



BELL RINGER

www.spartaschools.org

A young child with light brown hair is smiling and holding a blue tablet. The tablet screen shows a simple line drawing of a house with a chimney, trees, and a fence. The background is a brightly lit room with shelves and a large window.



SEF / L. Edmond Eary Jr. MD and Athena S. Eary Scholarship Award: Scholarships for students graduating with the highest GPA (\$2,000) and second highest GPA (\$1,000). These are to be used for college tuition only, as students pursue their post-secondary education and were awarded to Carson Wood (Valedictorian) and Girum Merriman and Alanna VanStrien (Salutatorians).



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED.

Earn Your GED or High School Diploma
Right here in Sparta.

✓ Free or low-cost classes*

✓ Flexible schedules

✓ Supportive teachers

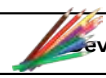
✓ Adult students ages 18+

 Sparta Early Childhood Center:
480 S State St D6, Sparta, MI

 (616) 887-7321





Ridgeview 2025-2026 Supply Lists	
 Developmental Kindergarten 2 boxes of tissues 4 containers of Playdough 2 sets of individual watercolor sets 2-4 packages of baby wipes 8-10 EXPO dry erase markers 1 package of Crayola markers 1 roll of scotch packaging tape 1 pair of 5" child scissors 1 package Crayola crayons 4 Elmer's Glue sticks Large Size Labeled hard plastic water bottle Girls-Ziploc sandwich bags Boys-Ziploc gallon bags Optional/Helpful: plastic spoons, paper plates	 Kindergarten (please only label the pencil box with child's name) • 6 Elmer's washable glue sticks large size only (.77) oz (Small sticks dry out quickly and break off easily) • 4 boxes of Crayola crayons 24-pack • 1 box #2 HB Dixon Ticonderoga soft lead pencils (pre-sharpened preferred) • 2 packs of washable Crayola markers Classic Colors, Wide tip (8pk) • 1 plain black, red, <u>OR</u> blue Composition Notebook (no-spiral) • Labeled Pencil box-hard plastic box • 1 roll of paper towel • 2 Containers of Clorox disinfectant wipes • 2 boxes of tissues • Fine tip black Expo markers • 1 box of classroom snacks • Grils - Ziplock sandwich bags • Boys - Ziplock gallon bags • 8 oz. or larger - Hand Sanitizer • Dixie Cups (Optional)
 First Grade • 3 boxes of Crayola crayons 24-pack (no larger or smaller amounts) • 2 boxes #2 HB Dixon Ticonderoga soft lead pencils • Pencil Box (any variety this will be your child's) • 1 pair Fiskars scissors 5" - pointed tip • 2 boxes of Crayola Washable markers 8-pack, classic colors, wide tip • 12 Elmer's washable glue sticks (.77 oz.) (The small sticks dry out quickly and break of easily) • 1 box Expo dry erase markers (Black) • 2 containers of Clorox wipes • Tissues • Hand Sanitizer (8oz.) Optional Items: • paper plates, band-aids, package of napkins, ziploc bags, paper towels	 Second Grade • 2 boxes of Ticonderoga soft pencils only (pre-sharpened preferred) • 1 package of pencil erasers, pink • 3 - Large Elmer's washable glue sticks (.77 oz) • 1 box of Crayola crayons 24 count or more • 1 pack of washable Crayola markers (8pk) • 1 box of colored pencils • 1 pencil box • 1 pair of scissors • 1 spiral notebook wide ruled - 70 pages • Plastic Pocket folders, 1 red, 1 yellow, 1 green, 1 blue (No prongs please) • 2 container of Clorox wipes • 2 boxes of tissues • Girls - Zip lock - 1 Gallon • Boys - Zip lock - sandwich • 1 box of a classroom snack • 1 Sanitizer bottle



☆☆

SPARTA ELEMENTARY BUILDINGS RIDGEVIEW & APPLEVIEW

BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION WILL BE
SENT TO ALL K-5 FAMILIES THROUGH
BRIGHTARROW SCHOOL MESSENGER BY
AUGUST 4TH



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 & Times





Sparta Education Foundation presents

SAVOR Sparta

A Delicious Way to Support Education!

RESTAURANT GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

SEPTEMBER 9- SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

Make \$100 donation to the SEF and receive a \$50 gift certificate to your choice of one of our local restaurant partners. Your donation not only supports the SEF but directly benefits and sustains our local community restaurants. Support education and encourage local dining!

* Gift Cards will be mailed October 5-9, 2026



Thank you for helping us celebrate 35 years of giving back!

