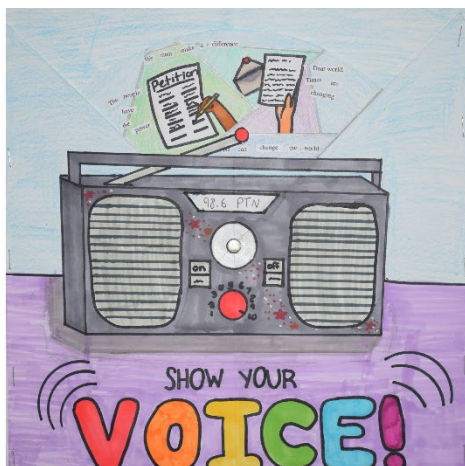
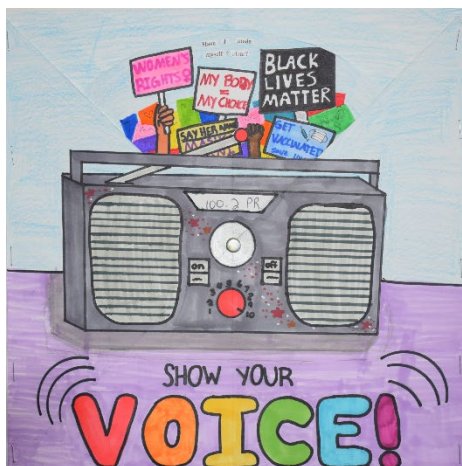


Livonia
PTSA[®]
Council

69th Annual Founders' Day *"Show Your Voice"*



February 15, 2023
St. Mary's Cultural Center | Livonia, Michigan
Advocate • Communicate • Support

www.livoniaptscouncil.org

2023 PTA Reflections



*Olivia Van Acker,
Churchill,
11th grade*

*“Compassionate
Voice”*

*Nina McCormick,
Buchanan, 2nd grade*

“Nature’s Colors”



Vivian Cox, Frost, 8th grade,

“False Labels”



*Enjoy other
award-winning
pieces
throughout the
booklet*

Livonia **PTSA**[®] Council

Founders' Day is a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education.

PTA's founders, Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world.

They had a simple idea – to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTAs keep it alive.

Today, PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Our members represent the ethnic diversity of our nation, and they come from the ranks of traditional families, single-parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults. Together, we continue to serve as the conscience of the country for children and youth.



Founders' Day Celebration Program

5:30 p.m.	Check In
6:00 p.m.	Franklin Bel Canto Choir <i>under the direction of Marilee Olsen</i>
Welcome	Andrea Malenfant Livonia PTSA Council President
Remarks	Andrea Oquist Superintendent Tracey Troy Michigan PTA President
6:30 p.m.	Dinner – Buffet Style
7:15 p.m.	Awards Ceremony
Closing Remarks	Andrea Malenfant

Cover artwork ~ Norah Huber, 8th grade

Frost Middle School

Theme: “Show Your Voice” Title: “Turn Up the Voices”

Artist Statement: For my project I drew a radio with a dial. By turning the dial or rotating disc, the radio "projects" different ways people show their voice and make a difference. I wanted to creatively show different ways people use their voice and making a difference doesn't always have to be words said out loud.

Enjoy other award-winning pieces throughout the booklet

2022-2023 Livonia Public Schools Elementary Educator of the Year



Elizabeth Wright

Elizabeth Wright is a fourth-grade teacher at Grant Elementary School. She is in her sixth year in Livonia Public Schools and she received two nominations from parents for this recognition.

Beth is described as a teacher who is truly in-tune with the needs of her students, differentiating where needed and communicating thoroughly with parents. She builds and maintains relationships with students and she strives for her classroom to be a supportive environment in which students are encouraged to be themselves and accept others for doing the same. She uses student growth data to drive success in her classroom and students typically work very hard to achieve their academic goals. She is a teacher who knows the strengths and weaknesses of every student in her classroom and works to make them successful and confident learners. She is described by her principal as being a “true natural educator” through her caring and supportive approach, as well as her willingness to work hard, and be a team player who is willing to help – because that’s “just who she is.”

2022-2023 Livonia Public Schools Secondary Educator of the Year

Angela Allen

Angela Allen is a science teacher in the gifted and talented program called Middle School Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (MACAT) program at Frost Middle School. She is a 24-year veteran teacher with Livonia Public Schools and is known for her many contributions in curriculum and assessment at the district level and for her dedication to the success of her students both academically and socially. Often described by her students as their “favorite teacher, ever!” Angela provides a challenging academic environment for her students while instilling a community mindset that reaches outside of the walls of the classroom. Teaching and growing “the whole child,” Angela connects with students in a compassionate way and allows them the emotional space to be inquisitive, make mistakes



and learn in a supportive classroom environment. She believes that when students feel cared for and safe, they will be successful learners.



*Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Adams,
Mrs. Allen & Mrs. Olsen*

2022-2023 Livonia Public Schools Secondary Educator of the Year

Marilee Olsen

Marilee Olsen is a 23-year veteran vocal music teacher who leads choirs at Emerson Middle School and Franklin High School. In addition to directing multiple choirs, Marilee serves as music director for musical productions at Emerson and Franklin; serves as the music department chair at Franklin; serves as director of the Franklin Choir Boosters; organizes annual trips to New York City, Mackinac Island and other destinations for her students; leads an annual community music tour during the holidays, during which time her students perform at local senior citizen facilities, local businesses and more. Her students experience much more than music instruction – her choir room serves as a safe space for students to feel welcomed, cared for and included in the “choir family.” Marilee’s teaching philosophy centers around “making every day a day of growth and change in a student’s life.” She knows that true teaching occurs after relationships are established. Marilee is able to make those connections through many shared experiences during the many field trips, tours, musical rehearsals and concerts that fill the schedule of each choir she leads. It is her goal to support her students as motivated, organized, responsible and caring leaders among their peers. Marilee professes that she does not “work” a day in her life because she is “truly living the dream” making music and memories with her students.



