

CLARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

~ HOME OF THE PIONEERS ~

NEWSLETTER – MARCH EDITION 2022

Whether you have children or grandchildren attending Clare Public Schools today or not, CPS is YOUR district! We are part of your community and provide the educational foundation necessary for youth to become future leaders. Clare Public Schools has been a source of pride for the community for as long as can be remembered.

Much work remains on the road from good to great, and some of that work will undoubtedly involve you! You have much to be proud of:

- ⇒ a highly educated and dedicated staff
- ⇒ students who aspire to achieve and contribute to Clare's future success
- ⇒ a School Board that is fiscally responsible and focused on opportunities for students
- ⇒ a generous and supportive community that believes in all CPS is and can become.

Thanks for making Clare a great place to live and learn!



School Safety

Clare Public Schools remains committed to providing a safe environment for all who walk through our doors. Below are just a few of the measures we utilize to ensure that security needs are met:

- ◆ Secure entrances at every school building
- ◆ Video surveillance at every school
- ◆ Door access card readers at every school
- ◆ Detailed Emergency Response Plan developed with assistance of law enforcement and other local emergency personnel
- ◆ School Resource Officer in conjunction with Clare City Police and the City Commission

Recently Added District Programming

- ◆ Robotics
- ◆ STEAM classes
- ◆ American Sign Language
- ◆ Senior Seminar
- ◆ New Algebra 2 programming
- ◆ CNC machining, small engines class, and increased staff in trades programming
- ◆ Online class offerings
- ◆ 1:1 computer technology
- ◆ Drone Flight/FAA Certification at CHS
- ◆ Increased Social Emotional Support

Contact Information

Administration Office: 989-386-9945
Clare High School: 989-386-7789
Clare Middle School: 989-386-9979
Clare Primary School: 989-386-3438
Pioneer High School: 989-386-3067

Athletics & Counseling: 989-386-9561
Transportation: 989-386-9569
Operations: 989-386-7789
Food Service: 989-386-1258

2021 CLARE STAFF OF THE YEAR

It takes over 180 fantastic people to make Clare Public Schools a success on a daily basis. We would struggle to function properly without each of them, but we also recognize exceptional efforts in our school community and beyond. The following individuals were nominated by their peers for going above and beyond.

At our staff opening day on August 16, 2021, we recognized the following individuals for their exceptional contributions to the past school year:



***Teacher of the Year:
Kapre Filhart (Kindergarten Teacher)***

Kapre Filhart joined our staff just three short years ago, after a successful stint with the Ithaca Public Schools. Ms. Filhart's enthusiasm for the profession and young learners is tough to match. She has a warm and inviting personality in the classroom and is determined to add to the profession in all respects. Kapre's ability to find what works for each child academically is outstanding and matched only by her ability to meet the social and emotional needs of students as well. She's a young teacher who gives great effort daily and shows people how much she cares. Kapre is also a compassionate teammate and colleague who makes Clare Public Schools a better place.

***Support Staff Person of the Year:
Sherry Camp (Clare High School Secretary)***

Sherry Camp has been a mainstay at CPS for the better part of a decade now. Mrs. Camp is the warm and welcoming voice of Clare High School. Her sense of humor is infectious and matched only by her work ethic and caring nature, all while running a tight ship. Sherry works with administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, and students to keep the high school running smoothly. Sherry has time for you no matter the circumstances, and many seek out her listening ear. Mrs. Camp is our lead Skyward authority and liaison with our RESD. In addition, she is a mentor to other secretaries (and maybe even administrators!). We're thankful for her character and willingness to serve others.



***Facility Support Person of the Year:
Tom Robison (Custodian)***

Tom Robison (now retired) has been the jovial, hard working custodian every school needs. He was both a dedicated worker and advocate for our schools. Mr. Robison has been the rare person who can tell the truth about what is needed without ever breaking anyone else down and is well known for his sense of humor. But most importantly, Tom loves our schools as if he was a part owner...spending countless hours not only on assigned duties, but on any other needs that our students, staff, and facilities may have. He never let his job stop him from helping another person, and that makes Tom the best kind of Pioneer!



Clare Pioneer Athletics

Athletic Director: Rob Wise

Recent improvements to our athletics facilities include new bleachers at Brookwood as well as LED lighting.



