

DIRECTIONS

► NEWS FROM LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

WINTER 2026

NEW CHAPTER BEGINS: CHERRY CREEK RENOVATION BRINGS MODERN LEARNING TO LIFE

The transformation of Cherry Creek Elementary is officially underway, marking an exciting new chapter for the building that has served our community since the 1970s.

Thanks to the bond proposal approved by voters in May 2024, Cherry Creek is receiving a comprehensive \$29.9 million renovation designed to create modern learning spaces that better serve our elementary students. The building, originally constructed as a middle school, has housed our second through fifth graders for three decades—and while our staff and students have made it work beautifully, it's time for a space that truly fits their needs.

The renovation will open up the building to create common areas, collaborative learning spaces, and new classrooms filled with natural daylight. The goal is to give Cherry Creek an elementary school feel that supports how our youngest learners grow and thrive.

Construction kicked off this fall, with bids for major work submitted in August. While the project is a multi-year undertaking, the district is committed to minimizing disruption to learning. Students and staff have already shown incredible flexibility and resilience as the work gets underway.

"Our students and staff have been incredible as construction gets underway," said Cherry Creek Principal Craig Veldman. "While we loved what we've been able to accomplish in this building over the years, we're thrilled to finally have a space designed specifically for elementary learners. The new collaborative areas and bright, modern classrooms will make a real difference in how our students learn and grow together."

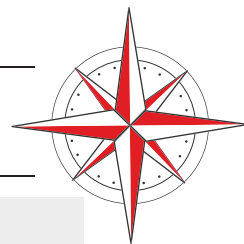
Superintendent Nate Fowler echoed that sentiment. "This renovation represents our community's investment in the future of education in Lowell. Cherry Creek has served us well for decades, but it's time to give our students and teachers the learning environment they deserve. We're grateful to our voters for their support and to our Cherry Creek families for their patience as we transform this building into a true elementary school."

The renovation is part of a broader \$104 million bond package that includes improvements across the district — all without raising the current tax rate. It's a testament to the Lowell community's ongoing commitment to providing excellent educational facilities for generations to come. We'll continue to share updates on the Cherry Creek project as construction progresses. Thank you to our students, staff, and families for your partnership during this exciting time of growth.



LEARNERS TODAY. LEADERS TOMORROW. RED ARROWS FOR LIFE.

SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWS



I often use this newsletter to highlight the academic success we've come to expect at Lowell Area Schools. Thanks to our students, teachers, and families, LAS continues to perform above state and county averages.



Nate Fowler
Superintendent

But another important factor in our success is our fantastic volunteers. Thank you to everyone who supports LAS students, teachers, and programs that give our kids opportunities to thrive. Your contributions, both big and small, ensure that our students and teachers enjoy a rich and successful school experience.

One group of volunteers whose dedication and generosity has had a positive impact on student learning is the Lowell Education Foundation. Each year, these committed community members support classroom innovation through teacher grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. These grants encourage our educators to dream big and bring their creative ideas to life, enhancing student learning in meaningful ways. It's this kind of investment in our teachers that helps keep education exciting and relevant for our students.

Last year's grants included the hammock garden and outdoor classroom at Murray Lake Elementary. This year, through the LEF's own fundraising efforts and a generous grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund, the LEF awarded 19 grants totaling over \$28,000. Some of this year's projects include:

- A mobile STEM lab for Cherry Creek Elementary while the building undergoes a multiyear renovation project
- Lab equipment for high school science students to practice skills they'll need in science-based careers
- Tools for math students to work collaboratively to solve problems

Thank you to the Lowell Education Foundation board members and donors, and thank you to the teachers who submitted grant applications. Your work fuels the curiosity and creativity our students need as part of their educational experience.

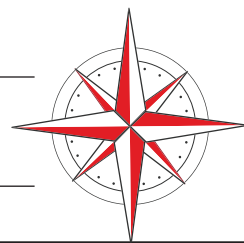
Here's to a 2026 filled with continued growth, exciting discoveries in our classrooms, and meaningful connections between our students, staff, and community.

Now Welcoming the Class of 2039!

Registration for the 2026-27 school year opens February 18, 2026. 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 616.987.2890 or olr@lowellschools.com.



Third Graders Learn Weather Science From WZZM 13's Chief Meteorologist

Third graders got a front-row seat to weather science when WZZM 13's Chief Meteorologist Samantha Jacques visited their classroom.