SCAN TO DONATE TO SEF & SELECT GIFT CARD OR LINK HERE DIRECTLY:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/58RFSK8R](https://tinyurl.com/58RFSK8R)

Participating restaurants:

- Angela's Restaurant
- Brick Haus
- Downtown Trini's Margarita Joe's
- The Garden Patch/Sparta Lanes
- Palermo Pizza

- New Dragon Chinese Restaurant
- Maria's Pizzeria
- Wing World
- Stoney Ridge Winery
- Tom's Hometown Bakery



465 S Union St, Sparta, MI 49345 - sparta-education-foundation.givecloud.co - sefspartaschools.org



The Sparta Education Foundation is celebrating its 35th year of inspiring learning and empowering success.

Since 1991, every classroom in every Sparta Area School has benefited from YOUR generosity. Thank you to everyone who has made it possible. Help shape the next 35 years. To learn more:





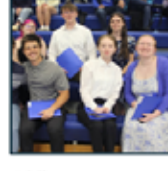
1991



- ☐ Gas \$1.20/gallon
- ☐ Minimum Wage: \$3.35
- ☐ Stirrup pants, "mom" jeans, and big bangs
- ☐ Grunge music arrives making plaid flannel shirts mainstream fashion
- ☐ Garth Brooks has four #1 country songs in a male dominated genre
- ☐ Madonna tops the charts with "Vogue"
- ☐ Movie Ticket: \$4.21 to see "The Silence of the Lambs" or "Beauty and the Beast"
- ☐ The World Wide Web is introduced and the first website is created



2026



- ☐ Gas \$4.35/gallon
- ☐ Minimum Wage: \$13.73
- ☐ Tennis skirts, florals, and middle parts
- ☐ Genre-blending music dominates the charts and influences fashion
- ☐ Ella Langley dominates the country and pop charts with "Choosin' Texas"
- ☐ Madonna hits #1 with "I Feel So Free"
- ☐ Movie Ticket: \$13.11 to see "The Odyssey" or "Toy Story 5"
- ☐ AI changes how the world learns, creates, and communicates

Nothing is more important than supporting our teachers as they prepare for a new school year. The Sparta Education Foundation (SEF) knows that many teachers spend their own money to create welcoming, engaging classrooms before students walk through the doors. That's why we created our Back-to-School Easy Grant program.

Formerly known as the Mini-Grant program, Back-to-School Easy Grants allow teachers to submit receipts for up to \$50 per classroom at the beginning of the school year. SEF reimburses teachers for classroom supplies that help create dynamic, inviting learning environments.

We've kept the application process simple because we know how busy teachers and administrators are at this time of year.

If you would like to contribute to this and other SEF efforts, please scan the QR code to make a donation.

This year, Sparta Area Schools has 147 classrooms, and our goal is to provide a Back-to-School Easy Grant for every one of them. Your generosity helps ensure every teacher—and every classroom—gets the support they deserve.

Sparta Middle School

Daily Schedule for 2026-2027

We will be opening doors at **7:25am** for students to enter the building from the bus loop or via the main entrance if they walk or are dropped off in the morning. Students will have from 7:25 am to 7:35 am to get their breakfast in the cafeteria if they would like to eat before school

MS SCHEDULE (M, T, W, TH)		
AM E4S	7:35 - 8:00 AM	25 min
1 / 2	8:04 - 9:35 AM	91 min
3 / 4	9:39 - 11:10 AM	91 min
5 / 6	11:14 - 1:26 PM	132 min (94')
PM E4S	1:30 - 2:16 PM	46 min
LUNCH A	11:20 - 11:55	35 min
LUNCH B	11:58 - 12:33	35 min
LUNCH C	12:36 - 1:11	35 min

MS FRIDAY		
1	7:35 - 8:25 AM	50 min
2	8:29 - 9:19 AM	50 min
E4S	9:22 - 9:49 AM	27 min
3	9:52 - 10:42 AM	50 min
4	10:46 - 11:36 AM	50 min
5	11:40 - 1:15	LUNCHES
6	1:19 - 2:16	57 min
LUNCH A	11:40 - 12:10	30 min
LUNCH B	12:12 - 12:42	30 min
LUNCH C	12:44 - 1:14	30 min

SMS Recommended Supply Lists

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

Content Area	Recommended Supplies
English/Language Arts	Binder with Pockets Only for ELA (or a folder with pockets and fasteners for paper) Notebook for Writing, Used Only for this Class Pencils and Pens Headphones or Earbuds to Use with Audio Text.
Mathematics	Binder or Folder JUST for Math Pencils Calculator (Optional)
Social Studies	Pocket folder Notebook Colored Pencils Extra Pencils Earbuds/Headphones
Science	Plastic Poly Folder with Pockets and Prongs  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 & 25 Clear Sheet Protectors Instrument (Band Only) Choir Clothing Needs: - Black Dress Pants, Skirt or Dress - Black Shirt and Black Shoes Band Clothing Needs: - White long sleeve, button up, collared shirt - Black long dress pants - Black long socks - All black shoes
Physical Ed. (Gym)	Athletic Shoes (no Boots, Crocs, Hey Dudes, Slides, etc.) Athletic Clothes (Leggings, Sweat Pants , Shorts, T-shirts, etc.) Deodorant and a Water Bottle are HIGHLY Recommended Students cannot wear the Clothes they wore to School in PE.

