



# THE AGGIE EXPRESS

## School Bus Safety Week October 19-23, 2020



### REMEMBER:

When you see a school bus stopped with its red lights flashing, you must stop too. You stop whether the bus is oncoming or you are behind the bus.

When you see a bus with flashing amber lights, slow down and prepare to stop. The bus is preparing to stop or may already be stopped.

Stay stopped until the bus moves on, or the driver signals that it's safe for you to proceed, by turning off the flashing lights. (Some buses also have a stop sign that swings out from the bus or a digital display).

Be aware of signs, school buses, playgrounds and other things that indicate that children could be close by.

## Staff Members of the Month



The Beal City Board of Education, in appreciation of the hard work that is done by all members of Beal City Public Schools, would like to honor staff members each month for their service to the students and community of Beal City. This month's honorees are the Beal City Public Schools bus drivers:

The week of October 19-23, 2020 is National Bus Safety Week. To show our appreciation for the safe manner in which they transport our students, we are honoring our bus drivers; Chris Natzel, Jennifer Ames, Stephanie Gross, Tami Wilson, Jason McDonald, Carrie Bohy and Gary Hauck as the Board of Education Staff Members of the Month. We are so fortunate to have these fine ladies and gentlemen transporting our students back and forth to school every day. We appreciate and thank you for everything you do!

### **TRUNK OR TREAT –**

The BCEF, in working with the Central Michigan District Health Department, has decided to NOT host the Trunk or Treat on Halloween. We will continue to monitor the situation and if we receive information that we can safely host the Trunk or Treat, we will still host it, and will post information about the event on the BCEF Facebook page. We will also ask that the elementary post it on their Facebook page as well.

Below is a link from the State of Michigan giving all of us some good Trick or Treat safety guidance. The state is not prohibiting trunk or treating, but we feel, unless circumstances change, that it will be best this year to cancel the event and make plans for hosting it next year.

<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-540429--,00.html>



On September 14, 2020 The Beal City National Honor Society had the pleasure of inducting 19 new members to their outstanding group. The induction took place in the small gym where each new inductee was given a certificate of acceptance and a pin to symbolize membership to The National Honor Society. Below provides a list of all new National Honor Society Inductees.



Back row from left to right: Kirsten Turner, Sage Schumacher, Macy VonDoloski, Jacob Gross, Hannah Benaske, Morgan Wilson, Haiden Onstott, Breanna Onstott, and Riley Jaessing. Front row from left to right: Karly Smith, Zeta Zeneberg, Kyleigh Methner, Matt Clark, Nathan Coston, Cade Block, Christopher Whitehead, Isabella Benzinger, and Austin Hauck.



The National Honor Society also inducted 5 new officers. Pictured are Vice President of Community Service Bailey Torpey, Secretary Jesse Pratt, Vice President of Fundraising Cameron Lynch, President Grace Weber, Treasurer Greenlee Jones.

The National Honor Society group has many goals for the future and plans to help our community. They hosted a blood drive on Tuesday, September 29th and they plan to raise funds for charitable organizations as well as complete volunteer work to help out the community. It looks to be an exciting year for the Beal City National Honor Society students!





## **Feature Staff Person**

Beal City Schools would like to introduce Jessica (Jess) Thomas as a Media Specialist/Para Pro. Ms. Thomas has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management with a Communications minor. Her significant other is Jay Manfreda, a Corrections Officer. They just recently purchased a house together in Alma. They do not have any children, but they have 5 pets; 3 lizards and 2 cats.

Ms. Thomas enjoys hiking, gardening, road trips and watching hockey. She is new to the area, but loves it here.

Welcome, Ms. Thomas!!!

## **Feature Staff Person**

Beal City Schools would like to introduce Jordan Gohs as a new Para Pro. Jordan is currently studying Special Education & School Health Education at CMU & Mid Michigan College. Jordan's roommate, Ms. Polish, is the closest thing she has to a significant other. Her cat, Mollie, is the closest thing she has to a child.