Jacques walked students through the world of meteorology, explaining what meteorologists do and how they track and predict weather patterns. She covered everything from the science behind thunderstorms to how weather forecasts help keep our communities safe and informed.

For many students, it was their first glimpse into how the weather reports they see on TV are created. Jacques made complex concepts accessible, sparking curiosity about the science happening in the skies above us every day.

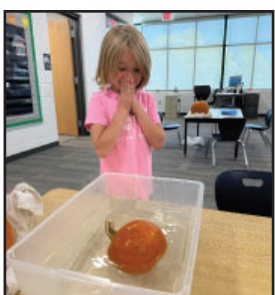
The visit connected directly to what students have been learning in their science curriculum, giving them a chance to see how classroom lessons translate into real careers. It's the kind of hands-on experience that helps students understand why what they're learning matters and where it might take them in the future.

Special visitors like Jacques remind our students that the skills they're building today—curiosity, critical thinking, and scientific reasoning—are the same skills professionals use in their everyday work. Who knows? Today's weather lesson might just inspire tomorrow's meteorologist.



Pumpkins + Science = Kindergarten Learning in Action

Sarah Happie's kindergarten class visited Heidi's Farmstand Friday for pumpkin picking and a hayride, but the real learning happened when they brought their pumpkins back to the classroom. Students put their observation skills to work by measuring and comparing pumpkin sizes, categorizing them by colors and shapes, and conducting sink-or-float experiments to see what happens when pumpkins meet water. They also planned their carving designs to take home, combining creativity with their scientific observations. The simple act of picking a pumpkin became an opportunity to connect science, math, language arts, and art in ways that worksheets never could. Students practiced measurement and comparison skills, used descriptive language to talk about their pumpkins, applied the scientific method through experimentation, and exercised creative thinking through design.

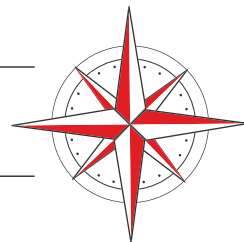


3rd Graders Receive Dictionaries Thanks to Community Partners



Magna Mirrors and American Legion have generously partnered to donate dictionaries to all 3rd grade students at Alto Elementary.

While digital tools are valuable, there's something special about having a personal dictionary. These books help students build strong research skills, learn to navigate reference materials independently, and develop confidence in their learning. A physical dictionary offers distraction-free learning, works anywhere without needing devices or internet, and becomes a personalized tool that students can mark up and make their own throughout their academic journey.



Stop, Drop, and Learn: First Graders Master Fire Safety



Bushnell Elementary students had an incredible hands-on learning experience last fall with fire prevention education and a visit of the smoke house thanks to the Lowell Fire Department.

Walking through the smoke house gave students real-world practice in a safe, controlled environment. They learned how to stay low and crawl under smoke, feel doors before opening them, find their way out when visibility is limited, and stay calm in an emergency. Reading about fire safety is one thing, but experiencing what smoke-filled conditions actually feel like makes the lessons stick. Our students now have the confidence and skills they need to react safely if they ever face a real emergency.



1st Graders Learn Tree Life Cycles Though Hands-On Project

First graders in Sarah Moffat-Amrein's class explored the life cycles of trees by creating a visual display outside their classroom using real leaves.

The project helped students understand how trees change throughout the year, why leaves fall annually, and the science behind autumn's color transformation. Rather than just reading about these processes in textbooks, students collected leaves, observed their colors and shapes, and arranged them on a poster to demonstrate what they'd learned.

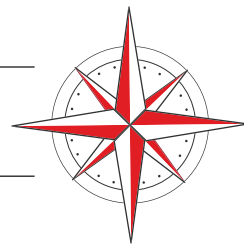
Understanding tree life cycles introduces young students to important scientific concepts like seasonal change, plant biology, and environmental patterns. When first graders can see, touch, and arrange actual leaves, abstract concepts become concrete and memorable.

Farm Fresh and Free: Students Shop Local at Farmer's Market

Students had the opportunity to shop at the onsite farmer's market, selecting fresh Michigan-grown fruits and vegetables to take home to their families - completely FREE!

This initiative is part of Michigan's 10¢ Grant Program, made possible through the partnership between LAS Food Service Director Brad Stinson and Chartwells. Every piece of produce comes straight from Michigan farms, supporting our local agriculture while ensuring our students and families have access to fresh, nutritious food.





