

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

May 2025

BELL RINGER

Home of the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School

www.spartaschools.org

A Year of Excellence and Growth

As we approach the end of another incredible school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we've achieved together. It has been a year filled with celebration, growth, and remarkable success. I am so proud of everything our students, staff, and families have accomplished.

This year, we have continued our pursuit of excellence in instruction, always striving to provide the best educational experiences for every student. We've seen significant improvements in our growth scores on nationally normed assessments, which reflect our ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality education. We have also continued to invest in the resources and professional development that support and

enhance the best instructional practices, ensuring that our teachers have the tools they need to succeed.

As we focus on academic achievement, we also remain vigilant about maintaining the safety and well-being of our students. We continue to monitor and implement best practices in school safety, always with a student-centered approach. Our goal is to care for the whole child, ensuring that every student feels safe, supported, and valued.

Our students have excelled not only in the classroom but also in extracurricular activities. We've seen multiple All-State athletes and teams representing our school with pride, achieving statewide recognition. Our Quiz Bowl team has also enjoyed great success, culminating in a league championship that reflects both their intellectual abilities and teamwork.

In the arts, our theater department has put on four outstanding plays this year, including one that brought our entire community together on one stage. Our high school bands have continued to shine, performing well at both Festival and state Marching Band competitions, showcasing the dedication and talent of our musicians. Additionally, our choral program has been a true highlight, with performances that showcase the diverse talent of our students.

As we close out this school year, we celebrate all that we've accomplished

and look forward to even more growth and success in the future. Our school community's spirit of collaboration, determination, and care will continue to guide us as we strive to be a place of excellence for every student.

I want to express my deep gratitude for the support and dedication of everyone in our school community. We've accomplished so much, but there is always more to look forward to as we continue to work together toward even greater success. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

With pride and appreciation,

Joel Stoner Superintendent of Sparta Area Schools

Reading Month Mystery Readers

At Appleview
Elementary students
enjoyed celebrating
reading the whole
month of March!
March is National
Reading Month and
this year the theme
was "Let's Read Under
The Sea".

Decorations filled the hallways and classroom doors, students participated in special reading activities at school and at home, and students even had a fun concertlike experience with author Daryl Cobbs. Some classrooms invited guest readers to come in and read to them!

Miss Beuschel's third grade class was lucky enough to experience visits from various local businesses. "My goal was to get one mystery reader for every school day in March.

After reaching out to parents, other staff members and administrators, I still had some spots left to fill. That is when I had the idea of turning to the community!"

The visit not only focused on sharing a love of reading but also connected the youth with community stakeholders, helping them discover all the great things this small town has to offer.

Thank you to Spartan Graphics, General Formulations, Doggie Paws, Print Metro, Handy Wacks, Sparta Youth Library, Sundaes At The Park, and Amore Trattoria Italiana!









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First Graders at Ridgeview Elementary Visit the Butterflies!

In early April, the first-grade students of Ridgeview Elementary had the exciting opportunity to visit the Frederik Meijer Gardens to explore the Butterfly Exhibit and the Lena Meijer Children's Garden. This trip was a wonderful extension of their classroom studies on the life cycle of butterflies and the weather was perfect!

While at the exhibit, the students were able to observe three of the four stages of a butterfly's life up close—caterpillars, chrysalides, and a variety of beautiful butterflies. The handson experience brought their learning to life in a way that was both educational and exciting!

After exploring the Butterfly Exhibit, the students ventured outside to the Lena



Meijer Children's Garden. There, they spent time discovering the wonders of the large tree house, exploring the five senses, engaging with sensory displays, and much more. It was a day filled with exploration and fun, enhancing their understanding of the natural world.

This enriching field trip was made possible by the Ridgeview Parent Teacher Council (PTC), and we are incredibly grateful for their dedication to creating educational and memorable experiences for all students!



Fifth Grad BizTown in Grand Rapids

The 5th graders traveled to BizTown in Grand Rapids on April 1st and 2nd for an experience they will never forget. JA BizTown® combines in-class learning with a day-long visit to a simulated town. This popular learning experience allowed our 5th grade students to operate banks, manage restaurants, write checks, and vote for mayor. Students were able to experience what they have learned in school and how it's applied in the real world. Some of the businesses included, Chick-Fil-A, Independent Bank, Helen Devos Children's Hospital, GRCC, Bissel and many more! JA BizTown provides educators with lessons and resources to effectively integrate financial literacy and work and career readiness into the school classroom. The learning experience supports critical thinking skills, student engagement, and successfully combines in-class learning with this visit to BizTown!