2022-2023 Livonia Public Schools Support Staff of the Year

April Adams

April Adams is a special education paraprofessional who has served in the role at Cleveland Elementary School for six years. April works one-on-one with students who need extra support throughout their school day. She is described as a staff member who has a “heart of gold” and is a kind, thoughtful, positive role model for her students and her colleagues. Greeting students with smiles and hugs each day, April’s impact reaches beyond the students with whom she directly works. She is known throughout the school by students as someone who is supportive, caring and willing to help. April’s colleagues say she is a wonderful example of how to build positive relationships with students and families. She enjoys seeing students’ confidence grow as they realize they can be successful in a classroom setting. With Mrs. Adams as their guide, her students know they can overcome challenges and be productive contributors with their peers and teachers in the classroom and in any area of the school. Her principal describes her as a “ray of sunshine” that shines brightly at Cleveland Elementary School.



Congratulations to All Our Educators of the Year!

Thank you to Our Local PTA & PTSA Units!

2022-2023 Livonia PTA/PTSA Presidents & Principals

<u>Unit</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Principal</u>
Buchanan	Katherine Klann	Jen Wilson
Churchill	Crystal Frank	Kristen Quesada
Cleveland	Michelle LeGault	Rob Witherspoon
Coolidge	Holli Kerkhof	Kristina Collyer
Cooper	Kelly Regulski	Shalonda Owens
Emerson	Caroline Shiner	Kevin English
Franklin	Kellie Dummer	Andrew Pesci
Frost	Chris Chmura	Shanan Wheeler
Grant	Elizabeth Cortes	Sherri Mazzoni
Hayes	Rachel Wright	Larry Grezak
Holmes	Jason Pipgras	Deann Urso
Hoover	Danielle Brandon	Mike Daraskavich
Jackson Center	Kimberly Krug	Katie Dodge
Johnson	Amanda Walworth	Tom Traub
Kennedy	Kelly Keith	Nicole Hunter
Niji-Iro	Aya Yasukawa-Dudzinski	Lawrence DeLuca
Randolph	Pamela McGinnis	Julie Linn
Riley	Jill Allevato	Jonathon Wennstrom
Roosevelt	Jessica Ecker	Diana Shahin
Rosedale	Burime Caushi	Paula Kohler
Stevenson	Nikki Watson	Pete Mazzoni
Webster	Tracey Schenk	Kristyn Cousino

2022-2023 Distinguished PTA/PTSA Parents, Staff and Students

We are honoring the best of Livonia Public Schools. These Distinguished volunteers embody the values of PTA/PTSA:

- **Collaboration:** We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.
- **Commitment:** We are dedicated to promoting children's health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family and community involvement.
- **Accountability:** We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.
- **Respect:** We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.
- **Inclusivity:** We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.
- **Integrity:** We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.

Each of these honorees has earned the respect and admiration of their fellow PTSA members and teachers by being an active, positive member and leader in their PTA. We are also proud to recognize the Livonia Public Schools Educators and Support Staff of the Year.

Livonia PTSA Council congratulates all those honored tonight. Also, a huge THANK YOU to ALL our PTA members, teachers and staff who work so hard to make our school district great.

Buchanan Elementary School

Staff – Kelsey Duff

Genuine, Caring, Advocate, Leader for seven years. Kelsey Duff is an amazing 3rd grade teacher at Buchanan and an integral part of the school's day-to-day functions. Mrs. Duff teaches students organization and responsibility with her leadership in both before/after school arrival and dismissal, as well as lunchroom behavior. She even created a reward system to assist in showing proper expectations. Throughout the building, Mrs. Duff is part of the battle of the books committee, encouraging reading at every grade level; website and social media chair; host of the STEAM club before school; and part of the PBIS committee, a committee that helps to develop and implement positive behavior supports and intervention, teaching students about behavior and expectations. Mrs. Duff genuinely cares about the students' success and is a part of the new STEAM room addition and integration. She is a champion for building students up and not wanting anyone to fall behind or slip through the cracks. She hosts cross collaborations with other classrooms, as well as intervention blocks. The learning environment that is created by Mrs. Duff, not just for her own students, is one of strength and compassion, and the true desire to see all students succeed and have the chance to reach their full potential. Kelsey Duff is an incredible asset to Buchanan and exemplifies everything that the PTA stands for.

Parent – Valerie Jackson

Generous, Kind, Dedicated, Caring member for nine years. Valerie has been a dedicated PTA member for 9 years. She has been on the board at Buchanan for 7 years and pulled double duty on the board at Webster for two years. Valerie showed exemplary leadership as president during her three-year term and found new ways to advocate and communicate for our students during Covid shutdowns. Valerie is always the first to volunteer her time at events hosted by the PTA, like book fair and Santa shop. She has always gone above and beyond with coordination and organization between the staff and students' needs. She was the first president to implement the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) chair. Valerie's passion has always been in being the Reflections chair at the school and encouraging students to express themselves with art. It is abundantly clear through her nine years of time and dedication that there has been no better advocate for the students of Buchanan than Valerie and she will be greatly missed when Riley gains her next year.

