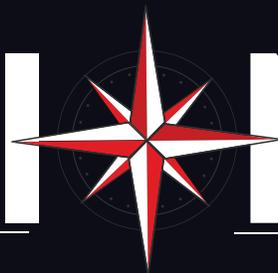


DIRECTIONS



► NEWS FROM LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

WINTER 2025



A mural that hangs in FROM by Lowell High School art students depicts FROM services, including Main Street Housing

HOUSING CHALLENGES IMPACT LOWELL STUDENTS - AND HOW OUR COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Rising housing costs significantly affect Lowell Area Schools students, with approximately 45 students currently receiving assistance through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act - up from 25-35 in recent years. Dan VanderMeulen, LAS Director of Curriculum and district homeless liaison, notes these numbers likely under-represent the true need, as many families living “doubled-up” with other families often go unreported.

The challenge is clear: with local home prices averaging \$372,260 and median rent at \$1,500, many families with school-age children cannot afford to stay in the area. A recent impact study by Calvin University Center for Social Research revealed that 23% of respondents spend at least half their income on housing.

Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) serves as a vital resource for these families, providing comprehensive support including food, clothing, and housing assistance. Through their Main Street Housing program, FROM currently offers 10 units of affordable housing in our community. Understanding the growing need, they’re fundraising to add 17 more units - units that Development Director Adrienne Hall expects will be filled within months.

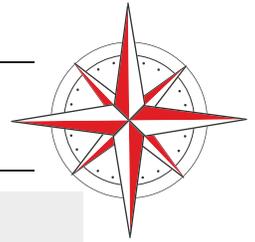
The partnership between Lowell Schools and FROM helps identify and support students in need. VanderMeulen works to help families in urgent situations, like one recently living in a seasonal campground. When local options aren’t available, he connects families with organizations like Family Promise for emergency and permanent housing solutions.

While district enrollment has dropped from 3,774 students in 2019-20 to 3,436 in 2023-24 partly due to housing costs, VanderMeulen believes this trend could be reversed with more affordable housing options. “If we had more affordable housing options in Lowell, I don’t believe we would have an enrollment concern at all,” he notes.

The continued collaboration between Lowell Schools and FROM demonstrates our community’s commitment to supporting students and families facing housing challenges, ensuring educational stability despite housing insecurity.

LEARNERS TODAY. LEADERS TOMORROW. RED ARROWS FOR LIFE.

SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWS



What an incredible journey 2024 has been! From classroom achievements to community connections, our students and staff have continued to demonstrate the excellence that defines Lowell Area Schools.



Nate Fowler
Superintendent

We understand life's challenges - illness and family obligations are part of everyone's journey. That's why we're committed to partnering with families to support regular attendance. Our staff is here to help create solutions that work for your family's unique situation.

The magic of education happens in those daily moments of discovery, friendship, and growth. Let's work together to make sure our students don't miss out on these opportunities.

As we welcome 2025, I'm filled with optimism about what we'll achieve together. Thank you for being part of our Red Arrow family and for your continued partnership in shaping our community's future.

Here's to another year of excellence!

We are very proud to share some exciting news about our academic performance. The Michigan Department of Education's School Index Scores show that our schools are excelling, ranking impressively among area schools. These comprehensive scores reflect everything from student growth and proficiency to our robust offerings in arts, athletics, and advanced coursework. (For detailed data, visit mischooldata.org.)

One of our greatest strengths has been our Professional Learning Communities, where our dedicated teachers collaborate to create dynamic learning environments. This teamwork directly translates to enhanced student experiences and achievement in the classroom.

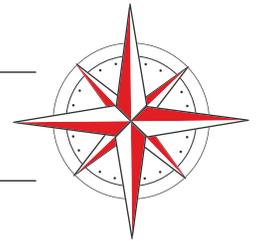
As we look toward 2025, we're focusing on helping every student reach their full potential. A key part of this success story is regular school attendance. While we've seen encouraging improvements since the pandemic, we know that consistent attendance helps students build not just academic skills, but also the social connections and learning habits that lead to lifelong success.

Now Welcoming the Class of 2038!

