

Holton Public Schools



# KNOW Your Schools

Rooted in Community, Reaching for Excellence.

Vol 17, Issue 4, June 2023

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Holton Families:

Thank you for a great school year! Below are a few updates as we launch into summer break:

### 2023-24 ENROLLMENT

We continue to enroll students for the 2023-2024 School Year. We have a variety of options for enrollment. You can learn more about how to enroll by visiting <https://www.holtonschools.com/for-parents/enrollment/>. Holton Public Schools is a great place to Grow, Learn, Graduate, and Succeed!

### SCHOOL NURSE

We are very excited to announce the addition of a school nurse to the district next year! Hackley Community Care received approval to convert the Elementary Behavioral Health Clinic to a School Wellness Program which allows the addition of a School Nurse. The nurse will be housed in the Health Room in the Elementary Office. The nurse will be able to see elementary and secondary students. There is a bit of renovation that needs to happen in the space this summer. The plan is that the nurse will be in place at the start of the school year. We are thrilled that this added support will be available for our students and families. More information will be coming about how the nurse can be accessed and the various services that will be available in the fall.

### SERVICE AWARD RECOGNITION

We recently celebrated our 20, 25, and 30 years of service employees. Completing 20 years of service to the district are Mr. Andy Haak, Mrs. Tammy Fowler, Mrs. Sharon Almond, and Mrs. Robin Taylor. Completing 25 years of service to the district are Ms. Shannon Sundberg, Ms. Laura Fialek, and Mrs. Mary Frey. Completing 30 years of service to the district is Mrs. Kenda Standfest! We are incredibly thankful to the dedication of each of these staff members!

### RETIREES

Bill Goericke, Jenny Mutchler, and Jane Behm will be retiring from Holton Public Schools. Each of these individuals profoundly impacted the students, staff, and community they've served. We wish them each a long, happy, and healthy retirement and many fun memories on this new journey! We are grateful for their contributions to Holton Public Schools.

### GOLDEN APPLE AWARD

The Golden Apple Award was established long ago with the intent of honoring an individual or group of people who have contributed to Holton Public Schools by volunteering significant time to support our students. This year's winner helps run all of our concessions, serves on the Holton Boosters Board and serves as an Assistant Bowling Coach. Holton Public Schools honored Todd McLean at our end of year luncheon for his dedication and service. Todd was provided a plaque to recognize his contributions.

### FACILITY PROJECTS

We will be working on a variety of facility improvements throughout the summer. This includes seal coating and striping some of our parking lots, scrubbing and waxing the floors, upgrading our building public announcement systems, and other general maintenance tasks to get the buildings ready for Fall 2023!

I hope you and your family have a great summer filled with lots of time to read and enjoy all the beauty West Michigan has to offer! Thank you for all of your support throughout the school year! I am so proud to serve this district! On Holton!

*With Great Respect and Pride, Dr. Adam Bayne*



## 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Open House	August 23
First Day of School	August 28
No School	September 1 - September 4
Early Release	September 6
Early Release	September 20
Early Release	October 4
1/2 Day MS/HS Conferences	October 12
No School - Teacher PD	October 13
No School - Fall Break	October 16 - 17
Early Release	October 18
Early Release	November 1
1/2 Day - Elem Conferences	November 2
Early Release	November 15
No School - Thanksgiving Break	November 22 - 24
Early Release	December 6
Early Release	December 20
1/2 Day - Holiday Break	December 22
No School - Holiday Break	December 25 - January 5
School Resumes	January 8
No School - Teacher PD	January 15
Early Release	January 17
1/2 Days - Exams	January 18 - 19
Early Release	February 7
No School - Mid Winter Break	February 19 - 23
Early Release	March 6
1/2 Day - MS/HS Conferences	March 7
Early Release	March 20
1/2 Day - Elem Conferences	March 21
No School - Spring Break	March 29 - April 7
Early Release	April 17
Early Release	May 1
Early Release	May 15
No School - Memorial Day	May 27
Early Release	June 5
1/2 Days - Exams	June 10 - 11

Start time: MS/HS.....7:45 a.m. End time.....2:35 p.m.  
Start time: Elem.....8:50 a.m. End time.....3:45 p.m.

