

VIKING VOYAGER

March 2012



POTTERVILLE
SCHOOLS

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Potterville,
Michigan 48876

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517-645-2662

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517-645-0092

High School
645-7609

Middle School
645-4777

Elementary
645-2525

We're on the
Web!

See us at:

www.pps.k12.mi.us

Thank you,

Potterville

Community, for

supporting our bond!



SPRINGING FORWARD

The relationship between the calendar year and the academic year is misaligned. When the new calendar year is just starting, the school calendar is almost half over, as late January marks the start of the second semester. Of course, the seasonal changes in a year, however, are quite in alignment with the school year. With the publication of this March newsletter, we are just ending the winter season—which didn't seem to be all that wintry this year—and moving into spring.



Mr. Donahue
Superintendent

And as I consider the state of the district at this time, I feel as though we are emerging from a difficult winter for our schools and moving into a spring full of new life and opportunity for Potterville Public Schools.

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Though there wasn't a lot of snow and excessively cold air these last few months, it has been a challenging season for our district. After last year's budget cuts by the state of Michigan, we entered this school year without some of the programs and placements we have had in the past. And then, as new information about our school's fiscal health came to light in November, the district had to make further cuts and changes to be implemented for the start of the second semester. We have heard, understandably, from many voices in our community expressing displeasure with these changes. The board of education and I, as superintendent, have not found these cuts and changes to be desirable at all. However, we are committed to fiscal responsibility and maintaining a balanced budget in light of dwindling funding from the state of Michigan. This is obviously a challenge for our school district, just as it is for many others. Going forward, we will maintain the best programs that we can and must provide for the betterment of the entire student body as a whole. That is our commitment to our students. And now that we are several weeks into the second semester with these difficult changes implemented and underway, we are able to maintain that commitment to the students and parents of our community.

As we know that funding is so critical in these challenging economic times, we have made a change in the operations of our fiscal services and business management operations. The district had previously contracted with Eaton ISD to conduct its business management functions. For a variety of reasons, we have determined to end that shared services arrangement with Eaton ISD and bring our business office back in house. I welcome our new part-time business manager, Dixie Pope. She joined our staff in early February and brings with her a great deal of experience as a business manager and former superintendent. Dixie will revamp our central office business operations and provide stable stewardship of our budgetary work. This new direction enables us to have Dixie on staff, even if for only part-time status, for a lower cost than the previous expenditure to share this service with Eaton ISD.

Getting past these changes, the district is poised for a great spring! With the passage of our security and educational technology bond proposal in late February, we are all grateful for the community's support of the bond proposal and excited with the opportunities that lie ahead for our schools. Planning and development are underway already to design the security and technology changes approved by district voters. As you may recall, the facilities will be enhanced for student safety and security: a new elementary school office will be constructed on the east side of that building, and camera and door entry systems will be added to other district buildings. For technology, the infrastructure and server systems for our computer network will be upgraded, and classrooms will be equipped with tools for teaching: new computer work stations, ceiling-mounted projectors, document cameras, and interactive display systems. These devices are currently planned to be in use for the start of the 2012-2013 school year.

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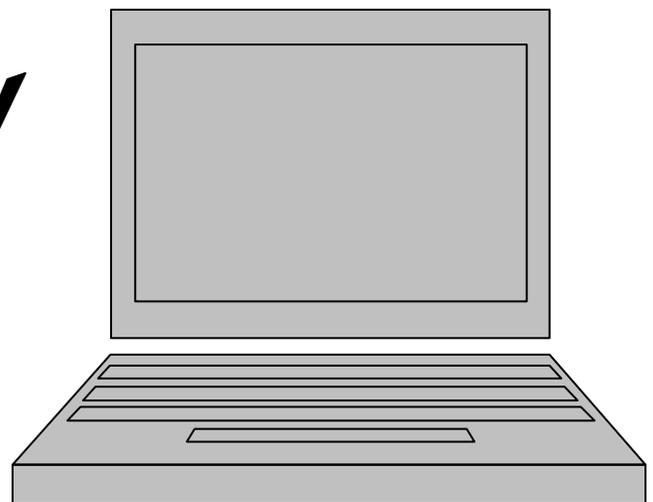
The most innovative and exciting change for the bond proposal as it gets implemented will be access to one-to-one technology devices for all of our students. That could involve a laptop, net-book, or tablet device for each student. Our research, study, and pilot programs for this one-to-one program will start immediately as well. Our technology committee will study what other districts and universities have learned about doing such programs in the most effective way. It is our hope to begin rolling out this aspect of the bond project after this period of study and research is conducted throughout the 2012-2013 school year. We want to do this program as effectively as possible, as I am certain having this kind of educational technology in our students' hands will put Potterville Public Schools far ahead of any area district—a showcase for best practices teaching and learning in the 21st Century!

