



SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

June/July 2021

BELL RINGER

Home of the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School

www.spartaschools.org

The End of a Crazy School Year!!

We made it through the 2020-21 school year!! Our seniors have graduated, our students have completed their work, and we are ready to begin our summer and plan for the 2021-22 school year. We wish our seniors the best of luck as they move into the next phase of their lives and we are confident that they will be successful. Thank you seniors for your patience, perseverance, and efforts throughout a very challenging senior year!! You have proven your ability to overcome and adjust to anything that comes your way, and make the best of any situation. This skill, as much as many other things you have learned in the past 13 years, will serve you well as you move on to your next challenge and pursue your dreams!!

Our summer school programs are kicking off as well, as we are offering an 8-week summer school program for all our students. We have never offered as many summer learning opportunities as we are this summer, but we are excited to welcome our students and engage in some fun, experiential learning experiences. Whether our students attend a single week, or all eight weeks, we hope to make it a memorable and worthwhile experience. Thank you

to the parents that have registered their kids and made a commitment to their continued learning and growth over the summer!!

As for next fall, we are planning for the start of the school year with a return to much more "normal" than we were able to achieve this past year. The first day of school for students will be Tuesday, August 24. Staffing and scheduling decisions will be ongoing over the summer months and we will communicate those outcomes as they are complete. In terms of how COVID will affect the 2021-22 school year, it is really too early to tell. We hope it will not have much of an impact, but will continue to make adjustments as necessary to keep our staff and students safe. We will also continue to offer a full-time virtual option for any families that desire that learning modality. If you have not communicated that preference to your building principal, we encourage you to do so as soon as you are able. Anyone that does not communicate a preference for virtual learning will be scheduled to return face-to-face this fall.

In terms of construction projects, we have completed the renovations on our Early Childhood Center and will have some summer daycare

programs in the building. The official grand opening will take place in August prior to welcoming all our preschool students back to school. We will have our GSRP (Great Start Readiness 4-year old preschool), ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education), tuition preschool (for 3- and 4-year olds), and our new partnership with Head Start (3-year old preschool) all in the new building. We anticipate welcoming 300+ students in the building this fall. It is exciting to have all our preschool programs under one roof in this beautifully-renovated facility. Thanks again to our community for providing the resources to make this a reality in our district!!

We also will be working over the summer on completing our new tennis courts at the high school, a new ball field and walking track next to our new middle school, and renovating our old tennis courts and ball field behind Applevue. These facilities will provide space for our athletic teams, for students during activities at school, and to our community in the evenings. All these projects should be complete by mid-August, in time for school this fall. This will wrap up most of the bond projects our community approved back in 2016. We will have

some ongoing technology projects in the years ahead, as we continue to provide technology for our staff and students, and we maximize the investment that our community has made in our schools.

Finally, thank you for your patience and support as we have navigated this past year. This school year was unprecedented and unpredictable, and I know our staff did their best to provide what was needed for our students to be successful. Nothing about this past year was easy, but I am proud of the work that our district did and how we provided for our students and families. From food service, to transportation, to maintenance/custodial, to our administrative assistants, to our teachers and teacher assistants, it has truly been a team effort, and their effort has never been greater or appreciated more. Also, and most importantly, thank you to our students. You are why we are here, and your cooperation and perseverance helped to make our year successful. We should all be proud of our Spartans!!

Have a great summer!!

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



3rd Graders Enjoy Hoffmaster State Park

With so many changes to our school year, our 3rd graders were able to enjoy a little bit of normalcy with their first off-campus field trip this school year. Hoffmaster State Park has been a field trip destination for our third-grade students to learn about the value of our state parks, sand dunes, and great lakes.



Celebrating its 30th year, the SEF has been providing classroom grants to Sparta Area Schools since 1991. THANK YOU for your support and generous donations that keep this program strong.

Like us on Facebook for updates and information: Sparta Education Foundation MI.

Ways you can support the SEF; Shop smile.amazon.com, choose Sparta Education Foundation as your charity, and 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to the SEF.