Spooky Math: Haunted Houses Put Volume To the Test

Fifth grade students transformed abstract math formulas into miniature haunted mansions last fall, proving that volume calculations are a lot more fun when they involve cobwebs and creepy details.

After completing their math unit on volume, students worked in teams of three to design and build haunted houses using rectangular prisms with a combined volume between 800 and 1,500 cubic units. Each team member took on a specific role—designer, engineer, or builder—mirroring how real-world projects require collaboration and clear responsibilities.

The week-long project followed a structured process. Teams first created plans for their haunted houses, then calculated the dimensions and total volume of each prism they would use. Once their math checked out, students traced and cut out prism nets—the flat patterns that fold into three-dimensional shapes—and constructed their structures. The final phase unleashed creativity as teams added spooky decorations to transform mathematical models into their haunted houses.

The hands-on approach helped students connect abstract formulas to something they could actually see, touch, and build. Instead of just working problems on paper, they had to apply volume calculations to create physical structures—complete with ghostly details and haunted charm. When one section didn't fit or the total volume came up short, teams had to recalculate and problem-solve on the spot. Math became less about getting the right answer on a worksheet and more about using their own creative choices.

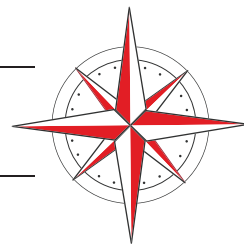
You May Be Seated: Students Take Their Turn At The Design Table

Cherry Creek Elementary's student leadership team visited Steelcase to help select furniture for the school's upcoming renovation, giving students a voice in shaping the spaces where they'll learn. They explored different seating and workspace options, testing out furniture and providing input on selections for the new learning environments; experiencing firsthand how different seating heights, table configurations, and workspace designs affect comfort, collaboration, and focus.

Involving students in these decisions matters. They're the ones who will use these spaces daily, and they understand what helps them learn best. A chair that looks modern to adults might be uncomfortable for a student working on a long project. A table height that seems standard might not accommodate group work effectively. Students notice these details because they live with them.

Leadership opportunities like this go beyond selecting furniture. They teach young people how to evaluate options, articulate preferences with reasoning, and participate constructively in decision-making processes—skills they'll use throughout their lives.





Opening Doors to Learning: Curiosity Corner Preschool Now Enrolling

2026-27 ENROLLMENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 18, 2026

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, February 9 for current families and Wednesday, February 18, 2026, for new families, this is your opportunity to secure your child's spot in a program that goes beyond traditional early education.



support each child's emotional, 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.

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.

What sets Curiosity Corner apart is its holistic approach to early childhood development. Teachers create engaging programs that

Preschool isn't just preparation for kindergarten – it's where children develop the social, emotional, and cognitive skills that form the foundation for all future learning. Quality early education gives children the tools they need to succeed, not just in school, but in life.



DID YOU KNOW?

90% of a child's brain development happens before age 5!



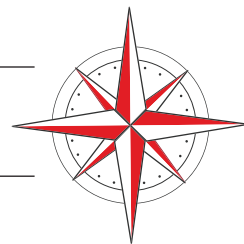
Bundle Up for Brain Power: Winter Outdoor Play Boosts Child Development

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.





4th Graders Engineer Energy: Rube Goldberg Machines Demonstrate Physics

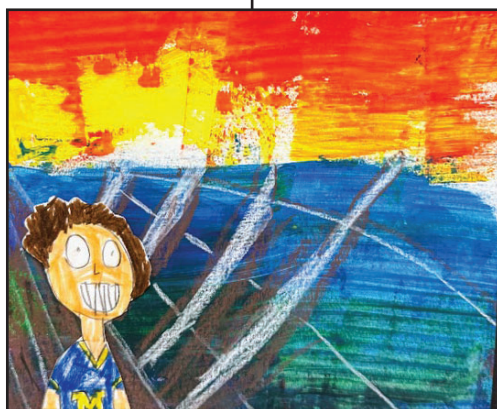
Students explored energy transfer by designing and building Rube Goldberg machines—creative contraptions where energy moves through a series of actions to complete a simple task.

Working in teams, students planned, tested, and refined their machines while experimenting with different materials and observing how energy changed forms—from potential to kinetic—to create chain reactions.