Teachers in our district continue their important school improvement work. This past January, all Eaton County educators gathered to hear a presentation on engaging students in their learning. Based on the book from Marzano Research Labs, *The Highly Engaged Classroom*, this presentation underscored the importance of planning and implementing student engagement strategies on a daily basis in the classroom. Our teachers completed a book study on that research-based work this fall, and they are working to implement these strategies in their daily instruction. This engagement focus complements our ongoing work with *The Art and Science of Teaching*, another book from Marzano Research Labs. Clearly, we are being intentional about our own growth as educators so we ensure that the techniques we employ with our students are effective, impactful, and lead to student achievement gains.

There's no doubt Potterville Public Schools is making significant progress to our vision of being a premier learning community for this area. With the approval of the bond proposal and all of the ground-breaking changes that will be coming in the seasons ahead, I am confident we are moving forward and providing our students with only the best in modern education. I look forward to our collaborative efforts to make our schools a stronger and more successful school district. To continue that progress, I welcome your input as students, parents, staff members, and community stakeholders.

Best regards,
Tim Donahue

**21st Century
Technology**



THE ELEMENTARY ELEMENTS

ELEMENTARY NEWS

My name is Craig King, and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share my excitement about my appointment as the interim principal at Potterville Elementary School. I have worked in schools for over twenty years, fifteen of which I have been a principal. As for my educational background, I have a bachelor's degree in elementary education as well as a masters degree in Educational Community Leadership, both of which are from Central Michigan University.



*Mr. King
Elementary Principal*

I truly look forward to being part of the warm and caring environment at Potterville Elementary School. Please feel free to contact me at the school with any concerns, questions, or comments. Again thank you for the kind welcoming and I look forward to serving you as the school administrator at Potterville Elementary School.

Congratulations and thank you to the Potterville PTA for the dedication and hard work of giving the library a fresh look. Tables are being refurbished by the PTA as well as Mr. Snook, our art teacher, and crew who are doing an outstanding job with the painting projects located on the walls in the elementary school library. Also, in collaboration with 21st Century Plastics, new chairs are being purchased to enhance the elementary school library.

Warmer weather is upon us, which means two things for Potterville Elementary. First, March is Reading Month. "I Spy" will be the theme this year for our month long celebration of reading. March is Reading Month is followed up by Kindergarten Round-Up.

Kindergarten Round Up

Monday, April 16, 2012

- Full Day Kindergarten and Full Day Transitional Kindergarten Programs Available
- Learn about the Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten Curriculum (language arts, math, social studies, science, PE, art, music, computers and library)
- Meet dedicated highly qualified teachers
- Learn more about our food service program and transportation services
- School of Choice Available
- New technology to enhance your child's education!



Children must be 5 years old by December 1, 2012

Please call our Secretary, Mrs. Hernandez 517-645-2525 to schedule your appointment

Potterville Elementary will be highlighted at the Fun to be Four event, which will be held on Monday, April 23 at the elementary building. Our Kindergarten teachers will be on hand to meet prospective students and their parents.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

THANK YOU POTTERVILLE COMMUNITY! On behalf of the students and staff at Potterville Middle School, I want to extend sincere gratitude for your continued support with the recent passing of our technology bond. We look forward to being able to maintain what we already have to offer our students while having the added opportunity to extend our teaching and learning to new and exciting heights. We will be able to address the students of our technology driven society in a way they are currently adapted to taking in and learning information.



*Mrs. Roe
Middle School Principal*

2011 MEAP results- The State has released the 2011 MEAP results. As some of you may have already been aware, they raised the cut scores of the test. Essentially what this means is students need to score even higher than they did in the past in order to reach each level of proficiency. The State's reasoning for imposing the more challenging expectations is to have a test with scores directed toward college and career readiness levels rather than the past expectations. All schools across the state are prepared to see a decrease in proficiency scores this year but we will still continue to work with students to again reach the increased expectations. Fortunately, the State will also be providing a conversion formula so we will be able to compare the old levels of measurement in a way to show student progress in terms of how they performed last year. We will do our best to be sure students are looking at the "big picture," versus how they rate with the new higher cut scores, as we do not want them to feel discouraged.