Cleveland Elementary School

Staff – Phil Skaggs

Hard-working, Energetic, Friendly, Awesome member for several years. Mr. Phil is an integral part of our Cleveland community. He is ALWAYS willing to lend a helping hand. You can find him out in front of the building every morning greeting students and helping them have the best start to their day. He puts in a lot of hard work behind the scenes for our PTA events, and it doesn't go unnoticed. He also bears an uncanny resemblance to a certain dinosaur that has been seen roaming the halls!

Parent – Natalie Brown

Dedicated, Generous, Kind, Talented member for many years. When it came time to choose our parent nominee, Natalie immediately came to our board's mind. She has been an amazing volunteer, offering to lend a hand at all our events this year. No matter how big or small the task, we can always count on Natalie! She regularly attends meetings, offers helpful suggestions, and she also volunteers throughout the building. We are so thankful for her and excited to honor her tonight!



*Ashton Kroesing, Cleveland,
3rd grade, "The Voice of Water"*



Arsenia Wittek, Cleveland, 3rd grade, "Bonfire"

Coolidge Elementary School

Staff – Becky Nelson

Kind, Compassionate, Inclusive, Thorough member for years. Ms. Nelson encourages all students to get involved and explore. She has dedicated herself to creating a media center that is diverse and welcoming. She volunteers her time and talents to any activity that benefits our students at Coolidge.

Parent – Melissa Austin

Enthusiastic, Dependable, Caring, Committed member for one year. Melissa is the first one to raise her hand and help with PTA. It was her first year and you would never guess it. She comes to meetings, participates in brainstorming, and shows up when volunteers are needed. She has picked up extra shifts for wreath sales/holiday shop and served on the committee for our successful Fall Fest! We couldn't have had such a successful year without her help!

Grant Elementary School

Staff – Ann Kosinski

Helpful, Kind, Giving, Supportive member for three years. Ann goes above and beyond for our board. When we need anything, she is willing to help us out. Her kindness shows in her helping with ideas and logistics, and she even helped unload a fundraiser delivery! We are blessed to be able to work with her! We appreciate all she does!

Parent – Allie Larson

Helpful, Kind, Giving, Cheerful member for one year. Allie stepped up to the plate when we needed someone to take over the yearbook. Not only is she working hard with a brand-new yearbook company, she also steps up to the plate to help the PTA out whenever we need it. She was there helping with paint the principal and the glow party as well as taking pictures so we can treasure these moments later. To say we aren't sure where we would be without her is an understatement. Thank you for all you do, Allie Larson!

Hayes Elementary School

Staff – Colleen Fisher

Dedicated, Caring, Loving, Encouraging member. Ms. Fisher is at every PTA meeting! She informs her students of different events the PTA puts on as well as the parents. She truly cares about each of her students and works hard to approach their individual needs to make sure they succeed in school. She is a teacher that was definitely meant to teach! Students love her as well as parents! She puts in long hours, staying well after school is over, attends students' sporting events outside of school to show fellow Huskies support, and is a living example of every character trait that Hayes Elementary strives to encourage in its students. Thank you, Ms. Fisher, for your dedication, love, and hard work you give to our entire Husky Family!

Parent – Tamara Reif-Kim

Kind, Helpful, Involved, Supportive member for two years. Tamara has volunteered at every event she could this year and in years prior. She helped out at our Color Run, our Holiday Shop for several days, and took on the role of chairing both Reflections and Youth Making a Difference! She attends most PTA meetings and is always willing to lend a helping hand. We want to thank Tamara for all her dedication and help this school year!

Show Your Voice

Everyone needs to use their voice.
Your voice helps you through life.
How you use your voice
Is your choice.

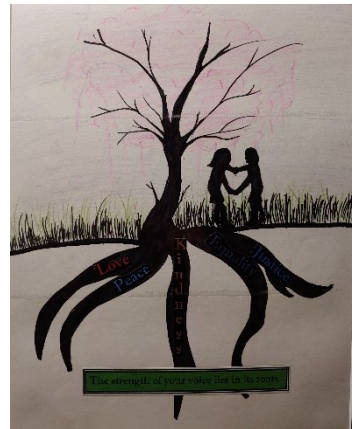
You can use your voice for good...
Your voice is kindness,
Your voice is love,
Your voice is respect.

You can use your voice to show your beliefs...
Your voice is peace,
Your voice is equality,
Your voice is patriotism.

You can use your voice to express yourself...
Your voice is music,
Your voice is laughter,
Your voice helps you stand out.

Everyone needs to use their voice.
Your voice helps you through life.
How you use your voice
Is your choice.

*Emma Watt,
Hayes,
4th grade,
“Show Your
Voice”*



*Timothy Littlejohn, Hayes, 4th grade,
“The Voice Tree”*

Hoover Elementary School

Staff – Charles O’Loughlin (Mr. O)

Caring, positive, role-model, encouraging member for many years. Mr. O embodies the spirit of what it means to be a Hoover Rocket. He is always upbeat and welcoming. Being the Physical Education teacher at Hoover means that he gets to know every student in the building. He greets everyone by name, an amazing feat considering the approximately 500 students at Hoover. You can find Mr. O working in the mornings during drop off time; he always makes sure the students get safely into school! He gets rockstar-like cheers when he walks through the cafeteria at lunch time. Mr. O brought so much fun to the students this fall when he set up his Haunted Obstacle Course during PE the week leading up to Halloween and during the PTA’s Hoot ’n Howl family event. In the springtime, Mr. O puts on field day which is always one of the students’ favorite days – his energy is contagious! The kids take to heart what he says and truly try to follow his example. He is a great role model for the students at Hoover and a caring and positive staff member to have in the building. Hoover would not be the same without Mr. O!