The project gave students a hands-on way to see abstract physics concepts in action. Energy transfer stops being a textbook definition when you watch a marble roll down a ramp, knock over a domino, and trigger the next action in your carefully designed sequence.

When one part of the chain reaction failed, teams had to troubleshoot and try again. They learned that engineering is about testing, observing results, and making improvements.

Their teacher Stuart Kohl's approach demonstrates that when students can build and refine their own creations, they engage with science in ways that lectures and worksheets can't replicate.



Big Emotions, Bold Art

First Graders Express Emotions Inspired by Edvard Munch

First grade students at Murray Lake Elementary studied Edvard Munch's famous painting "The Scream" and explored how emotions can be expressed through art.

Art teacher Lori Coffman guided students through creating their own works inspired by Munch's emotional intensity. Students created backgrounds by dragging paint across paper with cardboard to create dramatic, swirling effects, then made self-portraits expressing different feelings and emotions.

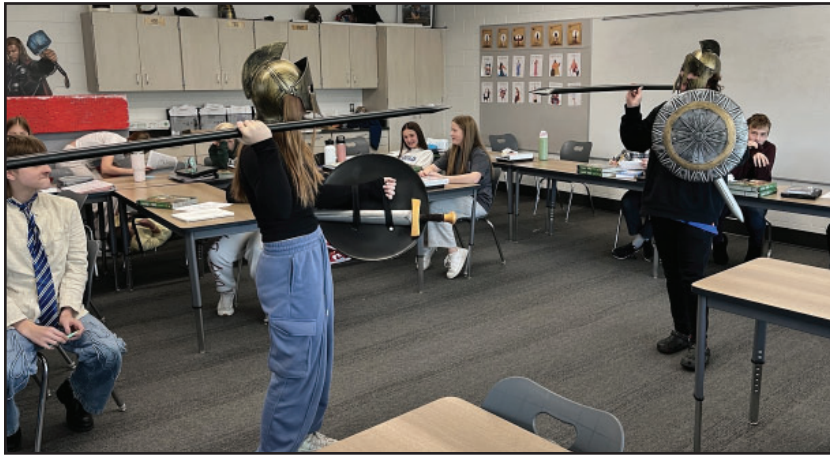
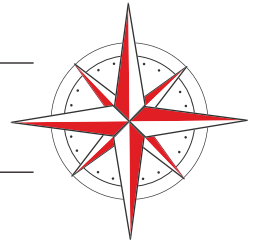
Using colored pencil sticks, students added a pier to their paintings, cut out their self-portraits, and glued them onto the pier to complete their artwork.

Second Graders Create Waves Inspired by Hokusai

Second grade students learned about Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai and his iconic print "The Great Wave of Kanagawa." Coffman discussed how artists often incorporate what they know and love into their work—Hokusai almost always included Mount Fuji in his pieces.

Students created their own wave drawings and paintings using watercolors, then added their own creative touches. Some made parodies of the original work by adding Godzilla or aliens to their art. Most included Mount Fuji in the distance as an homage to Hokusai.





7th Graders Bring *The Iliad* To Life

Drew Struckmeyer's 7th grade students brought ancient literature off the page by reenacting the epic battle between Achilles and Hector from Homer's *The Iliad*.

The hands-on approach gave students a tangible connection to Ancient Greece and helped them understand why these stories have endured for thousands of years. Rather than simply reading about legendary warriors, students experienced the drama, tension, and human emotions that make classical literature compelling.

When students physically act out historical or literary events, the material becomes memorable in ways that traditional reading and discussion alone cannot achieve. They're not just memorizing plot points—they're inhabiting characters, understanding motivations, and grasping the stakes that drive the narrative.

By stepping into the sandals of these characters, students discovered why people have been captivated by this story for generations.

Math In Motion: 6th Graders Ditch Desks For Better Learning

Learning doesn't have to happen at a desk, and Julie Breen's 6th-grade math students are proving it. She allows students to tackle math problems in various positions and locations throughout the room like standing at counters, sitting on the floor, or finding other comfortable spots that suit their learning style.

