



THE BLACKHAWK BULLETIN

August 2019

Futures Taking Flight



From The Superintendent

Jeff Manthei

Leslie Public Schools

Leslie Public Schools is pleased to welcome Connie Gonzalez as the new principal at Woodworth Elementary and Greg Pscodna as the new MS/HS athletic director and varsity football coach.

Connie is a graduate of Lansing Everett High School. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from San Houston State University in Texas. In 2016, she completed her Ed.S. in Instructional Leadership.

She has a wide range of experience. While in Texas, Connie taught developmental writing, composition and reading. She taught at Lansing Sexton for 13 years and then moved to Fort Wayne Community Schools to become an assistant principal. Most recently, she has worked for the Lansing Public School District.

Connie enjoys quilting and is an avid reader. She currently lives in Lansing and looks forward to serving as the principal at Woodworth Elementary.

Greg joins the Blackhawk Community after spending last year as the Athletic Director/Dean of Students at Montabella Community Schools. He is a graduate of Adrian College and earned his Master of Arts in physical education and exercise science from Michigan State University.

Greg has over 20 years of coaching experience. He served as the head football coach at Alma College for six seasons. He was also the head coach at Defiance College from 1996-2002. He spent time as an assistant football coach at Grand Valley University, Albion College, and Northern Michigan University. Grand Valley and Albion both won national championships while Greg was there. Greg spent one year with the Arena Football League's Cleveland Thunderbolts and was a graduate assistant at Michigan State from 1989-1990.

Additionally, Greg was athletic director for seven years at Michigan Center High School. While at Michigan Center, he coached varsity football for four years. In 2010, he led his team to a 9-0 record. He is a two-time NCAA Division III Heartland Conference Coach of the Year, and in 2009 he was named an AP Division 5-6 All-State Football Coach.

Please stop in and say hello to Connie and Greg. We are happy to have both of them as Blackhawks.



Connie Gonzalez
Woodworth Elementary
Principal



Greg Pscodna
MS/HS
Athletic
Director
and Varsity
Football
Coach





Connie Gonzalez
Principal

Woodworth
Elementary
School

Greetings
Parents/
Guardians,

I am Connie
Gonzalez,
Woodworth's new
principal, and I

am truly blessed to be a part of this amazing school district! I am excited about getting to know everyone as we embark on the 2019-2020 school year.

Prior to Leslie Public Schools, I was an English and reading teacher for grades 6-12, a teacher leader at the high school level, as well as an assistant principal. I have earned several degrees: a bachelor's in English and reading, Master of Arts in English, Master of Education, and an Education Specialist in K-12 Leadership. Clearly, I believe in obtaining a quality education in order to meet individual aspirations. I continue to hold this belief today and intend to use it to inspire everyone at Woodworth Elementary to find the next level to work toward. I am passionate about professional leadership with our team, working with parents/guardians and students, and opportunities to be engaged in conversations about high quality learning.

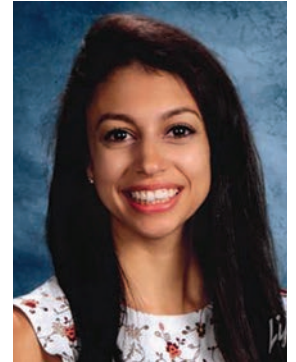
My goal is to develop strong working relationships with staff and students, as well as families and community members. That being said, I invite you to bring to my attention any concerns that may arise during the year. It would be my pleasure to engage in discussions that lead to common resolutions. I believe it takes a collaborative effort from all stakeholders to ensure students receive a quality education. Woodworth Elementary is dedicated to providing a learning environment conducive to nurturing student growth and development, while providing excellent instruction and learning experiences. Students attending Woodworth Elementary School will have access to all we have to offer, and we will work hard to ensure each student receives the supports necessary for success!

Most sincerely,

Connie Gonzalez

Connie Gonzalez, Ed.S.
Woodworth Elementary Principal
Connie.Gonzalez@lesliek12.net
517-589-5151

We would like to introduce Lauren Carney, a graduate of Grand Valley State University. She worked with kindergarteners at Woodworth Elementary last year and has been hired to teach first grade in the fall. Lauren has always been passionate about teaching and is excited to continue her career at Woodworth!



WOODWORTH'S SUMMER PROGRAM



Investigating owl pellets



Dirt pudding to go with insect unit

Mark your calendars!



Woodworth
Elementary

- August 21 – Back-to-School Night (4-6 pm)
- August 26 – First Day of School
- September 25 – Picture Day
- October 2 – Picture Day (Preschool)
- October 16-17 – Parent-Teacher Conferences
- November 13 – Picture Retakes Day
- March 24-25 – Parent-Teacher Conferences
- April 22 – Spring Pictures



LMS students and parents, welcome back to a new and exciting school year! I hope you had a wonderful summer and are now ready to move forward with the 2019-20 school year. We have been very busy throughout our building this summer preparing for the arrival of students on the first day of school which is Monday, August 26, 2019.