Registration for the 2025-26 school year opens January 27, 2025. The district welcomes new families and is committed to providing students with the knowledge and life skills needed for lifelong learning.

Parents can begin the enrollment process by selecting their child's grade level online. For kindergarten enrollment, children must be 5 years old by September 1. Families outside the district should refer to the Schools of Choice page for enrollment guidelines.

To register or learn more about the enrollment process, visit lowellschools.com/Our-District/Enrollment. Our Enrollment Specialist is available to help at 616.987.2513 or olr@lowellschools.com.



Building Bright Futures: Local Organizations Gift Dictionaries to Third Graders

A special delivery brightened the day for Alto Elementary third graders when representatives from Magna Mirrors and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 528 arrived with a valuable academic tool – personal dictionaries. The two organizations joined forces to purchase over 80 dictionaries, ensuring every third-grade student received their own copy.

While digital tools like Google are readily available, having a physical dictionary offers unique educational benefits. Students can develop crucial research skills by learning to navigate alphabetical order and understanding word origins. Unlike online searches that provide instant answers, physical dictionaries encourage deeper learning through the discovery of related words, synonyms, and antonyms that appear on the same page.



Fun on Eight Wheels: Alto Elementary Physical Education Teacher, Mr. McLeod, joins students for some skating action during Holiday Family Fun Night.



All Skate!

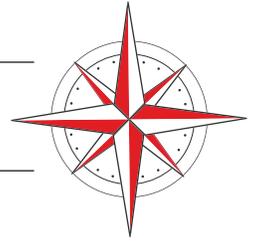
The halls of Alto Elementary School were filled with the distinctive sound of rolling wheels as students participated in their four-week roller skating unit. From first-time skaters cautiously gripping the walls to confident gliders showcasing their skills, every student progressed at their own pace during this annual physical education tradition.

This module culminates in a festive Holiday Family Fun Night, where parents and siblings join students for an evening of skating in the school gym. This cherished event transforms a regular school night into a memorable family experience.



HEARTSafe Designation Awarded

Alto Elementary strengthened its commitment to student safety by earning the prestigious HEARTSafe School designation. This certification reflects the school's comprehensive preparation for cardiac emergencies, with staff members trained to recognize and respond to sudden cardiac arrest. The school is now equipped with both the knowledge and tools needed to act swiftly in an emergency – including CPR training and access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Through this initiative, team members are prepared to take immediate action by calling 9-1-1 and beginning potentially life-saving interventions until emergency medical services arrive. This designation underscores the dedication to creating the safest environment for students, staff, and visitors, particularly in preventing sudden cardiac death of the young (SCDY).



Bushnell First Graders Get Fired Up About Safety



Becky DeVito's first-grade class from Bushnell Elementary stepped out of their regular classroom and into the Lowell Fire Department for a hands-on lesson in community safety. The visit offered students a comprehensive look at emergency response equipment and fire prevention strategies.

During their visit, students gathered around the fire truck to learn about the specialized tools and equipment that firefighters use in emergency situations. The first graders examined various pieces of equipment while firefighters explained how each tool helps them serve and protect the community. This hands-on exploration gave students a deeper understanding of emergency response procedures.

Members of the Lowell Fire Department also shared crucial fire safety tips. These important lessons covered home safety, emergency procedures, and fire prevention strategies – valuable knowledge that students can share with their families and put into practice at home.

First Graders Share a Lesson in History and Friendship

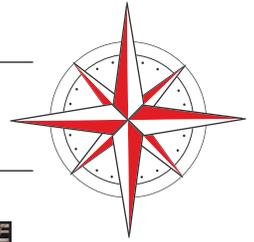
Bushnell Elementary first graders experienced a hands-on history lesson through their own version of a traditional Thanksgiving feast. During their classroom "Friendsgiving," students participated in a meaningful trading activity that mirrored the historical interactions between Pilgrims and Native Americans. Each student brought their own snacks to share and trade with classmates, creating a personal connection to the historical lessons they were learning.

As they exchanged treats with one another, teachers guided discussions about the first Thanksgivings, helping students understand how early settlers and Native Americans shared resources and knowledge. This interactive approach to learning history made the Thanksgiving story more tangible while fostering a spirit of sharing and community within their classroom.



