

Agenda of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Van Buren ISD

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Van Buren ISD will be held August 5, 2026, beginning at 4:00 PM in the Van Buren Conference Center
490 S Paw Paw Street
Lawrence, MI 49064.

Items to be discussed, considered, or acted upon are listed below and may be taken in a different order. Unless removed, consent agenda items will be approved in a single action. The public is invited to attend. Individuals needing accommodations, wishing to provide public input, or asking questions regarding any item before the Board are encouraged to contact Superintendent Dave Manson at dmanson@vbisd.org.

I. REGULAR MEETING

- A. Approval of Draft Agenda (**ROLL CALL VOTE**)
- B. Consent Agenda - (**ROLL CALL VOTE**)
 - 1. Minutes

2

The **Organizational and Regular Meeting** of the Van Buren Intermediate School District Board of Education was held in person on **July 1, 2026**, in the Board of Education office and called to order at **4:00 PM** with all Board members present.

Faul moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the Van Buren Intermediate Board of Education approves the election of officers to the Van Buren Intermediate School District Board of Education for 2026-2027 as follows:

President	Mary Ann Middaugh
Vice President	John Weiss
Treasurer	Karen Makay
Secretary	John Faul
Trustee	Roger Engle

Supported by Engle. Roll call vote. Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion passed.

Makay moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Van Buren ISD Board of Education meeting dates for the 2026-2027 school year are approved as shown below:

2026-2027 School Year

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

Wednesday, January 6, 2027

Wednesday, February 3, 2027

Wednesday, March 10, 2027

Wednesday, April 7, 2027

Wednesday, May 5, 2027

Wednesday, June 2, 2027

Budget Hearing @3:30 pm

Regular Board Meeting @ 4 pm

Supported by Engle. Roll call vote. Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion passed.

Weiss moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the following employees/individuals are hereby authorized to sign checks written on accounts of the Van Buren Intermediate School District and electronic means using the automatic clearing house (ACH) system as outlined in Board Policy 6144.01 for 2026-2027:

David D. Manson

Kara Wagner

Karen Makay

Supported by Engle. Roll call vote. Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion passed.

Makay moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the following law firm be designated as legal counsel to the Van Buren Intermediate School District Board of Education for all legal issues and that an annual retainer be paid for 2026-2027:

THRUN LAW FIRM

2900 West Road, Suite 400

East Lansing, MI 48823

Mailing Address:

PO BOX 2575

East Lansing, MI 48826

Supported by Weiss. Roll call vote. Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, Faul – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion passed.

Faul moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the following financial institutions are designated as depositories for Van Buren Intermediate School District funds for 2026-2027:

Arbor Financial Credit Union

Huntington Bank

Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus

Supported by Makay. Roll call vote. Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion passed.

Weiss moved to approve July 1, 2026, draft agenda as presented. Faul made a motion that he be the one to sign the meeting minutes instead of Weiss. Supported by Makay. Roll call vote. Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Weiss moved to approve the Consent Agenda (*June 3, 2026, Minutes, Composite and Summaries*) with suggested change. Supported by Makay. Roll call vote. Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Weiss moved to approve the Board and Superintendent Travel for June.

Post Approval

Name	Date(s)	Location	Actual Cost			
			Conference:	Hotel:	Flights:	Sum:
Dave Manson	6/16/26 - 6/18/26	MAISA Summer Membership Conference, Muskegon, MI	\$350.00	\$205.85	N/A	\$555.85

Supported by Faul. Roll call vote. Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, Faul – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Board Members' Updates: Board members received awards from MASB. John Weiss received Community Relations Specialty and Leadership Certification. Karen Makay received a level 1 Certified Board Member Award, Level 2 Award of Merit, and a Level 3 Award of Distinction. Previous member, Mr. Kenneth Kent, received the Finance Certification Specialty award.

Superintendent Updates: Superintendent Manson gave an update highlighting preparation for the annual Administrative Retreat, which will focus on strengthening leadership practices, collaboration, and a unified leadership culture across the district. Additional updates included participation in the MAISA Summer Conference, where statewide education priorities and collaboration among Michigan ISDs were discussed, and continued community engagement through Market One to strengthen partnerships supporting workforce development and regional economic growth.

Presentation: Staff Voices- Superintendent Manson: *The Board received a presentation summarizing the Staff Voices initiative and the key themes that emerged from staff discussions. Three primary focus areas were identified: communication and consistency, staff support and sustainability, and preserving VBISD's positive culture. The presentation also outlined next steps, including improving communication practices, evaluating staff supports, continuing opportunities for staff feedback, and identifying actionable improvements while building on the district's strong, student-centered culture.*

The following departments provided updates to the Board and the community:

Special Education: *An update was provided on Special Education highlighting the district's improved designation from the Michigan Department of Education, moving from "Needs Assistance" to "Meets Requirements." Additional updates included end of year program reflections, ongoing staffing and recruitment efforts for the 2026 to 2027 school year, and participation in the MAASE Paraeducator Professional Learning initiative to strengthen training and support for paraeducators across the region*

Technology Services: *highlighting another productive year supporting member districts, with the department completing more than 12,000 help desk tickets during the 2025 to 2026 school year. The increase reflects expanded shared technology services and PowerSchool implementations, while customer satisfaction remained high through continued support provided to staff and students.*

Early Childhood: *The Board received an update highlighting continued growth across department programs, including expanded collaboration, increased access to inclusive preschool opportunities, and strengthened support for children and families. Additional updates included staffing progress for the upcoming school year, organizational restructuring to enhance service coordination, and continued focus on professional learning, family engagement, and community partnerships to improve early childhood outcomes throughout Van Buren County.*

Finance: An overview was shared regarding organizational changes within the Finance and Operations Department, including business office restructuring, updated staff roles, and improvements to office space designed to better support district operations. Additional updates included professional development through MSBO workshops and continued success in providing shared business services to member districts.

Action Items:

Makay made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the increase of 4 days of professional staff service for 2026-2027 school year as listed above.

Supported by Weiss. Roll call vote. Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Weiss made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the policies as presented for approval, effective July 1, 2026.

- 2202 Authority to Enter into Contracts - *Revision*
- 2406 Board Officers Duties - *Revision*
- 2501 Meetings - *Revision*
- 3102 Smoking Tobacco Products, Drugs, and Alcohol - *Revision*
- 3108 Service Animals - *Revision*
- 3115–3115E; 3115H Legal Authority Corrections - *Revision*
- 3122 Transfer of Territory Petitions - *New*
- 3202 Budget and Truth in Budgeting/Taxation Hearings - *Revision*
- 3301A Purchasing and Procurement with Federal Funds - *Revision*
- 3303 Gifts and Donations - *Revision*
- 3304 Use of District Property - *Revision*
- 3306 Construction Bidding - *Revision*
- 3402 Drills Plans and Reports - *Revision*
- 3407 Asbestos Management - *Revision*
- 3410 Opioid Antagonist - *Revision*
- 4101 Non-Discrimination - *Revision*
- 4104 Employment Complaint Procedure for Allegations Implicating Civil Rights - *Revision*
- 4113 Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) - *Revision*
- 4201 Employee Ethics and Standards - *Revision*
- 4205-AG-1 Criminal Justice Information Security - *Revision*
- 4209 Abortion Referrals and Assistance - *Revision*
- 4210 Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace Tobacco Product Restrictions - *Revision*
- 4216 Personal Communications Devices - *Revision*
- 4508 Administrator Non-Renewal - *Revision*
- 4602 Hiring - *Revision*
- 5209 Student Use of Wireless Communications Devices - *Revision*
- 5507 Extracurricular Activities - *Revision*
- 5710 Student Suicide Prevention - *Revision*
- 5714 Threat Assessment and Response - *Revision*
- 4508-AG Administrator Non-Renewal - *Revision*
- 5103-F-2 Wireless Communications Device Search and Seizure Considerations - *Revision*
- 5309-F-1 Amendment of Student Records - *Revision*
- 5603-F-16 Section 504 Impartial Hearing Procedures - *Revision*
- Employee Handbook - *Revision*
- Student Handbook - *Revision*

Supported by Faul. Roll call vote. Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Faul made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the award of the construction contract to Hall Builders, LLC in the amount of \$1,173,500, which includes the Base Bid and Voluntary Alternate #1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves a **10% owner contingency** in the amount of **\$117,350**, for a total project authorization not to exceed **\$1,290,850**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent is authorized to execute the contract and all other documents necessary to complete the project.