Ms. Gohs' favorite things include spaghetti, bbq chips, dancing, roller blading, hiking and taking naps. She loves to travel around Michigan and seeing all of the lakes, forests, and lighthouses, especially anywhere on Lake Huron!!

Welcome, Ms. Gohs!!!







**Fifth Grade Social Studies**

This year in Social Studies, the fifth graders have been learning about the different Native American groups. We have learned about the early hunter-gatherers and some of the great civilizations that settled throughout the Americas. Next, we learned about the different groups that settled the United States. We learned things such as: what kinds of foods they produced, the kinds of homes they lived in, if they traded with other Native Americans, and much more. To finish off the unit, the students built a home from one of the Native American tribes that they learned about. The students did an amazing job with this project!



## **Cleaning Up rumors on the Wind Turbines and School Finance**

We wanted to do a little wind turbine and school finance educational article for our stakeholders in this month's Aggie Express. With the wind turbine project about half complete we are hearing rumors about some folks saying that the school will be getting a lot of revenue from the wind turbines once they go online. The District did sign a Good Neighbor Easement which will pay the District a small amount each year, \$3,000, which can be used for operational costs. The \$3,000 is the only money the school will receive that we can use for day to day operations. Our operational money comes from the state at about 87% of total revenue, from Federal level at about 1% and local revenue from grants and other local revenue at 12%. Part of that 12% is the local 18 mills on non-homestead property which just reduces how much money the district receives from the state per pupil foundation allowance. As an example, in the 2019-2020 school year, we received about \$395 per pupil in 18 mill non homestead money that just lowered the \$8,111 per pupil State funding to \$7,716. In total, we received \$8,111, but, \$395 was from local non-homestead funding.

The wind turbines will certainly generate more tax dollars for the district. However, this tax money can only be used toward paying off the bonded debt the school has for the building projects it has done over the years. Wind turbine revenue is either for bonded debt obligation or sinking fund obligation funds. The district, at this time, does not have any sinking funds but does have bonded debt. Both types of obligations are voted on by our tax payers and millages are assessed.

The district has the option of asking the taxpayers to approve a sinking fund (which are very limited in what the money can be spent on, basically repairs and technology), on top of our bonded debt. The payment on the sinking fund would not come just from the wind turbines, but also the rest of our tax payers. With our current bonds, for example, 1 mill generates about \$90,000 per year of revenue to pay down the district's debt. After the wind turbines are in service, that same 1 mill will generate about \$180,000 (in the first year) of revenue to pay down debt. The wind turbines decrease in value quickly, so, the \$180,000 becomes \$60,000 after 10 years. We are a 7 mill district so we are maxed out at 7 mills for bond debt by the state, but the taxpayers could approve a sinking fund and go above that 7 mills. But, again, it would come from the taxpayers and simply generate more revenue to do projects.

## **Fifth Graders Learn About Engineering**

In science the fifth graders are learning about engineering. They are learning how engineers use science and math to solve problems. To better understand what an engineer can do, they virtually met with Trevor Frost, a mechanical engineering student at Kettering University. Trevor currently has an internship at ZF Cooperation. He is one of the engineers that works on the lines, fixing problems and making the machines more efficient. Trevor explained what he does at his job showing us 3D computer models of parts he worked on, answered students' questions, and took us on a tour of his workplace. The students enjoyed learning about why he wants to be an engineer and what he had to study in school to become an engineer. The students had fun observing the robots make a part as the part traveled on conveyors to the next robot. Trevor explained the process as the part moved and the robots worked. We want to thank Trevor and the ZF Cooperation for sharing with us.