We have several new staff joining us for the 2019-20 school year. Please welcome:

- 5/6 Grade Math Ms. Grace Martin
- 7/8 Grade Math Ms. Libby Rieman
- MS/HS Band Mr. Nathan Schulte
- MS Art Mrs. Leanne Schnepf

We will have a new MS/AD secretary, 7th grade social studies teacher and counselor to announce soon.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite all parents and students to attend our annual Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, August 21 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. This event will provide students and families the opportunity to tour the building, visit classrooms, meet briefly with teachers, and try out new lockers and combinations. Cookies and punch will be served in the cafeteria for all of our visitors.

To help make the transition from elementary to middle school as smooth as possible, LMS would like to extend an invitation to all 5th grade students and their parents to visit us during our Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, August 21 from 6:00 – 6:30 pm for a special orientation. This orientation will include a brief slide show, introductions of our 5th grade teachers and staff, a Q&A session, and an overview of 5th grade scheduling. All 5th graders are welcome to come early, tour the building, and check out their lockers prior to this special orientation presentation.

Student schedules will be sent out in early August.

Go Hawks!



Todd Gonser
Principal
Leslie Middle School

Mark your calendars!

Leslie Middle School

- August 21 – 4:30-6:30 pm Back-to-School Night
- August 26 – First day of school
- October 2 – Picture Day
- November 13 – Picture Retake Day
- October 9-10 – Parent-Teacher Conferences
- March 18-19 – Parent-Teacher Conferences



Ms. Grace Martin
5/6 Grade Math



Ms. Libby Rieman
7/8 Grade Math



Mr. Nathan Schulte
MS/HS Band



Mrs. Leanne Schnepf
MS Art



Scott Powers

Principal

Leslie High School

LHS Receives Chocolate Milk Grant Again

Leslie High School received the United Dairy Association's 'Nature's Sports Drink' Grant again this year thanks to the hard work of Mr. Bondsteel. This is the fifth year LHS has received this grant. Over the years, it has provided more than 14,000 bottles of chocolate milk to our athletes after a workout! Chocolate milk provides a combination of carbohydrates and protein to help refuel and repair muscles. Thank you, Mr. Bondsteel and the United Dairy Association!

Mark your calendars!



Leslie High School

- August 21 - 5-7 pm Back-to-School Night
- August 26 - First day of school
- September 11 - Picture Day
- September 27 - Homecoming
- October 3 - 3-7:30 pm Parent-Teacher Conferences
- October 18 - Pink Hawk Project
- October 30 - Picture Retake day

LPS Welcomes New Band Director



Leslie High School would like to introduce our new band director, Mr. Nathan Schulte. Mr. Schulte graduated from Alma College and started teaching at Pittsford Middle/High School where he has been the last seven years. He still loves performing and is the percussion section leader in the Hillsdale Wind Symphony. He is excited to hit the ground running.



Going Pro in Michigan

You may have noticed some of the billboards around the state advertising "Going Pro in Michigan." This campaign offers information about some of the most in-demand professional trade careers. While approximately 70% of our students attend college, we know that some students benefit from a different path after high school. Leslie has always had great representation at the Wilson Talent Center (formerly the Capital Area Career Center), but there were limited additional resources for students who wanted information about professional trades after high school. Students can now visit the website going-pro.com for answers to their questions. If you have a student who is thinking about a career in manufacturing, IT, construction, or another trade, please check it out!





Two Former LPS Students Assist with Summer Band Camp

My name is Taylor Losey, and I am a 2017 graduate of Leslie High School. I'll be a junior this upcoming fall at Western Michigan University. I have been performing for the last two years in the Bronco Marching Band, and I'm pursuing my degree in trumpet performance. This summer I'm here helping with the Blackhawk Marching Band for a second consecutive year. During my time at LHS, I enjoyed all four years of our band program, taught by Jake Greenwood at the time. He prompted me to stay involved with band and even convinced me to get my degree in music, so for that I'm forever grateful. I'm really excited to be back in my hometown and to give back to my community. This band sounds great, and I can't wait to show the community how hard everyone has worked this week!



Taylor Losey

My name is Lindsey Willett, and I am a Leslie graduate of 2016. In high school, I marched for four years in the color guard section of the Blackhawk Marching Band. Nowadays, I am a fourth year Grand Valley State University student studying advertising and public relations. I am also a fourth year member, section leader, and president of the Laker Marching Band. This is my third season working at my alma mater as color guard instructor, and I'm so excited to be able to come home to Leslie and give back to my community the best way I know how! Enjoy the show!