Visit www.spartaschools.org/sef to donate and get more information about the SEF. This is a great time of year to purchase a memorial brick that will be installed at the entrance of SHS.

Mark your calendar for our upcoming fundraisers:

October 12, 2021 Spaghetti Night at Angela's

November 9, 2021 Food for Thought at Trini's

February 7, 2022 Pasta Night at The Garden Patch

March 12, 2022 RetroBowl at Sparta Lanes

April 12, 2022 Food for Thought at Trini's

Thank you for helping us provide the "Extras for Education"! Enjoy you summer.



BELL RINGER

New Building Opening this Summer!

- 3 year old Tuition Preschool ONLY
- 4 year old Tuition Preschool ONLY
- Full Day Preschool Programing –including childcare
- Great Start Readiness Program-Free 4 year old preschool for those who qualify!
- Early Childhood Special Education-Free for those who qualify!
- Kindergarten Before and After Care
- Summer Programming too!



**Sparta
Area Schools**

**Building great
minds for the future!**

Preschool & Childcare

- ◆ New Spacious Classrooms
- ◆ 2 Playgrounds
- ◆ Indoor Large Motor Space
- ◆ New Interactive Technology

Sparta Early Childhood Center

**Open Year Round
Monday through Friday
6:30 am to 6:00 pm**



Sparta Area School's Sparta Early Childhood Center offers full day programing , including child care or partial day preschool for children potty trained and ages 2 years 6 months through Kindergarten. Children may attend preschool only or attend all day with childcare and experience the same preschool curriculum. Early Childhood Special Education Programs and Services are available on site for children who qualify.

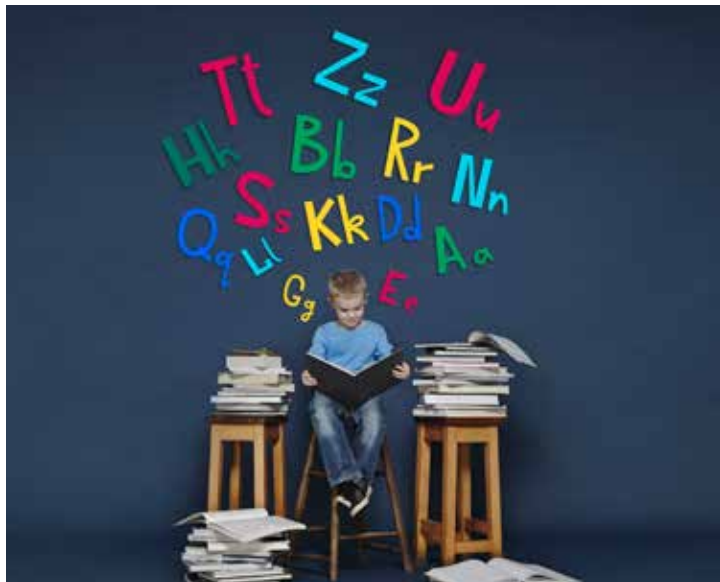
Open enrollment for 2021-2022!
Register at www.spartaschools.org or
Call 616-887-0068!



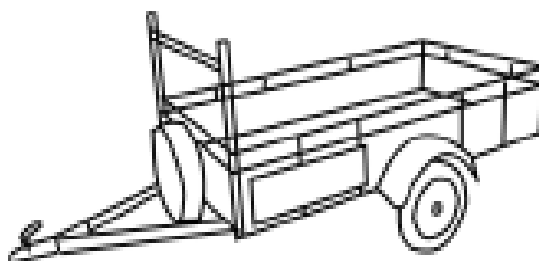
Today we hosted our inaugural Drive Your Tractor to School Day (or at least the first in a really long time). The weather didn't cooperate but these students braved the elements to help us kick off our new tradition! Looking forward to tripling our numbers next year.



BELL RINGER



Mrs. Blackall's Wagon of Fun and School Gardening



Join me in presenting our schools as a welcoming place to be!

We will be gardening near the buildings for about 2 hours about each month.

