

# Education is a work of HEART.



## Thank You, **TCAPS** Staff

### TCAPS Staff Appreciation, Monday, May 5, 2025

#### ALL TCAPS TEACHERS AND STAFF

Dear Rockstar Teachers and Staff, On behalf of the entire teachers' union, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to each and every one of you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to our students and community. Your tireless work, passion, and resilience do not go unnoticed. Each day, you show up with an unwavering commitment to shaping the minds and futures of our students. Whether in the classroom, in the halls, or behind the scenes, you make a lasting impact on the lives of so many. Thank you for your tireless efforts, your boundless patience, and your unwavering belief in the potential of every student. You are the heart and soul of our schools, and we are so lucky to have you. In Heartfelt Gratitude & Solidarity- Chandra Fles (TCEA President)

#### CENTRAL GRADE SCHOOL

Mrs. Kelly Forsyth is an amazing educator! She beautifully creates a safe, loving, peaceful environment for students. She plans activities that enrich and support the social & emotional growth of our daughter and ALL kids in her class. Thank you Kelly for instilling a curiosity and building confidence in our sweet Evie. - Katy Simons

#### CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Gina Houdek Thank you so much for teaching me the past 3 years in Yearbook and English, and letting me hang with you during lunch. You're such a blessing your students, and you're truly an inspiration to all. Though I'm sad to see you leave Yearbook, I will miss you lots and I know we'll keep in touch. Thank you!! - Kayeann Fraley

#### CHERRY KNOLL

Ms. Kurstin Frank, thank you for all that you do for your students!! Benjamin has loved having you for his teacher this year. You have done so many fun things this year, you make learning fun! You have done a great job communicating to all parents on what is going on in the classroom, very appreciative!! You have such a big heart! Thank you for everything you do!! We love you Ms Frank ❤️ - Kristin Hentschel

Kelly Bevier and Kelly Clark Our family has been so lucky to have Ms. Kelly and Mrs. Clark as preschool teachers for our son this year! Ms. Kelly and Mrs. Clark go above and beyond to make their young students comfortable and engaged, setting the foundation to a positive school experience! My son always has something fun to share about his day or a new fact that he has learned. Thank you, Ms. Kelly and Mrs. Clark for all that you do! Love, the Henry Family

#### COURTADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The WONDERFUL staff of Courtade Elementary School We are incredibly grateful for the close-knit, welcoming, inclusive, supportive and nurturing staff at Courtade Elementary School. A special thank you to my son's teacher, Mrs. Ridenour for making 3rd grade one of his best years yet! - Jennifer Kuz

Beth Myers In honor of Beth Myers, I would like to thank all teachers who dedicate their heartfelt love, enthusiastic energy, creativity, and endurance over long days and weeks throughout the school year, so that our children can receive the best possible education according to their needs. I am peacock proud that Beth Myers is our child's teacher and here are a few reasons why: 1) She is affirming, kind, encouraging, and open-hearted; 2) Her Kindergarten class sets an example for all - often characterized as "the most well behaved class," both quiet and aware, kind mannered in the hallways; 3) She creates a loving classroom where students are encouraged to help one another, while cultivating empathy and

compassion; 4) She makes learning extra fun with educational songs and games, creative art projects, and connections to nature and care for creation; 5) Ultimately, Beth Myers is the teacher I always wished to have, and a true blessing to our child, her classmates, and our family. She is my child's teacher and yet I continue to learn and be inspired by her presence, which is a gift to us all. - Haley Vay Beaman

**Miranda Kelly** Thank you for nurturing our littles during this critical period of development and providing a strong foundation for later academic and social and emotional growth! Our little has felt supported and cared for. We see the many hats you wear and we appreciate you! - Brittany Gregory

**Autumn Slawter** Thank you for helping my Grandson with Reading - Leslie Veda

**Mrs. Helman, Mrs. Beattie and Mrs. Herron** George transferred from a massive school in Ludington to Courtade this year for 2nd grade. There were lots of nerves and some struggles early on, but with the massive support of Mrs. Helman, Mrs. Beattie and Mrs. Herron (and others), he quickly settled in, made some fantastic friends, and feels loved, safe, seen and supported at school. I simply cannot say enough good things about every aspect of his experience this year, and am beyond grateful that this is where he gets to learn everyday. - Megan Pegan-Naylor

**Tanya Helman** Thank you so incredibly much for going above and beyond for my daughter Rosie. The way you cared for her and the way you took interest in her to figure out what works best for Rosie to succeed is beyond anything I ever expected a teacher to do. I am forever grateful for you and the staff at Courtade that truly helped her overcome some obstacles with her learning. We love you! - Melanie Cook

**Miss Sam** Thank you for endless hours supporting the students in such a critical way. You bring a smile each and every day, and the kids genuinely enjoy seeing you. In addition, you offer so much support for all the activities and are so supportive and accommodating and we are grateful for you! -The Dilloways

**Megan Snyder** Megan is the best pre-school teacher we could ask for! She does a wonderful job with all the kids. My son is doing amazing this year and I know it wouldn't be without her guidance! - Justine Lucas

