



SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

June/July 2024

BELL RINGER

Home of the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School

www.spartaschools.org

Celebrating a Year of Remarkable Achievements

As the school year draws to a close, it's time to reflect on the extraordinary accomplishments of our students at Sparta Area Schools. This year has been marked by a series of triumphs across various programs, showcasing the diverse talents and dedication of our school community. From academic excellence to artistic prowess and patriotic commitment, our students have made us proud in numerous ways. Scholarships for the Class of 2024 The future is bright for the Class of 2024, as our seniors have been awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships. These scholarships are a reflection of their hard work, perseverance, and academic excellence. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in their future endeavors. Their success is a testament to the strong foundation provided by our dedicated teachers and supportive community.

Honoring Our Graduates Serving in the Armed Forces We are also deeply proud of the three graduates who have chosen to serve our nation in the armed forces. Their decision to dedicate themselves to protecting our country is both honorable and inspiring. These young women exemplify the values of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism, and we appreciate them for their commitment to our nation. Their service is a profound reminder of the diverse paths our graduates take to make a difference in the world.

Band and Choir Program Success The band and choir programs at Sparta High School have reached new heights this year. Our talented musicians have performed at various local and state events, earning high praise and numerous awards. The dedication of our students and the guidance of our exceptional music directors have culminated in performances that

have made us proud. The harmony and precision displayed by our band and choir members are a testament to their hard work and passion for music.

Academic All-State Scholar Athletes Our student-athletes have excelled both on the field and in the classroom. This year, we are thrilled to announce that several of our athletes and teams have been named Academic All-State Scholars. This prestigious recognition is awarded to students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement while excelling in their respective sports. Their ability to balance rigorous academic schedules with demanding athletic commitments is truly commendable.

Stellar Theater Performances The theater department has also enjoyed a year of outstanding success. Our students have delivered captivating performances that have enchanted audiences and

showcased their incredible acting abilities. Each production has been a collaborative effort, with students contributing not only as actors but also behind the scene in a variety of ways. The creativity and commitment of our theater students have made each show a memorable experience.

As we celebrate these achievements, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all our students, staff, and families. It is the collective effort of our community that makes Sparta Area Schools a place where students can thrive and reach their full potential. We are committed to continually improving our craft to better serve our current Spartans, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed. Here's to another year of success, growth, and inspiration!

All my best,

Joel



CAREER ACADEMY STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Madyson Griffes is a self-motivated and independent student, who has held a job and worked numerous hours per week while finishing school. She has successfully completed her high school career in the Career Academy while playing an active and very important role in caring for her younger siblings. Madyson is a hard-working individual who recently realized she would like to work in a career where she would be caring for others. Madyson applied for and secured a spot in the Rockford Ambulance EMT Scholarship program, which will cover the costs of the training she will receive to join their EMT team. One of Maddy's greatest strengths has been her perseverance. She has had to navigate many personal struggles, and she has always landed on her feet. Her CAD teachers will miss her and we wish her all the best in her future!

Applevue All-Stars attend Grand Rapids Ballet

Our Applevue All-Stars were treated to a delightful cultural experience at the Grand Rapids Ballet. The senior Ballet company beautifully performed "Serenade" for our students' enjoyment. Students are coached in theater etiquette prior to the performance, and this year's fifth graders did an amazing job of engaging with the dancers' performance. Artistic coordinator and ballet master, Dawnell Dryja-Black, took an opportunity to teach our students the first few moments of the choreography, so when the company performed it, students were able to "participate." Students thoroughly enjoyed this amazing opportunity.



Sparta Preschool Celebration

Sparta's 3 and 4 year old preschool classrooms had their last day of school on May 16th! The 3 year old classrooms had a concert with a slideshow, ice cream and trail mix bar, and outdoor activities. Our 4 year old classrooms had classroom parties and decorated picture frames, watched a classroom slideshow, spent time outside, and had a special classroom snack. Thank you to all the families that allowed us to be a part of the growth of the graduation classes of 2037, 2038, and 2039!



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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024!



Appleview Multilingual students host Breakfast for Mothers of Students in Program

On Friday May 10th, the Appleview Multilingual team hosted a breakfast for all of the moms who have students in the program. With the generous support of many local community members, we were able to provide breakfast biscuits, fresh fruit, doughnuts, coffee and Mexican sweet bread. Along with the bountiful breakfast spread, we were able to raffle off some beautiful gifts for our guests. These gifts included: hanging patio flowers, orchids, deep tissue massage, and gift cards to just to name a few.