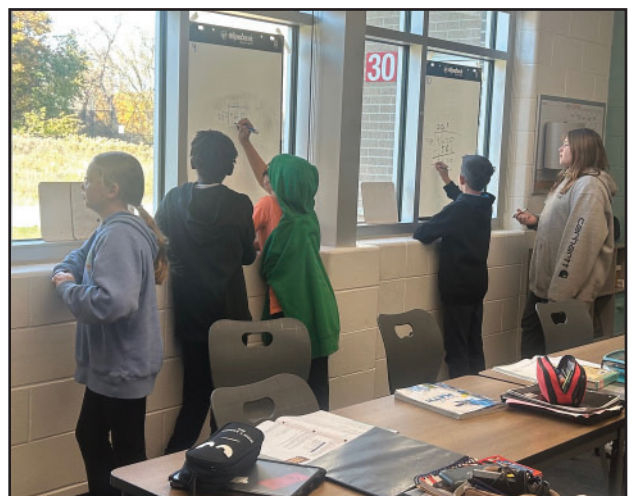
Research supports this approach. Changing positions and postures during learning activates different parts of the brain, improving focus, creativity, and retention. When students have agency over their physical environment, they're often more engaged with the material itself.

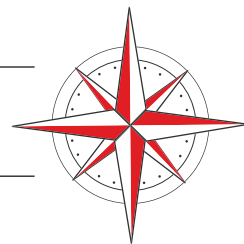
The flexible setup acknowledges that not all students learn best in the same way. Some concentrate better while standing, others prefer the floor, and movement between work areas can help maintain attention during problem-solving sessions.

5th Grade Drama Class Debuts "The Silly Showcase"



Eighth-grade drama students from 1st hour and 5th hour performed in the "Silly Showcase," demonstrating the performance skills they've been developing in class with Andrea Struckmeyer. The unit focused on helping students learn how to move with purpose on stage and build confidence in performance—skills that extend far beyond theater. Whether students pursue performing arts or not, the ability to present themselves confidently in front of an audience serves them in everything from classroom presentations to future job interviews. Stage movement isn't just about memorizing blocking; it's about understanding how physical presence communicates meaning, how to command attention, and how to work collaboratively in a shared space. The showcases gave students a low-stakes opportunity to apply what they'd learned while entertaining their audience.





LHS Students Explore Statistics Careers at GVSU

Lowell High School AP Statistics students got a glimpse into their potential futures at Grand Valley State University's Stats and Industry Day. Mike Lincolnhol's class explored the expanding world of careers in statistics and data science—fields transforming nearly every industry.

Students discovered how statisticians and data scientists work across diverse sectors: healthcare organizations using predictive models to improve patient outcomes, sports teams analyzing performance data, environmental researchers tracking climate patterns, and businesses uncovering insights in massive datasets. In today's data-driven economy, these professionals are essential problem-solvers helping organizations make smarter decisions and predict trends.

The event provided concrete examples of how classroom concepts translate into real careers. The hypothesis testing, regression analysis, and data visualization students are learning aren't just exam topics—they're tools pharmaceutical companies use to test drug effectiveness, tech companies use to improve products, and marketing teams use to understand consumer behavior.



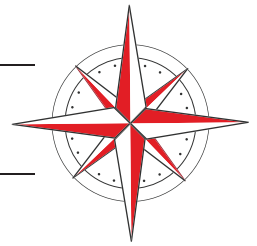
Our ag biology students raised chickens to compete in the FFA Broiler contest, gaining experience beyond the classroom. The hands-on project involved daily animal care, agricultural practices, and understanding food systems while developing responsibility and teamwork skills.



Skills Meet Opportunity At Bradford White

Students got a firsthand look at modern manufacturing during a visit to Bradford White as part of Discover Manufacturing Week in West Michigan, an annual initiative where local manufacturers open their doors to the community, offering facility tours and events that showcase what today's manufacturing industry actually looks like.

The visit gave students direct exposure to advanced manufacturing operations, skilled trades, and career opportunities they may not have previously considered. Modern manufacturing involves sophisticated technology, complex problem-solving, and well-paying careers with strong job security and advancement opportunities.



Students Honor Veterans With Hand-Crafted Cards

Students marked Veterans Day by creating handcrafted cards for Lowell Area Schools employees who served in the military.

Each card was personalized with a message of gratitude written by students, recognizing the sacrifices made by those who served our country. The project gave students an opportunity to connect directly with veterans in their own school community and express their appreciation in a meaningful way.

The cards were distributed to LAS staff members who are veterans, bringing Veterans Day recognition close to home. For students at Unity, the project was more than an assignment—it was a chance to acknowledge that the people who teach, support, and work alongside them every day have also served their country.