Parent – Carmen Kennedy-Rogers

Outgoing, Friendly, Involved, Supportive member for one year. Carmen is a first-year parent at Hoover and has jumped in feet first! Carmen was one of the first parents to volunteer to assist our PTA board, taking on the role of diversity, equity and inclusion chairperson. She has embraced the role wanting to make sure that she does excellent work that she can be proud of. Using her life experience, Carmen is the perfect person for the job. Carmen’s name can be found on almost every signup genius that gets shared. She is a frequent helper at our Welcome Table in the mornings, helping parents sign in students who have come after the bell. Carmen is outgoing and personable; she will take the time to get to know you and she always has a smile to share. We appreciate the time and talent of parents who get involved with not just Hoover, but the PTA. Carmen is truly a fantastic addition to the Hoover PTA.



*Ella Sochacki, Hoover, 2nd grade,
“Be Caring”*

*Adelynn Stram, Hoover, 4th grade,
Clip from film: “Just Be KIND”*



Jackson Center

Staff – Lisa Iacovacci

Dedicated, Nurturing, Calm, Joyful member for more than 10 years. Lisa Iacovacci is the ultimate team player. She is always willing to step up and step in wherever help is needed. She comes to work every day with a smile and builds beautiful relationships with all staff and students. Lisa has a calm demeanor which brings about a calm environment for student learning. Lisa has been with Jackson Center for over 25 years and has worked as a Child Development Assistant and Special Education Paraprofessional. We are so grateful that she is part of team Jackson!

Parent – Amanda Scheffler

Enthusiastic, Creative, Collaborative, Organized member for two years. For the past two years, Amanda has organized and executed the Fall Fun Fest at Jackson Center. With her enthusiasm and energy, she created a memorable event for the center and she secured donations from community partners, such as Busch’s, Meijer, and Larry’s Foodland. This annual two-day event takes organization and creativity, and Amanda did an excellent job pulling everything together in our first big event after Covid restrictions. We are so thankful for her!

Kennedy Elementary School

Staff – Alicia Bashawaty

Dedicated, Creative, Innovative, Ally member for eight years. Alicia is our PTA teacher liaison. As we all know, a strong partnership between the PTA and the school staff is so necessary in planning and implementation of events, programs, fundraising and community outreach efforts. From our very first summer activity through our crazy fall and holiday season, Alicia, is always ready to jump in and help without hesitation. No task is ever too big and she is never too busy to help the PTA. Alicia engages with us all and keeps lines of communication open. She has provided incredible insight into the needs of the families and students in our community. Alicia is very present at Kennedy, helping out everywhere! She will always greet you with a smile and our students think she's the best! On behalf of the PTA Board, we sincerely thank you for all you do!

Parent – Kimberly Ford

Generous, Kind, Organized and Motivated member for five years. Kennedy PTA is proud to recognize Kimberly Ford. From the moment Kim joined the Kennedy PTA community, her support was noticed in numerous ways. Whether it was a kind message, generous donation of items needed to support our programs, supporting PTA events, or just a friendly hello, she was always exemplifying the goals of the PTA. This year, she took the lead in organizing and running the Mileage Club at Kennedy. She leads through her involvement with the PTA, she is committed to bettering children's lives, and she wants the best for our community. Kim is an inspiration to us all and a true champion for all that PTA represents.

Niji Iro Japanese Immersion Elementary School

Congratulations to their honorees!

Randolph Elementary School

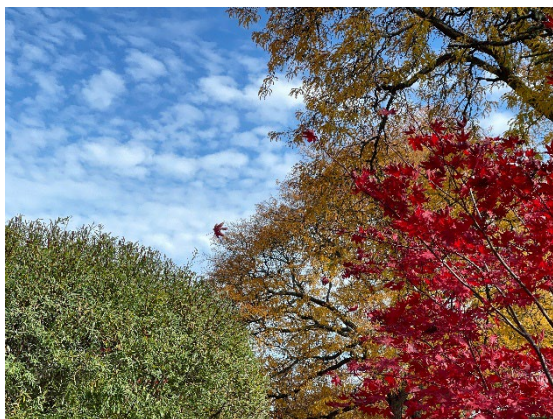
Staff – Lisa Durand

Dedicated, Calm, Nurturing, Joyful member. Lisa is exceptionally hardworking and is always willing to put in the extra work, go the extra mile, and do whatever it takes to give her/the student what they need. Lisa is incredibly loyal to her family, colleagues, friends, and district. She'll give her all when she is committed, whether to a person or a cause/organization. She is a team player. She loves being part of the team and cherishes the friendships she has made at Randolph. Lisa cares deeply about the success of children. Their successes are her successes, and she'll do whatever it takes to create and find the connection and nurture it. She'll build the relationship and develop it into one where a student feels safe and loved. Lisa is observant, intelligent, and wildly effective. She is a very cherished part of our Randolph community.