Clare Public Schools currently offers 22 varsity sports including:

- ◇ Football
- ◇ Volleyball
- ◇ Boys & Girls Cross Country
- ◇ Boys & Girls Golf
- ◇ Boys & Girls Soccer
- ◇ Boys & Girls Skiing
- ◇ Boys & Girls Bowling
- ◇ Wrestling
- ◇ Hockey
- ◇ Boys & Girls Basketball
- ◇ Boys & Girls Track & Field
- ◇ Baseball
- ◇ Softball
- ◇ Clay Target Shooting
- ◇ Equestrian (club)



Thank You!

January was School Board Recognition Month.

However, at Clare Public Schools we like to take every opportunity we can to thank our Board of Education for the tremendous work they do.

Beyond preparing for and attending monthly meetings, they attend school functions throughout the year and put in countless hours weighing options to ensure the best decisions are made for all of our Pioneers.

Thank you, Clare Public Schools Board of Education Members!

Ben Browning, President
Loren Cole, Vice-President
John Miller, Treasurer
Samantha Sharp, Secretary
Susan Atwood, Trustee
Ed Hubel, Trustee
Matt Rodenbo, Trustee

Board of Education Meetings

The Board of Education meets the third Monday of every month at Clare High School (Library or Cafeteria, depending on space needed). Meetings are open to the public and begin at 7:00 p.m.



Clare Primary School

Principal: Tracy Lubs

Greetings from Clare Primary School! It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as your Clare Primary School Principal. For those of you who are new to the school or community, here is a little bit of information about me:

This school year is my 25th year in education. I graduated from Central Michigan University, after completing my student teaching at Clare Primary School, and began my career as an elementary teacher. My lifelong dream of being a teacher has taken me on a journey that includes a unique variety of teaching experiences in all grades, K-12. My passion for lifelong learning led me back to CMU to complete a Master's degree in School Principalship. My time here at Clare Primary began at the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

When I'm not at school, my husband Scott and I, together with our 3 daughters, enjoy as much family time as we can. Two of our daughters currently attend Clare Public Schools so we can often be found together cheering for our Pioneers. We also enjoy family road trips, camping, and a good family game night competition.

I look forward each day to the energy and enthusiasm our youngest Pioneers bring into the building. The Clare Primary staff is focused on doing what is best for students and ensuring that they have a positive educational experience that will impact them for a lifetime. We consistently work together to design, evaluate, and deliver instruction that is both exciting and challenging to meet the developmental needs of each child. Our academic curriculum includes instruction in language arts, math, science, social studies, art, music, and physical education.

The education of children is a partnership between home and school. Parent involvement is crucial to the academic and social development of each child. We want every child to have a successful educational experience. This goal becomes reality for a child when parents and school staff work together. Connect with your child's teacher through classroom newsletters and the BLOOMZ app. You can also stay connected with school events on our website and Clare Primary School Facebook page. Don't hesitate to contact our office if you have questions.

Once again, I am honored to be your Principal and look forward to connecting with your family. It's great to be a Pioneer!



Clare Middle School

Principal: Tom Pashak

"Preparing students for life, not just a test"

Clare Middle School is changing the way we educate our students in order to meet the demands of our always changing global economy. Gone are the days when a student's ability to memorize facts and formulas would guarantee success in the future. Today, many businesses are looking for people who can think critically and solve complex authentic problems. The individuals who are in highest demand are those who can blend learned principles with creativity in order to be innovative. Therefore, Clare Middle School is utilizing Project Based Learning (PBL) as one of our foundational pillars of education. The eight components of PBL, which include authenticity, student design, skills focus, expert participation, entry event, driving question, student products, and feedback will prepare our students for whatever challenges the future throws at them.



Clare High School

Principal: Matt Forsberg

The 2021-22 school year has been much more normal than what we experienced last year, which has been a welcome relief to both students and staff. We have been fortunate enough to hold many of our typical events this year, which has made CHS a busy place.

Near the end of last year teachers started training in Project Based Learning (PBL). PBL uses real life situations and hands-on projects to teach required standards. This training continued throughout the summer and into this year. I have been pleased with some of the projects that I have seen already this year and look forward to how these will be refined throughout the year.