Lindsey Willett



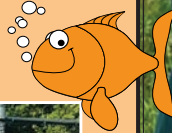


Soccer camp

U 10 Baseball



New Kitten



Travel league champion



Riding in side-by-side



IBRA Barrel Racing



Summer BB team camp - Traverse City



Atlantic Ocean



Blue Water Bridge - Port Huron

Karate



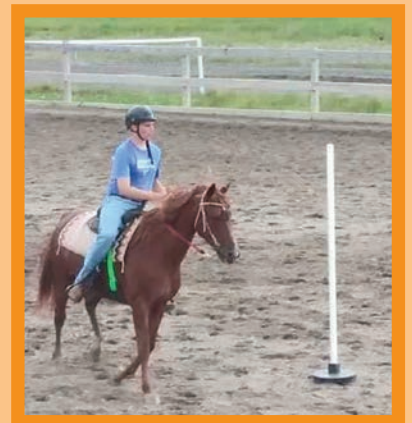
Wrestled SSPN World of Sports - Orlando



Summer MSU baseball camp



Varsity cross country camp, morning beach run



Pole Bending



Travel softball

Summer swimming fun





SCHOOL MEALS 2019-2020



FREE & REDUCED MEALS INFORMATION

- Free and reduced meal applications will be mailed home prior to school starting.
- Applications can also be found in the school offices or filled out online at www.lunchapp.com.
- **IMPORTANT:** A NEW application needs to be filled out every year! Please return the application as soon as possible.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH Prices for the 2019-20 School Year:

• Woodworth:	Breakfast...\$1.25	Lunch...\$2.50	Milk...\$0.45
• Middle School:	Breakfast...\$1.25	Lunch...\$2.75	Milk...\$0.45
• High School:	Breakfast...\$1.75	Lunch...\$3.00	Milk...\$0.45
• Reduced Price Meals:	Breakfast...\$0.30	Lunch...\$0.40	

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email Kristen Hawkins, the Leslie Food Service Director, at (517)589-9616 or kristen.hawkins@lesliek12.net.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement: In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information is available in languages other than English.

To file a complaint alleging discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:>program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Leslie Public Schools Bus Drivers Needed

Do you have a good driving record? Enjoy working with children? Looking for excitement and adventure in your daily life?

Need part-time employment?

How about considering becoming a bus driver? Competitive wages starting at \$15.75/hr. with a \$750 signing bonus paid over the course of a year of driving.

Hours are approximately 6:15 – 7:45 am and 2:25 – 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

A CDL with B, P and S endorsements, a DOT physical, and satisfactory completion of Bus School are needed.

Training is available.

For further information contact Troy James, Leslie Transportation Supervisor, at 517-589-8413.





Fall Practice Start Times

Monday, August 12	Football, Cross Country, Tennis
Wednesday, August 14	Volleyball

August Athletic Events At Home

Monday, August 19	Boys Soccer vs Eaton Rapids at 5:30 pm
Monday, August 26	Boys Soccer vs Columbia Central at 5:30 pm
	Boys Tennis vs Pennfield (Kiwanis Park) at 4:30 pm
Wednesday, August 28	Boys Soccer vs Lakeview at 5:30 pm
Thursday, August 29	Football vs Dansville at 7:00 pm

Greg Pscodna
 Athletic Director/Head Football Coach
 greg.pscodna@leslie12.net
 517-589-9500 x195



All high school and middle school athletes must have a physical completed after April 15, 2019 on file at the school before they can try out for an athletic team. Additionally, high school and middle school athletes must pay an athletic participation fee before they are allowed to play in a regular season athletic event. The fee allows the athlete to compete in all athletic seasons. Athletic fees, which need to be turned in to the school offices, are listed below.

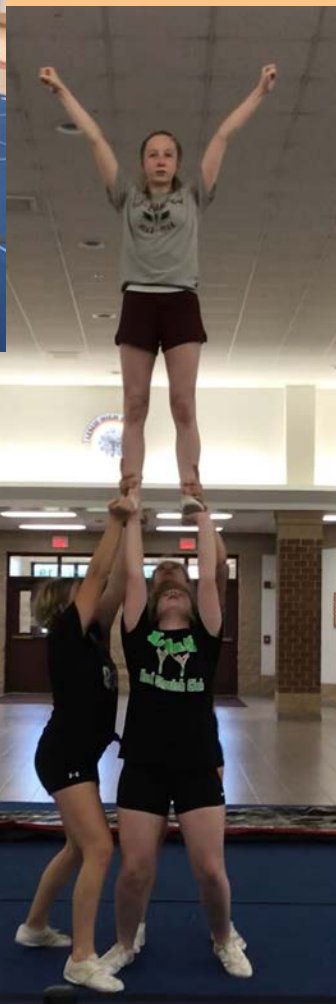
High School Athletic Participation Fees

- Individual fee - \$125
- Reduced lunch student - \$30
- Free lunch student - \$15