# Board Briefs

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on September 21, 2020:

- July payments including: General Fund payments of \$450,600.76, Payroll Account payments of \$804.71, Hot Lunch payments of \$9,493.34, Student Activity Account payments \$6,807.44, Athletic Fund payments of \$1,845.76.
- The Building, Maintenance, Grounds & Transportation committee's recommendation as follows:
  1. That the District connect to the Nottawa Township sanitary sewer project pending further Negotiation with the township on the monthly user fee.
  2. That the District pay a connection fee and not participate in the 40-year special assessment.
  3. That the District agrees to pay the connection fee using the .75 multiplier equaling the proposed 28.5 REU's.
  4. That the District understands it is required by law, to enter into an operating agreement with the township, the "Operating Agreement" is currently being negotiated and reviewed by the District's attorney.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Title IX NEOLA Policy as presented.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the NEOLA Policy #35-1 as presented.
- The hiring of Wendy Albrecht as a halftime custodian and halftime bus driver as presented.
- Accept Tami Wilson's resignation as a full-time bus driver and Wendy Albrecht's resignation as a halftime custodian and halftime bus driver as presented.
- Accept Dan Beckwith's resignation as the 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Boys Basketball Coach and the Varsity Boys Track Coach as presented.
- The following coaching recommendation: Brad Antcliff – Voluntary Assistant Part-time Football Coach.
- Approve the hiring of Staci Vessell to fill the one-year position as a Guidance Counselor.

To locate the Beal City Board of Education agenda and minutes from the monthly Board meetings, please see the Beal City website. Click on District Info, Board of Education, then click on the Board of Education on the left hand side to receive a menu. From there click on Meeting.





## **Give your child a healthy start!**

Mornings can be rushed, but it is important to make time for breakfast.

Children can benefit from the School Breakfast Program! Studies show that school breakfast can improve test scores, make kids more alert in class, and improve classroom behavior. Make sure your kids start the school day with a healthy meal.

**Every morning our breakfast consists of a hot breakfast item and these cold whole grain items: uncrustables, donuts, breakfast kit, bagels/cream cheese and milk. Students must choose a fruit and 2 grain items.**

**Location: Aggie Cafe**

**Breakfast time every day: 7:40-8:05**

**Full pay price: \$1.75**

**Reduced: \$.30**

Dear Aggie Families:

Effective Monday, September 14, 2020, breakfast and lunch will be **FREE** for all children ages 0-18 and up to age 26 if receiving special education services!! We urge you to take advantage of these free meals while we are able to provide them.

**Face to face students:** Free breakfast and lunch will be offered daily.

**Aggies Online:** Lunch and breakfast for the week will be available for pick-up:

**Pick up by the clock tower every Friday from 1:30pm - 2:30pm.** This will begin this Friday, September 11, 2020, for next week's breakfast and lunch.

To order online and ensure you have a free meal waiting for you, you will need to order every week no later than 6am the day of pick up at: <https://bit.ly/2F6mIW1>

Meals will be offered on any calendar school day.

Current guidance from the USDA indicates that these free meals will be available to our families through December 2020, or until funding runs out. This could happen at any time and will be out of our control.

When we do have to revert back to charging for lunches again, your student's Free, Reduced and full pay status will kick back in at that point. If you have not yet sent in your application for this school year, please do this so we can ensure your student is being charged accordingly.

Again, we urge you to take advantage of these **FREE MEALS!!**

**Go Aggies!!**



# You'll see Mid Michigan College on your **November 3rd** ballot

## When you cast your vote, be informed!

Mid Michigan College is asking voters who live in the Gratiot-Isabella RESD\* to decide on whether they will join Mid's in-district service area (through annexation). This initiative involves two proposals, **both of which must pass for annexation to occur.**

**Proposal I** — asks voters to become part of the College's service district.

**Proposal II** — seeks ratification of a taxable rate of 1.2232 mills to support the College's operating budget. This is the 2nd lowest millage rate for Michigan community colleges.

## What would two yes votes mean for residents living in the GI-RESD?

The biggest change would be a **40% reduction in tuition rates for students** living in this geographic area. Mid has served students from Gratiot and Isabella counties for over 50 years, but as out-district students they currently pay a significantly higher tuition rate.