Supported by Engle. Roll call vote. Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, Faul – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Makay made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the VBISD Board of Education approves the following system of bonuses for the remainder of the 2026-27 school year.

Sign on

- **New VBISD Support Staff employees (VBIESPA)** are eligible to receive a \$500 signing bonus under the following conditions:
 - Employees who begin employment **before January 1, 2027**, must remain employed through **June 15, 2027**, to receive the bonus.
 - Employees who begin employment **between January 2, 2027 and May 20, 2027**, must remain employed through **September 15, 2027**, to qualify.

Retention

- **All VBISD transportation substitutes** will receive a \$250 retention bonus after every 50 days worked for the 2026-2027 school year, beginning on August 24, 2027.
- **Any VBISD Professional Staff Member (VBIEA) or Salaried Non-Union Staff Member** serving as a substitute for the transportation department will be compensated a flat rate of \$48 per run if pre-approved by the department. Hourly employees will receive their hourly rate.

Referral

- **All VBISD staff** are eligible to receive a \$300 referral bonus under the following conditions:
 - If they refer any individual brand new to VBISD who begins employment **before January 1, 2027**, and remains employed through **June 15, 2027**.
 - If they refer any individual brand new to VBISD who begins employment **between January 2, 2027, and May 20, 2027**, and remains employed through **September 15, 2027**.

Supported by Weiss. Roll call vote. Weiss – yes, Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Faul made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the VBISD Board of Education adopts the new logo as the official logo of the District, effective July 1, 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent and designee(s) are authorized to implement the new logo and related branding materials throughout the District using a phased implementation plan, including immediate adoption for digital communications and the gradual replacement of physical materials as they reach the end of their useful life or are otherwise scheduled for replacement.

Supported by Makay. Roll call vote. Makay – yes, Faul – yes, Engle – yes, Weiss – yes, and Middaugh – yes. Motion carried.

Weiss made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the VBISD Board of Education approves the employment of the staff listed

<u>New Employee</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Mindy Guinn, School Nurse	\$75,075.00	06/22/2026
Stacia Peterson, ESL Teacher	\$46,948.00	08/17/2026
Crystal Knapp, School Social Worker	\$57,641.00	08/17/2026
Lauren Gutierrez, Speech & Language Path	\$57,641.00	08/17/2026
Brooke Antonson, Occupational Therapist	\$51,137.00	08/17/2026
Jacob Dubina, Resource Room Teacher	\$62,179.00	08/17/2026
Lauren Goetting, Speech & Language Path	\$86,885.00	08/17/2026
Samantha Eberly, School Psychologist	\$52,757.00	08/17/2026
Larissa Hunt, VB Tech Principal	\$108,130.00	07/01/2026
Clare McLemore, GSRP Lead Teacher	\$47,352.00	08/17/2026
John Nolan, Resource Room Teacher	\$84,706.00	08/17/2026
Byron Osborn, Resource Room Teacher	\$76,346.00	08/17/2026
Stephanie Schuman, Resource Room Teacher	\$46,948.00	08/17/2026
Amber Trowbridge, Finance Supervisor	\$80,000.00	07/01/2026
Oz Parlak, LEA & ISD Payroll Lead	\$67,275.00	07/01/2026

Supported by Engle. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Makay made the motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the resignations/retirements of the staff listed.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Resignation/Retirement Date</u>
Kathryn Lugten, School Social Worker	Resignation - 06/11/2026
Susan Schierbeek, Teacher Consultant	Resignation - 06/08/2026
Lashonia Leonard, CTC Teacher	Resignation - 06/05/2026
Samantha Reisterer, ECSE Teacher	Resignation - 06/08/2026
Jeffrey Fisher, BGLC Teacher	Resignation - 06/30/2026
Katelyn Segur, School Social Worker	Resignation - 06/19/2026
Sally Raasch, MCEC Teacher	Retirement - 08/30/2026
Jason Forler, VB Tech Instructor	Retirement - 09/08/2026

Supported by Weiss. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Makay made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Faul. Voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 5:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



John Faul, Secretary
Van Buren Intermediate School District
Board of Education, Lawrence, Michigan

VAN BUREN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

JULY 2026

VOUCHERS

Imprest Fund	3,703,832.23
Payroll Fund	3,669,599.29
Purchasing Cards	76,790.78
EduStaff ACH	29,613.23

PAYROLL SUMMARY

General	653,358.78
Special Education	2,281,768.58
Vocational Education	734,471.93
Student Activity Fund	-
Total	3,669,599.29

IMPREST VOUCHER SUMMARY

FUND	CHECKS	TRAVEL	PURCHASING	TRFS/SALES	TOTAL
General	1,189,063.98	27,067.31	37,678.00	(3,379.50)	1,250,429.79
Special Education	1,085,481.32	36,362.85	13,602.66	1,364.28	1,136,811.11
Vocational Education	1,405,012.56	5,700.97	25,066.66	2,015.22	1,437,795.41
Capital Projects	24,274.37	-	-	-	24,274.37
Student Activity Fund	-	300.00	443.46	-	743.46
Total	3,703,832.23	69,431.13	76,790.78	-	3,850,054.14

VAN BUREN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

JULY 2026

BUDGET TO EXPENDITURE COMPARISON 26-27

FUND	BUDGET	ACTUAL & ENCUMBERED EXPENSES	UNENCUMERED BALANCE	YEAR TO DATE VARIANCE
General	30,778,838	1,230,284	29,548,554	52,167
Special Education	53,070,484	3,417,440	49,653,044	(1,206,170)
Career Tech Education	18,050,272	960,936	17,089,336	(208,842)

CASH FLOW SUMMARY

	ENDING BALANCE 06/01/2026	CASH RECEIPTS	CASH DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE 06/31/2026
General	7,412,002	5,733,612	5,063,387	8,082,226
Special Education	21,170,132	9,788,433	7,144,513	23,814,052
Career Tech Education	11,354,451	1,971,719	3,363,313	9,962,856
Student Activity Fund	26,975	858	750	27,084
Total	39,963,560	17,494,622	15,571,963	41,886,218



Board of Education & Superintendent Travel

Pre-Approval

Name	Date(s)	Location	Estimated Cost			
			Conference:	Hotel:	Flights:	Sum:

Approved, Not Yet Attended

Name	Date(s)	Location	Estimated Cost			
			Conference:	Hotel:	Flights:	Sum:

Post Approval

Name	Date(s)	Location	Actual Cost			
			Conference:	Hotel:	Flights:	Sum:

D. Communications	
E. Public Comments	
II. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS	
A. Board Updates	
B. Superintendent Update	14

MEMO

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: DAVID D. MANSON, SUPERINTENDENT
RE: SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

****Summer Highlights:** (Governance & Board Relations, Community Relations, Staff Relations, Business & Finance, Instructional Leadership)

VBISD's summer season has been filled with many engaging events, activities, learning opportunities and building projects. Here are just a few represented by the pictures below:

VB Tech Career Camp:



BGLC Enrichment Program:



BGLC Pool Renovation:



Fuel Tank placement:



Project NOMAD:



In addition, the district is leading a Special Education Curriculum Project in collaboration with the VBISD staff and teachers from local districts. This collaborative effort is focused on developing high-quality instructional resources for transition-age students that will be shared with all local district teachers.

Summer also provides an important opportunity for professional learning across the district. The VBISD is hosting multiple training opportunities, including Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI), Title I Training for Principals, the New Teacher Academy, and Standard Reunification Training for Emergencies. These professional development experiences enhance instructional leadership, strengthen school safety and emergency preparedness, support the successful onboarding of new educators, and ensure staff

are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide high-quality learning environments for all students.

****Bright Futures Update:** (Community Relations, Staff Relations, Business & Finance, Instructional Leadership)

The Bright Futures building project continues to move forward on schedule. Current work is focused on finalizing the building floor plan as well as the interior design elements.

This past month, Arbor Credit Union committed to being a part of the new build, and will be located on the southeast corner including a separate customer entrance and dedicated parking.



