



### A Message from the School Director

Greetings MMLA Family! I would like to invite you all to join us for our Black History Celebration Program on February 23, 2017 beginning at 4:00pm in the Gymnasium. We have partnered with several community agencies to provide an entertaining and well-rounded program for your enjoyment. More details are in the Community Connection section of the newsletter.

We have several new staff members at MMLA. If you get a chance to, please introduce yourself to them and welcome them to our school community. I am sure they would be very appreciative of that. Mr. Aaron Lomax has joined our Student Management Team, Ms. Sarah Smith has joined our Intervention Team, and Mr. Chris Gagliano has joined our Facilities Team. Please join me in welcoming these individuals to our school!

Just a reminder regarding Mid-Winter Break that is this weekend. The school will be closed on Friday, February 17 and Monday February 20.



I hope you all enjoy your long weekend! We look forward to seeing you back to school on Tuesday, February 21!

Tim Tenneriello  
School Director

### Spring Conferences

Forms to sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences will be sent home soon. Please return these ASAP.

- Thursday, March 23 4:00-6:30pm
- Friday, March 24 12:30-4:30pm

Please plan to attend; students welcome!

### **STUDENT PORTRAITS WILL BE TAKEN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY ON FRIDAY, MARCH 24.**

Students may dress out of uniform for picture day.

**Reminder!** This is a HALF DAY for students.

Dismissal is at noon after lunch is served.

Parent Teacher Conferences begin at 12:30pm. Sign Up will be available in the main office starting February 21.



### **FAMILY PORTRAITS**

**12:30-2PM!**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY FOR A FREE PORTRAIT SESSION. ALL PARTICIPATING FAMILIES WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A FREE PROOF OF THEIR FAMILY PORTRAIT.**



Spring Pictures are Coming



### Academics

The number of exams students have each week has definitely begun to pick up. It is critical that you help your students study for their upcoming exams, get a good night's rest before exams and come to school feeling confident about what they are able to achieve. Everyone should have exam schedules, and although sometimes we need to make small adjustments as things arise, they are a great source of information about what types of exams are coming up. If you have misplaced your child's exam schedule, let their teacher know and they will be happy to replace it.

Being sure to be on top of homework and exams is especially important throughout the month of March as that can often feel like one of the longest months of the school year. Keep the learning exciting at home—play learning games, take turns reading to each other, practice writing stories and incorporate math into every trip to the store. Most importantly though, make sure to let your children know how proud you are of their work and how you believe in their ability to be highly successful. It is amazing just how far a positive attitude goes!

Barb Rooker  
Academic Quality Controller

### Kindergarten Round Up

It's already to start thinking about the Fall 2017 School Year! Kindergarten Round Up starts this month! MMLA will be open the second Thursday of each month from 4:00–5:00pm for tours and information. Mr. Caldwell is also available Monday-Friday from 10:00am-3:00pm, by appointment. Call 517-827-1276 to schedule.

Open Enrollment for all grades runs Feb. 22-March 10.

**Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy**

**OPEN ENROLLMENT FEBRUARY 22 TO MARCH 31**

**MMLA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

- K-8 tuition-free, college-prep, public school academy
- Strong math and English focus
- English Language Learner (ELL) courses offered
- Positive, diverse learning environment
- Transportation available
- Before school breakfast and after school care & snack available

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
MMLA AT:  
730 West Maple Street,  
Lansing, MI 48906  
Former Michigan School for the Blind  
Questions?: 517-827-1276  
Preguntas?: 517-827-1275  
mmla.sabis.net

Member of the SABIS Network



# Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy

## Student Life Organization®

What a great first month!! I am very excited to have begun to meet and get to know your students on a more personal level! What great kids we have here at MMLA!! We are starting new clubs this next week! Chess! Baby Sitting Certification! Board Games! Public Speaking! Choir! Art! RAP! Cheer! Just to name a few. The teachers have come to me with great ideas and we can't wait to service your students! I am sure you will be hearing some great stories about their new clubs and what they are doing.

We are also going to start our Service portion in Student Life next week. Students from grades 6, 7 and 8 will be all over the school helping in classrooms and different places. We know that being growing citizens and future College bound students how important to be well rounded. So our more experienced students will be in grades K-5 helping with reading, math, and maybe even how to shoot a basketball or tie shoes! So soon you will be hearing how our MMLA students are coming together to reach new heights in success!

I wish everyone a Fantastical Week and know that the sky is the limit of what we can accomplish here are MMLA!

Brooks Yates  
Student Life® Coordinator

## Hidden Figures Field Trip

On Monday, February 13th, the 5th -8th grades attended the movie Hidden Figures at NCG Cinema.



Christian Cantu, 8th grade, said she felt "inspired" after the movie and Taviania Shakoor, also 8th grade, said, "It showed that African American women can do anything with hard work."

Tyrell Green and Quanterra Tatum, both in 7th grade, recognized the civil rights aspect of the movie commenting on how "it wasn't fair that she had to walk a 1/2 mile to use the colored restroom." Tyrell also said that he liked how the main character "finally stood up for herself." Quanterra found the movie to be educational because she thought "Americans were the first ones in space."

Dai'Shanay Barber-Lake, 6th grade, reported that the movie "changed my life." Fifth graders Lillian Goe and Maebella Wier said that, "This was a very important story that needed to be shared." They also felt that more of our students would benefit from seeing this movie and get inspired like they did.

The generous support of the MMLA Parent Connection group and various members of the community allowed us to take all of our students and provided them with a snack at the theater. It was an amazing and inspirational experience for us all.

## Upcoming Events & Important Dates

**Monthly Board of Trustees Meetings** - Meetings are held at 6:00 PM in room 2006 of the Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. (unless otherwise posted on the MMLA website or Facebook page) You're welcome to attend.

- Feb 17-20 Mid-Winter Break **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- Feb 23 Family Night 4-6pm in the MMLA Gym Celebrating Black History Month. Refreshments will be provided.
- Mar 3 \$1 Dress Down Day – Parent Connection
- Mar 16 Family Literacy Night 4-6pm in the MMLA Gym
- Mar 17 \$1 Dress Down Day – Parent Connection
- Mar 23-24 Spring Parent Teacher Conferences
- Mar 24 Spring Picture Day – Student & Family Portraits
- Mar 24 Half Day – **STUDENT DISMISSAL AT NOON**

View our Annual School Calendar at [mmla.sabis.net](http://mmla.sabis.net)

## Community Connection

The MMLA Black History Program and Book Giveaway is scheduled for 4:00pm Thursday, February 23rd in the MMLA Gymnasium. The theme for the program is *Still I Rise*. We are excited to welcome Dreamworld Studios for the Arts back to campus. We are also thrilled to have involvement from the Lansing Community College Black Student Union, Waverly Black Student Union and the voices of Quinn Chapel AME Church in Flint. Please come out for a lively celebration and book giveaway sponsored by the Black Student Union of Lansing Community College.

Special Thanks to Dean Transportation for their donation of a school bus and driver. Our school is thankful to work with such giving community partners like the people at Dean Transportation. We would also like to thank all the parents, teachers and community members that made it possible for our 5-8th grade students to see the film Hidden Figures on this past Monday.

Elvin Caldwell Jr.  
School Community Liaison

## Parent Connection Corner

### Congratulations Joshua Perez!

Parent Connection would like to congratulate National AAA Safety Patroller of the Year Nominee Joshua Perez!

**GET CONNECTED!** Thursday, March 9 at 3:45pm in the MMLA Computer Lab