Parent – Sonja Vigil

Positive, Dedicated, Involved, Inclusive member for several years. Sonja has been an integral part of the Randolph PTA YMAD committee for the last few years. She is always coming up with wonderful ideas to get our students involved in our community. She understands the positive impact giving back can have on everyone involved. Sonja is active in her son's classroom and with many other PTA and non-PTA events throughout the school year. We are so proud and thankful to have her as part of our Randolph family!

Sriyansh Priyadarshi,
Churchill, 9th grade,
“Vigorous Change”



Roosevelt Elementary School

Staff – Emily Trybus

Energetic, Happy, Fun, Caring member for eight years. Emily has been a third-grade teacher at Roosevelt for eight years. She is a wonderful teacher, and the kids look forward to being in her class. Emily is very involved, not only with being Roosevelt's math leader and helping to distribute all the fundraising products (pizza kits and wreaths), she is also part of the Galileo Program for LPS. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated teacher at Roosevelt.

Parent – Amanda Kennedy

Approachable, Hardworking, Friendly, Cheerful member for five years. Amanda has been a super involved parent volunteer since day one of her daughter's first day of kindergarten. Amanda is such a welcoming person it's no wonder she is such a great fit for all the roles she takes on around the school. She has volunteered in not only classrooms that her daughter has been in, but also any classroom that might need an extra set of hands that day. Amanda helps in the office and in the lunchroom or whenever needed. She also has a special knack for helping out in the kindergarten classrooms, where she has been a staple for the last five years.



Madelyn McBroom, Roosevelt, 4th grade, clip from film: "3 Best Friends"



Jacquelyn Davey, Coolidge, 1st grade, "I Will Speak"

Rosedale Elementary School

Staff – Angela Drolet

Amazing, Kind, Energetic, Helpful member for two years. She is at every event and always helping out. She pushes every fundraiser to her students' families so that the support is strong. She also supports PTA herself by donating time/money to our events and fundraisers.

Parent – Elizabeth White

Kind, Supportive, Helpful, Great member for one year. She is in classrooms helping whenever they need it. She joined our PTA board this year and for every event goes above and beyond. She has added so much more to every event so far this year.



*Pranav Magesh,
Webster, 6th grade,
clip from film:
“Adam’s Story”*

*Emily Constant, Webster,
5th grade, “Hear Our Voices”*



Webster Elementary School

Staff – Kelsey Murdock

Considerate, Supportive, Dedicated, Attentive member for one year. When our executive board was discussing the Distinguished Staff Nominee, Kelsey Murdock unanimously came to mind. She is the new secretary and friendly face at Webster. Although she has been overwhelmed starting this very busy position in the office, she has graciously stepped up to help the PTA in so many ways. As we all know, communication with families is most important when it comes to events, fundraisers and just about everything PTA related. When we need something done, we can always count on Kelsey for support with a smile. On behalf of all of us, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation. Thank you for helping us spread the PTA word and sharing in our mission to create lifelong memories for our Webster Wildcats. May this new position at Webster Elementary bring you many years of happiness and fulfillment.

Parent – Alicia Densel

Enthusiastic, Dedicated, Productive, Kind-Hearted member for 10 years. We would like to share our thoughts on why Alicia Densel shines throughout LPS! She is that special mom who dedicates her time and energy to making an impact on the lives of our students and everyone she meets. She makes her kids a top priority by getting involved in their activities at various LPS schools. When she is asked to handle a task, you know it will be organized and perfectly executed. Alicia's colorful spirit and upbeat personality leave a fabulous lasting impression on anyone she meets. Webster has been so lucky to have her for the past 10 years. She only has one year to go then Webster will give a Wildcat farewell to the amazing Densel family. Alicia, today we celebrate YOU and hope you know how grateful we are for all your time and efforts. DON'T EVER LOSE YOUR SHINE!

Livonia PTSA Council Executive Board

2022-2023

President: Andrea Malenfant

1st VP: Sara Bennett

2nd VP: Mandy Gerstenbrand

Treasurer: Debbie Pline

Recording Secretary: Kellie Dummer

Corresponding Secretary: Mike Testa

Advocacy & Legislative: Mike Testa

Art of Problem Solving (APS): Patty Novak

Bylaws & Policies & Procedures: Nikki Watson

Chamber Liaison: Kellie Dummer & Robb Drzewicki

Clothing Depot: Kellie Dummer & Lynda Scheel

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Debbie Yates

ELVs: Debbie Pline & Chris Chmura

Founders' Day: Mandy Gerstenbrand

Fundraising: OPEN

Health & Welfare: OPEN

Male Engagement: Robb Drzewicki

Masterworks: OPEN

Membership: Nicole Dant

Newsletter: Laura Ulaszek

PEP: Sara Bennett

Reflections: Monique Cadoret & Debbie Yates

STEM: Patty Novak

Website: Laura Ulaszek & Debbie Yates

YMAD: Debbie Pline & Nikki Watson

Cooper Upper Elementary School

Staff – Pam Regulski

Loving, Helpful, Cheerful and Caring member for many years. Pam is an asset to the relationship between the PTA board and the administration and faculty. Pam has always been willing to help out with fundraisers, help with special events and those numerous events during and after school hours. Pam is amazing with the students, parents and staff to make the day-to-day operations run smoothly!

Parent – Julie Miller

Friendly, Caring, Passion, Creative member for one year. Julie goes to the DEI meetings and bring back wonderful ideas for Cooper. She has shown she really has a passion to make Cooper more inclusive.