Kindergartners Experience Farm Life at Heidi's Market

Kindergartners traded their classroom for the fields at Heidi's Farmstand. Students explored the pumpkin patches and cornfields while discovering the life cycle of pumpkins, from seed to harvest. The hands-on visit taught students about farming seasons and crop harvesting techniques, bringing their science lessons to life in a real working farm setting.



Democracy Comes Alive In Vote For Playground Equipment

Students experienced democracy in action during a special election for new playground features, perfectly timed alongside the national presidential election season. Students discovered the power of voting firsthand as they researched options, discussed choices with classmates, and cast their ballots in a process that mirrored the larger civic conversation happening across the country.

The playground equipment vote served as a tangible introduction to broader civic lessons. While students learned about the presidential election process in their classrooms, they simultaneously experienced democracy through their own school election. This real-world connection helped make abstract concepts like voting rights, majority rule, and civic participation concrete and relatable. By participating in their own election process, students discovered that whether choosing playground equipment or learning about selecting national leaders, every voice matters and informed voting is key to a strong community.

Service Above Self: Students Help Rebuild Community Playground

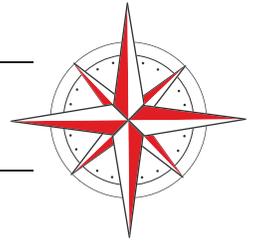


Early Act students and fifth graders demonstrated the true meaning of community service as they volunteered their time and energy to help rebuild Creekside Kingdom playground. They rolled up their sleeves and worked alongside community members, showing that meaningful contribution knows no age limit. These students learned valuable lessons about civic responsibility and the impact of working together for the common good. Their dedication to rebuilding this beloved playground space exemplifies fostering a spirit of "Service Above Self" in its students, creating tomorrow's community leaders today.

All It Takes Is A Ripple

The halls of Cherry Creek Elementary sparkled with extra kindness as student "elves" embarked on a holiday mission. Students secretly placed notes of encouragement and kindness on every locker in the school, embodying the message from the song "Ripple" in the Apple TV+ show "Spirited": "One small act can start a chain reaction. A ripple turns into a wave, and then it grows." The surprise notes not only brightened the day for those who received them but also demonstrated how Cherry Creek students are learning to be caring members of their school community, creating waves of kindness that spread throughout the school during the holiday season. From locker to locker, these young students proved that even the smallest gesture of kindness can create lasting impact.





Opening Doors to Learning: Curiosity Corner Preschool Now Enrolling

2025-26 ENROLLMENT BEGINS JANUARY 27, 2025

A child's first steps into education are perhaps their most important, and Curiosity Corner Preschool is ready to guide your little one on this exciting journey. With enrollment opening Monday, January 27, 2025, families have the opportunity to secure their child's spot in a program that goes beyond traditional early education.



social, physical, and mental growth, laying a foundation for lifelong learning. Through consistent, fair, and secure routines, children develop crucial skills in self-management and emotional regulation.

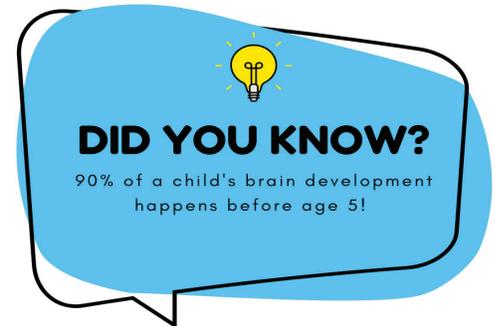
Learning here isn't just about following directions – it's about inspiring enthusiasm and curiosity that will last a lifetime.

At Curiosity Corner, every day brings new discoveries in a nurturing environment designed to help young minds flourish. Children learn the art of friendship, moving from parallel play to meaningful social connections, while building the self-confidence they'll carry throughout their lives. The classroom becomes a world of possibility where sharing, cooperation, and perseverance are woven into daily activities, guided by experienced educators who model these essential life skills.

What sets Curiosity Corner apart is its holistic approach to early childhood development. Teachers create engaging programs that support each child's emotional,

The preschool environment offers unique opportunities for children to develop respect – not just for others and their belongings, but for their environment as well. As children work together on projects and activities, they naturally develop teamwork skills that will serve them well throughout their academic journey and beyond. These early lessons in cooperation and social awareness become the building blocks for future success.