Half day end time: MS/HS.....10:55 a.m.  
Elem.....12:00 p.m.

Early Release end times: MS/HS.....1:05 pm  
Elem.....2:15pm

## Graduation 2023



Graduation for the Class of 2023 was held in Red Devil Stadium on May 31, 2023. It was a beautiful and warm ceremony celebrating the graduates and all of their accomplishments. Ashley Latsch, Class of 2013 graduate and Grand Haven's City Manager, returned as a guest speaker to inspire the graduates with some words of wisdom.

*Congratulations to the class of 2023!!*

## Class of 2023 - Top Ten Graduates



**Kate Konzemius** is the daughter of Todd and Kristi Konzemius. She is the Valedictorian of her class. Kate plans to attend Michigan State University to study Human Resource Management.



**Skylar Larson** is the daughter of Joy and Rob Larson. She is ranked 3rd in her class. Skylar plans to attend Michigan State University to get an Education Degree in hopes of teaching high school English.



**Teagan Bayne** is the son of Scott and Michelle Bayne. He is the Salutatorian of his class. Teagan plans to attend Grand Valley State University to pursue an Exercise Science/Kinesiology Degree and continue on to get a Masters in Occupational Therapy.



**Courtney Boes** is the daughter of Steve Boes and Krystal and Kevin Erickson. She is ranked 4th in her class. Courtney plans to attend the University of Michigan to study Nutrition and Dietetics.



**Haily McKee** is the daughter of Shanna Hiron and Derrick McKee. She is ranked 5th in her class. Haily plans to attend Michigan State University to pursue a Doctorate in Nursing.



**Alexis Oles** is the daughter of Nicole and Tony Oles. She is ranked 6th in her class. Alexis plans to attend Michigan State University to pursue a degree in the healthcare field.



**Vanessa Peltoniemi** is the daughter of Petri Peltoniemi and Misu Peltoniemi-Kozal. She is ranked 7th in her class. Vanessa plans to attend the University of Michigan to pursue a career as a Nurse Practitioner.



**Aiden Potter** is the son of Jacqueline and Michael Lang (Grandparents), Sara Vankammen and Eric Potter. He is ranked 8th in his class. Aiden plans to attend Grand Valley State University for a writing degree with hopes of becoming an author.



**Brodrick Fialek** is the son of Bryan and Andrea Fialek. He is ranked 9th in his class. Brodrick plans to attend Central Michigan University to study Exercise Science.



**Lilian Mullins** is the daughter of Jeanie Mullins. She is ranked 10th in her class. Lilian plans to attend Lake Superior State University to pursue a degree in Animal Biology.



## Principal Letter



I hope this message finds your summer off to a great start. Summer can be the best time of the year to spend quality time with family and friends and forget about school for a while. However, I also hope that you are doing some daily reading to keep your most important organ exercised, your brain.

Remember, each new school year our students get to reinvent themselves. What we accomplished last year may have been great, but no one should rest on past accomplishments. Next year you get a fresh start. Spend some time this summer reflecting on what changes you could make. Make this the year you try a sport for the first time or join an academic club. Find more ways to become involved and make new friends by joining student council or Quiz Bowl. Make it a goal to try something new. You may just discover something you really enjoy.

I would like to wish you all the very best summer vacation possible, and I look forward to welcoming you all back, refreshed, for what will be an exciting, new academic year.

On behalf of the entire Holton staff, I would like to wish you a wonderful summer break with your children, creating many memories that will last throughout a lifetime. Thank you for all your hard work throughout the school year. I am so honored to be your principal!