As planning advances, our attention is shifting toward identifying suitable temporary workspace for staff during the approximately 18-month renovation period. We will likely utilize space in the Conference Center (formerly occupied by Project SHINE) and are also exploring the use of the building formerly occupied by the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department near the Hartford Fairgrounds.

Gearing Up for Opening Day:

As we prepare for the opening of the 2026-2027 school year, the district is focused on creating a welcoming and inspiring start for all staff. This year's Opening Day theme, "Painting the Possibilities," reflects the opportunity that each new school year provides and a fresh start to build meaningful relationships, foster student growth, and create positive experiences together. The theme encourages every member of our team to approach the year with optimism, creativity, and a shared commitment to supporting the success of every student.

Opening Day will once again be held at the Paw Paw Performing Arts Center and will feature an engaging keynote presentation by Marv Fox Jr. His message will center on purpose-driven service and the importance of intentionality, radical curiosity, forgiveness, and healthy forms of empathy in our work with students, families, and one another. The program will also celebrate the dedication of our staff through years-of-service recognition, provide updates on key district programs and initiatives, and roll out our new logo.

C. Department Updates

1. Presentation - *Damian Koob* - Regional IT Shared Services Feasibility Study
2. Career & Technical Education

19

MEMO

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: ROBERT SMITH, DIRECTOR
RE: CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION BOARD UPDATE

***50 YEAR CELEBRATION** *(Leadership; Communication Skills; Resourcefulness, Creativity, and Innovativeness; Professional Preparation; Planner and Organizer; Community Relations)*

On May 27, 2026 Van Buren Tech celebrated 50 years of Career & Technical Education (CTE). Over this half-century, CTE has changed lives, created opportunities, and built connections that extend far beyond time spent here. During the celebration event, Van Buren Tech was also honored, receiving a proclamation from South Haven Mayor Annie Brown, recognizing five decades of a lasting impact on students, school districts, and communities in Van Buren County.

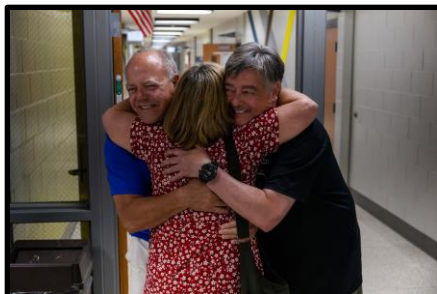
The 50 Year Celebration brought together generations from the Skills Center, Vo-Tech, Technology Center, and Van Buren Tech chapters, with students, staff, community members, with VBISD Board of Education and district leadership in attendance to celebrate the lasting difference across Van Buren County and beyond.

One word mentioned throughout the evening was “opportunity.” Several people noted that VBISD and Van Buren Tech continue to provide opportunities for every student, no matter what path they choose, and help prepare them for successful futures.

We were honored to welcome former staff members who traveled from across the country to attend the event, reflecting the meaningful difference CTE has made over the past five decades. Guests had the opportunity to tour the building, reconnect with classmates and colleagues, and see the original building’s continued growth over the years.

The evening concluded with an exclusive Staff Legacy Hour, where former and current staff members shared memories, reflected on the 50 years of CTE history, and celebrated the relationships and contributions built during this time.

During the Staff Legacy Hour, speakers reflected on CTE’s growth over the past five decades, the importance of educators in shaping success, and the lasting connections formed through the programs and experiences here. One common theme throughout the evening was a demonstration of pride; an appreciation of how CTE and Van Buren Tech have evolved, along with an excitement about what the next 50 years will bring.



COSMETOLOGY GRADUATION *(Leadership; Communication Skills; Student Personnel; Student Achievement)*

After three years of hard work, dedication, and hands-on learning, Van Buren Tech is thrilled to recognize these Cosmetology students, who have successfully completed 1,500 hours of training and reached an important milestone in their cosmetology journey.

Surrounded by family, friends, instructors, and supporters, students were recognized for their commitment, growth, and accomplishments throughout their journey. As they prepare for state licensure testing and begin the next chapter of their careers, we are proud of all they have achieved.

Congratulations to this talented group of graduates. We look forward to seeing the impact they make in the beauty industry.



CLUSTER SCHOLARSHIPS *(Leadership; Supervisor; Student Personnel; Community Relations; Student Achievement)*

We are excited to announce the recipients of this year's Van Buren Tech Cluster Scholarships, generously funded by the West Michigan Education Research and Development Foundation (WMERDF) and the Van Buren Tech Scholarship Committee.

Applicants completed a comprehensive application process that included a resume, essay, and interview with the Van Buren Tech Scholarship Committee. Scholarships were awarded in two tiers, \$1,000 and \$500, to outstanding

students representing each of our four career clusters.

Please join us in congratulating this year's scholarship recipients. Their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments have earned this recognition, and we look forward to seeing all they achieve in the future.

Physical Technology Cluster

* \$1,000 – Gavin Joslin (Engineering Design & Architectural Design, Mattawan) (Not pictured)

* \$500 – Thomas Solis (Construction Trades, Hartford)

Health Sciences Cluster

* \$1,000 – Allie King (Patient Care, Bloomingdale)

* \$500 – Marcel Stork (Sports Medicine, Mattawan)

Information Technology Cluster

* \$1,000 – Madison Dibble (Graphic Design, South Haven)

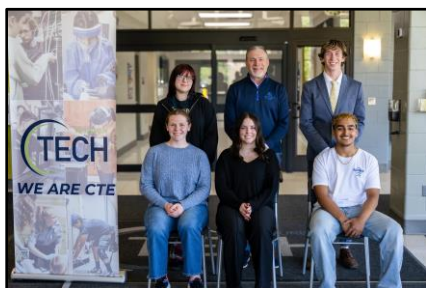
* \$500 – Leo Bainbridge (Print Design, Paw Paw)

Human Services Cluster

* \$1,000 – Emma Reynolds (Careers in Education, Bloomingdale)

* \$500 – Daisy Herbert (Cosmetology, 13th Year Program)

We would also like to thank Chris Rice, Executive Director of the West Michigan Education Research and Development Foundation (WMERDF), who visited Van Buren Tech to congratulate the recipients and learn more about their future goals. His continued support helps make these scholarship opportunities possible.



***LAKEVIEW FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS** (*Leadership; Student Personnel; Community Relations; Student Achievement*)

Fourteen students have been selected by the Van Buren Tech Scholarship Committee to each receive a \$2,000 Lakeview Foundation Scholarship for the 2024-25 school year. Each recipient lives in or attends school in Eastern Van Buren County, has maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, demonstrated a commitment to serving their community, and is pursuing a non-healthcare-related field at a postsecondary institution. The scholarship is renewable for the 2025-26 school year if students maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher during their first semester and submit the renewal application and transcript.

We would also like to thank Mary Ann Middaugh, Vice President of the Lakeview Foundation and President of the Van Buren Intermediate School District Board of Education, for visiting Van Buren Tech to personally congratulate the recipients.

2024-25 Lakeview Foundation Scholarship Recipients

- * Halle Bigelow – Careers in Education, Gobles
- * Eva Charron – Cosmetology, Paw Paw
- * Amara Christenson – Agriculture and Natural Resources, Paw Paw
- * Zachary Danes – Engineering & Architectural Design, Bloomingdale
- * Joel Garcia – Engineering & Architectural Design, Hartford
- * Rober Huaracha-Rivera – Software Engineering, Hartford
- * Moses Krause – Cybersecurity & Computer Network Technology, Hartford
- * Daniel Northrup – Engineering & Architectural Design, Decatur (not pictured)
- * Madison Osborne – Careers in Education, Paw Paw
- * Preston Pries – Engineering & Architectural Design, Hartford
- * Emma Reynolds – Careers in Education, Bloomingdale
- * Derek Ruimveld – Marketing, Sales & Business, Lawton



***CAREER CAMP 2026** (*Leadership; Communication Skills; Resourcefulness, Creativity, and Innovativeness; Planner and Organizer; Supervisor; School Plant & Facilities; Community Relations*)



Van
Buren
Tech



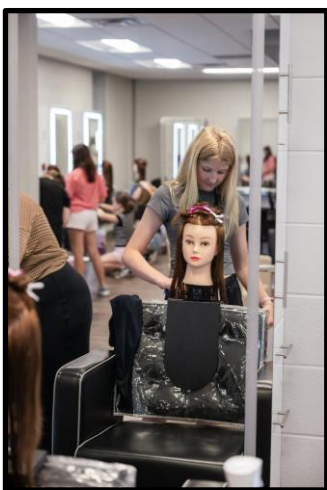
recently welcomed local middle school students for another successful week of Career Camp. Throughout the week, campers explored a variety of career pathways through engaging activities led by Van Buren Tech instructors.

