

## DEAR GRIZZLY FAMILY:

Happy Holidays! Our schools are bursting with festive celebrations, heartwarming traditions, and joyful performances. Scholars are shining and showcasing all they've accomplished this semester.

- **Ford STEAM, Estabrook, Erickson, YCMS, and Puentes** hosted beautiful Winter Concerts, showcasing the musical talents of our scholars.
- **Holmes STEAM** brought holiday cheer with its festive Holmes for the Holidays celebration.
- **Beatty Early Learning Center** proudly hosted a vibrant BlockFest, bringing families together through hands-on learning and fun.
- **Ypsi Connected** hosted the Scholars Excellence Expo, highlighting scholar achievement and innovation.
- **YCMS** choir spread holiday spirit by singing at the mall, representing the district with pride.
- Scholars from **YCMS, YCHS, and ACCE** attended the AI Catalyst Conference in Lansing, collaborating with scholars from across the state and engaging in future-focused learning.
- At **YIES**, families and staff came together for the International Festival of Lights and a Holiday Market, benefiting the 5th-grade trip.
- **YCHS** lit up the district with its annual Arts, Beats, and Eats showcase, celebrating the incredible talents of scholars in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Fine Arts through live performances, stunning artwork, and more.
- **Perry Early Learning Center** hosted One Book, One School, engaging scholars in hands-on, cross-curricular learning inspired by the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Moments like these remind us of the joy we create when we learn, grow, and celebrate together.

During this season, we are grateful for our community partners whose generosity has supported our families.



- The **YCS Resiliency Center** hosted its Annual Holiday Celebration, where families enjoyed delicious food, games, special giveaways, and wish-list items, creating moments of joy and connection.
- Scholars at Perry Early Learning Center were surprised with gifts through **Operation Holiday Wishes**, in partnership with Dexter High School, filling hearts with excitement and gratitude.
- **The 180 Program Foundation** supported families across four YCS schools through its Adopt-A-Family initiative, spreading warmth and generosity throughout the district.

As we head into the winter break, please remember that schools will be closed starting Monday, December 22nd, and we look forward to welcoming our scholars back, refreshed and ready, on Monday, January 5th. If your family could use food assistance during this time, Michigan 2-1-1 is available—simply dial 2-1-1 or visit [mi211.org](https://mi211.org) for free, confidential assistance. We also have a local food assistance resource document on our website for families in the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti areas.

Looking ahead, 2026 is already shaping up to be an exciting year for our district. We remain deeply committed to the work outlined in our new Strategic Plan. This plan, linked [here](#), outlines the vision for the next five years.

From our family to yours, I wish you a joyful holiday season and a safe, restful winter break.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross

Superintendent