Ready to start your child's educational adventure? Contact Kathy Burch at 616-987-2570 to learn more about enrollment opportunities and how Curiosity Corner Preschool can help shape your child's bright future.



Bundle Up for Brain Power: Winter Outdoor Play Boosts Child Development

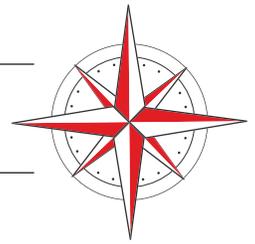
Don't let the cold weather keep your children indoors! Winter outdoor play offers unique benefits that can't be replicated inside. As children crunch through snow, climb snow hills, and experience the crisp winter air, they're developing crucial gross motor skills and building stronger muscles.

The white winter landscape creates new opportunities for creative play and scientific discovery – from observing animal tracks to watching their breath create "fog" in the cold air. Winter play also strengthens the immune system and provides essential vitamin D from natural sunlight, even on cloudy days. Plus, active outdoor play in cold weather burns extra energy as the body works to stay warm, leading to better sleep patterns and improved focus during indoor activities.

When children dress appropriately for the weather, their winter outdoor adventures become valuable learning experiences that contribute to both physical and cognitive development.

Little Explorers, Big Adventures





A Step Back in Time: Students Explore Local Heritage

History comes alive for Murray Lake Elementary students during their annual two-day immersion at the Lowell Historical Museum. Working alongside passionate volunteers, students don't just learn about local history – they experience it through hands-on activities that make the past tangible and real.

Young historians dive into chapters of Lowell's rich heritage, from the bustling days of the fur trade to the stories of influential families like the Grahams who shaped the community. Students learn the art of artifact documentation, carefully examining and recording pieces of history that tell the tales of Native American tribes who first called this land home. These interactive sessions transform textbook history into memorable experiences, connecting students with their community's roots in ways that spark curiosity and deepen their appreciation for local heritage.



Murray Lake Elementary Embraces Holiday Cheer

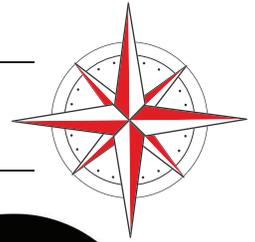
The halls of Murray Lake Elementary rang with holiday joy as students and staff celebrated the season in style. From kindergarten and first graders performing festive songs at their music program to students spreading cheer through caroling and themed dress-up days, the spirit of the season touched every corner of the school. Staff joined in the festivities with a special Red Barn breakfast, making the pre-holiday season at Murray Lake truly magical.



P.J. Hoffmaster Adventure: Fourth Graders Explore Michigan's Natural Wonders

Murray Lake Elementary fourth graders stepped into nature's classroom during their September visit to P.J. Hoffmaster State Park. Through a special program offered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, students discovered that state parks belong to all Michigan residents and learned valuable lessons about environmental stewardship.

During their woodland hike, students worked with park naturalists to understand the complex relationships within Michigan's ecosystems. They explored how climate change affects local wildlife, identified invasive species competing with native plants and animals, and observed birds and wildlife in their natural habitats. The hands-on experience brought environmental science to life, helping students recognize both positive and negative human impacts on Michigan's precious natural resources.



Breaking Barriers: Students Share Court with GVSU Athletes at Inclusive Basketball Event

Mrs. Baker's class from Lowell Middle School joined the Court of Dreams event at Grand Valley State University's Allendale campus. Our amazing students connected with college basketball players in an environment where people of all abilities experience sports first-hand.

This special event promotes teamwork and builds new friendships, breaking down social barriers between people with and without disabilities. Our students worked alongside athletes, sharing the joy of the game and creating lasting memories.

The Art of Learning: LMS Students Blend Creativity with Core Skills

Theresa Wooley's art room was full of students putting finishing touches on their bubble drawings and zentangle collages. While these pieces may appear to be simply artistic expressions, they represent complex learning that extends far beyond the art room.

