



SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

August/September 2022

BELL RINGER

Home of the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School

www.spartaschools.org

New Beginnings, New Adventures

A new school year always brings so much hope and excitement!! It brings an opportunity to begin again, with a fresh start. This year that is going to be true in more ways than one!!

The start of the 2022-23 school year is not far away. Our principals and staff have been busy throughout the summer making sure things are ready. Our district-wide open house will take place on Thursday, August 18 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. This will provide an opportunity for all our students and families to meet their teachers, tour their building, and take care of many start of the year tasks before that first day of school. This year our first day for students will be Tuesday, August 23. The school calendar and building start/end times are included in this edition of the Bellringer.

With the last two years posing many challenges, we are also hopeful that this year will be a much more normal start of the school year!! Although we are sure that Covid is still going to be around, and it may cause staff and students to have to stay home if they are sick or test positive for the virus, we do not anticipate any specific mandates or public health orders. We are also certain there will be recommendations to keep staff and students safe, and we will make sure our staff, students and families are well informed, and we are encouraging safe practices.

The biggest change, at least for me, will be my upcoming retirement from public education. After 31 years in K-12, and the last four years here in Sparta, I will be officially retiring at the end of the month

(August). The Board of Education has named Joel Stoner, our current Assistant Superintendent, to be the interim superintendent, and I am very confident that this transition in district leadership will be seamless and the start of the school year will be smooth. Mr. Stoner is an outstanding administrator that has served our district for over 20 years. The Board could not have made a better choice in filling my role for the 2022-23 school year!!

I just want to thank the staff, students, families, and community for these past four years. We have accomplished quite a bit with the opening of our new middle school, the renovation and opening of our new Early Childhood Center, and overcoming the challenges of the pandemic. We have developed and followed through on the

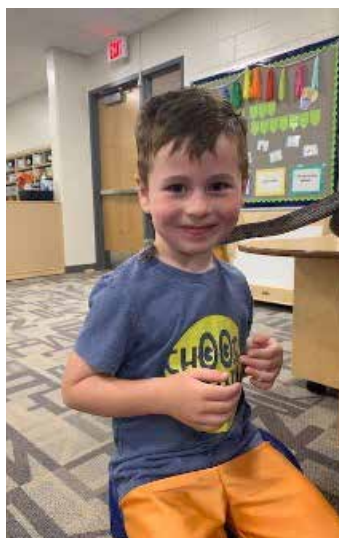
implementation of our strategic plan, which will continue to guide the district through the next couple of years. Our district tagline...State of the Art, Small Town Heart...truly describes who we are and who we want to become. A top-notch school district that values tradition, but also embraces change when it is needed. A district that is dedicated to providing the best education, with a strong focus on building and maintaining quality relationships with our students and families. Together I am confident that things will continue to get even better in the future!! Best of luck to everyone, and thank you for all of your cooperation and support!!

**With Spartan Pride,
Pete Bush, Superintendent**



Elementary Summer Learning

Five weeks of summer learning were offered to our elementary students at the beginning of the summer. Many students attended core content camps to stretch their reading, writing and math skills while other students took advantage of the AMPeS camp. Students were excited to spend time with friends and work on their skills.



ECSE Summer Camp Andrea Beckett and Melissa Bowers

Early Childhood Special Education Summer Camp took place for two weeks this summer. Students were provided with fun opportunities to establish friendships, practice social skills and increase language skills. Therapy dog, Toast, even came to visit and read with the students. During our two week camp experience, students were able to create tie-dye t-shirts, conduct science experiments, explore Applevue Nature Trail, meet Kai-the snake, enjoy water activities, play T-Ball and bake cupcakes. Thank you to Sweet Dreams Icecreams Truck for visiting our students during our time together as well! Staff and students enjoyed the time together for fun in the sun!





BELL RINGER

Sparta Education Foundation

Providing Extras for Education

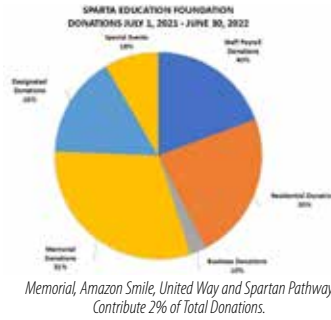
The phrase “Time Flies” never seems more true than in the summer months. It seems as if the school year just ended, yet here we are anticipating the start of the 2022-23 school year! Sparta teachers have been hard at work meeting, planning, and preparing, and Sparta Education Foundation has, too!