Learning Lab- Please continue to be aware of our **free tutoring** offered to students in learning lab. The 7th and 8th grade teams hold learning lab most days after school. This allows students to receive more one-on-one with their teacher in a particular content area. This is also a good way for a student to make up missed work if they have been out for several days due to illness. The 6th grade team is also available as students request the need. The 5th grade team has built this into the daily schedule in order to offer an in-school opportunity. Students in need of extra help may visit learning lab in lieu of recess. As always, if you have a particular academic concern with your student, you are encouraged to contact the teacher directly to work on a plan to help the student be successful.

Activity Night- On February 16th an activity night for the 7th and 8th grade students was put on by the student council. A dance was held in the cafeteria and activities in the gym included dodge ball and basketball.

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Bullying Policy- The board recently adopted the new policy on bullying. We will be revising the current district rubric on bullying to align with all the requirements. This will be a comprehensive piece to include K-12. Before finalizing the updated system, a team of staff and parents will meet to discuss the plan and how we need to cater it to Pottersville's needs. At the end of January, Trooper Marco Jones visited the school and held presentations for each grade level on bullying. He presented the definition of bullying to help students understand the difference between targeted, repetitive behavior versus other student issues that involve name calling or other forms of put-downs. Our student code of conduct addresses both of these scenarios, and in either case, we are only able to begin the process of investigation and disciplinary action if incidents are reported. Our biggest challenge has been getting students to get staff involved, but since the presentation, we have seen a slight increase in student reporting, which allows us to intervene. We are in the process of collecting student feedback data on this issue and will be able to report the results of those surveys soon.

Important Dates

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Evening Conferences March 27th
 Evening Conferences March 28th

*Conferences are held from
 5:00-8:00*

March 29th 1/2 Day of School
(Students released at 11:00)
 March 30th No School
 April 2nd-6th Spring Break



2012 Middle School Science Olympiad Team

POTTERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**NEWS & INFORMATION****MRS. KLOMP JOINS THE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM**

As the new principal at the Potterville High School, please allow me to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all of our Potterville parents and community members. My name is Julie Klomp, and I greatly appreciate having the opportunity to join the PHS team. While I am new to the high school this year, I am not new to the District. In fact, for the past 23 years, I have served as a teacher, administrator, grant writer, and summer school coordinator in the adult and alternative education program.



*Mrs. Klomp
High School Principal*

I have a strong background in working with high school students, particularly at-risk youth, and in providing creative and flexible educational options. I also have a 16-year-old daughter at home, so I understand the challenges of parenting a teen! My educational background includes earning a Bachelor's degree in English with secondary education teaching certification from Michigan State University and a Master's in Educational Administration for Secondary Schools from Central Michigan University. I grew up in Lansing but currently live in the Grand Ledge area.

Serving as the high school principal offers new and exciting challenges for me as a professional, and because of my experiences, I believe I can offer a unique perspective that will enhance the quality work already going on in this building. The knowledge and skills demanded of our students as they venture into the world following graduation have changed and we, as educators, must also change. Your support of the Technology Bond will help us as we strive to create a meaningful and appropriate educational experience for all of our students.

As a staff, we plan to continue our work on curriculum and assessment within the context of a professional learning community and are committed to being the best we can be in our mission to serve students.

I look forward to getting to know all of the Potterville students and families and hope you will feel comfortable to contact me at 645-7609 or by email to jklomp@pps.k12.mi.us if you have any questions or concerns.