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Sparta Early Childhood Center Annual Museum Night!

The preschoolers at the Sparta Early Childhood Center had their annual museum night! All the students made different types of art that showcased what they have been learning about. Some of the topics include dinosaurs, castles, knights, and making self portraits.

All of the unique pieces are displayed throughout the hallways and in the classrooms and turns the school into a museum!















CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS

The Sparta Education Foundation (SEF) was founded in 1991 based on the belief that Sparta Students should not



be limited to minimum standards due to a lack of state funding for education. Since that time, many students have benefited from SEF-funded grants that provide the "extras for education", but still the need continues.

The SEF's mission is to help provide creative, progressive and innovative educational opportunities for our students and staff which are beyond the normal operating budget of the school district.

Please consider making a contribution and give our students important enrichment opportunities that would not be available otherwise. Go to the CONTRIBUTIONS page on our website for details spartaschools.org/sef

Purchase Your Part of the Spartan Pride Pathway

Sparta Education Foundation sells 4" x 8" or 8" x 8" bricks that are placed in the Spartan Pride Pathway located in front of the high school. Bricks are a wonderful way to leave a permanent legacy, a memorial, memory, or given as a gift!

To reserve a brick, please fill out the the Spartan Pride Pathway Donation Form https://www.spartaschools.org/about/sef/contributions/and submit it to the SEF 465 S Union St, Sparta, MI 49345 or email it to sef@spartaschools.org.





THANK YOU!

Together, we're "Providing Extras for Education" ~ Inspiring Learning and Empowering Success



Our **High Quality Program** is free to pregnant women and families with children ages 0-4.

Early Childhood Programs

Home Visiting

Our Home Visiting program focuses on preparing your family for the school years ahead. Each family is paired with a Home Visitor who will provide individualized support specific to you. Families and Home Visitors work together to set and achieve goals, promote development and access community resources. Socializations and family engagement events are offered to all families and provide opportunities to build relationships and explore the classroom environment.



Pregnant Women:

- Weekly visits alternating between the Agency Nurse and Home Visitor
- Education and information from our "Partners for a Healthy Baby" curriculum
- · Prenatal health and postpartum recovery information
- Mental health and postpartum depression resources
- Support building healthy relationships with family and baby

Birth - 3 years old:

- Weekly visits with Home Visitors
- Develop parent as child's first and best teacher
- Support in using the home environment to enhance child's school readiness outcomes
- Monthly in-home snack experience
- Regular developmental and social-emotional assessments

Infant/Toddler Rooms

Providing a safe, nurturing environment is the top priority for our Infant/Toddler classrooms. Each child has a primary caregiver who partners with the family to best understand the child's cues and ensure their needs are met. Learning takes place during every part of the day in these classes through individualized daily routines.



ars Old

Pregnancy - 3 Years Old

Preschool

We understand that children learn through experience and strive to nurture the whole child in our preschool programming. In addition to math, reading, science, social studies, and art skills, our students develop skills in cooperation, problem solving, and personal responsibility.



Supporting you as your child's first, best teacher!

Contact us for more information: hs4kc.org



BELL RINGER

Sparta Middle School **April 2025 Bellringer Information**

M-Step & PSAT Testing Schedule & Information:

- Spring 2025 Testing Calendar
- M-Step Testing Daily Schedule

GRADE	M-STEP TESTING DATES/CONTENT AREA *Students will take the M-Step with their regularly scheduled ELA, Science, Social Studies and Math teachers.*
6ТН	Wednesday, April 16th- Math Paper/Pencil (ELL & Resource Room Students)
	Thursday & Friday, April 17th & 18th- ELA Paper/Pencil (ELL & Resource Room Students)
	Monday, April 21st-Wednesday, April 23th: ELA Online
	Monday, April 28th-Wednesday, April 30th: Math Online
7TH	Wednesday, April 16th- Math Paper/Pencil (ELL & Resource Room Students)
	Thursday & Friday, April 17th & 18th- ELA Paper/Pencil (ELL & Resource Room Students)
	Monday, April 21st-Wednesday, April 23th: ELA Online
	Monday, April 28th-Wednesday, April 30th: Math Online
8TH	PSAT Test: Tuesday, April 15th: PSAT starting at 8:30am
	M-Step Testing: Monday, April 21st-Wednesday, April 23rd: Social Studies Online
	Monday, April 28th-Wednesday, April 30th: Science Online