In July, SEF was pleased to approve five grant requests to Sparta teachers representing four of our schools. We are particularly excited that three of these were from teachers applying to SEF for the first time! The grants will be used to create learning environments and experiences that will meet social, emotional, and learning needs of Sparta students. How wonderful it is

to be working alongside such innovative teachers, and to have such generous donors!

Additionally, Sparta Education Foundation is continuing to move forward as we evaluate our practices and research the best ways to continue our mission of “Providing the Extras for Education.” This includes connecting with the wonderful residents and businesses of Sparta. Plans are being shaped that include opportunities for all of us to partner together in order to provide the best educational experiences for the families in our community.

As a new officer, I have been continually impressed by the depth of knowledge and the level of commitment represented on the SEF



Board of Directors. Do you have a passion for supporting students and teachers? Have you ever considered joining SEF? Now just might be the time! Reach out to us on Facebook, or send us an email at sef@spartaschools.org. We'd love to hear from you!

Sincerely,
LeAnn Kitson,
SEF Board President

Sparta Area Schools ~ 2022-2023	
Open House Dates & Times	School Hours & Drop-off/Pick-up Times
<p>Sparta Early Childhood Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3's Preschool: Open House: August 31, 2022 4:30pm-6:00pm First Day: September 6, 2022 ECSE : Open House: August 18, 2022 4:00pm-6:00pm First Day: August 23, 2022 GSRP: Open House: September 8, 2022 4:30pm-6:00pm First Day: September 12, 2022 	<p>Sparta Early Childhood Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Care: Monday-Friday, 630am – 6:00pm 3's Preschool Full Day: Mon-Thurs, 9:00am – 3:30pm Partial Day: Tues, Wed & Thurs, 8:45a-11:45a ECSE: Monday-Thursday AM Section: 8:30am-11:45am PM Section: 12:35pm-3:50pm GSRP 4's: Monday – Thursday 9:10am-3:55pm Headstart: Monday – Thursday 9:10am-4:10pm
<p>Ridgeview Elementary – Grades K-2</p> <p>DK/Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade Open House: Thursday, August 18, 2022, 4:00pm-6:30pm</p>	<p>Ridgeview Elementary – Grades K-2</p> <p>Drop-Off: 8:45am School Hours: 8:55am – 3:55pm Bus Rider Release: 3:55pm Parent Pick-Up: 3:35pm</p> <p>*Half day Bus Rider dismissal: 12noon *Half day Parent Pick-up: 11:40am</p>
<p>Appleview Elementary – Grades 3-5 & BAC</p> <p>3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Open House: Thursday, August 18, 2022, 4:00pm-6:30pm</p>	<p>Appleview Elementary – Grades 3-5</p> <p>Drop-Off: 8:30am School Hours: 8:40am – 3:40pm Parent Pick-Up: 3:40pm</p> <p>*Half day dismissal: 11:45am</p>
<p>Middle School – Grades 6-8</p> <p>6th, 7th & 8th Grade Open House: Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:00p-6:30p</p>	<p>Middle School – Grade 6-8</p> <p>Drop-Off: 7:30am School Hours: 7:45am – 2:40pm Parent Pick-Up: 2:40pm</p> <p>*Half day dismissal: 10:30am</p>
<p>High School – Grades 9-12</p> <p>Freshman Orientation: August 18, 2022 @ 5:30pm</p> <p>9th - 12th Open House: August 18, 2022, 4:00pm-6:30pm</p>	<p>High School – Grades 9-12</p> <p>Drop-Off: 7:45am School Hours: 7:55am – 2:25pm Parent Pick-up: 2:25pm</p> <p>*Half day dismissal: 10:40am</p>



Sparta High School Back to School Information



SMS Open House Information:

Date: Thursday, August 18th
Time: 4:00pm-6:30pm



SMS Daily Student Schedule:

Doors Open for Students at 7:30am

CLASS:	TIME:
E4S	7:45-8:10
1st/2nd	8:15-9:55
3rd/4th	10:00-11:40
5th/6th (& Lunch)	11:45-1:55
E4S	2:00-2:40

2022-2023 SMS Recommended Supply Lists

Content Area	Recommended Supplies
English/Language Arts	-A binder with pockets, used only for this class (or a folder with pockets and fasteners for paper) -A notebook for writing, used only for this class -Pencils and pens with blue or black ink -Headphones or earbuds to use with audio text.
Mathematics	A 1.5 inch binder Divider tabs (optional) Spiral notebook or loose-leaf lined paper Pencils Erasers (cap erasers preferred) Ruler and/or Protractor Scientific Calculator A highlighter
Social Studies	3 Ring Binder 2 Spiral Bound Notebooks Pencils/Colored Pencils Highlighters Headphones/Earbuds for school only
Science	1 Inch 3-Ring Binder Spiral Notebook or Loose Leaf Paper Pencils & Colored Pencils Headphones or Earbuds
Art	Pencils/Colored Pencils Markers
Spanish 1 & 2	3 Ring Binder, Earbuds and a writing utensil
Band & Choir	Pencils 1 inch 3-ring binder with pockets and page protectors Instrument (band only)

*Please note it is not a requirement that your son/daughter arrive with these materials on the first day of school. However, if you are able to provide them with these items it would be greatly appreciated.