Hannah Ulaszek, Cooper, 5th grade, “My Beautiful Voice”



Johnson Upper Elementary School

Staff – Melissa Bennett

Dedicated, Supportive, Funny, Driven member for many years. Possibly, unbeknownst to her, at the beginning of each school year, there is a competition to be the very first staff member to purchase a PTA membership. Hands down, Melissa always wins. This is no coincidence. She promotes and supports our fundraisers like no other, encourages involvement in all that the PTA does, and works tirelessly to make sure that our students and families receive all that they need to be successful, inside and outside of school. She is a wonderful partner and advocates, tirelessly, for those around her. She goes above and beyond in anything that we ask of her and trusts wholeheartedly in our initiatives.

Parent – Lauren Peters

Creative, Flexible, Dependable, Giving member for three years. Lauren is extremely dedicated to our school, having served on our board for three years. Lauren is reliable, flexible, and creative when it comes to her help. She enjoys spreading joy to both our staff and students. She plans events to make our students experience at Johnson a positive one, while also supporting the staff. She strives to make Johnson a better place and works with the staff and students daily to do so. She goes above and beyond and is a crucial team member of Johnson Upper Elementary.



*Winifred LeGault,
Cleveland, 4th grade,
clip from dance:
“Brave”*

Riley Upper Elementary School

Staff – Catherine Torrento

Caring, Dependable, Helpful, Supportive member. Ms. Torrento goes above and beyond in every way possible. She does whatever is necessary in helping to support students both emotionally and socially. She is a strong student advocate, who runs lunch groups during her own lunch hour. She leads Girls on The Run and is the official DJ of the PTA. She is truly an integral part of daily life at Riley.

Parent – Amy Owens

Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly member for six years. Amy is always willing to help out in any way, shape or form. She is very motivated in making sure the students and staff have great experiences throughout the school year. Her dedication runs deep and her commitment to helping is unwavering. Her ideas and suggestions make her a vital asset to Riley and especially to the PTA.

Levi Yates, Franklin, 9th grade, artist statement from literature piece: "Forkful of Peas"

"Forkful of Peas is a story about a boy named Chelsea who has been bullied by other kids for his name his whole life. What people don't know is that his mother is even more of a bully than his classmates. In this story, he learns how to show his voice by standing up for another kid in his class that also has an abnormal name. Through this bullying, the two boys bond and become lifelong friends that stand up for each other and show their voices freely."

Emerson Middle School

Staff – Mary Smythe

Supportive, Helpful, Encouraging, Dedicated member for one year. Mary is a secretary at Emerson Middle School. In the short time she has been in the office, she has proven to be an invaluable asset to parents, students, and staff. Mary greets everyone in the office with a smile. She goes above and beyond to help find solutions to any problem that arises from helping students with medication or appointments, to assisting faculty members in day-to-day activities.

Parent – Caroline Shiner

Leader, Dedicated, Passionate, Supportive member for four years. Caroline has been involved in some capacity (president, secretary, member) with a PTA chapter for the last 12 years. She has been on the PTSA Board at Emerson for four years and was also on the PTA Board at Grant for four years. Her dedication to students in the Livonia Public School District has been nothing short of amazing. She has shown exemplary initiative and leadership skills by overseeing the Emerson PTSA as president, organizing fundraising activities, and planning student-centered middle school events. She has assisted in increasing parent and student memberships and in increasing organizational funding. Caroline has gone over and above simply volunteering her time. She leaves a lasting impression on each organization she is part of.

Student – Jack Shiner

Determined, Thoughtful, Helpful, Friendly member for two years. Jack has spent countless hours helping the PTSA by assisting at fundraising events, helping with the concession stand at track meets, and offering student insight at meetings. Jack is on the honor roll and has been recognized by his teachers for his outstanding citizenship. In addition to his academic pursuits, Jack is also an athlete on the track, cross country and wrestling teams.

Frost Middle School

Staff – Linda Kowalske

Creative, Adaptive, Giving, Talented member for two years. Since coming to Frost, Linda has hit the ground running. She lends her, and her students', talents for anything and everything – whether it is creating incredible decorations for the middle school activity night, 8th grade honors night, or last-minute signs for the craft show when we had to move vendors and needed signage. Linda is always willing to help out (even at the 11th hour) and does not complain. She brings a sense of community to the school and can always be counted on to not only deliver but deliver beautiful creations. Linda also encourages participation in the Reflections contest, and consequently Frost has an increased number of participants in the past two years.

Parent – Monique Cadoret

Dedicated, Hard-working, Hilarious, Loyal member for seven years. Monique is the embodiment of everything you want in a PTA board member and volunteer. She is dependable, hard-working, committed and makes it fun along the way. Monique has been a consistent presence at Frost for seven years (even a year she didn't have a student there). This past year, she successfully chaired the return of the annual craft show – a huge undertaking with 100 vendors. In addition, she serves as the treasurer and chairs Reflections (for the school and co-chairs for the district) and several other committees. Monique simply always gets it done and never wants any recognition or praise. She brings her humor and intelligence and makes everyone's life around her easier.

Student – Norah Huber

Friendly, Can-do, Giving, Positive member for one year. Norah is one of those students who is always looking to help and be a part of the school. Whatever school event there is, you will see Norah there, making it a success. This year, with the return of the annual craft show, Norah came to the PTSA asking how she could help and got several of her friends to help. She came early and stayed at the craft show all day (and it is a long day!). She was willing to do whatever we needed her to do and did just about every job at the show during the eight hours she was there. She was always smiling, always said yes to whatever was asked of her and was an incredible help making the show a success. Her positivity just radiates!