Sparta Middle School Welcomes a New Math Teacher, Mr. Jeff Miller!

My name is Jeff Miller. I am excited to be teaching 8th grade Math and Algebra I this upcoming school year at Sparta Middle School! I grew up in Hudsonville and now live in Grand Rapids. I graduated from Cornerstone University in 2025. This will be my second year of teaching. Outside of teaching I enjoy going to the gym, playing softball, spending time with my Fiancée and family, and rooting for my favorite sports teams. I am so excited to join the team and community at Sparta Middle School!



Sparta Area Schools 2026-2027	
Open House Dates & Times	School Hours & Drop-off/Pick-up Times
Sparta Early Childhood Center ECSE : Open House: Wed, August 19, 2026, 4:00p-6:00p First Day: Monday, August 24, 2026 3's Preschool: Open House: Tues, September 8, 2026 4:00p-6:00p First Day: Monday, September 14, 2026 GSRP: Open House: Tues, September 8, 2026 4:00p-6:00p First Day: Monday, September 14, 2026	Sparta Early Childhood Center Child Care: Mon-Thurs 6:30a-9:00a and 3:30p-6:00p Friday 6:30a-6:00p ECSE: Monday-Thursdays AM Section: 8:20a-11:35a PM Section: 12:15p-3:30p 3's Preschool Full Day: Mon-Thurs, 9:00a – 3:30p Partial Day: Tues, Wed & Thurs, 9:00a-12:00p GSRP: Monday – Thursday 8:45a-3:45p
Ridgeview Elementary – Grades K-2 DK/Kindergarten, 1 st & 2 nd Grade Open House: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 - 4:00pm-6:30pm First Day of School: Monday, August 24, 2026	Ridgeview Elementary – Grades K-2 Drop-Off: 8:40am School Hours: 8:40am – 3:35pm Bus Rider Release: 3:35pm Parent Pick-Up: 3:20pm *Half day Bus Rider dismissal: 11:55am *Half day Parent Pick-up: 11:40am
Applevue Elementary – Grades 3-5 & BAC 3 rd , 4 th & 5 th Grade Open House: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 - 4:00pm-6:30pm First Day of School: Monday, August 24, 2026	Applevue Elementary – Grades 3-5 Drop-Off: 8:25am School Hours: 8:35am – 3:20pm Parent Pick-Up: 3:20pm *Half day dismissal: 11:40am
Middle School – Grades 6-8 6 th , 7 th & 8 th Grade Open House: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 - 4:00p-7:00p First Day of School: Monday, August 24, 2026	Middle School – Grade 6-8 Drop-Off: 7:25a School Hours: 7:35a – 2:16p *Half day dismissal: 10:30a
High School – Grades 9-12 9 th - 12 th Open House: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 - 4:30p-7:00p First Day of School: Monday, August 24, 2026	High School – Grades 9-12 Doors Open: 7:20a School Hours: 7:40a – 2:25p *Half day dismissal: 10:40a



Please login to your Power School Parent Portal to fill out your 26-27 Annual Forms



Teacher placements/student schedules will be made available in PowerSchool on the following dates:

Elementary:
Friday, August 14th @ 12pm

Secondary:
Wednesday, August 19th @ 8am



2026 - 2027 Sparta Area Schools District Calendar:



Sparta Area Schools
2026-2027
District Calendar

August 19..... District Open Houses
August 24..... First Day for Students
August 28..... No School for Students

September 4..... No School for Students
September 7..... Labor Day - No School

October 1..... Half Day for All Students
October 2..... No School for All Students
October 7..... Student FALL Count Day
October 23..... Half Day K-5th Students Only

November 25-27..... Thanksgiving Break

December 17..... Half Day for 6th-12th Students
December 18..... Half Day for All Students
December 21-31..... Christmas Break-No School

January 1..... Christmas Break-No School
January 4..... School Resumes
January 18..... No School for All Students

February 10..... Student SPRING Count Day
February 15-16..... Mid-Winter Break-No School