As you may know, this is the first year for our new student management system, Skyward. If you have not yet gained access to Skyward to track your student's progress I would encourage you to do so by emailing CHS Secretary Sherry Camp: scamp@clare.k12.mi.us.

We have several new faces in our offices this year with Rachel Magnus now serving as our athletic and guidance secretary and Laura Boulis serving as our attendance clerk. We are excited to have these individuals as part of our team!

I thank you for the opportunity to work with your young adults during this school year and hope they are as excited about it as I am!



Clare Pioneer High School

Principal: Cathy Wirth

*"...Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference." By: Robert Frost*

Alternative and Adult Education are opportunities...opportunities to reach unrealized goals and for second chances. We cater to the non-traditional student, the unique individual, the independent learner, and the "boots on the ground headed straight ahead into their future" student.

For the 2021-2022 school year, Pioneer welcomed three new staff members: Rachael Shannon as Secretary, Clint Kern as our Social Studies and Adult Education Teacher, and English Teacher Andrew Schoenborn. As the new principal of Pioneer High School, I would like to welcome new and returning students!

As lifelong learners, our staff will continue to learn and apply Project Based Learning (PBL) to provide optimum student engagement. CHAMPS will be revisited in order to provide behavior support to students to ensure they are successful in all aspects of their education. New learning this year includes the 6-12 Disciplinary Literacy Practices which allows us to take a deeper dive into integrating content areas which supports our PBL work.

Virtual and in person courses are available in order to support students in reaching their educational goals. Our staff is a caring group of individuals who sees the potential within every student. We hold high expectations for our students, and support them each step of the way. Please contact Pioneer High School with any questions you might have regarding obtaining your high school diploma or GED at 989-386-3067.

Let Pioneer High School Alternative and Adult Education be the path that has "made all the difference" for you and your future!

Message to the Community from Superintendent Jim Walter:

A nimble school district for this generation and the next...

In the past 6 years, our district has grown by nearly 10% in enrollment, though that trend has slowed a bit in the COVID era. We remain THE school of choice in the region, with over 30% of our students coming to us as schools of choice students.

During the same time span, we've climbed out of financial stress into a position of strength, highlighted by a general fund balance of over 30% of revenue, and an additional \$2.5 million set aside by the Board of Education (past and present) for our future bond issue. Additionally during these past several years, we have navigated the needs of our facilities through general fund expenditures and without asking the taxpayers for more. We have updated the high school roofs, heating (boiler) systems throughout the District, home bleachers and lights at Brookwood, and annually update our bus fleet on a newly scheduled rotation. Collectively, we have a ten year plan in place for facility needs.

Most importantly during this era, our Board and school leadership have been focused on meeting the needs of our students and staff, by expanding on the many first class offerings already in place in Clare. We have expanded our mental health staff with two additional professionals to work with students daily. Our wood and metals shop has been expanded by an added teacher, new CNC (computer numerically controlled) machines, and new class offerings (including middle school courses). We are a 1:1 technology district, with each student assigned a Chromebook annually; though we value face to face interactions most and best, our students have 21st century tools at their fingertips.

As you have also read, we have expanded course offerings to include small engine repair, American Sign Language, Senior Seminar (including civil discourse, financial literacy, healthy living, and basic home repair), STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) courses, and drone flight.

In athletics, we've added ladies golf and clay target shooting. With the help of our Boosters and greater community, the weight room received a total makeover two short years ago. We are able to host MHSAA tournament events for teams from across the state due to the community's investment in our facilities and support on game days. Additionally, we're investing in the leadership traits and abilities of our students and coaches through purposeful character development and an orientation to service in the community.

Teachers have worked diligently to grow their own craft and teach online courses during ordered closures of the pandemic...not what any of us wished for, but we were determined to thrive. We are heavily invested in Project Based Learning and 21st century workforce skills such as the ability to collaborate, evaluate sources of information, effective communication, adaptability, and problem solving. Through it all, teachers have been a great asset in helping attract new talent to the district during an era of teacher shortage...yes, we have been affected, but far less than most as our staff promotes the profession and the opportunity to live a meaningful career in a district whose community values their contributions. All too rare in today's society.