Middle School Athletic Participation Fees

- Individual fee - \$65
- Reduced lunch student - \$20
- Free lunch student - \$10
- Family fee (2 or more) - \$200

SUMMER CHEER



LPS Welcomes New Transportation Secretary

Kara Mowers joins Leslie Public Schools as secretary for the bus garage. Prior to this, she served as office administrator for a utility company, as well as office coordinator for a brain injury rehab center. Kara has college credits in elementary education from Baker College and business administration from LCC. In her spare time, Kara enjoys spending time with family and friends, with family being the most important to her. She loves her black lab Camie who is almost 15 years old! Kara enjoys the four seasons Pure Michigan offers and living a simple yet fulfilling life. Kara lives in the neighboring city of Mason and is excited to be part of the Blackhawk family. She looks forward to meeting new people and most importantly learning her new role!



Pesticide/Herbicide Use Notification

Leslie Public Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. Inherent with this are the District's efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, these will only be used as a last resort. This program does not rely on routine pesticide applications to resolve problems. We use various techniques such as habitat alteration, sanitation, mechanical means, exclusion, etc. to prevent pests from becoming a problem.

Parents will receive advanced notice of the application at their child's school of any pesticide other than a bait or gel formulation. This advance notice of the application will be given 48 hours before the application. The law requires us to provide notification by using two methods. The second method we are going to use is posting a notice in a common area located by the main office of the school. Parents are also entitled to receive this notice by first-class United States mail postmarked at least three days before the application. If you would like to be notified by mail, please contact the Facility Department at 517-589-8413. Leave your name, mailing address and which school your child attends.

In an emergency (for example, bees nest), pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but parents will be provided notice following any such application.

You may review our IPM program or pesticide application records by calling the Facility Director at 517-589-8413 or by emailing troy.james@lesliek12.net. This number or email may also be used when school is not in regular session.



Leslie Public Schools
2019-2020 School Calendar

August '19						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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September '19						
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29	30					

October '19						
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27	28	29	30	31		

November '19						
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December '19						
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January '20						
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March '20						
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29	30	31				

April '20						
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May '20						
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31						

June '20						
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28	29	30				

July '20						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- School Closed/Holidays
- Teacher In-service Day (no school for Students)
- Half Day for students
- Late Start 2 hour Teacher PD
- First Day of School

11/25/19 3 hour PD for teachers
 3/12/20 3 hour PD for teachers
 6/4/20 2 hour PD for teachers

Trimester 1 Ends November 26, 2019
 Trimester 2 Ends March 13, 2020
 Trimester 3 Ends June 5, 2020



This newsletter is published by the Leslie Board of Education and is distributed to each household in the Leslie Public School District area.

2019 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dave Cowing
Mary Crowl
Shauna Howe

Eric Isham
Deann Maynard
Kevin McDaniel

John Wayne Stewart
Jeff Manthei, Superintendent

IMPORTANT DATES!

August 30 – September 2
No School/Labor Day
November 1
No School
November 27, 28, 29
Thanksgiving Break
December 23 – January 3
Holiday Break
January 20
No School
February 17
No School
April 3-10
Spring Break
May 25
Memorial Day
June 5
Last Day of School

Rights, Protection and Benefits for Homeless Children

Your children may be eligible for certain rights and protections under the Federal McKinney-Vento Act. Homeless children and youth are defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Is your family living in a homeless shelter, motel, campground, car, abandoned building, or doubled up with other people due to loss of housing? If so, your children may have the right to homeless benefits. If you believe your children may be eligible for these benefits, contact the homeless liaison (Marcy Best 517-589-8200 ext. 101) or a school counselor for more information. The Leslie Outreach, a food bank, can provide low income families living in Leslie Public School District with one week's worth of groceries per month. It is open on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions or need information, please call the Leslie Outreach at 517-589-5814 or contact them at leslie_outreach@att.net.



We want to keep you informed!

For updated information, “Like” us on **Facebook**, follow various **Twitter** accounts, and view the district website.

The website can be found at www.lesliek12.net.

Contact Information

Central Administration 517.589.8200
Woodworth Elementary 517.589.5151
Leslie Middle School 517.589.8218
Leslie High School 517.589.9500
Family Learning Center 517.589.8205
Bus Garage 517.589.8413
Food Service 517.589.9616



Cancellation of School

Occasionally school may be cancelled due to inclement weather or other emergencies. The school district will notify parents of school closings or delays through the telephone and email notification system. Television stations 6 and 10 also provide closing information. School cancellations can also be found on the Leslie Public Schools website at www.lesliek12.net. Cancellation of extracurricular events is based on a case-by-case decision.