*Sincerely, Erik Carlson, Principal*

### PBIS/Ride With Pride 2022-2023!



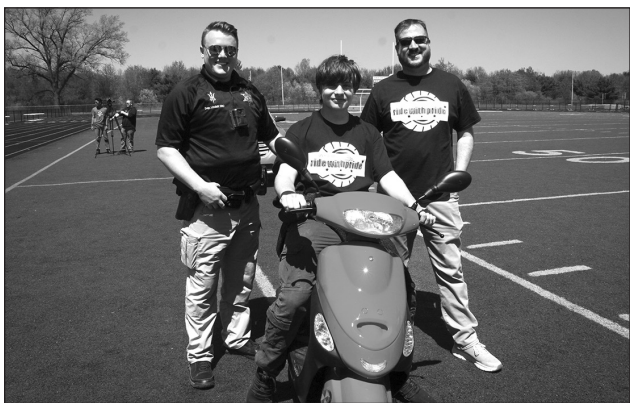
### Thank you PBIS/RWP Sponsors!

Holton Middle/High School had its end of the year PBIS/Ride With Pride celebration on May 10th. Students who have earned RED Tickets this semester were eligible for tons of prizes. Students won pop, candy, electronics, games, toys, stuffed animals, gift cards, and more. For the Ride With Pride part of the assembly, we had three middle school students win bikes donated by the Fremont WalMart. The bike winners were Bentley Kops, Emery Bourdo, and Gabe Helms. The winner of the moped this year was Brendan Kolka. The moped and many prizes were purchased with money donated by Twin Lake Greenhouse, The Pizza Mill, Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, and Slater Contractors. Finally, the winner of the car was Melissa Kersting. The car was once again generously donated by Fremont Ford.

*Thank you to all of our sponsors!*



*Melissa Kersting with her new car courtesy of Fremont Ford. Pictured with owners Mike Robinson and Ed Devine.*



*Brendan Kolka sits on his new moped.*



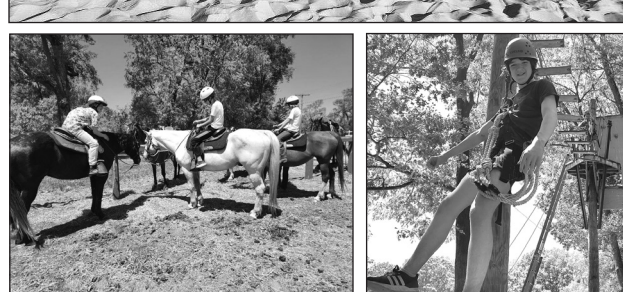
*Left to right: Bentley Kops, Gabe Helms, and Emery Bourdo.*

### Decision Day



Decision Day this year was an absolute success! It was a great day for the whole school to celebrate the Class of 2023's "decision" on what their plans will be for after graduation. Whether a student's plan was to attend a four year university or enter directly into the workforce, each student was celebrated in their own unique style as they walked out onto the gym floor while a song of their choice played and the cheers of their fellow students rang out in applause. Mr. Horenziak and Mr. Spadafore gave speeches addressing the students about the importance of hard work and living life to its fullest. Several seniors won prizes including televisions, refrigerators, and gift cards. The day ended with a very fun pizza eating contest with the winner being the team of Mr. Glick, Teagan Bayne, and Thomas Ingram.

### 6TH GRADE CAMP!



This year's 6th graders outdid themselves at Grace Adventures. The students set goals and exceeded those goals. They challenged themselves and did activities they didn't believe they could do.

### Hey Soon to be 6th Graders! (Hey What?!) BEGINNING BAND INFORMATION

The study of music could be one of the most valuable steps in your education. Current research shows that playing an instrument increases brain development and — along with developing **responsibility, mental discipline, teamwork, and self-esteem** — will provide enjoyment while fostering a lifelong appreciation of music and other arts!

If there are any incoming 6th grade students who would like to try out Band, please contact Mrs. Thompson throughout the summer via email ([gthompson@holton.k12.mi.us](mailto:gthompson@holton.k12.mi.us)) or by calling the Band Room office at (231) 821-1950.