Students added a personal touch by crafting fingerprint-painted vases as gifts. The event showcased the community's commitment to inclusivity and gratitude towards mothers, reflecting a collective effort to build a more united Sparta.

A special THANK YOU to these local businesses:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Envision Nutrition | Bigby Coffee | San José Supermercado |
| Brick Haus | Serenity Health and Wellness | Sprinkles Donut Shop |
| Saenz Farm & Greenhouse | Chick-Fil-A | |



Student wins pizza party for whole class!

At Appleview, students earn tickets for positive behavior. In April the team changed it up where students could put their tickets in various prize buckets such as

being secretary for half a day, MacDonald's lunch with the principal, or a pizza party for your class among other things. The prize buckets can be a motivator during

M-Step testing as well. Each grade level has their 2 weeks to put in tickets and then the prizes are drawn. Way to go Giovanni Noto in Mrs. Hurley's class!

SMS 2024-2025 SMS Recommended Supply List:

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.



Global Day at Appleview

What do you get when groups of students get an entire day to play without ANY screens? Why, Global Day of Play, of course! Appleview has participated in this wonder-

ful day of screen-free cooperative play, which promotes creativity, problem solving, a little competitiveness, and a LOT of fun! It's so wonderful to see students learning new

ways to engage with each other through tried-and-true game favorites. It's even better to witness them sharing new board and card games with their friends!



Students visit GVSU

Fifth graders experienced a little college life at GVSU. Students visited the Technology showcase, toured the library, enjoyed the beautiful

weather while strolling around campus, and took advantage of the field house's pool and athletic courts. This annual trip allows our students to

glimpse what a university campus feels like and inspires a few to set their sights on a career that may include college.



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Celebration Time for the Sparta Education Foundation!



In many ways, June is my favorite time of year. Not because I am a former teacher who still looks forward to summer break, (although I do!), but because it is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and the people who have supported them. This includes families, school staff, and financial donors to the Sparta Education Foundation.

The mission of the Sparta Education Foundation is "To ignite the potential for enhanced learning through financial support." The SEF is able to accomplish our mission only because of our financial partners in the community. These monetary gifts are used to provide teacher grants for classroom materials and learning experiences

that otherwise are not covered in the budget. The innovative teacher ideas impact SAS students at every grade level and cover STEM, arts, health and wellness, literacy, social-emotional growth, and even parent and teacher education.

Because of the generosity of our donors, the SEF was able to fund 112 mini classroom grants, 17 grants for classroom initiatives and health and wellness goals, and 4 transportation grants for a total of nearly \$50,000! Your giving has made the following grants possible.

- Display frames for high school artists to display their work and provide beauty to a forgotten hall.
- Large interactive

classroom manipulatives called Nuggets for our youngest students to learn cooperation and moveable play.

- 3-D printers to be used by middle school science, tech and math students.
- A parent lending library to support parents of our youngest students.
- A camera-equipped drone which allows our high school tech and media classes to create amazing content.
- Lots and lots of books allowing our students at every level to access print and to see themselves in literature.
- A school-wide performance of Suessical the Musical performed by our high school thespians for Appleview Elementary.
- An interactive light table

for experiential learning for our young scholars.

- Brain lab to support hands-on learning for high school science and psych students.
- Fishing equipment to support the middle school fishing club providing a noncompetitive extracurricular activity and life-long skills.
- Guest steel pan musical artist for our 3-4-5 graders which allows them to experience Caribbean culture and music.
- Summer professional book club for teachers
- Incentives for all students and staff who participated in a district-wide wellness challenge.
- Bard to Go - a program which will bring Shakespeare to our high school students in the fall of 2024.

- Transportation to the Grand Rapids Public Museum, the John Ball Zoo, and Bair Lake Camp.

In addition to providing classroom grants, the SEF administered \$6500 in scholarships to graduating seniors. The SEF congratulates the following scholarship winners.