In-District vs Out-District Tuition

**\$132/contact hour**  
**40% LOWER**

vs

**\$220/contact hour**  
What Gratiot-Isabella Students Currently Pay

This fall, **1,100 students from Gratiot and Isabella Counties attend Mid.** If these students had paid in-district instead of out-district tuition rates, they would have saved...

**OVER \$924,000**

or an average of **\$840 per student** during this semester alone!

# REMEMBER TO Vote **NOV 3**



## Fifty Years of Service in Your Community

Here are just some of the ways that Mid builds bolder, brighter, better futures.

- ▲ Mid serves **over 1,200 high school students each year** as they earn college credits through dual enrollment.
- ▲ Mid is the **most frequent college destination for GI-RESD residents who attend college.** Over 33% of these students attend Mid. The next most frequent choice, CMU, serves 17% of these students.
- ▲ Over 4,100 nursing and healthcare graduates **have earned over 5,400 credentials from Mid.** Many continue to serve the mid-Michigan region as healthcare providers

The activities of Mid Michigan College and its students support



**1 out of every 43 JOBS**

**\$69.6 million**  
in income, supporting  
over **1,314 jobs.**



**M** MID  
MICHIGAN  
COLLEGE

midmich.edu

Learn more about becoming a part of Mid's official service district on election day at

**midmich.edu/annexation**

\* While the geographic area is tied to the GI-RESD, Mid's ballot proposals are not associated with the RESD in any way.

# *Beal City PTA Needs Your Help*

Looking for an easy way to help support our Beal City students and teachers? AmazonSmile is a great way to do just that!!

When you shop on Amazon using AmazonSmile you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to **The Beal City PTA**.

- 1 Go to the Amazon app on your phone.
- 2 Click the three lines
- 3 Click "settings"
- 4 Click "Amazon Smile"
- 5 Turn on Amazon Smile
- 6 Select "Beal City PTA"

You must do this for each device you use to shop on Amazon with (even computers and laptops)! Share & spread the word to everyone you know. Every penny helps!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Join AmazonSmile</b></p> <p>If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, <a href="#">sign up</a> on your web browser. Simply select your favorite charity to start generating donations, at no cost to you.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Get the app</b></p> <p>Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the <a href="#">App Store</a> for iOS or <a href="#">Google Play</a> for Android.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Turn on AmazonSmile</b></p> <p>Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.</p>





FLU  
SEASON  
AHEAD

# Family Flu Shot Clinic

(ages 6 months and above)



Central Michigan District Health Department  
*Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities*

**Date:** Thursday, October 22, 2020

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Beal City High School  
(3117 Elias Road in Beal City)



<https://youtu.be/ocAt3oIhb2E>

Questions or to make an appointment call: 989-773-5921

**Full cost of the flu vaccine is covered by most private insurances, Medicare and Medicaid.**

*Please call our office for cost information if you are planning on paying with cash, check or credit card.*

Beal City Public Schools  
3180 W Beal City Rd  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

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Attention all Beal City Public Schools staff and students age 13 and older: Did you know we are all eligible to download and install Microsoft Office 365 on up to 5 personal computers/devices FOR FREE!?!? This is not a trial offer or a limited version of the software suite. PCs, Macs, iOS, Androids – get Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc. on all of your devices by going to this URL: <https://portal.office.com>. Once there log in with your [bealcityschools.net](https://bealcityschools.net) or [bcaggies.net](https://bcaggies.net) email address and the password that you use to log in to Windows at school. Once you get logged in you'll see shortcuts for the online versions of Office apps and you'll ALSO see a button that says "Install Office." You can use that button to install the full version of Office onto your computer at home. Note that Office comes with Microsoft's online file storage product "OneDrive." For schoolwork purposes, please continue using Google Drive instead of OneDrive.