Student Schedules:

Student schedules will not be released in PowerSchool until immediately before the school year begins, likely on the date of our Open House. Schedule change requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and will not be considered until after the school year begins.



SMS Student Pictures:

- **Date:** Thursday, August 18th @ SMS Open House
- **Time:** 4:00pm-6:30pm
- **Picture Retakes:** TBD



Student Chromebook Pick-Up:

- **Date:** Thursday, August 18th @ SMS Open House
- **Time:** 4:00pm-6:30pm
- *By accepting a school-issued device, students & families agree to the SAS appropriate use policies for technology. There will be no forms to fill out! This is a quick, “grab & go” process.



BELL RINGER

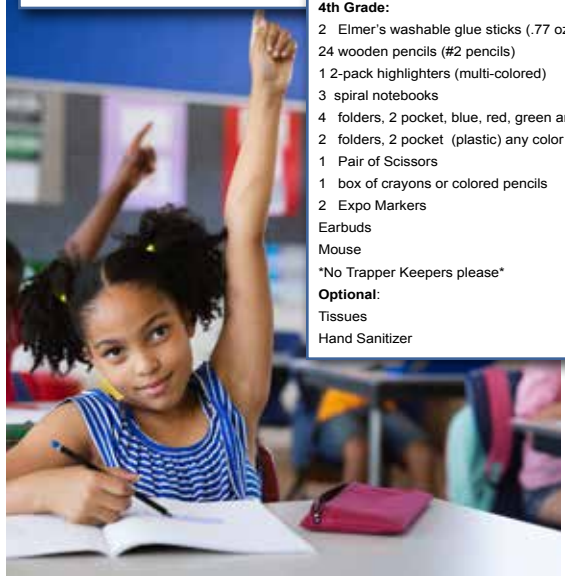
Applevue Elementary School Supply List

- 3rd Grade:**
- 6 Elmer's washable glue sticks (.21 oz)
 - 2 box Crayola crayons (16 or 24 pack)
 - 1 box Washable Markers
 - 1 pair scissors, 5" pointed tip
 - 24 wooden pencils (#2 Ticonderoga or Dixon)
 - 2 highlighters (different colors)
 - 1 box of colored pencils (12 pack)
 - 24 pencil cap erasers
 - 1 Zippered pencil pouch (3-hole, 10"x6")
 - 1 handheld pencil sharpener (with receptacle)
 - 2 spiral notebook, wide-ruled (1 subject size)
 - 1 composition book
 - 4 Poly folders, 2 pocket (1 each of blue, red, green and yellow)
 - 3 Expo Thin Fine Tip - Dry Erase Markers
 - Earbuds
- Optional:**
- Wired/Wireless Mouse (strongly recommended)
 - Tissues



- 5th Grade:**
- 2 1" three ring binders
 - 5 plastic dividers with pockets
 - 2 composition notebooks
 - 1 packet of loose leaf wide ruled lined paper (at least 200 sheets)
 - 3 wedge pencil erasers
 - 24 #2 pencils (mechanical is fine)
 - 1 pencil pouch with 3 holes for binder
 - 1 individual pencil sharpener with pencil shaving container attached, manual only
 - 1 pair of scissors
 - 4 Expo (low odor) dry erase markers (any colors)
 - 2 glue sticks
 - 1 black Sharpie marker
 - 1 pack of sticky notes (any colors)
 - 4 colored pens (any colors)
 - 1 box of markers
 - 1 box of colored pencils
 - 1 pair of earbuds/headphones
- OPTIONAL:**
- 1 box of facial tissues
 - 1 pack/tub of disinfecting wipes

- 4th Grade:**
- 2 Elmer's washable glue sticks (.77 oz)
 - 24 wooden pencils (#2 pencils)
 - 1 2-pack highlighters (multi-colored)
 - 3 spiral notebooks
 - 4 folders, 2 pocket, blue, red, green and yellow
 - 2 folders, 2 pocket (plastic) any color
 - 1 Pair of Scissors
 - 1 box of crayons or colored pencils
 - 2 Expo Markers
 - Earbuds
 - Mouse
 - *No Trapper Keepers please*
- Optional:**
- Tissues
 - Hand Sanitizer





SPARTA ELEMENTARY BUILDINGS
RIDGEVIEW
APPLEVIEW

BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO ALL K-5 FAMILIES THROUGH SCHOOL MESSENGER BY THE SECOND WEEK OF AUGUST



ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER
BREAK!