## **EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Kim Kelderhouse** Kim consistently goes above and beyond to help everything with my daughter, constantly thinking about ways to make her experience better... even her own daughter to support, which I love. My daughter used to hate math and wasn't getting it. Kim teaches in such a way that she now loves it. All the experiences that she gets at East Middle School are continuously improved by Kim's work every day. - Bryant Kolle

## **EASTERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Caron LaBlanc** I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation for Mrs. LaBlanc, who has been an exceptional third-grade teacher for my daughter this year at Eastern. Her remarkable classroom management, parent communication, and attention to detail have made a significant impact on our school experience. She creates an environment that is both welcoming and conducive to learning, which is a testament to her dedication and skill as an educator. Mrs. LaBlanc truly goes above and beyond, and I am grateful for all the hard work and care she puts into her teaching. We are so lucky to have her at Eastern! - Lydia Potthoff

**Kelly OBrانovic** Kelly is such a wonderful Instructional and Behavioral Coach at Eastern Elementary! In my first two years of teaching kindergarten, she has helped coach me to be the best teacher I can be. She is helpful, kind, creative, and funny, and our district and school is so lucky to have her. - Lindsey Ross

## **LONG LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Mrs. Kroese** Thank you for being such a great teacher to Maya this year. She always has something positive to say about you and genuinely enjoys her time in your class. We truly appreciate all the support you have provided for her educational growth. - Lisa Gray

**Megan Niezgoda** Thank you so much Miss Megan! Bryce has loved the special place you have made for her in preschool this year! She has just blossomed under your care! I am so impressed with your dedication to your students and the environment that you create for them. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! -The McCall Family

## **SILVER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Maggie Burch** Mrs Burch is such a kind, caring, thoughtful, empathetic and dedicated teacher and we are so grateful to have had her as our son's music teacher for two years. Mrs. Burch makes her students feel valued and empowers them to believe in themselves. The amount of work and she pours into her music programs is also evident with each music performance I attend. We are so incredibly grateful for Mrs. Burch and all she does for Silver Lake, including heading our PTO. Thank you Mrs Burch! Love, The Koths family

**Mrs. Wyatt** Congratulations to Mrs. Wyatt on her retirement! We are the lucky last class of your career and my daughter couldn't have loved this year more! She adored that you both connected over the love for Taylor Swift and dogs! We appreciate you so much and happy retirement! - Rachel Light

### **TCAPS MONTESSORI**

**Mrs. Belovich** Thank you for your dedication to your students' learning. I've appreciated your support for our daughter in helping her work toward her potential. She consistently has positive comments to make about her school days. Thanks for meeting your students' unique needs and creating a positive learning experience in your classroom. - Rachel Hartwig

**Shelly Burden** Both of my kids have or have had Ms. Shelly as a teacher. But she is so much more than just a teacher... She has had a great influence on who we are as parents, she has been a great help in molding our children into the interesting, clever little creatures they're becoming, and she has created the most welcoming community for us parents who are new to this whole school thing. Dropping my oldest off at 18 months for his first day of school during a pandemic was terrifying and now, 4 years (and another kid later) we truly feel like we're part of the school community. Spending all day, everyday with my own toddlers is overwhelming but to do it with a whole class full of toddlers and with so much grace and joy is the mark of someone truly, deeply special. Ms Shelly has a special (and much appreciated) talent for leaning into the interests of her students and working with them to push boundaries and learn new skills. We just love Ms Shelly. - Erin Schug

**Cress Smith** We just attended the STEAM night student music performance and oh my gosh. Mrs Smith is an incredible gift to our students. She inspires all kids to share the joy of making and sharing music, and makes it a part of everyday life in our home. I know she has been doing this work for years but her commitment was really on display this evening—she worked so hard and gracefully to showcase the students. As she does each day! Thank you Mrs Smith! - Hannah Israel

### **TRAVERSE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Laurel Boger & the Kitchen Staff** The team at North Bay Produce would like to extend their sincere thanks to Laurel Boger and the Kitchen Staff at Traverse Heights. They have allowed us to bring in fresh fruits and vegetables on a monthly basis to taste test with their students. Their passion for encouraging their students to try fresh produce and incorporate healthy eating is evident! Throughout the school year, they have been enthusiastic, supportive and SO accommodating. We look forward to a continued partnership with them! - Jennifer Kuz

**Caitlin Thomas** My daughter attends Mrs. Thomas' 2nd grade class and is so encouraged by her teacher. Mrs. Thomas notices and praises her student's strengths and communicates updates and encouragement clearly with parents. My daughter has advanced significantly this year and her teacher has been a huge part of that. Thank you, Mrs. Thomas, from the Coffia home.