Why does all of this matter? Our collective investment in our staff and students tells everyone what we believe is possible for our kids and community in the future. As a community, we will soon have an opportunity through a bond issue to tell our students, in part, what we believe about their future prospects! The Board and school leadership have worked diligently to be good stewards of your resources, and to provide opportunities for our students not found in most schools of our size. We have worked to stay at the forefront of compensation for employees, so that current employees know they are valued and future employees see the same commitment.

All of this can translate into a complete investment in our community in the months to come. Stewarded well for a century, we are now exceeding the capacity and capabilities of our current middle school. There is great value in history and tradition, but as much so in progress and preparing our students for today's and tomorrow's working world.

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As the Board of Education contemplates the future of our facilities, there will be several opportunities for the community to learn of initial plans, help develop our project and goals, and support a future building project on our current campus. We will need everyone participating if we are to find the right project that our entire district can support.

No one has it better than we do. Clare is indeed a great place to live and learn for all the many reasons listed here, but far and away our greatest asset is our community. Your enthusiasm for kids, for each other, for opportunity, for rewarding good stewardship and great effort...all of these give us a unique opportunity to stay at the forefront in our region and state. Thank you for that opportunity. We are invested in rewarding your support with a top notch education for the next generation of Pioneers.

Clare Public Schools School Calendar—Important Upcoming Dates

Spring Break—no staff or students: March 28-April 1, 2022

Good Friday Holiday—no staff or students: April 15, 2022

CHS Prom—April 30, 2022

CPS Title I Family Night—May 12, 2022

Last Day for CHS Seniors—May 13, 2022; Senior Exams—May 16-17, 2022

Baccalaureate Ceremony—May 15, 2022, 5:00 p.m. at Clare Assembly of God

CHS Honors Night—May 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

CHS Graduation Rehearsal and Memory Lane Walk—May 20, 2022, 8:15 a.m.

Graduation—May 22, 2022, Clare High School 1:00 p.m.; Pioneer High School 4:00 p.m. (location TBD)

Memorial Day Holiday—no staff or students: May 30, 2022

Last Day of School (End of 2nd Semester): June 3, 2022—half day for students; teacher work day in afternoon

CPS Kindergarten Roundup—June 8, 2022, 8:15 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Looking Ahead:

First Day of School for the 2022-2023 School Year: August 22, 2022

* The full 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 CPS district calendars are available on our website homepage:
www.clare.k12.mi.us

Building Daily Schedules

Clare Primary School: 8:10 a.m.—3:09 p.m.

Clare Middle School, Clare High School, and Pioneer High School: 8:15 a.m.—3:09 p.m.

~ For a detailed listing of class periods, please go to our website: www.clare.k12.mi.us—Under “About Us,” select “School Hours”

~ Reminder: 1/2 day release time is 11:39 a.m.

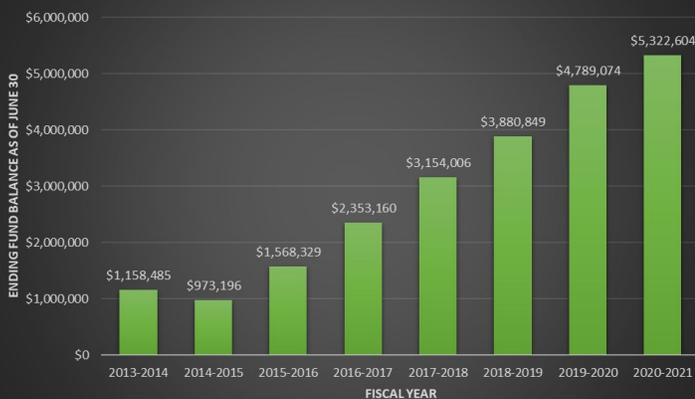
Clare Public Schools
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Clare, MI 48617

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FINANCIAL STABILITY RESTORED:

Thanks to prudent district financial decisions, the passage of the Bond in 2013, Brookwood 2.0, and much more, our Fund Balance (district savings account) is healthier than in has been in several years and allows the district to refrain from borrowing to meet payroll obligations in the early part of each school year.

Fund Balance History



CPS Enrollment
(Blended Count)