All instruction for Band is free, and all that is necessary to do is obtain an instrument (rent/buy/borrow) and a method book for the student to play from. A quality instrument is essential for each child's success. Details for obtaining an instrument can be obtained by contacting Mrs. T at the school or West Michigan Band Instruments at (616) 447-8124, or by visiting their website ([www.westmichiganband.com](http://www.westmichiganband.com)). There will be a rental meeting scheduled after the school year begins for those who need instruments.

Mrs. T looks forward to hearing from those interested (*and she is very excited for those of you who have already asked to be put on the Beginning Band roster!*)

### MARCHING BAND

Mrs. Thompson is preparing a great show for the upcoming Marching season! Tunes selected (by students) for this show include: Lady Gaga's smash hit, BORN THIS WAY followed by PART OF ME made popular by Katy Perry, JUST GIVE ME A REASON by Pink!, and closing the show will be I GOTTA FEELING from the Black Eyed Peas. This POSITIVE PLAYLIST will be sure to inspire students and audiences alike!

Leading the Band again this year is Drum Major, JOSLIN "OLLIE" VANDERBOEGH! Joining Ollie at the helm and newly appointed to the position of Drum Major is TYLER "TJ" TYNDALL! Serving the Band in the positions of Field Commanders this year will be returning leader, KYLEE RICKLE and newly appointed leader, MARCUS NEWELL! Incoming 7th and 8th grade Band students are invited to participate in Marching Band if they choose. If you are a middle school student, and want to be in the Marching Band — **make sure Mrs. T knows ASAP so that she can include you when writing the show and the drill!**

### COLOR GUARD 2023

Welcome back to the 2023 Holton Color Guard, JILLIAN MOORE & HANNAH MCFARLAND! Jillian & Hannah will CO-CAPTAIN the Guard this year. Holton Band would also like to welcome our new Guard members, EMMA KEMPF & KAELEN FREES!

### 2023 MARCHING BAND CAMP

*-Drum Majors should attend pre-camp, too-*

**Pre-Camp:** Aug. 9 (Wednesday) 9AM-11:30AM - DM(s) & Percussion, Band Room  
Aug. 10 (Thursday) 9AM-11:30AM - DM(s) & Color Guard, Band Room

**Camp:** Aug. 14-18 (Monday-Friday) 9AM-1:00PM, Stadium, Practice Field, & Band Room

*Full Band reports to Band Room*

Mrs. T will be at the school a lot over the summer, reach out if you want help with music or instrument needs, turning in payments, etc. Please contact Mrs. T for a time that works best for you via email at [gthompson@holton.k12.mi.us](mailto:gthompson@holton.k12.mi.us)

### 65th Annual Law Day Competition



On May 12th, The Muskegon County Courthouse and The American Bar Association sponsored the 65th Annual Law Day Competition! Representing Holton in the 9th-12th grade category (for the second year!)

was Abbie Beattie (10th grade) and showcased in the 12th grade category was Faith Hale. Both students prepared and presented speeches dealing with "CIVICS, CIVILITY, and COLLABORATION". The 35 students who participated from all over Muskegon County were critiqued by judges and attorneys and all of the students were honored at a banquet following the event at The Lake House Restaurant.

*Huge congratulations and kudos to Abbie and Faith for their poise and preparedness!*

## Principal Letter

Holton Elementary Families,

The 2022-2023 school year has come to an end. It is always amazing how fast the end sneaks up on me. Spring time at school is filled with so many things including academic testing, track and field, year-end celebrations, and field trips. Spring was filled with many beautiful days and some really hot days to finish up the year.

Each spring teachers share their overall student progress and this year was outstanding. Students are making huge amounts of academic growth and many of the gaps that were caused with the disruption to education a few years ago are closing and closing quickly. Many areas have surpassed where we were pre pandemic. The hard work of our students, staff, and parents continue to lead to more and more academic success.

As we transition to summer, the hallways will continue to be filled with learners for our summer program beginning June 19th. The program will run six weeks with a break for a week during July 4th. The program will offer academic programming in the morning with Holton teachers focusing on math and ELA. The afternoon will transition to Project Focus taking over for hands on learning activities. This will be a great opportunity of learning and new experiences for our students.