Setting The Table For Success: Students Learn Etiquette In Time For The Holidays



Unity High School students received practical instruction in table settings and dining etiquette before the holiday season—life skills that will serve them well beyond the classroom.

The lesson covered proper table settings, appropriate dining behavior, and social etiquette that students could apply during holiday gatherings with family and friends. While these skills might seem formal, they're surprisingly practical. Knowing which fork to use, how to navigate a place setting, and how to conduct yourself at a meal builds confidence in social and professional situations.

Table etiquette isn't just about following rules—it's about showing respect for others and feeling comfortable in various settings. Whether attending a family holiday dinner, a job interview over lunch, or a future work event, students who understand basic dining etiquette can focus on conversation and connection rather than worrying about what to do.

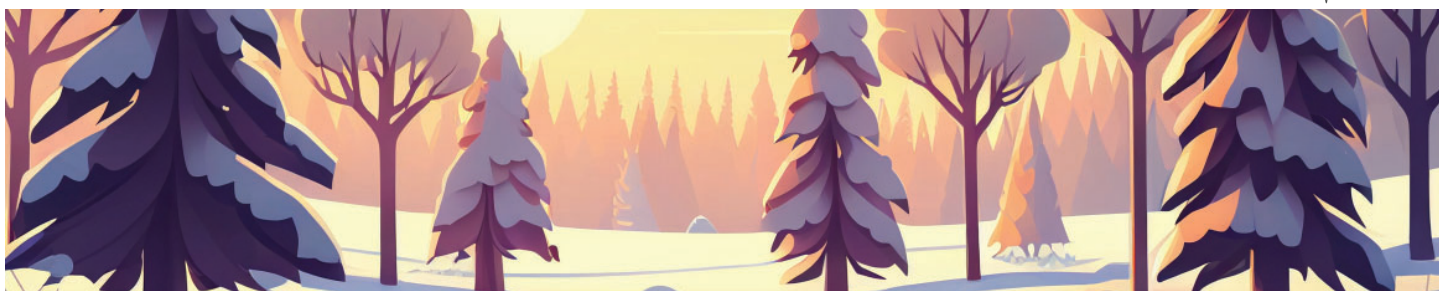
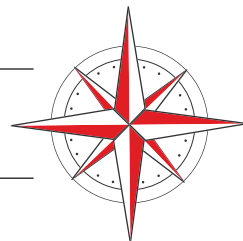
The lesson represented the kind of real-world skill that doesn't always fit into traditional academic schedules but makes a significant difference in students' lives. Unity's focus on preparing students for life after graduation includes teaching them how to navigate social situations with confidence and grace.

POSSIBILITY

We don't just offer an alternative path—we open doors that lead to futures our students might never have imagined for themselves.

Here, they discover that success isn't one-size-fits-all, that their unique strengths matter, and that setbacks don't define their potential. Our students learn to navigate challenges, build on their abilities, and chart their own course forward.

They prove that every dream has many routes, and sometimes the road less traveled is exactly the one that leads to success.



WINTERFEST 2026 FEBRUARY 7 | 10 A.M. - 3 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

BURLAP EMBROIDERY YARD ART

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.

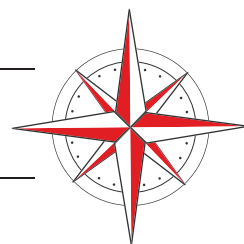
Full 5K or 1 mile Fun Waggle

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.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE WWC AND LOWELL COMMUNITY WELLNESS



LEF Grant Brings Vet Clinic to Kindergarten Classroom

Laura Judge's kindergarten class at Bushnell Elementary now has a fully equipped "Vet Clinic" dramatic play center, funded through a Lowell Education Foundation grant. While it may look like playtime, imaginative play is actually critical early learning.

The new center allows students to take on roles as veterinarians, receptionists, and pet owners, creating scenarios that require them to communicate, problem-solve, and work together. When kindergartners engage in dramatic play, they're practicing skills they'll use throughout their education—negotiating roles, building vocabulary, practicing sequencing, and developing executive function skills like planning and self-regulation.

Studies consistently show that children who engage in high-quality imaginative play demonstrate stronger language development, better social skills, and improved problem-solving abilities—competencies that directly correlate with later academic achievement.

