



Alena Zachery-Ross, Superintendent
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August 19, 2025

Dear Grizzly Family,

What a fantastic summer it has been for Ypsilanti Community Schools! Our dedicated staff have been incredibly busy and productive, working tirelessly to prepare for an amazing 2025-26 school year. From exciting facility improvements and upcoming ribbon cuttings to updating curriculum and enriching professional development, every effort has been made to ensure a dynamic and successful return. We are absolutely thrilled to welcome you back on Monday, August 25th, and we can't wait to kick off the year with incredible energy!

We are committed to building on our wonderful momentum. This year, YCS is proudly launching a district-wide social studies experiential learning curriculum that is not only engaging and relevant but also empowers each of our scholars to be leaders of their learning. It's truly inspiring to see our scholars continue to demonstrate tremendous growth, curiosity, and enthusiasm! We're also delighted to continue our invaluable partnership with the Toyota Driving Possibilities Initiative and leverage our Magnet Grant to further expand our outstanding STEM/STEAM education offerings across all our schools.

Get ready for even more exciting opportunities! We're expanding our CTE offerings by integrating two innovative programs into our already robust pathways: Drone Aviation and Botany. We are confident that these forward-thinking new offerings will perfectly prepare our Ypsilanti scholars for bright and successful future careers.

As we gear up for the new school year, remember that your involvement is incredibly important for your scholar's success. To enhance our communication with families, we'll be transitioning from *Remind* to *ParentSquare* for all important alerts and district-wide messages. Parents and guardians will receive a text message with clear instructions to opt in. We highly recommend signing up to ensure you receive timely updates and essential information from the district – it's the best way to stay connected!

To help your scholar prepare for a truly successful year, we warmly invite you to join your school's *Back to School Nights* this month! These events are wonderful opportunities to meet the incredible teachers and staff who will be supporting your scholars throughout the year and to learn more about school expectations. Please mark your calendars for the dates and times listed below for all schools:

- **Back to School Nights - August 20th:** Ypsilanti Community Middle School from 4:00-6:00 pm, YC2S from 4:00-6:00 pm, and ACCE from 4:00 -5:00 p.m.
- **Back to School Nights - August 21st:** Early Learning Centers from 4:00-6:00 pm, All Elementaries from 5:00-7:00 pm
- **Back to School Nights - August 22nd:** Ypsilanti Community High School 9:30-11:30 a.m. **9th grade only**

Please be sure to save the 2025-2026 school year calendar to see all the important dates and observances in our community! Take a look to stay informed and plan ahead for breaks, holidays, and other significant dates. To download the calendar, simply visit:

<https://www.ycschools.us/calendar/>.

Finally, we are absolutely thrilled to announce that Ypsilanti Community Schools will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) as part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for the 2025-26 school year. This means that EVERY YCS scholar will have access to free breakfast and lunch every single day, with meals that are both nutritious and delicious! By continuing the use of this fantastic federal program, we are ensuring that all of our scholars are well-nourished, focused, and truly ready to learn. We need all families to complete the [Education Benefit Forms](#) and forward them electronically to Brittany LaPorte (blaporte7@ycschools.us) and Paul Garrett (pgarrett7@ycschools.us). The following [letter](#) explains why this application is needed.

There's still time to enroll for the 2025-2026 school year! Join us in spreading the word and "Say YES to YCS" today by visiting <https://www.ycschools.us/enrollment/>.

Sincerely,



Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross
Superintendent