Please see the Open House Schedule & Student Parent Calendar attached to this edition of the Bell Ringer for important Dates and Times

Sparta High School Back to School Information

Back-to-School Open House Information:
Thursday, August 18th, from 4:00pm-6:30pm
All 9th - 12th grade students and families are welcome!

- Pick up your chromebooks
- Get your school and ID pictures taken
- Meet your teachers
- Find your classrooms
- Pick up your parking permits

Freshman Orientation for all incoming freshmen and their parents
Thursday, August 18th at 5:30 pm in the High School Auditorium

A virtual option will be available for any families unable to attend
 Please call the high school office if you need access to the virtual edition

- SHS Recommended Supply Lists:**
- *Please note it is not a requirement that your son/daughter arrive with these materials on the first day of school. However, your student will benefit by having them easily accessible.*
- Headphones or earbuds to use with audio text in online, ELA and Spanish classes
 - A TI 83 or TI 84 graphing calculator to use in all math classes 9 - 12. Calculators are available for rent from the media center for a cost of \$25 per academic year. We highly encourage you to look for sales or even purchase a used calculator as they can be used in college math or resold after senior year
 - Highlighters (assorted colors)
 - Post It Notes - assorted sizes (3 x 3 are most popular)
 - Mechanical pencils or pencils and a manual sharpener
 - Blue and black ink pens
 - Organizational/note taking supplies (folders, paper, notebooks)

School starts at 7:55 am. Doors will open at 7:45 am. Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:45. Students can take their breakfast to their first period classes. Students will end each day with focus time to work on areas of interest or to get extra support to complete assignments.

High School Schedule	Alternating Days	
Schedule	A Day	B Day
7:55-9:35	1st block	2nd block
9:40-11:15	3rd block	4th block
11:20-1:30	5th block including LUNCHES	6th block including LUNCHES
1:35 - 2:25	Focus Block	Focus Block

New Staff at SHS
 This year we are welcoming several new teachers to Sparta High School. We are excited for your students to get to know our new staff members. Please join us in welcoming:

Alison Laper - Alison is a graduate of Hope College , Alison is certified in English and Social Studies and will be teaching 10th and 11th grade English in the 22-23 school year. Alison moved to Grand Rapids from the Chicago area this summer and is excited to be working with our students.

Leah Metivier-Kearney - is a Sparta grad returning to SHS to work as an Academic Interventionist and English Language teacher. Leah has an extensive teaching background working with a variety of students in multiple school districts. We are excited to bring Leah back to provide support for our learners.

Bri Sellers - Bri is joining us after four years in the Belding district. Bri will be providing academic support and additional learning opportunities to our students in their English classes. In addition, Bri will be serving as a class advisor for the class of 2024.



