

**DEAR GRIZZLY FAMILY:**

I'm inspired by the growth happening across the district. It is evident that learning is in full swing and that the focus continues to be on ensuring our scholars are provided with the tools they need to be successful learners.

This month, I'd first like to remind you once again about a proposal on the ballot next month for consideration by families across Washtenaw County, including those in Ypsilanti. On November 4, 2025, voters residing within the Washtenaw Intermediate School District's (WISD) service area will be asked to consider a 1 mill tax that would support the expansion of Career Technical Education (CTE) learning experiences from preschool through high school graduation.



**CTE helps students understand *why* they learn what they learn, from PreK-12. It opens doors to college, careers, and beyond.** By engaging students through hands-on, applied, and experiential learning, they can explore who they are and what brings them joy, all while earning stackable credentials in high school as they prepare for fulfilling college and career pathways. You may know some of our district's CTE programs, such as Automotive Tech, Collision Repair, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, and Drone & Aviation Tech.

**If a CTE millage is approved by voters, students in preschool, elementary, middle, and high school would have access to new programs and expanded existing programs.** Washtenaw County's CTE framework would be from PreK-12, with age-appropriate experiences that build on each other as students grow and learn:

- **PreK: Wonder** – Children utilize play and imagination, sparking curiosity about how the world works.
- **Grades K-5: Awareness** – Students discover personal interests and a sense of self, expanding their view of what is possible.



- **Grades 6-8: Exploration** – Students explore their interests and skills, and match them to potential career pathways.
- **Grades 9-12: Preparation** – Students connect academic content to careers through real-world, applied, and experiential learning and plan for their future.

More information about the CTE millage proposal will be shared across the district over the coming weeks, but I encourage you to learn more at [www.washtenawisd.org/ctemillage](http://www.washtenawisd.org/ctemillage).

A large reason for our scholars' growth is the leadership we are fortunate to have at each of our buildings. To that end, I want to make sure we acknowledge that October is National Principals Month, where we celebrate the leaders who motivate each scholar to reach their full potential and positively impact our school community. Our principals and assistant principals go above and beyond to create safe and welcoming environments for our scholars, staff, and families, and we are grateful for their commitment to academic excellence. Please join me in celebrating the essential role of our principals and assistant principals this month and beyond.

At Ypsilanti Community Schools, we believe strong language skills are fundamental to a child's success both inside and outside the classroom. Reading and writing proficiency enable scholars to communicate effectively while also developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. By prioritizing these skills early on, we are committed to preparing every scholar with the confidence they need to succeed academically and personally.

To ensure continued growth across the district, we have recently finalized our five-year strategic plan, and I encourage you all to rely on it as we collectively work towards a brighter future. Among the three key priorities in our strategic plan is accelerating academic excellence. This priority is crucial, as it empowers scholars to achieve high levels of mastery through rigorous curricula and engaging learning environments. Our goal is to meet the individual needs of each scholar, preparing them for future success and equipping them to thrive.



I am proud of what we've achieved together and look forward to continuing to build on the momentum we have seen since the first day of school. To ensure we meet our objectives, I encourage every scholar to attend school all day, every day. Consistent attendance is a valuable tool to set the foundation for academic success.

Your involvement in your child's education is vital, and I thank you for your support and partnership as we continue to progress throughout the school year.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross  
Superintendent