Art education plays a vital role in student development, teaching critical thinking and problem-solving skills through creative expression. Through their bubble drawings, students master fundamental concepts of three-dimensional shapes and spatial relationships - skills that directly connect to mathematics and engineering. The zentangle collages challenge students to observe closely and translate what they see onto paper, developing the kind of detailed observation skills essential in science and technical fields.



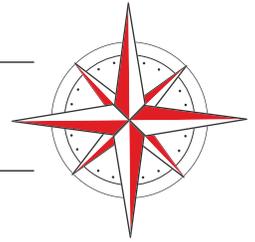
Research consistently shows that art education enhances overall academic performance. The skills students develop while creating - from spatial awareness to fine motor control to creative problem-solving - transfer to other academic areas and real-world applications. As LMS students blend different techniques and mediums in their artwork, they're simultaneously building the kind of innovative thinking and creative confidence that will serve them well across all aspects of their education.



The clothing closet at our middle school is designed to meet the diverse needs of our students. Located within our school building, this closet is a valuable resource to ensure that every student feels confident and comfortable regardless of their circumstances.

The clothing closet operates on a system of confidentiality and respect. Students can access it discreetly, either through self-referral or with the help of a trusted adult, such as a teacher, counselor, or school nurse. This approach ensures that student's privacy is protected and there is no stigma associated with utilizing this valuable resource.

If you would like to know how you can help, contact the LMS Office at 616.987.2800.



Gaming Dreams to Reality: Lowell Senior's Esports Victory Opens New Doors



Lowell High School senior Jonny Rapelje recently claimed victory at the second annual Kent County Cup, a Mario Kart esports competition. The win opened new doors for Jonny, leading to his acceptance at Ferris State University where he plans to pursue opportunities in the growing esports field. While Jonny has been dominating gaming competitions against siblings and friends for years, this tournament victory helped validate gaming as a serious pursuit with real career potential.

The competition, organized by Kent ISD's Workforce Development team, highlights the expanding opportunities in the \$200-billion esports industry. Beyond just gaming, the field offers careers in broadcasting, marketing, digital animation, and game design, with many colleges now offering esports scholarships.

LHS Launches New LINKS Program to Build Inclusive Community

Lowell High School introduced an innovative peer support program that pairs general education students with peers who have special needs. The LINKS Peer-to-Peer program, approved as an elective course by the Michigan Department of Education, creates opportunities for students to develop meaningful connections while supporting each other's academic success.

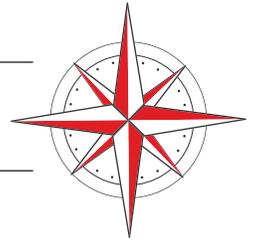
LINK students receive specialized training to become peer partners, learning to model positive social behaviors and provide support in both general and special education settings. Beyond earning course credit, participants gain valuable leadership experience through weekly activities designed to bring students together. The program also offers practical experience for students interested in pursuing careers in education, behavioral analysis, social work, or psychology.

LINKS Peer-to-Peer students brightened the halls of Maple Ridge Manor. Students joined residents for conversation and friendship while coloring lunch bags for Kids' Food Basket.



LHS Students Partner with Van Andel Institute on Disease Research

Lowell High School seniors are conducting groundbreaking research alongside Van Andel Institute scientists, studying microscopic worms to better understand conditions like Parkinson's disease and diabetes. In Dr. Nick Burton's Nutritional Programming and Metabolic Research Department, students work with *C. elegans* worms, observing how mutations and bacterial exposure affect their development. This fourth-year partnership with VAI goes beyond traditional classroom experiments, offering students real-world research experience with unknown outcomes. "It is a great opportunity to start doing actual real science," says Julie, who plans to major in biochemistry. Under the guidance of VAI researchers, students will present their findings to a panel of scientists in the spring, demonstrating what teacher Heather DeJonge describes as "the practical application of every STEM field."



Life-Saving Skills: Students Learn Emergency Response

District Nurse Delynn Wright brought critical emergency response training to Lowell Area Schools through the “Stop the Bleed” course, teaching students and staff essential skills that could help save lives. The comprehensive program focuses on the crucial first five minutes following a severe bleeding injury, when immediate action is most vital.