I am hoping that everyone gets time this summer to relax and enjoy many outdoor activities and fun with their families and friends. As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact me anytime at ebyrnes@holton.k12.mi.us or 231-821-1828.

*Happy Summer,  
Erin Byrnes, Holton Elementary Principal*



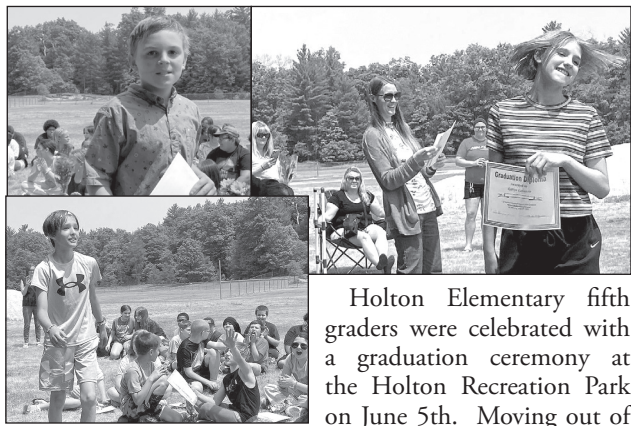
## 2023-2024 KINDERGARTEN OPTIONS & ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

For the 2023-2024 school year, Holton Elementary will continue to offer two options for our new Kindergarten students! There will be traditional Kindergarten classrooms as well as a transitional Kindergarten classroom. As the academic expectations of Kindergarten increase, it has been shown that some children need more time to grow socially and emotionally before they are completely ready for traditional Kindergarten. There is strong research to support delaying the heavy academic demands for some children will lead to much more confident learners.

The transitional Kindergarten class is a two-year experience for students who can use the extra time. The first year will be in the transitional Kindergarten classroom using a curriculum that focuses on a play based experience and allows them to become curious and confident learners. The second year, students would enroll in a traditional, academic Kindergarten classroom.

If you have a child that will be five before September 1st, 2023 (or December 1, 2023 with a waiver) and you are interested in traditional Kindergarten or transitional Kindergarten, please call the elementary office at 231-821-1826 for enrollment information through June 15th; after June 16th contact the district services office for enrollment information at 231-821-1700.

## 5TH GRADE GRADUATION



Holton Elementary fifth graders were celebrated with a graduation ceremony at the Holton Recreation Park on June 5th. Moving out of elementary and into middle school is an exciting transition for students and we wish our fifth graders the best of luck as they move to the secondary building.

*Congratulations 5th Graders!*

## Yearbook Cover Design Contest



This year the elementary once again held a yearbook cover design contest with the third, fourth, and fifth grade students. All of the students did a great job of designing and creating amazing covers. As it is every year, the decision was very difficult. This year's winners were Oakland Guinon and Mak Reilly, both from third grade.

*Congratulations to them both!!!*

## Science Alive Visit This Spring



Holton Elementary is always so excited to have Science Alive come to visit and this year they came in May. Thank you to the Holton Parent Teacher Organization for once again bringing Science Alive to the elementary building. "Science Alive, the hands-on science education organization, has long established itself at the forefront of Michigan's educational resources. Through personalized, interactive school classroom presentations with live reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals, Science Alive brings the study of science to life for students, kindergarten through junior high" (Sciencealiveanimals.com). Each group received an hour long presentation about the animals they brought with them, their habitats, and careers that are available working with animals.

## Year End Celebration



Students were surprised with an end of year whole school celebration on June 6th. Each grade was able to play on bounce houses, obstacle courses, and blow up slides. Every student was given a popsicle to cool them down in the heat and face painting was also available. It was a great way to wrap up the year and celebrate students showing Respect, Effort, and Dependability.