Holmes Middle School

Staff – Kelli Austin

Dependable, Kind, Innovative, Passionate member for many years. Our teacher honoree tonight, Kelli Austin, has been with LPS for a total of twenty-one years. She has served at different buildings in various capacities over the years but has spent the majority of that time here with her Holmes family. Kelli is being honored tonight for the outstanding leadership she consistently provides in her roles as teacher, mentor, colleague, sponsor, and Holmes Activities Director. To list all that she does is near impossible; suffice to say Kelli has a well-earned reputation for routinely going above and beyond. Her tireless dedication and commitment, unparalleled work ethic, and passionate belief that kids deserve opportunities to shine by helping others, as well as develop their leadership abilities outside of the regular classroom make her one of the most exceptional educators to grace our halls. She works collaboratively with both colleagues and students, seeks to include all stakeholders in activities and clubs by offering a variety of experiences, treats everyone with respect and genuine kindness, and holds herself to the highest standards. Kelli never engages in public negativity, gives credit where credit is due, values diversity, extends grace, and upholds the moral standard of our profession – all proof of her unshakable integrity.

Parent – Lori Sosnowski

Passionate, Helpful, Kind, Fun member for six years. Holmes Middle School PTSA is thrilled to recognize one of our amazing parent volunteers, Lori Sosnowski. We are so lucky to have had her welcoming parents and collaborating with our fantastic staff for the past six years. She has worn many hats for Holmes PTSA, including a past board member and even served as president. No matter the challenge over the years, she has handled them with grace and integrity. Lori is always happy to lend a helping hand to make our community thrive for our students and staff. Thank you, Lori, for your dedication over the years to Holmes PTSA!

Student – Dominic Testa

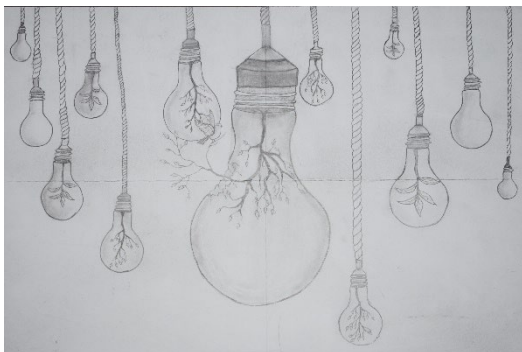
Integrity, conscientious, positive, considerate member for two years. The Holmes Middle School Distinguished Student Nominee for 2023 is an eighth-grade student who not only exemplifies the six PTA values, but

also demonstrates the district's Community with Character traits on a daily basis. Dominic Testa is the student most deserving of this honor. He has excelled in his studies in both 7th and 8th grade, earning a perfect 4.0 and making the honor roll each quarter. Dominic is enrolled in two advanced courses, while earning high school credit. He plays the trumpet in the school's symphonic band and is a member of the after-school jazz band. Staff uses words and phrases such as courteous, cooperative, conscientious, makes outstanding use of ability, demonstrates integrity, citizenship, and well-prepared to describe Dominic. Another achievement Dominic has earned is being selected to Holmes' National Junior Honor Society and being voted by his peers as its president. In addition to other requirements, NJHS requires students to possess five pillars and participate in service projects within the school and throughout the community. Students like Dominic do not come around very often, and for this, he is the Holmes student most deserving of this recognition this year.



*Adalyn Griswold, Coolidge, 4th grade,
“Peace in the Trees”*

*Rachel Agyare, Frost, 8th
grade, “Breaking Free”*



Churchill High School

Staff – Julie Tafelski

Supportive, Positive, Encouraging, Enjoyable member. Julie is an integral part of the Churchill community. She is supportive of all students and attends many extracurricular events. Julie is a positive example for the students, and she truly cares about others. She leads the spirit club, greenhouse club and diversity dance club. We are grateful to her and glad to honor her commitment to CHS!

Parent – Kelly Walder

Dependable, Committed, Fun member for five years. For five years, Kelly has been our super reliable treats coordinator for Churchill's Homecoming and Coming Home Dances. All we have to do is email her to check that she's available and the rest is magic! It's amazing to have volunteers like Kelly who we can completely depend on to do a great job for us even if no one from the PTSA board is there to help her. We appreciate Kelly!

Student – Samantha Sullivan

Capable, Confident, Creative, Collaborative member for three years. Sammie is our social media expert for our PTSA board and has been in this role going on three years. We created this role for her when she suggested we do more with social media. Sammie created our Instagram account and linked it to other Churchill accounts to increase potential views. She creates fantastic graphics and has developed some innovative ways to get students interacting with our feed. It is so fabulous to have Sammie's student perspective and voice on our board!

*Reyhan Khan, Churchill, 9th grade, last paragraph from essay:
"Your Voice is Your Weapon"*

As we strive to make the world a better place, we must all come together and use our individual voices to create a beautiful chorus. Your voice is your tool, and the only way you can change the world you live in. You could be a Greta Thunberg, using your voice as a weapon, fighting for change. You could be an Ida Tarbell, using your voice to shed light on wrongs done. Or you could lead a movement, using your voice to lift the rest of society upwards. We have the choice to speak up and lend our voices to causes close to our hearts and we must take every opportunity to do so. To quote a famous line from the movie The American President: "Oh, you only fight the fights you can win? You fight the fights that need fighting!"