During the hands-on training, participants learned proper techniques for controlling serious bleeding and familiarized themselves with important medical supplies used in emergency situations.

Students engaged with the material through thoughtful questions, building confidence in their ability to respond to injuries beyond basic first aid. Upon completion, each participant received a certificate recognizing their new life-saving skills.



We don't just offer an alternative path - we open doors. Our students discover their own ways to succeed, proving every dream has many routes.

Read-Aloud Tradition Sparks New Learning at Unity High School

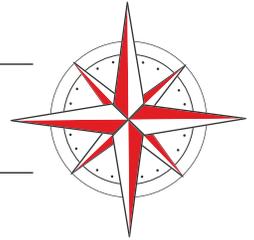


Unity High School is proving that the magic of story time isn't just for elementary students. Teachers have brought back the traditional read-aloud practice, engaging high school students in a shared literary experience that combines entertainment with deeper learning opportunities.

Starting with Alan Gratz's “Refugee” and moving on to the political thriller “The President Is Missing”

by Bill Clinton and James Patterson, these carefully selected books serve multiple educational purposes. The stories naturally complement government studies curriculum while opening doors to discussions about geography, modern technology, and current events. But perhaps most importantly, the shared reading experience creates a unique classroom dynamic where students engage together in critical thinking and meaningful conversations.





WINTERFEST 2025 FEBRUARY 1 | 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Come OPT-OUTSIDE and have some healthy, winter fun!

SNOWSHOEING

All day if snow permits! (\$5/pair rental)

WINTER BIRD PROJECTS AND CRAFTS

(Indoor—Outdoor—Take-n-Make)

Back Yard Birding and Winter bird projects & crafts throughout the day. Make pine cone bird feeders, learn how make your own suet, paper & fabric birds, and prepare for the Great Backyard Bird Count!

TRAIL GAMES AND SCAVENGER HUNTS!

ARCHERY

A fun challenge at the WWC

EMBROIDERY YARD ART AMONG THE TREES

ICE CANDLE DEMONSTRATION

(weather permitting)

HOT COCOA

\$1/cup & Free Popcorn

WINTER WAGGLE VIRTUAL 5K CHALLENGE

Register and race anytime the day of WinterFest. Snowshoe, ski, run, walk, hike or waggle!

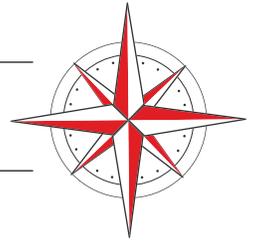
You pick the pace and the place as long as it's outside.

Full 5K or 1 mile Fun Waggle

Cost for 5K: \$15/individual or \$30/family (up to 4 people) and includes snowshoe rental.

Can't make it to WinterFest?

Email ccheers@lowellschools.com to sign up and we will send you your medal.



Building Better Classrooms: Lowell Education Foundation Awards \$25,000 in Grants

The Lowell Education Foundation (LEF) continues to enrich local education by awarding over \$25,000 in grants to support innovative learning projects across Lowell Area Schools. In October, 28 creative initiatives received funding, ranging from a peaceful hammock garden for outdoor learning to engaging Kiwi crates for hands-on science exploration and essential sensory tools that help create inclusive learning environments.

These grants transform teachers' innovative ideas into reality, directly enhancing the educational experience for Lowell students. Looking to make a difference in local education? The LEF board welcomes community support to help fund future projects. Visit the foundation's website at lowelleducationfoundation.org to learn more and make a contribution, or to see funded projects in action and meet the dedicated board members working to enhance education in Lowell.



LHS students with special needs began their adaptive riding journey thanks to a grant from LEF.

LEF Welcomes New Leadership to Support Educational Excellence

The Lowell Education Foundation is thrilled to announce new additions to its Board of Directors, bringing fresh perspectives and dedicated leadership to support educational innovation in Lowell Area Schools. Parker Liu steps into the role of Chair, ready to guide the foundation's mission of enhancing educational opportunities across the district. Joining the board as trustees are Melissa Bailey, Dave Kapolka, Cindy Johnston, and Alice Stone, each bringing unique expertise and a shared passion for advancing local education. This dynamic team joins our existing board members in their commitment to funding creative teaching initiatives and enriching the learning experience for all Lowell students. Their collective experience and dedication to our community will help LEF continue its tradition of supporting innovative projects that make a lasting impact on student success.