BELL RINGER

Ridgeview 2022-2023 Supply Lists

Developmental Kindergarten	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
Labeled water bottle 2-4 boxes of tissue 2-4 pks of Crayola washable markers 4 pks Crayola crayons Sturdy folder with child's name on it 6 Elmer's large size (0.77oz) glue sticks 1 pair of kid scissors 2-4 containers of play-dough 2-4 sets of individual watercolor paint sets Box of band-aids Plastic cups Gallon size Ziploc bags Paper plates Zip sandwich bags Graham crackers or pretzel bag New or used coloring book	6 Elmer's washable glue sticks large size only (.77 oz) (The small sticks dry out quickly and break off easily) 3 boxes of Crayola crayons 24-pack 1 box #2 HB Dixon Ticonderoga soft lead pencils 2 packs of washable Crayola markers (8pk) 1 box of Crayola colored pencils Expo dry erase markers – 8-pack or 2 4-pack 2 boxes of tissues Pencil box 1 paper towel - Girls Only 1 pkg of napkins- Boys Only 1 container of Clorox disinfectant wipes 1 pkg ziplock baggies (gallon size) 1 pkg ziplock baggies (sandwich size)	3 boxes of Crayola crayons 24-pack (no larger or smaller amounts) 2 boxes #2 HB Dixon Ticonderoga soft lead pencils 2 packages pencil cap erasers Pencil Box 1 pair Fiskars scissors 5" – pointed tip 2 boxes of Crayola Washable markers 8-pack, classic colors, wide tip 4 plain(no pictures)plastic pocket folders 12 Elmer's washable glue sticks large size only (.77 oz) (The small sticks dry out quickly and break off easily) 1 box Expo dry erase markers 2 containers of Clorox wipes 1 Roll of Paper Towel 1 box Ziploc bags (variety of sizes) Tissues Hand Sanitizer (8 oz) Optional Items: paper plates, band-aids, package of napkins,	2 boxes of Ticonderoga soft pencils only (pre-sharpened preferred) 1 package of pencil erasers, pink 3 Large Elmer's washable glue sticks 1 box of Crayola crayons 24 count or more 1 pack of washable Crayola markers (8pk) 1 box of colored pencils 1 pkg of expo black markers 1 pencil box 1 pair of scissors 1 spiral notebook wide ruled 70 pages Pocket folders, 1 red, 1 yellow, 1 green, 1 blue, (No prongs please) 2 container of Clorox wipes 2 boxes of tissues 1 roll of paper towel Girls bring 1 gallon size bags Boys bring 1 sandwich size bags 1 box of a classroom snack 1 Pencil Pouch

THE POWERSCHOOL STUDENT/PARENT PORTAL WILL OPEN AT 5PM ON AUGUST 12TH

Like Us on Facebook!

Did you know that we also post regularly on Facebook? The following links are operated by Sparta Area Schools and provide factual, up-to-date information.

- Sparta Area Schools District Facebook:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/SpartaAreaSchools>
- Sparta High School's Facebook:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/spartaschools.org>
- Sparta Middle School's Facebook:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/SpartaMiddleSchool/>
- Applevew Elementary's Facebook:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/ApplevewElementarySchool>
- Ridgeview Elementary's Facebook:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/RidgeviewElementarySchool/>
- Sparta Early Childhood Center's Facebook:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/Sparta-Early-Childhood-Center-730568437636326/>

For more information regarding Sparta Area Schools and our programs please visit our website at: spartaschools.org

WE ♥ SPARTA



SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS 2022-23 Student/Parent Calendar

First Day of School	August 23
No School for Students or Staff.....	September 2
Labor Day – No School for Students or Staff.....	September 5
Student Fall Count	October 5
Homecoming.....	October 7
Half Day for K-5 Students - Parent/Teacher Conferences.....	November 11
Teacher In-Service – No School for Students.....	November 14
No School for Students or Staff.....	November 23
Thanksgiving Break	November 24-25
Teacher In-Service – Half Day for Students.....	December 16
Holiday Break	December 19 – Jan 2
School Resumes	January 3
Teacher In-Service – Half Day for Students.....	January 20
Student Spring Count Day.....	February 8
Half Day for K-5 students - Parent/Teacher Conferences.....	February 16
Mid-Winter Break	February 17-21
No School for Students or Staff	March 30-31
Spring Break.....	April 3 - 7
Teacher In-Service – Half Day for Students.....	May 12
8 th Grade Recognition	May 24
High School Graduation	May 25
Memorial Day – No School for Students or Staff	May 29
Half Day for Students and Staff.....	June 7
Last Day of School – Half Day for Students and Staff.....	June 8

The above calendar shall be limited by and subject to the provisions of state law governing the make-up days missed due to emergency closing. Days not required by law for make-up shall not be added to the calendar year. School days which must be made up for State Aid purposes will be scheduled as available or at the end of the school year.

Sparta Early Childhood Center

This summer our childcare group enjoyed lots of activities including water days, lots of art activities, field trips, and new friendships.

In just a few short weeks, we will be welcoming our 2022-2023 school year and our building will be filled with lots of new young learners! We are excited and looking forward to meeting new families and children and to a fantastic school year.

Our goals at the ECC are building a foundation and a love for learning along with kindergarten readiness are the primary focus of the preschool years. The foundation is built on play as the primary mode of learning as well as a consistent daily routine, meals, group times, outdoor time and peer interactions. Throughout the year the children will be building their skills in the areas of math, literacy, social emotional, gross and fine motor, writing, and the sciences. The home-school connection is a critical piece of preschool ensuring that families feel accepted, comfortable, and part of their child's education at the early childhood center.

For questions or information: Call 887-0068 or email heather.lashuay@spartaschools.org.

Educationally,
Heather Lashuay
 Director of Sparta Early Childhood Center