

## DEAR GRIZZLY FAMILY:

The season of gratitude is upon us! This time of year offers a special opportunity to pause and reflect on the many reasons we are thankful. At YCS, we are truly grateful for your partnership, your trust, and your continued commitment to supporting our scholars.

We are especially excited to share that, in the recent election, the Career Technical Education (CTE) millage was passed! This investment will provide our scholars with expanded opportunities to develop real-world skills and prepare for future success. The new millage aligns beautifully with our new Strategic Plan of Advancing Future-Ready Preparedness which is one of our priorities. Our Strategic Plan will guide the district's growth and innovation over the next five years. Please keep an eye on our website—the full plan will be available soon for you to explore in detail.

Earlier this month, for an entire week, we celebrated National STEAM/STEM Day. STEAM at YCS is a year-round commitment to imagination, innovation, and opportunity, strengthened by powerful community partnerships and the creativity of our scholars. This year's celebration highlighted the incredible work happening in our Magnet Schools (Ford STEAM, Holmes STEAM, YCMS & YCHS) and showcased our district's exciting partnership with Toyota's Driving Possibilities initiative. From Pre-K through high school, our scholars are exploring, designing, and leading through hands-on innovation. We are proud to boast that each of our buildings have Makerspaces equipped with the tools to help our scholars explore.

As fall gives way to winter, please remember that we are here to support our families. If your family is in need of cold-weather items such as coats, gloves, or hats, we are here to help. If you need immediate or supplemental food support, you are not alone—our community offers many resources.





For free, confidential assistance and referrals, simply dial 2-1-1 or visit [mi211.org](http://mi211.org) through Michigan 2-1-1. For additional local support in the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti areas, please refer to the essential food assistance resource document linked on our website. If navigating these options feels overwhelming, please reach out to your scholar's building principal or social worker. They can connect you directly with our Resiliency Center, where our team is ready to assist.

I hope you will find time during this holiday season to pause, rest, and share meaningful moments with those you love. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving you and our remarkable scholars. Thank you for your partnership—and thank you for proudly saying “Say YES to YCS!”

Sincerely,

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross

Superintendent