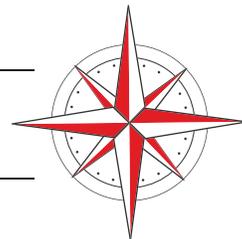
DONATING IS EASY! SCAN THE QR CODE



Contributing to LEF holds profound significance as it directly impacts the present and future of education right here in our community. By donating, you are making a strategic investment in the development of future leaders and contributors to society. LEF plays a pivotal role in addressing funding gaps that educational institutions often face, ensuring that essential needs such as classroom supplies, technology upgrades, and teacher professional development are adequately met.

Your support also enables us to go beyond the basics, funding enrichment programs and innovative initiatives that enhance the overall quality of education. These may include extracurricular activities, advanced courses, and the integration of cutting-edge technologies, providing students with a more comprehensive and well-rounded learning experience.

Moreover, your contributions contribute to fostering a sense of community. We engage various stakeholders, including parents, alumni, and local businesses, in a collective effort to support the shared goal of providing excellent education. This collaborative spirit strengthens community ties and instills a collective pride in local educational institutions.



District leaders step up as bus drivers

Their days are spent leading a 3,400-student school district; teaching seventh-grade math; and running a business that offers student field trips.

But to help fill an ongoing district need, Superintendent Nate Fowler, Lowell Middle School math teacher Mike Arnswald and former Board of Education member Gary Blough are devoting time outside their day jobs as bus drivers.

Blough picks up a vacant route almost every morning; Arnswald hits the road two or three times a week right after school to drive to a band or sporting event. Fowler is finishing up training to fill in as needed.



The district, like many throughout the country, has faced a shortage of bus drivers in recent years. Currently 22 bus drivers cover 20 routes in the 134-square-mile district. There's a need for at least two more full-time drivers and substitutes are often needed as well. Transportation office staff members who are trained as drivers often cover routes.

Over the past four or five years, the district has had to condense bus routes and now runs with fewer routes before and after school. Looking ahead, Fowler said he expects retirements from the driver pool in the near future.

"It's not a problem we see going away," the superintendent said. "We see it as an ongoing situation where we are going to continue to need to train and hire drivers to cover these routes and keep our transportation program going."

The superintendent since 2021, Fowler has held many roles in LAS over 26 years, including teacher, coach, middle school assistant principal, Bushnell Elementary principal, curriculum director and liaison for students facing homelessness.

"One thing I hadn't done is drive the bus," Fowler said. "We've had instances where a driver hasn't been able to make it and we've had to cancel a route. We've even had that happen during the day and a driver hasn't been able to do their afternoon route," he said.

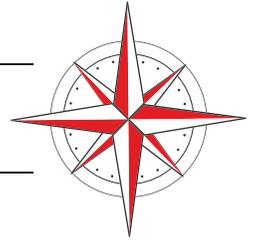
Arnswald, whose eighth-grade and 10th-grade children are in band, said he's attended field trips and band festivals and thought, "I should be driving this bus."

He also saw the need last spring when the district was short drivers many times for afterschool sports. Other drivers encouraged him to become certified: "They said it would be a very natural transition for me to step into 'a classroom with wheels.' I already had the classroom management piece."

Fowler said he credits trainers Crystal Backing and Trevor Harrison for helping him become road-ready and shake off the nerves. It was a reminder of how it feels to be a student, he said.

"The experience of going through the training and the testing highlighted the importance of good teachers. They were great at getting us prepared to do the test," he said. "It surprised me before the road test how nervous I was and it surprised me how much I felt like it was an accomplishment once I had completed it."

THIS AND THAT



NOW HIRING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

- Paid CDL training.
- Health benefits for anyone who drives a full route (morning and afternoon) including dental and vision.
- Daily split shift schedule (6-9 a.m. and 2-5 p.m.).

