

DEAR GRIZZLY FAMILY:

Happy New Year! We hope your winter break was overflowing with rest, laughter and quality time with the people you love most. Stepping back into our hallways has been an absolute joy and the energy our scholars brought back with them is electric! There is a beautiful sense of "newness" in the air, and we are leaning into the optimism and infinite possibilities that 2026 holds.

As we continue to charge forward in implementing our new five-year strategic plan, our focus remains exactly where it belongs: on our scholars. Whether your scholar is a budding engineer, a gifted artist, a dedicated educator or a future entrepreneur, we are here to champion their unique interests and ignite their deepest passions. From expanding on our career and technical education programs to strengthening core academics, we're excited for the growth and opportunities for success this year and beyond.



The new year also provides us with an opportunity to thank the Board of Education, as January is School Board Recognition Month. Our board members generously dedicate countless hours to dream big for our district and we are deeply grateful for their commitment to all of our schools' growth and success. On behalf of Ypsilanti Community Schools, I want to extend a huge thank you to our board members for their bold leadership and partnership with our community. Together, they are helping us make YCS the very best place to learn, grow and belong!

A friendly reminder that there will be no school on Monday, January 19th, as we observe Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This is such a powerful moment for us to pause and reflect on Dr. King's dream of justice and equality. At Ypsilanti Community Schools, we remain deeply committed to building inclusive spaces where every child feels seen and respected. We take this day as an opportunity to reflect on how we can lead with empathy and keep Dr. King's message of hope alive in our community, and I encourage you to do the same at home with your children.

Here's to a fantastic 2026 filled with deep learning and transformative growth for all. As always, thank you for your continued trust, support and for saying YES to YCS!

Sincerely,

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross
Superintendent