Children are welcome to help or play with toys and have ice cream that is loaded on my wagon. No experience required. Many hands make light work and good company! Contact: sue.blackall@spartaschools.org 616-460-2429

Kids Read Now

We are thrilled to announce that students at Ridgeview Elementary will be participating in the Kids Read Now program this summer. Kids Read Now is a non-profit organization who designed a program to include best practices for reading engagement and growth. We are delighted to partner with them to provide a high-quality reading program throughout the summer. The program is provided by Sparta Schools and is completely FREE for our students.

Over the summer, most children lose many of their reading skills. Reading books every day over the summer keeps their brains ready for a great school year in the fall. All students DK-2 will be receiving 8 books over the summer. The students were able to choose from a variety of texts with

their teacher's guidance and will receive their first book in June with additional books coming every two weeks. Students will also receive an additional book for creative writing of their own stories.

Every book has a Discovery Sheet on the inside front cover. This sheet contains 4 questions designed to build reading comprehension. Families are encouraged to report their completed books over the summer. If they report all 8 book codes, they will get a prize and certificate in a special celebration at school in the fall.

We are so excited to provide this resource to enable students to keep reading throughout the summer and to keep practicing their reading skills to maintain their progress.

Remember to Read. Report. Repeat. Results!!

The Spartan Pride Pathway



SEF sponsors "The Spartan Pride Pathway," which can be seen at the entrance of the high school. It is made up of engraved bricks that celebrate Sparta graduates, retirees, and groups. Put together, the bricks build a glimpse into the proud life and history of Sparta Schools. Sparta Education Foundation would like to thank Custom Sandblasting and Brick Engraving from Lowell for engraving the bricks. We especially want to thank JK Masonry, also Sparta graduates, for placing them in the Pathway. The form for ordering a brick is on the SEF website, which can be found on the Sparta Schools website under "Parents>Sparta Education Foundation>Contributions".



Wants to say THANK YOU to ALL THOSE BUSINESSES/SPONSORS who GENEROUSLY DONATED AND CONTRIBUTED to make our SENIOR BASH A SUCCESS!

Adrenaline Fundraising

All Weather Seal of W MI

Armock Mechanical

Bayes Soft Water

Berlin Fair Grounds

Beuschel Sales

Biggby Coffee

Bob Irvine Tile

Bow Tie Bar

Brieden & Miller Orthodontics

Cheeze Kurls

ChoiceOne Bank

Crome Mechanical

DanMark Graphics

Dean Transportation

Donna's Catering

DrisCon

Fifteen East

Fraternal Order of Eagles #3430

Goodfellow's Truck Repair Service

Greenridge Fruit

Hessel Cheslek Funeral Home

Howard Christiansen Nature Center

Jack Brown Produce

Jimmy Johns

Kent City American Legion

Kingdom Fire Protectio

Knowlton & Masson Dentistry

Lekstrum-Burnett American Legion #107

Martin Anderson Insurance

Matrix Entertainment

Michael Lamb-Coldwell Banker

Michigan Apple Packers Napa Auto Parts

Ottawa Kent Insurance

Papa Picciones

Print Metro

Refrigeration Concepts

SF Supply Screen Print Department

Sparta Animal Clinic

*Sparta Chamber of Commerce*Sparta Chevrolet*

Sparta Lions Club

Sparta Sport Shop

Sparta Tire Service

Sparta Village Ace Hardware

Steel Erection Corp

Barbara & Brian Strayer

Sundaes at the Park

Tri-Us Sweeping

UAW Local 8

VanderWerff & May Builders

Wesco

Wiseman Enterprises

Also... THANK YOU to ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR... WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!!



BELL RINGER



CONGRATULATIONS

Elementary School

CLASS OF

GRADUATES

2021

The graphic features a central illustration of a school building with a pediment and columns, labeled "Elementary School". Above the building are three stars. The word "CONGRATULATIONS" is written in a large, gold, arched font. Below the building, the words "CLASS OF" and "GRADUATES" are displayed in white on a black background, with "GRADUATES" on a gold banner. At the bottom, the year "2021" is written in large, bold, black letters. Two black graduation caps with tassels are positioned on either side of the central graphic.