Franklin High School

Staff – Tonya Letasz

Helpful, Friendly, Reliable, Organized member for four years. Tonya is the secretary to the principal, Mr. Pesci, at Franklin High School, but she is also our go-to person at Franklin. Tonya is always so helpful in sharing PTSA information in the weekly Franklin newsletter or via schoolwide emails. She is usually the first person who gets any PTSA questions about the schedule of events, when things are happening, or who will know the answer to X. Tonya is always quick to respond to emails or check the PTSA mailbox for us. She makes running a high school PTSA unit a little easier as we aren't usually in the building like at the elementary level. We would like to thank her for her support, we are continually grateful.

Parent – Kevin Smith

Consistent, Helpful, Outgoing, Determined member for five years. Kevin has been an integral part of our fundraising efforts since his children entered Franklin High School. He tirelessly promotes Franklin High School within the Livonia business community and in turn has been able to secure thousands of dollars in donations for events such as the Senior All Night Party, Senior Breakfast, and Staff Appreciation. Without his dedication, the Franklin PTSA would not be able to fund these events or provide the staff and student support that we pride ourselves in. Kevin is a great example of what one person can achieve and the difference one person can make in our small community.

Student – Harrison Shackelford

Enthusiastic, Friendly, Contributing, Adventurous member for four years. Harrison is the son of one of our board members and has been involved with PTA/PTSA his entire school career. Harrison has participated in all the great events that the PTSA has hosted and has directly benefited from fundraisers and classroom gifts. It is fitting that as a senior, Harrison is volunteering at the open house, manning the PTSA table, and stuffing goodie bags for teachers. This year, Harrison has been attending our meetings and is responsible for reporting on student congress events and acts as a liaison between Student Congress and the PTSA. Harrison quickly jumped onto the senior text chain to report happenings around the Senior All Night Party when the PTSA was struggling with what to plan and he has forged a strong and mutually beneficial relationship that is appreciated by the PTSA officers and the student congress teacher.

Stevenson High School

Staff – Chessa Turcott

Hard-working, Positive-attitude, Respectful, Helpful member for two years. Chessa is the secretary to the principal, Mr. Mazzoni at Stevenson High School. She is a wealth of information for the PTSA. She set up a calendar of PTSA meetings for the year, made copies of agendas, budgets and minutes for every meeting, helps us with set-ups at events like curriculum/open house night and answers any questions we may have. She is committed to the school and the district, not only as an employee but also as an alumna. She mentioned she was the main office co-op student her senior year of high school and now she is employed there! Her collaboration and support of the PTSA makes her an integral part of things running smoothly for Stevenson and the PTSA.

Parent – Kathy Pominville

Positive-attitude, Gracious, Helpful, Dedicated member for 17 years. Kathy is the epitome of PTSA!! She has been a member for 17 years, helping in many schools/units throughout those years. Kathy has served as Corresponding Secretary for two years at Holmes Middle School, co-chaired many committees such as 8th Grade Sendoff and Stevenson PTSA Showcase. She has also volunteered in the LMC since September 2005 assisting with shelving projects and book fairs and is very involved in Robotics. She is a wealth of information and gives so much of herself without hesitation or wanting of recognition. Her spirit of volunteerism shines bright! She has a positive attitude, never has a negative thought, and does all of this with a smile. The PTA values of Collaboration, Commitment, Accountability, Respect, Inclusivity, and Integrity are all the things that make Kathy so wonderful, helpful and supportive of the PTA! We can't thank her enough for all she that does!

Student – Halle Hunter

Committed, Dedicated, Hard-working, Positive-attitude member for one year. Halle is the Communications Director on Student Senate this year and our PTSA liaison. She is a great collaborator working with us and the Senate to get information out to the student body. She is committed to her school, PTSA and pom team, works well with others and is a team player. She has been very supportive of the PTSA and has been promoting membership to all the students as her main goal this year. She is very detailed in her reports at our meetings and wants to continue to support, promote and help the PTSA.

Important PTSA Council Dates for 2023

March – Transportation/Maintenance/Warehouse Appreciation

3/15 Executive Board Meeting | 6-7 p.m. | BOE office

Spring – Reflections Ceremony | TBD | TBD

4/19 General Membership Meeting & Elections | 6-7 p.m. | BOE office

4/27 Youth Making A Difference Celebration | TBD | TBD

5/24 Officer Training Workshop | 6-8 p.m. | TBD

6/7 Executive Board Meeting | 6-7 p.m. | BOE office

7/19 2023 Audit Party | 6-8 p.m. | Board Room, BOE building (downstairs)

Council generally meets on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month. PTSA Council suggests the following meeting schedule for units to minimize meeting/date conflicts:

First Week – Lower Elementary

Second Week – Upper Elementary

Third Week – Middle School

Fourth Week – High School

Livonia PTSA Past Council Presidents

2020-2022	Mandy Gerstenbrand
2018-2020	Kellie Dummer
2016-2018	Joanne Hayes
2014-2016	Julie Thompson
2012-2014	Liz Jarvis
2010-2012	Heather Broos
2008-2010	Heidy Nance
2006-2008	Jerilyn Petersmark
2004-2006	Pat Larson
2002-2004	Judee Taormina
2000-2002	Lynda Scheel
1998-2000	Nancy Stramecki
1996-1998	Christine Walczyk
1994-1996	Joyce Galindo
1992-1994	Karen Holmes
1990-1992	Kathy Kalousek
1988-1990	Sue Thompson
1986-1988	Bev Wesner



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