### **WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Mrs. Pylvainen**, we are so grateful for your talents and dedication in the orchestra program for West schools. Our daughter has found a new passion and speaks so highly of you. Thank you for all your enthusiasm and encouragement, you are fantastic! - The Lindstrom Family

### **WEST SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

**Lindsey Collins and Suzy Schook** Thank you so much for all you do to support the students. I truly appreciate your dedication to fostering a welcoming and positive atmosphere within the library. Your care and attention make it such a valuable space for learning and mental health breaks. I am so grateful for your hard work! - Genevieve Minor

**Melinda Wilkening** has supported both of my children at WSH. She goes above and beyond to assure that students feel safe and cared for. Our family is extremely grateful for her. Thank you for being a top notch human being and professional! - Erin Ryan

### **WESTWOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Alison Lauters, Brianna Rousos, and Wendy Carter** Thank you SO much to Ali, Brie, and Wendy for being the best teaching partners I could ever ask for! You are so kind, caring, helpful, encouraging, and loving to me, your students, colleagues, parents, and everyone you meet!! I love and appreciate you so much! Allie Trillet

**Mrs. Jackson** We would like to recognize Mrs. Jackson and everyone on Kallan's IEP team who invest their time in helping him excel.

An extra thank you to Ms. Stephanie for making his days extra special.

We are thankful for the Westwood's team. - Adam & Alesha

**Mrs. McPherson and Ms. Whitney** Our family would like to send the biggest thanks and appreciation to Mrs. McPherson and Ms. Whitney in pre-k! Our daughter absolutely loves going to school and learning. We are so thankful that she was introduced to school in such a positive and loving way. Forever thankful for both of you! - Maggie Hunt

**Alexandra Trillet** Thank you for all the hard work with Audrey and all the Junior Kindergartners. It has been such a joy to see how she has grown scholastically throughout the year. We appreciate your dedication to education. - Kate Shaffer

**Grayden Steele** Grayden, Thank you so much for creating a memorable year for our son. It has meant the world to us to have him in your class. Between academic and social expectations, he has grown as a learner and human. -Janelle and Kevin McPherson

**Mary Lane** I'm not an official guardian - I am the grandmother of James and Ellie Rosenberg. I'm fortunate to be able to be involved with their experience at Westwoods and have great admiration and appreciation for the connection Mary Lane has with both Ellie and James. Her ability to work with both of their special needs, her caring, patience and understanding all make her an outstanding partner in navigating the challenges they face. I appreciate the positive contributions of all the people that are a part of James and Ellie's school experience, but Mary holds a special place in my heart for her wonderful connection to them both, especially James. Mary, you are the absolute best. Linda Howard

**Kelly Niskanen** The sweetest soul there ever was. Kelly - your calm, loving energy, and sweet smile when walking into the office is everything! I've had the privilege to witness you in action daily. You are definitely a mom away from home for all those sweet kids. While also wearing a million other hats. I see the hard work you put in. I see how much you care for each child. And you do it with such grace and consistency. Thank you for all you do, Kelly. And thank you for all you've done for our Ellie during your one on one time with her and of course James. We sure do love you. - Meg Rosenberg

**Caity Lind** I speak for all of us when I say Caity has gone above and beyond when working with our Ellie. Thank you so much for all you have done. You are so thoughtful, intentional, fun, kind and gentle, yet also able to push back and challenge or sweet and spicy girl. You're two pees in a pod and we love you! - Meg Rosenberg

## **WILLOW HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Danielle Needham** Thank you to Mrs. Needham for being such a caring, kind, and supportive kindergarten teacher! Our daughter is thriving in her classroom. Mrs. Needham does a great job of making each child feel special. We are very appreciative of her for getting our daughter started on a great path for elementary school. - Jane Price

**Meghan Morgan** We have such gratitude for the incredible impact Meghan Morgan has had on my daughter this year. My daughter has made significant academic growth and genuinely loves coming to school. Meghan's ability to create a fun and loving learning environment, where students feel safe to make mistakes, is truly commendable. Thank you for everything you do, Meghan! - Kelly Vujea

**Megan Wolf** Thank you, Megan, for making 1st grade a truly wonderful experience for my daughter. Watching her grow from a nonreader to someone who eagerly shares her reading with others has been such a joy. Your ability to create a fun classroom environment while incorporating developmentally appropriate lessons is truly commendable. I'm so grateful that my daughter had the best 1st grade year under your care. Your dedication to your students and TCAPS is truly inspiring. - Kelly Vujea

**Kaischa Smith** Thank you for being such a caring, intelligent, and dedicated teacher for my sons! I appreciate your work with both SO much! - Danielle Allen

**Abby Dillon** Mrs. Dillon, you have been a phenomenal addition to the Willow Hill staff this year. We know your heart, ideas, organization and care are all a huge reason our son is having a great year. Thank you for your consistency and support of your students! You are appreciated!! -The Lindstrom Family

**Libby Gross** Libby has helped transform our daughter's world - introducing her to learning, routines, friendships and more. We couldn't be more grateful for all of the time she has poured into every child in that classroom. Libby always has a smile on her face and a word of encouragement. We are so grateful that Ellie was able to spend the year with her. She is the best of the best. - Kate and Jeff Heydlauff