Across the different camp offerings, students designed and launched rockets, created chocolate designs using SOLIDWORKS and 3D-printed molds, explored wellness concepts and patient care, experimented with plastics and manufacturing processes, and used laser engraving technology. They also participated in emergency response scenarios and experienced the power of a fire hose firsthand. Other campers worked with computer hardware and software,

including coding; learned basic vehicle maintenance; practiced cosmetology techniques; designed and created book covers; and explored marketing and business concepts by developing products and services, creating logos and commercials, learning how businesses operate, and presenting their ideas in a Shark Tank-style competition.

Career Camp gives students the opportunity to try new skills, explore potential career interests, and gain experience beyond the traditional classroom setting. Most importantly, campers had fun while learning alongside their peers and instructors.

We are proud to provide opportunities that encourage early career exploration and help students begin thinking about their future goals. We look forward to seeing many of these students return to Van Buren Tech in the years ahead as they continue to pursue their interests and develop their talents.



Memorandum		
Date:	August 5, 2026	 INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES
To:	VBISD Board of Education	
From:	Melissa Corona <i>Director of Instructional Services</i>	
Subject:	Instructional Services Update	

Mission Statement:

Intentionally collaborate to use best practices to support the whole child and build capacity in students and staff in Van Buren County.

**Professional Learning Opportunities



2026–2027 Professional Learning Calendar

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY	DATE(S)	COST
Title I - 101 for School Principals	August 6, 2026 (9:00 – 1:00 p.m.)	\$0
New Teacher Academy	August 10–12, 2026	\$250
NC/Bridges Math Co-Planning	August 13, September 22, October 27, November 17, December 14, January 26, February 23, March 22, April 27	\$30 in county; \$50 out of county
Art PD @ SHCA	August 19, 2026	\$35
MAHPERD – Physical Education Teacher PD @ Bangor Public School	August 19, 2026	—
UFLI	August 19, 2026	\$25
Whole Child Summit #9	October 12, 2026	\$0
Foundations of Math Series	September 18, 2026; November 20, 2026; March 19, 2027; April 9, 2027; May 21, 2027 (tentative)	\$100/Series
Adolescent Literacy Series	September 24, 2026; October 29, 2026; November 19, 2026; December 2, 2026	\$0
Section 504 Training	October 15, 2026	\$0
Meaningful Fact Fluency Workshop	October 7, 2026; February 3, 2027	\$25 in county; \$40 out of county
Pathway to PA146	October 20, 2026; November 9, 2026; February 25, 2027; March 23, 2027	\$0
MiMTSS – Behavior Interventions in the Classroom	October 26, 2026	Registration handled through MiMTSS
MTTC Math Study Session	February 1, 2027	—
SHAPE	February 24, 2027	—
Numeracy Foundations (Math Recovery)	February 25 & 26, 2027; March 11 & 12, 2027	—
MiMTSS – Structured Literacy	March 22, 2027	—
Addition and Subtraction Concepts Course (Math Recovery)	April 15 & 16, 2027; April 29 & 30, 2027	—

For the 2026–2027 school year, the Instructional Services Department will focus its professional learning efforts on two critical instructional priorities that align with state requirements and the needs identified by our local districts. A primary emphasis will be supporting schools with the implementation of Michigan's PA 146 K–12 Literacy and Dyslexia

Law by providing professional learning focused on evidence-based literacy instruction, structured literacy practices, and systems that strengthen reading achievement for all learners. In addition, the department will expand professional learning in foundational mathematics, helping educators develop a deeper understanding of how students build mathematical concepts and number sense so they can provide more effective instruction that leads to lasting mathematical understanding.

In addition to these core initiatives, the department will continue to offer a broad range of professional learning opportunities designed to build educator capacity across multiple areas. Trainings will include the New Teacher Academy to support educators in their first years of teaching, the Adolescent Literacy Series focused on secondary MTSS and literacy systems, Section 504 Training to strengthen compliance and student support practices, the Whole Child Summit to promote student wellness and belonging, and specialized workshops such as UFLI, Meaningful Fact Fluency, and Pathway to PA 146. Together, these learning opportunities reflect the department's commitment to equipping educators with practical, research-based strategies that improve instruction, strengthen systems, and ultimately increase student success across Van Buren County.

In partnership with the Special Education Department, Multilingual Department, and Alt+Shift, the Instructional Services Department will offer a four-day Foundations of Math series focused on strengthening educators' mathematical content knowledge and instructional practices. This collaborative professional learning is designed for general education, special education, and multilingual educators, reflecting our commitment to breaking down traditional instructional silos and recognizing that all students are general education students first. By learning together, educators will build a shared understanding of how to develop students' conceptual understanding and mathematical reasoning while implementing instructional practices that increase access and success for every learner. As an IDEA grant-funded initiative through the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Special Education, this partnership demonstrates our collective commitment to providing equitable, high-quality mathematics instruction that improves engagement and achievement across all student populations.

****Grow Your Own**

Although the GYO grant is coming to a close in the next several weeks, we have been working closely with Wayne State University to add programming to support the Deaf and Hard of Hearing teacher shortage needs. Over the past several months, we have been working with WSU to ensure that they would be able to support candidates from across the state of Michigan to be able to enroll in their DHH program and have it funded by the Van Buren ISD GYO grant. We have also been working with Access Ability DHH Educational Consulting to support this work.

Below is a list of our enrollment numbers per University or alternative program:

- WMU candidates: 105
- GVSU candidates: 2
- The University of Olivet candidates: 30
- #T.E.A.C.H candidates: 51
- MI Teachers of Tomorrow candidates: 43
- Total # of graduates: 175
- Total Candidates: 406

As of September 30, 20226 we will no longer be able to process any additional reimbursements for GYO and our business office will be working on the final expenditure report to close out the grant over the next several months.

****Mental Health Clinicians**

The mental health clinician team ended the 25/26 school year strong. During the 2025–2026 school year, our team provided **6,454 individual therapy sessions**, **267 group therapy sessions**, and **157 crisis interventions**, ensuring students received the care and support they needed during some of their most difficult moments.

Crystal Hughes, rescinded from her position on the mental health clinician team to take a position as school social workers in her home town of Fennville. We wish Crystal all the best as she moves into this new endeavor. The search for a clinician to add to our team has already begun. Please look forward to an announcement of the newest member soon.

Supervisor, Paula Kanaan, created a closing opportunity for the clinical team to aid in processing and “laying down” the heavy things that they have held with students and their family. [Here](#) you can find the ‘Walking Toward Renewal’ opportunity that took place on Western Michigan University’s beautiful campus’s labyrinth. Walking Toward Renewal allows the clinicians to end this year’s services with reflection, letting go, and renewing their psyches for a fresh start to the 26/27 school year.

We look forward to continued partnership with all 11 districts within Van Buren County for the 26/27 school year. Continued work with individual students as well as groups remain the focus for the mental health clinician team. Offering professional development as requested by districts and continued support of the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) as well.

Several members of YAP will be supporting the Mental Health Awareness Walk taking place on October 10, 2026 on the nature path behind the Tech Center building. The YAP students, along with trained adults, will be teaching Community Resiliency Model “Help Now” skills to participants. The Mental Health Awareness Walk is being brought to Van Buren County by partnership between The Youth Collaborative, headed by supervisor Paula Kana’an, Van Buren’s Help Me Grow, Bronson, Van Buren Community Mental Health, and The Lions Club of Paw Paw. We welcome you and your circle to join us on October 10th. [Here](#) is the flyer with more information. If you know Spanish speaking families please feel free to share [this](#) flyer with them.

The mental health clinician team looks forward to serving the students of Van Buren County for the 8th year!

Adult Ed Multilingual

Our Adult Ed Multilingual program will begin its next year of programming on August 18 and 19, 2026. We will be providing 2 evening sessions of professional learning for our staff to get them ready for the new school year. Our programs begin their first classes during the week of August 31. We have 3 sites - Bangor, Cover, and Paw Paw. We also have learners that participate virtually.