The vet clinic also introduces students to career exploration. Many kindergartners have visited a vet with a family pet, making this a relatable real-world connection that helps them understand how different jobs function.

Dramatic play centers require specific materials—stuffed animals, medical tools, appointment books, and props—that typically fall outside standard classroom budgets. This is where LEF grants make a tangible difference, funding enrichment opportunities that enhance learning beyond worksheets and lectures.



Why Your Support Matters

Your contribution to the Lowell Education Foundation directly impacts students and teachers in our community right now. LEF fills the gaps between what school budgets can cover and what our classrooms actually need—funding everything from specialized learning materials to professional development that helps teachers stay current with best practices.

But LEF does more than cover basics. Your donations fund the extras that transform education from adequate to exceptional: hands-on science equipment that brings textbook concepts to life, literacy programs tailored to individual reading levels, technology that prepares students for modern careers, and enrichment activities that spark new interests and abilities.

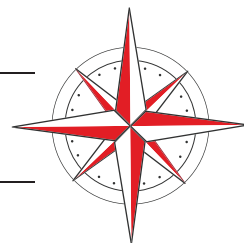
These aren't luxuries—they're the tools that help students discover their potential and develop skills they'll use throughout their lives.

When you support LEF, you're joining parents, alumni, local businesses, and community members who believe Lowell students deserve access to quality educational experiences. Your investment stays local, benefits students you may know personally, and strengthens the schools that serve as anchors in our community.

Education shapes everything else—workforce readiness, civic engagement, economic vitality, and community pride. By supporting LEF, you're investing in all of it.

Scan To Donate!





Six plays, 30 cast and crew, 24 hours to showtime

It was 10 a.m. on a recent Saturday and the stage of the Lowell Performing Arts Center and its adjoining hallways and rooms were abuzz with rehearsals.

Actors, directors and crew for six freshly written 10-minute plays had only held their scripts for a mere three hours, and showtime was at 7 p.m.

"It was oddly inspiring to have to fit that creative process into 12 hours, because a lot of times everyone talks about how long it takes to write a play," said junior Perseus Wale, who was headed home for a nap after completing his first-ever script, titled "Love Island: Civil War Edition."

Perseus and five other fledgling Lowell High School student playwrights had worked from 7 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday to craft original productions with just the following parameters: each had to include the line, "Who are you?" and each had to include a buoy as a prop.

'This isn't about perfection. It's about being creative, taking risks and working together.'

Chaos, Fun, Creativity

This is the first year LHS produced a 24-hour theater event. A few LHS staffers heard about the concept while visiting New York City last summer for the Broadway Teachers Workshop.

The framework comes from The 24 Hour Plays, a program that is fully licensable and comes with a complete production handbook.

To prepare, Julia Crawford, LPAC director; and Amanita Fahrni, LPAC play and musical director, took several fall play students to East Grand Rapids High School's 24-hour theatre production to see how the process works.

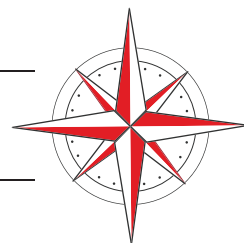
All LHS students were welcome to participate, and about 30 signed up this year. There were no auditions, and no prior theatre experience was required. Students simply ranked their preferred roles and were placed accordingly.

"The level of enthusiasm has exceeded our expectations, and we're excited to bring this new creative tradition," Crawford said. "My biggest hope is that students walk away feeling proud. This isn't about perfection. It's about being creative, taking risks and working together. They get to try new roles, support one another and see an idea become a performance in a single day.

"It might be a little chaotic, but I'm also hoping it's fun, and that it shows them that they're capable of so much more than they realize."



THIS AND THAT



Lowell Performing Arts Center

March 6, 7, 13 & 14 | 7 p.m.

March 8 | 2 p.m.

Tickets available online at
lhstix.ludus.com

Chicago: Teen Edition is Kander & Ebb's legendary, award-winning musical about fame, fortune, and acquittal. Set against the backdrop of the roaring 1920s, this bold, jazz-infused production explores ambition, justice, and the art of performance itself. With its iconic music, sharp choreography, and larger-than-life characters, *Chicago* remains as timely and relevant today as ever.



Don't Get Caught Off Guard When Severe Weather Happens

Stay Informed. Stay Safe. Stay Connected.