## Mini-Medical School

Ms. Lisa Sundberg's 3rd grade class participated in a Mini-Medical School program during the month of March. This program was offered through the MAISD Career Tech Center (in a partnership with the Michigan Health Council). It is offered to help build a foundation of career awareness by introducing students to professions in health care while learning about health & wellness. Students completed stations in Bone Health, Medical Instruments, Germs & Hygiene, Organs, Nutrition, Exercise, and Dental Health. They learned about many of the jobs that are possible in the healthcare industry and which ones might suit their personalities. At the end of the program, they participated in a Zoom visit with a physician to ask her questions about her job. All of the students who completed their modules earned a certificate and a "swag bag" filled with items provided by the CTC.

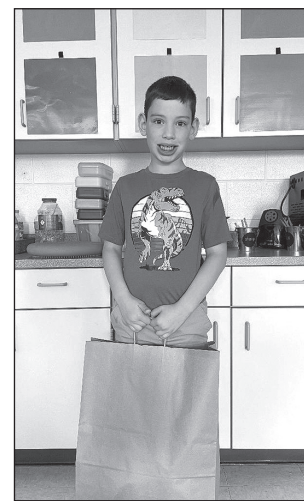


## Elementary Field Trips

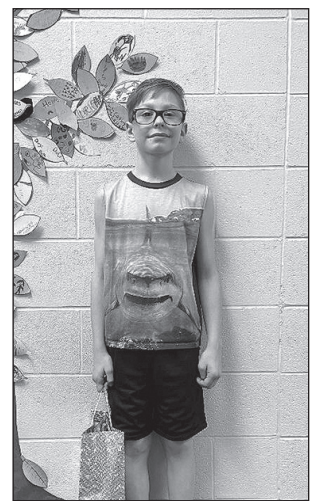
All grades were able to go on a field trip this spring to celebrate the end of an amazing school year.

- Kindergarten & 1st Grade visited Lewis Farms
- 2nd Grade visited John Ball Park Zoo
- 3rd Grade went bowling & swimming
- 4th Grade went to Lansing to visit the Capitol
- 5th Grade went to Michigan's Adventure

## CONGRATULATIONS TO HOLTON ELEMENTARY'S PERFECT ATTENDANCE WINNERS



*Mason Foster*



*Isaiah Helms*

## Y's Safety Around Water Program

The third grade was lucky to be able to attend the Y's Safety Around Water program (affectionately known as Pool School) for 5 weeks during February and March. The 5-session course teaches children two sets of skills that will reduce the risk of drowning and gives children confidence in and around water. We learned what to do in a boating accident, if someone falls through the ice, how to float and tread water, and to **NEVER SWIM ALONE!** It also provided the kids with new opportunities for growth and development, staying active and healthy, and gaining confidence that comes from accomplishing new skills. Hats off to the Y for providing such an important program, especially for us Michiganders!





## Recognized for their years of service to Holton Public Schools!

**20 years**



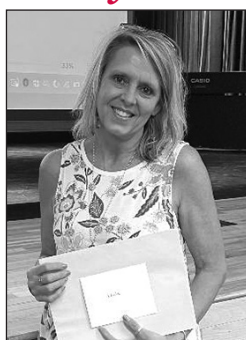
Tammy Fowler, Robin Taylor, Andy Haak, and Sharon Almond

**25 years**



Laura Fialek.  
Not Pictured:  
Shannon Sundberg  
and Mary Frey

**30 years**



Kenda Standfest

## Retirees



Jane Behm, Jenny Mutchler, Bill Goericke



## GOLDEN APPLE AWARD WINNER

Todd McLean with his award.

## Spring All-Conference Athletes



Top Row: Rylee Pierce, Sydney McCormick, Tanner Stephens, Ryann Robins, Tuff Scott