We finished the 2025-26 year with 75 learners. We are hopeful to continue expanding our program to continue to support the learners of Van Buren County. We continue to identify barriers that inhibit learners from either joining class or from continuing with classes. Child care is a barrier for many families. This year we are planning to hire a child care assistant for each of our locations. This addition to our programming will allow our learners to be able to dedicate time to their learning and continue to expand her English skills.

Programming days and times.

Bangor - Mon/Tues 7:00-9:00

Paw Paw - Tues/Thurs 5:00-7:00

Covert - Mon/Wed 6:00-8:00

Out of School Time

Summer programming is underway across Van Buren County, with six local school districts and the Van Buren ISD Migrant Program utilizing 32N OST funding to provide enrichment, recreation, and social-emotional learning opportunities for students.

VBYI community partners continue to expand programming throughout the county. South Haven Center for the Arts (SHCA) has broadened its offerings to include younger students and additional family engagement opportunities. His Place has experienced significant attendance growth compared to last summer, demonstrating increased demand for youth programming in the Hartford area. Luc's Light has expanded programming options and is working to better align program schedules with Paw Paw school dismissal times to improve accessibility.

As VBYI prepares for the eventual transition from ARPA funding, efforts continue to identify sustainable funding sources for community-based programming. Michigan's 32N Out-of-School Time funding continues to be funded in the budget that was recently passed. The total amount is \$75 million. This investment continues to provide significant opportunities to sustain and expand youth programming across the county. Additionally, Van Buren ISD's participation in the 32N grant during the 2025-26 school year, coupled with efforts that exceed MILEAP requirements, is expected to strengthen the district's competitiveness in future funding cycles and provide a strategic advantage for both Van Buren ISD and its OST partners.

Project SHINE Highlight

Under the direct supervision of Jennifer Bloomfield, Project SHINE will continue to work in our Special Education programs. This is an opportunity for Instructional Services and Special Education to work collaboratively to support the needs of students. As funding has continued to change for this program, we are fortunate that the high-quality programming continues. Our 2 Nutrition Educators, Christine Janssen and Vinee Lloyd will be providing engaging lessons around better understanding where food comes from, how it is grown, and what different foods taste like. Most of the lessons are paired with a “tasting” of good food giving students the opportunity to taste, feel, smell, and touch foods that they may not be familiar with. Additionally, they will be providing opportunities for students to grow and prepare their own food.

In addition to nutrition education, Christine and Vinee will be providing opportunities for students to take part in a wide variety of physical activities. It is important for students to learn how important physical activity is and how fun and easy it is to incorporate it into their daily lives.

Our team of Nutrition Educators work with each program to develop lessons that align with the content that is already a part of the curriculum that is being taught in the classroom. They also work with the classroom teachers to ensure they are able to meet the needs of each student in the classroom and to differentiate their lessons to do so.

Project NOMAD Summer Programming: Project SHINE is providing nutrition education and healthy food tastings for students in the Project NOMAD summer program, serving PreK through 4th grade. Lessons focus on helping students explore the edible parts of plants—including roots, stems, leaves, flowers, seeds, and fruits—through interactive activities, hands-on learning, and opportunities to explore a variety of fresh produce. These experiences encourage healthy eating habits while connecting nutrition concepts to science and agriculture.

MEMO

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: BRITANI OLDS, DIRECTOR FOR HUMAN RESOURCES
RE: HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE - (Leadership, Communication Skills, Resourcefulness, Creativity, and Innovativeness, Professional Preparation, Decision Maker, Planner and Organizer.)

****Position Tracking Tool**

In the past each department and the business office have tracked positions independent from one another. To improve communication and clarity, a single and collaboratively maintained system will be piloted for the 2026-2027 school year. This new system will track new, vacant, filled, reallocated, and eliminated positions. A meeting will be held with each Director/Administrator to meet and review their department's positions together. More updates will be forthcoming.

****Mentoring Project**



Having an established mentoring program in place plays a key role in employee retention.

We have been developing user-friendly guidelines for mentors, mentees, and supervisors by incorporating feedback from the mentoring sessions held throughout the 2025-2026 school year. I am happy to share that the forms have been updated and the guidelines are now finalized!

As we continue implementing these resources, we will gather feedback throughout this school year to ensure they remain effective, relevant, and well utilized. PSM mentor training for those that were interested in being a mentor will be held during lunch on opening day, Monday, August 17. We are excited to pull this group together for the training and review the updated tools and resources.

Marketing

During the 2025-2026 school year, the Marketing Request Form received requests supporting event promotion, professional learning, recruitment, website updates, photography, social media, and branded communication materials. The most requested marketing services were design and print materials and flyers. Design and print materials were the most frequently requested service, accounting for 35.5% of all requests. Flyers were the most requested deliverable, accounting for 32.3% of submissions and serving as the primary communication tool for professional learning events, training sessions, and district initiatives. Instructional Services submitted the highest number of marketing requests, accounting for 45.2% of all requests. Special Education was the second-highest utilizing department, representing 19.4% of all requests.

Memorandum		
Date:	August 05, 2026	
To:	VBISD Board of Education	
From:	Angie Gutiérrez <i>Administrator of Multilingual and Migrant Services</i>	
Subject:	Multilingual/Migrant Services Update	



****Van Buren ISD's Project NOMAD Connects with Migrant Families Across Southwest Michigan** *(Leadership, Communication Skills, Student Personnel, Community Relations, and Student Achievement)*

Throughout July, Van Buren ISD's Project NOMAD and Multilingual Services team traveled across Southwest Michigan to meet migrant families where they live and work, hosting outreach events at Brookside Farms in Gobles, Shannon Camp in Grand Junction, Meadowbrook Farm in Benton Harbor, Berry Brothers in Paw Paw, and Cornerstone Camp in Grand Junction. These visits provided families with educational resources, community services, school enrollment assistance, and opportunities to connect with organizations dedicated to supporting migratory children and their families.

Each event began with a warm welcome from Abel Robles, who introduced Irma Aranda-Cruz. Irma shared information about Project NOMAD's recruitment efforts and the educational and support services available to eligible migrant families. Recruiters were introduced so families could become familiar with the staff members who serve them throughout the year.

Jose Nolasco welcomed families and discussed services available for youth under the age of 22, while also sharing educational materials and backpacks available through the program.

Families learned about the many educational opportunities available through the Van Buren ISD. Katya Davila, Jalen Van Hoeven, Yatsiri Figueroa, and Dawn

Muñoz Lamas highlighted the HOME Program and its individualized educational services for migratory students.

Angie Gutierrez, Administrator of Multilingual and Migrant Services, provided an overview of Project NOMAD and upcoming events. She also highlighted the year-round educational support for migrant children from preschool through 12th grade.

Abel Robles also shared "A Day in the Life of a Project NOMAD Student," giving families a look at the engaging educational experiences students enjoy throughout the year. Activities include literacy and math enrichment, STEM projects, field trips, college and career exploration, recreational activities, and other hands-on learning experiences designed to help students succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

Victor Zuniga told the group about upcoming school registration events in Bloomingdale Public Schools where the team will provide support with school registration and GSRP enrollment.

Community partnerships were an important part of each outreach event. Representatives from local agencies introduced themselves and shared information about the programs and services they provide to support migrant families. Families had the opportunity to visit agency booths, ask questions, and connect directly with organizations offering health, educational, employment, and family resources.

These events would not be possible without our partnerships with Paw Paw Presbyterian Church, the Korean Presbyterian Churches of Michigan from Detroit, and Hebron Church from Chicago. Their generosity in providing meals, volunteers, and ongoing support for migrant families throughout the outreach events. 170 lunches were served each day and 200 dinners each evening.

Families participated in educational stations, including presentations by the local fire department led by Ruth Ramon and James Fein. They visited the HOME Program table to receive books and educational materials, completed program surveys, explored community resources, and enjoyed a shared dinner together.

The evenings concluded with family activities led by Kimo Kim, the popular Zapato Game, raffle prizes, and closing remarks celebrating the strong partnerships that make these outreach events possible. These visits demonstrate the power of

collaboration between schools, churches, community agencies, and volunteers working together to support migratory families throughout Southwest Michigan.