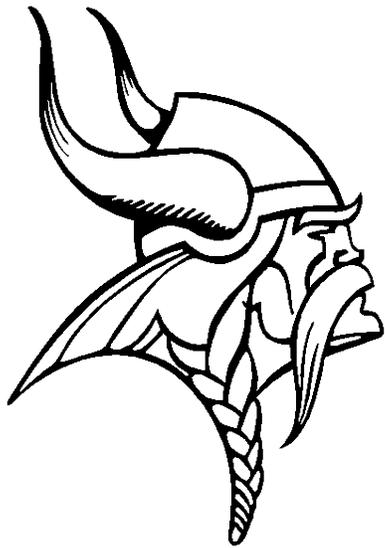
Viking Pride



2012

Winter Homecoming

2012



PRIDE



CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVE News & Views

REAL TALK & COLLEGE 101: CAP STAFF & STUDENTS CONNECT ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL

For the past year, Cap alternative teachers have been working with Dr. Paul Hernandez, Central Michigan University sociology professor, to increase at-risk student achievement through his research-driven approach titled *Real Talk*. *Real Talk* is an “alternative pedagogy that connects teachers and students with curriculum through a style of dialogue regarding real life experiences” (Hernandez, 2011, p. 2). As the staff learn about and integrate *Real Talk* into their curriculum, students begin to see their teachers as more than teachers; they see them as human beings. It gives students a point of connection they may have never before experienced with a teacher. This connection results in positive interactions between students and staff and helps students engage in the curriculum on a deeper, more personal level, thus increasing academic success.

Another benefit of the collaboration with Dr. Hernandez is the College 101 Initiative. Hernandez invites participating schools to bring their students to Central Michigan University for this day-long program. One of the problems at-risk students face is their lack of interaction and experience with higher education. College 101 gives them an opportunity to learn about the life of a college student, careers they might pursue, college applications, financial help, Greek life, fine dining in the dorms and a variety of other things that could help them prepare for applying to



college. In October 2011, CAP took 22 students to the College 101 program. This was the first time many of them had ever stepped onto a college campus before. It was an eye-opening experience for many of them. They spent the day interacting with college students who volunteered their time on a regular basis to help at-risk students get to college and be successful. One student, Jennifer Ross said, “Going to CMU helped me have a better understanding about college. It made me realize that anything is possible, no matter what the circumstances are.”

The CAP staff will continue their work with Dr. Hernandez. They look forward to the continued professional development and success of their students.

SPRING SPORTS '12

VARSITY BOYS BASEBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
3/28	Sexton	Away	4:00
4/10	Maple Valley	Away	4:00
4/12	Bath	Home	4:00
4/16	St. Patricks	Away	4:00
4/19	Dansville	Home	4:00
4/21	Tournament	Home	10:00
4/23	Carson City	Away	4:00
4/26	Laingsburg	Home	4:00
4/30	Fowler	Away	4:00
5/3	Saranac	Away	4:00
5/7	Pewamo-Westphalia	Home	4:00
5/10	Fulton	Away	4:00
5/19	Bellevue	Away	9:00
5/23	Sexton	Home	4:00

GO VIKES

VARSITY GIRLS SOFTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
3/28	Sexton	Away	4:00
4/10	Maple Valley	Away	4:00
4/12	Bath	Home	4:00
4/16	St. Patricks	Away	4:00
4/19	Dansville	Home	4:00
4/21	Tournament	Home	10:00
4/23	Carson City	Away	4:00
4/26	Laingsburg	Home	4:00
4/30	Fowler	Away	4:00
5/3	Saranac	Away	4:00
5/7	Pewamo-Westphalia	Home	4:00
5/10	Fulton	Away	4:00
5/12	Lakewood	Away	9:00
5/17	Morrice	Home	4:00
5/23	Byron	Away	4:00