Kennedi Wood: Edmund L. Eary, MD and Athena S. Eary Scholarship for Valedictorian

Alexis Brittner: Edmund L. Eary, MD and Athena S. Eary Scholarship for Salutatorian

Alysse Utter: Catherine Richmond Health Sciences Scholarship

Makayla Hatchew: Maggie Brown Memorial Scholarship

Troy Jones: Debbie Trampler Memorial Scholarship for Helping

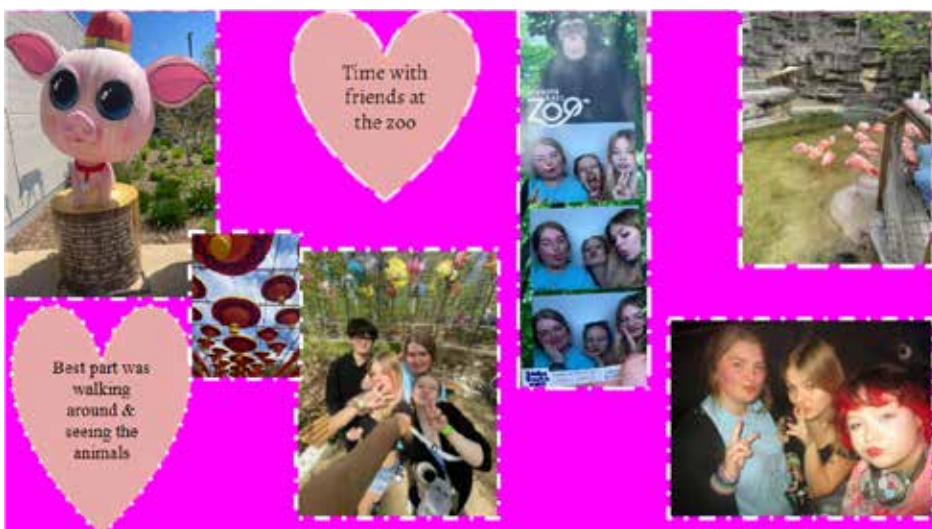
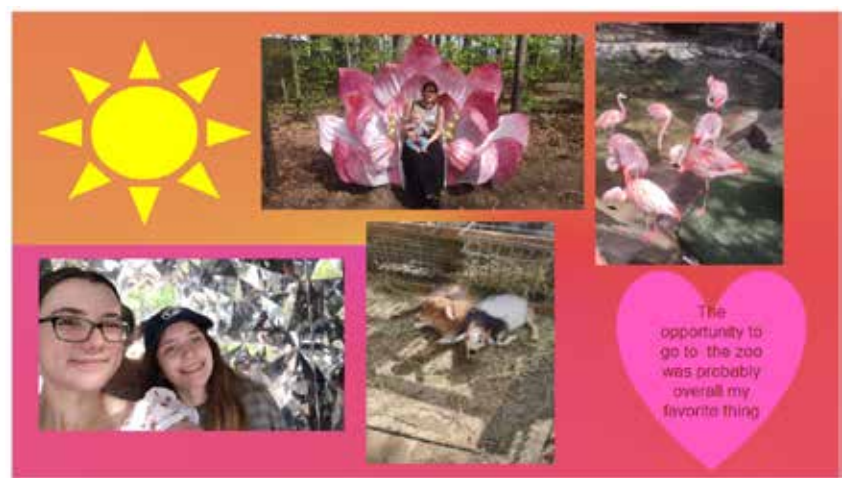
Fields

Christian Botello: Debbie Trampler Memorial Scholarship for Trades Education

The impact these SEF grants and scholarships make on both current and future Sparta students is immeasurable. The Sparta Education Foundation could not do this work without the generous financial gifts from our community. Thank you for providing the Extras for Education for the students of Sparta! More information is available here <https://sparta-education-foundation.givecloud.co/grants>

LeAnn Kitson

President, Sparta Education Foundation



Zoo Pics!

A big thank you to Sparta Education Foundation for supporting this field trip for the High School Biology Students. We took 207 students to the zoo. It was a perfect day to let our Sparta students shine!



Head Start for Kent County
Connecting Families and Community Resources

Sites located in **Sparta** and **North Kent** (Cedar Springs)

No Cost to Qualifying Families

NOW Enrolling for 2024/25!

Children must be 3 years of age by December 1.

Interested in a high quality 3 year old preschool program? Visit our Website to learn more about what our program offers, see our eligibility guidelines, and fill out an application!



Apply Now!

<https://hs4kc.org/apply/>

Contact Us!