****Project Nomad Summer School Updates:**

We have had a fabulous program. Our summer enrollment is at 24 students. This means that all of these students attended at least one day or more. We took several field trips, but one that stands out is our trip to Michigan State University. We took 43 students in grades 7-12 on July 24th. This year I asked our teachers to send me some updates on their summer.





Peer to Peer Program

Mary Thomas, Special Education Teacher

We started a Peer to Peer program at Project Nomad this year. High School volunteers signed up to work with students in different classes to learn about helping others and earn volunteer hours for their high school programs. Four high school girls worked in several classes, assisting students from pre-kindergarten to high school age. Peer helpers supported students in reading, math, STEM, and PE classes. They also helped their peer buddies with conversation and social skills. The volunteers formed bonds with their peer buddies, and the buddies were eager to work with their Peer to Peer helpers.

Two peer helpers accompanied their buddy to the Van Buren County Fair. The girls had fun viewing the exhibits, including student crafts and animals. They enjoyed the petting zoo and were able to greet a live camel! The group shared treats at the fair, including tasty tamales and french fries, before heading back to Project Nomad.

Pre-K 3 Update:

Michelle Arms, Preschool Teacher

We have been learning in the preschool classroom so many different things this summer, helping children develop socially, emotionally, physically, cognitively, and linguistically through play, exploration, and meaningful interactions. We have had the chance to go to a movie theatre, watch a movie, and ride on a school bus. We look forward to the rest of the summer having more fun with the children.

PreK-4 NOMAD Summer School: A Season of Growth, Laughter, and Adventure!

By: Dawn Sexton and Tonya Conklin

What an unforgettable summer it has been! Our PreK-4 NOMAD summer program has been bursting with excitement, discovery, and endless learning opportunities.

Over the past few weeks, our little adventurers have been busy making new lifelong friendships, moving and grooving to fun songs, and diving into interactive games. From the pure delight of our field trip to the zoo to daily play—both soaking up the sunshine outdoors and exploring creative centers inside—there has never been a dull moment.

We believe in nurturing the whole child, which is why our days have been a rich blend of early academic discovery and hands-on arts and crafts. Most importantly, teachers and students alike are cherishing every moment as we build sweet memories together.





Kindergarten Summer 2026

Lisa Hicks, Kindergarten Teacher

This summer has been one of growth for our kindergarten soon-to-be first-grade students. We have worked hard on developing our letter sound correspondence as well as learning how to sound and blend together first-grade words! Our fourth grade friends have helped us develop our reading fluency by coming in to read with us every Friday for reading buddies. We have had a great time listening to great 4th grade readers and building new relationships with them. We have also worked hard at building connections in math. Learning how to use important math tools to help us when we are solving problems. We have learned to use the math rack, ten frame, and number line more efficiently when we are adding and subtracting.

This summer has also had a lot of fun incorporated into our learning! We have been able to visit the zoo and attend a movie at a local movie theater. We also have had the opportunity to learn about fire safety from the local fire department.

All in all, it's been a great summer, and we are ready for what's next in first grade!

1st Grade Update:

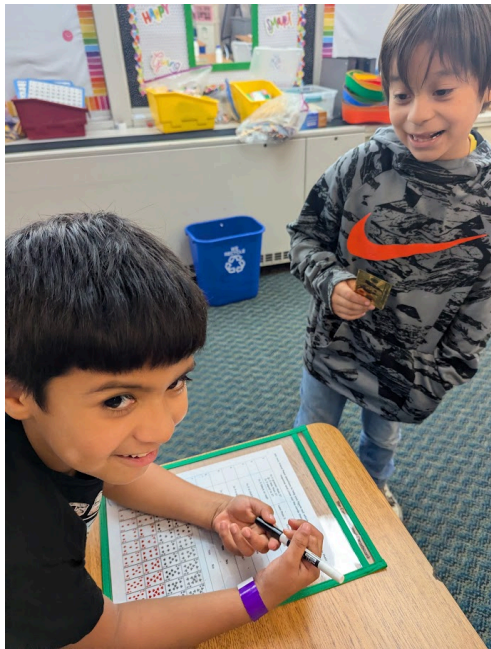
Elliott Gonzalez, 1st Grade Teacher

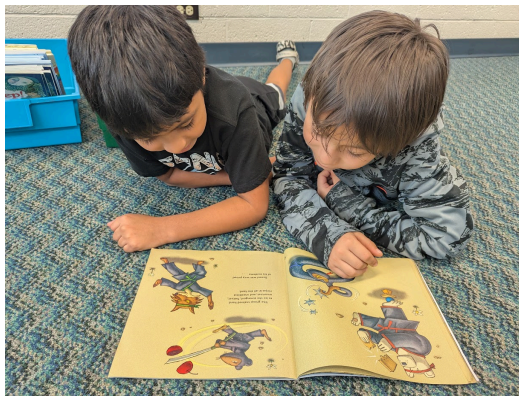
This summer we have spent time reinforcing our reading, writing and math skills while making friends and learning about the communities we live in. We practiced reading and writing grade-level words by sounding out the words and writing the correct sounds. We practiced fluency with math skills such as comparing two-digit numbers, addition/subtraction within 20 and using place value to add and subtract. We also explored different math story problems and discussed how to identify the math action, as well as how to show our work when solving word problems.

In addition to the academic work we have done, we spent time building community in the classroom, as well as exploring the greater community. We took field trips to Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend and Strand Theater in Paw Paw for a movie. We also welcomed visitors who taught us about Korean culture, the Fire Department, eating healthy, and solving problems using scientific thinking. The students and teachers enjoyed learning while engaging in culturally relevant activities such as following the World Cup, making visual art, and other such activities based on the interests of the students.









Second Grade Summer Update

Kelly Irish, Second Grade Teacher

What a great summer it has been in Project Nomad! Our second graders have been working so hard in reading, writing, and math. We do our 95 Percent Group phonics every day, which is very helpful in decoding due to the explicit instruction. Miss Gutierrez and I also do small group work to help students who are still grasping certain concepts.

We had great field trips to the movies (a first experience for some students) and to the zoo. Our students loved seeing all of the animals and we completed Science and STEAM activities to follow up on the zoo trip.



3rd Grade update Darci Dumont-Phillips

This summer at the Migrant Program has been one of the best experiences to date with my group of students. They have come to school every day excited for what we are going to learn and ready to work and make progress. They loved going to see the Monsters and Minions movie and for once, not a single kid asked to use the restroom. They also loved going to the Air Zoo on our large field trip. They were very interested in how the older planes ran and what all the buttons/levers were in the cockpits.

Watching them grow academically this summer has been rewarding beyond words. Getting to watch them experience things they might not normally have been able to experience is a privilege that I appreciate having every summer. I always dread the end of the program each summer and can only hope I get to see all of my students' smiling faces next year.



4th Grade Update

Michelle Smith, 4th grade teacher

During Project NOMAD, students made strong academic gains through engaging, research-based instruction. The implementation of the 95 Percent Group literacy program was particularly successful, with students actively using whiteboards to practice spelling and participating in vocabulary development by analyzing roots, prefixes, suffixes, and base words in their lexicons. The new program added greater depth to literacy instruction and complemented existing lessons on Greek and Latin roots. In mathematics, students strengthened their skills through Delta Math using whiteboards, guided instruction ("I do, We do"), and interactive notebooks that included multiplication facts, division steps, and fraction models. Students also enjoyed Project SMART Reading, where they had individual copies of the books and participated in a combination of teacher-led reading and audiobook sessions. Additional Spanish-language materials were secured to better support multilingual learners. Students especially looked forward to reading with kindergarten students each Friday, an activity that promoted both literacy and leadership.

Students also benefited from a variety of enriching extracurricular experiences that enhanced their learning throughout the summer. STEAM lessons were thoughtfully connected to field trips, such as the Air Zoo visit, making learning relevant and engaging. Physical Education remained a student favorite and was efficiently scheduled to maximize instructional time. Michigan State University outreach activities provided interactive, hands-on STEM experiences that students thoroughly enjoyed. Nutrition lessons encouraged students to try new foods in a fun and supportive environment, while a movie celebration provided a well-deserved opportunity for relaxation and community building. A visit from the local fire department was another highlight, allowing students to explore firefighting equipment and safely operate a fire hose. Additionally, instructional strategies and math games introduced at a recent math intervention conference were incorporated into daily lessons, further enriching student learning and engagement throughout the program.

