence.

Lastly, now is the time to spread the word about enrollment at Ypsilanti Community Schools. You can find all of the enrollment information and requirements on our website at

<https://www.ycschools.us/enrollment/>, so you can say "YES to YCS" for the 2025-26 school year.

Thank you for your commitment to Ypsilanti Community Schools and for being our partner in your child's education. Remember, we are "Stronger Today, Stronger Tomorrow, Stronger Together!"

Sincerely,

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross

Superintendent