March 5..... Half Day K-5th Students Only

April 1-9..... Spring Break
April 12..... School Resumes

May 26..... 8th Grade Recognition
May 27..... High School Graduation
May 28..... Half Day for All Students
May 31..... Memorial Day - No School

June 8..... Half Day for All Students
June 9..... Last Day of School (Half Day)

17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

School Building	School Hours	1/2 Day Dismissal
Ridgeview	8:40am-3:35pm	11:55am
Appleview	8:25am-3:20pm	11:40am
Middle School	7:35am-2:16pm	10:30am
High School	7:40am-2:25pm	10:40am

SMS Back-to-School Events & Info for the 26-27 School Year:

SMS 2026 OPEN HOUSE:
Date: Wednesday, August 19th
Time: 4:30 pm-7:00 pm
All SMS Students & Families Welcome!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:
Monday, August 24th

STUDENT PICTURES:
Student Pictures will be taken at the Open House on Wednesday, August 19th
Student Picture forms will be sent via a link in August to your email. If you would like a paper form, they will be available for pick up in the SMS Office.
Picture Retakes will be Monday, September 28th

STUDENT SCHEDULES:
Paper copies will be available at the SMS Open House.
An email will be sent to families when student schedules are accessible in PowerSchool.

CHROMEBOOK PICK-UP:
ATTENTION 6th GRADE FAMILIES: Chromebook pick-up for all 6th-grade students will take place at Open House.
Chromebook pick-up for students who left devices here over the summer will be at the SMS Open House.
Students who did not pick up their Chromebook will receive it on the first day of school.

6TH GRADE CAMP @ CAMP HENRY:
Dates: October 5th-9th
6th Graders Attend Camp M-W or W-F
All 6th graders and their families will receive a 6th Grade Camp folder with detailed information at our Open House.

If you are unable to attend our Open House, your student will receive their information on the first day of school.

Back-to-School Easy Grants

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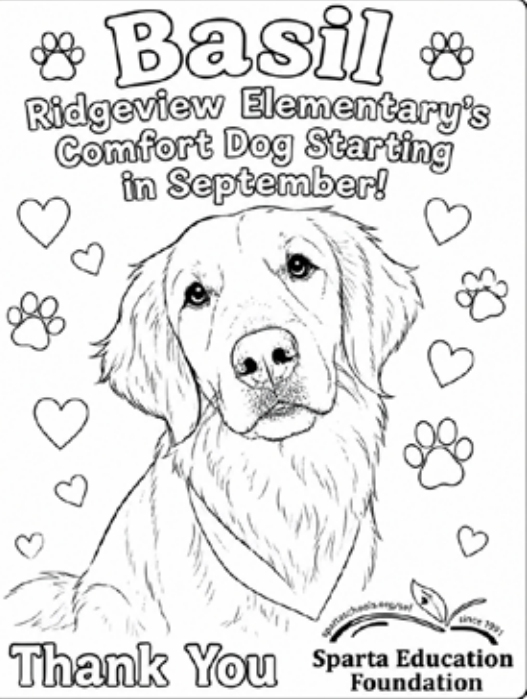


Meet Basil!

Please join us in welcoming Basil, Ridgeview Elementary's new comfort dog! Basil is a specially trained golden retriever who will be working alongside and living with Principal Kelley VanVliet to provide comfort, encouragement, and plenty of tail wags to our students and staff. She'll begin getting to know the school on Friday, September 11.

This incredible opportunity was made possible through the extraordinary generosity of an anonymous major donor through Sparta Education Foundation. We are deeply grateful for this gift and lasting impact it will have on our Ridgeview family.

We can't wait for everyone to meet Basil this fall!



Basil
Ridgeview Elementary's
Comfort Dog Starting
in September!

Thank You Sparta Education Foundation



Apply for PreK in 1, 2, 3

STEP 1 Complete online application at freepreschoolkent.org.

For GSRP, children must be 4 on or before December 1.

STEP 2 Turn in all required documentation.

- **Proof of Birthdate** - copy of legal birth certificate, passport, hospital record, baptismal record or other government form
- **Proof of Residency** - driver's license with current address, current utility bill, rent receipt, tax bill or land contract
- Most recent physical or well child checkup or **health appraisal form**
- **Immunization Record** or waiver from health department
- If your child has an IEP, we will need a copy

Documents can be emailed to PreKEnrollment@kentisd.org or mailed to KCPI, 864 Crahen NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525.

STEP 3 Classroom Placement

You will be contacted by email as soon as a program and classroom placement is made for your child.

Programs are available to all families at no cost as part of Michigan's PreK for All Initiative.



Questions?
email PreKEnrollment@kentisd.org
or call 616.447.2409

Kent ISD