5th Grade Update

Branden Holtman, 5th Grade teacher

One of the most memorable experiences this summer for the 5th grade class of Project NOMAD has been going to the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo. It was a well-aligned supplement to the informational text they read about the Wright brothers via the Project Smart curriculum. Multiple of the students used what we had read about the Wright brothers as a frame of reference for making sense of their observations at the Air Zoo.

Their favorite part, aside from the rides in the Flight Innovation Center of course, was the opportunity to board real aircraft in the Flight Discovery Center. One of them said they had never seen a plane in real life before, and thanks to this opportunity they were able not only to see but also to board real aircraft.

Attached are pictures of students in aircraft at the Flight Discovery Center and in front of aircraft at the Flight Innovation Center.



6th Grade update:**Luke Golas, 6th grade teacher**

This summer was filled with learning, growth, and memorable moments.

Throughout the program, students worked hard to strengthen their math and reading skills through engaging lessons, small-group activities, and daily practice. It was rewarding to see their confidence grow and watch them make progress both academically and socially. In addition to our classroom learning, students had the opportunity to go on a field trip to the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo, where they explored new ideas and enjoyed a hands-on learning experience.

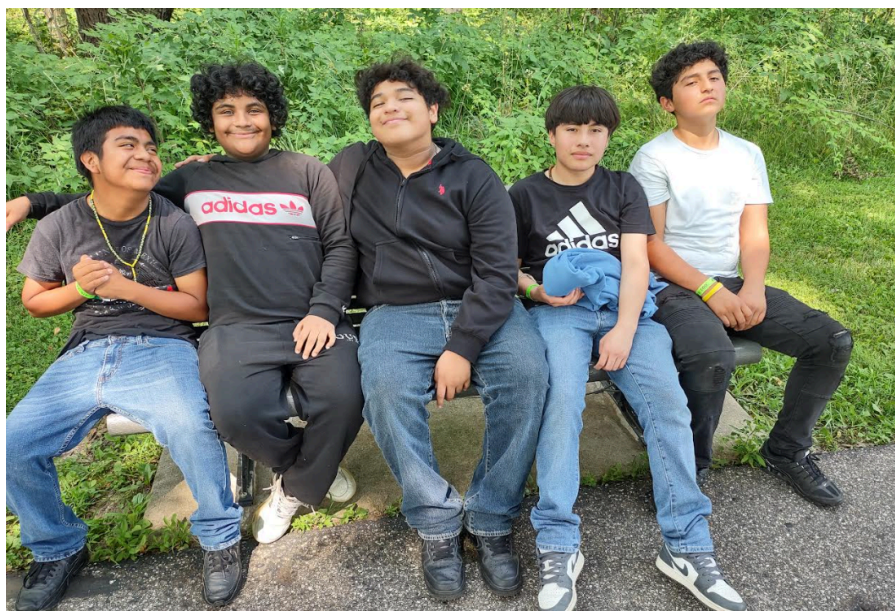
We also took time to watch parts of the World Cup games together, which created opportunities for fun, connection, and building a strong classroom culture.

I am proud of the progress our students made and grateful for the opportunity to be part of it.

7th/8th grade Update**Matt Kovach, 7th and 8th grade Teacher**

The summer in the 7th and 8th grade classroom has been a great one. Students put in a lot of hard work, got along well, and seemed to really enjoy being here each day. Quite a few students were consistently in attendance, with at least 10 students having at least 20 days present.

Besides daily math, reading, and language work, summer activities were enhanced by field trips to The Air Zoo in Portage, Southwest Michigan College, and Michigan State University. Students learned a variety of airplane and air flight information along with enjoying the various rides at the Air Zoo. Visits to Southwest Michigan College and Michigan State University provided students the opportunity to explore options for furthering their education along with expanding their awareness of resources available to them to help them succeed in college.



9th-12th Grade Credit Recovery

Theresa Gleason, 9th-12th grade teacher

Celebrating Growth, Culture, and Big Accomplishments This Summer

As the 2026 summer school session comes to a close, we are reflecting on a season filled with hard work, rich cultural experiences, and impressive student achievements. Our high schoolers showed up ready to learn, tackle new challenges, and build lasting memories.

Throughout the program, many of our students focused on credit recovery using Edgenuity, with some successfully wrapping up their courses and putting themselves firmly back on track for graduation. Other students aimed higher, utilizing Modern States to prepare for College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams in Spanish and other core disciplines to earn early college credit. In the spirit of language excellence, a couple of students also took assessments toward earning the Seal of Biliteracy.

Learning took place far beyond traditional textbooks this year. We were thrilled to partner with a Korean church group, who joined us for one of the absolute highlights of the summer. Volunteers spent time with our students teaching Korean language, sharing cultural traditions, and leading hands-on arts and crafts projects.

We also took our summer on the road with field trips to Southwest Michigan University and Michigan State University, giving students an inspiring look at college life. But when it came to downtime, the energy stayed high back on campus—whether students were strategizing over board games indoors or taking to the soccer field to face off against each other and their teacher.

It has been a vibrant, well-rounded summer, and we couldn't be prouder of how much our students accomplished, learned, and enjoyed. Congratulations to everyone on a job well done!



Eric Thomas, ESL Teacher

My name is Eric Thomas. This is my second Summer Migrant School session with project NOMAD teaching English as a second language. I serve grades 1-12, providing sheltered English instruction. I love teaching our students. They are hard workers and eager to learn. It is such a pleasure.

One thing that has gone particularly well this summer is the oracy routine that I have developed. This summer I have been using Story Champs to teach vocabulary, sentence structures, and organization strategies. Using this resource has helped me differentiate my instruction, from highlighting certain phonemes to writing complex sentences and more complex verb structures.

I love seeing students' language develop.

Jane Gonzalez, Literacy Interventionalist

This summer, we implemented a new reading program for both assessment and teaching purposes. It focused more on phonics skills than reading as a whole. The students took a pre- and post-test to determine how much they had learned over the summer program. We did not fully understand the scope and sequence of the program at first. The more practice teachers and students alike gained, the more it could be transferred into breaking words into parts to decode an unfamiliar word. The older students participated in learning morphemes and their meanings. With their increased knowledge of word parts, they were better able to understand the meaning of a word based on a word part. I was able to participate in classroom instruction to assist students whom teachers identified as needing additional support, as well as those whom I used my teacher superpowers to find and support during instruction time in their classrooms. The extra support was greatly appreciated by teachers and students alike. Some even stayed longer to read with me while their class had moved on to the next activity just to get that individual attention and confidence-building.

HOME Update:

Jalen VanHoeven, ESL teacher

Being a HOME Teacher full time this year has been a fun adventure. I love driving out to the camps and homes and seeing the scenery: the tree-tunnel backroads, the expanses of farmland, and the forests. Most of all, I enjoy working with the students and the young adult workers. Each night has its own assortment of curveballs, from changing phone numbers and addresses to locating the students for a lesson. One of my favorite memories from this year is working with a young student with autism. We sat on the floor, played with alphabet clothespins,

and sang the alphabet over and over. I love that on the same night I can work with students of all different ages and abilities; it keeps me thinking about what instruction would be most effective and helpful for each student and their unique needs.

HOME Update:

Lori Frisinger, ESL teacher

After a relatively slow start to the season, things have really taken off for our program. The HOME Team has been teaching English, collecting signatures, and sending students on college tours, while enduring heatwaves and dodging wildfire smoke. These challenges might have slowed us down last year, but summer 2026 has brought so many new people to our team that there has been minimal impact, and we've taken it all in stride. It has been great meeting and working with so many new people who care about our students and families.

I've also really enjoyed attending my first Camp Meeting, teaching out-of-school-youth, and finding donations for students in need. As much as I love the daily tasks of my job, nothing beats seeing returning students in the hallways of Lawrence Elementary, and their faces light up when they recognize their favorite teachers and friends. This is absolutely the best part of what we do.

iSOSY PLC Work in Michigan (*Resourcefulness, Creativity and Innovativeness, Planner & Organizer, Student Personnel, Student Achievement, Communication Skills*)



This summer, I have continued working on a project to support our Out-of-School Youth (OSY). Our goal is to have 50 OSY students participate in our mini STAT lessons. We narrowed the lessons to four key topics: Heat Safety, Convenience Store, Fast Food, and At Work.