When severe weather strikes, every minute counts. Make sure you're the first to know about school closings and delays at Lowell Area Schools.

Multiple Ways to Stay Updated Social Media

- Facebook: Lowell Area Schools
- Instagram: @LowellAreaSchools

Local TV Stations

- WOOD-TV (Channel 8)
- WZZM-TV (Channel 13)
- FOX17

Local Radio

Tune in to:

- WGRD 97.9 FM
- WBFX 101.3 FM
- WBCT 93.7 FM
- WLAV 96.9 FM
- WLHT 95.7 FM
- WOOD 1300 AM / 106.9 FM

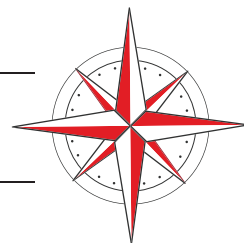
Direct Notifications

Get alerts sent straight to you! Log into your Infinite Campus parent portal and set your preferences to receive notifications via:

- Text message
- Phone call
- Email

Don't wait to hear it through the grapevine. Set up your alerts today and have peace of mind all year long. For complete information on our weather-related closing procedures, visit: lowellschools.com/our-district/school-closings

COMMUNITY CORNER



Join the February Food Fight for Schools!

A Fun Competition That Feeds Our Community

Lowell Area Schools are teaming up for a friendly—and fierce—competition that makes a real difference for neighbors in need. The February Food Fight for Schools challenges students, staff, and families to rally together in support of Flat River Outreach Ministries.

The Goal

Collect \$10,000 and 10,000 food items for FROM's food pantry.

The Competition

It's classroom vs. classroom! Each class earns points based on donations collected, climbing through achievement levels as their totals grow. Classrooms that reach 500 points or more are entered to win one of two pizza parties catered by BC Pizza. The top-scoring school receives special recognition and an award from the community.

How to Get Involved

- Shop for the Pantry: Purchase items directly from FROM's Amazon wishlist
- Donate: Give financially through your school's designated link so your contribution counts toward your classroom's score
- Share: Spread the word and encourage others to join the fight

Every donation—whether food items or dollars—provides essential resources to families right here in Lowell.

For more information and to donate, visit fromlowell.org/foodfightschools.



NOW WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2039!

Kindergarten Registration begins February 18!
who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2026.



Your Future Red Arrows Start Here

Mark your calendars! Kindergarten registration for the **Class of 2039** opens **February 18, 2026**. The future is here, and it starts with kindergarten!

Who Can Enroll?

Children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2026 are eligible for kindergarten.

What You'll Need:

- Birth Certificate
- One Proof of Residency
- Immunization Record

Important Dates:

Complete all enrollment steps by **April 12, 2026** to receive an invitation to Kindergarten Roundup:

- Alto Elementary: May 12, 2026
- Bushnell Elementary: May 14, 2026
- Murray Lake Elementary: May 11, 2026

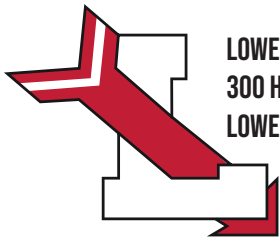
Bonus: If you need hearing or vision screening for your incoming kindergartner, the Health Department will be at Bushnell Elementary on May 14, 2026.

Ready to Get Started?

Visit lowellschools.com/our-district/enrollment for more information and to begin the process.

Note: Preschool registration (excluding GSRP) opens February 9, 2026. Registration for grades 1-12 also opens February 18, 2026.

Welcome to the Lowell family! We can't wait to meet our future graduates.



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

Stephen Gough
Director of Teaching and Learning

Liz McCall
Director of Special Education

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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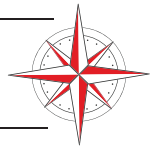
Pat Nugent
Secretary

Jared Blough
Trustee

Jessica Curtis
Trustee

Annie Whitlock
Trustee

2026 CALENDAR



February 12

Class 2030 Welcome Meeting
LPAC | 6 p.m.

February 16-17

Mid-Winter Break | No School

March 6

End of 2nd Trimester
Half day students | Full day

April 2-10

Spring Break | No School

April 16

PSAT 9, PSAT, SAT Testing
Lowell High School

May 21

Class of 2026 Commencement
Red Arrow Stadium | 6 p.m.

May 22

Half day students and staff

May 23

Memorial Day Holiday
No school students and staff

June 3

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