M-Step Testing Daily Schedule: Mon. April 21nd- Fri. May 2nd							
Hour		Time					
E4S		7:40-8:00					
1st	8:05-8:55						
2nd	9:00-9:50						
3rd	9:55-10:45						
4th		10:50-12:20					
LUNCHES	(A) 10:50-11:20 (B) 11:20-11:50 (C) 11:50-12:20						
5th	12:25-1:15						
6th	1:20-2:16						
,	Announcements &	Dismissal: 2:10-2	2:16				

8th Grade PSAT:

PSAT 8th Grade PSAT Testing: Tuesday, April 15th @ 8:30am

- 8th Graders will Report to their E4S Classes on Testing Day
- Students should bring chargers into school and have the device fully charged
- Students who bring their own devices normally will be issued a school Chromebook for
- Please ensure your student(s) get adequate rest during testing and encourage them to do their very best. Their scores matter and help us determine where we can focus our efforts to support their learning.

Upcoming Student Events:

in 6th & 7th Grade Activities During PSAT Testing on April 15th:

- 6th Grade will be going to the Grand Rapids Public Museum
- 7th Grade will be on the Zoo Field Trip
 - o Please have your students dress for the weather on that day so they are

** 8th Grade Recognition (Tentative Information for Staff/Parents/Students):

- Date: Wednesday, May 21st
- Time: 6:30pm (Gates Open at 6:00pm)
- Location: Sparta High School Fieldhouse
- Cost: This event is free.
- Number of Guests: There is no limit to the number of guests each students' family may have in attendance. No tickets are required.
- Dance: We will be hosting a dance following 8th Grade Recognition in the Sparta High School Cafeteria from 7:30pm - 9:00pm
 - o Only 8th grade students who attended 8th Grade Recognition may attend the
 - Only Sparta Middle School 8th Graders may attend.

Michigan's Adventure 8th Grade Michigan Adventure Trip: · Date: Wednesday, May 28th



Sparta Area Schools 2025-2026 Parent/Student Calendar

August 22	No School for Students No School for Students No School for Students
September 1	Labor Day - No School
	Student Fall Count Day Half Day for All Students

... No School for All Students

August 18..... District Open Houses

November 14 Half Day for K-5th November 26-28 Thanksgiving Break

December 22-31 Christmas Break January 1-2.....

. School Resumes . No School for All Students

.. Spring Break .. School Resumes April 2-10 8th Grade Recognition High School Graduation Half Day for All Students

February 16-17 Mid-Winter Break

.. Half Day for All Students

First Day of School—Wed August 20th
Half Day All Students (K-12th)
Half Day Elementary Only (K-5th)
Half Day Secondary Only (6th-12th)
No School

School Building	School Hours	1/2 Day Dismissal
Ridgeview	8:40am-3:35pm	11:55am
Appleview	8:25am-3:20pm	11:40am
Middle School	7:40am-2:16pm	10:31am
High School	7:50am-2:26pm	10:45am

	AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2025						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI			
11	12	13	14	15			
18	19		21	22			
25	26	27	28	29			
1	2	3	4	5			
8	9	10	11	13			
15	16	17	18	19			
22	23	24	25	26			

	FEBRUARY 2026							
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI			
	2	3	4	5	6			
	9	10	11	12	13			
	16	17	18	19	20			
	23	24	25	26	27			
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OCTOBER 2025						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI		
29	30	1	2	3		2
5	7	8	9	10		9
13	14	15	16	17		1
20	21	22	23	24		2
27	28	29	30	31		3
NOVEMBER 2025						

. /	20	29	30	31	,
	NO	VEMBER	2025		
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	6
17	18	19	20	21	1
24	25	26	27	28	2

30	31						
APRIL 2026							
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI			
		1	2	3			
6	7	8	9	10			
13	14	15	16	17			
20	21	22	23	24			
27	28	29	30				

DECEMBER 2025				
TUE	WED	THU	FRI	
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16	17	18	19	
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JANUARY 2026						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI		
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5	6	7	8	9		
12	13	14	15	16		
19	20	21	22	23		
26	27	28	29	30		

JUNE 2026						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI		
1	2	3	4	5		
8	9	10	11	12		
15	16	17	18	19		
22	23	24	25	26		