We also gave each lesson a complete facelift by adding more engaging visuals, linking all supporting materials directly within the presentations, and incorporating interactive speaking activities to increase student participation and engagement. In addition, all lesson materials can be printed and taken to migrant camps for in-person instruction or used digitally with youth. As we look ahead, we are also hoping to begin offering ESL classes online, allowing us to reach and serve even more Out-of-School Youth in a flexible and accessible way. After meeting with the iSOSY director, I will be presenting these to the group at the next in-person meeting in October.

STAT Lesson Plan for English-Language Learners

Heat Stress / Estrés por calor

Lesson Duration: 30-60 minutes

[What is a STAT Lesson?](#)



III. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of Purchase of Construction Trades Tiny House Trailers (**Roll Call Vote**) 58

VBISD BOARD RESOLUTION

DATE: August 5, 2026
TO: VBISD Board of Education
FROM: Robert Smith
RE: **Approval of Purchase of Construction Trades Tiny House Trailers**

BACKGROUND:

The Van Buren Tech Onsite Construction Trades program is looking to again purchase 4 tiny home trailer chassis for student-built tiny homes to be sold by the program at the end of the 2026-27 school year.

For over 25 years, the Onsite Construction Trades program at Van Buren Tech has been building modular homes in two halves that are later moved to a prepped homesite in the area when finished. Over the past several years, completing this build process has become increasingly difficult due to changes in class sizes, changes to the mission/vision of the Habitat for Humanity program, changes to the modular construction building code requirements, and the increasing difficulty of securing community partnerships due to the scarcity of available land. As a result, the Onsite Construction Trades program started building "Tiny Homes" last year, which are built on a platform trailer and moved to a desired location. The Tiny Home build process aligns with the state-mandated curriculum and building code requirements and provides flexibility regarding class sizes, required space, and transport options. Bids went out for this purchase in early June. Those received are listed below.

Iron Eagle Trailers Inc. - \$38,553

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED, that the board of education approve the purchase of 2 thirty-foot and 2 twenty-four-foot trailer chassis from Iron Eagle Trailers Inc. for a total price not to exceed \$38,553.

B. Approval of Certification of Delegates for MASB 2026-2027 (Roll Call Vote)	60
--	----

VBISD BOARD RESOLUTION

DATE: August 5, 2026
TO: VBISD Board of Education
FROM: David Manson, Superintendent
RE: **Approval of Certification of Delegates for MASB 2026 - 2027**

BACKGROUND:

Delegates selected by boards of education across the State will decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education. Delegates for 2026-2027 must be appointed by their respective boards of education and certified by **Thursday, October 15, 2026**.

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED, that the board of education approve _____ as delegate and _____ as alternate delegate to represent the Van Buren Intermediate School District at MASB annual or special meetings for the 2026-2027 school year.

VBISD BOARD RESOLUTION

DATE: August 5, 2026
TO: VBISD Board of Education
FROM: Dave Manson, Superintendent
RE: **Approval of VBCEA/VBIEA Contract 2026-2027**

BACKGROUND:

Attached is the tentative agreement between the Van Buren County Education Association/Van Buren Intermediate Education Association (VBCEA/VBIEA) and the Van Buren Intermediate School District, signed on July 7, 2026.

Following a review of the tentative agreement, I recommend that the Board approve the following resolution:

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves a one year agreement with the VBCEA/VBIEA for the period of September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027.

D. Approval of Welding Lab Contract and Recommendations (**Roll Call
Vote**)

64

VBISD BOARD RESOLUTION

DATE: August 5, 2026
TO: VBISD Board of Education
FROM: David Manson, Superintendent
RE: **Approval of Welding Lab Contract and Recommendations**

BACKGROUND:

The VBTech Welding Lab Project solicited bids in accordance with applicable bidding requirements. The bids were reviewed by administration and the project architect, and the contractors listed below are recommended for award based on the bid results and the best interests of the District.

BID CATEGORY	CONTRACTOR	TOTAL
020 Demolition	Xtreme Demolition	37,700
30 Concrete	Earley & Associates	82,983
40 Masonry	Bouwkamp Masonry	72,126
62 General Trades	Roggow Construction	372,465
70 Membrane Roofing	Allowance	20,000
74 Metal Panels	Custom Panel Design	118,680
80 Doors/Hardware	Architectural Hardware	27,360
84 Aluminum Doors/Windows	Midwest Glass	37,159
92 LPDA	Ritsema & Associates	26,292
99 Painting	Eckhoff & Devries	18,700
210 Fire Protection	Alpha Fire Protection	46,760
220 Plumbing	Jergens	161,304
230 HVAC	Jergens	360,768
231 Commissioning	Insite	4,110
232 HVAC Controls	Control Solutions	58,892
260 Electrical	Hoekstra	576,265
310 Sitework	Compton Excavating	34,045
323 Fencing	Fence Consultants	15,599
Contingency		207,121
CM Fee	GDK Construction	88,419
General Conditions	GDK Construction	247,925

Construction Total \$ 2,614,673

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves that GDK Construction be authorized to issue Letters of Intent in the amount indicated, to contractors and suppliers listed. Upon confirmation that all requirements of the Contract Documents have been met and any contract adjustments have been confirmed, subcontracts will be awarded to the listed contractors and suppliers by Van Buren Intermediate School District.

E. Approval of New Staff Employment (**Voice Vote**)

66

MEMO

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: BRITANI OLDS, HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR
RE: APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT OF NEW STAFF

BACKGROUND

Following is a list of new staff, their position, salary and start date. Copies of resumes are attached.

<u>New Employee</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Kelly Fortune, DHH Teacher Consultant	\$84,706.00	08/17/2026
Tyler Oliver, IT Support Specialist	\$37,500.00	07/06/2026
Shawn Calhoun, IT Support Specialist	\$43,000.00	07/13/2026
Meghan Early, Diagnostic Teacher Consultant	\$80,045.00	08/17/2026
Andrea Jegier, Multilingual Consultant & Coach	\$83,006.00	08/17/2026
Stephanie Brown-Boyer, School Social Worker	\$86,885.00	08/17/2026
Adam Cornelius, Automotive Maintenance Instructor	\$46,948.00	08/17/2026
*Erin Kucharski, Middle College Coordinator	\$73,000.00	07/28/2026
Taylor McMeeken, School Social Worker	\$33,805.13	08/17/2026
Brittany Cunningham, Mental Health Clinician	\$51,137.00	08/17/2026
Allison Lachapelle, Regional Supervisor (Bangor/Covert)	\$94,219.00	08/03/2026
Natalie Resseguie, Regional Supervisor (Mattawan/PP)	\$94,219.00	08/03/2026
*Melissa Nelson, LEA & ISD Payroll Lead	\$69,889.00	08/10/2026
*Oz Parlak, LEA Business Manager	\$75,000.00	08/10/2026

*Internal transfer

**Salary may be prorated based on start date

***PSM salaries are based on the 2025-2026 PSM Contract and will be adjusted for the 2026-2027 salaries once finalized.

RECOMMENDATION

Resolved that the Board of Education approve the employment of the staff listed above.

MEMO

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2026
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: BRITANI OLDS, ADMINISTRATOR FOR HUMAN RESOURCES
RE: **STAFF RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

BACKGROUND

Following is a list of retirements and resignations. Copies of letters are attached.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Resignation/Retirement Date</u>
Craig Campbell, District Technology Coordinator	Resignation - 07/03/2026
Yaritza Baumgartner, Speech & Language Path.	Resignation - 08/07/2026
Heather Burleson, Regional Supervisor	Resignation - 07/31/2026
Jennifer Kelley-Preis, LEA Business Manager	Resignation - 07/24/2026

RECOMMENDATION

Resolved that the Board of Education accept the resignations of the staff listed above.

Attachments

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Adjournment

1. Motion to Adjourn Meeting (**VOICE VOTE**)

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda."

It is the policy of the Van Buren Intermediate School District that no discriminatory practices based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, disability, genetic information or any other status covered by federal, state, or local law be allowed during any program, activity, service, or in employment. Inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies should be directed to Barbara Matthews, Director of Finance & Operations or Dave Manson, Director of Special Education, 490 S. Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064, 269-674-8091.