Bottom Row: Grace Thompson, Kenzie Greene, Aubrey Goyings, Abby Fowler

Not Pictured: Chase Albright and Kate Conzemius

**Softball:** Ryann Robins, Abby Fowler, Grace Thompson, Kenzie Greene, Sydney McCormick (HM), Aubrey Goyings (HM)

**Golf:** Tanner Stephens, Rylee Pierce, Tuff Scott (HM)

**Baseball:** Chase Albright (HM)

**Track:** Kate Conzemius (HM)

## Leadership Award in Energy Efficiency



The Facilities Department recently accepted the Leadership Award in Energy Efficiency at the annual DTE and The Engineering Society of Detroit Michigan Energy Efficiency Conference on behalf of the district. Holton Public Schools was recognized for our commitment to energy efficiency through our various facilities upgrades over the last several years including energy efficient boilers, kitchen equipment, automatic building control systems and LED lighting. DTE created a video about some of the kitchen work that resulted in rebates from DTE for purchasing energy efficient equipment work and can be found on DTE's YouTube channel. *Great job and congratulations to our facilities team!*

## DISTRICT CHAMPS!!



Congratulations to the 2023 softball team on their success this year!



The Holton Education Foundation Board held a cruise themed Red Devil Legacy event to raise funds for the Holton Education Fund. The evening was filled with games, raffles, silent auction, and a school administrator competition! The Holton Education Foundation Board also gave the Distinguished Alumni Award to Class of 2004 Holton High School graduate, Kara Bostrom. Kara accepted the award and expressed her gratitude for being recognized for her career in brain research and the Ottawa County 58th District Court. With the support of sponsors and donors, including generous contributions from many staff members and businesses, over \$4000 was raised for the Holton Education Foundation! The Holton Education Foundation Board is thankful for the incredible support of the table sponsors, raffle and silent auction donors, and volunteers who helped make this a very successful event. Hopefully you can make the Red Devil Legacy event next year! If you'd like to learn more about how to support the Holton Education Foundation which provides scholarships and teacher mini grants visit <https://www.holtionschools.com/ourdistrict/holton-public-schools-education-endowment-fund/>.

## Holton Band Performances

The Holton Band students traveled to Chicago over Memorial Day weekend and played at the annual Holton Memorial Day service. What a busy weekend of learning and playing in museums and historical sites, seeing spectacular shows, sightseeing, and honoring those who have served. Here is a photo from Memorial Day Weekend.

### Rock on Holton!



## CONTACT NUMBERS

Administration Office:  
821-1700 Fax: 821-1724  
High School Office:  
821-1725 Fax: 821-1774  
Middle School Office:  
821-1775 Fax: 821-1774  
Elementary Office:  
821-1825 Fax: 821-1849  
Transportation Office:  
821-1707 Fax: 821-1722  
Maintenance Office: 821-1709  
Athletic Director: 821-1930  
Athletic Office: 821-1707

## District Services Building Summer Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:00 - 3:30  
Phone 231-821-1700

## Back to School Open House August 23, 2023 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

## Bus Drivers & Bus Aides Needed for the 2023-2024 school year

We will provide training  
Contact Stacy @ 821-1707 for more details.



Muskegon Area District Library - Holton Branch  
8776 Holton-Duck Lake Rd.  
231-821-0268  
www.madl.org

## KIDS AND FAMILIES

### Join the Summer Adventure Challenge!

Come to the Holton Branch every month for a new challenge. Earn a badge when you return with your completed task. **Collect all badges and win a prize!**

Fridays at 2pm throughout the summer come to the library's Craft Lab! **We provide the crafting materials, you bring the ideas!**

First Wednesday of the month is, Midday Movie: **Bring a picnic lunch and watch a movie at the library!**

Mondays at 1pm in June and July, join us for **Magic Shows, Broadway Bootcamp, Crafts, West Michigan Symphony and More.**

July 28 at 9am is the **Holton Days Library Book Sale!**

## TEENS

2nd Wednesday of the month is **Teen Craft-along:** Join Christina on an adventure as you follow along with a YouTube tutorial to create fun crafts. For ages 11-18. Registration required.

See the *Muskegon Area District Library Calendar of events* at [www.madl.org](http://www.madl.org) for more events and information.



## SENIOR STATE QUALIFIER

Congratulations to Senior State Qualifier Blake Casteel! Blake competed at the MHSAA Division 4 Track and Field tournament where he had the best throw of his career. **Way to go, Blake!**