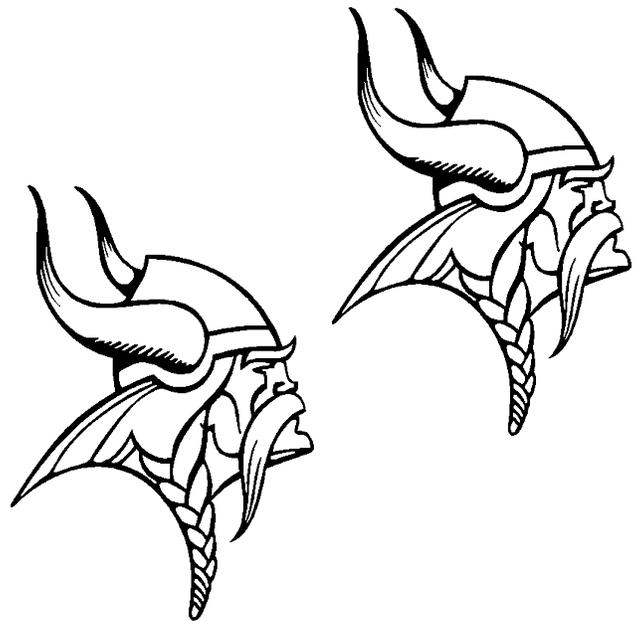
VARSITY TRACK

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
3/28	MSU Meet	Away	3:00
4/13	Olivet	Away	3:00
4/18	CMAC South @ Bath	Away	4:30
4/25	Tri Meet @ P-W	Away	4:30
4/27	Webberville	Away	3:00
5/2	Fowler/Laingsburg	Home	4:30
5/4	Shepherd	Away	2:30
5/9	Tri Meet @ Dansville	Away	4:30
5/12	Litchfield	Away	8:30
5/15	Tri Meet @ Fulton	Away	4:30
5/22	CMAC @ Fowler	Away	3:00
5/23	Laingsburg	Away	4:30

MIDDLE SCHOL TRACK

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
4/17	Tri Meet	Home	4:30
4/26	Tri Meet @ Bath	Away	4:30
5/1	Cars City Crystal	Away	4:30
5/8	Tri Meet	Home	4:30
5/16	Tri Meet @ Saranac	Away	4:30

VIKING PRIDE



BOARD ACTIONS

In the recent sessions of our district's board meetings for the 2011-2012 school year, your school board:

- Adopted the amended budget for the 2011-2012 school year, aligning programs and staffing with diminished revenue projections and maintaining a balanced budget
- Approved a \$3.2 million bond proposal for placement on the February election ballot, and worked to share information about the need for these upgrades to our facilities and technology
- Approved refinancing of past bond debt in the spring of 2012, leading to anticipated savings of nearly \$500,000 for district taxpayers
- Applied for and received "Best Practice" incentive funding from the State of Michigan, resulting in additional funding of \$98,000 coming into the district budget for this school year
- Adopted board policy to comply with the new state law on student bullying and safe schools

CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Potterville's CAP Program offers free high school classes to adults and out-of-school youth without a high school diploma! CAP is located beside the Potterville administration building and offers programs using an alternative learning approach, flexible scheduling options, and a caring teaching staff.

Morning, Afternoon and Evening classes!

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:

- Adult Basic Education (20+)
- High School Completion
- Youth Alternative (15-19)
- GED Preparation
- Workforce Investment Act Youth Program

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 645-4792 TODAY!**

Are you registered with

Honeywell

Instant Alert® for Schools

Honeywell Instant Alert is an automated messaging program that the school district uses to notify parents and students of important information for both emergency situations and general school announcements.

You may already be receiving some notices from Honeywell Instant Alert, as a district parent, student, or staff member. But, you can make the system more user friendly for your needs by ensuring that you have an up-to-date profile in the system.

By registering your family with Honeywell Instant Alert, you can determine the contact phone numbers and email addresses, as well as times of the day when you desire to receive the various types of alerts that a school or the district may be sending.

Go to: <http://www.pps.k12.mi.us/instantalert.html> to set up your family's profile. Feel free to contact any of the buildings' main offices for assistance or questions.

Thank you for using this service to stay informed about important information in our schools!

“Bear in mind that the wonderful things you learn in your schools are the work of many generations. All of this is put in your hands as your inheritance in order that you may receive it, honor it, add to it, and one day faithfully hand it on to your children.” -Albert Einstein



Potterville Public Schools Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Potterville Public Schools to provide an educational learning environment with a level of instruction that gives all students opportunities to reach their individual potential and to develop the skills essential for success in life and work.

Potterville Schools

Board of Education

2011-2012 School Year

President

Christopher Hampton

Vice-President

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Secretary

John Hampton

Treasurer

Karen Miller

Trustee

Jerry Sweet

Trustee

Angela Schmalbach

Trustee

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**POTTERVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETINGS - 6:00 PM
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BOARD ROOM**

Mark your calendars—we urge the community to attend

- July 11, 2011**
- August 15, 2011**
- September 19, 2011**
- October 17, 2011**
- November 21, 2011**
- December 12, 2011**
- January 16, 2012**
- February 21, 2012**
- March 19, 2012**
- April 16, 2012**
- May 21, 2012**
- June 18, 2012**

It is the policy of Potterville Public Schools that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status or handicap shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program conducted by this educational agency.