

DEAR GRIZZLY FAMILY:

Welcome back! It has been wonderful seeing our students' bright smiles and renewed energy as we kicked off the new year and settled back into the rhythm of learning, growing and thriving together as a community. We hope the winter break left you refreshed and ready for the exciting months ahead!

January is an important time for reflection and gratitude, and it's also Board Appreciation Month here in Michigan. At Ypsilanti Community Schools, we are deeply thankful for the hard work and dedication of our school board members. Their tireless commitment to our students,

families and staff ensures we continue moving forward with excellence. On behalf of Ypsilanti Community Schools, I thank our board members for their unwavering leadership and their resilience in making our district the best it can be. They truly showcase what it means to be Stronger Together.

While we celebrate Board Appreciation Month, we're thrilled to welcome two new board members this year, Dawn Espy and Talisha Sutton-Kennedy. They will continue helping us shape the future of education in our district, and we are excited to have them join the Grizzly family. Please join me in extending a warm welcome and expressing appreciation to our entire board for their service.

This month, we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 20th. Schools will be closed in observance of this important day, providing an opportunity to reflect on Dr. King's vision of equality, justice and unity. We encourage families to take part in activities and conversations that uphold his enduring message of hope and change.

The positive developments surrounding YCS continue this school year, as last month, Principals Zackary Chutz and Leslie Davis, were joined by Kim Barrett, an instructional coach, and Beverly Whatley, a literary specialist, to present the Michigan Continuous Improvement Process results to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). It is with great pride that I share that Holmes Elementary and ACCE have been recognized for being on track in meeting MDE Continuous Improvement expectations!



Both Holmes and ACCE have successfully met several key goals, including proactive circles, staff training in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) practices and improvements in student academic growth. These achievements are a testament to the relentless efforts, teamwork and passion of our educators and community. Congratulations to our Holmes and ACCE families for their outstanding dedication and hard work. Your commitment to excellence has truly paid off! Thank you for setting a remarkable example and making a positive impact on our scholars' lives.

Finally, January is also packed with exciting events happening across our schools. From The Science Olympiad Kick Off at YIES to Family Math Night at YCMS, our schools have a lot to offer this month. Be sure to check the [school calendar](#) for the latest updates on dates, times and locations. We look forward to seeing you at these events, celebrating our students' achievements and the vibrant spirit of our district.

As we embrace this new year, let's continue working together to create an environment where every student can achieve their full potential. Thank you for your ongoing support, and here's to a fantastic 2025 filled with learning, connection and success for all!

Sincerely,

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross
Superintendent