616-453-4145



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Sparta Area Schools

Food Services | 475 W. Spartan Drive, Sparta, MI 49345 | 616-887-8213

www.spartaschools.org

MEET UP and EAT UP

Sparta Area Schools announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for Children. Free meals will be available to children 18 years of age and under or persons up to age 26 who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a State or local public educational agency. The meals will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability, and there will be no discrimination during the meal service. Meals will be provided at the sites listed below:

Sparta High School-475 W. Spartan Dr. Sparta MI, 49345

Dates: June 11-Aug. 1, 2024-Tuesday through Thursday

Breakfast Time: 8:00-9:00 am

Lunch Time: 11:00-11:30 am

Sparta Early Childhood Center-480 State St. Sparta MI, 49345

Dates: June 3-August 9, 2024-Monday through Friday

Breakfast Time: 9:00-9:30 am

Lunch Time: 12:00-12:30 pm

Appleview Elementary-240 E. Spartan Dr. Sparta MI, 49345

Dates: June 3-August 9, 2024-Monday through Friday

Breakfast Time: 8:30-9:00 am

Lunch Time: 11:30-12:00 pm

No Meal Service July 1-5, 2024 at All Locations

For more information please contact the Food Service Director Melissa Alley at melissa.alley@spartaschools.org or 616-887-1744

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



SMS Girls Track = OK Silver Conference Champions!

We are so proud of their season, PR's, and constant hard work and dedication! Thank you to all the students, family members and community members who came out to support our girls this season! And...a special thanks to Coach Barringer, Coach Carls, Coach Zurek and Coach Banagis!



Left to Right Below: Taliya Dauser, Jeremiah Burman, Alessandra Guerra

Congratulations to our SMS April Students of the Month!

Each month, our staff at Sparta Middle School nominates students whom they have in class to be honored as our Students of the Month. Criteria for being a Student of the Month are students who conduct themselves as model citizens who set a positive example by living out our Spartan Values - Safe, Positive, Accomplished, Respectful, Trustworthy, Accepting.



Team UFO (Utter Frazier Overachievers)

Team UFO (Utter Frazier Overachievers!) was the undisputed CHAMPS at our first annual NWEA MAP testing celebration. A friendly grade-wide tug-of-war competition was the culminating activity following a successful round of NWEA MAP testing where students earned prizes and tickets for drawings based on their achievements. Drawings for bean bag chairs, Spartan Spirit Wear, and a variety of activities were raffled off to celebrate our grade's big academic gains. What a fun way to motivate and celebrate our students' and teachers' hard work throughout the year!



2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Sparta Area Schools WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Goals

- ❖ To establish goals for and oversee school health policies and programs, including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the district-level wellness policy.
- ❖ To update the public annually about our local wellness policy
- ❖ To educate staff, students, and parents/guardians around mental wellness in order to promote social and emotional well-being



Wellness Committee Accomplishments 2023-24

- ✓ Included a section on the food service webpage to share nutrition information & education with students, teachers, & families
- ✓ Food Service received the 10 cent Local Produce Grant to help serve more local fresh fruits and vegetables in our meal programs.
- ✓ Food Service provides monthly district newsletters to share nutrition and promotional information with students, staff, and families
- ✓ The District created a student/staff wellness challenge for the Month of March
- ✓ To engage and educate students Sparta created Wellness Wednesday, which provides students with wellness activities and information weekly.
- ✓ Sent out a wellness survey to students, staff, and parents to collect data on what information everyone would like to learn more about pertaining to the whole child.
- ✓ Created a Wellness Page on the Sparta Area Schools Website
- ✓ Created a SEL PLT to lead curriculum to help address the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of our students
- ✓ Started the Blue Envelope Project training staff on Suicide awareness and prevention
- ✓ Developed a family and community wellness workshop series- Sparta Thrives Together

Wellness Policy Information & Assessments

SAS Wellness Committee Website
<https://www.spartaschools.org/resources/sas-wellness-committee/>

SAS LOCAL WELLNESS POLICY
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HUqBuKz6_eR_ElZoPuhjx1UG8f22Fb0/view

SAS WELLNESS POLICY TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY 2023-24
https://www.spartaschools.org/download/food_services/spartas_wellness_policy_triennial_assessment_2023-24.pdf



Have questions?
 Please contact Melissa Alley- melissa.alley@spartaschools.org

Sparta Area Schools