Please contact Kara at kmrozinski@lowellschools.com for more information.

lowellschools.com

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS



SEVERE WEATHER ALERT

Keep up with school closings and delays through multiple channels: follow Lowell Area Schools on Facebook and Instagram, watch local TV (WOOD-TV, WZZM-TV, Fox17), listen to local radio stations (WGRD, WBFX, WBCT, WLAV, WLHT, WOOD), or sign up for direct text alerts from LAS.

To sign up for email, phone or text alerts, visit lowellschools.com/our-district/school-closings/



INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Wondering what's happening in schools across the District? Wonder no more!

Be sure to check out our channels!

Facebook | [lowellareaschools](https://www.facebook.com/lowellareaschools)

Instagram | [@lowelldistrict](https://www.instagram.com/lowelldistrict)



For closing information and other urgent notifications, be sure to download **MyCallNow** available in both the Apple and Google Play Stores. Enter Code #3587 to get specific notices for our District.



Lowell Performing Arts Center

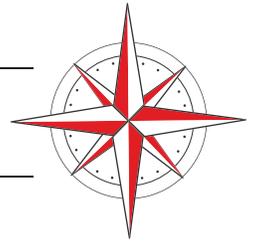
March 7 | 7 p.m.

March 8 and 9 | 1 p.m.

Tickets available online at www.cur8.com/projects/lpac



COMMUNITY CORNER



FROM FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

FROM partners with the United Way and the IRS to provide income tax assistance each year through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Kent County residents who meet the income guidelines can schedule an appointment to have their taxes e-filed for free by IRS-trained volunteers at FROM's main office. Visit fromlowell.org for more information.



We never want a neighbor to face the tough decision on whether to pay for their medication or their rent. FROM Homes helps neighbors avoid those tough choices through affordable housing and repair services in the Lowell area.

REPAIR & RESTORE

Provides free/low cost home repairs or weatherization assistance for homeowners in the greater Lowell community. If you have a home repair need, contact the Connections Office at 616.897.8260 ext. 125.

MAIN STREET HOUSING

FROM owns a multi-family home at 504 East Main. If you are in need of affordable housing, watch for signs of available housing or call us for a list of affordable housing in the area.



Architecture Adventure
Saturday, February 8, 2025
10 - 11 a.m.
Engelhardt (Lowell) Branch

Suitable for children
5-10 years old.

Don't miss your chance to have your own architecture adventure and build the tallest tower or coolest castle with all sorts of different materials. The only limit at this program is your imagination – and the amount of supplies available.

[KDL LAB Experience = STEAM](#)

STEAM is an approach to education that focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. KDL LAB Experiences are designed to help students increase their proficiency in STEAM disciplines through fun activities. With STEAM learning, children are able to develop their brains to think in a way that allows for creativity, tinkering, problem solving, collaboration and exploration.

Lowell Arts

POLAR BEAR SCRATCH BOARD



Saturday, February 15, 2025 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Using a special tool and a scratch board, draw by scratching away the black surface to make a life-like white polar bear. Learn to draw realistic fur and correct animal proportions.

Instructor: Sharon Brandner

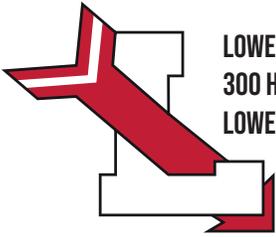
Registration Closes: Friday,
February 16 at 4 p.m.

Ages: 6-16

Materials Needed:
All materials
provided.

Class Fee:

\$20 (\$17 for
LowellArts
Members).
Fee includes
materials.



LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS
300 HIGH STREET
LOWELL, MICHIGAN 49331

**CENTRAL
ADMINISTRATION**

Nate Fowler
Superintendent

Sonia Hodge
Chief Financial Officer

Dustin Cichocki
Director of Human Resources

Dan VanderMeulen
Director of Curriculum

Liz McCall
Director of Special Education

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2025 CALENDAR



February 14
Half day students | Full day staff

February 17-18
Mid-winter Break
No school students and staff

February 28
End of 2nd Trimester
Half day students | Full day staff

April 4-11
Spring Break
No school students and staff

May 22
Class of 2025 Commencement

May 23
Half day students | Full day staff

May 26
Memorial Day Holiday
No school students and staff

June 4
End of 3rd Trimester
Last day of school
Half day students | Full day